

Loreto Secondary School

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2022

Principal's Message

Colm Keher, Principal



The 2021/2022 academic year is one that will live long in the memory. It started with much uncertainty and frustration that the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions were still in place, while at the same time we were all pleased to return to in-school teaching and learning. CO2 monitors were installed in our classrooms to monitor the freshness of the air, while lockers were restored for 5th and 6th Year students from the get-go. Evening study commenced from the start of the year, while students were allowed to go outside at any stage during lunchtime without having to adhere to the rota. While these things were modest green shoots, we still had to wear facemasks, the canteen remained closed and many extra-curricular activities had to be restricted to a certain degree. There continued to be an effort to adapt to the circumstances and we remember fondly that our 1st and 6th Year students were in the Gym for the Miss 1st Year competition that was live-streamed to the remaining school. A similar set up was arranged for the Christmas concert and again our senior prefects did a fantastic job organising a great occasion for our school community. An obvious highlight was the recording of the 'She - world Loreto anthem' video. The whole school

community rallied around and the finished product was sensational. The video had a huge reach and has made a great impression in our sister Loreto schools across the globe. It was a great way to mark 200 years of Loreto education in Ireland, as was the presentation of the Frances Teresa Ball badges to everyone in our school community.

After Christmas, our canteen facilities reopened and more and more events took place. The 28th of February was another red-letter day when the mask mandate was lifted and at last smiles returned to our classrooms and corridors. Another memorable whole-school event was the mobilisation of 700 students to support our history-making Senior basketball team who became the first Loreto team to make the Senior 'A' final. While the result didn't go our way, it was a day we will never forget.

The year finished with the restoration of many longstanding in-person Loreto traditions: our graduation Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, our end of year assemblies, our prize-giving ceremony. These all reminded us of the importance of community and being together. Long may it last!

A Message from the Head Girl



I'm finding it hard to believe that we have completed another here at Loreto! On behalf of all sixth years, I know we are all still adjusting to the fact that our time here is over. What a journey it's been! The past six years have gone by so quickly, each year passing faster than the year before. They have been filled with memories, friendships and opportunities. There have been ups and downs, but together, we managed to overcome them all.

My advice would definitely be to embrace every day, and to make the most of every opportunity. There will be challenges, but you will undoubtedly rise above them. We are so lucky in Loreto with the wide choice of extracurriculars provided for us. There is something for everyone, be it sports, music, drama, art or debating. There are so many ways for you to share your talents with others. These experiences will enhance your time here, so don't be afraid to put yourself out there and give something new a go. You won't regret it!

While we are on the cusp of the long-awaited summer holidays, it's important we don't forget the people who helped us get to this point. To all of our teachers, we appreciate everything you've done for us, putting up with all our questions, dealing with our anxiety over the reductions to the exams. Thank you for devoting your time to making this year so special and memorable, despite all of the

obstacles you were faced with. We cannot thank you enough. I would also like to say thank you to our class tutors, who have looked out for us these past two years. We appreciate the chats on a Friday morning and the occasional sweet treat! Thank you to Brain, Eugene and Barry for helping us throughout the year, cutting locks and putting up with all of our strange demands. Thanks to all of the cleaning staff, helping to keep us safe these past two years. We are so grateful for all you do. We are all so thankful for your endless support and guidance over the past year - we really appreciate it!!

To my fellow sixth years, I have one thing to say to you; we've made it. At this point, we've done the hard work. The past six years in Loreto have prepared us for this. We've had a tough few years with the Covid pandemic, but here we are, at the other end of it!! We are finally ready to take the next step in our lives, wherever that may take us.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent this incredible student body as Head Girl, it has been nothing but a pleasure. I feel so privileged to have gotten to share this time with you, and I hope you all get to where you want to be!

I wish you all the best throughout your remaining years here in Loreto. I hope you all enjoy your time here as much as I have.

Have a lovely summer break,

Lily McDonnell.

Once again we are at the end of another school year - a difficult year for many and I will very much keep in mind the many families and friends that have been affected by the pandemic. Throughout the year we saw a welcome return to normality with the easing of restrictions and it has taught us and reminded us to enjoy the simple things in life - to see each other in person, to socialise meaningfully and to go on the many excursions, trips and matches that deepen our friendships and bonds here in Loreto Kilkenny.

I'd like to thank all the staff and students who contributed photographs and articles for this end of year magazine and to Billy Culleton for use of the camogie action shots. Best wishes to all the exam classes and I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Paul McGinley (Editor)



**EDITOR'S
NOTE**

Academic Awards

A special ceremony was held in the school in December to acknowledge the excellent Leaving and Junior Cert Results of the class of 2020.

We were delighted to welcome back past pupil and teacher Marita Lanigan for our Christmas Awards. Marita is our third recipient of Loreto Kilkenny Alumni Award.



Alumni Award Winner Marita Lanigan presented by friend and colleague Ms Farrell



Top Junior Cert Students Lisa Kirby and Searlaid O'Callaghan

Prizegiving



Mary Ward Award Winner
Ellen Murphy



Senior Athlete and Soccer Player of the Year
Maebh Richardson



Senior Basketball Player
Anna Doheny

Head Girl Handover



Head Girl Handover
Outgoing Head Girl Lily McDonnell and Head Girl for 2022 / 2023 Alexia Albertin Molinera



Deputy Head Girl Handover
Kate McCluskey and Ebony Masuku hand over to incoming Deputy Head Girls Amy Lawless and Ella Delahunty.



Games Captains Handover
Outgoing Sports Captains Anna Doheny (centre left) and Hannah Larkin (centre right) pictured with 2022 / 2023 Sports Captains Maeghann O'Mahony (left) and Anna Doheny (right).

