



# GROVE NEWS

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@olgrove

December 2021

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

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

I would like to start by thanking all of our teaching and administrative staff for their immense efforts since our return in August. I am sure you all appreciate how much more challenging educational roles have become over the last 18 months. They are making significant consistent efforts to try and keep the student experience in school as 'normal' as is possible.

I would also like to thank each of our Parents/Guardians. It has been very difficult for you to have to follow health advice and err on the side of caution in your decision making when it comes to testing and not attending school. As a community we really appreciate it. If we are all cautious and considerate of others, I believe it strengthens the whole community.

Our students have really continued to be so understanding. Their compliance with necessary mitigation procedures is vital to our continued prevention of community transmission at Our Lady's Grove. We work very closely with the student leadership in the community and I think they realise that all measures are directed at keeping them safe. It is with sadness that I have to inform you that we are losing AnnaMarie McGann from the Maths/Science Department. She has been a fabulous addition to our teaching team over the last few years and we will be very sorry to see her return to her native Australia. It will be very challenging to replace her quality especially in the middle of a school year.

We also said adieu to our receptionist Mary Maher earlier in the year. We wish her all the best over the coming months and will hopefully welcome her back in the not too distant future. I am sure many of you have already been on the phone with Sarah Toland who has ably replaced Mary. We were very fortunate to be able to secure such a competent replacement. Reflecting over the past twelve months I can only point out the positives. We have remained in school for the entire time this year. Our full compliment of extra-curricular/after school activities are operating, offering our students a more holistic school experience. It is especially gratifying to see the return of competitive sporting fixtures for all of our hockey and netball teams. I think that is the tone for this year, grateful for what we have and hopeful for continued improvements. Stay safe and enjoy your family time this Christmas

Warm regards,

Colm Dooley

## Welcome 1st Years

We are delighted to welcome all our 1st years to Our Lady's Grove. We hope that you have settled in and are happy in our school. Thank you to our Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, the Prefect Team and in particular the 1st year Prefects Sarah L and Ana and the 5th year mentors for all the help with the 1st year induction. Thank you also to Sarah W, Claudia, Sarah L and Ana who met 1st year parents as part of our online Parent Information Meeting which we held in September.



1st years enjoying hot chocolate and chats at the end of Induction

## Congratulations to the Class of '21



Well done to the class of '21 who are now following a wide range of pathways in Higher and Further Education. We wish you every happiness and success and hope you will come back to talk about your career paths in the future.

## Ghosts of Christmas Past

We were delighted to welcome many of our Past Pupils back to the Grove in September as part of the launch of our Past Pupil's Network. People from the Class of '72 right up to the class of '21 watched the Past Pupil V Current Pupil hockey match while 5th year students brought many visitors for a trip around the school and down memory lane. If you are a past pupil and would like to connect with the school, please register on [www.olgrove.ie](http://www.olgrove.ie) we'd love to hear from you.



## Student Council Halloween Fundraiser

The Student Council organised a dress up day in aid of Pieta House on Friday October 22nd. The theme of the day was Fears, Phobia and Fun and as usual OLG people came up with creative, terrifying and fun costumes (none more so that Ms. McDermott dressed as Ms. Wright). Ms. Sloan our First Year Year Head embraced her role even more fully than usual and spent the day as a first year while the Teletubby teacher quartet, Ms. Connolly as a full on goth witch and Madame Cooke, who clearly regretted rien, delighted and terrified students and staff throughout the day. Well done to all our prize winners and to the student council who organised the day.



## 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 organised by the Student Council and Rainbow Group and built on the work of the last two years by marking this national week through a series of daily quizzes, classroom activities in SPHE, CSPE and Wellbeing, the curation of a new awareness noticeboard on the middle corridor, the raising of the rainbow flag and a rainbow hoody day on Friday 19th November. Thank you to everyone for taking part and please keep an eye on our noticeboard for regular update. useful information and signposts to support.



## Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee have been busy organising lots of events and activities. To start off the year we held Climate Action Week to raise awareness about climate change, the problems it poses and what we can do to reduce it. During that week we held workshops with eight different classes, did a school-wide kahoot and a quiz which gave a prize to the people with the highest scores. We are currently waiting for all the results of the travel audit to be compiled. Then we will take the next steps towards achieving our fourth green flag. We have also applied for a Go For Green credit union grant and were successful! With this money we hope to make a Bee Garden to help halt the extinction of bees. The week of the 6th of December was supposed to be our second awareness week, Wildlife Conservation Week. Due to Storm Barra this week is now postponed until the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> December. We hope to continue our work into the new year. Green Schools meetings are during lunch time on Wednesdays and anyone can attend. You can keep up to date with all Green School announcements by following [groveguidance4](#) on Instagram.

