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# Cumarsáid

Newsletter December 2016



## Our Lady's Templemore



### WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am delighted to introduce the Christmas edition of *Cumarsáid*. Excellent Leaving Certificate results in August set the tone for 2016-2017 with a record number of students achieving in excess of 500 points this year. We congratulate all students on their achievements and we extend special congratulations to Conor O'Brien and John Carroll (Entrance Scholars in UCD), and Karolina Váradi (Entrance School in Trinity College). The Entrance Scholars gained recognition for achieving in excess of 560 points in the Leaving Certificate Examination 2016.

Students and staff members are deriving maximum benefit from the new facilities. This is particularly so in the case of the practical rooms and the science block. The modernised library facility is extremely popular with students and there are plans to extend the use of this facility to local primary school children in the New Year.

The extensive extra-curricular programme continued unabated this term. Our most ambitious musical undertaking to date, *Les Misérables*, was a huge success with large crowds attending each performance. Success has also been achieved in the area of debating with a number of teams and individual speakers qualifying for the quarter-finals of the Munster Schools' Debating competition organised by the Philosophical Society

in UCC. The extra-curricular programme also included a very successful trip to Berlin at the mid-term break and a German Christmas Market on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

The sporting calendar included a visit from the Liam Mc Carthy Cup and the Irish Press Cup in September. Thirteen current and past pupils of Our Lady's contributed to the tremendous achievement which was realised for the county on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Harty Cup team is off to a steady start and is on course for another exciting campaign this year. Basketballers and Ladies Football teams are making good progress in the leagues while camogie and athletics continue to feature prominently in the school's programme.

I would like to thank all students and staff members who contributed to the success of the Official Opening Ceremony. This event was a highlight in the history of the school. Our Lady's also hosted a very successful Open Evening and a Community Open Day this term. Visitors were impressed with the new facilities and they were most generous with the compliments for student ushers who provided guided tours.

As we enter the season of Christmas I take this opportunity to thank students, parents/guardians and staff members for their contribution to Our Lady's this term. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Beannacht Dé oraibh um Nollaig.



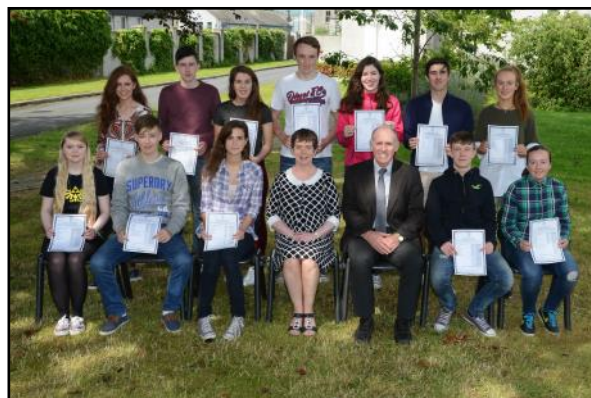
### SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Leaving Cert 2016 students, John Carroll and Conor O'Brien who were awarded Entrance Scholarships to UCD at a ceremony in the O'Reilly Hall on November 16<sup>th</sup>. These prestigious awards are conferred on High Achievers in the Leaving Cert who pursue particular courses at Third Level. John Carroll who is from Errill and Conor O'Brien from Templemore did their Leaving Cert exam at Our Lady's in June and began their studies at UCD in September. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> another Our Lady's Student, Karolina Varadi was awarded an Entrance Exhibition Award to Trinity College as result of her Leaving Cert Achievement.



### HIGH ACHIEVERS

A group of students who achieved in excess of 500 points in the Leaving Certificate 2016.



View our New School Video on



Our Lady's Secondary School Templemore



@ourladystm and on the school website.



Enrolment Date for 2017

13th January

Details available on school website

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

## LES MISÉRABLES – A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Our Lady's reached for the stars with this year's production on Les Misérables on October 19th & 20th. The annual event has grown in strength and maturity over the last number of years. The students and production team entertained the crowds with four moving and memorable performances of the world's most popular musical. Once the curtains went up on the first show it was immediately clear that the many weeks of enthusiastic preparation had paid off.