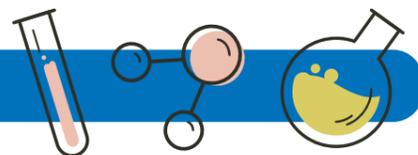
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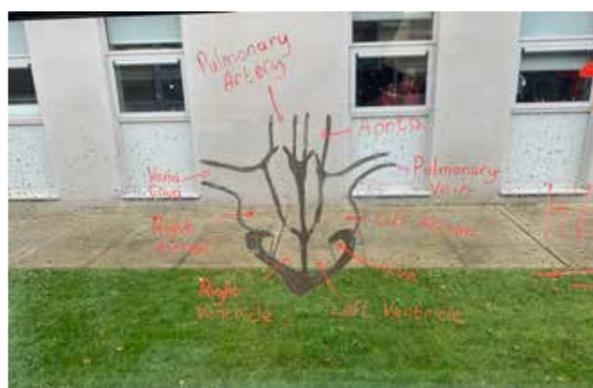
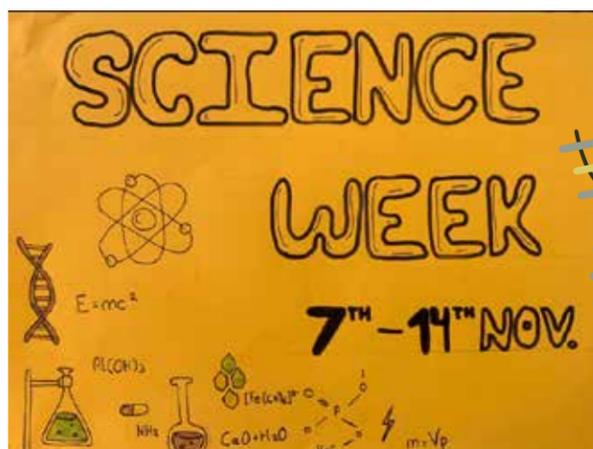
Harte Cup & Mary Ward Award
Harte Cup Winner Aisling Mullaney



Loreto Joy Award
Aoife Cuddihy



Science Club • Science Week • Ecology Trip



Céilí Mór Seachtain na Gaeilge



Seachtain na Gaeilge Buaiteoirí Tráth na gCeist

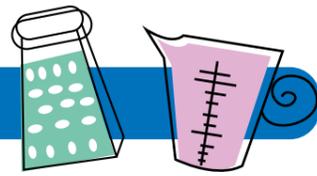


Seachtain na Gaeilge Tráth na gCeist

Geography - Traffic Survey



Home Economics



Art

The art department has provided a space for creativity and self-expression for so many students this year. Anyone that has stepped foot in the art room will know the instant stress-relief and comfort that the space provides. Art possesses an amazing sense of escapism and we have had the opportunity to escape for a little while amongst the paints, pencils and the oasis that is the art rooms. Our art students have explored a wide variety of artistic strands such as life drawing, lino printing, still life and puppetry. It is truly amazing to see the creativity that penetrates every aspect of the school and the unique way in which our art students approach their craft. I think the true importance of art emerges in stressful times and as we approach summer and state exams the value of art has become distinctly clear. As a sixth year student it is hard to believe that we have submitted our final projects and are now nearing the end of our artistic journey in Loreto. On behalf of all the sixth year art students, I would like to extend an abundance of gratitude to our wonderful art teachers. Thank you for your continued support, advice and creativity and for creating six years full of vibrancy and joy. Here's to many more years of innovation, imagination and originality.

By Orla Flynn and Emma Glennon

JunkKouture encourages students to embrace the principle of sustainable living through Art and Design. 48 TY students pushed their creativity and skills to the limits, from the design stage through to executing their finished outfits. They learned invaluable collaboration skills while working as part of a team and produced outstanding results. Four students (Abbie Gibbons, Lauren Carroll, Antia Parada and Erika Tanap) advanced to the regional finals and had their work showcased on the Junk kouture Youtube channel.

JUNK KOUTURE



Transition Year



First Aid Training



Bennettsbridge Walk



Mount Brandon



Bodhran making



Barista Training



TY Christmas Markets



Wreath Making



Wreath Making



TY Christmas Markets



Annual Shoebox Appeal

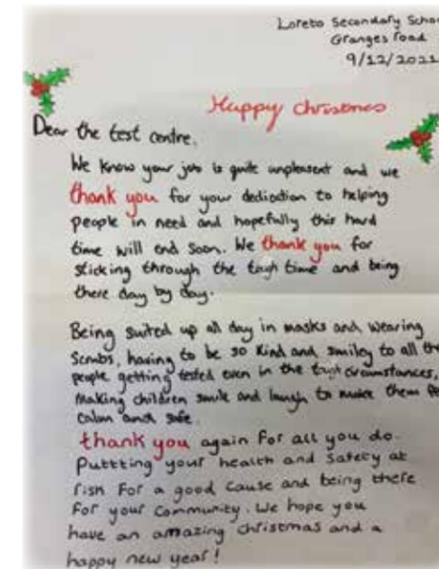
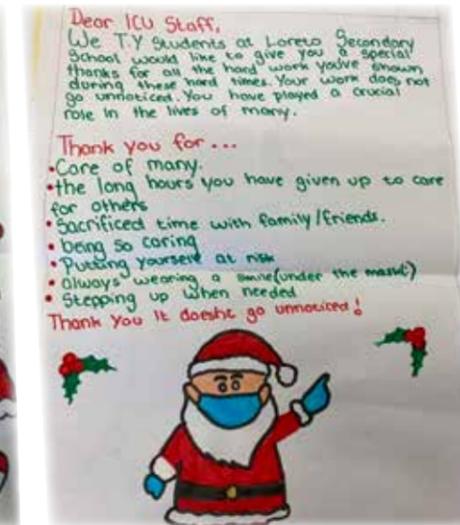


Annual Shoebox Appeal

Transition Year



TY Kayaking



Three Letters of Gratitude





"She" Loreto Worldwide Anthem

'She' was composed and performed by sisters Sadhbh and Síofra Ní Chasaide, along with fellow members of their music group Burnchurch and Loreto Kilkenny Orchestra and Choir. The song celebrates the 200th Anniversary of founding of Loreto Order in Ireland by Sr Francis Theresa Ball.



