



GROVE NEWS

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Summer 2020

A few words from Mr. Dooley

So concludes the most extraordinary school term in memory. All of us have experienced and survived social and personal challenges over the last three months. Our thoughts and prayers are specifically with those who have lost loved ones or have experienced illness in their close or extended families.

From a positive perspective, the period has afforded each and every one of us an opportunity to reflect on some positives that potentially we had taken for granted. We have spent more time in the company of those close to us. We have explored our close community in minute detail. We have taken on a new challenge of self-improvement. We have gladly offered help and assistance in our own homes and supporting those who need us in our local area.

Throughout the lockdown the school has been a pivotal connection point for our community. I would like to thank all of those who work in our community for their commitment to supporting learners and to redesigning learning and teaching practice to facilitate effective learning experiences for them.

Our students deserve praise as well. They have worked hard to adapt to the new normality. They have accepted necessary personal restrictions, committed to a greater degree of autonomy in their own learning and helped within their own homes. It is commendable how quickly they have adapted considering how crucial a component social interaction is in their world.

I would like to make special reference to those students in examination years. We are committed to trying to do what is morally and educationally right for you, honouring your consistent effort and acknowledging your personal attainment as accurately as we can. You will always be unique in what you have had to overcome. May this experience add to your resilience and perseverance, bolstering you into the future to deal with whatever life produces.

We spent a number of days recently remotely interviewing prospective prefect candidates. The positions are always competitively sought after. I can assure you that having spent time with this year's applicants that the future is bright and in safe hands. They genuinely espoused the characteristic spirit of our foundress and are a wonderful advertisement for their families and our school.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the parents of our community. Thank you for setting up and maintaining schoolwork stations, for solving technical issues, for encouragement and motivation and for that unconditional patience, that may well have been challenged at times.

We are committed to implementing whatever structures and procedures are required to enable school life to return as quickly as is possible. I look forward to us all working together with mutual support to find workable solutions for as long as the virus is in our midst.

Look after you, yours and those who require it.

Warm regards

Colm Dooley

Principal

Green Flag for Water Conservation

Well done to the Green School Council who coordinated and monitored all school activities to enable us to apply to An Taisce Green School Programme to win our third Green Flag.

Images from Lockdown



Shahd Almousaki



Ruby Ryan Swan



Alyssa O'Rourke



Abir Lamchaali

There's no place like home.....



Student of the Year Awards

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the student of the year. It is a huge achievement to be nominated for this award as well as to win it. The first year nominees were **Fatema Ali**, **Olivia Moody**, **Abbie Collins**, **Grainne Davis**, **Chiedza Walsh**, **Sarah Maher**, **Lexi Dowling** and **Julia Lee** with **Fatema Ali** the award winner. In second year the nominees were **Natalie Badin**, **Laoise de hOra**, **Niamh Ni Bhaighill**, **Erin Murphy**, **Katie Sayers**, **Jenny Cooper**, **Alyssa O Rourke**, **Grace Lattimer**, **Katie Sayers**, **Martina Szczepaniec**, **Caoimhe Finnegan**, **Umiyma Messoudi** and **Aoife O Neill** with **Katie Sayers** the award winner. In third year the nominees were **Anna Cunningham**, **Amy Maher**, **Riya Raji**, **Rusul Ali**, **Grace Muir**, **Ella Kiely**, **Mia Arganio** and **Emily Badin**. The winner in third year is **Anna Cunningham**. In TY **Leah Fleming** and **Sarah Wall** are the students of the year.

In fifth year the nominees were **Katie O Reilly**, **Elaina Donoghue Gray**, **Aoibheann McDermott**, **Ghadeer Ali**, **Ellen Heneghan**, **Laura Socca**, **Eavan Walsh** and **Juliette Garden** with **Katie O Reilly** the award winner. In 6th year the nominees were **Caoimhe McTigue**, **Emma Babos**, **Reshma Raji** and **Amy Doyle** with **Emma Babos** winning the award.

Academic Excellence

The first year award winner is **Fatima Ali**. In second year the winner is **Natalie Badin** while in third year **Ciara Kelliher** wins the award. Well done also to **Leah Fleming** in Transition Year and to **Ellen Heneghan** in fifth year for winning the academic award for their year groups.