From Wednesday to Friday packed audiences watched with rapt attention as the tale unfolded of Jean Valjean, flawlessly depicted by Patrick Carroll, as he tries to start a new life and gain respect following a prison sentence for theft. Valjean's attempts at redemption are repeatedly thwarted by ruthless police inspector, Javert, convincingly portrayed by Russell Doyle.

In addition to these two principal characters who were consistently strong all week, every one of the main characters was equally well cast. Aoife Kelly as poor factory worker, Fantine performed with characteristic ease while Cheyenne Stewart as her daughter, Cosette was perfect for the part and sang beautifully in each performance.



Equally memorable were Éponine played by Shannon Grant, Marius played by Ben Collins and Enjolras played by Michael Fogarty. Glynn Stewart as Thernardier and Cerys Loughnane as Madame Thernardier fitted the parts perfectly and provided much light relief in an otherwise quite pessimistic narrative. Aoife Shelly as Young Causette, Jack Nevin as Gavroche, Colm Lawlor as Bishop, Roberto Iannelli as Bamatabois, Niamh Kennedy as Fenilly, Dara Nolan as Courfeyrac, Joseph Boyle as Combeferre and Emma Grant as Young Eponine each made the part their own and left those who attended more than one performance look forward to the moment when they came centre stage in successive performances.



### NEW SCHOOL LOGO

The final presentation is the result of months of work by students, committee members (Ms Mary Byrne, Ms Marie Ryan, Mr. Paul Fogarty, Ms. Aileen Cashman and Ms. Kay O'Regan) and Mr. Shane Cody (Graphic Designer). The new school logo was launched by Mr. Shane Cody on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. Students who submitted entries and members of the Student Council were invited to meet the Graphic Designer in the Demonstration Room. This was followed by meetings with the different yeargroups in the Social Area. The principal outlined the significance of the Mercy Crest which was used to represent

Our Lady's since 1985 and she provided details of the rationale for designing a new logo. Mr Cody explained the process used to design the logo.

The OLT hidden in the logo represents Our Lady's Templemore. It sits in the centre of the circle forming a cross. The edges of the cross splay outwards, reminiscent of the crossed end of the original Mercy cross. The blue 'O' symbolises Mary as she is always depicted wearing blue. The green on the 'L' and the red on the 'T' take their colours from the seven bars on the Mercy Crest. The outer circle of gold comes from the crown on the Mercy Crest. A gold ring represents a halo often associated with the Blessed Virgin. The image in the fourth quadrant represents the Devil's Bit mountain which overlooks Templemore. Fr. Dominic Meehan and Fr. Joe Walshe blessed the logo during the Official Opening Ceremony. The logo is represented in steel on the wall at the front entrance and it will appear on school stationery and clothing in the New Year.



**Blessing of new Logo**



## GERMAN TRIP TO BERLIN AT THE OCTOBER BREAK

Sixty four pupils and eight teachers travelled from Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore to Berlin for five days during the October Break. We visited all the fabulous sights including the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. We also visited checkpoint Charlie Museum which documented the human history of the Berlin Wall.

On our second day we travelled to the Autostadt, Wolfsburg, where we visited the largest car manufacturing company in the world. 2,800 cars are produced daily here. We travelled around the factory by train and really only saw a tiny fraction of the production plant. It was an incredible experience of modern technology as we witnessed the robots in action. We saw interactive exhibits, simulator crash tests, a car design studio and an area dedicated to the history of motor vehicles to name but a few.

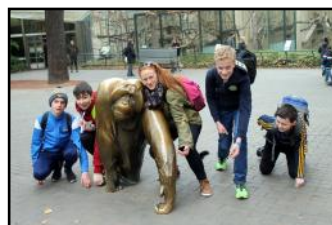
On our third day we travelled to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. We had a guided tour that was exceptionally enlightening regarding how and why such systematic extermination operations of the SS took place. The famous film "The Counterfeiters" is in fact based on an event at this camp. This was a very poignant visit indeed. We then visited the Olympic Stadium built for the Games in 1936. This is where the International Youth assembled in Nazi Germany to be greeted by Hitler before the start of World War 2.



