

Our Lady's Templemore Cumarsáid

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Newsletter October 2017

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to introduce the November edition of Cumarsáid. Students and staff have enjoyed a very busy and fulfilling term at Our Lady's. At the beginning of the academic year, we celebrated excellent results in the State Examinations and this was followed by a successful induction programme for students.

Our Lady's has embraced the new Junior Cycle Framework with great enthusiasm. Our **Learning to Learn** team is now well established and committee members are working closely with yearheads/class tutors to ensure that all students are using active study methodologies. Guidance in relation to study plans and study skills has been presented to students in both Junior and Senior Cycle this term.

The extra-curricular programme got off to an early start with rehearsals for the musical and training commencing in late August. Students' commitment to music, sport and the wider extra-curricular programme is to be complimented. "Thank you for the Music" was a tremendously successful show. More than 1,200 students attended the matinée performances and the musical was enjoyed by a full house on Thursday and Friday night. Congratulations to the cast and production team on an energetic, heart-warming performance.

We look forward to continued success in the coming term.

Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.

Patricia Higgins

Champions of 2017



On Friday June 23rd 2017, Our Lady's brought the curtain down on a memorable year when Harty Cup and All-Ireland medals were presented to the 2017 champions.

Welcome to our First Year Students

A warm welcome to our First Year students who have all settled in very well at Our Lady's.

Our three groups, Nore, Lee and Avoca, under the guidance of their year head Mr Martin Burke and class tutors, Ms Denise Flannery, Ms Rachel Kelly and Mr James O'Brien are making new friends and memories.



OPEN EVENING



Thursday,
30th November 2017
6.30 p.m.

Follow us on:



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Learning to Learn



This term we are focusing on teaching students the skills and techniques required to be effective learners. The Learning to Learn team have delivered a number of study skills presentations to senior cycle students and are currently working with junior classes. Parents/Guardians of Junior Cycle students were invited to a presentation on the Junior Cycle Framework and Learning to Learn.

The senior cycle presentations postponed due to storm Ophelia will take place on **Thursday, 16th November** at 7.30pm.



'Thank You for the Music'

It was standing ovations all the way for the cast and crew of 'Thank You for the Music' in Our Lady's last week. Their spectacular performances had audiences clapping, singing and literally bopping in their seats from the overture. With a very talented and experienced front-line and a chorus bursting with energy, these young performers impressed from the opening scene. Set in the seventies, on a colourful Greek Island, the story evolves around a local wedding, secrets from the past and misunderstandings. The much-loved songs of Abba form the list of musical numbers throughout. Hits like 'I have a Dream', 'Money, Money, Money', 'Dancing Queen', 'Mamma Mia', and 'Voulez Vous' had everyone singing along. Director and choreographer Thérèse Maher made no secret of her intention to 'challenge' the cast this year on the dancing front and boy did they rise to it! The character of Sophie (the young bride-to-be) was played by second year student Emma Grant. Her stage presence, great acting and sweet voice certainly beguiled her young years. Cheyenne Stewart was outstanding in the role of Donna (Sophie's mother). The emotion, interpretation in her acting and singing was exceptional. Niamh Kennedy was perfectly cast as the gorgeous, glamorous Tanya. Making her debut from the chorus to the front-line Sinéad Ryan (Rosie), Sinéad nailed all her songs (and harmony lines) as well as her comic one-liners. Joseph Boyle's (Harry), accent, comic timing and delivery of lines was superb. A great performer! at Carroll a seasoned star of Our Lady's musicals was super in his role as the free-spirited Bill. As did Michael Fogarty (Sam) who gave a convincing performance. Another young man with wonderful stage performance is third year student Jack Nevin, who played the comic role of Pepper to perfection.

Daniel Tuohy also impressed (as Pepper's side-kick Eddie). Another talent to watch for the future! Sky (Sophie's fiancé) was convincingly played by Ben Collins. His portrayal of Sky was very endearing. Niamh Dunne and Ciara O'Brien (as Ali and Lisa respectively) were lovely as Sophie's best friends.



Chinese at Our Lady's Secondary School.



A significant linguistic development has taken place at Our Lady's this year, with the immersion of our Transition Year Group in Chinese culture and language. They are firstly learning the sound of the language, moving on then to learning how to write the

Chinese characters. It is a whole new world of learning and cultural awareness. One may ask the question, why Chinese? It is the considered language of computers, digital technology, manufacturing companies and production management. The Department of Education are encouraging the learning of Chinese in schools and supporting the introduction of Chinese in TY. The Department work in conjunction with Confucius Institute in Ireland, through which they send a Chinese teacher to teach Chinese in Our Lady's. Our Teacher is called Rachel and she comes to Our Lady's every Tuesday from Confucius Institute in UCC. It is amazing to observe how quickly the students learn the language. Combined with the language classes, each student has taken an aspect of Chinese culture, which they research and present to other students in the class. They have taken on topics such as The Great Wall of China, Chinese Medicine, Martial Arts, Ming Dynasty, Terracotta Soldiers, Feng Shui, Culinary Arts, Costumes and many other interesting projects. For example, there are many GAA Clubs in the city of Shanghai alone, some of which two students are researching. So don't be surprised if you see an increasing number of Chinese notices around the school as the year progresses.



TY trip to Delphi

Sixty-nine transition year pupils travelled to Delphi, Co Mayo on Monday 25th of September and returned on Wednesday 27th. On arrival on Monday afternoon they were divided into six groups. Each group had an opportunity to do all activities during the day which included surfing, bog pool, team tasks, zip and trek, archery, climbing and abseiling.



While at night the students took part in games which included 'Energisers' and also enjoyed a campfire in the forest.