## College Aware Week

College Awareness Week took place from Monday 22nd November. Each day 6th year students profiled a college on the intercom which was then followed by a screening of a short information video on the college to all classes. TCD, UCD, IADT, TU Dublin and Sallynoggin College of Further Education were all profiled. Third Year students attended an online presentation from IADT while Senior Cycle Students attended talks from UCD, Trinity and TU Dublin. Second years created Pic-collEGes while 1st and 6th years interviewed each other about their hopes and dreams for after school (6th years) and for their time in school (1st years). Everybody really enjoyed and learned a lot from this activity. First years also spent the week interviewing many of their teachers about their college and career experiences and were astonished by some of their teachers career choices and aspirations! Many thanks to the 5th year students who organised daily college quizzes and to Anna C who designed the hopes and dreams questionnaire.



## Senior Cycle History Tour

Senior Cycle History students were delighted to take a History trip to Derry with Mr. Coyne and Ms. Cunningham in October. The first stop was the famous Guildhall in Derry. Students twalked the Peace Bridge across the River Foyle to the Waterside and then walked the walls of Derry and stopped at the Bogside and the Siege Museum where the students got a presentation from an actual Apprentice Boy. In between all that they had ample opportunity to have lunch, shop and treat themselves to coffee/tea. We were back on the bus for 4pm and arrived back on the school grounds at 8pm. The students are studying the Apprentice Boys of Derry as one of their prescribed documents on the Leaving Certificate Course so seeing all the buildings and areas involved with the case study really helped them



### 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. McGann and Ms. McErlane for organising the day and to all the third years for (literally) throwing themselves into everything!



### Wexford Heritage Park

Second Years went to Wexford Heritage Park in October as part of their History Tour. Second years enjoyed exploring historic and archaeological Ireland through the sights, sounds and activities of life in Ancient Ireland.



## Happy ChristMATHS

Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed Science and Maths week in October and November and took part in daily quizzes and activities throughout both weeks. TYs very much enjoyed learning about Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson while watching Hidden Figures, they also attended an online talk about careers in STEM and took part in a Microsoft Dreamspace online workshop, Meanwhile this month there is a Christmaths daily quiz with a daily prize for the winners.



### Debating News

Despite the ongoing challenges posed by restrictions to our extracurricular endeavours, the Debate Club has roared back to life this year with a huge increase in members. Two competitions are currently underway; The Leinster Senior Debate Competition, in which we have three teams, and The Junior Schools Debate Competition. We have a record five teams in the latter. Motions have been challenging but thoroughly enjoyed by all participants and include: This House Believes That Funding for Political Parties should be tied to Diversity, This House Would Introduce Mandatory Parenting Classes, This House Would Hold Political Leaders Personally Responsible for Climate Change and that This House Believes That Political Contributions Do More Harm Than Good to name but a few. Competitions have taken place via Zoom so far this term, but we hope to return to the UCD Campus for some in-person verbal combat in the new year. A special mention must be extended to the junior teams who have been knocking it out of the park with their inspiring and competition-winning performances. All teams in the junior category have placed either first or second in their rounds, and we look forward to some exciting debates in the next stages of the competition. Debate club for new or inexperienced members is back up and running in Room 12 on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Please call in and see what all the fuss is about!

### We remember

In November we were welcomed to Holy Cross Church in Dundrum by Father John as we remembered those who have died over the last year.



## Activity Week



Activity Week took place from September 27th to October 1st. On the first day we did a forensics workshop. This was very enjoyable as we looked into the assassination of JFK. We were able to see what procedures take place when an investigation is underway. It was a good way for us to see what a job in forensics would be like. We also did a photography challenge. We went to UCD and Deer Park to look for letters within the environment to create a quote or phrase. It was nice to be out and about in nature.



On the second day of activity week we got to do a first aid course and west African drumming. This was a really good day as we got to learn how to save someone life and learned how to play the drums. The first aid course was very informative and we learnt what to do if someone goes into cardiac arrest. During the west African drumming session we got to learn about how to create different sounds using different parts of the drum. The whole experience was really fun.



On our third day we finished the first aid course by learning how to bandage up patients. We also did a dance workshop. During this we learnt how to do two dances in different styles. These two courses were really fun and I really enjoyed the day.

On September 30th, we went to Larch Hill. We did three different activities, archery, rock climbing and team building. These were really fun and my favourite was the archery.



## Halloween

As well as taking part in the school wide fundraiser for Pieta House, we had an activity day where we carved pumpkins, watched a Halloween movie and created Halloween treats. The pumpkins were really fun to carve, the Halloween treats turned out really tasty and the movie was a good bridge between the two.



