



Our Lady's School

## STUDENTS AND LEADERS

We hear from our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Leaders and our new 1<sup>st</sup> Year students about how they've found this term so far. (Page 6)



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

From awards, class activities, extracurricular activities, TY events, and more; we want to tell you about everything we've been up to this term. (Page 9)

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

We've had to approach school a little bit differently this year. Here, we'll outline the protocols that we've undertaken, and how well everyone has followed them. (Page 24)



## **Disclaimer:**

Please note that some of the images included in this newsletter were taken prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Any photos taken this academic year follow our Covid-19 protocols, such as mask-wearing and maintaining social distance. You can learn more about our Covid-19 protocols on page 24!



## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

### **Dear Parents and Guardians,**

Many thanks to the whole school community for assisting us to get back to school in a safe and orderly manner. It is clear that our students are happy to be back in school and to have a routine again. They have returned to us after lockdown with a greater value on education, which is seen clearly in the classrooms through their appreciation of the work of their teachers and a more focused approach to their school work.

We are delighted to welcome both staff and students back to the school building and have ensured through intensive and detailed planning that our Covid Response Plan prioritises the health and safety of the whole community whilst maintaining a rich educational environment for our students.

School life has continued in a very positive manner since our return to school as we embrace our 'new normal'. This has only been possible because of the very significant efforts of our senior management, administrative and maintenance teams who worked tirelessly throughout the summer, and the teachers and all who supervise students on a daily basis to ensure that mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing protocols are adhered to for everyone's safety. We are very proud of the way that the whole community has come together to support all the protocols that we have put in place for the health and safety of everyone.

I particularly want to commend the student body who have been exemplary in their behaviour since the return to school. Our student leaders have helped to convey the importance of the collective responsibility to adhere to the public health guidelines in the school. The new yellow marks on the grounds outside have really assisted the students recognise 2 meters and keep that distance whilst eating lunch. It is of course a work-in-progress and we continue to encourage and remind our students about their responsibility to keep others safe in our community.

### Winter Uniform for the 'New Normal'

As the colder weather approaches we will continue to encourage our students to go outside for break and lunch on dry days. Please ensure that your daughter wears layers and brings her Our Lady's coat to school. The heat is on throughout the school from early morning, however, windows and doors are open to ensure appropriate ventilation which will mitigate the effects of the heating. After midterm, all students will have the option to wear their full PE uniform each day to school if they find it warmer or to wear their school uniform. A reminder that if the school tracksuit isn't available, black leggings and other alternatives are not permitted as a replacement. Students instead will have to wear their school skirt and warm tights.

Many aspects of life are returning in OLS in the new normal. We have had remote assemblies where our student leaders were presented with their badges. We have also had online parent information nights and we celebrated the Opening School Mass with a remote service streamed to each class at the same time.

House activities have been reinvented and students are currently designing their own house tee shirt. We have a new Inter House Cup Competition and for the month of September points were awarded for attendance and in October house points will be awarded for student merits.

We are all delighted to see extracurricular activities return in line with public health guidelines. It is such a pleasure to hear voices from the hockey pitch working safely in pods and to see groups busy at lunchtime and after school working on the BT Young Scientist project, the Student Council, the Le Chéile Council, the Green Committee, the 6th Year gardeners developing the roof garden to name a few of the varied groups. There are many more activities in the pipeline and we will introduce them gradually to ensure that every public health guideline is being adhered to.

All year groups have had study skills sessions to assist them embrace good study habits from the very start of the year. This has been reinforced throughout Study Week. Limited numbers are permitted for After School Study which continues to benefit the student body.

Our TY students are embracing the broad horizons of the year solving maths quizzes for maths week, out and about in the locality and pitching their business ideas at their Dragons' Den. Many are joining their family members remotely in their work place for Work Experience and we are all looking forward to hearing how their week went as they embrace the concept of working from home which is now a constant for so many.

A big thanks goes to our staff who have been innovative in their classrooms assisting the students adapt to the longer class times and also to the new classroom layouts. Staff are certainly getting a large step count at break and lunch as we all work together supervising every bit of the school building and grounds to allow students social distance and stay outside as much as possible. It has been a real team effort.

With every week that passes the confidence of the school community builds and school life becomes more comfortable for everyone.

