



OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL
TERENURE



October 22nd 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued support in getting our students back to school. It has been such a delight to have the building buzzing again with the noise of students and to see the positive interactions that are part of daily life in OLS. We are all learning to live with the restrictions in school and have creatively worked around so many obstacles.

Our term started off with an intense Covid catch up in all subjects to prepare our students to revise key concepts and to be ready to focus on their new curriculum. Academic tracking, study skills and class based assessments all assist bring students up to speed where possible in their subjects.

Extra curricular was launched as soon as the doors opened and our programme has grown to meet every need. From table tennis to cookery, gaelic football to yoga, maths club to book and debating clubs there are a myriad of clubs for your daughters to join. Our commitment to growing the student voice is reflected in the many leadership opportunities that exist for our students and we are delighted that students in every year group are volunteering to give back to the school community. Our Junior House committee is joining with the Amber Flag committee to launch a lego feast and we await to see what they build.

Our first ever remote Parent-teacher meeting for 6th Year parents and students was held last week and overall both staff and parents found it to be a more efficient system than the in-person meetings. We look forward to inviting both students and parents to the 3rd and 5th Year Parent teacher meetings in the next few weeks.

CLASS Programme Funded by the Department of Education

After the midterm break, a number of additional supports will be offered in OLS to mitigate the impact of disruption to in-school education resulting from Covid-19. The CLASS programme, funded by the Department of Education, will allow us to support students' academic, social and emotional needs. A number of extra academic revision classes will be offered to students after school hours. These classes will identify and meet the gaps in learning, in skills, in readiness to learn or in the students' previously identified priority learning needs in order to mitigate any potential regression in



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learning. The core subjects, English, Irish and Mathematics, will be offered to 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th years commencing the week we return to school and a number of additional subjects will be made available throughout the term. Any student who signs up to a class must attend the full 4 weeks of the course to avail of another class.

We would encourage your daughter to take ownership of her learning and sign up to catch up. TYs will start their CLASS academic revision classes after Christmas as we help them bridge the gap between Junior and Senior cycle. A homework support club will also be offered to our 1st Year students to help them organise and complete their homework. We hope that these additional classes will support your daughter in identifying gaps in her learning due to the pandemic and allow her to opt in to the relevant course to ensure that this gap in learning is filled.

These new academic supports, only available this year under the CLASS programme, will be complemented with some new wellbeing activities, such as minecraft, arts and crafts, drama and musical theatre. Please see the timetable attached in the app post and encourage your daughter to sign up and get involved.

We are delighted that we have been finally given a date for the replacement of the astro turf pitch in early November. We will all be reinvigorated to see a wonderful new facility available for every student in the school to use. I would like to again thank you for your generosity in financially supporting this initiative.

We look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed on 1st November to an action packed Reading Week - please make sure your daughter has a book in her bag all week for the opportunities to Drop Everything And Read.

I wish you and your families a restful and safe mid term break.

Yours faithfully

Marguerite Gorby

Principal