



Our Lady's School



## HOUSE SPIRIT

Have a look inside OLS and see our house spirit in full swing (Page 10)



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

From awards, class activities, extracurricular activities, to TY events, and more, we want to tell you about everything we've been up to this term!

## HALLOWEEN DRESS UP

To end our term on a high we had our annual Halloween dress up. Check out page 15 to see some of our looks.



## **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.



## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Welcome to the OLS Autumn 2021 Newsletter.

As society gradually moves to a new normal, so too does life in OLS. Since we have come back to school after the summer break we all are delighted to see the return of many of the old OLS familiars.

The noise around the corridors alerts us all to the fact that students are very much used to wearing masks and have found their voices again. The extra curricular programme is literally bursting with activities to suit a diverse range of interests from Minecraft, Latin club to yoga and maths club. Cookery club has returned and the waiting lists for places show us that everyone looks forward to embracing so many of the activities that we once took for granted.

The sporting world in OLS continues to grow and it was great to see our Senior 1 hockey kick start the sporting season with a home win. Camogie, gaelic football and basketball teams are also training daily and have started their competitive matches. The big hits this year are the outdoor table tennis tables and a big thanks to the 6th and 4th Year leaders who are organising inter year and house tournaments.

We opened the academic year with a 2 week intensive revision course that identified and addressed gaps in learning due to the pandemic. This was successfully reviewed and data gathered will be used to assist us with our new Department of Education funded CLASS programme of Covid catch up and revision classes.

Year teams are busy monitoring the academic progress of our students to ensure all are on track with their learning as we finish our first term. After the midterm break teachers and students will build on this solid base as preparations for November in-house assessments get underway.

It has been noticeable that a larger percentage of our students have received merits from staff for hard work, exemplary behaviour, improvements in attitude and school work, inclusivity and social conscience to name a few of the many aspects of school life that merits recognise. I have been delighted to sign so many postcards home this term letting parents know about their daughter's positive commitment to the school.

The TYs have enjoyed the start of many trips including hikes, trips to Go Quest, the Wax Museum and the Little Museum and TY bonding days out.

Our Student Council had their first official meeting of the new year last week and it was great to see so many students put their names forward for consideration.

House in OLS is a really important part of daily school life. Each House has been given a corridor to decorate in their House colour identifying their theme for the year, Courage, Community, Charity, Compassion and Conscience. It has been lovely to see so many students involved painting and decorating their corridors with inspirational quotes and pictures and we have all admired the creative process as it evolves. Congratulations to all those selected to be on the Junior House Committee from 1st-3rd Year. The students are busy preparing for a big project next term together with the Lighthouse and Amber Flag leaders.

The development of our students' social conscience remains a priority and due to the combined efforts of the Charity Committee and the House Council in getting the Send a Girl to School campaign off the ground. OLS will be sending 20 girls to school in Malawi through the Wells for Zoe foundation.

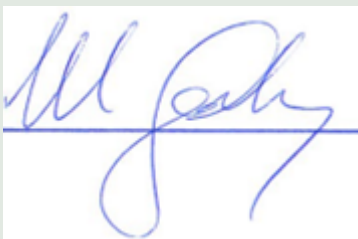
The Parents Council held their AGM on Thursday 21st and it was lovely to see so many faces on the Google Meet. We hope that some of these events will be in person events soon. A big thank you to the Parents' Council on their donation of 5 benches which arrived on Tuesday and are now stationed around the grounds for all to enjoy

We work to a mantra of positivity and problem solving in OLS and therefore we all believe that manufacturing and delivery delays due to Covid won't dampen our excitement as we await the arrival of the replacement astro turf pitch. We are delighted to have finally been told that the pitch will arrive in Dublin on November 4th. Our long wait means that we will really appreciate it once it is in place.

Best wishes to you and your families over the mid-term break.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal



# STUDENT UPDATES



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

### **COUNCIL CORNER**

What's up in the council corner? The tension of the houses has been bigger and better than ever this year! The house corridors are all looking fabulous and colourful and each of the houses are anxiously awaiting the winner.

And our mascot madness is crazier than ever- just like a Shakespeare drama there have been laughs, love and tragedy between Lizzy (B), Daisy (C), Kevin (L), Mort (M) and Pierre (P). There are now reports of mascots being kidnapped, so watch out as the drama continues!

The houses also raised huge amounts of money for Wells for Zoe sending lots of girls to school! Well done to everyone and a huge thank you for donating.