We visited the Football Stadium, the home of the famous Soccer Club Hertha Berlin. Lots of jerseys and souvenirs were bought in the Fan Shop. Later we stopped at Alexanderplatz for shopping. That evening we had great fun at Schillerpark Bowling Alley, where we also dined. Teachers and students proved their great abilities and skills at Bowling. Day four we had a total fun day, when we went to "Tropical Island" Waterpark. It is Europe's largest tropical indoor beach, sauna with mangrove swamps and idyllic lagoons. Students enjoyed thrilling rides on Germany's famous waterslides. Later that evening we dined at Piazza Rossa. We visited the famous TV Tower. Students went to the top of this 368 m structure, the tallest building in Germany. Here they experienced amazing panoramic views of the entire city of Berlin.

On day five, we relaxed at Berlin Tiergarten, which is Germany's oldest zoo. We visited the "Story of Berlin" and the underground Bunkers. We spent some free time shopping on the Kurfürstendamm. So many varied Germanic cultural experiences encapsulated into five days. What a trip!

An experience of a lifetime! Es war eine wunderbare Erfahrung!



## PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATING SOCIETY

For the third year running Our Lady's Secondary School has competed in the Munster Schools' Debating Championships, hosted and adjudicated by UCC Philosophical Society. Round 1 of the championship took place in October where ten students participated in the debates that evening.

For all students it was their first time competing at this level and the lively and combative debates left students eager to participate in Round 2 of the championship. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November ten debaters, their supporters, and their mentors, Ms Keane and Ms Talbot, once again travelled to Cork, this time to compete for a place in the Quarter Finals.



Competition was tough as not only were our students in direct competition with each other they would also have to compete with students from Laurel Hill, Rockwell College, Mount Mercy and St Joseph's CBS, to name but a few. The rules of this competition allow debaters to interrupt each other mid speech to argue their points which means at any moment student's had to be prepared to defend their position.

With all of this in mind students readied themselves to propose and oppose the following motions. Motion 1: That This House Believes That The Media Should Not Report On The Private Lives Of Politicians. Motion 2: That This House Would Pay Teachers Based On The Academic Performance Of Their Students. Motion 3: That This House Would Allow Individuals To Opt Out Of 50% Of Their Income Tax And Give That Money To A Charitable Cause Of Their Choosing.



After an intense and eventful evening we were delighted to have nine students through to the quarter finals.

## OFFICIAL OPENING AT OUR LADY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, TEMPLEMORE.

The official opening of the extended and refurbished school building by Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton, on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 was an occasion of immense pride and satisfaction for all members of the school community at Our Lady's. Addressing the large audience of students, staff and invited guests assembled in the school Gym for the opening ceremony, Minister Bruton said he was delighted to be present on such a wonderful occasion for the school and for Templemore. He complimented students and staff members on the wonderful welcome he received. He expressed satisfaction that the government, even in difficult times, had been able to continue to invest in the vital area of educational infrastructure. He paid tribute to Ms. Higgins, Duggan Brothers Ltd, the Design Team and the entire school community, saying that the new school bore testimony to the vision, commitment and hard work of everyone involved.



In her address Ms Higgins expressed her delight that the finished project was such a great success. She thanked the Contractor, Duggan Brothers Ltd and the Design Team (RKD Architects, Noel Lawlor Consulting Engineers, Hayes Higgins Partnership and Nollag Mac Namara), for their commitment to the project and for completing the extensive building to the highest standard. The project was delivered on time and with maximum efficiency. Ms Higgins paid special tribute to the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers whose commitment to education and investment in educational infrastructure over many years in Templemore had made the current development possible. She thanked parents/guardians, students and staff of the school for their support and patience during a very busy couple of years. In conclusion, Ms Higgins encouraged students to benefit from the new learning environment by working hard to achieve their goals and realise their ambitions. The official opening ceremony concluded with a blessing of the new extension by Archbishop, Dr. Kieran O'Reilly.





## ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL—FRENCH VISITS

Every Tuesday five Transition Year students, Cara McMullen, Siobhan Quinlan, Orlaith Maher, Roberto Ianelli and Ben Collins went to St. Joseph's primary school to teach French. They introduced 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students to the French language and culture through fun and games. Every week they chose a different French topic. Examples of some topics taught were numbers, the alphabet, animals, Halloween and Christmas terms and greetings. It was a great learning experience for both the TY students and the primary school students.



## TY FRENCH

The TY students studying French went to the Source Arts Centre in Thurles to see a French film : "Ma révolution" on the 23rd of November 2016.

The movie follows the ascent of a Parisian teenager with Tunisian origins fighting for the Arab Spring to catch the attention of his beautiful class-mate Sygrid. It was a very enjoyable time for all!



French Department—On  
Open Night

## CEARDLANN “SCÉAL”

Ar an 14ú Meán Fómhair , ghlac daltaí na hIdirbhliana páirt i gceardlann chumadóireacht darb ainm ‘Scéal’ Bhí seans acu scéal a chumadh agus spreagadh daltaí é sin a dhéanamh ar bhealach spráil agus greannmhar. Tugadh deis do mhic léinn a muinín agus a scileanna comhóibriú a chothú. Mhair an seisiún thart ar uair agus daichead nóiméad. Ar dtús bhí taispeántas gearr bunaithe ar scéalta cáiliúla. Ina dhiaidh sin rinne siad gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla chun na daltaí a spreagadh chun caint. Ag deireadh an seisiúin rinne na daltaí an scéal a leiriú iad fhéin ag úsáid props agus trealamh fuaimne a bhí ann. Bhain siad an taitneamh agus tairbhe as an gceardlann seo.



## GAEILGE 24 i MEÁNSCOIL MHUIRE.

Ghlac daltaí ón gcéad agus ón dara bhliain páirt i ndúshlán le labhairt as Gaeilge amháin don lá ar fad Dé Máirt 17ú Samhain 2016.



Bhí roinnt imeachtaí eagraithe timpeall na scoile, cuir i gcás, amhráin a chanadh, tráth na gceist, comórtais sa rang, ciorcal comhrá ag am lóin agus araile. Fuair na daltaí t-léinte, bandaí láimhe agus frásaí samplacha don lá. Bhí lá den scoth againn le Gaeilge24 agus is léir gur bhain na daltaí agus na múinteoirí an-taitneamh agus tairbhe as an lá. Comhghairdeas libh!



## TY POETRY SLAM

On Tuesday 27th of September, the English Curriculum got off to a creative start. All TY English classes attended a two hour poetry slam. By the end of the session each student had written, edited and published

### My Storm

Our relationship is like the sea, it's all set free  
with clam waters in the morning  
but without a forewarning  
The calm waters turn into typhoon and blow out all your  
confidence and love  
If only I knew how the wind blew, but  
Being a passenger on his sea is confusing as can be.

As I sit on the boat I try to keep everything on a high  
note  
But occasionally the water seeps in an reaps  
Rubbing salt on the wounds from the unpredictable  
storms  
It's hard to get in form

### Bullying

Bullying is a problem  
So don't be a goblin  
Leave people alone  
Because we're all different  
So stop being a bully  
And just try to be funny.



### We Learn

We learn from mistakes  
From the wrong turns we make  
From the fake friends we make  
From the times we almost break



Junior Cert Craft and Design Projects



The Business

Christmas Market.



Science Department



The Woodwork Department



## Open Night at

## Our Lady's



The Music Department



Science - setting the night on fire.



First Year Geography Projects



Woodwork Room



The DCG room



The Art Room



## GREENSCHOOLS

### 'Save the Polar, go Solar'

Energy is the second theme of the Green-Schools programme. Following from the Litter & Waste green flag, Our Lady's is concentrating on conserving energy and raising awareness of energy issues.

The aim is to improve the energy efficiency within the school and to heighten the students' awareness of the need for energy efficiency while continuing with the recycling program. We hope that our future campaigns and presentations will raise awareness amongst the students of the importance of the energy theme.



Our slogan is 'Save the polar, go solar'.

Our Green-Schools notice board has been updated with posters, points of information and results of our green school survey. We have displayed energy saving Tips for both teachers and students, which will encourage energy efficiency throughout the school.