I would like to thank our students and you, their families, for your positive support and encouragement as we embrace all that this new normal brings with it. Our students are gaining a new perspective on the world and developing a strong social conscience as we all take responsibility not only for our own safety but for the safety of the whole OLS community. We keep in mind all those in our community who have been impacted by these challenging times and we will continue to work positively together to support each other.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marguerite Gorby", positioned to the right of the portrait.

Marguerite Gorby

# STUDENTS AND LEADERS



## A Message from your Head Girls and Sports Captain...



“First half term done and over. Woohoo! We would like to wish a happy October midterm to everyone in the OLS community. We’ve been back for nearly two months and time really does fly when you are having fun! We hope everyone has settled back into the routine of school, especially our 1st Years who are new to OLS life. We are so glad to see you all adopting the OLS spirit with such positivity and enthusiasm. As for everyone else, you’re doing a great job embracing all the new changes in the school. Keep it up!

Most of our extra-curricular activities are back up and running now, and the full timetable is available on the app. We’re so glad to see so many people getting involved. Another ‘wheelie big well done’ to all those cycling to school, it hasn’t gone unnoticed. We hope everyone in OLS has a relaxing midterm break so we all come back feeling refreshed and ready to finish off 2020 strong. We are all in this together!” - Grace Duffy, Anna Boyle, & Amber Finnegan

## First Year Reflections

We asked two of our 1st Year students to reflect on their time in OLS so far. Here's what they shared:

“I started 1st Year in late August 2020. I was quite excited but a little nervous and apprehensive. After all, it was a big step. My first few days were pretty strange. At first, school dragged on forever because I wasn't used to such long days! I kept getting lost in the school; it seemed so big to me. I wasn't very organised and I forgot a lot of books. That didn't really matter though, as my teachers were lenient at the beginning. After a few weeks, I was settled in pretty well. I no longer forgot things and school days flew by. After the introduction to all of my classes we started proper lessons. I enjoyed all my new subjects and I found them quite interesting. Although beginning secondary school was a huge experience and things are a little different due to Covid-19 restrictions, I settled in really well and I can't wait to continue through the rest of 1st Year.”

**- Alannah Giles**

“So far, my time in OLS has been great. I have settled in so well and have been made to feel welcome by everyone. I have met loads of amazing new people and look forward to getting to know them all better. There are so many opportunities to get involved and represent OLS. Whether that's through sports teams, student council, or any other groups in the school. Our Lady's also gives you the chance and guidance to excel academically. There are many choices when it comes to subjects. You can choose from business, home economics, music, and art. You also have multiple languages to choose from with French, Spanish, and German. All these choices you get allow you to be yourself and show everyone what you can do. I have found these last few weeks to be fantastic and I hope that the next 6 years will be too.”

**- Rebecca Bowden**



## Leadership in OLS

*'A leader is one who knows the way, shows the way and goes the way'*

*-John C. Maxwell*

“Last week, the 6th year council participated in a leadership workshop to deepen our skillset and to identify ways in which we can improve and better ourselves as school leaders. We learnt so much from the experience. We were eager to learn and as a group took so many ideas on board.

At the beginning of the workshop, we were asked to stand up and introduce ourselves in front of everyone and the brave Saoirse Murphy stepped up to the plate first. This simple activity, although daunting at first, highlighted what we need as leaders: confidence, communicational skills, courage, compassion and enthusiasm. The training team who came into the school were so helpful and showed us practical ways to improve. We were given valuable tips on how to work well as a team and really developed our skillset. We participated in many different activities, watched videos and overall thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We looked at various well known leaders all around the world to gain insight into the key skills they carry and how they use these skills to better ourselves as leaders. Each councillor identified ways in which they can help their classes, offer them support and guide them in the best way possible. Especially at this time, it's so important to work together and support each other and this workshop really encouraged us to continue this. We gained so much from this wonderful opportunity and are so excited to implement all we have learnt into our council.”



# THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



## Awards and Prizes

### Charlotte Gallaher- Pramerica Award

Huge congratulations to Charlotte Gallaher B2 who was one of the top two Junior Honorees this year for the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards. She won €500 for her nominated charity and a trophy. Charlotte won this award for being the youngest member and volunteer of the Sarah Jennifer Knott Foundation (SJK). She has said that her motivation for volunteering is that: “Even though I was going through chemotherapy treatment for my cancer I really wanted to lobby for the SJK Foundation to try and help raise money and hopefully one day find a cure.” We are all very proud of your achievement!



