

Loreto Secondary School SUMMER 2023 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

Colm Keher, Principal



The 2022/2023 academic year will be remembered with great fondness. These pages record the amazing range of activities that took place during the year. Looking through them you will get a strong sense of why we say there is something for everyone at Loreto! You won't be surprised to read about the successes of Loreto students in various competitions and events. However, you will be in awe of the variety of extra-curricular activities, covering a broad range of interests. At Loreto, we encourage participation above everything else. Our school environment aims to nurture and develop the talents of all. In that regard, I am forever grateful of the work of our staff. Without them, nothing would be possible. They give generously of their time, always wanting to give our students the best possible experience and the opportunity to find their unique gifts.

I am grateful for the work of our Parents Association and I thank them for the very generous contributions they have made towards the enhancement of student facilities. Most

importantly, the Parents Association provides a forum for parents to contribute to the running of the school by sharing their perspective as parents. This perspective is valued. Likewise, I am very grateful for the volunteering spirit of the eight members of our Board of Management who take on the responsibility of the management of the school on behalf of the Loreto Education Trust. Under the expert leadership of our chairperson, Tony Joyce, they ensure the best possible facilities and the highest standard of learning and teaching.

As the year draws to a close, we say a fond farewell to the class of 2023. We wish them every health and happiness for their lives ahead and remind them: once a Loreto girl, always a Loreto girl! I thank them for the leadership they have shown during the year as was so well represented at our recent prize-giving ceremony.

Finally, I wish the school community the very best for the Summer and already we can look ahead with great anticipation to the year ahead.



Head Girl
Alexia Albertin Molinera

Deputy Head Girls
Ella Delahunty & Amy Lawless

A Message from the Head Girl

Congratulations girls! You have successfully completed another year here at Loreto. This year has been very special to the whole school community as it was the first year since the pandemic where everything ran as normal. We were very lucky to be able to host Miss First Year and the Christmas Concert (our very own Late Late Toy Show) in person. It was amazing to see all of the talented young girls in our school performing live.

As a sixth year I can assure you that your time in Loreto will fly by. My advice would be to get out of your comfort zone. Join that extracurricular, talk to that girl in your class, try that new sport. Trust me, it may seem scary at first but it will be worth it. If I have learned something in my past six years of secondary school is that great things never come from comfort zones. We are so lucky in Loreto with the wide choice of extracurricular activities provided for us. There is something for everyone, be it sports, music, drama, art or debating. Pick something you like and give it a try! My fondest memories in school are mostly related to the extracurriculars that I took a part in. These experiences will enhance your time in school as you will meet new people and most importantly, you will have loads of fun.

To my fellow sixth years, I have only one thing to say to you; we've made it! I can't believe our time in Loreto has come to an end. It has indeed been an unforgettable journey which will remain in my heart forever. The past years have been filled with lots of memories, excitement and friendships. There have been good and bad days but together, we have overcome all the challenges! A pandemic and a national lockdown were not enough to stop us from fulfilling our goals and dreams. I am certain

that each one of you has a brilliant future ahead. In the words of Michael Josephson "Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."

We have come a long way since the first time we stepped through those doors and nothing can take this credit away from the people that support us on a daily basis. As I've grown, I've come to realise how much effort and time teachers and staff invest in both our academic development but also our mental development. Initiatives like Positive Mental Health week have really made a difference throughout our school experience. On behalf of the sixth years, we are eternally grateful to our teachers for putting up with all of our questions, dealing with our anxiety over exams and for making these past years so special and memorable. Thank you to Brian, Eugene and Barry for helping us throughout the year, especially at times of big events. We couldn't have done them without your help! And last but definitely not least I wanted to thank Mr Jackman and Ms Farrell. Thank you for all your guidance and wise words. You have always been there when we needed it and your assemblies have taught us very valuable things. We are all very lucky to be students of this school as we receive great care and support.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent this incredible student body as Head Girl, it has been a pleasure. I hope you all enjoy your time here as much as I did.

With love,

Alexia Albertin Molinera

Parents Association

Loreto Parents Association meet on six occasions on Monday evenings at 7:30 in the school over the school academic year. The meetings allow the parents the opportunity to receive updates on school activities. The principal provides a report on school developments. There is also the opportunity to invite speakers to give presentations to parents. Over the past year we have received presentations from Mr Wayne Denner regarding cyber security and from Mr Eamonn Jackman, Deputy Principal on the Safe Internet Usage Policy. Parents are given the opportunity to provide feedback during the meetings and also to voice any queries they may have. The perspective of parents is really valued.

The Parents Association arranges an annual raffle each year and are very grateful to parents who purchase raffle tickets and donate prizes. This year we are contributing €8,934.25 to the school. We are utilising the raised funds to purchase blazers, contribute to yearbooks for 6th years, purchase a purpose made seat for the curved wall section in the oratory garden and purchase two wall mounted water fillers. All of these purchases will enhance the student experience in Loreto.

Parents are invited to join our meetings. It is an opportunity to meet other parents over a cup of tea/ coffee so please feel free to come along. We would be delighted to meet you.

A special ceremony was held to acknowledge the excellent Leaving and Junior Cert results of the class of 2022.



Alumni Award Winner
Dr Anne Marie Butler



Top Junior Cert Student
Angela Carroll



Top LCA Student Kate Heary
with proud parents Noel & Lucy



Sports Captains 2022 2023



Top Leaving Cert Results 2022



Harte Cup Winner
Eden Penfold



Loreto Joy Award
Erin Morrissey



Overall Senior Sports Award
Caoimhe Keher Murtagh



Junior Sportstar
Pia Langton



Junior Soccer Player Of The Year
Ayesha Belalaoui



Senior Camogie Player
Moya O'Brien

5th Year Geography Trip 2023 By Eimer Dawson & Hazel O'Mara

On the 23rd Of March, our 5th Year Geography class packed our bags and headed to Co. Clare & Galway. We set off at 7am, and headed straight to the Cliffs Of Moher. When we arrived we were instantly hit with the strong gusts of the South Westerlies coming across the Atlantic. It was a great experience and we got to enjoy the breathtaking views of our rugged Western Coastline.

We then set off to the Doolin Caves. We descended 200 feet underground and for a moment or two, it was pitch black but when the lights were turned back on, we were eye to eye with a huge stalactite; in fact, the biggest one in Ireland!

When we finished up in the caves and headed off along the Burren Coastal Road. We stopped off to examine some clints and grikes of

the limestone pavement, where we also got to enjoy the phenomenal sea views that were made all the more awesome by the wild Atlantic waves crashing and bashing against the shore.

