



# GROVE NEWS

www.olgrove.ie @olgrove December 2022

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

Christmas greetings to all of our OLG families and wider community,

I am writing this on a day where we are all deeply appreciative of our new 1.5 million euro heating system in Our Lady's Grove. After years with an outdated system, the last few where it also had to fight against many open windows, it is another factor adding to the comfortable learning environment in our school. As we all try to navigate this winter with rising energy and food prices we are very grateful for this.

At the end of our first term I once more salute my teaching colleagues for the investment that they have in your daughters. You need only look at Compass and our social media sites to witness how many opportunities there are at our school. All of this is provided by already busy teachers on a voluntary basis. As a result of our teachers' consistently high academic expectations, each student can truly strive to be their best selves at the Grove.

I would also like to thank each of our Parents/Guardians. We all want the same thing and when we work consistently together, I believe it strengthens the whole community. You have managed our new Compass App and online parent teacher meetings as if they have always been there, and have been very understanding as we overcome teething problems. We hope to return to in-person parent teacher meetings in January 2023.

Our students have experienced a challenging but rewarding first term. There have been successes in Hockey, Netball and Athletics. Over 70 students travelled to Rome in October and there have been trips to Kilruddery, Larchhill, and Windmill Lane Studios amongst others. We continue to invest heavily in our wellbeing programme and recently celebrated a successful Stand Up week. Our internal House System is now helping to promote increased togetherness and belonging across the different academic year groups.

During the month of November we remembered all of our family and friends who have passed away. Our Remembrance Service in Dundrum Parish Church was a beautiful centre piece for the period. We especially remember our past pupil Noor Mukadam. Noor was callously murdered in Pakistan in July 2021. From all accounts she was a beautiful soul with so much to offer and experience in what should have been the rest of her life. As a school we intend to have a permanent memorial installation for her celebrating the type of individual she was. The winning design for this has now been selected and we hope to unveil it in early 2023.

Shelter, food and family have never been more important. Stay safe and I hope you enjoy your family time this Christmas

Warm regards  
Colm Dooley

## Student Leadership

The Student Leadership Team has been working hard since September coordinating wellbeing activities such as our Pieta House Fundraiser, Stand Up Week and Grove Bake Off as well as reviewing policies such as the uniform policy and working within class groups to articulate student issues at the Student Council. 5th year mentors have also worked very hard to help our new 1st years settle in to school and are currently working on helping their 1st year mentees get ready for their February tests. This year, our leadership team of Class Captains, Student Council Representatives, 5th Year Mentors, Prefects, Deputy Head Girl and Head Girl has increased to include 5th and 6th year House Leaders as part of our House System. Currently House Leaders are coordinating our Christmas Door Competition and have also run a number of ice-breaking sessions involving all staff and students. The houses, who are named after inspirational women, are Sr. Claudine Thevenet, Rosa Parks, Marie Curie, Countess Markievicz and Malala Yousafzai. A special thanks also to our TY Student Ambassadors Leah, Abbie, Maria and Oliva who visited many Primary Schools telling them about our school and to our wonderful student ambassadors from all year groups who represented the Grove on Open Night. Finally many thanks to all our students who lead by example and work hard in so many ways to help make our school a happy and inclusive space.



## Student Council Halloween Fundraiser

The Student Council organised a dress up day in aid of Pieta House on Friday October 21st. As usual OLG students arrived in school in a wild and creative array of costumes. It was great to have our Halloween parade in the hall this year which was ably mc'ed by Ella and Anna though a big bad wolf and some naughty piggies did interrupt proceedings. All the monsters, ghouls and other magical creatures then headed off to Dundrum Cinema for a private screening of Monster House. Congratulations to all the prize winners and a big thank you to the school for treating everyone to the cinema trip.



## Stand Up Awareness Week

The focus of Stand Up Awareness Week is to promote an inclusive and protective environment for LGBT+ young people and to take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. This year the week was marked along with Anti-bullying Week across two weeks as 5th and 6th years sat their November tests culminating in the raising of the Rainbow flag, our multicoloured hoodie day. Thank you to everyone for taking part and please keep an eye on our noticeboard for regular updates, useful information and signposts to support.