Sports Person of the Year

Samaya Ali Hassan

Gaisce Awards 2020

Silver Awards

Julie Lhuilier, Kaite O' Reilly, Gemma Quearney, Sophie McNulty and Aoibheann McDermott

Bronze Awards

Emily Adderly, Huma Ahmed, Sarah Ashley, Holly Byrne, Katie Byrne, Mia Colleran, Ciara Doyle, Rwan Elmilie, Samaya Ali Hassen

A large number of students took part in the Gaisce Bronze and Silver Awards. All students had to contribute to community work, take part in regular physical activity and continue to pursue another. While the girls did not get to complete their adventure project they instead had to complete a project on a chosen adventure.

Orlaith Finnegan, Avril Fisher, Leah Fleming, Aisling Fox, Isabella Hadjer, Ailis Holland, Hannah Hughes, Ana Israel, Sarah Lee, Amy Mathews, Shauna Holland, Orlaith Wallace, Sarah Wall, Diyora Sidi-kova, Rebecca Savins, Aliyanah Rodriguez, Sophie Redden, Molly Powell, Eimear Muldoon, Claudia Moran, Emma Mooney.



Student Leadership



'She believes she can so she does'

We would like to thank every girl who has taken up the challenge of become part of the student leadership team as a Class Captain, Student Council Representative, Mentor or Prefect for all your hard work this year. We look forward to working with the new team in August. We encourage every girl to do her best to be an everyday leader in her class and in our school.

Class Captains 2020/2021

Class Captains work to promote an encouraging and engaged atmosphere in their class and year. They work closely with their Prefect and the class tutor to enable student voice and contribution to the school community.

The class captains for the new academic year are:

2A: Lexi Dowling and Julia Lee, 2B Oliva Moody and Aisling Kelliher.

3A: Natalie Badin and Umiyma Messaoudi, 3B Riona Ferriter and Grace Lattimer.

TY: Sara Haque, Molly McDonnell, Sreya Saaji and Sinead Fitzsimons.

5A: Huma Ahmed and Claudia Moran, 5B Emily Adderley and Orlaith Finnegan.

The first year class captains are appointed at mid-term.

The elections to the Student Council will take place in Pastoral Care on our return.

Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl

Katie O Reilly and Aoibheann McDermott have been appointed Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl

Prefects 2020/2021

Juliette Garden, Kamila Udziela, Chloe Coughlan, Julie Huiier, Laura Socca, Gemma Quearney, Elaina Donoghue Gray, Ellen Heneghan, Eavan Walsh, and Karimah Zaiter have been appointed as Prefects.

The Prefects work with year groups to help them manage the challenges of school life and also encourage participation in and run a wide range of clubs and societies.

Mentors 2020/2021

The mentors work with a small group of 1st years throughout the year and act as an older sister to help them as they get used to life in Secondary School.

The mentors are Holly Byrne, Isabella Hajder, Amy Mathews, Leah Fleming, Sarah Ashley, Abir Lamchaali, Sarah Lee, Hannah Hughes, Molly Powell, Samaya Ali Hassan, Huma Ahmed, Ana Luisa Israel Da Silva, Orlaith Finnegan, Maria Bools, Sarah Wall, Katie Byrne, Ciara Doyle, Emily Adderley, Iciar Guerrero, Sophie Redden and Claudia Moran.

Transition Year News

Concern Debating Competition by Sarah Wall

My TY highlight was my participation in the Concern debating competition. Concern



is a humanitarian organisation that strives for a world free from poverty, fear and oppression. Concern was a wonderful opportunity to develop my public speaking skills, to get familiar with the language of argument for Leaving Cert English and to gain a well-rounded education on very interesting and relevant world issues. Some of the motions I participated in were; 'The EU needs an army,' 'Volunteering abroad does more harm than good,' 'Nuclear power is essential for a clean energy future' and 'Civil disobedience is needed to achieve real SDG results.' I have seen the benefits of the skills I have gained in the amelioration of my essay writing, increased public speaking confidence and improvements in my ability to present an argument or opinion eloquently and effectively. I would recommend everyone to take part in Concern during TY as it is incredibly interesting and the skills gained will benefit you for life.