After the long day of exploring we headed back to the fantastic 4- Star Clayton Hotel, where we got to rest and have a delicious three course meal during some 'phone-free time'. The chatter and laughter all around the restaurant was like music to the ears of the staff who commented to our teachers how wonderful it was to see youngsters enjoy each other's company. We finished the night with a quick swim in the evening before crashing into our beds.

Friday morning started with a walking tour of Galway City provided by Professor Micheal Hynes of University

Galway, who also brought us to meet two other lecturers in the college grounds. We were very grateful to hear what they all had to say about the courses on offer in the University and of the many different fields and opportunities in Geography. An hour later, we got another guided tour of the whole campus by their own campus leaders, and we even ran into a past pupil of Loreto! Our last stop was Galway City itself for a quick lunch to maximise some shopping time, before returning to our bus for home!

Overall, we had a brilliant trip and everyone enjoyed it immensely, as it enabled us to study an array of physical topics that we have covered in class over the years, and also, it brought to life the Western Region and Galway City, another large topic in 5th year Geography.



I'd like to thank all the staff and students who contributed photographs and articles for this end of year magazine. I think it is, as always, a very good indication of the number of exciting and fun events that our students have been involved in over the past academic year. A special word of thanks goes to Bernie and to all the staff in Modern Printers. You have done, as always, such a professional job! Best of luck to all 3rd and 6th year students in the state examinations and I hope everyone has a great summer break!

Paul McGinley



Gaeilge

D'eagraigh an Roinn, Gaeilge 24 i mbliana le muintir an chéad bhliain. Lá iomlán d'imeachtaí folláine trí ghaeilge. Bhain na daltaí agus na múinteoirí fíor thaitneamh as.

Seachtain na Gaeilge again was a huge success with a range of events and activities, culminating in a Céilí Mór le hIníon Bhreathnach mar Bhean an Tí.



Gaeilge 24 Group



Lá Glas Céilí



Tráth na gCeist

German



"Die Deutsche Ecke"

Last September Rieke Wilken, our German intern joined us for 3 months. She worked with all German students from 1st to 6th year and they really enjoyed her classes. They learned so much about German culture and the language and it was a wonderful experience for the students and teachers to have a native German speaker in the classroom.

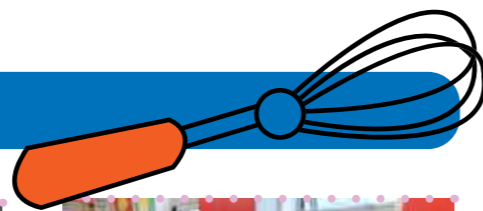
We were delighted to welcome students from Germany, Italy and Ukraine to our 4th and 5th year German classes during the year. Sophie and Carolina gave us a very interesting presentation on the school system in Germany and organised a German table quiz for 5th years before Easter. "Vielen Dank!" It was also a pleasure to have Karyna, Alina and Daria



from the Ukraine in our German TY class for the past few months. We thank them for their participation and wish them "Alles Gute".

Our 6th year German students will be heading off on a cultural trip to Berlin in the midterm break in October. Plans are well underway and we are really looking forward to this 4 day tour. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience German culture first hand and practice their German oral skills.

On a final note we would like to wish all Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert students "Viel Glück" in their examinations in June and to everyone "Schöne Ferien!"



JUNK KOUTURE



Junk Kouture encourages students to embrace the principle of sustainable living through Art and Design. 72 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. Six students - Breeanna Beirne, Leah Browne, Orla Phelan, Alannah O' Neil, Ruby Sinnott and Orla Brennan advanced to the regional finals and had their work showcased on the Junk Kouture Youtube channel. Julia Horvathova is pictured here in her dress, designed by Sonu Simon, Ava O' Dwyer and Zariah Barry.

TY Art - Special Effects Make-up

As a TY student, who has a keen interest in art, I recently had the opportunity to take a horror make-up course as part of my art class. The class was a unique experience that helped me develop my skills in a new and exciting way. In this short article, I will share my thoughts on how the make-up course went for me and my classmates.

The course was a great way to learn about a different aspect of art. We were taught about different makeup techniques and how to use various makeup products to create horrifying looks. We were taught how to work with latex and other tools to create cuts, blood, scars and bruises. The class allowed me to express my creativity in a new way. We were encouraged to experiment with different makeup looks and to express ourselves through our work. This was a great opportunity to develop our creativity and artistic abilities.

Moreover, the makeup course was a fun and enjoyable experience and would be really helpful if any of us decides to take make-up as a career industry in the future or even if it's just for a Halloween party! It was great to see my classmates having fun and enjoying themselves as they worked on their make-up looks.

-Irene Bijoy 4E

Hot Air Balloon Installation

The biggest art project this school year for 1st years was to create a hot air balloon installation in their social area. Each first year student designed a 2D balloon and translated it into a 3D papier-mâché sculpture. Then, students painted the sculpture to create a unique



outcome. It was hard work along the way, but the outcome of all the individual balloons floating about the social area together is magical. It is a lovely pop of colour in our school and as we pass through the area, the installation can take our imagination up, up and away, even if it's just for a few minutes timeout!

Well done to all the 1st Year Art students on the completion of their hot air balloon.

6th Year Art - A Reflection of my Last Six Years Niamh Holohan 6A

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." - Pablo Picasso

I hold a similar view to Picasso believing that art adds freedom and authenticity to life, and in school life too. Art is something I genuinely and simply enjoyed over the past six years in Loreto.

Throughout the six years, I have experienced how Art can lead to the expression of oneself while also building skills in creativity and imagination. The art room became almost like a second home, especially in the last few weeks of the Leaving Cert project. In the art room, we, as classmates, always held each other

to a high standard and flourished as artists through experiencing the skills and ideas of others. There was also always a bit of craic and an energetic atmosphere. This fun opened our minds and created eager learning.

As Wassily Kandinsky once said, "there is no must in art because art is free". Art became like a breath of fresh air from other subjects. It allowed our strong creative side to be nourished. Art can always be something new, and that's why I feel I could never get enough of it in school. I have learned an abundance of skills from drawing to active thinking, experimenting, clay modelling, painting and so much more.

As art is mainly practical and hands on, it can sometimes be misunderstood or disregarded in school. But it is just a different type of learning and certainly holds a vital place in the curriculum. In my opinion, practical learning is just as important as academic learning!

Some of my fondest memories in school come from Art. From painting a gigantic Shrek face for Miss First Year to even just the little things like creating personal pieces of art in class. I have loved every second and I will take these skills that I have learned with me long after I leave Loreto.