## **June Polgolla- Scientific Achievements**



A huge congratulations to June Polgolla in B5 who has had great success in the scientific field this term. We caught up with June to hear more about her scientific accomplishments:

“My project was about investigating the antimicrobial effects of herbal plant and vegetable extracts against plant pathogens, they also worked for human pathogens like Staphylococcus Aureus as well. Plants being infected with pathogenic bacteria is a global problem as a result of climate change. Globally around 30% - 40% of food production is lost due to plant pathogens. I used the agar disk diffusion

method and I found that betel leaves and cinnamon had the strongest antimicrobial effects. This could be used as components of a spray in the agriculture and food industry. I received the Science Foundation Ireland Best Project Award, Specsavers Making a Difference Award, and the Environmental Award in the SciFest @ College 2020, and I will be representing Our Lady's in the National Finals in November 2020. I first entered this project into the BT Young Scientist and got highly commended. I didn't think my project would go far but was delighted to become finalists in the Young Environmentalist Awards, and to be invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in the Iveagh House for my project.”

The future of women in STEM subjects seems very bright. We are so proud of your achievements, June and we wish you the best of luck in the National Finals next month.

## **Sarochinee Ashe- Random Acts of Kindness**

A huge well done to Sarochinee Ashe, B5 who has demonstrated incredible kindness and determination during COVID-19. From the beginning of lockdown, Sarochinee began baking 4 lemon drizzle cakes per week for the staff of CHI in Temple Street Hospital. She did this without looking for any support or credit, out of complete and pure kindness. Temple Street Hospital contacted us to say they believe that Sarochinee has baked over 100 cakes since the beginning of COVID-19. The staff now look forward to break time on Friday when they can sit down with a cup of coffee and a treat from Sarochinee. We are so proud of you Sarochinee and you are a credit to OLS. Well done!



## LiFT Leadership Awards



We all extend a big congratulations to Louise Brennan in L5 and Katie Lett in C5 for their participation with the LIFT Leadership Awards. These awards celebrate those displaying positive leadership around Ireland. The girls had stiff competition as there were over 160 nominees in both categories, from companies and schools all over Ireland. Louise was one of the final 4 in the Honesty & Integrity award, and Katie was one of the final 4 in the Positive Attitude award. A huge well done to Katie Lett who received highly commended in the Positive Attitude category

and congratulations to Louise Brennan in L5 who won the Honesty and Integrity Award.

## Writing Competitions

The English Department were most impressed by the volume of entries they received for this term's writing competition. The theme was 'New Beginnings.' Huge congratulations to our winners:

Joint First Year winners: Amy McNamee and Ella Moran B1

Joint Senior Cycle winners: Conne Heather B6 and Malika Chami P4

You can read the winning entries in the post on our app! Big congratulations to everyone who submitted an entry, it was an incredibly close contest.

## Study Skills Week

Study skills week took place in school during the week of 5th October. To kick start the week our 1st Year students attended a study skills seminar in Joey's Hall which was delivered by 'Amazing Brains.' Our 1st Year's learned about time management, mind mapping and effective revision techniques. On Wednesday, the second year's attended their study skills seminars in the Sports Hall where they learned about study planning, revision guides and how to eliminate distractions. We shared a number of resources on our app during the week including a guide for parents and some study tips from our current 6th Years. There were daily study tips on the intercom along with daily study challenges. Congratulations to the following students on winning a stationary hamper as part of the daily challenges: Sara Devoy- P5, Emily Hanratty- C, Gwen Mc Dermott- B1, Katelyn Byrne- L5, Becca Hurley- L5.



## Leaving Cert Class of 2020

The school community would like to congratulate the Leaving Cert Class of 2020 on completing the extraordinary journey of their Leaving Certificate year. The girls have now received their results and college offers and, as ever, we wish them the very best on their next adventure. While they are missed around the school, we are thrilled that they have been able to keep moving forwards despite the challenges encountered along the way. We hope that their OLS experiences, memories and friendships will continue to serve and support them well and we look forward to hearing their updates in the future!

## **Class Activities**

### Mr. Farrelly's 5th Year Agriculture Science

Mr Farrelly's class have been busy at work preparing the seedbeds behind Lourdas Hall. It's hoped that the girls will plant winter hardy plants and crops. This will give them a better understanding of the topics they are covering in class and an appreciation of the steps in food production. In addition, it will bring the place to life by adding some colour in the springtime!



