



GROVE NEWS

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Summer 2023

A few words from Mr. Dooley

Late May and again we are experiencing a warming of the air, a blooming all around the campus and the culmination of memories, successes and friendships as demonstrated in our awards celebration and graduation ceremonies. I recently spoke to all students about the importance of reflection, celebration and forethought. Reflection on the year's efforts, its challenges and potential areas for improvement. Celebrating attainment and achievement, and finally, forethought about what each individual will strive to achieve for the coming academic year(s). We are always encouraging our students to aim to become their best selves, and this time of year is crucial in that growth process. For those students that will soon be leaving our community, we want you to know that we are here for you throughout your upcoming exams, and we hope you will remain a friend to our school into the future. We also hope that your memories here will spawn bigger and greater ones into the future.

This is my favourite time of the academic year. The weather improves. It is finals time in all school sports. We have Gaisce hikes, Sports Day, Wellbeing Week, school dance off, TY performance, 1st Year trip to FerryCarraig, Sci Fest and the trip to Powerscourt amongst many other activities. It is also a time of assessment. I hope all our students, especially our 3rd years will grasp this opportunity to demonstrate just how much they have developed in the recent months and years. The above-described frenetic pace of school life displays one aspect of how committed our teaching staff are to the holistic progress of all of your children.

For the second year running we are losing an institutional figure to retirement. As with Ms Sloan last year, Ms Kerins



has dedicated her working life to generations of young people in our area. She has always been committed to her students' progress with a real openness to changing educational landscapes throughout her career. Care for others has always been central to Ms Kerins' being and that has clearly

been demonstrated in her interactions in school and beyond. On your behalf I wish her the very best in what we are sure will be an active and fulfilling retirement.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians for their interactions this year. Clear open lines of communication are vital to the success of any school community. I would especially like to thank the volunteers from the Parents Council who have organised gardening and coffee mornings and have helped with parent evenings, graduation and student talks. If you are in a position to contribute to their future, I strongly encourage you to make contact with them via e.waters@olgrove.ie

Best wishes to our exam classes and I hope all families experience joy-filled moments throughout the summer period. We look forward to welcoming you all back this coming August.

Warm regards

Colm



Congratulations to Martina Szczepanec and Katie Sayers Head Girl and Deputy 23/24 and Farewell Ella Kiely and Anna Cunningham Head Girl and Deputy 22/23

Celebrating our Students

Prize and Awards Day is always a wonderful day of celebration in our school as we gather together to recognise and celebrate the many different ways our students contribute to our school community. It also a day of high emotion as we bid farewell to our 6th Year students .

Student of the Year Awards

The student of the year awards recognise those students who have contributed to our school community beyond the normal school expectations. In first year the nominees for the award were Maisy Norton, Elsa Walsh, Kenza Ben Hamouche, Maeve McGregor, Alba Socca, Laura Hughes, Isabella Dunne, Warisa Hossain and Baneen Al Naqqash while the winner was Maeve McGregor. In second year the nominees were Emily Richaud, Saorla Ferriter, Maissane Chabira, Reseanne Weadick, Aoife Clinch, Aine McEnroe, Lucy Collins, Maryam Abdellalai and Alexis O Brien and the award was won by Emily Richaud. In third year the nominees were Leah McGrath, Roisin Wall, Emily Waters, Mariam Elrouby, Amy Doran, Hannah Harte, Sarah McEnroe, Aoife Fingleton, Sinead Ni Bhaoghill, Najeeha Hamdani, Mawadda El Mahgobe, Chansya Rakwal while the award was won by Saaksharaa Prem Kumar. The fifth year nominees were Martina Szczepaniec, Alyssa O Rourke, Katie Sayers, Rachel Lehane, Caoimhe Finnegan, Riona Ferriter and Freya Blizzard with Ruby Ryan Swan receiving the award while in 6th year the nominees were Riya Raji, Maryam Shaia, Aoise Campeon, Nikola Janicka, and Louisa Dagg and the award was won by Anna Cunningham.