We hope everyone has a lovely break over mid-term, we've all definitely earned it!

-Julie Vaughan & Sara Devoy P6

## SPORTS NEWS

The year began with a visit from an Olympian and past pupil Ellen Walshe, Class of 2020, before she began her studies at the University of Tennessee. Another mention to past pupil Ciara O'Toole, Class of 2019 who has reached first position on her division 1 tennis team at Sacred Heart University, Connecticut.

We are delighted to have an international athlete in our school. Joy Ralph, TY1 represented Ireland U17 in Portugal and at the U17 Euro competition in Norway, where she scored the winning goal against Norway in the 91st minute to win the group for Ireland.

A massive well done to our athletics team on Saturday 16th of October at the Leinster Schools Combined Event Finals. Alannah Giles and Sarah Kiernan finished 5th in minor and junior girls competitions.

After midterm we are hopefully back to competitive interhouse sports on the brand new hockey pitch! This sporting year has gotten off to a great start and I can't wait for the rest of the year.

-Orla O'Toole 6L



## 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:

### My First Term:

I was very excited on my first day of secondary school because I had never been in such a big school before. I knew some of the girls in my year from primary school but I have made some new friends as well. I was also very excited to start new subjects like Home Ec and Art. I was really looking forward to starting back at hockey because it is my favourite sport. I was very nervous about trying to find my way around the school but I have gotten used to it by now. So far I have really enjoyed my time at OLS.

- Darcy Pemberton, C1

Hi, my name is Ella and I'm in first year in Our Lady's!

Moving to secondary school was a huge leap but I really enjoyed the transition. During the summer I was so excited but I did have a few nerves about how the school year was going to go. I just couldn't wait until I got my locker, saw my new teachers and joined extra curricular activities. Everyone has been so welcoming and kind to all of the first years. The teachers are really helpful because they know we haven't had the easiest transition into secondary school. Not to forget about all of the older students as well who have had our backs this whole time. Thank you to everyone in OLS. I can't wait to continue my journey through this school!

- Ella Meade, C1



# THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



## Congratulations to our Leaving Cert 2021 students

A big congratulations to all our Leaving Cert students who got their results in September. You should all be very proud of yourselves...we certainly are! This cohort of students navigated the uncertainty of the Covid era magnificently over the last two years, staying focused and ultimately sitting their exams in June. The results from this year group were a testament to the girls' determination, resilience and the hard work of students and staff alike. There were a phenomenal number of 625s and 613s and many, many individual successes across the board. Congratulations to all!





## Our Olympian, swimmer Ellen Walshe

At the start of term we were delighted to welcome our Olympian, swimmer Ellen Walshe, who spoke to the 1st Years about settling in at Our Lady's School, getting involved in school life and making new friends. Our Sports Captain, Orla, presented her with a bouquet of flowers and the students were thrilled to meet our hero!



## Joy Ralph

A massive well done to Joy Ralph, TY1, who represented Ireland on the U17 Soccer team in two friendlies v Portugal during the 16th of September to the 23rd. She also went on to attend the Women's U17 Euro Competition in Norway, which started on October 6<sup>th</sup> and lasted until October 16th. Well done Joy!



## House Spirit

This term in OLS the house spirit has definitely been in full swing. This year the houses decorated their corridors, with their mascots! There are Teddies, Birthday Walls, Notice Boards and Council Leaders on display in their corridors. It is great to see students getting together and filling the school with house and community spirit.





## Friendship Week

We had a hugely successful Friendship Week in early September. Each day we had a Buddy Walk hosted by the 6th Years. It was great to see so many people making new friends and getting their steps in. The TY Wellbeing Committee sold Friendship Postcards in support of Pieta House and students and staff came along to various clubs throughout the week. A huge thank you to all who were involved. Pictured to the right is the TY Wellbeing Committee before they delivered 149 Friendship Postcards to students of all ages around the school.