We have also carried out an environmental review of the school. The students found PC's consumed the most electricity, followed by lighting. Students carried out an appliance audit and were very surprised with the amount of appliances they had. Heating contributed to a high proportion of energy. Following the completion of the major building programme and total refurbishment of the existing school we are hopeful that we will attain our 'Energy' Green Flag. Our new facility complies with modern building regulations and is very energy efficient. This will reduce our energy costs and create a range of environmental, economic, and educational benefits for both students and staff.



## BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

### OPENING OF SCHOOL BANK

On Monday 5th December the Transition Year School Bank was officially opened. The bank is set up and run in conjunction with the Bank of Ireland, Templemore branch who support the students allowing them to set up their School Bank and carry out banking roles and responsibilities.

A team of 7 students set up and manage the day-to-day operations of the School Bank. This year Lara O'Toole, Maeve Keyes, Andrew Mullen, Aine Delaney, Ruth Butler, Pat Carroll and Conor Ryan are the school bank team. The Bank is open every Monday at 1.20-1.40. The aim this year is to open 100 accounts. Students who wish to open accounts need to fill in an application form and bring €5 to activate the account.

The Business Department had a Christmas Market theme for Open Evening this year. Nineteen mini companies took part and aimed to create a festive spirit for our visitors. The



companies were made up of Transition Years and Enterprise Club students. Each group had to create a stand for their company and present their product and idea to the public. Each group was very successful on the night and now will be busy working in preparation for competitions after Christmas.



### 'Well Being Week' January 2017 Upcoming Events



Winners of Ireland's Fittest Family

**'The Cummins'**

will visit Our Lady's on Thursday 19th January  
to kick start our 'Well being Week'.

A Parents Talk on Youth Mental Health by Psychologist

**Kenneth Heffernan**

will take place in Our Lady's on Thursday 26th January at 7p.m.



## GERMAN FILM "ABOUT A GIRL"



Transition Year and Fifth Year students went to see this year's German film, called "About a Girl". While the theme was about suicide, the film had many different sub themes running through it, combined with humour and comedy. A great movie enjoyed by all.

## SCHOOLS DIGITAL CHAMPION PROGRAMME

The Government wants to enhance the use of technology in teaching and learning. Building on the State's investment in high speed broadband connectivity, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, in collaboration with Department of Education and Skills, has introduced this new initiative, the School Digital Champion Programme. The programme provides students and teachers with training and supports schools in embracing digital technology. TY students, Adam Duffe, Hugh Maher, Sophie O'Brien and Béibheann O'Hair accompanied their teacher Ms Marion Quinlisk at a Schools Digital Champion training day in Dublin on the 12th of December. They attended workshops which included video editing, web design, coding and App design, as well as communications and presentations skills, marketing and research.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the 6<sup>th</sup> year geography class completed their geography field study. The group went to Lehinch in Co. Clare to complete the fieldwork study which is a very important aspect of the Leaving Certificate Geography course. A great day was enjoyed by both students and teachers.



## WEIHNACHTSMARKT 2016

The German students of Transition Year held their Annual Christmas Market again this year. There was festive food, German music and Kinderpunch drink. We had home baked Plätzchen, Blackforest gâteau, Pfannkuchen, Apfelstrudel and lots of other cakes. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus with their elves visited on the day and were available for photos. The second year students of German also made fabulous food for the occasion. This was a wonderful cultural experience of festivity and fun.



## LCA TRIP TO LIMERICK

This year's Leaving Certificate Applied class comprises of 13 students between LCA1 and LCA 2. On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of December the class enjoyed a recreational day with a Christmas feel in Limerick. The students thoroughly enjoyed Limerick-On-Ice where their ice-skating skills were put to the test. Despite the slips and falls students had great fun indeed. The trip concluded with some shopping time in the city. Well done to all the LCA students who were totally cooperative, excellently behaved and good humoured at all times.



## DELPHI CHALLENGE

Our Lady's TY students travelled to Delphi Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Co. Mayo from September 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. As usual the trip was a most enjoyable experience, during which the group engaged in a range of team building and recreational activities. The programme included surfing, kayaking, abseiling, high ropes and archery. The group returned physically exhausted but delighted with the success of the outing.