Orchestra

This year the Loreto Orchestra were delighted to be back participating in Feis Ceoil albeit virtually. Everyone worked very hard throughout the year preparing the two pieces that we performed. The adjudicator was very positive in their comments, remarking on how solid the ensemble was and praising the orchestra on their preparation and hard work. Well done everyone!

Choir

Despite a difficult start with Covid restrictions the Loreto choirs are back! All choirs have moved back into 209 and are looking and sounding great. 5th and 6th year girls attended the AIMS Choral Festival on May the 20th and have worked very hard preparing their pieces. A group of senior students representing Loreto attended Yulefest in December and had a great time caroling in the rain and enjoyed the free hot chocolate afterwards. A group of students from all years came together to represent the school at Kilkenny's Darkness into Light Walk and entertained the walkers on their way. It has been wonderful for everyone to get back singing, playing and filling the halls with the sound of music again!



Student View

I'll never forget the most memorable day of my school life in Loreto, which was all the more special as the whole school could finally come together after covid. It was a bright winter's day, just before Christmas, and all 120 of the Orchestra and choir lined up on the camogie pitch - the backdrop which we chose to feature in the video as it was symbolic of Loreto Kilkenny and Ireland. We hoped that this video would be seen by Loreto students all over the world.

This project was a true collaboration. When Mr. Keher brought the idea to us, my sister Sadhbh and I sat down at the piano and worked on the lyrics and the music together. We built a concept around the theme of the liberation of women through education. We wanted to write a song that would be relevant to today's generation of students as well as all those who had gone before. The essence of the song was built around a simple chorus, "She believes in me", as we wanted to celebrate the history and the legacy of Francis Theresa Ball and her vision, which empowered generations of women to achieve their goals.

It was a huge operation, involving the school's music teachers - both past and present - many other teachers, staff members and students. One of my favourite moments was when the retired sisters came to look over the hedge, which to me symbolised how this song belonged to every generation.

We were all very proud of the incredible performance of our choir and Orchestra, who performed a complex score we wrote for them, reflecting the strong musical tradition in Loreto Kilkenny. It was particularly rewarding when Sister Kathleen from the Loreto trust agreed that this song would be the official anthem for the bicentennial celebrations. Soon after, the head of the Loreto order worldwide, sister Noelle Corscadden I.B.V.M, based in Rome, requested that the anthem would represent Loreto worldwide.

Now, I can only hope that Francis Theresa Ball's vision can continue to live on and inspire, through the message of the song.

Síofra Ní Chasaide



Musical

My Experience in Footloose the Musical

Back in September 2021, it was announced that the TY musical between Loreto and CBS Kilkenny would be Footloose the Musical. Straight away, I wanted to audition for a main role. When the day of auditions rolled around, I was a bag of nerves, but this nervousness was short-lived because I got cast as the lead girl, Ariel! I was absolutely ecstatic when I was offered the role, as I have always wanted to have a principal role in a musical, and to get the lead was the stuff of dreams. 66 lucky boys and girls made it into the cast. It took us girls a while to get used to the boys (and some of the boys even longer to get used to us!) but within a few weeks we were all great friends, and all had so much fun rehearsing together almost every day. We had our moments, from costume dramas to frustrating dance numbers, but it was amazing to see so many different personalities all coming together to make music and have fun.

Show week was by far the best but also the most hectic week of the entire musical experience. I almost cried from happiness when I saw the set for the first time, it felt like all of our hard work had finally paid off. After three dress rehearsals full of rejigging and microphone malfunctions, it was finally time

for opening night. Nothing will ever compare to the thrill we all felt when the curtains came up each night, and the look on the audience's faces and we sang our hearts out and danced till our feet were sore. We got a standing ovation each night, and I don't think I will ever smile so hard again as we all did when we saw our friends and families cheering us on during our bows. Even offstage, we had the time of our lives, chatting in the changing rooms and taking pictures on disposable cameras in the green room. Taking part in Footloose the Musical is an experience that I am so grateful to have been given, and is certainly one that I will not forget any time soon!

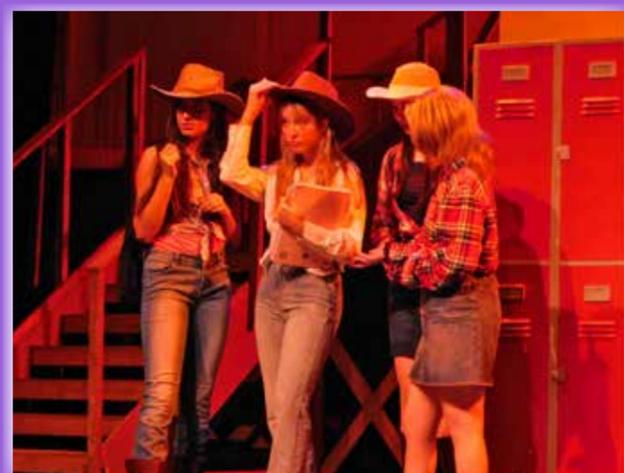
Huge thanks to all the teachers and staff of both schools who helped out and in particular to our director Ms Dooley, choreographer Ms Wise, musical directors Ms Johnson, Ms Gallagher and Ms Dowling.