## Study Week

This year for study week we held a raffle. Students were put into the draw if they presented a study plan for a subject throughout the week. The students used the information given to them from teachers and their study skills workshops throughout the first term to make their plans. The winners of the study hampers were Zoe Johnson (M1), Clodagh Carty (M1), Estella Graham (C2), Róisín McGrane (L2), Olivia Garry (C3), Katie Kennedy (B3), Ciara McLean (TY1), Claire Little (P5), Katelyn Maher (L5), Jessica Lynch (P6) and Ava Nolan (P6). Well done girls! All 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students were also given a Student Study and Wellbeing Kit, filled with thoughtful and helpful items to help them as they progress through their first year in OLS.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Years First Day in OLS

In August we welcomed our 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students into OLS. They had the chance to familiarize themselves with the school before their first full day of school later on that week. As a welcome to OLS we had an ice cream van at school, and all the student had a chance to get some ice cream.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Badge Ceremony



In September we had our annual badge ceremony, due to Covid regulations we could not all gather together like we would have done in the past but non the less it was still a fantastic day. The ceremony was live broadcast to the whoel school. Well done to all the girls! We are all looking forward to what's to come this year.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Years Geohgraphy Field Trip

Sixth Year students visited Larch hill on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September as part of their Leaving Cert Geoghraphy. They had the opportunity to collect data samples to identify processes of transportation and deposition. It was a great day of experimentation, well done Geographers!



## Maths Week

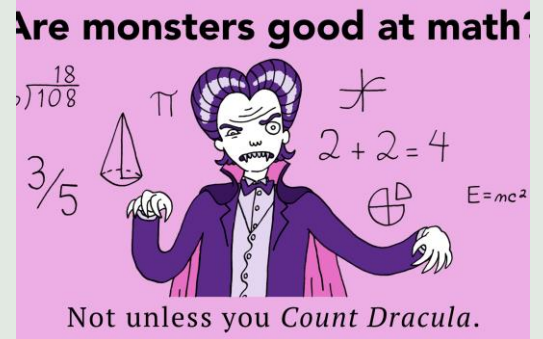
Our last week in school this term was maths week. To celebrate, maths jokes were read over the intercom! Like this one,

How do you keep warm in a cold room?

Go to the corner it will always be 90 degrees

-Emi in P2

During the week there were maths puzzles and questions hung up around the school for students to attempt. It was a great week and definitely got all our brains working.



## Athletics News

Well done to Alannah Giles who finished 5th in the minor girls Leinster Schools Athletics finals and Sarah Kiernan who finished 5th in the junior girls Leinster schools athletics finals. Both girls competed across a gruelling 5 events on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October in Abbotstown.



## Halloween Dress up

On the last day of term, we held our annual Halloween dress up. The costumes were fantastic this year. Well done to all the girls and staff who put so much effort into their outfits! Have a look at a selection below! Happy Halloween 🎃



## Transition Year Activities:

What a first term our TY's have had! Our TYs have had a busy term between hikes, work experience, competitions and day trips.

### TY Enterprise Fair

During October our TYs had the opportunity to sell their products. During the fair 1st Years were invited down to buy some of the great items on sale such as Specialty Sweet Tubes, Homemade Body Scrubs, Keyrings, Care Packages, Halloween Surprise Bags, Hot Chocolate Pockets, Brownie Mix and Twisted Candles. Well done to all the TYs. It was a huge success. The atmosphere in St. Joseph's hall was fantastic. Their hard work definitely paid off.





## TY Development Day

The end of September saw all students take part in their first Development Day. TY1's explored the enormous Phoenix Park with ease on wheels taking in all the main sights of the Park. Their guide gave them a brief history along the way on all the different features. The tour took them to the President's home, Áras an Uachtaráin, Ashtown Castle, Farmleigh House, The Furry Glen, Knockmary Megalithic Tomb, The Magazine Fort and The Wellington Testimonial. They even enjoyed catching sight of the famous wild fallow deer that have been roaming the park since the 17th century! They then enjoyed Dublin's 1916 rising walking tour, which included visiting plenty of sites associated with the revolutionary period from 1913-1923 such as the GPO, City Hall, Dublin Castle, Trinity College, St. Stephens Green and Liberty Hall.

TY2's took part in "A Pilgrim Path" a walking tour of Dublin city's most beautiful Churches and got an insight into their rich history, while also engaging in a voyage of stillness, inward reflection and prayer as they journeyed from Church to Church. TY3's enjoyed "Transmission", the mobile recording studio brought right to their doorstep. They benefited from professional industrial training, they honed their presentation skills and enjoyed recording their own radio segments in the high spec mobile recording studio. Final TY4's engaged in Pulse 8 Training's 1 Day Basic First Aid course which has been devised from the most up-to-date guidelines regarding First Aid from the Health & Safety Authority. This course gave our students the skills and confidence to apply first aid skills to anyone in an emergency.