## Green Schools

The green schools committee is busy working hard to keep students updated on all things 'green'. The committee meet every fortnight and we are currently working towards our travel flag. Jennifer Muscheidt visited the students offering advice and gave the group lots of ideas. There will be lots of items coming up after the holidays where we will host a bike maintenance workshop, a 'learn to cycle' workshop, marking your bikes and a full travel audit, a walking audit will also be undertaken. The committee are encouraging all students to think 'green' as you travel to school. Can you walk? Can you cycle? Can you get public transport? If you get a lift can you get dropped further away and walk the rest? We hope you all look at ways of looking after our school remembering to close doors, switch off lights and use the correct bins in classrooms.

## College Aware Week

College Aware Week took place across two weeks as 6th and 5th years completed their November tests. As well as in class input around progression pathways after school and some very interesting and fun activities where students explored their dream jobs and thought up potential jobs for the future, the Guidance Department hosted a series of in person talks from UCD, DCU, TU Dublin and Sallinoggin College of Further Education with input from Trinity College Dublin online. All 5th and 6th years attended a campus tour and information session in UCD which they thoroughly enjoyed while the accompanying teachers were delighted to bump in to many OLG past pupils who are loving college life. Meanwhile, 1st and 6th years spent a lovely 40 minutes together interviewing each other about their hopes and dreams for after and in school. Past pupil Maryia Amelyanchuk also came in to talk to TYs, 5th and 6th years about her progression through Law, her current training as a solicitor and her experiences studying in Paris. After Christmas, IADT and MU will also present to students. All Senior Cycle students are encouraged to attend as many Open Days as possible and to register if interested for the UCD Summer School.

## Viaggio in Italia!



One of the most anticipated highlights of TY was the trip to Rome, and on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, bright and early at 3am, we set off for Dublin airport. We promptly made our way through security, grabbed a bite to eat, and soon enough we were boarding the plane. After a short three hours of catching up on sleep or watching movies,

we began our descent into Ciampino Airport. On the first day, we visited the underrated city of Ostia Antica, one of the most well-preserved cities from Ancient Rome. We then made our way to the campsite where we were staying, and after a lot of trouble getting everybody into the right rooms, we were finally able to sit down and enjoy our very first authentic Italian meal. The next day was the longest of the entire trip, with an array of destinations in store for us. First, we visited the Vatican City and Museums, and some were in complete and utter awe about the artwork in the Sistine Chapel. Once our time in the Vatican was over, we briefly saw the exterior of St Peter's Basilica, before beginning the long walk to the Trevi Fountain. It was worth the walk, because the fountain was beautiful, and people got a chance to make a wish. The final sight of the day was the Spanish Steps, which looked fairly cool. On the third day, we went to see the famed Colosseum (or the 'Flavian Amphitheatre,' for the Classics students). We also visited Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum, which were great, but I think they could have benefited from having more time to explore. The Colosseum exceeded everyone's expectations, and it was nice having an insight into its history from Classics. After we had a short shopping trip to the Parco Leonardo Shopping Centre. The day was rounded off with a Talent Show, where we could win back money we had lost from being fined when



we were late. The next day, we went through the Gladiator Experience, where everyone got dressed up in Roman tunics. We were taught all about Roman helmets and weapons. Then, we were given a wooden weapon called a rudis, and were taught how to fight using it. Once we were all trained up, we moved into an arena, and faced off against the Fifth Years, in a battle to the death. After, we went to this nice restaurant where we all got to make our own pizzas. We were all given the dough, the chefs taught us how to spread the tomato sauce, and we were given free reign with the toppings. Our final day was very quiet compared to the others, with the only activity being a trip to a shopping outlet. Overall, I can say that Rome was an enjoyable trip, and it brought the years together.



## Third Year Trip to Kilruddery

In November, third years went to Kilruddery adventure centre as part of a team building and wellbeing day. Thanks to Ms. Connolly, Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Kelly for organising the day and to all the third years for (literally) throwing themselves into everything!

## National Art Gallery By Alyssa O'Rourke

On November 28th, the fifth year art class went to the National Gallery where we saw many exhibitions and beautiful pieces. This was so interesting to see having studied it in school. We went home inspired and ready to create masterpieces.