Claudine Thevenet Cup



Lucy Collins Winner of the Claudine Thevenet Cup

Academic Excellence Awards

The academic excellence awards recognise those students who have achieved academic excellence across their academic subjects within their year group. In first year the winner was Elsa Walsh. In second year the winner was Eva Boland. In third year Sarah McEnroe won the award while in Transition Year the winner was Isabella Tighe. In fifth year the winner was Riona Ferriter.



In sixth year academic excellence within each academic subject is recognised: Art: Arwa Nadeem, Biology: Fatima Abdullah Chemistry: Ciara Kelliher, Music: Anna Cunningham, Physics: Nikola Janika, Maths: Maryam Shaia, Home Economics: Farah Abdullah History: Nikola Janika Accounting: Ella Kiely, French: Farah Abdullah, Economics: Riya Raji, Irish: Ciara Kelliher, Geography: Sara Haque English: Sara Haque Chinese: Maryam Shaia



Transition Year Award Winners



Student Leadership

Student Leadership Team 2023/2024

Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Prefects

A huge congratulations to Martina Szczepaniec, Head Girl and Katie Sayers Deputy Head Girl and the following students who were appointed as Prefects for the incoming academic year. These are Aoife O Neill, Ruby Ryan Swan, Rachel Lehane, Riona Ferriter, Sarah Alnaqqash, Natalie Badin, Eva Cooney, Erin Murphy Bennett, Freya Blizzard and Fiona Sheridan.



Mentor Team

Each year TY students apply to become Mentors to our incoming 1st years. This is a very important role as 5th year mentors act as big sisters to the younger members of our community and work hard to help them connect with each other and the wider school community. They commit to spending one lunch time every week with their mentees and also to attending clubs and societies with them to help them get to know each other. Mentors are also an essential part of the Induction process and give up the last few days of their Summer holidays to help our 1st years as they start secondary school. The mentors for the new academic year are Aisling Kelliher, Abbie Collins, Aoife Ross, Ava Barry, Aroosha Tariq, Chiedza Walsh, Ellen Sherry, Grace Bent, Hajar Boutahar, Hannah Cathcart, Hannah McDowell, Hayleigh O Connor, Isabella Tighe, Jessica Gray, Julia Lee, Juliet Wall, Katie McHugh, Kayla Mangan Swan, Lexi Dowling, Leah Nealon, Nirges Shaia, Sarah Marhe, Zoherah Nasser, Emily Powell, Tekka Whelan and Cayla Butler.

Student Council

Elections to the position of student council will be held at the start of the new academic year. Students submit their names to the class tutor during the first pastoral care class of the year. In the second pastoral care class they speak to the class and outline their vision and plan for the student council and how they can best represent their class. The election is then held and the results are shared in week three. We look forward to working with a new council and extend our thanks to the current council for all its hard work.

Class Captains

Maeve McGregor, Shatha Abbas, Maisy Norton, Sophie Keogh, Maryam Abdellali, Daria Diachenko, Ella O Kelly, Roseanne Weadick, Roisin Wall, Jemimah Jasmin, Aoibhe O Neill, Ava Cummins, Isabella Tighe, Juliet Wall, Tekka Whelan and Kayla Mangan Swan.

Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee was formed in September and meet regularly monitoring all aspects of sustainability in the school. A big thank you to the sixth years to lead the meetings Sreya Saji and Aimée Sherry. The students work on aspects of the current flags water, energy, litter and waste. The committee have spent the last two years working on attaining the travel flag. The committee involved students in travel audits, travel pledges, walk to schools, cycle to school and scoot to school events. The committee also conducted a survey of the locality checking the accessibility to the school for walking, cycling and public transport. The Green Schools Organisation also sent a green schools representative to the school who ran bike repair workshops and cycling workshops. The school were awarded the travel flag in April so congratulations to the committee on all of their hard work.