## TYs take Ticknock!

Well done to our TYs on conquering the Ticknock trail, making their wish at the Fairy Castle and getting around in record time! It was a great day and the weather was fantastic.



## **TY Fighting Words Workshop**

Over the first term our 4th Years took part in the Fighting Words Workshop. During this workshop they worked together, creating stories through role plays and improvisation. It was a great Workshop and all involved thoroughly enjoyed it and improved their creative writing skills.



## **TY Reps**

Term 1 also saw the election of our TY Reps who subsequently completed their leadership training.

TY1: Ella O'Rourke & Sarah Hand

TY2: Jennifer Power & Mary Anne Harte

TY3: Ella McCabe & Celine Butler

TY4: Rachel Vaughan & Naomi O'Shea

Our Reps have done a fantastic job to date including sprucing up the TY Noticeboard ensuring both classes and Houses are represented. They have also made signing up to events and workshops even easier with sign sheets now available on paper as well as digitally. Some of these sign ups have included: Gaisce, Sign Language, Toastmasters, The Great TY Bake Off, Run in the Dark, On-Line work Experience opportunities, Wreath Making, Barista Training, to name but a few. The TY Table Tennis Tournament is also well under way with our inaugural TY Table Tennis Tournament match between none other than TY's very own Ms. Nolan and one of our fantastic TY Reps Jennifer Power. While a superb come back was made by Ms. Nolan, students are currently in the lead!





**Hockey**

It has been an action packed term of hockey in OLS. With the loosening of restrictions it has been fantastic to see teams out training and playing matches against other schools. The Senior and Junior teams have started their Leinster League matches and the Minors will be starting after midterm. We have a terrific number of First Years out training on Wednesdays and Saturdays. All the First Years took part in an 8-A-Side blitz on Saturday 16th October where they were coached, and played with a large number of Senior players who kindly gave up their morning to help out. The OLS tradition of Hallow’een “Hoots and Toots” will round out a great first term.



## Library

The first term has come to an end and what a term it has been. All our activities have been back up and running, Mindfulness Colouring on Mondays and Puzzles and Games on Fridays have been a massive hit with students, especially Jenga and Chess. This term during Friendship Week students made friendship bracelets for themselves, friends or family. It was a huge success and students have already given design suggestions for next year's bracelets.



Our student Librarians for this year have been chosen they are, Kiera Mason, Ellie Dunne, Li Zhou, Bhadra Panicker, Elizabeth McElroy, Clodagh Farrell, Maeve McLoughlin, Ella McCourt, Maria Kamara and Molly Mullally. Halloween was in full swing in the library, the first task set for the student Librarians was to decorate the library for Halloween! This month we had numerous Halloween activities in the library, students were able to paint pumpkins and decorate haunted



gingerbread houses! We think they all turned out fantastic! We also celebrated Banned Books Weeks, students and staff were fascinated to see why so many books had been banned over the years. To wrap up all our Halloween events we had a Halloween movie showing of Hocus Pocus for our book club members and student Librarians.

Junior and Senior book clubs are up and running. Remember all students can still join the book clubs! Juniors meet every second Tuesday and Senior meets every second Thursday.

Don't forget Book Bingo has started and you can pick up your sheet in the library after the midterm. Also remember we have a new loyalty card system in place, pop into the library anytime for some more information!

We hope all our students and staff have a well-deserved break over the mid-term. Looking forward to what's to come next term in the library.

To keep up to date on all the library activities keep an eye on our website.

<https://ourladyslibrary.wordpress.com/>



## The Coiste Gaeilge

The Coiste Gaeilge of 2021/2022 have been working hard throughout the first term to promote Irish in our school. We are lucky enough to have twenty-five students from Transition Year and Fifth Year as a part of our amazing team. Our main aim is to have fun through Irish and to embed a little bit of Gaeilge into all aspects of school life. ‘Your school days are the best days of your life’ is our chosen theme and this is definitely incorporated into all of our events.

Our first activity of the year was a poster competition for First Year students. Each student was assigned a letter of the Irish alphabet. They had to choose a word beginning with that letter as Gaeilge and then draw a picture to compliment their chosen word. The winning posters are now hung up on the walls forming two impressive alphabets. Hopefully the bright alphabets will encourage everyone to use their cúpla focail.