### Ms. Byrne's 1st Year Music

The 1st Year Music students took to the outdoors to allow space for some much needed practical work. Some glorious sounds were created! Well done girls for embracing the challenges of being a musician and composer in these unusual times.

### Ms Forbes' 1st Year Home Economics

Some lovely scones being made in a socially distanced kitchen by Ms Forbes' equally lovely first year class! Yum!



## 6th Year Geography Field Trips



Sixth year students visited Larch hill as part of their Leaving Cert Geography coursework. They had the opportunity to try out active methodologies and collect data samples to investigate processes of erosion in the river. It was a great day of experimentation.

Well done Geographers!



## Transition Year Activities

The TY students have enjoyed a variety of activities this term, from running sports leadership classes for 1<sup>st</sup> years, to work experience, to treasure hunts and more!:



Pictured are our TY Reps for the year Back row L - R Abbey Kelly (L4), Fiona Duffy (L4), Carrie Strahan (P4), Caitlin Evoy (P4), Front row L - R Anika Jatar (C4), Róisín Evoy (C4), Laura Fleming (B4) and Rachel Dignam (B4).



## Dragon's Den



A huge congratulations and well done to all of our Transition Year Enterprise students who took part in their first OLS Dragons Den event on Tuesday 13 October 2020. They showed confidence, entrepreneurial spirit and most importantly a great sense of teamwork and innovation. The girls have been working extremely hard on their enterprise company and finally got the chance to show them off to some of the wonderful staff at OLS, including Ms Gorby, Ms Ronan and Mr Rhatigan. Each Enterprise group set up their own eye-catching stand to lure in the dragons (teachers). As well as this, the students further impressed the dragons with their attention grabbing and skilful sales pitches.

Here are some of the girl's thoughts about their afternoon participating in the Dragons Den event:

- “We feel that the whole experience was very rewarding.”
- “Ms Gorby and the other teachers gave us lots of positive feedback, we are delighted with how the event went and cannot wait for the next one!”
- “We feel our product can promote school spirit inside and outside of school, the event was a lot of fun”
- “We learned how to write a business plan, assign company roles, budget the cost of our materials, market our product and pitch our idea coming up to the event. This knowledge was really important to impress the dragons”
- “We worked well as a team and communicated efficiently with each other”
- “There was a lot of interest in the product. The dragons were impressed!”





# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Hockey

“This hockey season got off to a different but exciting start. Players from each year gathered together (or dare I say apart) to start another triumphant season here at OLS. The enthusiasm was clear from the get go. While hockey this year is not what we were used to, we adapted in true OLS spirit. We’re taking this year as a chance to improve our hockey and strengthen team bonds. Hockey is a big part of OLS and while this year there may be many obstacles in what we’re able to do, hockey remains a key element in our school life.” - Katie and Julie



## **Library**

We are looking forward to getting the library back up and running and to encourage everyone to get stuck into a good book this Winter. We'll kick things off with Reading Week on November 2nd where all students have to have a book in their bag for reading breaks throughout the week. There will be house competitions for those who manage to read the most books, so make sure to get reading!



We also cannot wait to see how many books our students get to read for next month's annual MS Readathon. Last year, one class alone raised over €800 and read 220 books! Anyone who is interested in getting started right away can sign up to the Our Lady's School fundraising page here: <https://www.msreadathon.ie/register/2020/child>

## **Student Council**

The student council elections took place in pastoral care class during the week of 28th September. This is a unique year for the student council in Our Lady's as there will be a student council member from each class group for this academic year. We now have 26 student council members in comparison to 18 members last year.

To date the council have been very busy meeting with Ms Gorby in relation to student matters, organising a fancy dress fundraiser, decorating the school reception for Halloween and organising a surprise video for the school community for the last day of term. Keep your eyes peeled on the app for more on this!

The students on the council this year are as follows: M1 Kate Lucy, P1 Elizabeth McElroy, C1 Emily Hanratty, B1 Sadhbh Ní Shúilleabháin, L1 Hannah Galvin, M2 Shauna Hayden, P2 Sadhbh Gormley, C2 Ruth McDonnell, B2 Lola Atkins, L2 Charlie Murphy, P3 Rachel Byrne, C3 Alex Reilly, B3 TBC - Ms Reilly, L3 Ella McCabe, P4 Mary Byrne, C4 Dandara Mantovani, B4 Laura Flemming, L4 Eimear Joyce, P5 Maeve Ronayne, C5 Katie Lett, B5 Katherine Hesse, L5 Orla O'Toole, P6 Nikki Goode, C6 Romy Fanning, B6 Rachel Clarke, L6 Mariam Tajuddin.