## CASHEL AND EMLY YEAR OF MERCY YOUTH EVENT IN HOLYCROSS.



This inspiring and faith filled event took place on September 20<sup>th</sup> in the grounds of Holycross Abbey and was attended by 5<sup>th</sup> year students of Our Lady's and their teachers, Ms Johnston, Ms O'Callaghan and Ms Kiely. Ms Johnston and Ms O'Callaghan formed a choir with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year music students. They sang the Mercy Anthem, "A Better Way". The choir received great praise on the day.

Feedback from students was very positive and they were very much impressed by the key note speaker Fr. Peter McVerry who gave a great insight into his work with homeless young people in Dublin. His engagement and interaction with the hundreds of young people present left them in no doubt but that he is one of the visible faces of God's mercy at work in Irish society today.

Representatives from each school that attended brought their school candle to the service. Two students brought the candle to the stage that was decorated with the Year of Mercy logo created by Ms Siobhan Bailey. It was a fantastic way to bring the schools in our Archdiocese together as one in the Year of Mercy.

Testimonials were also given by two young women. One spoke about her experiences of her journey to Lourdes and her work with various Irish charities. A past pupil from Our Lady's gave an account about her work in Africa. She reflected on the various experiences she encountered in her time there. The students gained a greater understanding of the true meaning of mercy from the various speakers throughout the service.

Two other schools, CBS Thurles and Ballingarry, performed a mime to the Gospel, 'The Good Samaritan', while a CBS student performed 'You Raise Me Up' on the oboe. It was a very moving performance that touched the hearts of all students there. It allowed the students to reflect on the good in their lives and how they can become better people in today's society. They also got an insight to God's wonderful work and mercy.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN OUR LADY'S

As usual this term was a busy one in the Religious Education department. On September 25<sup>th</sup> we marked Mercy Day with a special prayer service over the intercom. During the first week of Advent a ceremony was held for the blessing of our Advent Wreath. This year again we participated in the annual Team Hope shoebox appeal. The shoeboxes filled with useful items are assembled by the students and then sent to struggling children and families in the third world. On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> confessions were held for all students in preparation for Christmas. Thank you to Fr. Dominic who organised the confessions and the priests who helped out on the day. Special thanks to Sr. Helen who led the confession reflection and preparation with each year group.



As usual the term ended with the annual Christmas Carol service in the church. It was a joyful and uplifting celebration at the end of a busy term. Well done to Ms. Johnston, Ms. O' Callaghan and all the singers, musicians and readers.



## HOPE Foundation

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, thirteen students from Our Lady's Secondary School will travel to Kolkata for one week. While there, they will visit HOPE projects and get to see first-hand the extremities of life in Kolkata.

As part of the programme, each student raised a minimum of €2,300 which will be donated to the HOPE Foundation.

The thirteen students from Our Lady's, Grace Martin, Lara O'Toole, Christina Cleary, Eva Rush, Zara O'Connell, Johanna Finn, Aimee Gleeson, Sophie Cantwell, Cheyenne Stewart, Katie Giles, Liam Nolan, Roberto Iannelli and Ben Collins ran a number of fundraising events, both together as a group and individually. These events included Sponsored runs, the selling of Butlers HOPE chocolate bars, a Ball, a Tractor Run, donations from bag packing, church gate collections, concerts and a table quiz. All students will pay for their flights and expenses using monies received from family members and part-time employment. The students will be accompanied by two teachers from the school, Ms Marion Quinlisk and Ms Linda Fogarty.



## YSI – YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

This year our Transition Year students have signed up for the national Young Social Innovators competition.



Three projects titles have been submitted and all are linked in some way to promoting positive mental health in Our Lady's. The term has been busy with students carrying out research on our day to day habits and putting some fun and interesting plans in place for the New Year.

As part of this programme, all Transition Year students attended Zeminar in the RDS on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Zeminar aims to introduce young people to organisations and people who are working all of the time to boost well being and resilience in teenagers. Students enjoyed Bressie's presentation on the day in addition to the entertainment and displays on show by many organisations.

