



# GROVE NEWS

[www.olgrove.ie](http://www.olgrove.ie)

@olgrove

Summer 2022

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

We have just completed our graduation and Prize Giving Ceremonies this year at the Grove. Our theme this year was *New Beginnings* and these were signified by butterflies. We wish our class of 2022 all the best with their new beginnings and we are proud that they will trace their origins in the past from their time with us. We hope that they bring with them their memories, their friends and their resilience and they use them to source fulfillment in all aspects of their lives.

It has been a memorable and joyful couple of months for our school. We had our fabulous hockey success, our Open Night, trips to Tayto Park, FerryCarraig, Powerscourt, Wellbeing Week, TY Musical Showcase, Dance Off and of course Activity Sports Day. These are just the highlights and are not an exhaustive list. For a school of our size that is a phenomenal amount of extra-curricular activity and none of it would be possible without the positivity and energy of our teaching staff. Our students' academic preparation is paramount, but it is events like those I have just listed that become the lasting memories of OLG. This type of commitment goes beyond basic professionalism and is often overlooked when teachers are spoken about in the wider community.

Our year completion is also tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to some colleagues. We are very sorry to lose Ms Doyle and Ms Cunningham who are both permanently moving away from Dublin. Both teachers have been wonderfully caring and progressive professionals throughout their time here and will leave large shoes to fill.

Of course the closing of the Sloan chapter is as monumental as they come. Ms Sloan has been a part of our school community for more than fifty years. She has been a part of the nurturing of generations of local families. She has taught, directed shows, conducted choirs, accompanied countless performances with many of you during that time. Her professionalism, musical prowess and positive and kind nature is irreplaceable. We all wish her a happy and fun-filled retirement.

I would like to close by thanking you all for your continued commitment to Our Lady's Grove. I especially want to thank those of you who have been in a position to help out the school this year with your various expertise. I cannot stress how important that is to the continued improvement of our local school.

Best wishes to the two exam classes as they approach this challenging period in their lives. Don't worry, we will be here for you. I hope you all have a wonderful summer full of memories.

Warm regards

Colm



## Our trip to Amazon

By Molly O'Carroll, Aoife Clinch, Maryam Lalaymia, Arwa Madani and Lyna Ammouchi 1st Year

We started our journey by meeting our AWS GetIT ambassador Barbara. She helped us to design our app, Climate Change Chats. She was really nice and gave us wonderful tips that helped us progress right through the competition to the final. We hadn't expected to come this far in the competition so we were thrilled when we found out we would be going to Amazon Dublin Offices for the day. We were so excited. We arrived and all of the staff were so welcoming and friendly. When we got into the building it was spectacular. We walked through into the atrium, it was breath-taking.



You could see all the way up to all the floors above. It was so fancy with so many gadgets and had a super comfy couch! They offered us delicious pastry which we all loved and talked to

us the whole time. They also gave us a goody bag each with tee shirts badges and an Echo Dot. Next we presented our app in front of a panel of three judges an audience and many Amazon staff. We were very nervous but excited at the same time. The other team went first and had a wonderful presentation, we presented after and I think we did a pretty good job too. Unfortunately we didn't win first place and we were a little disappointed but we all really enjoyed the day out. The judges presented the two trophy's gold and silver and congratulated both

teams and said that we had made their job of judging very difficult. We played ping pong which was the best and had some lunch. We had a blast and the experience was just unforgettable. We all really loved it there! This experience really made us all consider careers in tech for the future.



## Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing week took place from May 9th to 13th. Fifth and Fourth years travelled to Tayto Park while First years headed to Ferrycarraig.

While we have no photographic evidence of fifth year fun in Tayto park, the accompanying teachers clearly had a great time. Another highlight of Wellbeing week was



the Pet Selfie competition. Well done to all creatures great and small who entered and



congratulations to Jenny, Lucy, Jessica, Kyra, Sarah, Nadia, Mr. Doran and Ms. Sloan for their winning entries. We really do love animals

here in the Grove and everyone was absolutely thrilled when second years organised for the people and dogs from My Canine Companion to visit



the school. Thank you second years, what a way to end the year!



