

# Our Lady's Templemore

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# Cumarsáid

# Newsletter September 2021



## Welcome from the Principal

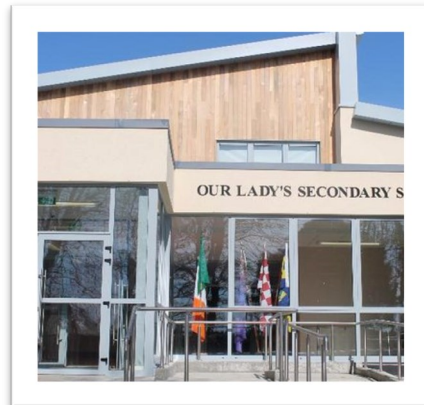
I am delighted to introduce the October edition of Cumarsáid. Students and staff returned to school at the end of August and got to work with great enthusiasm. The control measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid 19 were familiar to us all and this allowed us to settle into the school routines with relative ease. The success of our Leaving Certificate students was a just reward for the hard work of students and the commitment of teachers during the past two years. In excess of 50% of students attained more than 400 points in the Leaving Certificate and while there were some disappointments, the vast majority of students were delighted with their course offers and their choices. I take this opportunity to wish the Leaving Certificate Class of 2021 success in all that they do in the future.

Our first-year students have transitioned successfully to Our Lady's. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and I am happy to report that they have embraced all the school has to offer. They are regular attenders at the various lunchtime clubs in the science laboratory, computer room, artroom, music room and social space. With the easing of some restrictions in schools we were able to restart the sports programme at Our Lady's. It is wonderful to see students back playing hurling, camogie and ladies football in our excellent sports facilities.

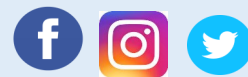
As a school we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. Students in all year groups have engaged with the Learning to Learn programme and are committed to realising their goals. Our Erasmus projects support innovation in teaching and learning and we are thrilled with the success of the mobility to Slovenia this term. We look forward to the return visit of our partner schools on “The Flipped Classroom” project. This year Our Lady’s will participate in a TL21 project (Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century) in conjunction with Maynooth University and Laois Education Centre. In this project we will seek to enhance the student experience by raising awareness of diversity.

We remain vigilant and we will work hard to ensure that all members of our school community stay safe during the public health emergency. Care for our students remains central to everything we do at Our Lady's. We will continue to support each student to achieve their personal and academic potential. We look forward to continued success in the coming term.

Beannacht Dé oraibh.

*Patricia Higgins*

**Follow us on:**



## Leaving Certificate students of 2021

Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate students on their results. Pictured with Ms Higgins and Mr Fogarty are just some of our High Achievers. Well done to you all, we are so proud of all of your achievements. We wish the Leaving Cert class of 2021 every success in their future lives.



**OPEN EVENING: THURSDAY 18TH OF NOVEMBER**

**FINAL DATE FOR ENROLMENT: FRIDAY 11TH OF DECEMBER**





## EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT OUR LADY'S

Our Lady's offers a great variety of extra curricular and co-curricular activities to all students. There is something to appeal to all tastes. During lunch students can partake in a variety of sporting activities such as camogie, hurling, soccer and basketball. Also available are science, music, art and computer club.

It is great to see our students having the opportunity to keep active and make new friends.



**First Year Hurling**



**Art Club**



**Science club**



**Junior Ladies Football**



**Junior Ladies Football**



**Cairdeas - Mentoring Program**

## OUR LADY'S ERASMUS MOBILITY 2021 TO SLOVENIA

What a wonderful trip we had on our Erasmus Mobility to Slovenia last week. It was indeed a fabulous exchange of cultures, traditions, languages and identities. The experience was found to be engaging at all levels of cross curricular learning. Whether we were on school trips, sharing cultural experiences or sitting together enjoying a meal, it was fascinating to hear various international languages and accents, as friendships were being formed and partner schools were working well together, planning all the time for future events.

Slovenia is a beautiful country. It has the Alps, an extensive shoreline, vineyards and a lovely easy going pace of life. Thanks to the students who travelled, Julie Grey, Tom Crampton, Bill Finn and Anna Larkin, who all represented Our lady's very well. They were accompanied by their teachers Ms.Tina Fogarty the Project coordinator for Ireland and Ms. Emily Bergin.

The theme of our Erasmus Programme is 'Flipped Classroom' Teaching and Learning. The student researches the material and presents it in a video, interview or radio format, so that others can learn about the topic. The teacher is the enabler and the student is primary in their research and learning. The students presented their recordings for the school to see in Slovenia.

