

Loreto Secondary School

LORETO LIFE



SUMMER 2024

Principal's Message

Colm Keher, Principal



As is evident from the pages of Loreto Life, the thousands of social media posts and coverage in local and national media, the 2023/2024 academic year was as busy as ever! Every year brings new clubs and societies, new successes and achievements and as a school community, we can take great pride in how much we have to offer our students. I am in awe of the variety of extra-curricular activities, covering a broad range of interests at Loreto. Perhaps what is somewhat underappreciated by members of the school community, is the fact that virtually none of the activities written about in these pages would happen without the volunteerism of our staff. They give freely of their time for no extra reward. Their only motivation is to enhance the experience of our students and to help them to become the best versions of themselves. As a school community, we should appreciate this gift that is being given to our young people and never forget to show our appreciation.

There were a number of changes during the year and we welcomed Ms Fitzpatrick to the senior management team. She replaced Mr Jackman who was appointed principal of Heywood C.S. after six years' service to Loreto as Deputy Principal.

This Summer we bid farewell to Marie Therese Gallagher, who has served as Deputy Principal for twenty years. She has made an extraordinary contribution to this school as a compassionate educator and leader of immense talent. She had a deep love of Loreto education and the feminism of Mary Ward, sharing her desire for women to take their place as leaders within society, the workplace and in all areas of endeavour. This was not held as an abstract philosophy only, but lived out on a daily basis in every encounter with the students in her care. She inspired, urged and cajoled countless students to believe in themselves and to strive to be the best they can be. This philosophy was also lived out in terms of her educational leadership. She was passionate about providing students with a broad curriculum so that they could flourish. As a science teacher, she took particular pride in hearing of the successes of our past pupils in 'STEM' areas. The growth of the number of students continuing their studies in science, technology and engineering owes much to her vision to offer more in terms of our curriculum and extra-curricular activities. She also inspired our students to understand that health and happiness were things

that were achievable, and worked towards providing them with the practical skills and mind-set to achieve both. Ms Gallagher innately valued and contributed to school spirit. She constantly urged students and staff alike to have fun and to participate fully in school events outside of the classroom. In this regard, as with all others, she led by example. Often the loudest voice on the side lines, urging on our teams with positivity and a genuine enthusiasm. I join with the whole school community, wishing Ms Gallagher the very best in her retirement, knowing that she will continue to be a great friend of Loreto and continue to contribute to the world of education for many years to come.

This year we also say goodbye to Ms Maria Murphy, who for many years served as a German and Music teacher. She has always been an outstanding and diligent teacher whose love of her subjects always shone through. Ms Murphy will always be remembered as a great example of our Loreto values while her school tours to Germany created great memories for her students. We thank Ms Murphy for all that she has done for the students in her care and the promotion of her subjects. She has also been a great colleague for so many; she will be greatly missed.

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 2024. 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.

A Message from the Head Girl



With the school year finishing up and the summer holidays swiftly approaching, I think it's finally sinking in that my time here in Loreto is coming to an end. What a great six years it has been! It still feels like only yesterday that we walked

through Loreto's doors for the first time and I think I can say on behalf of all of the Sixth Years that the past few years have truly flown by. I don't think I've fully grasped that I won't be walking through Loreto's doors once again come September, but as sad as I am to be leaving Loreto I am equally excited for what the future will hold!

I think it's fair to say that some of my favourite memories from my time in school have come from the various extracurricular activities that I've gotten involved in over the years, for example our TY production of 'Footloose The Musical' with the CBS or getting to take part in the Loreto Inter-Schools Debates. From sports like hockey and camogie, to other activities such as debating and choir, there really is something for everyone! I suppose one of the biggest pieces of advice that I can offer is to get involved in as much as you can during your time at school.

Getting involved in extracurricular activities is a great way to make new friends and also to take a much needed break from the books. We're so lucky to have so many different clubs and societies here in Loreto and I cannot encourage you enough to try a few of them out!

Another piece of advice would be to enjoy your time at school. I know we're constantly told that secondary school flies by but I don't think you fully

realise just how quickly the time passes until it's coming to an end. Over the past few years, I have made countless memories and formed friendships that I will cherish forever. I encourage you to try your best to put yourself out there and talk to new people. I promise you won't regret it!

Over the past year, we as a school community have had countless successes. From the Senior Camogie team winning the All-Ireland Final to the Bratislava Choir taking home a gold ribbon. We really did it all! A few of my personal highlights from the year include our Barbie themed Miss First Year and our Grinch themed Christmas Concert. Myself and all of the Sixth Years enjoyed putting on a show for you all and we really hope you enjoyed it!

I would like to thank you all for making the past six years so special. To the teachers and all of the staff for always being patient and putting up with our antics, to Brian, Barry and Eugene for all their work throughout the years and to all of the students for creating such a lovely atmosphere throughout the school.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a massive thank you to all of the lovely Sixth Years! Thank you all so much for the fun times we've shared over the years. We've always been such a close year group and everyone has been so eager to lend a hand over the year. It has been an absolute pleasure and an honour to have been given the opportunity to be your Head Girl this year and I wish you all nothing but the best in the future. From the bottom of my heart I'd like to wish you all the very best for the rest of your time here in Loreto. I hope that you all have an enjoyable and restful summer, you deserve it!