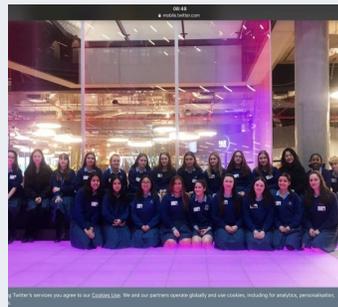


Transition Year Trips to Microsoft and Museums by Leah Fleming

In February, TYs went on a day trip to three museums in Dublin. We got to see paintings in the National Art Gallery, preserved animals at the Natural History Museum and artefacts in the Chester Beatty Library. Highlights included seeing a preserved human brain, animals that are now extinct, the abstract sculptures and the many books in the library. It was a really interesting and fun day that had something for everyone.



The TY class also attended Microsoft Dreamspace that month. We were given a tour of the wonderful building and our guides described what working life in Microsoft is like. They spoke about different sectors of work and employee benefits. The group learnt how to code and created songs and messages on light boards. We made fun mixed reality videos in small groups and played them to the class. We all enjoyed our day at Microsoft!



Thank you to all who took part and suggested wellbeing activities this year and particular these last few months. Here is link to wellbeing resources that might help you support your wellbeing and that of those around you. And remember, ask for help if you need it and give help if you can.

https://padlet.com/r_mcdonnell/zncuz181k3911e5m

Top Tips for Transition Year by Sarah Wall

Be open minded: TY will introduce you to loads of new subjects and work experience opportunities. Don't limit yourself by automatically closing yourself off from things. Try everything- chances are you will love most of them, and the ones you don't will still provide you with valuable skills and help build your character.



Get Involved: TY is the perfect opportunity to become a more active member of the school community. This year is your chance to start work or to participate in activities that will make your CV stand out in the future. There are plenty of opportunities such as the TY Play or the Christmas Bake-off!



There are plenty of opportunities such as the TY Play or

Get to know new people : TY will really make loads of memories through all of the people you may not have known well. Make sure you use this chance to branch out of your friendship groups and get to know new people. Having good, supportive friendships will make your TY highlights even brighter and your stressful moments as you enter Leaving Cert more manageable.

bring your year together and allow you to bond as you your trips and activities. You will get to spend time with



Branch out: Don't lock yourself into your comfort zone by keeping your range of interests small and familiar. TY is the time to discover talents and passions you never knew you had. Use Gaisce as your chance to take up the sport you've always wanted to play or to start learning a new instrument.

Use your new independence wisely: You will experience independence in TY. Make sure you are using your work experience and Gaisce activities. The



You will be expected to manage your work experience and Gaisce activities. The initiative and self-move into Leaving

The motivation expected of you in TY are crucial skills that will be vital as you Cert.

Take every opportunity: TY will present you with so many new and exciting opportunities- take every one you get. You have nothing to lose when it comes to trying new things. Everything you do will teach you something new! As cliché as it may sound; "you get out of TY what you put in" is true, so give it socks!

Make the most of your free time: You are going to have a lot more free time inside and outside of school. Use this as an opportunity to do the things you didn't have time for in 3rd year. Don't allow your TY to go down the drain by not using it to your advantage.



Make a Difference: This is your chance to dedicate your time to making a difference in our school as well as the wider community. There are so many ways to do this including green schools, student council, fundraising and community work.

Push yourself: Your TY will be a success if you give yourself the opportunity to grow as a person and develop new skills and interests. This can't be achieved if you don't allow yourself to experience new things. I challenge you to do one new thing that takes you out of your comfort zone every month during your Transition Year.

Have Fun: This is the most important tip! It is very rare to have a full year dedicated to non-academic skills, personal growth, trips and work experience. Enjoy the break from all the stress and make the most of everything you do. TY is what you make of it- so make it great!



Grove Sports

Hockey News

It was a busy hockey season this year with all teams (Senior, Junior and 1st Year) taking part in the Leinster School Girls League as well as the local shield. We would like to say a big thank you to the captains who helped coordinate their respective teams in preparation for matches, along with the coaches who worked tirelessly with the girls during training. The biggest news of the year was the unveiling of the new hockey pitch. It is wonderful to finally see the girls out playing on the new surface and the girls are no doubt delighted that they no longer have to make the journey up and down to UCD! We would like to congratulate our Senior hockey team who won the local Dublin South Central Schools Hockey Shield.