Our second initiative was to appoint Gaeilge representatives in each form class in First, Second and Third Year. The role of our Gaeilge reps will be to spread the word about our ongoing Coiste activities and to encourage their peers to get involved in the many Coiste events that will be taking place throughout the year. This has established a link between the Coiste and the younger year groups. We hope that they now know what an active group we are and are motivated to have fun through Irish.

The events committee had lots of wonderful ideas for Oíche Shamhna. Irish classes got to take part in a fun, Halloween themed Kahoot game. Greeting cards were stuck on student lockers wishing everyone ‘Oíche Shamhna Shona Duit’. Finally, an eye-catching Halloween slideshow was displayed on the television at reception during the last week before mid term to showcase some key words relating to the holiday as Gaeilge.

This year’s Coiste Gaeilge have been off to an excellent start. We are so excited about our big plans for the rest of the year. We look forward to working with all of the year groups and sharing our love for the Irish language.

-Caoilín Dunne B5 and Sadhbh Bracken C5



## The Amber Flag Committee

The Amber flag committee have been off to a great start this year. During October green ribbons from “see change” were delivered to each class, along with a motivational quote, to reenforce the inclusive atmosphere we have in Our Lady’s. The ribbons are a reminder of the constant support the school offers and how all of the students are there to help each other. Don’t forget to check the Amber flag notice board for some fun , motivational quotes, and to read the “Amber flag initiative” posters that have been put up around the school! Also here are some nice motivational quotes / memes to make people laugh / make their day better that we found.

Have a cup of positivitea.

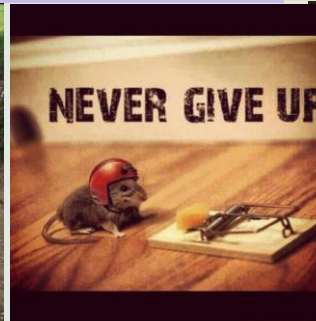
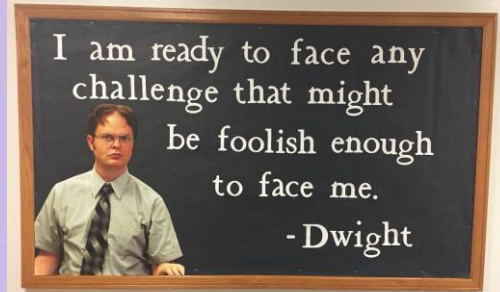


-Mary Byrne P5

— IF THE —  
**Plan**  
DOESN'T  
**WORK**  
• CHANGE THE PLAN •  
BUT NEVER THE  
**GOAL**

**Make your  
mental health a  
priority.**

**YOUR MENTAL HEALTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE TEST, THE INTERVIEW, THE LUNCH DATE, THE MEETING, THE FAMILY DINNER, THE SOCCER GAME, THE RECITAL, AND THE GROCERY-RUN. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.**  
@NAKEDWITHANXIETY



**Give yourself a break.  
Give yourself credit.  
Give yourself time.  
Give yourself attention.  
Give yourself love.  
Give yourself power.  
Give yourself to you.**



## Student Council

The 2021/22 OLS Student Council has now been elected and is ready to positively impact the school community. The student council is a student-led organisation that aims to be a voice for students while working in partnership with the school management, staff and parents.

Students involved will learn to have:

- An open mind
- Determination
- A good attitude
- Selflessness
- Patience
- Gratitude

They will also be provided with the opportunity to develop their communication, planning, organisational and leadership skills.

-Anna Yarr P6

### Our Leaders on leadership training: 1<sup>st</sup> of October

The Leadership training day was a very beneficial and interesting experience. We learned that being a leader is not always the showy things; we can all be leaders. If we have a positive influence on someone else's life in any way, we too are a leader. We looked at leaders and positive role models in our own lives and the admirable qualities they embody. This gave us an insight into the traits we should try to develop throughout this year.

-Julie Vaughan P6

At the start of October, all of the Our Lady's council members were lucky enough to participate in a workshop to learn more about leadership and how we can fulfil our roles throughout this year. Feidhlim, our workshop leader, has been doing these leadership



workshops for a couple of years so we knew we were in good hands.

We started the day by thinking about what the Our Lady's council represents in our school.

We all agreed on our perfect OLS girl, ready to create a positive atmosphere in the school.

