

Our Lady of Mercy, Mourne Road

Newsletter



As we approach our season of goodwill, I would like to reflect on what has been a challenging but rewarding first term. This year has brought an immense challenge; the impact the National shortage in teachers is having on us in OLM. In Home Economics, 26 new teachers will qualify in 2018 and 0 in 2019 for the entire country! Students are suffering nationally and in OLM. It's not good enough. While we continue to advertise and rejig the timetable to ensure students have as many teachers as possible, I would urge you to write to local politicians and Ministers. As much pressure as possible must be brought to bear on those with responsibility and who have the power to resolve the crisis. We would love to hear the responses you receive.

While our first term was challenging, the rewards have been worthwhile. TY events such as the Gaisce Award Trip, Boxing Gold Programme and Pope John Paul II Award took place. In sport, OLM again is competitive in Basketball, Soccer and Gaelic. Our Green Schools' Committee and Student Council work hard to improve our school. Our choir performed at our Remembrance Mass and at a Christmas Carol event. Development Aid, Art, Home Economics, Geography, Business and Science classes, to name but some went on field trips. The term finished with our 'Drimnagh's Got Talent' Christmas show in the Primary Schools' Hall and JCSP Awards ceremony. Our Parents' Council met a number of times and will meet again in the New Year so we can plan for the future. We welcomed 66 students into 1st Year in August and opened our new 'Base Class' and our entrance exam will take place in January.

Our Code of Behaviour is based on the 3Rs of 'Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible'. We expect that all members of our community are treated with respect; Staff, Students and Parents and that everyone shares responsibility. Teaching & Learning in OLM is based on Assessment For Learning. Learning Outcomes are shared with Students at the beginning of a lesson and understanding is checked throughout. Team Teaching continues in some subjects and we are very proud to announce a number of teachers take part in our new Teacher Support Scheme, where teachers observe one another in action and then share ideas, so that we can all improve.

An excellent range of programmes are in place; JCSP, TY, LCA & LCE. We are involved with the Business Link Programme and TAP, as well as many other links in our community. I look forward to continue developing our community and ask as many parents as possible to get involved in our Parent's Council. Please check the school's website, www.olmdrimnagh.com, Twitter and Facebook pages for regular updates on upcoming meetings and dates.

Thank you to everyone in OLM for your continued support. I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year and I look forward to continue working together in 'Shaping a Brighter Future for Our Young People'.

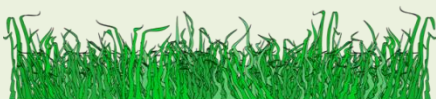
Pádhraic Gibbons

Principal

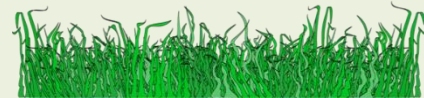


SCHOOL CALENDAR JANUARY – JUNE 2018

8 th Jan	Return to School
16 th Jan	1 st Year PTM
18 th Jan	School Closure (JCT Day)
29 th Jan	Start of Mock Exams
5 th Feb	5 th Year PTM
12 th – 16 th Feb (inc)	Mid Term Break
19 th Feb	Start of TY Work Experience
27 th Feb	School Closure (JCT Day)
13 th Mar	4 th Year PTM
16 th – 19 th Mar (inc)	School Closure
26 th Mar – 6 th Apr (inc)	Easter Holidays
17 th Apr	TY & 5 th Yr Parents Meeting
26 th Apr	TY Trip
4 th – 7 th May (inc)	School Closure
9 th May	Sports Day
22 nd May	Awards Evening
23 rd May	6 th Year Graduation Mass
6 th June	State Examinations



SPORTS NEWS



Sport in OLM is as positive as always. A new Sports Council was selected in September. Sports Council are senior students responsible for working closely with our PE Department for organising events such as Sports Day and Active Week. They assist in coaching school teams, organising school kit and duties at games. A very successful Active Week was held in October. Every student took part in the Mile Challenge in Brickfield Park. All students took part in extra activities as well as regular PE classes in Active Week. 1st Year students had boxing in Drimnagh Boxing Club, 2nd Year students had indoor athletics, 3rd Year students experienced a dual Athlon(cycling and running)in our school yard and Zumba, 4th Year students went to DD fitness, 5th Year students had a table tennis tournament and 6th Year students went on a hike (Bray to Greystones). A huge thank you to the following for all their help and co-operation during Active Week; our sports development officer Will Morris, Michael Curruth, David Donnelly, staff in the Bosco and Our Lady's Hall. Extra-curricular is a huge part of OLM. This year we have teams in basketball, soccer, GAA, boxing and are introducing volleyball (Tuesdays after school).