Wellbeing week also saw the inaugural Transition Year Showcase take place in the hall. Aply MCDed by two TYs,

there were highly dramatic interpretations of Shakespearean plays interspersed with high energy dance moves from 4A and then 4B and while we'd love to, everyone knows we don't talk about Bruno no no no. It was our first major get together in the hall post covid and probably one of the most enjoyable afternoons we have spent together in a very long time. Well done to the TYs who developed, choreographed and put the show together with thanks to Ms. Martin, Ms. Wright and Ms. Doyle for their help.

## The Dance Off

The dance off is a leadership development programme whereby 5th year prefect applicants choreograph a dance which they teach to all class group at lunchtimes. All classes then compete in the dance off. This year we were thrilled to be back in the hall for the Dance off. Well done to the fifth years who beat off stiff competition from TYs and 3B to win overall. In a moment of pure euphoria or possibly in a desperate bid to block out the memory of the teacher 'dance', everyone then took to the floor for the Cha Cha Slide. Thanks to everyone for taking part and supporting our fifth year leaders!



## Green Schools

Once again Green Schools proved to be a very well attended and highly active committee ably steered by the Green Schools Prefects and Ms. McDermott. The bee garden is now in place following a successful application to Dundrum Credit Union for a grant, students took part in Climate action workshops, improved recycling in school and completed a whole school travel audit. Well done to everyone for taking part in all activities and for working towards a more sustainable school and world.



## Sports and Activity Day



Our Sports and Activity Day was a fantastic day of fun, sport, art, maths, music and words. Students took part in everything according to their houses and the competition though friendly was intense! From Dodge Ball

to Countdown, Dingbats to Heardle, Giant Jenga to Relays everyone had a lot of fun. Thank you to Ms.McDermott, Ms. Dunne and all the teachers who ran activities and thank you to our amazing students who took part in everything.



## Sure Look it



Clare Dunne past pupil and screen writer, actress and spoken word performer came to talk to 3rd, 5th and 6th years in May and inspired us all with stories of her journey through school, college and the film and theatre world. Thank you Clare!

## Student Leadership

The best thing about the Grove is the people in it and none more so than our student leaders who work together to support our ethos of choosing kind. Many thanks to all the students who volunteered and helped out on Open Night where they demonstrated exactly what the Grove is all about by extending a warm, friendly and engaging welcome to all our future students and families. Thanks also to the student council who through their work this year made a real difference to daily life with the introduction of trousers to the uniform, their work on the anti-bullying policy and their fundraising for Pieta House and the Irish Red Cross. Elections for the 2022/2023 Student Council will take place in September.



## Fifth Year Mentors

Congratulations to the incoming fifth years who have applied to become mentors to our new first years. These are Alyssa Moran, Alyssa O'Rourke, Alexandra O'Carroll, Aoife O'Neill, Caoimhe Finnegan, Clara Gallagher, Ciara O'Mahoney, Erin Murphy Bennett, Eva Cooney, Fiona Sheridan, Freya Blizzard, Grace Latimer, Harsimer Kaur Singh, Hayley Donohue Gray, Katie Sayers, Martina Szczepaniec, Meabh Joyce, Nataile Badin, Rachel Lehane, Riona Ferriter, Ruby Ryan Swan, Sherherbano Syed, Soifa Bustos Molina and Zoe Walsh.

## Thank you

Thank you to Grace Pierce, Laura Lee, Amy Burke, Emma Babos and Lorna Daly Past Head Girls and Deputy Head Girls who gave up their time to return on Open Night to answer questions about life in the Grove. Once a Grover always a Grover!

## Prefect Team 2022/2023

Congratulations to Ella Kiely (Head Girl) and Anna Cunningham (Deputy Head Girl) on their appointment.



Congratulations to the Prefect team of Aoise Campanion, Maryam Shaia, Louisa Dagg, Aimee Sherry, Aisling Snyed, Riya Raji, Emilie Badin, Sreya Saji, Sara Haque, Ciara Coules, Muireann O'Reilly and Realta Lattimore.



Class captains are extremely important members of our leadership team. Congratulations to our incoming class captains Aine McEnroe, Maissane Chabira, Molly O'Carroll, Ella O'Kelly, Saaksharaa Kumar, Emily Waters, Aoife Fingleton, Beth O'Reilly, Aisling Snyed, Tamaya Nimkar, Julia Lee, Aoife Raleigh, Freya Blizzard, Martine Szczepaniec, Aoife O'Neill and Katie Sayers.