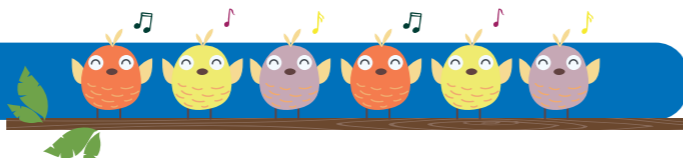
TV Highlights



TV Highlights



Choir



in The Friary Church, Kilkenny. The concert was a great success and raised over €1200 for Cois Nore and UNICEF. In March, the 76 strong choir travelled to Dublin to compete in the Interschools Music Festival where they won the Kirkpatrick and Rathdown Cup for three and four part choirs. Still on a high from their success, they competed in the Alice Yoakley-Quirk Competition at Feis Ceoil in which they were very highly commended. This May, the girls will partner with the CBS Senior Choir under the direction of Mr Arkins (Loreto) and Ms Dowling (CBS) for a concert in St. Canice's Church. This concert will be the first fundraiser for the joint choir's trip to Bratislava to compete in the Advent Music Festival next December.

It has been a busy year for the fifth year choir this year. They have worked extremely hard and their commitment was insurmountable attending practices every lunchtime and staying back after school for additional rehearsals. Their first outing was with the Loreto alumni choir Cantabile LK as part of a joint charity Christmas concert; Carols of Joy



Music



Feis Ceoil

It was fantastic to have made our return to the Feis Ceoil in the RDS in March.

The orchestra performed two contrasting pieces: Celtic Air and Dance and Mamma Mia Medley. They received Highly Commended and a score of 86 which was an excellent result as first place received 90. We are delighted to be building back up our school orchestra after covid and all musicians are welcome to sign up in the new academic year. There are some exciting things in the pipeline.



Ag Science

Farm Walk and Talk in Kildalton Agricultural College with a presentation by Teagasc showing dairy, beef, sheep and Horticulture enterprises.



Librarians On Tour

The day was amazing. We did so many activities. It was full of excitement and new experiences. The sun was shining and the sky was blue. There wasn't a boring or dull moment whatsoever. It was well planned thanks to Ms. Canny and the TYs. We even got a tour of Trinity College by past Loreto pupils Teddy Cousins Bolger and Darragh Murray. They were just amazing telling us what it was like studying there and how kind everyone was.

After we were done exploring Trinity and the library we went to the Chester Beaty library before getting right back on the bus and going over to Captain America's where we had a lovely lunch. By then we had about 20 minutes to have a look in the nearby shopping centre before getting on the bus back to Kilkenny.

Thank you for the day. It was great!
by Hollie Rice, 2B



TY Bake Off 2023

TY students battled it out within their Home Economics classes to get to the final of the BAKE-OFF. 9 groups competed on the day and produced their bake off products with excellent skill. Thanks to Sheila our judge who had a difficult task.

The winners were
1st Place Ellie Keyes & Maeve Coyle Twomey
2nd Place Ali Nolan and Doireann O'Donnell
3rd Place Ava O'Dwyer and Roisin Murphy



Christmas Cakes



LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

Musical Lead Ceara Doocey as Elle Woods

Getting to perform in our school's production of Legally Blonde The Musical has been the highlight of my transition year experience. Having the privilege of playing the lead role was especially fun but came with added responsibility, which I saw as a positive challenge. We, the Loreto TY students alongside the CBS TY's, spent months perfecting our singing, dancing and acting abilities in musical rehearsals that were the most fun. Everyone contributed to sorting costumes and props to bring our musical to life in the correct early 2000's era. We all bonded and by the time we got to the Watergate Theatre we were a vivacious team - ready to take to the stage and give it our all!

Executing four sold out shows, to the high standard of our teachers, director and choreographer, for the public and a show for local primary school students was a daunting task.

Our team prevailed and we successfully performed to a combined total of 1,600 people across the 5 shows, bringing the inspiring story of Elle Woods to Kilkenny. I think we all survived on little else but excitement and adrenaline for the week, which worked out well for us in the end!

Hearing the overwhelmingly positive feedback about our musical from friends, family members and others in the community has been so rewarding and the best outcome of the cast and the crew's hard work.

I absolutely loved the whole process from start to finish and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. I am forever grateful to everyone involved who made this once in a lifetime experience possible for me and my peers.



Debating



Saoirse Teehan, Medha Trehan, Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, Anna Waldron with their prizes from the Senior Loreto Debates.



Amy Cahill and Eve Nicholl with their prizes for coming 2nd in the Junior UCD Debates

This year saw the 2nd instalment of the Interclass TY Debates. Two teams of two, from each TY class debated against each other in a Mace Debate. After four rounds of tough competition the contest was won by Saoire Teehan and Aoife O'Neill, representing 4B. In second place, representing 4F, were Abby McEvoy and Sarah Keher. In joint third place; Millie Gilsenan and Tiah O'Neill, 4E and Anna Waldron and Breannan Gibney from 4A.

A panel of 12 students represented Loreto in the Concern Debates. 5th years: Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, Medha Trehan, Kate O'Neill, Clara Whelan Foxe and Maire Diver, along with 4th years: Anna Waldron, Breeanna Beirne, Julia Horvathova, Saoirse Teehan, Grace O'Sullivan, Lelia Mahon and Faye McDonnell debated on topics such as the use of GMOs, whether HIV has been forgotten and whether climate activists should give up meat.

The Senior Loreto Debate Team started this year as defending champions, having won the school's first Senior Loreto Debates title last year. All three teams, consisting of Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, Medha Trehan, Kate O'Neill, Clara Whelan Foxe, Saoirse Teehan and Anna Waldron got through to the last eight in the Semi-Finals. Anna and Saoirse placed third in the competition, while Surabhi and Medha came second, in a final that saw two teams from Loreto Kilkenny and Loreto Beaufort debate each other.

The Junior Debate Team also performed very well this year. Rose V Anthony, Clodagh Callan, Aoibhne Murphy and Katie Lawlor in third year all travelled to UCD on multiple occasions to compete in the UCD post-primary school Junior debate competition. They faced very strong opponents and debated challenging motions in each leg of the competition. The girls advanced through the rounds, with Rose V Anthony reaching the octo-final as an individual speaker.

The Junior Loreto Debate Team competed in the qualifiers for the inter-Loreto debate competition. The two teams consisted of Eve Nichol, Amy Cahill, Cara Hynes and Isabel Hayden. This was their first debating competition and they performed exceptionally well, with Eve and Amy qualifying for the semi-final, while Cara and Isabel just narrowly missed out. Eve and Amy then traveled to Loreto Beaufort to compete in the semi final of the inter-Loreto competition. Their performance saw them qualify for the final of the Loreto junior debates, where they competed against three other teams. They came in a very well deserved second place in the final.

Huge thanks to Ms Power, Ms King and Ms Butler for all their hard work throughout the year and for facilitating debating in Loreto.



