

Our Lady of Mercy, Mourne Road

Newsletter



Dear Parents, Guardians & Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I assume the role of Principal at Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School here in Drimnagh. While our first term together was challenging, the rewards have made it worthwhile. A wide range of subject, class, year and whole school activities take place. Many of those activities are on the website; TY events such as the Boxing Gold Programme or the Pope John Paul II Award. The Zambia Immersion Project is ongoing and we had its biggest fundraiser to date when the Red Cow hosted OLM's 'Strictly Come Dancing'. In sport, OLM once again is competitive in Basketball, Soccer and Gaelic Football. Our Green Schools' Committee organised fundraisers and continues to work hard to meet its targets. Our choir performed at our Remembrance Mass and also at a Christmas Carol event. Development Education classes, Art classes, Home Economics classes, Geography classes, Business classes and Science classes, to name but some, went out on field trips. The term finished with our annual 'Drimnagh's Got Talent' Christmas show in Good Counsel Parish Hall. Our Parents' Council met for the first time in October and will meet again early in the New Year so that we can plan for the future. All of this happened in our school community alongside the day to day business of the school. Our recruitment drive was so successful that we had a record number of applicants sitting our entrance exam on 15th December, with a second round to take place for those who were not able to make it in February.

Our Code of Behaviour is based around the 3Rs of '**Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible**'. We expect that every member of our community is treated with respect; Staff, Students and Parents and that everyone shares responsibility for our school community. We believe in Social Justice, so that everyone is treated equally and fairly.

Our motto is 'Shaping a Brighter Future for Our Young People'. We have a range of supports in place such as our Parents' Room. We have an excellent range of programmes in place such as Junior Certificate School Programme, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate Established. We are also involved with the Business Link Programme and Trinity Access Programme (TAP), as well as many other links in our local community.

I look forward to developing our community further so that we have as much support in place for our students as we can. I would ask as many parents as possible to become involved in our Parent's Council to help us in this area. For regular on all school information please check the school's website, www.olmdrinagh.com, Twitter and Facebook pages "olmdrinagh".

Thank you to everyone in our School Community for the warm welcome I have received at OLM Drimnagh. I would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year and I look forward to continue working together.

Pádraic Gibbons

Principal



SCHOOL CALENDAR JANUARY – JUNE 2017

9 th Jan	Return to School
19 th – 20 th Jan	JC French Orals
13 th – 16 th Feb (inc)	TY Work Experience
20 th – 24 th Feb (Inc)	Mid Term Break
27 th Feb	Mock Examinations
17 th Mar (Inc)	St. Patrick's Day
20 th Mar	School Closure
30 th Mar	TY Carlingford Trip
10 th – 21 st April (Inc)	Easter Holidays
24 th April	School Reopens
1 st May	School Closure
3 rd May	Sports Day
8 th – 19 th May	Trip to Zambia
25 th May	TY Exhibition
3 rd June	Last day of term

KEEPING ACTIVE IN OLM



Meet our Sport Council: Carl Gannon, Jamie McGrattan, Graham Gilshinan, Jordan Bowden, John Moloney, Amy Ward, Lauren Buchanan, Roisin Moore, Kayleigh Dunne, Celine Atanacio, Xavier Santos, Alan Lynch, Thomas Keane, Jordan Feeney, and Karl Greer

Active Week 2016

OLM Active Week took place in October. All year groups had taster sessions throughout the week including; Boxing, Fencing, Self-defence, Ultimate Gym and Frisbee. Our annual Mile Challenge was held in Brickfield Park. Past pupil Irish internally runner John Travers was present, however injured this year. A huge thanks goes to Graham Gilshinan 5th Year student who stepped into John's role as pacer for EVERY year group and then went on to win his year group race! Our Sports Council were amazing and the week ran very smoothly.



Our **U16 Girls Basketball Team** has had a very successful season. They qualified for the Dublin Semi Final as winners of their group. Best of luck to the girls and coach Buchanan in the semi-final.



In October we trained and fielded OLM's 1st ever **Rugby Team**. We played a "friendly" at the Iveagh Grounds against St. Mary's. It was an eventful match that Ms Hall & Pamela will never forget and Lee & Josh (our head bangers) will not remember!



In early September 5th Year **LCA Class Ivor** accompanied by Ms. Mulchrone, Ms. Hall and Pamela set off for the Bray to Greystones Hike. We all had a great time!



The views were amazing, the company was good, fresh air filled our lungs, the muscles were worked and blackberries were picked. A super day, lovely blackberry jam was enjoyed the following day thanks to Lee.



On a wet and cold October morning staff and students in OLM Drimnagh took part in the **Annual Simon Community Fun Run** which took place in the Phoenix Park. A grand total of €1,100 was raised to help prevent homelessness in Dublin. Well done to all involved ☺

GREEN SCHOOLS

This year's **Green Schools** events got off to a great start! We organised jersey day back in September which was a great success. From the proceeds of jersey day, we then organised a green schools outing for 29th November.