## Prize Day

Prize day is a wonderful occasion in our school when we gather together to celebrate our students. It was lovely to be together in the hall especially for our third years, second years and first years who, due to Covid, had never experienced this occasion in person before. In 5th year Ciara Kelliher won the prize for academic excellence with Aimee Sherry winning student of the year. The winner of the prize for academic excellence in third year was Olivia Moody while Fatema Ali won student of the year. The academic excellence prize winner in second year was Sarah McEnroe while Hannah Harte won student of the year and in first year the prize for academic excellence went to Audrina Nunez while Ella O Kelly won student of the year.



The following students were all nominated for student of the year. In fifth year Louisa Dagg, Anna Cunningham, Aisling Sneyd, Riya Raji, Emilie Badin Sreya Saji and Rusul Ali. In third year, Aoife Ross, Marian Ndombele, Chiedza Walsh, Olivia Moody, Aroosha Tariq, Julia Lee, Jessica Gray, Kayla Mangan Swan and Sarah Maher. In second year, Aoife Fingleton, Mariam Elrouby, Amy Doran, Saaksharaa Prem Kumar, Dimah Abdulrazzaq, Hannah Harte, Sarah Mc Enroe and Brooke Moran. In first year, Maissane Chabira, Roseanne Weadick, Aine Mc Enroe, Fadak Shaia, Molly O' Carroll, Aoife Clinch, Emily Richaud and Lucy Collins. Aoife Clinch won the model making competition. Congratulations to everyone.



## Transition Year Awards

The following students graduated Transition Year with distinction; Natalie Badin, Eva Cooney, Riona Ferriter, Fabiola Garcia de Presquera Torres-Ternero, Chloe Leung, Beatriz Martorell, Alyssa Moran, Erin Murphy Bennett, Aoife O Neill, Alyssa O Rourke, Katie Sayers, Martina Szczepanec, Caoimhe Finnegan, Meabh Joyce, Harsimer Kaur Singh, Rachel Lehane, Umiyma Mes-saoudi, Alexandra O Carroll, Fiona Sheridan and Zoe Walsh.



The prize for scientific excellence went to Shahd Elmileik and Meabh Joyce. The award for exemplary commitment went to Martina Szczepanec. The award for Personal Development went to Freya Blizzard. Well done to Ruby Ryan Swan for her award for creativity and innovation and to Aoife O Neill for winning the student choice student of the year. The prize for academic excellence went to Natalie Badin while the TY student of the year is Katie Sayers. Congratulations to you all on a wonderful Transition Year.



# CLASS OF '22

Our 6th years have been a wonderful group of young people to work with over the last six years and the whole school enjoyed celebrating with them their final days in the Grove.

The first major milestone in that departure was our Sports Day when 6th year students threw themselves into every activity and encouraged all members of our community enthusiastically.



The annual Staff V Student volley ball took place on Wednesday 18th May in the school hall. The whole school was screaming their support as sixth years danced into the hall dressed as prisoners and prison guards determined to break the teachers' winning streak. And break them they did with an amazing victory that had some of us in tears (we see you Mr. Doran). Well done to the class of '22 only the second group to beat the teachers in the last 25 years. The 6th years celebrated with Pizzas in our picnic area while the teachers returned reluctantly to their classes who of course did not gloat or jeer or mock.



Thursday saw our sixth years, Tutors and Year Head off to Powerscourt for the day. As Ms. Kerins says what goes on tour stays on tour but it is clear that everyone had a lovely day of barbecues, football and reflection.

Thursday evening was the 6th Year Blessing and Graduation Ceremony. This was the first time 6th year parents were in the hall since January 2020 and it was wonderful to meet everyone again. After a beautiful service, the 6th years graduated and our Head Girl Sarah, Deputy Claudia and the Prefect team delivered a wonderful tribute to their parents and school. This was followed by a slide show of memories and teas, coffees and cakes. Thank you to the Parents' Council for your help on the evening.



Friday morning, 6th years gathered together and enjoyed some graduation cake designed and made by Katie Sayers 4th year before being greeted by the whole school community in the hall

for Prize Day and Graduation. Congratulations to the many 6th year award nominees and winners. The 6th years delighted us with a wonderful speech that charted the highs and lows of their 6 years in the Grove. We wish this amazing group of young people all that is good as they leave our school and follow the many diverse and interesting paths ahead. We hope they know that they are always welcome back to Our Lady's Grove.