## Díospóireachtaí Gaelige

The Junior and Senior debate teams took part in the Gael Linn debates in St Michaels College on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both teams were extremely well prepared and the judges commented on how well prepared both our Junior and Senior teams were for the competition. Aoife Clinch, Roseanne Weadick and Maryam Abdellali spoke on behalf of the Junior team. Fatema Ali, Arosha Tariq and Chiedza Walsh spoke on behalf of the Senior team. All students spoke very well and had a well-structured argument. The Senior team was unsuccessful in this round of the Gael Linn Debating Competition but a massive comhghairdeachas to the Junior team who are now through to the next round.

## We remember

In November we were welcomed to Holy Cross Church in Dundrum by Father John as we remember



# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

The TY's have had a jam-packed calendar since the start of the year and have taken part in and gone to many workshops, talks and activities. Here, Chiedza, Aoibhe, Olivia, Isabella, Abbie and Layla tell us about some of the highlights so far.

## Activity Week



One of the peaks of our first term of transition year was activity week. This is a week that our school organizes annually to give TYs a chance to try out different modules like hairdressing and forensics whilst also having fun. It also gave us a chance to properly bond with the new students and the exchanges. We started off our week on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September with a Forensics workshop, which was my personal favorite. In this workshop we discussed the controversy and conspiracy around one of the most famous murders of the world: the assassination of JFK. We got a chance to use all the different equipment and technology that gets used at a crime scene whilst discussing interesting theories and arrests. The forensics workshop was then followed by Dance which was led by Louise. We all got dressed up in frilly skirts and scarves to learn an intricate yet lively 80s themed dance to 'Girls just want to have fun' by Cindy Lauper.

Day two of Activity week consisted of the drumming workshop and the beginning of our first aid course. We learnt about drumming from all over the world using drums from Senegal. We discovered different drumming techniques, like bass, tone, and slap. We used this information to put together a canon of our own. Afterwards at first aid we began on the basics like learning to use AVPU (Alert, Verbal, Pain and Unresponsive) We were also taught how to use a defibrillator and how to put someone into the recovery position. By the end we were all pros on how to respond if someone were to pass out.



Day three of Activity week was spent hairdressing and completing our first aid course. We were trained on how to correctly look after hair and learnt a bunch of new updos. However it was abundantly clear that one teacher was only good at doing his own hair (You know who you are) Then to complete our First Aid training we took turns to bandage each others heads, hands, legs and ankles and gave CPR to the mannequins

The highlight of Activity week was definitely our trip to Larch hill. It was a day of adventure and amusement out in the wild with all our friends. We partook in an orienteering course, archery, building our own fires and team building exercises. It was a day of adventure and amusement out in the wild with all our friends. We partook in an orienteering course, archery, building our own fires and team building exercises. It was a great experience that brought me closer to my classmates.



Ty is a year to get closer with your classmates, make new friends and develop as both a student and a person. Activity week was definitely a great example of this.

## Chinese Activities

We have engaged in many activities this term that have allowed us to understand and appreciate Chinese culture more. One of these that stood out was when we got to taste Traditional Chinese teas. We could try green tea, rose petal tea, bubble tea and many more. While they may not have been my cup of tea, several of the TYs enjoyed the various drinks. That same day we also learnt how to pick up several types of food with chopsticks. From pasta to a single grain of rice, our hands got a serious workout. We finished these activities with a Leaving Cert listening question which we passed! 谢谢! (Thank you!)



## Windmill Lane

On Friday 1st December TY students headed off to Windmill Lane recording studio which has recorded work from people like Lady Gaga and the Rolling Stones. We learned how to work the sound boards how to record songs and how artists work. It was a major opportunity for us to see what goes on behind the scenes and we were really interested in the process of music production which involves a lot of mixing and producing sounds. It was definitely a unique experience and we were delighted to get the opportunity to go.

## Grove Bake Off

The Grove Bake Off is now in its sixth year and it is fair to say that the standard is only ever getting higher. This year 5 teams of TYs who qualified via the highly competitive Buche de Noel round, will compete against 6 teams of teachers having qualified. Keep an eye on our social media to see who is crowned Grove Baker 2022.

# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

## Languages Connect



On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, all Transition Year students took part in Language Connect. As a French student, I did three workshops about French culture and language; bee-keeping, cuisine, and fashion. The Spanish students also did some workshops, and they also learnt some

Spanish Clapping. After break, we were split into three groups to do three different activities. My group began with a workshop about Italian cuisine. We learnt how to make perfect pasta using the salt/water/pasta ratio, as well as the hand gestures Italians use to communicate. Afterwards, we moved onto another workshop about Danish Craft. We learnt some Danish words, the concept of hygge, and we



made paper cone Christmas tree decorations to store sweets in. The last activity my group did before lunch was Capoeira, which is a Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, music, and spirituality. This was my favourite activity of the day, and I would do it again, given the

chance. After lunch, we split into two groups, and my group took part in an ISL (Irish Sign Language) workshop, where we learnt some basic ISL phrases, such as "Hello" and "How are you?" We then took part in a nationwide Nationality quiz, competing against other schools to win prizes which was fun and informative. The final activity of the day for my group was an Arabic belly dancing workshop. We learnt some Arabic words and how to belly dance, which was very enjoyable.

## Dare to Believe

The Transition Year students are undertaking the 'Dare to believe' Olympics programme engaging in challenges, learning all about the set up of the Olympic Games, looking at the training methods of elite athletes, quizzes, fact finding, class discussions and most importantly looking at the benefits of exercise on mind and body.

The groups were visited by Olympian hockey player Shirley Mc Cay. She is most capped women's hockey player ever having received 316 caps. She delivered an informative session on her highs and lows of sport, her Road to the Olympics and carried out some fun challenges with group. It was a thoroughly enjoyable session.



## Perform Ireland

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the Transition Year students went to Perform Festival Ireland in the RDS. This was a day dedicated to schools around the country. We started the day off with an Introduction to Street Dancing where we got warmed up for the rest of the day. After watching some schools perform on the main stage, we were free to explore other workshops. I went to Acting with Sean Gilligan while others went to Jazz. Many students also had a go on the Acro Pad, an inflatable track that allowed us to flip to our hearts' content. After a quick bite to eat from the food trucks some students took part in a Kangoo Jumps Workshop where they hopped and bounced all over the room while others got their Grove on at 80s Dance. We then watched the 3<sup>rd</sup> singing competition of the day take place and were blown away by the talent students across the country have. I think I speak for all TY's when I say that we had a great time during Perform and would go back in a heartbeat.

## Work Experience and Careers

Just after mid-term all of us went on work experience for one week. From hotels to veterinary practices to landscape gardening to solicitors to schools, TYs learned a lot about the world of work during the week. We are off again on Work Experience in February and in May and are really looking forward to exploring as many different options as possible. To help us do that we have also done a number of career workshops and talks including a visit to ESERO Space Careers Roadshow at the Helix, a Creative Careers Webinar organised by the National Gallery of Ireland and speakers from DCU, UCD and TU Dublin. We are currently researching our subject specific requirements for college courses and our career drivers as part of our subject choice preparation.

## Christmas Market

The Christmas Market was the culmination of our work in Enterprise for the first part this year. It was great to be involved in setting up and running a business. Some of our stands included a photo booth stand, a Christmas Sleigh stand, a Crochet stand, a Henna Stand, a Slime Stand as well as many food stands with cupcakes and hot chocolate. Thanks to everyone for supporting our enterprise and for doing so much of your Christmas shopping of the TY market.

# SPORTS NEWS

## Hockey



Off the back of a hugely successful hockey season last year, girls' hockey has certainly seen an increased uptake and development throughout the Autumn Term. Beginning the school year saw OLG, for the first time, host a diverse and inclusive Elite Hockey Camp stretching for 5 days in August one

week before the start of term as part of a preseason programme and introductory session for the younger incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years. This was coordinated by Ben and Maria along with some guest appearances giving a unique set of drills and insights into the game. Isaac and Rory with respective Leinster/Munster and Underage International caps helped lead the week which was immensely enjoyed by all.

This saw the introduction of new coach Isaac Johnson to the hockey programme. Isaac is a current 1<sup>st</sup> XI EY Hockey League Player for Pembroke Wanderers littered with both Munster and Leinster appearances. Isaac brings a keen, high-performance mentality to training from which the girls can learn from.

The domestic season was underway and saw plenty of friendlies in advance of the embarkment of the leagues for each team. 1<sup>st</sup> years saw a great deal of development over the course of the term with great individual and team performances in a challenging league which is still underway with schools such as Wesley, Loreto Foxrock and Alexandra College competing in their league. Minors had a challenging start to their campaign seeing games against travelling St Marys School Naas and St Raphaela's and away to Howth's, Santa Sabina although show great signs for a successful cup run next year. The Junior age group are credited with the largest number of players which has encouraged a huge growth in their development with a multitude of league and cup fixtures with varying results but have a great hunger for learning and improvement.