For our day out, we hiked from Bray to Greystones and after our long walk we went for lunch with Ms. Keary. Since then, the 2nd and 5th years participated in a **Biodiversity** workshop with Mr. Leif Barry where he talked about pollinators and showed us loads of different types of bees. The transition years also took part in workshops on **road safety** and on **energy** usage in our school. For 2017, it is hoped that we will redesign our green schools wall in the hall way and also continue to do our meter readings in order to analyse our energy bills further. Cian Gorman and Thomas Mc Donnell will be in charge of monitoring this each week. Well done to all involved!



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON



The **HSCL Scheme** supports Parents, Grandparents and Guardians of the students in Mourne Road Schools. We invite and encourage all to work closely with the school by availing of a wide range of activities organised for you by the schools. These include Parent Teacher Meetings, Coffee Information Mornings and a wide range of courses/classes for adults. This term we will continue with our Parenting morning (Tuesday 9.30 – 12.00) and with our support group for parents of children with ASD (Thursday 9.30 – 11.30). We will also start a support group for Grandparents who are involved in supporting our students.

A New Year!

Make Mornings a Breeze

Use a checklist to remember everything & make sure everyone eats a healthy breakfast

Pack Healthy, "Green" Lunches

Include lots of fruits and veggies

Join in at your Child's School

Join a class or course in the school

Make Homework Time Painless

Provide a good workspace .Keep your child away from distractions e.g. TV etc.

Keep Your Childs Schedules Manageable

Encourage sport or extracurricular activities

Communicate with the Teacher

Send notes if you have any concerns

Set firm time limits on TV, video games, tablets and phones.

Keep tabs on Internet use and safety

Upcoming Courses and Classes

Course/Activity	Details
Basic Irish	To help you learn some Irish & help your child with their Irish homework
Hair & Make Up	Hair & Make Up Tutorials
Mindfulness	Time out for you!
Basic Maths	To remind you of the basics to help your child with their homework
Keep Fit	No matter what fitness level you are, come along and have some fun.
Life Coaching	Gain the confidence to achieve your goals.
Parents on Tour	Fun day trips for parents while the children are at school
Grandparents Group	To get the Grannies and Grandads involved in school life and take some time for themselves.

All parents are welcome to attend. Programmes take place in the Parents' Room. For further information contact Eileen O'Riordan (087 285 2865).



Our annual talent show ***Drimnagh's Got Talent*** took place on December 14th in the Parish Hall. It was a fantastic night of entertainment which saw students from all years take to the stage to perform. There was great variety in the show, which included fantastic singers and dancers as well as an exclusive performance from

the band *River Rouge*, a group of fifth year music students who formed especially for the occasion. The judges commented on the exceptional standard of talent in the school and the results were as follows:

1st prize of €100 went to Sarah Dunne from class Hugh, T.Y.

2nd prize went to Brooke Mulhall & Molly Kelly from class Finbar, 2nd year

3rd prize went to Kayleigh Dunne from 5th year & Michael McDonnell from 2nd year

We wish to thank the Parish Hall committee for the use of the hall and the Parent's Council for holding a raffle which raised much needed funds for the school. Thanks also to all the parents, school staff and students who supported the event. Finally a huge thank you and congratulations to all the performers on the night, the show proved to everybody that Drimnagh really has great talent!



Drimnagh's Got Talent



Art Department



Elizabeth Dunne



Eve Carey



John Moloney, Maeve Murphy,
Kara O'Reilly, Rebecca Burke,
Florian Béjan & Cian Coffey



Josh Taaffe

Pope John Paul II Award



We are delighted to announce that 43 of our current 5th Year students have achieved the **Pope John Paul II Award** and were invited to the Award Ceremony which took place in St. Paul's Church, Arran Quay on Wednesday 16th November. Congratulations to all of those students who successfully achieved this hugely important award that ties in with our motto of "Shaping a Brighter Future for our Young People", as well as tying it with CEIST's values of promoting Spiritual and Human Development, showing respect for every person, creating community and being just and responsible. A special thank you to Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Irwin for all of their efforts in helping our students on their way to achieving this award.



Pope John Paul II Award

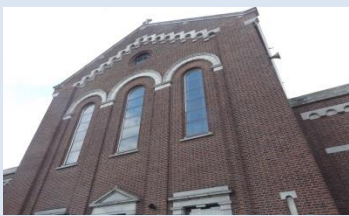


Transition Year



TY Home Economics students are creating a useful **cookbook of family friendly recipes**. These cookbooks will be sold and all funds raised will go towards the Zambia Immersion Programme.

We are looking for recipes to be sent into us that we can include in this cookbook by Friday 27th January. Please drop your tasty recipes into the school office, email them to admin@olmdrimnagh.com or send them in with your son/daughter to give to Ms. Mulchrone. Please include your name if you would like to be named as the recipe contributor.



The TY photography class have been 'out n about' this year capturing scenes from the local community such as Brickfield Park and Kilmainham Jail. The photography module proves very popular amongst the TY students.



A huge congratulations to all the students who fought in the National Stadium as part of the **Boxing Programme**.