Thanks again!
Séarlait O'Callaghan

This year we will be rebranding and launching under a new title "Loreto Life". I hope the publication gives an insight and indication of the number of exciting and fun events that our students have been involved in over the past academic year. I would like to highlight the role the whole staff plays in providing a range of academic and extracurricular activities which our students are blessed to have access to.

I'd like to thank all the staff and students who contributed photographs and articles for this end of year magazine.

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



EDITOR'S
NOTE

Deputy Principal's Final Farewell Marie Therese Gallagher



As I prepare to embark on my next life chapter, I am filled with mixed emotions. Loreto Kilkenny has become my second home for 23 wonderful years and I will greatly miss being part of this community. It has been an absolute privilege to work here both as a Science and Maths teacher and as Deputy Principal.

for your dedication to education which in turn has helped to shape the lives of so many young Loreto women. Thank you to my colleagues in the senior management teams - Ms Fitzpatrick, Ms Moran and Mr Keher, and the Boards of Management (current and past) for their unwavering support of me over the years as I carried out the duties of my role.

And finally to you the students, both current and past, thank you for inspiring me, educating me and challenging me to always be reflective in my work. Thank you for your constant displays of courage, adaptability, generosity and most importantly, humour. I have been honoured to have been part of your Loreto journey. Your education here on the Granges Road is the most incredible and life changing gift you will ever receive. Use it well to develop all your gifts and talents so that you can take on new challenges and leadership roles in the future - believe in yourselves.

And my last words of wisdom to you is best described by Mother Teresa - *'Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.'*

Is mise le meas,
Marie Therese Gallagher

I am very proud and grateful to be part of this vibrant and dynamic school community where I have witnessed at first hand on so many occasions our exceptional school spirit.

This school spirit has been evident in all the joyous moments, the challenges and the friendships I've shared with so many of you over the years.

To you, the parents of both current and past pupils, thank you for entrusting us to educate your daughters and for all your support and cooperation. Thank you to all my colleagues, both current and retired,

Parents Association

Loreto Parents Association meet on six occasions on Monday evenings at 7:30 in the school over the school academic year. The dates for each meeting are listed in the school calendar and reminders are sent out on compass. 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 psychologist Dr Deirdre Holden and GP Dr Julie McMahon who provided information on positive mental health for parents of teenagers. Parents are given the opportunity to provide feedback during the meetings and also to voice any queries they may have. The relaxed nature of the meeting allow parents the time to discuss school developments etc.

This year we assisted with the introduction of the PE uniform. Parents from the PA provided parent

feedback, assisted with research and answered queries during our meetings. This is an example of how the Parents Association can assist with new developments in the school. We are currently in the process of looking at recycling of school uniforms, particularly school coats. The Parents Association arrange an annual raffle each year and are very grateful to parents who purchase raffle tickets and donate prizes. This year we raised €5,500. We are utilising the raised funds to contribute to yearbooks for 6th years. We will discuss other suggestions for utilising funds during our future meetings. We also collaborate with the Student Council for suggestions from their perspective. 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 and hear your suggestions.

Prizegiving



Sinead O'Sullivan Memorial Cup
Clodagh Maher



Harte Cup Winner
Anna Hartnett



Mary Ward Award
Anna Eustace



Loreto Trust Joy Award
Jayne Farrell



LCA Student of the Year



Transition Year
Student of the Year
Laura Cahill



Awards reaction

Academic Awards

A special ceremony was held to acknowledge the excellent Leaving and Junior Cert results of the class of 2023.



Loreto Alumna Award Winner
Helena Duggan



Top Junior Cert Award
Sara Mulrooney



Senior Music Spirit Award
Anna O'Brien



ETB Apprentice Award
Fiona Manning



Reel Life Science Award



Top Leaving Cert Results 2023

Prizegiving



Outgoing Head Girl Searlait O'Callaghan and
Head Girl for 2024/2025 Amy Walton



Junior Sports Star
Eleanor Doheny



Deputy Head Girl Handover
Anna Eustace and Medha Trehan hand over
to incoming Deputy Head Girls Anna Waldron
and Millie Gilsean



Senior Sports Star
Caoimhe Keher Murtagh



Games Captains Handover
Outgoing Sports Captains Emma Jane Corr
(left) and Rachel Dowling (far right) hand over
to 2024 / 2025 Games Captains Sinéad Carrol
(centre left) and Anna Doheny (centre right).



Helena Duggan Short Story Award
Clodagh Maye

SPARK CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

This year we started the creative writing group 'Spark.' We met every Wednesday at lunchtime and enjoyed writing both stories and poems. The girls in the group showed superb creativity and imagination and we are hoping to create an anthology of work next year to be added to the school library. We went on wonderful outings such as attending The Loreto Literary Festival in Trinity College and enjoyed local excursions to Khan's bookshop as well as an online writing workshop. More recently, we visited the beautiful new library in Kilkenny. We will welcome Irish author Dave Rudden to the school in September for another writing workshop.