Lastly, our Seniors have been confronted with the task of trailing last year's cup winners in which they are yet to start. The league has been well underway seeing tough altercations with strong sides from St Raphaela's, Wesley and Wicklow. This is a very young group however with a huge potential and a great drive for the rest of the season. All age groups have worked incredibly hard and we encourage all students to come to training next year to further the hockey experience for all. From all the hockey coaches have a safe and wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Ben Johnson



## Netball

Playing netball improves hand-eye co-ordination, builds up muscle strength and stamina, develops the body's cardiovascular system and improves the body's flexibility and nimbleness. These are just some of the reasons our students enjoy coming out to netball training on a weekly basis.

This year, Our Lady's Grove entered teams at all levels from 1<sup>st</sup> Year all the way up to Senior level and with more school teams entering the League, we knew we would be in for a challenging season. We have had a mixed start but seen wins and losses at home and away to teams such as Rosemont and St Leo's, Co. Carlow but this has only improved our skills and passion to win!

Unfortunately, with the recent change in weather conditions, we have had to put a halt to a number of planned fixtures. Hopefully the New Year will continue to bring us success across the board in all age categories and allow us to close out the season on a high.

## Soccer

By Molly O Carroll and Aoife Clinch



This year we decided that our school needed a soccer team. Many of the girls in our year are already playing in a club so we knew we would have a strong team. Soccer training takes place on the hockey pitch every Friday from 1:30-2:30. Each week our coaches, Mr Moriarty and Ms Moran, go through drills and different exercises. This helps with our fitness but

is also a great way to socialise and make new friends. We hope to have some friendly matches soon to get match experience as a team. Next year we plan to join a league and have the girls from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year make a junior team and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year girls make a senior team. Since we began in September numbers at training have grown each week and there are now over 30 girls playing. We're hoping that soccer will take off in our school and the teams will grow.

## Athletics



All students take part in fitness and athletics training every Thursday after school, some come for fitness and others wish to run in school events. The Cross Country team competed in the Phoenix Park and Blackrock Cross Country races. Well done to Georgia Norton who won a silver medal at the Phoenix Park race. The students are now getting ready for the East Leinster Cross Country Race in January and we wish

them the best of luck.

# PARENTS' COUNCIL NEWS

## Welcome from the Parents' Council

We were delighted to welcome 1st year parents to a coffee morning on their daughters' first day in August. It was great to meet so many new parents and we hope their daughters have settled happily into school. In February and March we plan to welcome 2nd and 3rd year parents to the school for a coffee morning, please keep an eye out for incoming emails from the parents council and if you need to get in touch please email [parents@olgrove.ie](mailto:parents@olgrove.ie)

## School Uniforms

We piloted a uniform exchange in Summer 2022 and it was very successful. If you have any uniform items that you would like to donate, please email [parents@olgrove.ie](mailto:parents@olgrove.ie) and we will arrange a date for drop off. We hope to run another uniform exchange in June 2023.

## Council Members

We are currently a council of 9 members.

Elaine Waters 3rd<sup>nd</sup> year parent, Gráinne O'Neill 5th year parent, Siobhán O'Donovan 2nd year parent, Vigetta Moran 3rd year parent, Krithika Premkumar 3rd year parent, Eilis Quigg 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3rd year parent, Lisa Kehoe 1st year parent, Caitriona McCann 1st year parent, Nour Elhag TY parent.

## School Communications

The new school year has seen the introduction of a new communications system called Compass. This app enables parents to access information at the click of a button, and receive updates and notifications in relation to permissions, absences and school events. 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)

## TY Work Experience

Transition Year Work Experience is a really useful and important part of the Transition Year programme. We are constantly looking to update our data base of prospective placements. If you are able to host a TY student in your work place please get in touch with [r.mcdonnell@olgrove.ie](mailto:r.mcdonnell@olgrove.ie)



Many thanks to the Parents' Council who helped out on our very successful Open Evening and particular thanks to Emer Ross (TY Parent) and Jackie Clarke (2nd Year Parent) who acted as Parent Ambassadors.

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!