



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE



12th December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The November Assessments offers students a vital opportunity to gain practical experience in preparing for and executing a condensed series of examinations. Over the past two weeks, students have received their results and have worked through the papers with their subject teachers to better understand how to make improvements. Subsequently, the school reports were made available to parents via VShare last Friday within which formative comments gave direction and guidance to each student in their respective subject areas.

The post-assessment phase holds equal significance for students, and our Academic Tracking Team, together with the Year Heads, have put in place a range of targeted workshops to meet the specific needs of the students. These sessions aim to aid students in reflecting on their exam performance, fostering a deeper comprehension of the necessary steps toward progress. Post-exam analysis sessions with all Year Groups have taken place, with students encouraged to take note of feedback and advice from their teachers. Using their Academic Progress Booklets, students identified specific areas to improve and with the guidance of their teachers formulated plans to address any gaps in their learning.

In conjunction with classroom-based feedback and Year meetings, the Tracking Team have meticulously analysed the results data, deciphering students' academic patterns. This analysis stands as a fundamental aspect of the Tracking Team's work, as it helps identify students, chart pathways for advancement, and implement necessary interventions. Outlined below are some of the pathways that the Tracking Team have implemented in the past two weeks as well as some of the upcoming intervention strategies for 3rd and 6th Years who will now ready themselves for the Mock Examinations in late January.

Year Groups

All students have been given a dedicated period on their timetable to reflect on their preparation, performance and results from the November Assessments.

These sessions included working through the targeted questions in the Academic Progress Booklet which challenges students to go beyond mere reflection alone, encouraging them to pinpoint areas requiring further development or action moving forward.

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10@10 Sessions

The 10@10 sessions were conducted with the State examination Year Groups, 3rd & 6th Years. The sessions, which were initially addressed by both the Deputy Principals and the Principal, split into a directed and succinct set of mini-tutorials centred on the core subjects and a number of specifically chosen subjects.

The sessions were intense with only 10 minutes given over to each subject to clearly articulate 10 practical tips to advance their learning in the subject. In part, reflection on previous Chief Examiner reports were detailed, honing in on examination techniques that had been recognised as needing improvement. These concentrated sessions proved very valuable in realigning students' focus for the impending Mock Examinations in late January.

TOOLkit Sessions

The **Taking Ownership Of Learning** or TOOLkit sessions are specific to 3rd Year. Following the analysis of the grades and the trends that become apparent, the Tracking Team will offer a select few students the opportunity to attend the TOOLkit sessions in a number of subjects. These sessions bid to support the students in reaching their potential by showcasing ways in which to make positive strides in their studies. In doing so, students will learn to become more autonomous learners and, in essence, take greater ownership for their learning.

6th Year Post-Mock Interventions

Similar to the TOOLkit sessions, tutorials will be given after school, in the core subjects, following the Mock Examinations. These sessions will be intense revision and strategy orientated lessons that will enhance the students understanding of how to maximise their scores in June.

Mentors

The 6th Year Mentor programme continues to be a hugely successful model in the school with teachers giving their time to guide and support small groups of 6th Years through the challenges of their Leaving Certificate year. Support, guidance and advice are to the fore at these frequent meetings.

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Supported Study

Supported Study is available to students identified through consultation between the Year Heads and the Tracking Team. These students have temporary access to the supported study room, which is separate to the main study hall. Here, students can ask the teacher for assistance with their work. The students in this centre are also kept on task in line with a pre-determined study plan.

Study

The After School Study programme, which runs after school each day, offers students an optimum environment in which to study. With no distractions and surrounded by their peers, students are able to concentrate on getting both homework and study complete.

From January, a 1.5 hour study session will be made available for 1st and 2nd Years.

A letter, from the Study Coordinator, will follow shortly.

Here at Our Lady's we are committed to helping the students reach their full potential and it is hoped that through such resource driven approaches we can empower our students to achieve their very best.

We are delighted with the extensive progress our students have made to date and we encourage them to also become involved with all extra curricular opportunities and also with all our current festive initiatives.

We look forward to your support with our annual OLS raffle and to our Gifts to the Crib charitable initiative..

I wish you and your daughter the very best for the remainder of the term and for a restful and peaceful Christmas break.

Principal

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