Thank you Prefects and Student Council 22/23

Thank you to the outgoing Prefect Team who together with Ella Kiely (Head Girl) and Anna Cunningham (Deputy Head Girl) worked hard throughout the year to connect with their class groups, support clubs and societies and together with other student leader groups promoted our school at many events throughout the year. A special word of congratulations to Aoise Campion and Louisa Dagg who were awarded Prefects of the Year and to Ciara Coules who won a special recognition award for her contribution to school life over the last 6 years.



CREATE WELLBEING WEEK

Art



Our annual CREATE Wellbeing week took place in early March just after 3rd and 6th years had completed their mock examinations. The week began with a whole school Art activity facilitated by Ms. Walkin as students and staff made their mark together using hand prints to symbolise the connection between us all. The installation is currently on display on the middle corridor.

Empathy Walk and Talk

Students and staff also took part in Narrative4 Empathy Walk and Talk initiative. Within their House groups students walked in pairs with students from other year groups and asked and answered a series of questions designed to help us get to know each better.



Everyone completed the 3 km walk and returned to the hall and received their wrist band, pen and certificate of completion.

Nore Farm

Students loved getting to know all the animals from Nore Farm that came to visit as part of our wellbeing week. The chicks were a particular hit as the farmer placed them on students' heads. Thank you to Nore Farm for coming to visit us.



Culture Day

Our first Culture Day took place on March 1st as part of our CREATE Wellbeing week. Students



were invited to represent a country or culture that they were interested in or had a connection to and then to work in groups to represent that country or culture at our celebration in the school hall. Students dressed in colours or clothing

that represented the country or culture and they designed information sheets to teach each other about the places and traditions they

wished to represent. 5th year students organised a playlist of songs suggested by students which we enjoyed dancing to in the hall. In many traditions sharing a meal and eating together is a symbol of welcome and respect and all of us enjoyed the delicious food and



drinks that students prepared at home and brought into school. Many thanks to the 5th years who helped organise the day and to our students and families for the huge effort, energy, time and care that went into the making and sharing of food.





Noor's locker

Aine McEnroe's design was selected from the many wonderful submissions to remember Noor Mukadam our Past Pupil. The locker will be stocked with items that students need and we hope that as students help themselves to whatever they need the both the beauty and the generosity of spirit that inspired this locker will be a fitting tribute to Noor.

6th Year Art Trip

The 6th year art trip took place on 3rd May. We started off in the Hugh Lane Gallery, where we saw the Francis Bacon Studio, and some of the Impressionist paintings and sculptures we have been studying.



We then went on a walking tour of Dublin, looking at public sculpture and art in our local environment.

Feast Workshop - Food for Thought

TYs took part in the Feast Workshop looking at the sustainability of food. Students learned about the environmental impact of food production and how the real story concealed behind pretty labelling is often very different. Students also got the chance to taste the future trying oysters, insects, seaweed and other superfoods as well as cooking some simple zero waste snacks.

Crochet Club

Maryam and Muireann have facilitated Crochet Club every Monday since September. A big thanks to them and to everyone who took part. Students worked on beautiful creative creations that they either keep for themselves or give to family and friends. Students encourage one another to start knitting or crocheting and value the therapeutic benefit of practising crafts.

Student Enterprise Awards

On the 22nd of March three TY enterprise groups went to the Royal Marine Hotel in participate in the regional finals of the Student Enterprise Awards. The three groups were Sweet Treats (Julia Lee, Laura Kirwan, Hajar Boutahar and Mena Mazin), Nini Lolipops (Yi Chen Li and Fatema Ali) and Crochet Bay (Aroosha Tariq and Nirges Shaia). Crochet Bay won the Sustainability award on the day.