## Languages Connect

We had a fun, interactive and engaging day participating in a variety of workshops from Russian Ballet, Arabic Bellydancing and Irish Sign Language which we all particularly enjoyed learning. We also had a guest facilitator in the afternoon who did a Korean Workshop. We really enjoyed this session as we learned about Korean Culture and designed our own tote bags with Korean sayings/calligraphy.



## Work Experience

For the first week of November we were on work experience. We got to go out into the workplace and learn for ourselves what we enjoy doing. People went to solicitors' offices, worked in the hospitality industry, worked in auctioneers and real estate agents, worked in pharmaceuticals and with architects and some of us did workshops online. It was a really great experience and gave us an good understanding of the world of work. We are currently completing our Work Experience Diaries as part of our TY Portfolio and are exploring Leaving Certificate Subjects Options in light of career and college choices as part of our Career Guidance classes.

**Bravo!** Congratulations to Ms. Cooke's TY French class who came first in the French Teachers of Ireland National Competition. Over 40 schools across 20 counties took part in this competition where students were asked to submit a video of themselves reading one of Jean La Fontaine's fables. Les jeunes de Mme Cooke took things to a whole other level and designed and made puppet theatres which they then used to act out the fable. The competition was judged on the quality of the performance and the pronunciation of the participants. You can watch the show by following @olgrove on twitter. Regardez! C'est formidable!



# SPORTS NEWS

## Athletics and Fitness

We have a large attendance at athletics/fitness after school on Mondays. Some are there to keep fit, others to try out athletics and others come just for fun. The group have jumped, ran and tried out cross country running at the Rosemount Green nearby. The following students went on to compete at Blackrock Cross Country medley relays and well done to them all. In First Year, Aoife Clinch, Ella O'Kelly, Myra Arganio, Eva Gavra Boland. In Second Year, Iman Jasarevic, Mariam Elrouby, Sinéad Ní Bhaoighill and Brooke Moran and in Third and Fourth year, Lucia Lennon, Abbie Collins, Lexi Dowling and May Meghen. There will be the East Leinster Championships in January so good luck to the students who will be competing. All are welcome every Monday to take part 3.30-4.30pm on the hockey pitch, just turn up!



## Tennis

Tennis coaching takes place every Thursday after school and the students are progressing well. In the spring/summer term they will have the chance to take part in matches as part of a school ladder competition.

## Inter-schools Equestrian

Well done to Tekka Whelan in 3rd year who has taken part in several of the Inter-school showjumping events. She will be competing again in the new year so we wish her well in these competitions.



## Golf

Ciara Doyle's (6th year) golf has gone from strength to strength in the last year. She has competed in previous schools golfing events and due to her progress this year in all her golfing competitions she qualified for the Junior All-Ireland's. This is a very prestigious honour for her. The best of luck to Ciara in all her future golfing endeavours.

## Netball

This year there are 5 netball teams in the school: the 1st Year team, the 2nd Year team, the Junior A and B teams, and the Senior team. Players train weekly and the school is part of the Netball Ireland School's League. The Senior team played a match against St Leo's recently. They played very well but unfortunately lost. The OLG Junior A team played the Junior B team, and both played exceptionally. In the end, the score was 13-5 to the A team. The OLG Junior teams are preparing for a trip to Drogheda Grammar School next week for a friendly Netball Blitz against both Drogheda Grammar and Wesley College Junior mixed teams. They had initially planned the matches for last Wednesday but had to postpone due to dangerous weather conditions from Storm Barra! There will also be a Netball Christmas Tournament for all netball players in the school from 1st-6th year on Wednesday the 15th of December. Everyone is excited and there are also many other league fixtures to look forward to in the New Year! The 1st Years have yet to play their first fixture but are training hard for their first official league



## Hockey

The first year players have shown great commitment and development over the last 12 weeks improving with every game. For many of the 1<sup>st</sup> years it was their first time lifting a hockey stick in September this year, they have adapted terrifically and show strong signs for the future of Our Lady's Hockey. Due to match suspensions last season, our Minors have also played some of their first matches. The minors started very strongly with close games with St Joseph Cluny, The High School, Santa Sabina and St.Raphaela's. The Juniors have been a very enjoyable group to coach, the girls show great skill and leadership among the group with a lot of them doing the rounds with the senior team and not looking even slightly out of place. The senior team showed great prowess at the start of season having strong victories against St Conleth and Santa Sabina in the league and are showing good signs for the new year. A couple of injuries has burdened the squad towards the tail end of the term but no doubt the girls will be fit and ready for the new year. The seniors have been very helpful and proactive in training and match preparation this year and show good signs of development, the players can be proud of the season so far but and will be ready to hit the ground running in the new year.