Junior Debaters Amy Cahill and Eve Nicholl, and Senior Debaters Anna Waldron, Saoirse Teehan, Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, Medha Trehan, Kate O'Neill and Clara Whelan Foxe



Senior Loreto Debate Team



TY Interclass Debate Winners



Amy Cahill debating in the Junior Loreto Final in Loreto Beaufort



Students who took part in the opening rounds of the Interclass TY Debates

EU Council Debates

Lelia Mahon and Abby McEvoy, along with subs, Aoife O'Neill and Anna Doheny represented Loreto and Belgium at the Model EU Council Debates, in Dublin City Hall. Lelia and Abby met members of the EU Commission and Belgian Embassy. The girls were given an honorable mention, and placed in the top six in the competition.



Abby McEvoy and Lelia Mahon, with Maria Walsh MEP, Ms. Power, Mr Julien Thonar from the Belgian Embassy, and Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.



Abby and Lelia speaking at the Model EU Debates



Aoife O'Neill, Lelia Mahon, Abby McEvoy and Anna Doheny, representing Belgium

International Women's Day



On March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day. Our speakers included Elizabeth McEvoy and Ms Bhreathnach. Elizabeth shared her story of life in Loreto, her journey to her career as an archivist, her love of travelling and overcoming obstacles in her life. Ms Bhreathnach shared her experiences of her charity work with Chifundo in Malawi. We heard of all the great work that the Chifundo charity does in educating the children of Malawi. We all left the event inspired by the inspirational women in our community. We look forward to IWD 2024!

Young St Vincent De Paul



Autumn rolled in
School begun again
Time on our hands
Something to partake in

We wanted to make a difference
In our community and school
Our teacher mentioned Young SVP
We thought that was pretty cool

The committee was developed
Everyone acquired a role
To create our Sup family
We gained a smaller badge
to achieve a bigger goal

Debbie visited our class each week
And blessed us with her knowledge
With activities, powerpoints & games
We'd remember this in college

Social Justice, Awareness
Direct Aid, Befriending
These were our topics
Agreed to be attending



Direct Aid was given
Organised the Hamper Appeal
We gathered food from all year groups
To provide another meal

With the support of the school
Posters were made with care
The mission walk was taken part in
Awareness was nothing to compare

To display social Justice
Hospital Staff needed to feel our support
All of us felt obligated
To bake as a resort



Our favourite mission
Was befriending the 6th Years
Stressed coming to mock exams
We gave them Smiles
From ear to ear

From Saint Vincent de Paul
We learnt new skills
Such as friendship & teamwork
The year was a thrill

Individually all took on a role
To turn concern into action
This year we made a difference
In the hope of god reactions

That's the end of our journey
Well bid you adieu
From SVP 2023
Goodbye & Thank you!





Soccer

Loreto soccer teams excelled again this year. Both the First Year team and U 15 team won their regional finals and went on to win the Leinster League after a marathon series of games. In the Leinster Cup our u 15 Mr Mulvihall's side played magnificently but would cruelly be beaten in Leinster semi finals by a team they had beat in the league and who would eventually reach the All Ireland final.

Our First Year soccer team steamrolled through Leinster defeating Maynooth, Pres Wexford before winning the final 2-0 against Donabate. In the nail biting All Ireland semi it took extra time before Emma Hogan netted the winner after Goalkeeper / Striker Sofia Blackmore's mazy run.



The All Ireland final would end in heartbreak. Pres Athenry scored first before Emma Hogan equalised with a sensational strike to the top corner. In a thrilling game, the sides could not be separated and unfortunately we would be defeated 8-7 in sudden death penalties. The silver lining is that both sides can now look forward to representing Ireland in a 4 nation tournament in England in November.



Camogie

March Madness! Double All Ireland Winning Camogie teams in Seventh Heaven. This is the seventh occasion our Camogie team has won the All Ireland Double being crowned Junior and Senior All Ireland Roinn A Camogie Champions.

After the disappointment of losing out in last year's Senior All Ireland semi-final and Junior All Ireland Final replay, the Loreto girls re-established themselves at the top of the pack in 2023; winning Leinster and All Ireland finals at both age grades.

Our senior camogie team overcame the challenge of St. Patrick's College Maghera when the teams met in St. Peregrine's GAA Blanchardstown to claim the Corn Sceilge for a record-equalling 8th time.

Our junior camogie team extended their record atop the junior All Ireland roll of honour when they renewed rivalries with St. Patrick's Maghera in Darver, Co. Louth. The girls withstood a second half storm from the Derry side as they

took the spoils on the day adding another All Ireland to their record of 12 titles. Loreto 4-10 St. Pat's Maghera 0-9. Anna Doheny was awarded player of the match and Ciara Dunne captained the team.

The inaugural GCS Super 9s All Ireland camogie competition yielded even more silverware as the Loreto under 15 side produced strong performances throughout the day to again meet Maghera in the final. Our school's name is the first to be engraved on this new cup which was claimed with style.

Our minor camogie team continue the strong tradition of colleges camogie as our two teams which entered the Inter-Loreto blitz in Fermoy made it to the cup final, bringing home even more silverware to Kilkenny.

Champions

We were also delighted to welcome 14 past pupils from the victorious Kilkenny All Ireland Camogie Champions back to the school. The team was captained by past Games Captain Aoife Prendergast.



Basketball

U 16 Basketball

This year our u16 basketball team was very successful. For the first time ever they were entered into the Midlands league. The team had four new players from Spain, who had a very enjoyable season and contributed greatly to the team's success. They started the year with four wins and a one-point loss to Scoil Christ Ri. They then progressed to the semi finals and beat Our Lady Bower Athlone to secure their spot in the Midlands final. They faced Scoil Christ once again, and this time emerged victorious, winning the Midlands final in their first year in the league. After the Midlands league they progressed onto the All Ireland playoffs. They beat Leixlip Community College to become the first Loreto U 16 team to reach an All Ireland quarter final. They faced Killorglin in the National basketball arena. Unfortunately, on the day the girls fell short.

TY student Faye McDonnell was named joint captain on the 12-person Irish squad for the FIBA U16 Women's European Championships in August. All her hard work and dedication has paid off. We are so proud of you and you will be an amazing ambassador and role model for our other students who will hope to follow in your footsteps.



U 19 Basketball

Loreto has remained a competitive basketball school. Last year, we reached the U19 A basketball final which was a huge achievement. The U19 team was entered into the midlands league this year in which we faced very tough competition. We started off with a challenging game against our rival school, Presentation Kilkenny! Unfortunately, we lost this game. For our next game we faced Scoil Chríost rí, a very competitive team, which we lost. After this game we had a few weeks before our next game. During this time we bonded more as a team and trained harder. We were a lot more prepared for our next game against Presentation Thurles. With the help of our coach, Ms Callanan, we won this game well. This gave us a lot of confidence

going into our final game against Clonaslee. It was a close match but we won in the end! Unfortunately we narrowly missed out on progressing in the midlands league. However, basketball has definitely been one of the most enjoyable aspects of sixth year. By Ruth Breen and Niamh O'Hara.