Sports Council 2017-18

Xavier Santos, Luke O'Connor, Alan Lynch, Adam Byrne, Sophie Doyle, Caoimhe Horgan, Dayo Adeshina, Celine Atanacio, Elizabeth Dunne, Roy Kelly, Rasheed Ahmad, Karl Green & Jordan Feeny



We are extremely proud of our U16 Boys' basketball team who reached the league semi-final. With Luke O'Connor injured, our players knew they all had to up their game, which they did. We lost by 9 pts to Lusk CC but our lads left nothing on the court. Each player gave 100% to their team this season. Well done to Sports Council member Adam Byrne who coached the team. As always a big thank you to Gerry Farrell and Oblate Basketball Club for their continued support to OLM Basketball.

Well done to the girls U19 Basketball team who experienced great success this season. Captained by Lauren Buchanan, they made it to the final stages of the competition and put up a great fight against Setanta in the Oblates earlier this month. Unfortunately the girls lost by a few points, but it was an exciting game to watch!



DRIMNAGH'S GOT TALENT

Our annual talent show Drimnagh's Got Talent took place on Wednesday 6th of December. 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 singers, rappers, dancers, instrumentalists and even some beat boxing. The judges commented on the exceptional standard of talent in the school and the results were as follows:

1st prize: Paul Dunne O'Connor

2nd prize: Daryl McKay

3rd prize: Brooke Mulhall and Molly Kelly (class Finbar, 3rd year) & Sarah Dunne (5th year)

Highly Commended: Joseph O'Byrne (6th year), Saoirse Flood (1st year) & Leah Keegan (1st year)

We would like to thank Our Lady of Good Counsel National School for the use of the hall, the Parents' Counsel for holding a raffle which raised much needed funds for the school and all the staff and students who helped out on the night. Finally a huge thank you and congratulations to all the performers on the night, the show demonstrated once again that Drimnagh really has great talent!



MUSIC IN OLM



Sixth Year Music Trip to the National Concert Hall: On Tuesday the 21st of November, the sixth year music class went to the National Concert Hall to see a performance of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet performed by the RTE National Symphony orchestra. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to hear this work being performed live as well as been given a detailed analysis of this work.



The school choir have had a very busy first term. They were commended for their fantastic performance at the special remembrance mass in October. Congratulations to Sarah Dunne and Kayleigh Higgins who performed solo's on the day. Thanks to Ms. Irwin (conductor), Mr. Parker (guitarist), Mr. Gibbons (flautist) and Ms. Martin (harpist) for accompanying the choir and making this mass a very special occasion. The school choir also performed in the GPO as part of a special lunch time winter concert, they were accompanied by pianist Mr. Tony Kelly and renowned violinist Mr. Noel Carroll. Most recently the school choir visited Croft Nursing home in Inchicore where they sang a variety of Christmas songs for the residents. A special thanks to Croft nursing home for their hospitality and warm welcome.

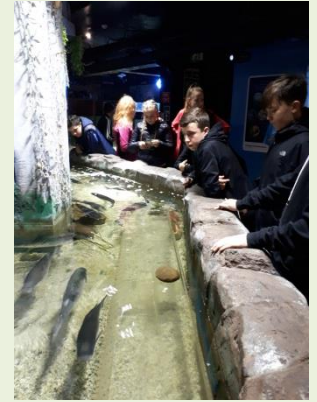
A huge thank you to local musician John O'Connor who donated a wide variety of musical instruments to the school. It is greatly appreciated by all the music students here in OLM.



GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green Committee and Ms. Keary have been very busy this year so far. Students are involved in monitoring energy usage within the school and are also rostered to double check that lights and electrical appliances are switched off after each school day.

We hope to see major changes in our energy usage patterns from monitoring this every day. The Green Committee also took a trip to Bray Aquarium this year. From this, the students learned all about Biodiversity in our oceans and how we need to make a bigger effort to mind our oceans. We also did a hike from Bray to Greystones where we saw different flora and fauna along the way in support of our current theme "Biodiversity". We look forward to another trip in April or May. Thank you to all members for their commitment to our committee!



Art Department



Robert McCormack
6th Year



Jack Cullen Kavanagh
1st Year



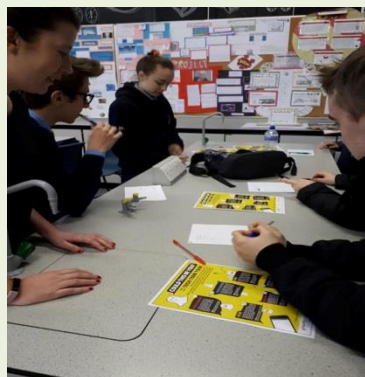
Celine Atanacio & Leah
Harrison - 5th Year



Jack McGaughran
Ryan 5th Year



Science News



Science week took place between 12th and 19th November this year. Our 5th and 6th year students along with Ms. Keary participated in workshops run by Smart Futures Ireland and Twitter to encourage our students to think about the range of careers they can choose from that involve STEM. Our students learned that Ireland is a base for major tech companies such as Twitter, Facebook and Google and that you don't necessarily have to be a whizz at science to work with them. We also learned about the importance of being a good team player and having a positive attitude when doing your job. Thank you to all involved!