# FAREWELL MS. SLOAN

There has been much emotion in Our Lady's Grove since the iconic and legendary Ms. Dervilla Sloan announced her retirement. Ms. Sloan has worked in our school for 39 years and in fact has been coming to this campus for 50 years as she not only attended the Secondary School but also spent some time in our Primary. At our Prize Day on Friday May 20th Sarah and Claudia on behalf of the students paid a wonderful tribute to Ms. Sloan interspersed with music from our 1st year choir, gifts from our students and a whole school rendition of Thank you for the Music. There were many standing ovations, many tears and much laughter as we joined together to celebrate the amazing contribution of this wonderful lady who means so much to us all. Ms. Sloan herself took to the stage to thank our community and to share some of her wisdom with us. Perhaps the feelings of those of us currently in the Grove and those in our community who have been taught by, worked with or met Ms. Sloan can best be expressed in the words of her students.

*We always say that our favourite thing about the Grove is the incredible sense of kindness, fun, and care that runs through the OLG family. Ms Sloan epitomises this spirit and perfectly encapsulates what the Grove is all about. She has been a constant force of love, music and joy here and has deeply influenced all who have passed through these corridors over the past 39 years, and those yet to enter this school which has been so indelibly shaped by the Sloan legacy of music, fun, empathy, and kindness. We love you Ms. Sloan!*



Thank you to the many, many former Ms. Sloan students for your wonderful video messages!

# SPORTS NEWS

## Netball

The school is very well represented in a wide range of sports and the students take part both competitively non-competitively. We have a large number of students taking part after school in Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Athletics, and Pilates. The schools was also represented this year in showjumping. The students have also taken part in table tennis, badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball at lunchtimes. A big thank you to all the external coaches in various sports and thank you to our own staff Ms.McDermott, Ms. Wright, Ms. Mc Erlane and Ms. Dunne. Thank you to all of the captains of the various teams for all their hard work. A big thank you to the TY students who helped out coaching the younger students and do so each year giving something back to the school.

## Hockey

This year we had four teams entered into the Leinster's Schoolgirls League and the local South-Central League.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a wonderful hockey pitch at our disposal and it is great to see



so many girls out playing the sport. As you are all aware, the Senior Team had a very successful year this year winning the prestigious Leinster Senior 1B League. This was quickly followed by a win in the local South-Central League. The team were Maria Bools (Captain), Sarah Lee, Zara Nelson, Rachel Skelly, Carla Quinlan, Amy O'Reilly, Anna Cunningham, Leah Nealon, Tekka Whelan, Chiedza Walsh, Aoife Ross, Rachel Lehane, Riona Ferriter, Hannah Mc Dowell, Abbie Collins, Maria Boland and Sarah Maher. Congratulations to Chiedza Walsh and Maria Bools who have been part of the Leinster Development Training this year. The following girls were awarded the 'most improved players' this year in Hockey: Rosanne Waddick, Grace O'Kelly, Olivia Moody, Sarah Lee. The player of the year is Rachel Lehane.

Netball has grown hugely in numbers in Our Lady's Grove. A big thank you to Aoife O'Neill, Natalie Badin, Chloe Leung, Niamh Ni Bhaioighill and Martina Szczepaniec who gave up their Monday evenings to coach the 1st and 2nd Year teams this year. We have five teams in the Netball Ireland Schools League and we had some wonderful hard-fought home and away matches as well as all teams having a lot of fun. Our 2nd Years won the Minor League after winning all their matches on the way to the final and (although controversial) our 3rd Years coming Runner-Up in the Junior B League Final. The Runners-Up of the Junior B Netball Ireland Schools League are Aoife Sneyd, Aisling Kelliher, Juliet Wall, Ola Mohammed, Maria Boland, Aoife Ross, Ellen Sherry, Shahad Almousawi, Mena Mazin, Sarah Elhag, Vallerie Nota and Tanaya Nimkar.

The winners of the Minor Netball Ireland Schools League are Toni Byrne, Leah Dempsey McGrath, Aoife Fingleton, Sinead Ni Bhaioighill, Hannah Harte, Kirsty Hayden, Sarah McEnroe, Saaksharaa Prem Kumar and Anna Akulkina. We also had success outside of



school as several of our 4th and 5th Year students were sent forward to trials for the Irish Under 17 netball squad. Well done to Natalie Badin, Aoife O'Neill, Aoise Campion, Sreya Saji, Riya Raji and Emilie Badin who all endured a very long and gruelling day of trials back in January. Congratulations to Aoife O'Neill who was then selected for the Under-17 Irish Netball Development Squad and will be representing Ireland in an International Tournament in Northern Ireland in the coming weeks. The following girls were awarded the 'most improved players' this year in Netball, Áine McEnroe, Sinead Ni Bhaioighill and Aisling Kelliher while Aoife O'Neill was awarded player of the year.