Below is an extract from a poem by fifth year student poet extraordinaire Jazper Gibson. We look forward to next year and welcoming new members!

Foreshadowing

Your life is like an English novel

Your words have me hooked on every twist in the tale.
Your point of view; mine. You write these stories and I hang onto every word

Your actions are like symbolism for what's going on in your head. The candle you let burn out symbolising that our time is up.

I'm like a poor English student trying to decipher your every hint, your foreshadowing of what's going to happen next. Your imagery as you speak. I may be an English student but I only want to be fluent in you.

Many others have studied you, your friends have a degree in your literature, yet everyone has a different interpretation of your meaning.

I wish to know you inside out like a Shakespearean actor knows their lines. I want to experience the scene you set, hear the poems you speak and see the image you make.

Your monologues, like gospel,
are the truth

Which I follow religiously.



Kieran Cuddihy visit

Kieran Cuddihy, radio broadcaster from Newstalk fm on the award winning show The Hard Shoulder visited Transition Year students and gave us an insight into the world of broadcasting.

What a fantastic morning! Huge thanks to Ms Cosgrove for facilitating.



Should Tech Take A Time Out?

An article by Ríonach Brady for Science Week about technology in schools.

Technology is everywhere. Everywhere you look technology has been used to make objects and further improve said objects. It's in our pockets, in our ears, in our hands, even in our eyes. It's in our hospitals, supermarkets, libraries and now even in our very own school.

It really is no surprise that this has happened to our schools as technology has many, many benefits to us as a society and I for one am in favour of them. However, I am also here to talk about how technology in schools might not be all sunshine and rainbows as a lot of us think it is.

Technology has been in our schools for a very long time, just not the way it is now. Think back to when you were in primary school. It's a rainy day, your teacher says that your class is not allowed outside for lunch, you're miserable because you wanted to play 'capture the flag' for your half an hour or so of freedom. So, to cheer you all up, your teacher retrieves the TV. This (at the time) massive around 50 kg box television on wheels was the height of fashion. Your teacher would turn on some reasonably educational movie or documentary to help you all pass the time. Your day was made. Now, televisions look very different and usually aren't even in secondary schools. This is because technology in schools has surpassed that of the box television on wheels. Nowadays, teachers are set up with a moderately sized laptop or iPad which do all the things the old fashioned rainy day TV could do and more, and you are too.

These incredible machines we all have in this school grant us (almost) unlimited access to the internet. A magical, artificial place where you can watch reasonably educational movies or documentaries like before (by all means with the permission of your teacher), but now whenever you want. Your teacher can print out class work via Bluetooth for handouts, they can cast videos from their laptops to their projectors on today's topic, they can even host live video calls from the comfort of their own homes to the many houses of their students as was done during Covid and let's not forget the magic that is Google Classroom. All these things should make teaching and learning easier for us then. Right?

Sadly this is not always the case. Due to this unlimited access to the internet, some students, usually the younger ones who have just upgraded from that box TV from before to a new iPad, are finding it very hard to pay attention. And I get it, when you're in first year, all you want to do is airdrop silly images to your new friends, you want to watch pointless YouTube videos and play even more pointless Kahoots. Teachers now, more than ever, have to try extremely hard to engage their students due to their now very, very short attention spans. This could be used to the teacher's advantage however. They can use airdrop for group projects, give them educational videos to watch on YouTube and test their knowledge with the forever fun, Kahoot. A study by IJCS shows that using these methods of teaching in schools can improve results by 45.45%. That's positive isn't it!

Another new method of technology due to internet access in schools is AI (artificial intelligence) such as the ever famous 'ChatGPT' or the new 'Bard' by Google. This is a controversial topic. Many people are against the use of artificial intelligence in schools entirely and I understand why. It can be used as a means to cheat your way through



difficult homework tasks like essays or coding. If AI can do these things for you, then you might wonder why you should develop any skills for those things in the first place. But we must remember that this is not the AI's fault. It's what we do with it. Yes, AI does do these things we ask it to do but that is because you told it to do it. It's just doing its job! So I urge you to stop taking such a negative stance towards AI and open up your mind to the possibilities it holds.

For example, you're in class studying a language, let's say German. Your teacher is reading out the script (which was sourced and played on the laptop provided by the school) from the listening comprehension you had last week, however she says a word you've never heard before. Naturally you go to look up the word on Google translate or some other (probably more accurate) German translator. You type the word in and there it is in front of you. You write it down in your copy and you're done. Now I want you to imagine the same situation but only 10 or so years in the past. There is no iPad to help you now. All you have is a 30 year old German dictionary to aid you in your troubles. Now I don't know about you but I personally would spend at least 10 times as long looking for a specific word while using a real paperback Collins dictionary. It's just not practical anymore. And AI just saved you an enormous amount of time. But it's not just the big things like translators; AI is also predictive text and autocorrect, facial detection or fingerprint recognition on your devices and of course your favourite digital assistant, Siri, and the list goes on and on forever. Artificial intelligence isn't all bad, we just need to crack down on restrictions and how we make use of it in school.