## School Magazine

Our school magazine here at OLS has been created to provide a space for students to publish some of their most creative work. Some of our members so far have shown a keen interest in writing and publishing their short stories and poems. This magazine will also provide a space for students to develop some of their interests such as journalism and photography. The school magazine is a student-led club, all ideas and contributions are very welcome. The club is currently in the middle of picking a theme for this term's publication, which should be available to students and teachers to read at Christmas! All new members are very welcome!



## Club Gaeilge



“The Coiste Gaeilge (made up of twelve 5th Years and four TY’s) are off to a great start this term planning events for the year. You may have seen our new and improved notice boards with quotes and memes as Gaeilge. Not to mention Irish phrases hidden around the school (on green paper so you can’t miss them!). First years have been invited to nominate class reps to help promote Irish throughout the school. They also had a Pastoral Care with the Coiste on October 19th where we had ‘cluichí’ and ‘ceol’. It’s fair to say a good time was had by all. Lá dár saol cinnte!”

- Julie

## The Amber Flag Committee

“The Amber Flag Committee is an initiative set up by Pieta house to promote positive mental health within schools. We wanted to take part within our school because we feel it’s so important to raise awareness about mental health and break the stigma surrounding the topic. We had lots of ideas flowing about changes we wanted to make to ensure the school environment is as positive as possible. One of our main projects to work on was the rooftop garden. The garden hadn’t been shown love in quite some time so we wanted to make the most of our opportunity and bring it back to life.



After multiple meetings and planning sessions we set to work on our endless list of tasks. We rooted out the gardening clothes and got straight to business. First up was the de-weeding followed by the planting of the house pots. Each house has a large pot with flowers of their house colour in the centre of the garden creating a circle to represent the community within our school. Of course we couldn’t forget about the staff pot, which got pride of place in the centre. Courtesy of Ms Kinsella, we have a garden mascot “Froggy La Fosse”, who sits proudly in the centre of the garden. We decided the walls needed a revamp and got a few fresh coats of white paint to add brightness to the area. It’s still a work-in-progress but we have lots of great plans so keep an eye out as you pass by! We have the addition of a noticeboard on the wall beside the garden which is home to lots of helpful advice in all areas of mental health. We want this to be a place where people can come for some help or guidance in times of need, or just to educate yourself on the resources available. We are delighted that the Amber Flag committee was introduced to our school this year and feel it is a great opportunity to make our school a welcoming, helpful and inclusive community that supports mental well-being.”

-Ruth Geraghty

## **Lighthouse**

We are currently accepting applications from interested 5th Year students for the Lighthouse Peer Mentoring Programme which will commence in OLS following the Halloween mid-term break. The Lighthouse Programme involves 5<sup>th</sup> Year students taking on a leadership and mentoring role in the school and helping the 2nd Year students to feel comfortable and supported in the school environment. The programme makes a valuable contribution to the overall ethos of our school's pastoral care system.



Lighthouse Mentors will receive leadership training and will work with the younger students on a formal and informal basis, acting as a support system for them, acknowledging their stressors and encouraging them to make positive changes to support their emotional wellbeing. This year, the Lighthouse Programme will tie in with the Amber Flag Initiative in OLS, promoting positive mental health within the school community and fundraising for Pieta House.

## **Make up - Embrace your Face!**

Friday lunch times consist of our own little make up masterclasses! We have looked at face, nose and eye shapes, colour theory, brows, contour and products. The girls are really enjoying the time and requested a 'face consultation', which we carried out last week. We looked at everyone's face and the best way to contour in order to achieve the 'perfect' face. However, perfect isn't always the way to go and we should always feel good in our own skin, so the motto we came up with was 'Embrace your Face'. We have covered all things theory when it comes to make up so hopefully after midterm, we will get stuck into creating make up looks from everyday basics to ultra-glam! We hope to keep you updated with lots of pics!

## **BT Young Scientist Exhibition**

This year sparked a new interest in students participating in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition (BTYS). Students across all year's groups expressed a keen interest in representing Our Lady's in an array of disciplines. Students demonstrated hard work and diligence on their quest to qualify for the National Competition. Three groups have been selected from thousands of applications across the island to represent the school for the virtual event in January.