## Sportsperson of the Year

The sportsperson of the year is Maria Bools (6th year) Maria lead her team to victory in the final. She showed resilience and character throughout and as we all witnessed gave it everything on the day. Maria has played for the senior team in Three Rock Rover hockey club this season and we have no doubt she will contribute to many wins for whatever club she plays for in the future. Congratulations Maria!



This year the Claudine Thevenet cup was awarded to our Senior Hockey Team

# PARENTS' COUNCIL NEWS

A very warm welcome to you all from your Parents' Council. Covid has impacted all our lives and the way we interact. It wasn't possible to have parents to the school during Covid but we are pleased to say that since February this year The Parent's Council has been able to arrange some events and have Parents back onto school grounds! In early **March** we were delighted to hold a Coffee Morning for our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Parents. It was wonderful to see so many new parents, and they were delighted to be there. It was an opportunity for them to have an informal chat over a coffee, get to know other parents and members of the Parent's Council. In early **May** we had 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year Parents to the school for a coffee morning. Again parents were only delighted to be able to come back to the school, have a chat and a catch up. It was also a great opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> year parents to talk to our TY parents about their daughter's experience of TY and to pass on any tips or pieces of advice!



## Uniform Drop Off

On **Monday June 20<sup>th</sup>** the OLG Parents' Council will be holding a **Uniform Drop Off!** We will be collecting **clean, previously worn items** of the school uniform that are no longer required. We will then hold a mini uniform sale the 1<sup>st</sup> week back of the new term in September. We will be collecting items between **8:30 – 10:00** in the common room located beside the hockey pitch.

\*Please donate only items that you yourself would like to receive.\*

## Council Members

We are currently a council of 8 members.

Elaine Waters 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent, Gráinne O'Neill 4<sup>th</sup> year parent, Siobhán O'Donovan 1<sup>st</sup> year parent, Vigetta Moran 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent, Krithika Premkumar 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent, Eilis Quigg 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent, Tara Byrne 6<sup>th</sup> year parent, Jeany Milton 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent.

## School Communications

The new school year will see the introduction of a new communications system called Compass. Some of you may have heard of or indeed have used it before. There will be an app with it and it will enable parents to access information at the click of a button, and receive updates and notifications amongst other benefits. The school website is a one-stop shop for all the latest information and newsletters. Make sure you check in regularly and make it your first stop for any information you need! [www.olgrove.ie](http://www.olgrove.ie) Also emails and Twitter are regularly used to communicate updates to parents and students. Make sure you follow [@olgrove.ie](https://twitter.com/olgrove.ie)

The Parent's Council on behalf of all the parents of Our Lady's Grove would like to congratulate the Senior Hockey team on winning the Senior 1B Leinster League, what an achievement! We would like to extend our congratulations to all of the team and their coaches. We also wish to congratulate our Minor and Junior Netball teams for reaching the Leinster Finals in March. What a successful year for Sport in Our Lady's Grove! Long may it continue! We wish to extend a fond farewell to our current 6<sup>th</sup> year students.

Two of our own Parents' Council members have daughters in this year group and we're sure it is bittersweet for them as it is for all 6<sup>th</sup> year Parents seeing their daughters reach this milestone! On behalf of the Parents' Council and all Parents, we want to wish each girl the best of luck in their Leaving Cert, and every happiness and success in their future lives. We would like to send a message of thanks to Shane Adderley, father of one of our 6<sup>th</sup> year students. He has done a wonderful job with our walled garden and we as a Parent's Council look forward to adding to and curating the garden over the coming months and years. Finally, the Parents' Council on behalf of all parents would like to wish a happy healthy retirement to Ms. Sloan. We would like to thank her for her many years of commitment and dedication to the student's of OLG, you will be missed!



If you would like to join or get involved please email [parents@olgrove.ie](mailto:parents@olgrove.ie) or contact anyone above with your name, your daughter's name and year. We look forward to hearing from you!