The future holds many unknowns, but one certainty is that the role of technology in schools will continue to be utilised for years to come. All data will soon be digitised (as our timetables, most of if not all of Loreto's files and our books have changed from real paper to a digital format) and then there will be no going back. But don't worry, if you're someone who fears that the robots will take over and destroy the world, don't. Technology is nowhere near that advanced (yet). I believe technology such as AR and VR (augmented reality and virtual reality) will be used to aid lessons and help engage students in a more creative, hands-on way. I believe applications such as Google Classroom will improve remote learning, making it even more effective. I believe almost all technology has been made to improve human life as we know it, and it does so most of the time. It is not technology that is the problem, it is our attitude towards it and how we use it.

Home Economics



Home Economics isn't just about yummy apple crumble, killer chocolate biscuit cake and fantastic fish goujons or about accurate measuring of ingredients, skillful mixing, and precise cooking times.

The food we put in our mouths has the nutritional requirements we need to survive. Home Economics teaches you about nutritional value of different food groups and value for money also. 2 eggs (a super food) has the same amount of protein as a steak and is way cheaper.

Back to my point! Home Economics is about food but also has links to biology, finance, health, design, social studies, project management, sewing and textiles.

During the year, 2nd years designed and made a holiday /event themed bunting. This was a very enjoyable project because it was our first time making one as a class. We put our creative minds to the test when we made our bunting. When we came up with ideas for our appliqué and different designs to use on our bunting.

For Christmas, my class made chocolate biscuit cakes as a treat. This was very exciting as it was our first time making a proper cake. These were absolutely delicious, a great Christmas treat. When making these we experimented with fondant which doesn't taste that nice, but great for decorating a cake!

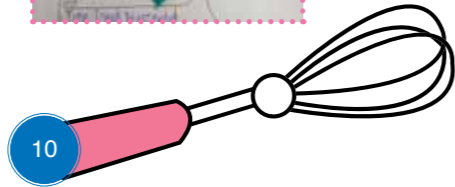
The other year groups were kept busy as well. The first years were trying out cooking and putting their sewing skills to the test by making heart decorations. The third years had their junior cert practical exam recently, which is 50% of their grade!

They made an assortment of dishes with a time limit and a teacher from another school to impress. The fourth years made amazing Christmas cakes decked with decorations and fondant. They also had a bake off. It was a cupcake decorating bake off competition with unique themes

The Home Economics department comes up with many competitions throughout the year, such as the Halloween themed cupcake challenge and the transition year Bake Off. If Home Economics was a food, it would be an egg....it has everything you need or maybe a pizza with all the toppings, yes all the toppings!

Home Economics gives you skills for life, the skills to survive!

By Sadbh Henderson 2C



Art

Second Year Art students made some fantastic work this year. Here is a small sample of some wonderful acrylic paintings made under the theme of 'Toys and Treats'. Students worked to build up their skills in the elements of art and a range of media in their sketchbooks before creating a final composition. With these brilliant skills already in their bag of art tricks, we look forward to seeing our Second Year Art students progress next year for their Junior Cycle projects.

Senior Cycle Art

In the Art Department in Loreto, we see some stand out pieces of work during the school year, most are hidden in sketchbooks by our very talented students and very few actually receive the praise which they deserve.

Here are two magnificent artworks from the year. First up, is a 3D puppet constructed by Emily Murphy in 6th Year. The use of natural materials such as the collected moss and twigs is so clever. This choice of material perfectly

communicates the character of the woodland creature. The dramatic eyes and large ears and antlers make this piece a show stopper.

Another artwork worthy of high praise is this realistic still life painting by Emily Smith in 5th Year. The highlights and reflections captured in the cocktail shaker are second to none. The folds in the materials create a sense of depth and rhythm. The colour combinations of blues, greens and yellows all work harmoniously together. Overall, the painting is inviting and catches our attention.

These are great works of art to inspire our younger artists in the disciplines of puppetry and painting.

TY Art gives students the opportunity to collaborate together and prepare work at different phases during the year like decorations at Halloween, posters for events and creating a backdrop for their End of Year Show. TYs enjoy the art room experience, learning skills in planning large scale works and colour mixing but also how to work together as a team.



6th year Tech Team

The Tech Team must be acknowledged. They have been consistent and loyal throughout the last 3 years in Loreto. Their contribution to the Computer Science Department and to the school in general has been exceptional. Their attendance has been exemplary and they are reliable, dependable and enthusiastic.

A grateful thanks to: Jade Bourke, Rionach Brady, Rebecca Butler, Dineli Subasinghage, Ruth McGrath, Sathish Surabhi Gunjur, Anna Hartnett, Sofija Jagetic, Robyn Kenny, Lily Lynch, SORCHA MAHER, Clíodhna McGowan, Hannah McCurdy, Aya Mohielden, Omniya Mohielden, Michelle Murphy, Ellie O'Connor, Antia Parada, Sara Rahman, Tesna Siju, Ericka Tanap, Medha Trehan, Laura White. Ruth McGrath and Robyn Kenny deserve a special mention for their skilled management of the gym's sound system during multiple school events. They handled this responsibility with both confidence and professionalism, greatly contributing to the success of each event.