They carried out Interviews on live Radio in the school. They also visited a Film Innovation Centre, where they could learn skills on how to make a movie.

Indeed we had a cultural evening where students from each country prepared a traditional dish. The Irish students prepared Irish Stew, which proved to be very popular.

We visited Ljubljana, the smallest and most beautiful capital city in Europe. Later we visited Lake Bled, a most beautiful lake with a church on an island in the centre. Its panoramic views and snow capped alpine mountains in the background gave it a majestic feel of being like a picture postcard. Above all friendships were formed and huge respect is held for the Slovenian team who hosted the Mobility. Thanks to the Slovenian Coordinator, Katja Korosa who did a wonderful job. She gave us such a warm welcome together with the principal, staff and students. We look forward to the next part of our Erasmus Mobility which will be held in Ireland commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We welcome representatives from Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Sicily to Templemore.





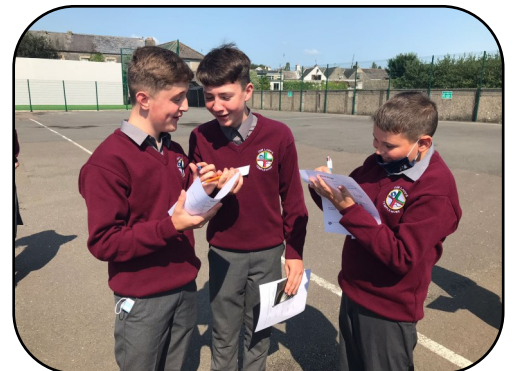


**First Year Students  
'Find their feet' in  
Our Lady's Templemore**

## FUN

## AFTERNOON

In September, our cohort of first year students enjoyed team building and wellbeing activities. An afternoon of team activities on campus gave all our students a chance to build new friendships while having some fun outdoors.







**1 Naomh Áine**



**1 Naomh Bríd**



**1 Naomh Éanna**



**1 Naomh Pádraig**



## My First Term in Our Lady's

*By Lucy Daly, Naomh Áine*



On Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> of August, I started first year in Our Lady's. Although I was little nervous at first, I soon settled in when I met my new classmates and teachers. A lot of fun activities were arranged for us on that first day that helped us all to get to know each other. At lunchtime we were treated to a lovely lunch of Chicken Curry in the school canteen that serves hot nutritious meals daily.

The first few days were quite daunting at times. We had lots of new teachers to meet and timetables to figure out. Believe me, it was quite a challenge to find myself in the right class at the right time without getting lost. But I need not have worried. There is always a friendly teacher or student on the corridor you can ask if you have difficulty finding your classes. Never be afraid to ask.

At Our Lady's, there is a wide range of subjects and an extensive extra-curricular programme that allows every student to reach their full potential. For our first term, we try out all practical and foreign language subjects before choosing one foreign language and two practical subjects to study for Junior Cert. I found this very helpful and enjoyable. It gave me 'a taster' of all the subjects before I have to make my final decision on the ones I would like to choose.

There are lot of students in first year alone compared to primary school. It is great to have so many new people to get to know. Coming from an all girls school, I wasn't quite sure what to expect being in mixed classes but it didn't too get used to it. In fact, it's quite interesting and fun to have such a variety in class. At the month, a fun day was organised just for first years with plenty of 'getting to know each other' activities. At the end of this day, we were all treated to ice cream from our principal, Ms Higgins.

A great way to make new friends is through lunchtime clubs and sporting activities. There is something for everyone from hurling, football and camogie training on our own school pitch and there is an Astro turf and ball wall for practising your hurling skills. For those of us who, like me, don't play sports, there is a science club and other activities in the computer room, music room and art room that you can participate in during lunch break.

As with all schools, Our Lady's offer the core subjects, and along with the new Junior Cycle we now use our own iPads in class on a daily basis with an emphasis on key skills and lifelong learning. We use Office 365 to create PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, view our homework assignments on Teams and can directly email our work to our teachers. There is also a positive reward system in Our Lady's. Merit points are rewarded to students for Good Behaviour, Academic Achievement, Contribution to the School etc and parents can view their child's progress through VSware. Students receive awards (according to the number of merits earned). There is a fun trip at the end of the year for junior students earned the required number of merits.

Having come to the end of my first half-term in Our Lady's, I have really enjoyed my time so far in first year. I feel confident moving forward with the subjects I have chosen. There is a very positive atmosphere in this school which really helps with learning and making new friends. The school building itself has recently been renovated and is modern and comfortable. If you were starting secondary school next year, I would highly recommend this school to you. It would be a choice you would not regret.