Molly Cody



Footloose

THE MUSICAL



Debating



It has been a busy year for the Senior Debate Club. TYs took part in the first Loreto TY Interclass debate competition, whereby two teams from each class debated against each other in a Mace Debate. After four rounds, the winners, representing 4A, were Medha Trehan and Ali Trait.

In March, 5th years Ella Delahunty and Alexia Albertin, along with sub, Ava Murphy, represented Spain in the EU Model Council Debates, coming 2nd in the overall competition. Ella and Alexia both won iPads and a MacBook for the school.

Three teams took part in the Senior Loreto Mace Debates. Kilkenny A: Medha Trehan and Surabhi Gunjur Sathish and Kilkenny C: Clara Whelan Foxe and Marie Diver have made it to Semi-Finals, and are among the final 8 teams in the competition. The school was also represented by Kilkenny B: Ava O'Meara and Quin Brown.



The Senior Debate Team also won the Kilkenny Senior Debate Competition, hosted by Presentation Kilkenny. They competed against Presentation, St.Kieran's and Abbey Community College.

International Women's Day

On March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day. It was a great occasion, made better by the return of our 'in-person' IWD event. Our speakers included Liz O' Gorman, Clíodhna Manning and Mary Hulgraine. Liz shared her story of life in Loreto, her journey to medicine and how she balances her career with her hobbies. Clíodhna was welcomed back to the school after her success at the 2021 Olympics. Clíodhna shared her training regime, her aims for the future and offered words of advice for our students. Mary Hulgraine joined us following the success of her 'Late Late Show' interview and shared her story of addiction, depression and recovery. All speakers encouraged our students to believe in themselves and follow their dreams. We look forward to IWD 2023!



German Theatre



Loreto's Young SVP Conference

This year 4B was the Young St Vincent De Paul representatives for Loreto. They took part in many different activities throughout the year.

In October they did a teacher car wash as a nice gesture for all their hard work over lockdown. We wrote a kind message for each car along with a chocolate.

In November we went into town and took down the names of all the businesses in Kilkenny for our local St Vincent de Paul as the addresses were all lost.

For Christmas we did a food hamper appeal for people in need where we collected food items from all the year groups in Loreto. These food items included sweets, soup, pasta tea, coffee etc. Altogether we collected enough food to fill 150 hampers.

January is a very busy time for 6th years. To help relieve their stress, we created a laminated study timetable and gave one to each student.

In February and March we organised a collection of essential products for the Homeless men, women and children of Kilkenny. These items included soap, hats, gloves, socks and sanitary products. We made this collection a competition between the 1st and 2nd years as an incentive to bring in the most products. As a reward we took them on a free bowling trip.

For the Young SVP youth day each school was given a different school to give a random act of kindness. We gave our school a gift a care package mug filled with treats.

We also made a video for the Young SVP youth day, covering all the activities we partook in this year.

We thoroughly enjoyed working as part of the SVP group. We would like to thank Ms. Mackey for all of her support throughout the year. The experience wouldn't have been the same without her.

The roles of our SVP group included;

The joint presidents Kate O'Neill and Sara Rahman, the Vice President Walaa Baagagah, Secretary's Blaithín Holden and Lauren O'Neill, Treasurer Sophie Henderson, Khanye Masuku and Áine Henriques, photographer Liah VanBuggenhaut and Rachel Ronan and PROs Áine Dowling, Ava O'Meara, Ava O'Meara, Ava O'Grady, Hazel English and Marie O'Keefe.



Sports Awards Winners



Rugby

Loreto Kilkenny had an amazing year on the rugby field this year. Our Senior team represented their school with pride at a number of tournaments throughout the year and narrowly missed out an All-Ireland Final spot. The girls stormed through competitions beating schools such as Bandon Grammar, Kilkenny College and Enniscorthy. For the first year ever in Loreto history, we also established a junior rugby team. A mix of experience and an eagerness to learn resulted in incredible performances on the field and we look forward to what the future has in store for us.



Swimming

Another successful swimming season for the fabulous Loreto Swim team, making quite the splash in the Leinster Inter-pro Swimming Championships and the Loreto All-Ireland Swimming Gala.

Our Senior relay teams struck double gold in the All Ireland Schools Relay championships, superbly defending their 4th All-Ireland schools relay titles. The relay teams consisted of Erin Morissey, Caoimhe Daly, Laura White and Naomi Trait. The 4x50m Medley relay broke a Senior Irish schools relay record consisting of Naomi Trait, Nessa Godden, Erin Morissey and Laura White. Naomi Trait and Caoimhe Daly represented Leinster in the All -Ireland Inter-pros in their respective events.

Once again we were crowned best over all school at the Loreto All-Ireland gala in the National Aquatic Centre. With many excellent individual and team performances affording us the victory. This was no mean feat, with competition getting stiffer each year.

Huge congratulations to Naomi Trait who competed internationally this year and represented the school and her country so ably. Naomi and her Irish squid colleagues qualified for Mixed Relay finals at the European Aquatic Championships.

Sincere thanks and best wishes to our 6th Year swimmers consisting of Naomi Trait, Caoimhe Daly, Teddy Cousins Bolger, Sophie Kealy, Lucy Harte, Rachel White, Clodagh Shields and Eleanor Godden, who have so ably represented Loreto in swimming nationally and some internationally over the past 6 years, these girls have shown incredible team spirit, commitment and have been incredible role models for the younger swimmers in the school. We wish them the very best in the future both in and outside the swimming arena, they are sure to excel in any endeavour in which they undertake.

We look forward to another successful year next year, with many up and coming swimmers taking over from our magnificent 6th years.

Camogie

Well done to our Senior Camogie and Junior Camogie teams. They were both crowned Leinster A Champions once again after defeating Presentation Kilkenny in two epic finals.