Loreto Kilkenny's CoderDojo Club Takes On the FIRST Lego League Challenge

This year marked a notable debut for Loreto Kilkenny's CoderDojo Club as they entered the FIRST Lego League for the first time. Comprising students from first, second, and fourth years, the club has shown impressive commitment and skill in their initial venture into the competition.

The team members, Mahiba Ahmad, Maya Coffey, Tania Siju, Dinoshi Perera Subasinghage, Molly McGuire, Emily Downey, Johanna-Leni Hickey-Koep, Roisin Kennedy, Aoibhne Murphy and team captain, Grace Mullaney, have worked diligently capably assisted by Divina Jimbat and Charlotte Cuddihy. A special mention must go to our school's caretaker, Brian, who made a special table for the team to practise on. We really appreciated the effort he made for us.



Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Finals 2023-2024

In November 2023, several senior students from Loreto Kilkenny participated in the National Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge competition. This event provided an excellent platform for them to sharpen their problem-solving abilities in a competitive environment and, for some, to discover their outstanding latent skills in this area.

In recognition of their abilities, several students successfully advanced to the finals, which were held in April 2024 at Maynooth College. We commend Roisin Murphy, Niamh Fields, Abby McCallum, Aoibhne Murphy, Charlotte Cuddihy, Hannah Coughlan, Clodagh Maher, and Sophia Li for their achievements in reaching this stage of the competition. Their participation not only reflects their individual talent but also underscores the supportive learning environment provided by the school.

Loreto Kilkenny Students Involved in Mission Zero Project

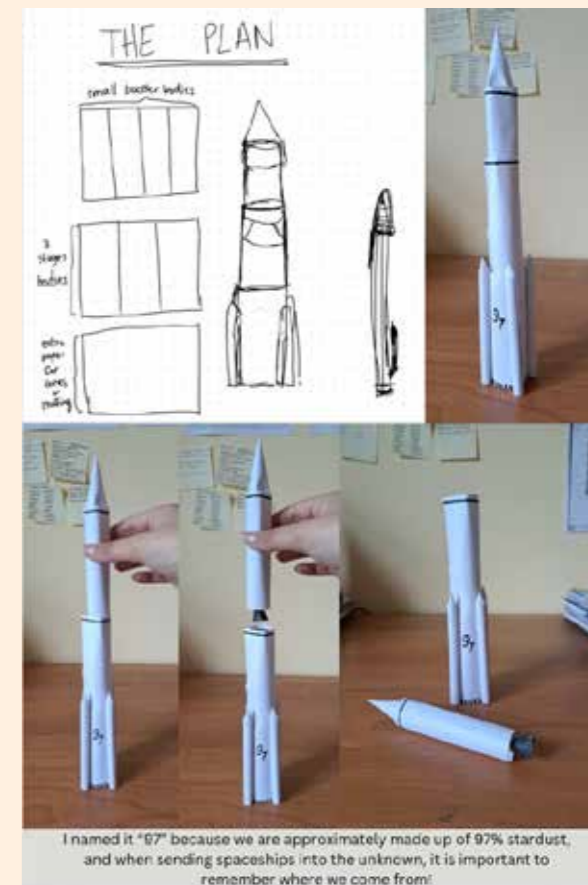
Our 4th, 5th, and 6th-year IT students from Loreto Kilkenny are currently participating in the Mission Zero project. This initiative invites young individuals aged 19 or younger from European Space Agency Member States to create a Python program for execution aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Surabhi Gunjur Sathish has launched her mission to go to Space!

One small step for Loreto Kilkenny, one giant leap for Surabhi! Surabhi Gunjur Sathish, a dedicated 6th-year student at our school, has been accepted into the prestigious European Space Camp. This exceptional opportunity will take place in August at Andøya Space, located on an island in northern Norway.

Each year, the European Space Camp selects only 24 participants aged 17-20 from around the world through a rigorous two-round selection process. Surabhi's journey to this achievement included creating an innovative video presentation for the first round and tackling a series of short questions and a technical challenge in the second round. For the technical challenge, Surabhi impressively constructed a model spaceship using just three sheets of paper—a testament to her ingenuity and skill.

Surabhi's acceptance into the camp is the latest milestone in her remarkable journey of scientific accomplishments, which includes a BT Young Scientist award and receiving accolades at SciFest. Her proactive approach to seeking out challenges to enhance her future career in science is truly inspiring. Surabhi's achievements stem from her relentless hard work, motivation, and consistency and can be an example to all our students of where passion and perseverance can lead.



Computer Room Artwork

Chrisphine Bosango, a 5th-year computer science student, has designed window artwork in room 201 titled "CS for All." Her artwork adds a focal point in the computer room and to our school space. We commend Chrisphine for her creativity.

Astro Pi - Mission Space Lab

After a hiatus of a year, once again, a team of our students has entered an experiment into the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab project. The team members who took on this significant task were: Surabhi Gunjur Sathish (Captain), Robyn Kenny, Antia Parada, Tesna Siju and Ericka Tanap.

The participation of our team highlights the dedication and ingenuity of Loreto Kilkenny students. We commend the team for their efforts. Their work exemplifies our school's commitment to STEAM in all its forms.