TY Gaelic Football - Loreto Champions!

On the 10th of November, our TY Gaelic football team travelled to Kilmacud Crokes in Dublin to compete in the Loreto football blitz, organised by Loreto Foxrock. It was the first time Loreto Kilkenny had ever taken part in the competition and our girls were all excited to represent our school. We won all of our matches and qualified for a semi final against Loreto Mullingar. This was our toughest match of the tournament as we were losing at half time, but with a late goal in the second half we came out victorious in the end! The final was scheduled for ten minutes later, so after a quick drink of water and a quick stretch, we lined out for the final time against Loreto Foxrock. We were all delighted to be crowned winners at the end of this game, and Emily Smith accepted the medals as captain for the day.

Winning this competition was a very special day for Gaelic football in Loreto Kilkenny. It proved to be an impressive start for our upcoming season of Junior Football, in which we were very unfortunate to narrowly miss out on a place in the Leinster final, having entered a junior team for the first time. We eagerly look forward to playing senior football next year and continuing to promote Gaelic football in the school further. A huge thanks to Ms. Bhreathnach, Mr. Woulfe & Ms. Landers for their dedication throughout the year.



Hockey

The hockey calendar in Loreto was jam-packed with fixtures this season as the school entered a whopping 15 hockey teams in the South-East and Leinster Leagues at Senior, Junior and Minor level. The girls enjoyed many wonderful days out on the hockey pitch during the year, with all three Senior A, Junior A and Minor A teams reaching their respective Cup finals.

For the first time in the school's history, the Senior A hockey team entered the Leinster League this season. While this did result in a lot of travelling to Dublin, the squad competed against some of the top hockey schools in the country and gained valuable experience while doing so.

Our first and second year hockey players enjoyed many wonderful 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. Aine Kirwin was awarded player of the match and Rachel Brennan captained the team.



Athletics

Cross country

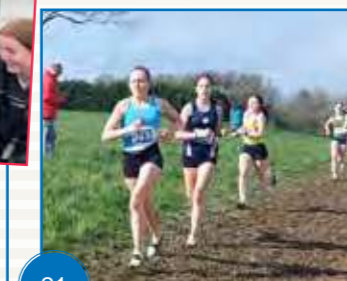
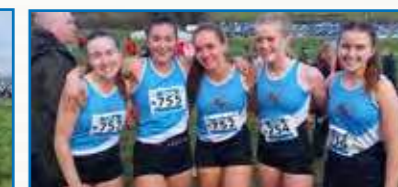
It has been a fantastic season of cross country running in Loreto this year. Loreto's Senior team impressively battled all the way to the finish over a fast and undulating course to claim the Senior title at the All - Ireland cross country competition in Waterford. The team consisted of Hannah Kehoe, Pia O'Grady, Isabella Burke, Alexia Albertin and Pia Langton. Cristina Capitan also participated in the intermediate race at the all Irelands placing in the top 20. An outstanding achievement for the girls.

Track and Field

Well done to all the athletes who participated at the South East Track and Field competition in Carlow. Congratulations to the Minor Relay team (Lara Gray, Ruby Doyle, Ellie Milea and Sophie O'Riordan) who took the title and the junior team (Kate Maher, Martha Bergin, Nessa Teehen and Niamh Cleere) who were runners up. Also qualified for the Leinster Championships are Isabel Walsh (3rd Shot putt), Molly Daly (1st Intermediate 300m hurdles), Ellie Millea (2nd 75m hurdles) and Kate Maher (1st 200m).

Congratulations to the Intermediate and Senior teams who took the South East track and Field team title in Carlow. Well done to all the athletes who performed to their best ability to gain points for the school. The teams included Grace Delahunty, Molly Daly, Jane Brennan, Pia Langton, Aoife Fitzgerald, Ruth Cody, Cristina Caption, Eva Lamph, Aoife Shealy, Ella Wall, Pia O'Grady, Hazel Coogan, Caoimhe Timmons, Shauna Mahony, Kate Alymer, Georgia Geoghegan, Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh, Julie Lennon, Amelie Foley, Blaitin Holden, Orlaith Kirwan, Emily Smith, Hannah Kehoe, Alexia Albertin, Isabella Burke, Rachel O'Neill, Emma Corr and Aisling Browne.

Leinster Schools Finals took place today in Tullamore and again our athletes had some great performances ensuring that Loreto Kilkenny were again top school in Leinster. Molly Daly not only Won Intermediate 300m hurdles, she ran 43.46sec which is a new CBP. This record 44.10 secs has been held since 1995 (28yrs) by her mother Fiona Norwood. A proud achievement for both Molly & Fiona. Molly was also 3rd in 200m. Pia Langton had a great race to win 800m Intermediate with a new PB of 2.13.76 Pia was also 5th in 300 42.75secs. Hannah Kehoe won Senior 1,500m in 4.39.81 Blaitin Holden was 3rd in Senior 200m 27.41 Amelia Foley was 3rd in Senior Long Jump in 5m.06cm Ella Wall was 4th in Intermediate High Jump 1.55 Isabella Bourke was 4th in Senior 3k. 4x 300 mtr Relay team also won gold.



Computer Science



Microsoft Office Specialist Irish Finalists 2023

We would like to extend our warm congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Microsoft Office Specialist Competition this year! Emma Healy (4D) and Ellen Wall (5D), made it all the way to the Irish Finals in Word and Excel, respectively. They had a fantastic day and we are incredibly proud of them both. Congratulations, Emma and Ellen!



Microsoft Dream Space

Our senior computer science students and the Tech Team were given the opportunity this year to visit Microsoft Dream Space. This visit aimed to give our girls an understanding of the importance of STEM in their lives, and it was a great experience.

Dream Space seeks to inspire students to pursue STEM subjects. The program provides students with the chance to learn about technology and how it can be used to tackle some of the world's biggest problems. From artificial intelligence (AI) to machine learning and cybersecurity, students of all levels can benefit from this program.

During their visit, our girls were introduced to the concept of using AI for good, specifically in the areas of Accessibility, Earth, Cultural Heritage, Humanitarian Action, and Health. Working in groups, the students had to come up with a concept that would contribute to solving a problem in one of these areas.

We were delighted for our students to be able to take part in this global student challenge and we are excited to see what innovative solutions they come up with.

