

Our Lady's School Newsletter



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It was great to see our students and staff returning refreshed and ready to go after the Christmas break. We were all spurred on by the phenomenal success of the Goal mile led by OLS students. They collected over €10,000 which was the highest amount raised in the country. Volunteerism is really alive and well in Our Lady's.

The whole school community was excited to launch the Our Lady's Sports Facilities Fundraiser to replace the current astroturf pitch at an approximate cost of €300,000. We also aim to apply for a Sports Capital Grant to assist with funding. Every single student in the school uses the pitch through PE classes, hockey coaching, and a vast array of extracurricular activities. Wellbeing, which is now a core Junior Cycle subject area, emphasises physical activity and its positive impact on student wellbeing. As the astroturf pitch is our only outdoor space, it is a priority that we need to address to ensure our students' needs are fully met. A big thank you to those who have donated through Easy Payments, GOFundMe or by sending in red envelopes. All your donations are gratefully received. We are delighted that to date we have raised €14,000. For those who are yet to donate and are in a position to do so, we appeal to you to please visit the website where all links are available to assist donations.

There was lots of 'Singing in the Rain' and umbrella swinging during the month of January as the TY Musical approached. The TYs treated us to a really enjoyable 4 night musical extravaganza. Our 2 casts kept up the momentum for the whole week and ensured that the final night was a complete sell out and a great success.

Special congratulations to the enterprise class who pulled out all the stops to make

the musical the most profitable ever. Here in OLS it takes a whole school to put on a TY musical with a cast of 120 students. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who assisted with the musical.

January and February brought numerous successes to OLS students. Two TY groups reached the final of the Angus Beef Competition. Three Junk Kouture groups have reached the finals of the competition and one group was awarded the Bank of Ireland Silver Ticket. Congratulations to the Senior Camogie team who won the Shield Final in a nail-biting final and to both U16 Badminton teams who won gold and silver medals in the Dublin finals. Finally, best wishes to our Tech 4U groups who have been nominated for the Garda Community Awards.

This term also saw the introduction of additional extracurricular activities for all students at lunch and after school. These activities include cookery club, dance classes, gym sessions for senior students, guitar club and robotics club. We are delighted that UCD School of Education is sponsoring the Robotics club and Microsoft in Education have also offered us funding in recognition of our commitment to the promotion of STEM subjects in our school.

Well done to all parents and students who have made it through the February exams. Our 3rd and 6th Year mock exam students have learned valuable lessons about time management and structuring answers correctly.

I hope the mid-term will bring all our students and families a much deserved rest.

Best wishes,

Marguerite Gorby | Principal



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SCIENCE

Certified Irish Angus Beef Competition



Team A at the Certified Irish Angus Beef Competition

On Monday, January 14th, two teams from OLS took part in the All Ireland Quarter Finals of the Certified Irish Angus Beef Competition in the Mullingar Park Hotel. Team A (Sinéad McGoldrick and Maria Finnegan) and Team B (Laura Donovan, Charlotte Rynne and Hannah Walshe) were interviewed on their video submission, their selected agricultural theme of retailer experience and on their knowledge of Angus Beef, the brand Certified Irish Angus, food processors Kepak and ABP as well as food production. Well done to the girls and their teacher Ms Flannery and we will have fingers crossed for the results outcome next week to see if the girls make it to the Semi Finals in March in Croke Park.

5th Year Physics Trip



OLS Physics students at the O'Brien Centre for Science

On January 21st OLS Physics students headed for the O'Brien Centre for Science in UCD with their teachers Ms Flood and Mr Mallen. The theme for the 2019 Tyndall Lecture was 'The Physics of Waves'. The lecture served as a great introduction for the 5th Year students and excellent revision for our 6th Years, some of whom managed to demonstrate their musical talents in front of the crowd as part of one of the demonstrations.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Neat Street Conference

Four members of the Green School Committee, along with Ms Clancy attended a Neat Street conference in Croke Park on Wednesday, January 23rd. The event was organised by the environmental education unit, An Taisce. It was an excellent opportunity to share ideas with other environmental enthusiasts for our Green School action plan on reducing litter and waste.