Microsoft Office Specialist Irish Finalists 2024

We extend our congratulations to all students who participated in the Microsoft Office Specialist Competition this year. This year, there was a notable interest in mastering Microsoft Office applications, which are essential skills for academic success and career development.

Two of our students, Hannah Coughlan and Lucy O'Connell, progressed to the Irish Finals in Word. Hannah completed the exam in record time of 20 min and scored 100% in the exam! As a result Hannah came first in Ireland and she will go on and compete during the Summer to attempt to reach the world championships in America.



Ethos Day

The Ethos Prefect launch took place on September 18th in Hughes Hall. We were presented with our prefect badges by Mr Keher and Ms Gallagher. We all got a welcoming round of applause as we entered this leadership role in Loreto. Our special guest on the day, Ms.O'Dwyer, informed us about her leadership role as the first female President of the Rotary Club, which inspired us in our new role. We celebrated the day with ethos themed cupcakes made by Sheila (Thank you!)

This year's Ethos Day took place on October 20th, 2023. The purpose of this day was to involve all students in celebrating our school's ethos, and to acknowledge this year's chosen charism which is truth. This year we held many different events on the day to spell out truth such as: tug of war, rounders, ultimate frisbee, treats and a hoolie. There was also an opportunity for reflection and prayer in the Oratory for students and staff.

Every year we focus on one of the charisms of Mary Ward. This year was Truth. This charism became the foundation on which our discussions, planning and activities were based. The 5th year ethos leaders alongside Mr. Ryan designed and displayed a mural which was created using student contributions about what truth means to them.

On November 21st, the fifth year Ethos prefects met with Caroline Clarke, former Loreto Director of Education and Leadership upon her visit to the school. The prefects spoke about our

role in the school promoting the Ethos, our progress to date and our plans for the future development of our roles as Ethos prefects.

The Ethos prefects were invited to address the school community at our Christmas Assembly. Niamh Fields, Aoife Cotter and Anna Waldron represented the prefects in their address to the school in which they spoke about our roles as leaders, our mission of promoting our Ethos in our daily lives and our upcoming plans and events.

As you all know, as ethos prefects we aim to promote the charisms of Mary Ward, truth, justice, freedom, sincerity, and joy. Composing the school prayer was a thoughtful and collaborative effort carried out over three successive weeks at lunch time by us, the ethos leaders with the help of Mr. Keating and Ms. Dalton. Our initial discussions focused on understanding the purpose of prayer and then we began by reflecting on the charisms of Mary Ward. This provided a structure to the prayer that is unique to us in Loreto, Kilkenny. We also considered what would make the prayer inclusive for the whole school community, while aligning with our school's Catholic values. Through collective brainstorming and drafting the prayer, we aimed to create a prayer that resonates with the entire school community, and embodied the spirit of Mary Ward. You will notice that the school prayer celebrates many aspects of life in Loreto Kilkenny

such as honesty, equality, respect and friendship. We hope this prayer will be used in Loreto for years to come. The second year ethos prefects then met with senior management to share the new school prayer. They were commended by Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Keher for their maturity and the quality of their presentation. The new school prayer was launched and first shared with the entire school community during the prize giving ceremony.

Dear God,

*We thank you for blessing us with such a special school community in which we are **free** to be our **true** selves. We **sincerely** ask you to help us be authentic in ourselves, honest in our actions, and genuine in our friendships.*

*We pray for **justice** in our school. We ask you to guide us in treating each other respectfully, equally, and fairly. We are thankful for our welcoming community, in which all are encouraged to participate and celebrate enthusiastically in a spirit of joy.*

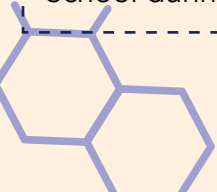
*God, because of you, we have the **freedom** to pursue our individuality, interests, and education in Loreto. Remind us to protect, cherish, and live out the legacy of Mary Ward during our time in school and beyond.*

Amen

Computer Science Week April 2024

During Computer Science Week in April 2024, the Computer Science department organised several events including coding events, quizzes and demonstrations.

One of these events featured the Lego CoderDojo Team demonstrating to the Coding Club from St John's Snr Primary School during lunchtime.



TV Highlights



TV Highlights



Choir / Music



Feis Ceoil



We found out about our Bratislava trip in April 2023, at the end of fifth year. After the choir's success at the Interschools competition in Wesley College and at Feis Ceoil, there was hunger for more. To kick off the journey to get to Bratislava, we held a fundraising concert in St Canice's Church in May 2023. We were all so excited to compete at such a high level, and of course to travel to Slovakia. When we came back to school in September, the date was set for the 7th of December, and we got confirmation that we would be teaming up with the CBS Senior Choir. From that moment on it was all systems go. We had to prepare 15 minutes worth of repertoire for the competition, so lots of rehearsal and practice was required to bring everything together. The boys and girls rehearsed separately at first, which then turned into joint rehearsals in the CBS on Wednesdays and Fridays as the date became fast approaching. We also had to do lots of fundraising to make the trip happen. This included carol singing in the town hall, another concert in St Canice's, which was a rousing success. For this concert, we were joined by the Orchestra, Trad Band and the CBS first year choir, all of which received glowing reviews from all in attendance. This concert was a great success, and we even had enough money at the end to buy Bratislava hoodies for everyone on the trip (which proved to be handy in the airport!)