Computer Science Week Oct 2022

During Computer Science Week in October 2022, the Computer Science department organised several events including coding events, quizzes and demonstrations.

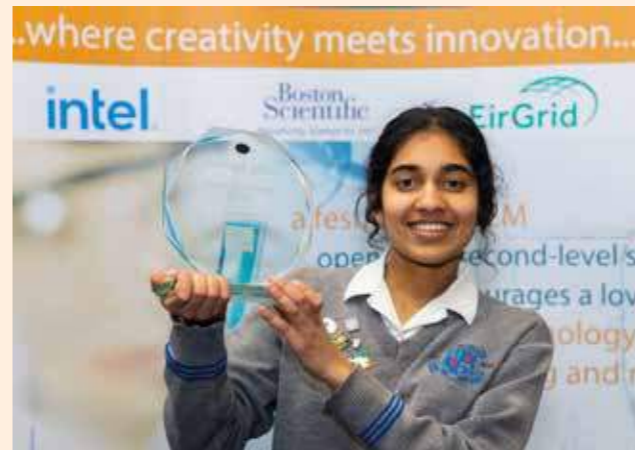


One of these events featured the 5th year Computer Science classes showcasing their impressive ALT4 projects to the rest of the student body in the Mary Ward building during lunchtime.

Upgraded Computer Rooms

We are excited to announce that two out of our three computer rooms have been completely upgraded with brand new computers. These new machines boast significantly faster processing speeds and reliability, providing our students with a faster, more efficient and effective computing experience.

SciFest 2023



We are thrilled to share the incredible achievements of Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, who won 1st place in Ireland's future innovators at SciFest4STEM regional event at South East Technological University in Waterford on Thursday 27th April 2023.

Surabhi's project focused on an innovative automated waste sorting system, called IRIS: the Intelligent Recycling Sorting system. Her project was exceptional and extremely innovative, especially considering that she had no previous experience in computer programming.

Using an AI model created with Python, Surabhi's IRIS system identifies and classifies rubbish into three categories: organic waste, general waste, and recyclables, using Convolution Neural Networks (CNN) with an accuracy of 96%. Her model was then run on a Raspberry Pi, with a pi camera attached. The item being classified was put up to a camera, where the AI would identify the bin the item goes into. Based on its output, she wrote a python program where certain servo motors would move, to push the item into the correct bin (the item would either be pushed to the right, left, or downwards). She built a working model with basic materials like cardboard and bamboo sticks, and electronics borrowed from

Leaving Certificate Computer Science Class 2023

Our Leaving Certificate Computer Science students will be sitting their state exam on Wednesday, May 24th, 2023. This marks a significant milestone for our school as Computer Science was introduced as a Leaving Cert subject in September 2021. Since its introduction as a Leaving Cert subject, Computer Science has become increasingly popular among our students. Two classes were added last year, and we are pleased to announce that a new class will be offered in September 2023.



Above: Surabhi impressing one of the judges with IRIS



Surabhi with Billy Fleming PhD Senior School Liaison Officer, SciFest.

Below: Surabhi photographed with the Intel Judges



the local coderdojo club, and the computer science department in Loreto.

Surabhi's project impressed the judges at the regional SciFest event, and she has now qualified for the National Final in November.

Surabhi's achievement is a testament to her hard work and dedication, and it is truly exceptional what she has accomplished with the resources available to her. We are incredibly proud of Surabhi and wish her all the best in the National Final. SciFest is an excellent opportunity for second-level students to showcase their scientific investigations and promote STEM education, and we are delighted to be a part of Ireland's largest second-level STEM fair program.



Computer Science



Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Finals 2022-2023

We are delighted to congratulate all our students who participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge as part of Tech Week in November 2022. We are delighted to announce that Aine White (4D) reached the seniors final which was held at the Maynooth Campus on May 9th, 2023. Congratulations, Aine!

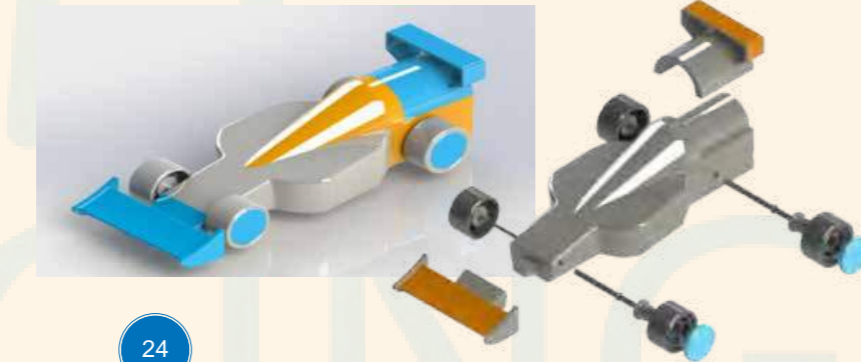
F1 in Schools 2023

A STEP INTO THE UNKNOWN.... VROOM VROOM

This year in Loreto, TY students have undertaken a huge project by competing in the F1 (Formula 1) in Schools Competition. This competition is the largest STEAM based competition in the world and is growing on an annual basis here in Ireland. It is fantastic to see our girls take an interest in the field of STEAM, and all the exciting and fun skills this offers. They have made great use of our new CAD suite, which was installed as part of our continued growth in the subjects of Graphics and DCG.

The girls are tasked with designing, creating and building their own model F1 car, with the aim to be the fastest in the land. It is not all about speed though, there is more to this project than just racing. Student's have to create their own business model and team identity (like a real F1 team), raise sponsorship and build an online profile in order to achieve their goals. They must then present their overall business model at competition to various judges who scrutinise every detail to make sure that they are in line with all rules and regulations. It really is a whole team approach that encompasses various skills and talents.

This year's team's LUAS SUAS and LASRACH Racing have worked extremely hard to get to this stage and we wish them all the best as they approach the final hurdle. Our girls will be representing Loreto in Galway at the National Finals on the 29th of May. A huge achievement to get this far, and blazing a trail for future F1 racers in years to come.



BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

We were delighted to have 31 of our Fourth Year students qualify for this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition back in January.

Twelve Loreto projects qualified for the exhibition which is a record number for our school, and a testament to the work put in by all groups who entered projects for consideration. Great fun was had by all as the girls got to spend 3 nights in the Clayton Hotel in Ballsbridge; a short walk from the RDS where they presented their work to judges and the public each day. Many judges, interviewers, exhibitors and other schools were really impressed with the standard



of the girls' work, along with how they presented throughout the exhibition. Many thanks to the Science Department for facilitating.

We already look forward to seeing next year's event!