MUSIC

6th Year Music Trip

The 6th Year Music classes, along with Ms Byrne and Ms Murphy, attended a performance and analysis concert of Tchaikovsky's 'Romeo and Juliet Overture' at the National Concert Hall on Monday, January 21st. This was an exciting opportunity for our students to experience a live performance from the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of one of the prescribed works for their Leaving Certificate. An enjoyable morning was had by all!



OLS Green School Committee at the Neat Street Conference

TY UPDATE

Singin' in the Rain

The TY musical 'Singin' in the Rain' had a very successful run from January 21st-25th in the GPA. The classic rom-com musical is set in the late 1920's and follows three Hollywood stars struggling with the transition from silent films to "talkies". Although the core cast consisted of 60 TY students who practiced tirelessly, the whole year group was involved in putting on a terrific show. The Friday night performance sold out almost immediately and the GPA was packed every night with extra seats needing to be added due to demand. Audience feedback was extremely positive with one attendee describing the performance as "a real enjoyable watch. Everyone looked like they were having so much fun!" Congratulations to the cast and crew and sincere thanks to Ms McIntyre, Ms Nolan, Ms Reilly, and Ms Murphy for all their work.



TY Development Day 4

Well done to all TYs who enthusiastically took part in their fourth Development Day on Tuesday, January 29th. The B4s and C4s learned self-defence, L4s have now received their qualification in First Aid, and P4s learned how to edit and make movies in their workshop. Through their participation in the Development Days the TYs are learning and honing a broad range of useful skills and advancing their personal, social, and educational development.

TY Interviews

Well done to all the TY students who completed their mid-year interviews on January 28th and 29th. They represented themselves very professionally and have set a fantastic standard for their end of year interviews.

Rec. Studies Hike

After their English exam on Tuesday, February 5th, the 4th Years took to the mountains again to complete the second of the 3 peak challenges as part of Rec. Studies. Through the cold weather, rain and fog they climbed from Greystones to Bray. It was a very enjoyable day and although multiple shoes were ruined and everyone was cold, spirits were high. The trip to Carrickmines for some hot food rounded off a day of adventure and everyone went home smiling.



TY filmmakers viewing their work



Intrepid hikers on the trek from Greystones to Bray



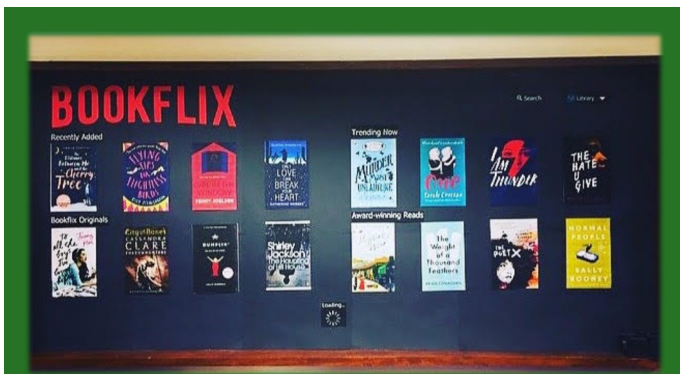
LIBRARY LIFE

Bookflix Display

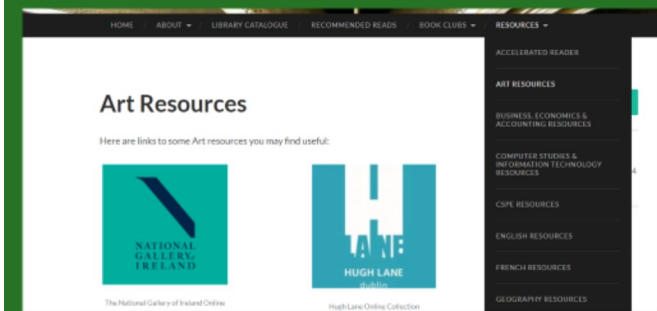
Inspired by clever school librarians on Twitter, we've created our very own Bookflix display in the library. The display showcases books recently added to the library collection, trending titles, books adapted as Netflix shows or films, and award-winning reads. It has been garnering lots of attention from students and staff alike and the featured books have been flying off the shelves – a sure sign of an effective display!

Subject Resources on the Library Website

We have new resource pages on the library website for students wishing to research, study, brush up on their language skills or broaden their general knowledge. Resources include interactive galleries, games, videos, lessons and information on a broad range of subjects from Art to Spanish. Go to <https://ourladyslibrary.wordpress.com/> and click on the 'Resources' menu to explore the options.