He asked us if we saw ourselves as leaders in the school and as you can imagine we were all a little unsure. Feidhlim asked us to do an interesting exercise where we had to picture someone who we see as an inspiration or a leader and think about the qualities they portray. Using the list of qualities we built our ideal OLS leader. What does she look like? A leader in our school is someone who is kind, compassionate, a good listener but also a great



speaker (what a dream girl!). Next, we did an exercise that had us all laughing, where we had to play a game of Chinese Whispers but instead of whispering we were relaying a mime to each other in a line. The goal was to perfectly complete the mime from one end of the line to the other without speaking. And in the end, what started out as Izzy brushing her teeth ended with Shona doing a pretty groovy dance.

This taught us that throughout the year we are all going to have to try hard to communicate with each other. At the end of the workshop, Feidhlim asked us to reflect back on the question he asked us at the beginning; do we see ourselves as leaders? I can assure you all of our hands were up. We learned that nobody is born a natural leader and that a leader isn't decided on by who is the loudest or the strongest. We are all leaders in our school and we are all capable of making this year the best it can be.

-Sara Devoy P6

A word from one of our Class Captains, Alannah Giles P2.

This year I had the honour of being elected as my form captain. I was delighted to get the role as I hoped that I would learn some new leadership and communication skills. At the time, as much as I wanted to be a leader, I didn't really see myself as one, and I really hoped that maybe I could learn to lead through the role. When it was announced that all form captains would get to attend a leadership workshop, I was thrilled. I hoped that it would show me the skills and attributes I should have as

a leader and think about how to set a good example for others.

I found the workshop incredibly helpful and inspirational. It taught us that a leader doesn't have to be a strong, confident person who gives loads of speeches, but that they are also people who are kind, compassionate, empathetic and are a good role model for others. We explored the different skills that a good leader should have and we learned that they should lead through their actions and not their words.

When I left at the end of the workshop, I felt inspired and motivated to be the best leader, role model and inspiration that I could for my class. I was no longer worried that I didn't have what it took to lead, because we were taught that you are not born a leader but become one, and that they believe in a cause and want to help others.

The skills that I learned in the workshop were invaluable, and I will use them in the future to be the best leader and person that I can be.

### **Lighthouse Mentors**

The Lighthouse mentoring programme pairs Fifth Years with Second Years. The aim is that older students will provide support and guidance to the younger students and that both sets of students



will be enriched by the experience. This year we have 30 Lighthouse mentors. The girls did their training on

September 22nd before meeting their mentees. On the day the girls were advised on the traits needed for leadership and discussed the values most important to the group. We know the mentors have a range of activities planned. We wish them well in their new role.



## Digital Citizenship

The Digital Citizens are a group of proactive Second Years who are raising awareness about positive online behaviour in conjunction with our Anti Bullying policy. These students visit Second and First year classes on a bi weekly basis and speak to the Form classes about topics such as acceptable online behaviour, how to avoid being a bystander and the permanence of posts. This peer to peer teaching has also enabled the Digital Citizens to improve their leadership skills. Well done Digital Citizens!



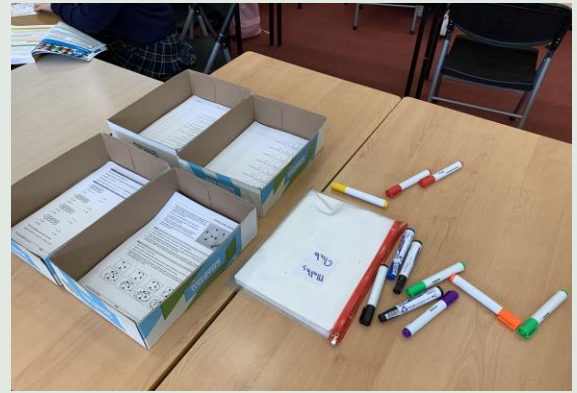
## Cooking club

Cooking Club got off to a great start this term. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years were in the kitchens cooking up a storm. So far we have made Goopy Caramel Brownies, American Style Cooking and Cupcakes with Buttercream icing. The smells coming from the kitchens have been dreamy!! Some very helpful TYs have also been in the kitchen helping the aspiring chefs with their tasks. A big thank you to them for their help. After mid-term the First Years who signed up will be in the kitchen. When we return after Christmas break, we will open the sign-up again for anyone who wishes to sign up for the cooking club.



## Maths club

Five weeks of Maths club already gone! The club has been a huge success so far with First Years, who have been meeting with TY students every Friday at lunch to work on their maths, by doing fun worksheets, going over what they've learned in class for some revision, or just to catch up on a bit of maths homework. As well as learning, the club has also been a great way for the First Years to get to know other people in the school, within a positive and enjoyable environment. All first years are welcome to join, and it would be great to see even more students after the midterm.