The Seniors went on to play eventual winners Presentation Athenry and were defeated on sudden death 45's after the game finished level after extra time.



Our Junior team also came up agonizingly short in the All Ireland replay against Ursuline Thurles.



All Ireland 7's Champions



Loreto Schools Winner

Swimming



Soccer

Soccer enjoyed a welcome and triumphant return to the soccer pitches this year. Our First Year soccer team trained superbly well throughout the year after school on Fridays in sun, wind, rain and even hail sometimes! They finished up Leinster League Champions in May. In the Cup they were very unfortunate to be beaten on penalties by Pres Kilkenny but the future looks bright.



Leinster U 15 Cup Winners 2022

Mr Fitzpatrick's U 15 squad blazed a trail through Leinster and stormed to the Leinster Minor A Cup in March. Our battle on route to the final with Athlone Community School in December will live long in the memory. A nerve racking affair, with the game going to extra time (after a 3-3 draw), penalties, and then sudden death penalties. Absolute scenes when Cara Duggan came out of goals to score the winning sudden death penalty.

Our bus load of fans cheered us to victory in the Leinster Final in Carlow in March when we beat Holy Family, Newbridge 3 – 1 with Ellie Rose Carroll a constant threat throughout.. The Leinster Title was won with a combination of great skill, hard work and a wonderful attitude shown by all the squad. As the games got tougher, so did the girls; every coach we met commented on how hard our whole team worked – hard work and good attitude were the ingredients of this provincial title.

Due to the pandemic and the late starting of the competitions the All Ireland Final series will take place next September and we will look forward to taking on the other provincial winners. Well done girls!



Hockey

After a long break from training and matches, we were delighted to see our hockey players return to the field of play this year. It was fantastic to see our fabulous astro turf pitch flooded with girls from every year group, eager to improve their hockey skills.

The school entered 12 hockey teams in the South-East League at Senior, Inter, Junior and Minor level. The girls enjoyed many wonderful days out on the hockey field, with our Minor, Junior and Senior 'A' hockey teams all reaching South East Cup finals in their respective grades.

Our Senior 'A' squad were determined to hold on to their title as South East Cup champions when they faced old rivals Kilkenny College in the final in February. After an absorbing hour of hockey, with many chances for both teams, Kilkenny College bagged themselves a late goal and emerged as 2-1 victors on the day.



Junior A Hockey Team



20

Minor A - South East Cup and League winners

The Junior 'A' squad were crowned as South East League champions for 2021/22 as they beat Kilkenny College on an aggregate scoreline of 1-0. With league medals in their pockets, the Junior squad were set up nicely for the South East Cup final against Kilkenny College once again. A nail-biting encounter saw both teams level at 1-1 at full time, bringing the game to shuttles. Devastatingly, the girls lost out after being beaten 4-3 in the shuttles.

Our Minor hockey teams had a wonderfully successful year and were unbeaten in both the South East Minor 'A' League and Cup. Our Minor 'B' hockey team bravely took on Kilkenny College Minor 'A' hockey team in the South East Minor Cup semi final. A fantastic team performance from Loreto saw them score an early goal and they battled hard to hold on to their slender lead for the remainder of the game. This then set up an 'all Loreto' Minor 'A' Cup final, with the Minor 'A' squad eventually taking the crown after another series of shuttles.

The pinnacle of the hockey year then came as this Minor squad qualified for the June Smith u15 All Ireland which was held in Royal School Armagh in early April. The girls had two great wins against Dominican College Muckross and Seamount College Galway, they drew with Mount Mercy College and were narrowly beaten by the Armagh hosts. This resulted in Loreto coming second overall and winning themselves a silver All Ireland medal.

Our first and second year hockey players enjoyed some great days throughout the year as they took part in tournaments and friendly matches and we look forward to many more successful sporting days next season.



Senior A South East cup finalists



U15 June Smith All Ireland silver medalists

Athletics



Adding to that success we had Hannah Kehoe placing 1st in Senior Girls 1500m, Maebh Richardson placing 2nd in Senior Girls 3000m and Eleanor Godden placing 3rd in Senior Girls 1500m Steeplechase. Pia Langton placed 1st in Intermediate 800m and Louisa Gilmore placed 2nd in Intermediate 800m.

Loreto Athletics Competition

After a few years without the Loretos Athletic Competitions, 2022 finally saw the competitions back in full swing. With great success our athletes brought home the "Loreto Shield", winning by an impressive 22 points. Highlights from the competition; Our Junior Relay Team consisting of Grace Delahunty, Molly Daly, Ona Kennedy and Ella Wall placed 1st. This was followed up by our Minor Relay Team also winning gold. This team was made up of, Kate Maher, Martha Bergin, Niamh Cleere and Eve Nichol. Pia Langton placed 1st in Senior girls 400m. Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh placed 1st in Senior girls 100m. Louisa Gilmore placed 1st in Senior girls 800m.

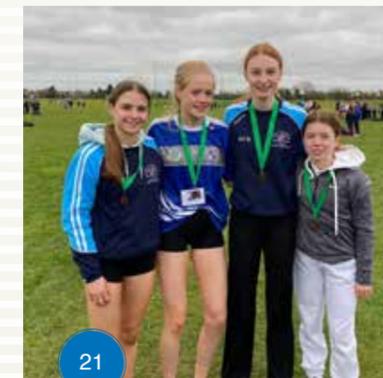
Coaches: Ms Mackey, Ms O'Hanlon, Mr Wallace and Mr Woulfe.

Cross Country:

The Senior Cross Country team made great strides in competitions this year, placing 1st in the Leinster Schools competitions and at the All Ireland school finals in Belfast, placing 3rd. The team was made up of; Hannah Kehoe, Maebh Richardson, Eleanor Godden, Pia O'Grady, Alexia Albertin and Isabella Burke. At the South Leinster Competitions, Hannah Kehoe brought more success by coming in 1st Place overall in the girls Senior Cross Country event.