Bookflix display in the school library



Where to find subject resources on the library website

Book Club Update

We have two book clubs – a junior and a senior – that meet regularly in the library. The juniors meet at lunchtime every Thursday for lively discussion on their current reads and to recommend books to each other. The group's reading tastes are diverse, with current reads ranging from humour (*Geek Girl* by Holly Smale) to classic science fiction (*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury).

The senior book club meets on the first Tuesday of the month and we take a themed approach to our reading. February's theme was Historical Fiction and the seniors read a range of titles including *Fatherland* by Robert Harris and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. We discussed the eras portrayed in each of the books and how well the author evoked a sense of time and place; the fidelity to the events, social structures and politics of the time periods in question; the characters and whether their behaviours and attitudes were typical of the time; and whether we learned anything new through our reading. Our next meeting is on March 5th and the theme is Dystopian & Science Fiction.

New members are always welcome to join either the junior or senior book club.



Junior Book Club



Suggested reads for March's Senior Book Club on display in the library



SPORTS NEWS

Camogie

Well done to the OLS senior camogie team who won the Senior 'A' Camogie Shield Final in a tightly contested match against Castleknock Community College on January 18th. After an early lead from Castleknock, OLS retaliated with a spate of goals and points scored by Bláthnaid Slater, Amber Finnegan, Emma Ryan and captain Holly Finnegan. The final score at St Peregrine's was 5-5 to 3-10. Congratulations to the whole team on a terrific win.



OLS Senior Camogie Team



Badminton

Congratulations to our U16 badminton teams on their Dublin Final successes on Tuesday, January 29th. The Division 1 team took gold and Division 2 took silver. We would like to wish both teams the best of luck in the upcoming Leinster Finals.

Athletics

Congratulations to Jennifer Hanrahan (C4) who has been selected by Athletics Ireland to the National Jumps Project 2019. She has also been selected to attend the Junior High Performance Relay Squad training camp in Portugal at Easter.

Rugby

Our girls who have started rugby with Terenure RFC this year went to Donnybrook Stadium on Friday, February 1st, to support the Irish women's rugby team. While the result wasn't what we were hoping for, the girls had a great time supporting the Irish team. It's fantastic for the students to see women playing sport at the top level.

Hockey

Well done to all fifteen teams who have represented Our Lady's in Leinster hockey leagues this season. All teams have competed well in their groups, a special congratulations goes to the Senior D and Junior B teams who have progressed to the pre-quarter finals of their league competitions. Well done to the Senior B team who have reached the semi-finals of their league which will be played after the mid-term break. The Junior A team will play the semi-finals of the Junior plate competition on Saturday, March 3rd – best of luck!



OLS U16 Badminton at the Dublin Final



OLS Terenure RFC players at Donnybrook Stadium



OLS Hockey players with Ms Flood





OLS SPORTS FACILITY FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all of the families who have contributed to our fundraising campaign to date. A strong focus on the link between wellbeing and physical activity is of paramount importance to us in Our Lady's School. We are proud of how much our students benefit from our vibrant and inclusive sporting and extracurricular culture and The OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser seeks to protect and improve our capacity to provide this.

The aim of our fundraising strategy is to drive the improvement of the sporting facilities used by our students every day. Our initial target is to replace the astroturf sports pitch which, built in 1999, is fast approaching the end of its lifespan. This will cost in the region of €300,000.

The astroturf pitch is critical to school life because it is the only outdoor playing area for Physical Education and extracurricular activities on the school grounds. Every single student in the school uses it regularly, whether during the school day for Physical Education classes or at lunchtime or after school for extracurricular activities. It is home to our 15 hockey teams playing in the Leinster League. It is also the venue for our Inter House sports competitions and other whole-school events like our annual Céilí Mór during Wellbeing Week. In short, the astroturf is absolutely central to the active life of the school.

All donations will be gratefully received and can be made in a variety of ways, for whatever amount you deem appropriate:

- There is a facility on Easy Payments Plus (link on the school website) to make your donation, whether it be €200 or an amount you wish to determine yourself.
- There is also a link to a GoFundMe page on our school website (click on the fundraising logo for the link).
- Alternatively, cheques may be made payable to 'Our Lady's School' and returned to Reception in an envelope.