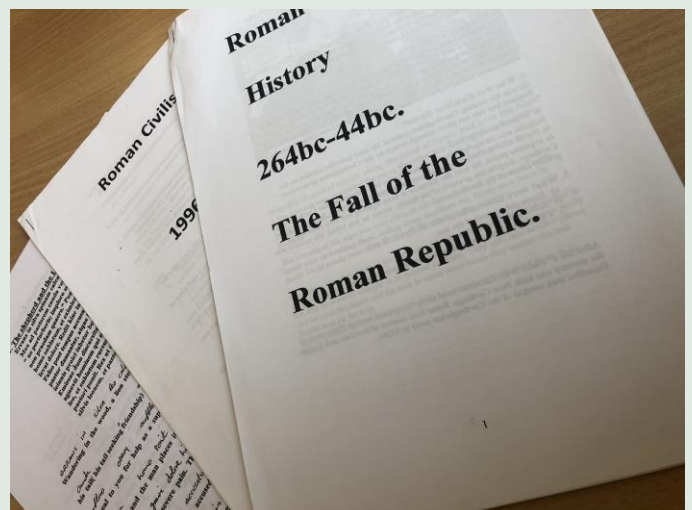


- Sophie Gorman TY1



## Latin club

This year has seen the introduction of a Latin Club at Our Lady's Terenure. The club is run by Mr. Cox and takes place at lunchtime every Thursday. It is attended by students from First Year to Transition Year. In the Latin Club students are introduced to the Latin language, the History of the Roman Empire, exploring Ancient Rome under the rule of emperors from Caesar to Nero, Roman Civilisation and the ways in which people lived in Ancient Rome, Roman Gods, from Jupiter to Pluto and everyone in between, and works by Roman writers such as Ovid, Virgil, and Cicero. Students learn through interactive games and group work and gain an insight into Ancient Rome and how Latin is a foundation for many languages around the world.



## Badminton

Mr Charles and Ms Flood have been overseeing badminton practice every Tuesday in the gym for the past few weeks. There have been great numbers and interest with girls from every year playing. Such are the numbers that we have three nets set up at once and mainly play doubles so everyone can get a game on Tuesdays. We are looking forward to continuing badminton on Tuesdays throughout the year and there will be competitions later in the year too!



## Charity Club

This term the Charity Committee met every Tuesday at lunch. We have set out a calendar of fundraising events that we plan on running this year.

During the first half term, our main fundraising initiative was our Send a Girl to School campaign in aid of Wells for Zoe. Our Lady's has a very strong connection with the charity Wells for Zoe for many years and it is a charity we always try to support. Wells for Zoe has numerous projects that help people in the disadvantaged communities of Malawi including installing water pumps in villages and farming infrastructure as well as sending girls to school. We chose the 'Send a Girl to School' campaign because it is something that was close to all of our hearts; the education of girls across the world is of the utmost importance and we are all privileged to have easy access to it in Ireland. We asked every student to bring in €5 to raise money for school supplies, school fees, uniforms and transportation.

The support was phenomenal and we raised over €3,000 for the cause. We were incredibly happy with the success of this project and can't wait to support many other great causes throughout the school year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who donated and we look forward to sharing photos and stories of the girls you have helped obtain an education. Well done OLS!



## Green Schools

Green schools have had a very busy term! On the week of the 11th to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October we celebrated climate action week by holding a walk to school initiative. The aim was to reduce emissions on school grounds. Prizes and House points will be awarded to the form class with the longest distance walked this week. Our First Years displayed amazing creativity in a poster making competition on the topic of climate change and their artwork is proudly displayed in the GPA. We finished off the



week by monitoring the bins and making sure students separated waste correctly.

We also spent the first few weeks of September spreading awareness through presentations and posters around school on the changes to recycling. The recycling bins now include clean dry plastic waste including soft plastics; waste like cling film and clean crisp packets can be placed into our recycling bins around the school!

Green schools are organising lots of fun activities for next term, where we plan to have litter pick up days around school, a Relove Fashion Competition, Christmas Recycled Decoration Competition and get involved in air quality monitoring.