John Paul II Award

23 of our 5th Year students along with Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Jenkins and Jen completed a hike up Croagh Patrick in October, capped off with an overnight stay in Westport; this was part of the John Paul II Award. We had fantastic weather and enjoyed a well-deserved lunch, prepared by students at the Summit Chapel.



LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED



LCA II Trip

As part of students' Italian and Hotel, Catering and Tourism studies, a trip was organised by Ms Mulchrone and Ms Flanagan to The Guinness Storehouse followed by an Italian lunch in Cafe Topolis in Parliament Street on 20 October. A great day out of sightseeing and good food was had by all!



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

Activities & Courses for Parents 2018

Course/Activity	Details	
Parenting Course	Continues in the New Year	Tuesday's 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd January
Family Focus	Preventative Parenting Alcohol & Drug Awareness Programme	January – Wednesday's 17 th , 24 th & 31 st February – 7 th , 21 st & 28 th @ 9.30 – 12pm
Fitness	6 Weeks	Details to follow
Parents on Tour	Fun Educational trips for parents while the children are at school.	Kilmainham Gaol 19 th Jan Royal Hospital Kilmainham (Emma) 9 th Feb. Meet in parents room @9.30
Healthy Food Made Easy	Enjoy simple healthy Meals; get value for money when you shop too!	Tuesday Feb 20 th , & 27 th March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th
First Aid	Keep your family safe at all times	Details to follow
Cyber Safety	Learn how to keep your child safe online	Details to follow



According to past participants
"Every parent should do this course!"

Bring a friend

CAD is delivering a six session Family Focus Alcohol & Drug Awareness programme in your community



If you're not talking to your young person about drugs - who is?

Starts:
Wednesday 17th
January 2018
9.30am – 12.00
Parents' Room
Mourne Rd. Schools

Please Contact
Eileen O' Riordan
HSCL



Community Awareness
of Drugs
5 Gardiner Row
Dublin 1

Phone: (01) 878 3656
Email: info@cadaboutdrugs.ie
Website: www.cadaboutdrugs.ie

Here's what parents say:

" It gave me a lot of information to talk over "

" A very worthwhile experience. Hugely useful information & practical approach to help deal with kids and the drug minefield they may face "

6 steps to help keep Teens safe from alcohol and drugs.

- Get new information
- Learn new skills
- Use practical solutions
- Be assertive in your parenting
- Talk to other parents and CAD tutors
- Teach your children to make healthy choices

Drug Prevention Through Education Since 1983

Check and Connect Mentoring Support

OLM introduced the Check and Connect Mentor Support Programme on a trial basis, this academic year. Teachers and other school personnel have volunteered to connect with students, who could benefit from linking in with them to check how they are getting on. This is another way that the school offers support to students that may need it. The idea of the programme is based on the concept of "One Good Adult" as a result of research carried out in Ireland. There were the findings of the research:

The My World Survey collated the views of 14,306 young people living in Ireland ages 12-25 years. A key finding of the My World Survey concerns the role of "One Good Adult" in a young person's life. Over 70% per cent of young people surveyed reported that they had received significant support from an adult figure in their lives – be it a standard teacher, football coach, or a parent.

The 70% of these young people that said they received high or very high support from One Good Adult in turn were more connected to others, more connected to others, more self-confident, future looking and better able to cope with difficulties than those young people who reported that they did not have the support of One Good Adult.

TRANSITION YEAR



In September, the Transition Year students travelled to Glendalough to complete the community challenge component of their Gaisce award. On day one, students completed a hike of the Spink, Mullacor and the Wicklow Way. On day two students completed a hike of Glenealo Valley and the Spink. In total the students hiked over twenty-five kilometres. This was a fantastic experience in which all students made a valuable contribution either by cooking, cleaning or organising night time activities. Thanks to Mr. Gibbons for leading the hike and to Ms. Martin, Ms. Hall, Ms. Cahill and Jen for making this trip such a memorable experience.



TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMME

As a TAP initiative, third year students were brought on a guided tour of Trinity College to see what the college has to offer in terms of courses, extra-curricular activities and facilities. Students were also afforded the opportunity to visit the Book of Kells. Ms Flanagan, Mr Sheehan and June, SNA accompanied the students.

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



Congratulations to all students who receive an award at our JCSP Christmas Celebration Ceremony. Students were awarded various certificate of achievement for their contribution to school life here in OLM. Thank you to Mr. Lynch's Irish class who recited a Christmas poem and to Ms. Martin's French class who sang "Jingle Bells" in French. That you to the parents and staff who attended the ceremony and to all the students who have achieved so much this term.



Congratulations to our JCSP "Drop Everything and Read" initiative winners. These students received a One For All Voucher for their exceptional participation in this initiative which involved reading numerous books over a six week period. Well done to all students in this JCSP initiative.





KEEPING ACTIVE IN OLM