All TY students took part in the bronze and silver programme. A number of students were then selected to go forward to the Gold Programme and represent OLM in the National Stadium.

Our students showed great commitment to the programme. They trained hard for 12 weeks and showed great courage and grit to fight in front of their year group in the National Stadium. Anthony O'Neill, Jordan Feeney, Colm Meagher, Ciara Cuffe, Sarah Dunne, Siobhan Doyle, Shane Duffy, Alan Lynch, Lia Farrelly, Dylan Dowling, Xavier Santos.

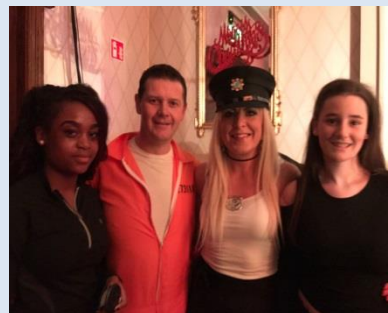
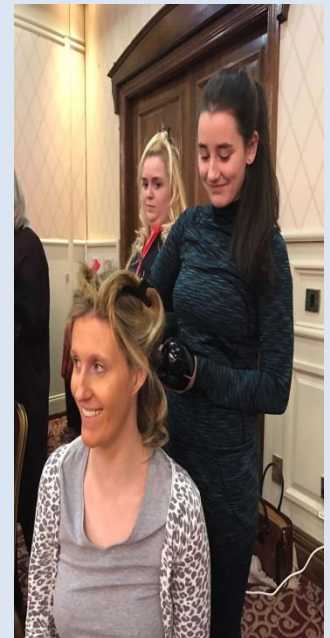


We are delighted to have added **Upcycling and Sculpturing** as two new practical TY modules this year. The students asked for more practical subjects and these two modules were added by two of our very creative members of staff Ms. Flanagan & Ms. Roche. Take a look at some of the impressive pieces the students have produced.



TY Class Hugh visited **AIB Crumlin** in November, where they were given a behind the scenes tour of the bank. Each received a goody bag and piggy bank.

They will visit the bank again this month for a digital workshop.



Our in house beauticians Naomi Dempsey, Dayo Adeshina, Elizabeth Dunne & Leah Harrison did a fantastic job getting our OLM Strictly Come Dancing Dancers glammed up on the night of the show. The girls all take part in the TY **Make up & Beauty Module** taught by the Tish Curry who runs the local 'Salon Rouge'.

ZAMBIA IMMERSION PROGRAMME

The night of Tuesday December 6th was a special night for our school. In the Red Cow Moran Hotel, before an enthusiastic and enthralled crowd of more than 700, our school hosted a '*Strictly Come Dancing*' event as the major fundraiser to support our school's second Immersion Programme to Zambia.

38 dancers, among them teachers, parents, past pupils and friends of the school gave unselfishly of their time and so much more over a 6 week period to make the night such an incredible success and empowered everyone connected with the Immersion Programme. All 38 are special people. We will never forget what they have done for us.

Immersion seeks to raise awareness of development issues in a positive and challenging way. In May 2017, 16 of our students will travel to Zambia in Southern Africa on Immersion for 2 weeks. They will be accompanied by 3 teachers along with Sarah Thompson, a past pupil and a member of our school's first Immersion Programme in 2008, also in Zambia. Our students are being offered a once in a lifetime opportunity which we trust they will enjoy and make the most of. They will be challenged, they will learn, they will share their talents, they will empower. Our school community and the environment of Drimnagh will benefit from their being part of this great adventure. We trust they will represent the very best of where they come from and make their families proud, make us all proud!

Whilst on Immersion, we will be involved in a number of projects over our 2 weeks in Zambia;

- Assisting with and presenting classroom based activities in Maths, English, Art & Crafts and Sport in three primary schools in the Livingstone area, mainly with 4th class boys and girls.
- Preparing for and delivering a Business English programme to 18/19 year old girls who have returned to full time education. All our students will be on a panel of interviewers offering jobs at the end of this course.
- Assisting with the work of Irish Missionary Sisters and health care workers in a daily health clinic along with travelling (on foot) to visit older people in their homes in outlying villages.
- Evening activities and games with young orphan children.
- Some students will be given the opportunity to visit a farm in Africa.
- Visiting students their own age in their homes, meeting their families, learning some language, maybe tasting the native food of this beautiful country, '*Nsima*'.
- Representing our country in an away sports friendly – probably netball.
- Participating in some cultural exchanges in a variety of settings.
- Telling our story and where we come from.
- A debate against a team from St. Raphael's Secondary School in Livingstone on a chosen topic. Mr. Cronin (Room 17) was a teacher in this school for 2 years.

There is so much more – but one event we all look forward to is launching a plaque in memory of one of our teachers, Linda Byrne who passed away in October 2007.

There is a very special building dedicated to Linda's memory in Livingstone. It is an oratory attached to the hospice and it will be on one of the walls of the oratory that our plaque will be placed in May.

We have so much to look forward to! Do encourage our students who are about to undertake this incredible journey. Wish them well. We look forward to telling you our story on our return.

STRICTLY COME DANCING