Positive Mental Health Week 2022

Our Positive Mental Health Week was held on the last week of November. Former Kilkenny manager Brian Cody kicked off the week speaking to our students about goal setting, building resilience and tips for looking after your physical and mental health. We had a wide range of events throughout the week including a lunch time concert from some of the music students, yoga classes, TeenSpeak workshop, mindful colouring, movie morning, a tea party, and a sports day for 1st and 2nd years. Jacqui Fox (famous for Coco's law) visited the school on the final day and spoke to TY, 5th and 6th year students about online bullying and told us how she had lost her daughter Nicole, to suicide as a result. Local youth services including Teac Tom, Ossory Youth and The Drumm Centre spoke to the whole student body via Zoom, outlining the local services available to all young people in Kilkenny.



Sports Awards



Fay McDonnell
International Basketball Award



Molly Daly
International Athletics Award

Green Schools

The Greenschools committee had another very successful year this year. There were three successful applicants to the Cycle Ambassador program and they, along with the rest of the team have promoted Active Travel in collaboration with Kilkenny County Council, An Taisce and our Mayor, for the last two years. On May 9th in Hotel Kilkenny they were rewarded for all their work by achieving the Green Flag for travel.



Cycle Champions

Congratulations to our Cycle Ambassadors who were presented with their medals for their participation in the #andshecycles project. Well done Nola, Lucy and Caitriona.

Lucy Dalton also achieved a Special Achievement Award for her Action Project and made a presentation to the Award winners in Richmond Barracks.

Student Council

As we near the end of another incredible year at Student Council, we would like to reflect on the accomplishments, memories and progress that the council has made in 2022-2023. The Student Council has been working tirelessly to ensure that the student voice is listened to and represented. The student council aims to create a vibrant and inclusive school environment for everyone.

We started this year off strong with our annual pre Christmas Candy Cane Campaign. Through our collective efforts, we raised an impressive 400 for the Red Cross. This was a massive achievement by the committee and is an initiative that we hope to continue next year.

Another highlight of our year was the highly anticipated International Day. A day full of celebration, diversity, great food and entertainment. This was another successful event in the school calendar which was greatly enjoyed by all students in the school. It also provided an opportunity for 152 of our students to show their peers a sense of the culture of their country.

In addition to organising memorable events, our Student Council worked diligently to address important issues affecting our school community. We are proud to announce

that our Student Council has achieved free period products in our bathrooms, on a trial basis, after a long time campaigning and hope to make this a permanent measure by next year. This significant milestone was recognised by RTÉ News, through the Student Council social media, and three of our committee members participated in a video talking about the importance of free sanitary products, which will be released soon.

Furthermore, we are delighted to share that, thanks to the financial support of the Parents Association, we are currently in the process of installing two new water fountains in the school. This initiative stemmed from the results of a survey we conducted earlier in the year, where water fountains were in high demand.

Beyond our achievements our Student Council has also really improved on collaboration and communication, not just with management, but also within our own committee, which has benefited us immensely throughout the school year and we can't wait for the next one! There will be elections in September 2023 for a new student council for 2023-2024. If you have an interest in being a member of the council, please put your name forward for election.

Ionad Saoirse

This year we welcomed two new first years, Kayla and Faye who joined 1C. They have settled into school life really well, enjoying IT, dance and life skills modules. They got to cheer on their classmate Isla who was crowned Miss. First Year 2023 in the talent show hosted by the 6th year prefect team and the history toga party.



We really enjoyed 2nd year, lino print art, a new dance routine, planting daffodils around school grounds and easter baking as well as our 2nd year subjects with 2B and 2D.



Well done to Ellen and Lucy on achieving their L2LP. They also had a great TY year with the highlight being their enterprise dog biscuit company "Bone Appetite" which they worked so hard on. They were awarded "Judges Choice" at the local County Enterprise Awards in Lyrath Hotel.



Graduation Cake



Shoe Box Appeal

This year class 4E Social education with Ms. O'Connor collected shoeboxes for the annual shoebox appeal. A huge thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox. A special mention to class 1A - the class who collected the most shoeboxes.

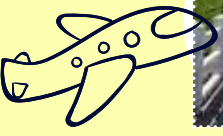


School Tours

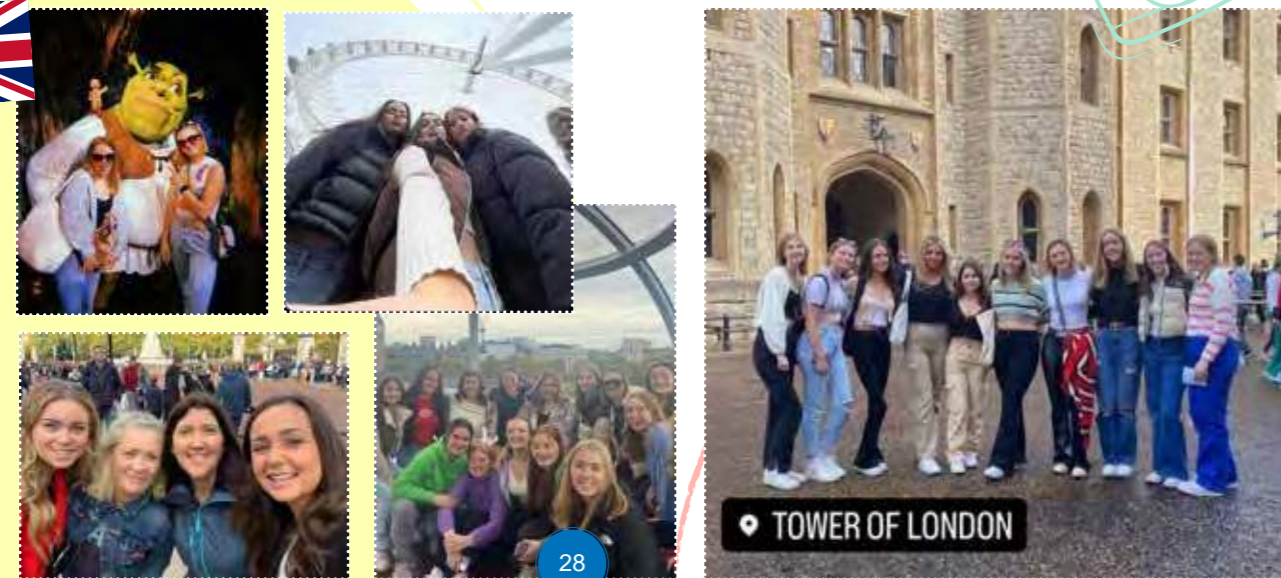
3rd Years
PARIS



5th Years
BARCELONA



6th Years
LONDON



Ethos Prefect Reflection



Ethos Prefect's initiation Ceremony in September

This year I was fortunate to be chosen as an Ethos Prefect in our school. The role as Ethos Prefect involves being part of a team of 2nd, 4th and 6th year students who help spread the upbeat ethos of Loreto. Each student in the group sets out to be a positive, friendly and supportive peer to all of the students we encounter day-to-day in school.