Athletics:

Our Athletics Teams had great success in competitions this year. Winning "Best Overall School" for our Minor and Junior teams at the Athletics South Leinster Competitions.



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Basketball

U19:

What a year it's been! This year, Loreto Kilkenny had a fantastic year on the court. The girls competed in both the league and the cup and had comprehensive wins throughout the season. In the cup, our senior basketball team had a comprehensive win against Scoil Chríost Rí in the All-Ireland quarter final and progressed to the semi-final. The girls played superbly but fell short in the last 2 minutes in the game, with Loreto Dalkey winning by a narrow margin. In what has been a fantastic year, our U19 basketball team made history by reaching the schools first ever 'A' All-Ireland Final. In the league, the girls won the South-East Final in a super battle against Mercy Waterford. This was followed by super wins in the All-Ireland quarter and semi finals against Castleisland and Loreto Letterkenny. This final followed and what an occasion it was! Over 800 students and teachers traveled to the National Basketball Arena, a trip that will be fondly remembered for years to come. Unfortunately, after a Trojan battle, our girls left everything on the court but were beaten on the day. The memory of this day is something that will never be forgotten and no words can describe how proud we are of our Senior basketball team. We thank them for their dedication to the sport over the last number of years and the way in which they inspired our school community! To finish off a fantastic year, we were invited to participate in a qualifying tournament to represent Ireland in the ISF World Championship in Serbia in September 2022. The girls competed against Loreto Dalkey and Virginia College Cavan. We didn't qualify on the day, but we already look forward to next years season! A special mention to our 6th years who will say goodbye to this year; Kate Purcell, Lucy Coogan, Ellen Lawlor, Anna Doheny, Amy Rowe and Leah Fahey! Go raibh míle maith agaibh!!

U16:

Our U16 basketball team had a fantastic season. It didn't take long for the girls to gel as a team and they had some fantastic wins throughout the season. This team are continuously building towards next season and we look forward to what the future has in store for this talented bunch.

2nd Year:

Our 2nd Year team had an enjoyable season representing the school with pride. With our U19 basketballers in the middle of such a successful season, Mr. Heffernan and Mr. Ryan were drafted in to assist Mr. Bonfil with the coaching of the 1st and 2nd Year teams.

Many learnings were taken early on as the girls suffered losses to Presentation Thurles and Presentation Kilkenny in the South East Competition.

A dedicated group of girls kept training each week, however, improving and earning wins against Mercy Waterford and then Presentation Kilkenny in a fierce battle in the semi-



final at O'Loughlin Gaels, to earn their place in the South East final. Our girls unfortunately lost out after a great battle against Presentation Thurles in the final.

Attention turned to All Ireland playoffs next for our 2nd Years. Loreto put on a dominant display at home to overcome Tullamore College in their first playoff game. Next up was a trip to Loreto Dalkey. The Loreto Kilkenny girls battled hard throughout each quarter; reducing a first-half deficit, dealing with faulty scoreboards (which their coaches definitely won't talk about!), and a well coached Dalkey defence, but in the end came up three points short. It was a tough loss to take after such a big team effort, but our 2nd Year team did themselves and the school proud.

We had a great number of girls out training each week during lunchtime, improving with each session and getting excited about basketball which makes the future bright for Loreto basketball. Also a highlight for this team was the commitment shown by 6th Year stars Kate, Ellen and Lucy, who along with their teammates in 4th Year Aoibhin and Brionadh, helped mentor and coach our young basketball teams. It was fantastic for the 1st and 2nd Years to have these role models passing on their skills and knowledge to the next generation of Loreto stars. Maith sibh cailíní!

1st Year:

The Loreto 1st Years had a brilliant introduction to Basketball life in Loreto this year. Over 30 Students competed in Basketball competition & in the weekly Monday Lunchtime Basketball sessions with Mr Bonfil & Mr Heffernan. Our 1st Years were also coached and encouraged by members of our hugely successful U19 team throughout the year. Thanks to Lucy, Ellen, Kate, Brionadh & Aoibhin for all your help.

The 1st Years played 5 games in reaching the South East 1st Year Final where we were defeated by Presentation Kilkenny in a brilliant game. Loreto had wins along the way over Presentation Thurles, Mercy Waterford, & Presentation Thurles once more in the South East Semi Final. The Loreto girls then played in the All Ireland Playoff series where our year ended with a loss to Our Lady's Bower Secondary School Athlone in a highly competitive game that went to overtime after a hugely exciting final quarter.

This was a brilliant year for our 1st year players with the main objective being to give an opportunity to play Basketball to any student who would like to play. Lots of fun was had along the way and many new friends have been made. We look forward to seeing these girls continuing to play Basketball throughout their time in Loreto.

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Finals 2021

Congratulations to our girls who participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge which took place in November 2021 as part of Tech Week. Unfortunately this year the girls did not reach the final but they did exceptionally well overall. 84 Transition year students and 16 Fifth years participated this year from Loreto. Of the Senior students who participated Our highest ranking Juniors (Transition Year) were Jayne Farrell, Carrie Jackman and Ericka Tanap.

Our Highest Ranking Seniors (Fifth year) included Sara Ricci, Leona O'Shea and Eva Tallis. Sarah Ricci, our student from Italy, scored highest and she completed the challenge through English. Congratulations to our girls and well done.