They are; Hannah Molloy B1 & Lucy Sommers M1 for their project, The Effectiveness of Safety Procedures Against Covid-19. Amy McNamee & Cliodhna Foley, both B1 for their project Measuring The Speed of The Wind: Why Does The Wind Blow? and finally, Caoilin Dunne & Beatrice Rath B4's for their project, The Implication of Modern Materials Affecting Force and How IT Contributes To Gameplay.

Mr Farrelly would also like to congratulate the groups and individuals that were unsuccessful for their hard work and participation in the competition. They are: Máire Hyndman & Niamh Tutty (P3) Cara Sullivan & Ava Corcoran (P1) Project Title: Does Slug Pellets Affect Plant Growth? And Eimear Joyce (L4) Project Title: Hybrid Engines for Onshore Fishing Boats.

## **Active Flag Report:**

“We're the TY active school flag class of 2020/2021 and we're here to give you a quick report on what we've achieved and what we plan to achieve this year. We started off the term by putting up posters, promoting student's fitness around the school. We followed this by preparing an exciting afternoon of sports for all the first year students. We successfully ran this event of the 29th of September. We're also working hard on creating a walkway around the school for students to get active at lunch and break times. As well as that, we had the whole school fill out an active survey in pastoral care as we appreciate your opinions. We promise to keep up our hard work throughout the year and we will be sure to keep you active even with the coronavirus restrictions. We'll keep you posted on further updates.”

-Abbey Kelly and Ciara Moore





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A vibrant, creative and accessible Chaplaincy exists in Our Lady's School. It is an integral and vital part of the school life. Our school community has shown great resilience over the past two months and have become innovative in our practice. Well done to all involved in maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and the implementation of its mission.

### Opening Year Mass

Our Opening Year Mass is celebrated annually in St. Pius' Church. However, due to the restrictions we had to become creative in how we celebrated the beginning of our new school year. We decided to have a digital prayer service that the whole school could watch together, albeit from different classrooms. The fitting theme was chosen by Ms. Kinsella: "Ní huasal ná íseal ach thuas seal is thíos seal", which is a seanfhocal that perfectly represents the attitude we should have facing this school year. It means that we will all have our ups and downs but together we can get through the tough times. This poignant proverb helped us to explore our hopes for the year ahead while accepting the difficulties the pandemic holds for us all. Thank you again to the Sisters of the Community, Fr. Brian Mc Kay, the readers, musicians, the digital genius of Ms. Murphy, and our House Captains, who all played a part. The prayer service was a special time for reflection and a space to ask God to stay close to us as we journey together.



## Le Chéile Council

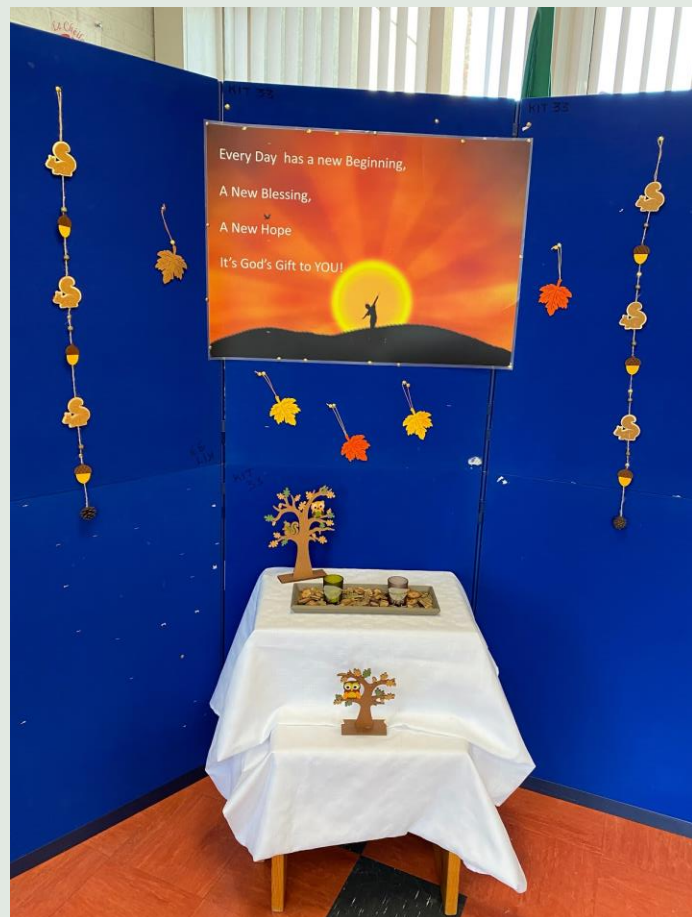
In 2013, Our Lady's school was entrusted by the Religious of Christian Education to the Le Chéile Trust. This will ensure that our commitment to maintaining the Christian ethos and rich faith practices of our school will continue into the future. This year, the chaplaincy in Our Lady's will be supported by a new Le Chéile Council. It is a student-led, faith leadership council consisting of 41 students. This group has been separated into three umbrella groups.