6th Year Ethos Prefect's Freedom Mural



Whole School 'Loreto Day' included watching 'The Greatest Showman' and cinema goodie bags.

In November our group got the amazing opportunity to visit Loreto Abbey Secondary School which is in Dalkey to meet their ethos team. This was a lovely day out and one that bonded us as a group. We collaborated with the Loreto Dalkey girls and shared some ideas for events and campaigns that would innovatively promote the key values of a Loreto education - Truth, Joy, Justice, Freedom and Sincerity as set out by Mary Ward.



Ethos Prefect's Collaborative Visit to Loreto Dalkey

Additionally, over the course of this academic year we got to organise events for students such as, the 'Loreto Day' Movie and our photography competition, ensuring each event related with our charism of the year: Freedom.



1st Year Brownie Day & Freedom Photography Contest Entries

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of this student leadership team. As a group, we have all gained public-speaking, communication and teamwork skills that are hugely beneficial to us moving forward with our time in Loreto and the working world once we finish school. I would certainly encourage students to get involved when given the opportunity to do so!

By Ceara Doocey



The Young Economist of the Year

TY students Saoirse Teehan & Irene Bijoy along with 5th Years Carrie Jackman and Medha Trehan travelled to UCD to attend the tenth anniversary of The Young Economist of the Year. Saoirse and Irene were awarded bronze medals for their project; 'How can we innovate and improve urban planning?'. Carrie was awarded a bronze medal for her project; 'In what ways does conflict and development have an impact on each other?'. Medha was awarded a gold medal for her project 'How do we stabilise Ukraine's economy post-war?'. Medha was also presented with an 'impressive presentation award' for her effective delivery and display of both quantitative and qualitative data. All students undertook projects that were guided by their knowledge of challenging economic concepts as well as individual study and research into current issues facing our economy and society today.

Huge congratulations to Ellen Lahart and Lucy Dalton who won the 'Judges Choice' award at the County Enterprise Finals with their brilliantly successful product 'Bone Appetite'



Miss First Year



Ukraine to Kilkenny

Our Loreto Kilkenny Family continues to grow!

This time last year we had three students in our school from Ukraine namely; Maiia, Sofiia and Anastasiia. Throughout the year new students fleeing from the war in Ukraine continued to arrive in Kilkenny and were warmly received and welcomed by the Loreto Secondary School Community.

We have now welcomed thirteen Ukrainian students to Loreto. Our latest student Nika, just commenced school today as this article goes to print. Our Girls, come mainly from the Eastern part of Ukraine. This area is adjacent to Russia and is predominately Russian speaking. All our students learn the Ukrainian language in school. The girls from the capital city Kiev speak the Ukrainian language as their mother tongue, while Russian is the secondary spoken language. Their individual journeys and accompanying stories along the way are as varied and as unique as the girls themselves.

Here are the names of some of the cities and oblasts, many of which have featured in world news, that the girls have come from; Kiev, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Odessa, and Sumy.

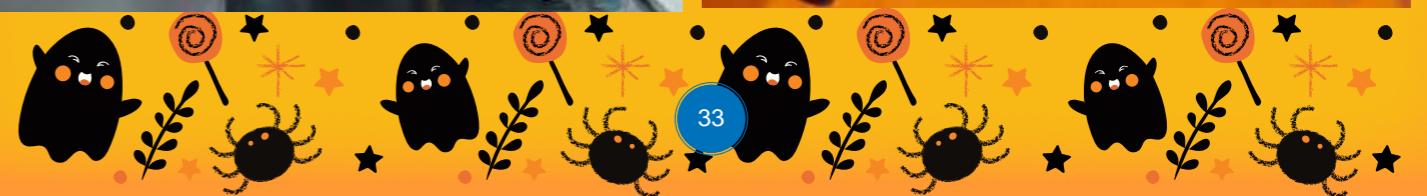
The resilience and courage that our students have shown is indeed worthy of commendation. The girls have adapted and embraced school life and continue to make significant progress. The kindness of staff, teachers, students and caretakers, especially in the office, front of house and the canteen has really helped to settle the girls in their new home city of Kilkenny.

The girls would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the help and support received throughout, in what has been an incredibly difficult and challenging year for them and their families. As the bonds of friendships grow and deepen so too has their confidence and mastery of the English language.

Watch this space! Our Ukrainian students are now busy integrating into the clubs and societies in Loreto Kilkenny Secondary School.



Halloween - Dress Up



Architects in Schools Programme 2023



The Architects in Schools Programme provides Transition Year students across Ireland with first-hand experience of the architectural design process under the guidance of architects and architectural graduates. In February of 2023, a class of TY students in Loreto were given the opportunity to experience the workshop. The workshop spanned over two days. On day one students focused on designing a model which they would then build and create on day two.



Day one of the workshop explored many interesting areas of architecture such as the design process and design briefs. Students were divided into groups and then asked to pick a location, purpose, and demographic of their design. Students were given full liberty over their project, but were also asked to inkeep with the overarching theme of "Study Spaces".



Day two of the workshop saw students bringing their designs to life using various materials they had personally collected in preparation. The process allowed the student's styles to truly shine through. Some

students chose to create a bigger number of smaller sketch models while others focused their energy into creating one larger, more detailed model.

At the end of the workshop, each group presented their project, including any models and sketches created over the course of the programme. Students were encouraged to emphasize the usefulness of their design to society, and took the opportunity to explain the passion behind their project. Many students intended for their design to aid vulnerable groups such as children, migrants and refugees. Groups were offered constructive feedback from the rest of the class as well as the instructors on their project.

The Architects in Schools Programme was an excellent opportunity for students to experience the job of an architect first hand. The programme was formulated in an interesting, effective and engaging way. It provided Transition Year students with further insight into what they may like to study after secondary school, and where their passions may lie.

Flashdance



6th years with Davy Fitzgerald



Bride to be Ms O'Connor

Prizegiving



Junior Camogie Player of the Year Anna Doherty



First Year Soccer Player of the Year Sophia Blackmore



Senior Athlete Hannah Kehoe

PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAW ALL IRELAND FINALISTS



Bike Week



2nd Year Fun Day





6th Years embrace Halloween



Ellen Wall and Emma Healy in Microsoft Dream Space



Au Revoir Mes Amis



That Winning Feeling! Double All Ireland Camogie Champions



Green-Schools achieve Active Travel Flag



Team Bonding



Gaeilge 24 le Rang 1 D



First Year FAI Schools All Ireland Final