The trip itself was absolutely amazing, with tours around Bratislava, visits to the Christmas Markets, a day trip to Vienna, another carol service and of course, the competition. We were all so nervous seeing the other choirs we were competing against from all over the world, but we were excited to show off all our hard work that we had put in since September. We performed "Steal Away", "Mary Did You Know", "Mo Ghile Mear", "Oh Holy Night" and "Ding a Ding a Ding". In the end, all of our efforts paid off when we were awarded Gold for our performance! Although we were all exhausted when we returned home after the trip, we were welcomed back with great pride from both school communities. However, we weren't quite finished yet. The choir went on to win both Lyric FM's Best Secondary School Choir competition (as well as being broadcasted on air!) and once again the Interschools competition at Wesley College! Overall, everyone involved in this trip had an absolute ball, in rehearsals, on the trip, and in our forays afterwards. We are all so grateful to have been given this wonderful opportunity in our final year of secondary school. We would like to thank the teachers from both schools for making it happen. It was certainly a trip to remember!

Molly Cody & Ava O'Meara

Ag Science

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



Lois Brett Visit

Loreto past pupil Lois Boon-Brett pictured with her niece Olivia Hovendon. Lois is employed by the European Commission and leads the Joint Research Centre. She addressed students in all years throughout the day and shared her memories of school life in school, her career pathway as a chemist from WIT and NUIG to her current role with the EC. Her interactive presentation about the EC and her own life advice was very well received by all the girls.



Leaving Cert Applied

Student View Molly Glennon LCA 1

My name is Molly Glennon and I am currently in 5th year LCA. I have really been enjoying the LCA program. This program has taught me practical knowledge and skills for the work force and this suits my style of learning. Since the program is based on continuous assessment it takes the pressure off final exams. There are a variety of subjects such as Hair and Beauty, Childcare, English and Communications. These subjects give me a better idea of what career I would like to pursue in the future. The LCA program is supportive and it's nice to have teamwork. Overall, LCA has prepared me for further education and the workforce as I have obtained a part time job in hospitality since joining the LCA program. I am looking forward to year 2.



Debating

First Year Debate Competition:

This year, we held our first inter-class debate competition for first year students. The adjudicators were blown away by the incredibly high standard of debating, as the girls all delivered amazing speeches. The winners were as follows:

- First place:** Ellie Power and Hannah Styles (1D)
- Second place:** Siofra Connolly and Ruth Loughlin (1A)
- Joint third place:** Ciara Power and Sarah McDonald (1B); Alannah Ryan and Matilda Mallon Rafter (1E).
- Best overall speaker:** Ruth Loughlin (1A)

Kate Maher Cup:

Ruth Loughlin, in first year, recently won the prestigious Trinity College Kate Maher Cup public speaking competition. Her captivating speech, delivered in the Trinity College debating chamber, impressed both the audience and judges. As part of her prize, Ruth enjoyed a reception at Trinity College and a tour of the Book of Kells exhibition.

Loreto Debate Competition:

Keelin Walsh and Lucy Sweetman (second year) qualified for the semi final of the Loreto Debates, beating tough competition. Niamh Cotter and Grace Clune (also in second year) progressed to the finals of the Junior Loreto Debates achieving third place. The girls were the only team outside of Dublin to qualify for the semi finals. They all showed a fantastic work ethic and delivered engaging speeches.

UCD Junior Schools Debate Competition:

Susan Bofin, Michaela Deena Dayalan, Isabel Hayden, Eve Nichol and Amy Cahill (third year) all qualified for the semi final of the UCD Junior Schools Debating competition. With over 200 students competing in the competition since September, this is an amazing achievement to progress so far in the competition.

TY Debates

This year saw the 3rd instalment of the Interclass TY Debates, whereby 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 Sara Mulrooney and Muireann Cashin, representing 4A. In second place, representing 4F, were Roisin Collins and Laura Cahill. In joint third place were Clodagh Callan and Caoimhe Walton from 4C and Charlotte Cuddihy and Charlotte Moore from 4D.

Concern Debates

A panel of 8 students represented Loreto in the Concern Debates. 5th years: Saoirse Teehan, Aoife O'Neill, Anna Waldron and Rose V Antony, along with 4th years: Clodagh Callan, Aoibhne Murphy, Caoimhe Walton and Sara Mulrooney reached the third knockout round of the competition, and were among the last 16 teams left in the competition. Almost 200 teams originally took

part. The girls debated on motions such as: "Properly regulated, Artificial Intelligence will be a force for good in our world" and "Voluntourism does more harm than good to communities in the global south".

Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition Medha Trehan, Lelia Mahon, Angela Carroll took part in the 17 and Over category of the Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition, in Waterford City Hall. The 16 and Unders were represented by Ruby Cotter, Clodagh Callan, Irene Bijoy and Lucy O'Connell. Lelia was a runner-up in the 17 and over group, while Lucy won the 16 and Under category and represented the South East in the National Final of the Soapbox Public Speaking Competition, in the Royal College of Physicians.