6th year Tech Team

The Tech Team must be acknowledged for the contribution that this team made throughout the last 3 yrs. They have been exceptional. Their attendance has been exemplary, they are reliable, enthusiastic and they always have a smile on their faces. They were also part of the Creative Cluster Initiative which continued until the first Covid lockdown. which provided an opportunity for Loreto, St John's Senior School and Junior School to experiment, innovate and collaborate on a creative learning project. Ms McGrath is rightly very proud of this team. Leah Johnson, Chloe Phelan, Orna Maher, Lea Kuzmanovic, Iria Parada, Clodagh Shields, Nina Rebi.

Astro Pi Mission Zero

Mission Zero is open to young people aged 19 or younger from European Space Agency Member States. The aim was to write a simple program using Python. This program would be sent to the space station and there it would run and take a humidity reading onboard the International Space Station and communicate it to the astronauts with a personalised message, which will be displayed for 30 seconds! Our 4th year Computer Science and Tech Team students, 5th and 6th year IT students all created programs. The girls will receive certificates and on the cert will be the time, date and the location of the ISS when their program was run!

This year, all Mission Zero participants got the opportunity to vote for the names of the two new Astro Pi computers that were installed on the ISS. These computers were sent to the International Space Station in December - an event we got to watch online in the Computer room just before the Christmas Holidays.

Astro Pi - Mission Science Lab

This year we entered 2 teams into the Astro Pi Mission Science Lab programme. One of our teams was accepted to stage 1. They designed and programmed a scientific experiment to run on board the International Space Station. The project involves identifying land that supports plant life at a higher altitude. As sea levels rise, existing land mass will diminish, so identifying new and viable options is important. This project went on to stage 2 and we heard in April that it has reached stage 3! This is so exciting! This means the program will be sent to the space



station to run for 3 hours. Then the data (photos) will be sent back to Loreto for analysis. We hope to complete our final report in June and submit our findings. The team members who took on this mammoth task are: Cliodhna McGowan (Captain), Pia O'Grady, Aine Delehanty, Sorcha Maher, Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, Roxanne Lascota.

Special mention to Molly Cody who came up with the idea but due to her commitment to the musical Molly could not participate.

Digital School Champions program

Project - RRR (Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle)
This program is run by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The purpose of our project is to learn how to REPURPOSE obsolete devices that are operational. To REUSE existing old devices in new ways and any device that is broken to dismantle and RECYCLE and use the parts where possible (Art, crafts, Enterprise). The Tech Team is running this project and they are being led by our project team. We are getting to reuse our older model projectors by donating them to our local primary schools - St Canice's NS, St Johns Snr School and Bennettsbridge National School. The team Leaders are: Hannah McCurdy, Sofija Jagetic, Lily Lynch and Robyn Kenny.

The team leaders got to experience a day up in Microsoft Dreamspace in Dublin. The girls were invited to showcase their project in Dublin on the 5th May in Dogpatch Labs in Custom House Quay.



Young Scientist

Surabhi Sathish wowed judges at this year's BT Young Scientist Exhibition, winning first prize in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Intermediate category in January. Her project looked at 'Trash in the Skies: Towards the prediction of space debris in low Earth orbit'. Surabhi got the chance to go to the BT Business Bootcamp with all the other winners.



Positive Mental Health

Our *Positive Mental Health Week* was held during the last week of term in December. Each day began with a whole school activity including a "Just Dance" session, mindful colouring, and a guided meditation. *Teac Tom* delivered a Zoom talk to all students, while third years took part in a "Teen Speak" interactive workshop on mental health. Jigsaw (The National Centre for Youth Mental Health) spoke to all senior cycle students about looking after our mental health and explained what services they provide across the country. Yoga classes were delivered to all 6th years. The week ended with the school concert where past pupil Ali Comerford joined us and sang her original song, "Knots".

Sports Awards



Overall Senior Sports Star 2022
Anna Doherty & Emma Manogue



Lucy Coogan International Basketball Award



Overall Junior Sports Award
Anna Doherty

Green Schools



Another action packed year for our green schools committee! We are all working very hard at the moment on our new theme, Travel, in the hope of achieving the Travel Flag next year.

In collaboration with An Taisce and the Kilkenny County Council we performed a walkability survey around Loreto and did a mapping workshop, which will be used to improve the infrastructure for active travel around our school.

This has also been a great year in terms of international news as two of our members, Medha and Ruby, went on to represent Ireland at the Youth Environmental Education Congress that took place in Prague this year. Here, alongside 120 other activists from 22 different counties, they created and presented their ideas at the World Congress from the 13th-17th March.

This year we also have two new Climate Ambassadors on our committee! Clodagh Callan and Amy Cahill got accepted into this programme at the beginning of this year and are working hard on their action project, creating a wildflower garden in the school!

We also have four Cycle Ambassadors in our group this year; Jayne, Emily, Orla and Mae who received their trophies from #andshecycles

The whole committee has also been very busy working on our media campaign, shooting videos for the travel flag and participating in a bike photoshoot which will soon be shown nationwide!



TY students Medha Trehan and Ruby Woods, who went to Prague representing Irish Green Schools at the Youth Environmental Education Congress.

They had a fantastic experience, collaborating with young activists from all over the world to create a message on environmental education to deliver to the prominent educators and government officials attending the World Environmental Education Congress.



Ionad Saoirse

A final farewell to Ionad Saoirse

Hi my name is Aoife Cuddihy and I'm a 6th year student from Ionad Saoirse. I have loved my six years here in Loreto some of my highlights include: TY trip to Carlingford, Mini company making and selling keychains, cooking and baking in school, all the trips into town with Ms McDonald and Sharon, going to school with Helen and Gay in the taxi, celebrating my 18th birthday with my Ionad Saoirse classmates.

I've loved everything about school and had such a positive experience, thanks to teachers, SNA's and staff I will miss everyone so much.