Time	Activity	Location	Who is involved
8:00 - 8:30	Walk to School	From home to School	All Form classes
10:30 - 10:45	Bin monitoring	Park and Stride All Bin stations	Green school Students to monitor recycling and general waste
12:40	Plastic free homework	Form classes	Whole School
Lunch	Bring Your Own Cutlery and reusable lunchboxes on water bottles		
12:47	Bin monitoring	All Bin stations	Green school Students to monitor
Lunch	Climate Change Poster Competition display in reception	Reception	First year students
12:49	Winner announced		
1:41	Form Classes to track distance walked to school	Form classes	Form rooms
1:41	Family time		
	Winning class wins chocolate		
	Prizes for students who made the most of their walking to school		

Walk to School 2021						
Walk to School 11 to 17th of October						
Class: _____						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Walk						
Park and stride						



## Retreats

### *Fifth Year Retreat:*

On Tuesday October 19th, our 5th Years had their retreat with Scripture Union Ireland. This retreat offered the 5th Years an opportunity to reflect on obstacles in life and how to overcome them while also giving them a chance to challenge themselves with many enjoyable activities. The message they had for the 5th Years was “Life In All Its Fullness”, to live life and enjoy it. They engaged in group discussions, games and reflective activities. It was a great opportunity for the 5th Years to bond with their classmates. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day for the 5th Year students and a huge thank you to Scripture Union Ireland for making this a very worthwhile and rewarding experience.



-Aimee Moran C5

### *6th Year Retreat*

On Thursday 21st of October, all of the sixth years were lucky enough to partake in a retreat. We got to spend time with our class reflecting on how we can live life to its fullest. We started out our day by introducing ourselves. I was in the group led by Mark and Steven. Instantly we knew it was going to be a great day based on the positive energy they brought to the room. We did a few rounds of a quiz just to get us all excited. We were then taught about different ways we can live life to its fullest by dreaming of the best day of our lives, if there were no restrictions and no money limit. We all thought of the craziest days we possibly could including travelling all over the world, eating incredible food and of course throwing insane parties in all of our mansions. We had a quick break and then came back where Steven walked us through some of the obstacles we are faced with on a daily basis. The internal and external factors that stop us from succeeding at living our best lives. We had to write down some of the things we think are obstacles in our lives; this was probably the most difficult thing to do but they explained it wasn't just to look at the problems we face but rather face our problems. After a quick round of pictionary to lift our spirits, Mark and Steven asked us to return to our sheets of paper and think of ways we can overcome our obstacles. It was quite an empowering exercise to do as we can often feel overwhelmed when looking at the problems that surround us. They wanted us to realise that we all have the freedom to overcome the things that hold us back and that we can all succeed in achieving our goals. We finished the day with another quiz round to leave us on a high. I think we all had a great experience today and we are so grateful to have had them come to our school.

-Sara Devoy P6



## A Big Thank You

We would like to extend our gratitude to all members of the school community who have followed the Covid rules and protocols so successfully. 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 and Ms. Morrissey for all of their hard work in ensuring that the school is a safe environment for all staff and students during these times.



## Halloween Facts

Halloween is a holiday with a long history. The name Halloween is a shorter version of All Hallows' Eve or the night before All Saints Day. It is celebrated in October 31<sup>st</sup>. Kids dress -up in scary costumes and go Trick-or-treating.



Halloween goes back to an ancient Celtic celebration in Ireland and Scotland called Samhain. Samhain marked the end of summer. People at the time were frightened of evil spirits. They would dress up in costumes and make noise in the streets in order to make the spirits go away.



In Mexico, they celebrate All Souls Day also known as Dias de Los Muertos or Day of the Dead on November 2nd. It is a big celebration that honours family and friends who have passed away.



Trick or treat history is usually connected to the old custom of souling.

In souling, the poor will go from house to house to beg for soul cakes. In return of the soul cakes the beggars would pray for those members of the family who were recently dead.

Soul cakes were round in shape and were made from bread with currants.

- The Celts believed in this story of Jack Stingy, so they began to place Jack o' Lanterns outside their houses. The purpose was to guide lost souls home while they wandered during the Samhain festival eve.
- Initially the Jack o' Lanterns were carved out from potatoes & turnips but after the potatoes famine people began to use pumpkin instead.



## Story time

### The Legend of "Stingy Jack"

People have been making jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form.

Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavoury figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "JacO'Lantern."



Did you know that

The traditional colours of Halloween are black and orange? Orange comes from the autumn harvest and black represents death

The fear of Halloween is called Samhainophobia

Over 90% of parents would steal their kids' sweets.