The Team

Orna Bools
Rachael Morton
Kristen Swan Ducoté
Katie O'Reilly
Gemma Quearney
Julie Lhuillier
Aoibheann McDermott
Kamila Udziela
Maria Bools
Rachel Skelly
Sarah Lee
Carla Quinlan
Isabella Hajder
Zara Nelson
Kelci Ronayne
Doyle



Well done to all the girls who took part in virtual 5k events to raise money for many charitable events throughout the lockdown and to all of you who have walked, hiked, danced, ran and yogaed your way through March, April and May.

Leinster and International Success

Orna Bools represented Leinster at U-18 level this year and she went on to be selected for the Irish U-18 squad. She was due to travel to Russia this summer but unfortunately the trip had to be cancelled. The team will now take part in a European Championship next summer. We wish Orna every success in her Hockey going forward and we hope she continues her success at Provincial and International level.



Netball News

Well done to all our dedicated Netball players who all played exceptionally well during the league. Looking forward to what next year can bring! Congratulations to the Junior Netball Team (2nd and 3rd years) who came second in their league. This is a fantastic achievement for all the hard work and dedication throughout the year. Congratulations also to Avril Fisher. Avril has represented Ireland in Netball. Avril has played for the Irish U17s team for the last two years. Avril holds a gold medal. In the first year she travelled to Gibraltar.

This year she traveled to Isle of Man, where her team took home the cup. This is the first time Ireland has won this championship.

Her team beat Gibraltar, Malta and Isle of Man to take first place in the European championships.

Avril along with Samaya have been coaching the first year Netball team as part of their Gaisce. Thank you for all your hard work.



Welcome to Our Lady's Grove to our new First Years

Everyone in Our Lady's Grove is looking forward to welcoming you to your new school!

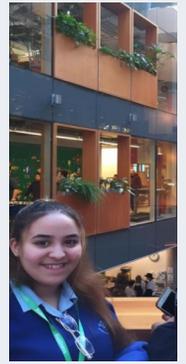
Welcome to OLG! It seems like yesterday that I stepped into the school for the first time with a huge schoolbag and in a new uniform. In reality it was in August 2014, that I arrived as a 1st year unaware of the opportunities, memories, unforgettable learning and great times that lay ahead. I was the only one from my primary school to come here, which may have seemed daunting at first, but really pushed me to branch out. There are so many things I am going to miss about this place. The people for a start. All the staff and every student from every year make this place feel like home. It may feel daunting walking in to a new environment with over three hundred people you don't know, but in reality there's three hundred people to help you along your way, helping you find your class, help you pick up something when it falls and smile at you on the hallway. I will of course miss the teachers that are so welcoming, and put everything into teaching us. The teachers have helped me, and will help you through these six years by reassuring us through exams, helping us individual-ly understand a topic that we thought we could never grasp, laughing with us and being an ear when we need advice. Talking about laughing, I will miss the endless laughing and good memories from our yearly dance off, sing off, bake off, volleyball match and school trips to name a few. Not to mention, the daily laughs with best friends I've made here. I just want to say enjoy the years, they really do fly by and take every opportunity that arises. As Dr.Seuss said "You're off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.' Best of luck and enjoy the years!

Emma Babos (Outgoing Head Girl)



Meet your mentors:

Mentors are girls in 5th year whose role is to help you get to know everyone in your class, help you get organised and to answer any questions you have. Think of your 5th year as a friendly (not bossy) big sister who is there for you if you ever need anything, who will visit you at lunchtimes and breaks and who will do activities and games with you. The mentors are really looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you when you come to Our Lady's Grove.



Dear 6th Classer !

A few wise words from an almost 2nd year.....

Dear 6th Classer,

Firstly, welcome to Our Lady's Grove and to secondary school! This is an important moment in your life and one you'll never forget. In secondary school you'll make memories and friends that'll last a lifetime! I know it must be extremely sad that you can't share your last day of sixth class with your friends from primary school and it must be extremely nerve racking to be thrown in at the deep end knowing very little about secondary school. That's where I come in, I'm going to tell you the basics about Our Lady's Grove and secondary school in general.

Our Lady's grove is a very welcoming school and you'll feel comfortable in no time, when we came into the school we had a three day induction that let us get to know the girls in our year, the building and some of the teachers. There will be two classes 1A and 1B, you'll be with the girls in your class for subjects like English, Geography, Classics, Science and many more.

Check out www.olgrove.ie to find out all about the extra-curricular activities you can do, from Hockey, Netball, Athletics, Tennis, Pilates, Camogie to Debating, Book club, Drama club, Languages clubs, and many more, there is always somewhere to go and something to do at lunchtime and after school.