Graduation Cake





International Day



Games Club at Lunchtime



Librarians on tour



Student Teacher soccer match

Ethos Student Leaders

This academic year seen the launch of the first ever Ethos Student Leaders in the school. A wonderful group of 10 6th year students launched the new leadership role within our school community. The girls organised a fabulous event to commemorate this special moment with invited special guests Dr. Elaine McDonald and Mgsr Dan Cavanagh.

Their role as Ethos Student Leaders is to promote the five charisms of Mary Ward: Justice, Freedom, Truth, Sincerity and Joy. This year the girls chose the theme of 'Joy' to bring people back together as a community after the pandemic. They created a joy mural in the Hughes Hall displaying photos from a variety of positive school events including our 150th anniversary celebrations, miss first year competitions, sporting events, Christmas concerts and so much more. They made weekly announcements sharing stories, poems and quotes over the intercom to provide positivity to all. They began an Ethos notice board, which they beautifully decorated and updated monthly.

This included a variety of content from uplifting stories to student competitions and information on joyful events they were running throughout the school year. Furthermore, they spoke at year assemblies encouraging all students from all years to spread joy throughout the school in any way they could. The girls also worked with management to help promote the Token challenge for Junior Students. This is only a short synopsis of some of the work the girls have carried out this year, their contribution to the school is endless.

They have been a diligent, hardworking, fantastic group of students who have worked hard with everyone in the school community to make this year a little bit more joyful. We thank them for all their work in launching the role this year and we hope to continue their brilliant work next year with a new group of Ethos Student Leaders from 2th, 4th and 6th year.



Pictured left to right: Leanne Walsh, Nina Rebi, Amelie Friddle, Kaia McCallum, Mollie Hennessy, Eleanor Godden, Anna Walpole, Hannah Keher, Jessica O'Shea and Ciara Fleming.

LCA

LCA had another busy year and enjoyed a trip to the Newpark Hotel for a career investigation trip. Other highlights included a trip to Rothe House.



Bonding Trips



Miss First Year



NEW SUBJECT - Computer Science

Computer Science was introduced as a Leaving Cert subject in September 2021. Research shows that studying Computer Science at Leaving Cert can equip young women and young men with skills that are relevant and transferable across so many third-level courses, and better prepare them for a wide range of careers.

At the heart of this new Leaving Certificate subject is a focus on project-based learning where students work collaboratively to solve problems. "It is this emphasis on active student learning and solving real-life problems that sets this subject apart. We have found that the students particularly enjoyed the collaborative and problem-solving focus, which made it stand out from other subjects."

It is especially important to acknowledge the dedication of Ms McGrath. Along with teaching of her traditional subjects over the past challenging two years, Ms McGrath has also taken on this new subject. With her commitment and enthusiasm, it will prove to be a great option for students in the years ahead.

Ukraine Fundraiser

The final total for the face paint fundraiser and the bake sale for the Irish Red Cross appeal for Ukraine, run by 2A and 2E was 2,655 euro.

We also welcomed 3 new students from Ukraine in March, Sofiia, Anastasiia and Maiia.





HALLOWEEN - DRESS UP



School Tours - Bonding Trips



WORLD LITERARY DRESS UP DAY



Enterprise



Young Economist of the Year

On the 28th of April, Ciara Heslin, Caelinn McCabe and I went to O'Reilly Hall in UCD, to attend the first in person Young Economist of the Year Exhibition since Covid-19. Schools from all over the island of Ireland attended. In order to get to the exhibition we had to create a project on the role of economics in a sustainable world. With the Covid-19 pandemic many people had to work from home as offices were closed. We decided that working from home could be the key to a more sustainable Ireland. Therefore with the help and support of our teacher, Ms. Butler, we chose to question how working from home reduces externalities associated with transport. An externality is an indirect cost or benefit to an uninvolved third party that arises as an effect of another party's activity. It involved lots of in-depth research and preparation. We knew that as 5th year economics students there would be some tough competition and we were not expecting anything other than a certificate. However when we received the news of our silver medal award we were ecstatic. On the day of the exhibition we got to talk to the other teams and learn more about their projects. It was interesting to see how the same question can be interpreted in different ways. The exhibition was a great experience and we hope to return next year, with an even better prize!



Maria Salvans from Transition Year who won the Creative Business Award at the National Student Enterprise Final for her fitness app 'Fit and Healthy' along with her teacher Ms Butler.

Justice & Peace

Justice & Peace Diversity Project

This year's Justice & Peace committee consists of 5th year students who aim to better understand the world we live in and take action to change it.

The group chose to look at the theme of 'Diversity' this year after they attended the World Wise Global Schools workshop on racial justice. This was a compassionate conversation on celebrating diversity in the world. The guest speakers included Sandrine Ndahiro, Boni Odoemene, Denise Chaila and Martin 'Beanz' Warde. The girls were inspired by the talk and decided to celebrate the diversity of our own school.

The group established a J&P noticeboard outside room 101. They have updated the board regularly throughout the year with information about Diversity, survey results, quotes, and pictures of renowned people from all cultures and backgrounds who have promoted diversity throughout history. The board has been eye-catching and educational.

The girls carried out an Intercultural review of the school. They surveyed the study body and discovered that almost 30% of our school have origins outside Ireland. From the survey, the group discovered that there are almost 100 different languages spoken within our school community. The girls created a video of students speaking in some of these languages that was shown to the whole school during tutor time. This brilliant project brought so much fun and happiness to all those involved whilst promoting the diversity of our students.

The girls discovered that discrimination is something our very own students still experience. They hope to focus on changing school policy next year, organising training for teachers on the issue and 'How to be an Ally' training for students. We look forward to seeing them continue this important work next year.





Loreto Athletics Champions



LCA Easter Prize Winners



Making friends and memories in Tayto Park

Aoife Murphy and Rosa Phelan who both represented Leinster in Rugby



Superheroes from Ionad Saoirse



TY Kayak down the River Barrow