Everyone arrived back in Templemore at six o'clock on Wednesday having really enjoyed the three days away. While there were a few tired bodies there was a great sense of achievement among the group.



SPORT IN OUR LADY'S

First Year Hurling

In early September we had our first training session with Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Ryan. We trained twice a week and played our first challenge match against Cashel in Killea at the end of September. We played in the first round of the Corn Uí Catháin in early October, in Dr. Morris Park. We beat Clonmel High School, Nenagh CBS, Comeragh College and were unlucky to lose to Thurles CBS. We have left ourselves in a strong position to qualify for the final in the next round. We have two remaining games to play before the knockout stages.



Ladies Football

It was a great start for Our Lady's in both our Junior and Senior Ladies football leagues this year.

The senior team lost one match by a point to St Anne's of Tipperary town and won their second match beating Presentation Clonmel 5-11 to 3-9. Their last league game is up against Kanturk of Co. Cork after the midterm.

Our Junior footballers played the Ursuline Thurles in their first match coming out with a score line of 6-13 to 3-3. They will face Fethard in round 2 of the league on Wednesday 25th of October. The final league game against Coláiste Luimnigh will take place after midterm.



Basketball

Our Lady's Cadet basketball team (U-16) commenced the season in the midlands B league with an opening round v Portarlington. The girls ran out convincing winners on a Scoreline of 53-9 in what was a great all round team performance.

Filled with confidence following their big opening round win, the girls faced Tullamore in round 2 and came out winners on a scoreline of 36-15 to keep up their 100% record in the midlands league. Attention then turned to the cup competition where we faced off against Crosshaven. Buoyed by two excellent results in the league the girls continued their winning streak in a game where it took us until the third quarter to pull comfortably clear, on a final scoreline of 31-18. With this win the girls secured their passage into the All-Ireland semi final of the cup. We hope that the recent excellent form can continue into the latter stages of the league and cup for the year ahead.



Futsal



Students from secondary schools from around Ireland will meet throughout January and February to compete in the finals of the Futsal schools competition. The Secondary Schools Futsal competition is in its first year nationally after a successful pilot programme last year. It caters for 1st year students both boys and girls. Two boys and one girl's futsal team will represent Our Lady's in the futsal competition for North Tipperary on Monday 6th November in Peake Villa FC, Thurles. One boys team and one girls team will qualify for the Tipperary county finals which will take place in the Thurles area on Tuesday 14th. November.

Students Awards 2017



Our Lady's Student Awards took place towards the end of May. A wide spectrum of achievements was recognised with awards for full attendance, academic excellence in every subject and overall student of the year. Students who showed exceptional commitment and those who embody the school ethos were also recognised. The guest speaker was past pupil and proprietor of Mediskin Nenagh, Geraldine Byrne, who spoke fondly of her time in Our Lady's while outlining the importance of maintaining a focus and a positive outlook on life. Congratulations to all award recipients.



The Student Council

The 2017-2018 Student Council have been elected by their peers and are already busy working on school events. Each class group nominates one member to be a voice for students in all aspects of school life. The council have their say on decisions made in Our Lady's. They organise a variety of events and work together for the betterment of the entire school community. It is an honour and a privilege for students to be voted onto the council by their peers. We wish the 2017/2018 council all the very best for the year ahead.

Gaisce

This year in Our Lady's over 50 students have signed up to achieve the prestigious Presidential Award, Gaisce, under the guidance of Ms Keane and Mr Shortall. Participants in this personal development programme engage in personal, physical and community challenges on a weekly basis and later in the year participants will go on overnight Adventure Journey. This year we have students hoping to earn awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. To earn their award, students are involved in an extremely wide range of activities for an hour each week.



Gaisce award recipients of 2016-2017

School Library

First year students are enjoying the library in our school. We have a wide range of material, something to suit all tastes. The library is open and supervised every lunchtime and a number of students avail of this quiet time. Finally, students who write and submit a short account of a book they have read are given a merit card for every entry.



Cairdeas

Cairdeas is Our Lady's peer mentoring programme which runs each year, it links 1st year students with a mentor from the senior school. This year our 1st years got a really warm welcome on their first day as their 5th year mentors came back to school a few days early to meet with students, organise fun activities and a school trail for them. Since then, students have gotten to know their mentors a little better through organised activities and informal chats during lunchtime. The Cairdeas team are currently putting plans in place to run a cake sale as a fundraiser for a surprise event which will take place for 1st years before Christmas!



After School Study

Evening Study takes place every Monday to Friday for 2 hours commencing at 4.10pm and at 2.00pm on Friday. It provides a formal study environment and is supervised by teachers. Saturday study is also available. This is a 4 hour study period commencing at 9.30am.

Homework Club

The homework club takes place after school from Monday to Thursday. The club lasts for one hour from 4.10pm—5.10pm.

LC Maths Club

Leaving Maths students are availing of the Maths Club which is run by our maths teachers. There are separate clubs for higher & ordinary level.

Enterprise Club

The young entrepreneurs of Our Lady's have been busy at work since September using their initiative to come up with new and innovative business ideas. Enterprise Club is a voluntary class set up for 1st and 2nd year students who wish to produce a product or service. Students can work individually or as part of a group.

Just under 10 companies meet every Tuesday after school from 4.15pm -5.15pm with teachers from the Business Department to work on their ideas. All groups are working diligently to have their products and services ready for Open Night to display to perspective students and parents. We wish them continued enthusiasm with their ideas and look forward to seeing their products on Open Night.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On-line Safety

Presentation

**Wednesday, 8th
November**

7:30 p.m.