The new year will be busy for our YSI crew as they get ready for our Well Being week in January and prepare to showcase their projects in Kilkenny in March.

## RELAUNCH OF NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our library was relaunched this September. It offers students the facility to peruse our books and to read in a quiet setting. It also gives students the opportunity to research and study in an atmosphere conducive to independent learning. Our library has become very popular with our students at lunch time and after school. Every month we have celebrated a new theme appropriate to that time of year. Our app allows students to explore our categories at their leisure and to have easy access to our books. We



would like to thank everyone who donated books in September during our book drive and especially to Abbey Hall, Roscrea Stands Up and Roscrea Youth Club for their very generous donation of books to our library



## GUIDANCE IN OUR LADY'S

It has been a busy term for 6<sup>th</sup> year students as they try to balance the demands of homework, study and all aspects of life in addition to putting plans in place for September 2017. To help students with their decision making, numerous activities have been organised. On the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> years travelled to the RDS for the annual Higher Options conference where students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from all of the third level institutes in Ireland and many from UK and Europe. On 21<sup>st</sup> October, students were given the opportunity to travel to the three Limerick Colleges. Throughout the term, we have also had representatives from Shannon College of Hotel & Catering, Carlow IT, Mary Immaculate College, DCU and Maynooth University. Engineers Ireland and LIT Thurles also delivered presentations to 6<sup>th</sup> year students. A CAO information evening was held for parents and students in November and ongoing support is being offered to students as they proceed with their CAO, scholarship, DARE and HEAR applications.

## THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council have been very active so far this year. They had a prominent role in co-ordination of a number of school events. They ushered guests at the School Musical 'Les Misérables' Open Night and the Community Open Day. The highlight of the school year so far for the council has been their involvement in the Official Opening of the new school building and refurbishment. The entire council formed part of the guard of honour for The Minister of Education. The Chairperson, Aoife Kennedy also gave an excellent and inspiring speech on behalf of the student body at this historical and momentous occasion for Our Lady's Secondary School. Aoife Kennedy and Matthew O'Sullivan (Co-Chairperson) had a fundamental role in the new school video. They acted as guides and narrators in the production. The Student Council are currently preparing for the Christmas Fun Day which will take place on the 22nd December. This will be a day of drama, carols, fun and festivities to be enjoyed by all.





## TRANSITION YEAR DRAMA

One of the highlights of the Transition Year programme each year is the TY Drama. Rehearsals took place during December for the performance scheduled for the day of the Christmas holidays. Each TY student has an important role on stage or as a member of the production team and the three TY groups will perform their One Act Play before the whole school as part of the annual Christmas fun day organised by the Student Council.

## RETIREMENT

Mr Seamus Bourke retired from teaching in May of 2016. Staff and students of Our Lady's would like to wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.



## COUNTY POST PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY

Super Day for Our Lady's at the county cross-country in Thurles racecourse. Jack Ryan had an excellent win in the minor boys and the team consisting of Jack Ryan, Bill Ryan, Tommy Martin and Fionn Kavanagh came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Neassa Towey came home in 2<sup>nd</sup> place individually and her team consisting of Kate Delaney and Emma Grant got 3<sup>rd</sup> team overall. Junior Boys took home gold overall with the team consisting of Henry Fogarty, Conor Cadell, Harry Flemming and Roman Garcia. Intermediate Boys was won individually by Conor Ryan and they took home bronze medal also with their team of Cian O'Dwyer, Lorcan Roche, Jack Cullen and James Kennedy.



Well done to all competitors who competed on the day.

## BASKETBALL

The Under 16 and Under 19 Basketball girls kicked off the basketball session this year in great style, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the next stages of the Midlands B League. The Under 16's had two great wins over St. Leo's Carlow and Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Basketball teams both had a great win over the Ursuline girls in recent challenge games. The level of skill and raw talent displayed will surely stand to us come the start of their basketball session which will commence after Christmas. Well done to their trainers Ms. Fitzpatrick & Ms. Ryan.

## BADMINTON

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Our Lady's were runners up in the final of the girls under 15 schools badminton. Well done to Kate Fogarty, Erin McMullan, Aoife Shanahan and Rachel Leonard.