1) Interfaith and Culture Group- formed to celebrate the variety of cultures, ethnic and faith traditions held by students in the school.

2) Chaplaincy group- This group of students will present the "Thought for the week" each Monday over the intercom. They will assist in preparing school liturgies throughout the year and will become Ministers of the Eucharist.

3) Connecting with the wider community- This is our Charity group, run by Ms. Donlon. It is primarily a St. Vincent de Paul group but the students will also prepare a charity day for 1st Years in aid of Wells for Zoe after Christmas.

The council's first action was to assist in the celebration of World Teachers' Day. They made cards for the teachers and were found posting kind messages on post-it notes on all the teacher's cars. The council is currently busy planning an "In November we Remember" service where we will give time for reflection and commemorate those we love who have died. The council will have their induction ceremony as part of the Nuns' Feast Day celebrations in November. Thank you and good luck in the year ahead!



## Anam Cara's

The Sisters of the community are 'Anam Cara's', meaning Faith Friends, to each year group. Recently Sister Enda and Sister Kathleen moved to Mary Field Nursing Home in Chapelizod, where they have joined Sister Elizabeth Vern. They have settled in well and send their love and prayers to all the students and staff of OLS. Two new sisters, Sister Monica Mannion and Josephine Shannon have joined the community from Farnborough in England.

1st years- Sister Josephine Shannon

2nd Years- Sister Margaret

3rd Years- Sister Monica Mannion

4th Years- Sister O Looney

5th Years- Sister Rosemary Magnier

6th Years- Sister Cara



During their welcome note, sent to the student via video link, Sr. O Looney on behalf of the sisters said: “We all want you to know that even though we are not visiting you in the school and restrictions prevent you coming to see us in the community, each one of you is prayed for every day”. Thank you, Sisters, for making time for all of us and for keeping us and our families in your prayers.



## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

There are a number of protocols that the school has undertaken to ensure the safety of all members of the school community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

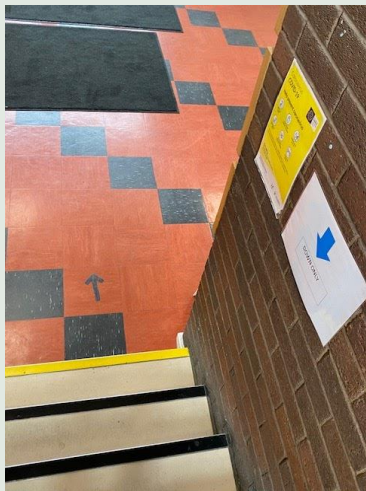
Let's take a look!:

- The school has adopted a one-way system to assist with physical distancing.
- Students and teachers have been using hand sanitiser before and after every lesson, with hand sanitiser dispensers placed inside/outside of every classroom.
- Masks/face-coverings are mandatory in the school building, which everyone has adhered to brilliantly with some very fun and colourful masks!
- Windows and doors stay open in all classrooms to ensure that they are well-ventilated.
- Students are encouraged to head outside for lunch to get a nice dose of fresh air, where our supervisors ensure that they still remain at safe distances.





- Every student has an assigned seat in their classes and all desks are placed at a safe distance from one another.
- Students and teachers wipe down their work surfaces at the end of every lesson with disinfectant and blue roll.
- Frequent-touch surfaces (e.g. door handles and banisters) are wiped down regularly during the day.
- An increased team of cleaners take over at the end of the day to give a comprehensive clean before we do it all again the following day!



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all members of the school community who have followed the new rules and protocols so diligently. We know that it isn't easy, but we are so grateful to everyone for maintaining a positive school spirit whilst also staying safe. An extra special thanks to Vincent Walsh, Ms. Morrissey, and Mr. Smyth for all of their hard work in ensuring that the school is a safe environment for all staff and students.