With your financial assistance we can see the students of OLS using a new astroturf pitch within the next two years fulfilling the Our Lady's vision of offering each student the opportunity to reach their full potential.


To donate online, visit olschool.ie and click on either the 'Easy Payments' or 'gofundme' link. Thank you for your support.



The reason we need to fundraise!



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Email: admin@olschool.ie





Click on easy payments or the icon above to donate to the OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser

Download our School App



OLS SPIRIT

Garda Youth Awards

The Garda Youth Awards celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognise the good work being done by young people in their community. The TY Tech 4 U programme has been nominated for its 6 week programme of ICT lessons delivered by students to people from the local area who wished to advance the technological skills. Congratulations to Ms Doyle, Ms Cantwell and the TY students on this nomination.

5th Year students Abby Mills and Laura Keely have also been nominated by Terenure Tiger Rugby Club for their tireless commitment and enthusiasm to helping out each week with rugby for those with special needs. Well done to both nominees.

Student Council Bake Sale

The student council held their first event of 2019 on January 31st. The Bake Sake was a huge success and a big thank you to all involved, especially all the talented students who kindly volunteered their time and skills to donate some wonderful treats. We sold out within 20 minutes so unfortunately some who joined the long queue were disappointed; however, all students will benefit from the funds raised during Wellbeing Week.



Tech 4 U



Student Council Bake Sale



Stella O'Malley giving a talk on wellbeing, resilience and being a bully-proof kid to 2nd Year OLS students



2nd Year Wellbeing & Resilience Talk

On January 11th the 2nd Years had a very interesting speaker in to talk to them about wellbeing, resilience and being a bully-proof kid. Stella O'Malley is a mental health professional, writer, best-selling author, public speaker and a parent with many years' experience working in counselling and psychotherapy. Stella's third book, 'Fragile', is about anxiety and will be released in March.

5th Year Make-A-Wish Talk

Cathy Elliott gave a talk to the 5th Years on January 11th about the important work done by the Make-A-Wish foundation. The charity works to grant the wishes of children aged between 3 and 17 years living with life-threatening medical conditions. The 5th Years were given plenty of food for thought regarding how they can reach out to help others in need.

Academic Mentoring

Academic mentoring is a new optional programme being made available to 6th Year students in OLS. Mentoring teachers provide an extra layer of support, in addition to the form teacher, year head and guidance team. Areas of focus include study skills, time management, promoting well-being and life skills. We hope that this new initiative will be very beneficial to our students.



The theme of the B House mass celebrated self-belief and appreciation of our differences. The banner was made by the talented students in B5.

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

B House Mass

On January 18th, the B House came together with their house head Ms Kiernan to celebrate the feast day of St. Brigid. The theme they chose was 'We're entirely bonkers but I'll tell you a secret, all the best people are.' The theme was inspired by the novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carol and captures the ideas of self-belief and appreciation for our differences.

In the entrance procession, gifts of faith and symbols from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* were brought to the Altar. The White Rabbit's pocket watch was introduced to remind everyone that the time we have in school is short and that we must make the most of every opportunity available to us. The key that Alice used to open the door to Wonderland was used to show how sometimes we struggle to find the correct path in life but we must have faith that the key to our success is found through perseverance and the knowledge that God has a plan for each of us. Alice and her eclectic group of friends spent time together at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. A cup and saucer were used to represent the B House meetings and the fun they share in these gatherings.

The mass was very meaningful and uplifting. The song choices, readings and Gospel message all highlighted the theme of appreciating the gifts we have all been given and challenged us to go out into the world to let our light shine.

Le Chéile Conference 2019

On February 7th and 8th, Rebecca Pollock O' Brien and Julie Traynor from Transition Year attended the annual Le Chéile Conference in Athlone. The theme for this year's gathering was 'Welcome, Wisdom and Witness'. Before the duo embarked on their overnight stay in the Athlone they were asked to think about how Our Lady's School is a place of welcome. The students were also asked to interview newcomers to the school. They chose to interview a Transition Year student who began in September and a few 1st Year students.

Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work. We look forward to hearing all about it after the mid-term break.