On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November the boys badminton team had their day out. Our Lady's were runners up in the final of the boys under 15 schools badminton. Well done to James Corcoran, Conor Cadell, Scott Pearson and Kevin Sheedy.

## THE HARTY CUP

Harty training commenced early in September under the management of Mr. Tom Byrnes, Mr. Noel Fogarty and Mr. Joe Gallagher. With a strong Templemore presence on this years all Ireland winning Minor team and the return of Brian Mc Grath to school in September hopes are high of a breakthrough this season. In the new format Our Lady's were drawn in a group of two with St. Flannan's of Ennis, with the winners facing the runners up of another group in round two. Our Lady's had a comprehensive 1-23 to 1-12 victory over the Clare side when the teams met at Nenagh on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The second game against Hamilton High School, Bandon was a disappointing affair with Our Lady's proving much too strong for the opposition. As we face into the Christmas break the team's training schedule for the holiday season has been agreed and will involve challenge games against St. Ciaran's of Kilkenny and Kilkenny C.B.S. We look forward to the New Year and a quarter final encounter with our near rivals Thurles C.B.S. on January 11<sup>th</sup>. We wish the team and their managers all the best in the knock out stages of the competition.



## CAMOGIE

### SENIOR CAMOGIE

The senior team had a positive start to the year with a 4-5 to 3-6 victory over Coláiste Phobail in a challenge game. In the first round the seniors, playing at "B" grade this year, suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Hazelwood College. This unfortunately ended their involvement in the championship. We look forward to playing Middleton in the New Year.



### JUNIOR CAMOGIE

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the first and second year camogie team took part in an eleven-a-side blitz in Templetuohy. Teams from all over Tipperary took part in the blitz and Our Lady's got off to a great start with a 7-4 to 2-1 victory over Carrick On Suir. This was followed by two defeats by very strong teams from Cashel and Killaloe. In spite of the result, the team had a great day out and there were many impressive individual displays of camogie from our girls.

The Junior team has shown great commitment from the beginning of the school year with high attendances at training. Unfortunately for this group, their first game was against a very strong John The Baptist team and they were well defeated in spite of putting in a spirited performance.



## VISIT OF LIAM MC CARTHY AND IRISH PRESS CUPS TO OUR LADY'S

On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October we were delighted to welcome members of the All Ireland Senior and Minor Hurling panels to the School. Including Manager, Michael Ryan and selector Conor Stakelum, fifteen of the All Ireland heroes attended Our Lady's. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to meet most of them on the day. The players were led into the gym by pipers Siobhán Bailey, Ciarán Byrne and Gillian Fogarty. They were given a tumultuous welcome by the students and staff of the school. The tone for the celebration was set by Glynn Stewart and Russell Doyle with a powerful rendition of *Slievenamon*. Principal, Ms. Patricia Higgins welcomed the guests and thanked them for taking the time to visit the school. Mr John Costigan outlined the strong links between Our Lady's and every successful Tipperary team in recent decades. He paid tribute to the school for continuing to nurture players who go on to represent their County at the highest level. County Board Chairman, Mr. Michael Bourke recalled the sacrifices and commitment made by players throughout the playing season and reminded pupils who might have aspirations to play for the County that in addition to talent, a ferocious appetite for sport and exceptional self-discipline and motivation are needed.



## LADIES FOOTBALL

Once again the Ladies Football teams in Our Lady's were in competitive action at both Junior and Senior level. This year has been a mixed bag of results for both teams.

### SENIOR



The seniors were drawn in a competitive group that included St. Anne's, Tipp Town, Presentation Clonmel and Ardscoil na Deise, Dungarvan. While Our Lady's gave credible performances in all games, they were unlucky not to qualify for the next stage. One victory over the three games was not enough to keep us involved in the New Year. With a number of new and promising girls joining the panel this year we can look forward to better things in the next couple of years.

### JUNIOR

The Junior team contested games against Loreto, Clonmel, and Presentation Secondary School Fethard. With one win and one loss the team have qualified for the Munster Shield competition which will take place against Glanmire Community College after Christmas. With a strong mix of experience, commitment and determination in the team we expect a good outcome from this game.