You'll also share a base room with them, this is where your locker will be and where you spend lunch. Each class has a tutor, this is a teacher that basically looks after your class, check your journals, meet with your subject teachers and give you updates on what's going on in the school.

You might be coming into this school knowing a few girls because they were in your primary school or they do an after school activity with you but, otherwise you'll be meeting a lot of your classmates for the first time, which it quite scary. Just remember that everyone is in same boat as you and that it'll all work out eventually.

First year is something to enjoy. You'll be nervous at first but soon enough you'll become quite comfortable with these girls. Try you best at all subjects, even if you don't like them because you might find that you're really good at it. But most importantly be yourself because that's all you need.



Have fun!

Olivia Moody (Current 1st year soon to be 2nd year)

About The Student Council

by Claudia Moran (Chairperson)



A huge part of the school community here, is the student council. As a committee we strive to have a positive impact on our school and to ensure the students have a voice that is both heard and respected. Each member of the student council is nominated by classmates at the beginning of the school year and attends meetings approximately once a month. Representatives bring new ideas from classmates and presents them at meetings. Jobs are also divided up at meetings and announcements given to be passed on to the classes. This year, the student council 19/20 were instrumental in finalising and evaluating CREATE Week - a well-being week that included a cake making competition, pet-selfie competition, dress up day, a petting zoo and much more. We also got the opportunity to evaluate the school uniform policy and the starting, ending, break and lunch times for the school day. As well as that we organised our very first school digital suggestion box. Student council will be an opportunity offered to each of you at the start of the year, you might like to join to be a voice for your class mates, you may be interested in bringing new ideas forward, or you may want to join to be a part of a group that tries to make a positive difference to student lives in school. As new students entering secondary school we hope you take every opportunity that comes your way and consider becoming part of the student council.

Final Words from the Class of 2020

Congratulations to the new student leadership team! We want to say well done for your hard work not only throughout your five years but pushing yourself to excel apart from academics in 6th year. You will grow as a team, work together and don't be afraid to ask for help ! "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success "

To our new second years, I hope despite all the uncertainty that was at the end of this academic year that you are all more settled into secondary school life. Whatever happens next, we know that the next academic year will be different to any you will experience. Take time to enjoy it and don't worry about everything else that's going on and we promise you that you'll do great.

To the new fourth years: Congratulations on completing junior cycle especially with the added pressures of these unprecedented times. Make the most of all the opportunities and experiences that arise. You have the strong school support behind you, there to help you along your way. Take this year to really explore every pathway whether it's sport, academic or otherwise. Try everything and you might surprise yourself with where your passions lie. Best of luck and make the most out of this year ! Remember "if something doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

To the fifth years: We hope that you enjoyed transition year and all the experiences and opportunities that were presented to you. Coming into senior cycle may seem daunting at first but my best advice for you is to keep your head down and get all the hard work done this year. The secret of getting ahead is getting started. Best of luck !

Welcome new first years, we hope that you enjoy settling into Our Lady's Grove and meeting new people while also getting to experience many new things on your journey. Trust me when I say that you will have a great six years here and you will find a new school family. It is a great community full of people who will not hesitate to help if you need it. Good luck in your new school!

To the new third years: Welcome to the final year of your junior cycle course. As you approach your first set of state exams, you may feel anxious. But take it from us, if you keep your head down and work steadily along, you will be fully prepared. Though no-one knows what the future holds through these unprecedented times, try to keep your spirits up. Do this by taking care of your mental and physical health and taking time for yourself.

Sixth years, we are well aware you are facing into a difficult year. As with us things are uncertain and unclear. We want to wish you all the best. Keep working consistently and keep your eye on the finish line. Courses will be complete, exams will be done and in the blink of an eye you will have arrived at the much anticipated summer of 2021. Support each other because that is the most valuable thing during the testing days and You're all in the same boat. We speak for many when we say sixth year was the high point of our time in OLG. So create the memories while also keeping on top of the work of course. We wish you all the best!

And make sure you beat the teachers in the volleyball next year! Best wishes and thanks to you all!

Farewell to the Class of 2020



We wish the class of 2020 happiness, good health and success in everything they do and look forward to a special evening of celebration with them in the new academic year.