The Dance Off

Now in it's 7th year the annual Dance Off has become a major feature of the end of year calendar. As part of their leadership development, 5th year students applying for the position of prefect choreograph a dance and then teach it to each class group. Each class group preforms the dance and then adds on their own piece of improvisation. This year the standard was even higher than usual with the 6th years struggling to select a winner. In the end TYs were victorious with a high energy performance only matched in intensity by that of the Staff Dance Troupe. The morning ended with the whole school dancing the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide. Well done to everybody for taking part and in particular to our first years who really threw themselves into the whole experience.



Sports News

The school is very well represented in a wide range of sports in which the students take part both competitively non-competitively. We are very fortunate to have such great facilities at our disposal. We have a large number of girls taking part after school in Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Athletics, and Pilates. The school was also represented this year in show jumping.

The girls have also had an opportunity to take part in table tennis, badminton, basketball, and tennis 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. Brady, Mr. Moriarty, Mr. Doran and Ms. Gallagher. Thank you to all of the captains of the various teams for all their hard work coordinating teams for matches and leading their teams in games and to the TY students who helped out coaching the younger students and do so each year giving something back to the school. It is greatly appreciated.

Hockey



This year we had four teams entered into the Leinster's Schoolgirls League and the local South-Central League. All teams competed well with the Junior team reaching the Leinster quarter final stage. Two teams were winners this year winning the Dublin south central hockey shield. This was won by the first year and minor teams

Congratulations to Chiedza Walsh, Elsa Walsh, Ava Stapleton and Meave Mc Gregor who have been part of the Leinster Development Training this year.

The following girls were awarded the 'most improved players' this year in Hockey Fatima Abou Taleb, Roseanne Weadick, Mariam Elrouby and Olivia Moody while the player of the year was Roisin Wall.



Netball

Netball has continued to grow in Our Lady's Grove this year with more students attending on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. We want to acknowledge the hard work that my Transition Year students (Juliet Wall, Aisling Kelliher, Ellen Sherry and Aoife Sneyd) have done, giving up their Wednesday afternoons to coach the 1st and 2nd Year teams this year and accompanying the two teams to some of their league matches. We were delighted



this season to enter five teams into 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. Congratulations to all our teams in the league this year and a special mention to our Senior Team who beat St Leo's in the Senior B Final and our Junior A Team who came runners up to Drogheda Grammar School in an extremely intense final!

The Winners of the Senior B Netball Ireland Schools League were Emilie Badin, Natalie Badin, Aoife O'Neill, Niamh Ní Bhaighill, Martina Szczepaniec Juliet Wall, Aisling Kelliher, Isabella Tighe and Aoife Ross. The runners-up of the Junior A Ireland Schools League were Juliet Wall, Aisling Kelliher, Isabella Tighe, Aoife Ross, Mena Maziin, Sarah Elhag, Tanaya Nimkar, Shahad Almousawi, Hannah Harte, Sinéad Ní Bhaighill, Toni Byrne, Sarah McEnroe and Ellen Sherry.

The following girls were awarded the 'most improved players' this year in Netball, 1st Year: Casey Wang, Minor: Emily Richaud, Junior: Juliet Wall, Senior: Natalie Badin. The 'player of the year' this year for Netball has been awarded to Hannah Harte.



Athletics

A large number of athletes competed this year at both Cross country and at the track and field Championships. A large number of athletes made the finals and congratulations to Georgia Norton who came 3rd in the Junior 800m qualifying for the Leinster Championships. We have a very keen bunch of athletes so we hope to build on their success next year. Earlier in the year Georgia Norton also qualified for the Leinster finals in Cross Country and we would like to commend her on this achievement.

Equestrian



Tekka Whelan is an event rider and she has performed extremely well this year winning the William Codd trophy. This culminated all three events, showjumping, cross country and dressage. This competition is primarily for professional riders so congratulations to Tekka on this fantastic achievement.



Sports Person of the Year Aoife O'Neill



We wish everyone a healthy, happy and active Summer and we can't wait to meet our new First Years in the New Academic Year.