Trinity Hist Girls Mace Competition

Lelia Mahon and Sara Mulrooney were the first students from Loreto, to represent the school in the Trinity Hist Girls Mace Competition, which requires students to present a 5 min speech, with only 15 mins prep.

The Senior Loreto Debate Team consisted of Saoirse Teehan, Anna Waldron, Rose V Antony, Sara Mulrooney, Clodagh Callan and Lucy O'Connell. Kilkenny A and C got through to the last eight in the Semi-Finals. Saoirse won Best Speaker on the first day of the competition.

Well done to all the girls who took part in the various competitions throughout the year, we are very proud of you.

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

Sara Mulrooney and Lelia Mahon, at Trinity College Dublin for the Trinity Hist Girls Mace Debates

Muireann Cashin and Sara Mulrooney, 4A, who won the Interclass TY Debates

Lucy O'Connell, with the iPad she won, after winning the South East Regional Under 16 Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition. Lelia was the runner up in the 17 and over category

Lucy O'Connell in the National Final of the Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition, in the Royal College of Physicians, representing the South East

New Beginnings

Huge thanks to Fr Whearty who leaves Loreto after 27 years of service. We were blessed to have Fr Whearty at the helm as school Chaplin and thank him for his friendliness, kindness, compassion and wisdom. He officiated at all our school services throughout the years and always made them very meaningful occasions. In his final homily he reflected on his time and the many happy joyous occasions together and also on the difficulties and challenges we have faced as a school community together. We wish him well in his new parish and safe in the knowledge he will always be welcomed back as a friend of Loreto.



Ms Fitzpatrick had a fresh start as Deputy Principal, an appointment universally embraced by the whole school community and has taken to the role with zeal.



Loreto Debates

First Year Debating Winners

Kate Maher Cup Winner Ruth Loughlin

Clodagh Callan, Lucy O'Connell, Anna Waldron and Saoirse Teehan at the Loreto Debates Semi-Final in Foxrock

Clodagh Callan, Caoimhe Walton, Aoife O'Neill and Rose V Antony taking part in the Concern Debates

Junior Loreto Debates Finalists Niamh Cotter and Grace Clune

Irene Bijoy, Lucy O'Connell, Sara Mulrooney, Ruby Cotter, Medha Trehan, Angela Carroll and Lelia Mahon at the Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking South East Regional Final in the Great Room, in Waterford City

Aoibhne Murphy, Anna Waldron, Sara Mulrooney and Saoirse Teehan taking part in the Concern Debates

Clodagh Callan, Caoimhe Walton, Roisin Collins, Laura Cahill, Muireann Cashin, Sara Mulrooney, Charlotte Moore and Charlotte Cuddihy who were all finalists in the Interclass TY Debates

hairspray

The Musical

A joint production between Loreto & CBS Kilkenny

Leading Lady Nola Garcia Donohoe

This year has been very eventful and enjoyable for many reasons, but performing for our school production *Hairspray The Musical* has been the highlight for me. Having the privilege of playing the lead role as Tracy Turnblad, which I'm very grateful for, was indeed challenging but very exciting. Along with the CBS, we spent months perfecting every song, dance and acting scenes in amazing musical rehearsals that we all loved and appreciated. Everyone helped in the making of props, costumes and backdrop to bring our musical from the 60's to life. We all made a great bond throughout the lead up to the show and especially on the last week of rehearsals when we were so excited to do a full run through. Finally, we went to the Watergate after all the hard work - *Welcome to the Corny Collins Show!* We performed four amazing sold out shows, to the highest of standards. This was due to our music teachers, director and choreographer who worked as hard as anyone to get the show done. To perform for the public and the first years in both Loreto and CBS was a daunting task. Our amazing team performed successfully to a total of 1,600 people across 5 shows, having the opportunity of bringing the inspirational story of Tracy Turnblad from Baltimore to Kilkenny. Looking back at all that we experienced throughout that show week, all the adrenaline of excitement that after all the hard work we finally got to show it. This whole experience was unbelievable, if I could I would definitely go back and do it all over again. I feel so fortunate that I got this opportunity and grateful for the amazing feedback we all got from our family and friends. The whole process was hard, but really worth it in the end. Thank you to all of our incredible teachers for giving us this amazing opportunity. I definitely envy the current 3rd years as I wish I could do it all again.

Nola Garcia Donohoe

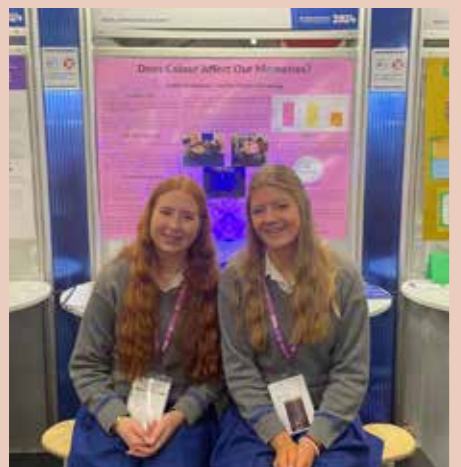
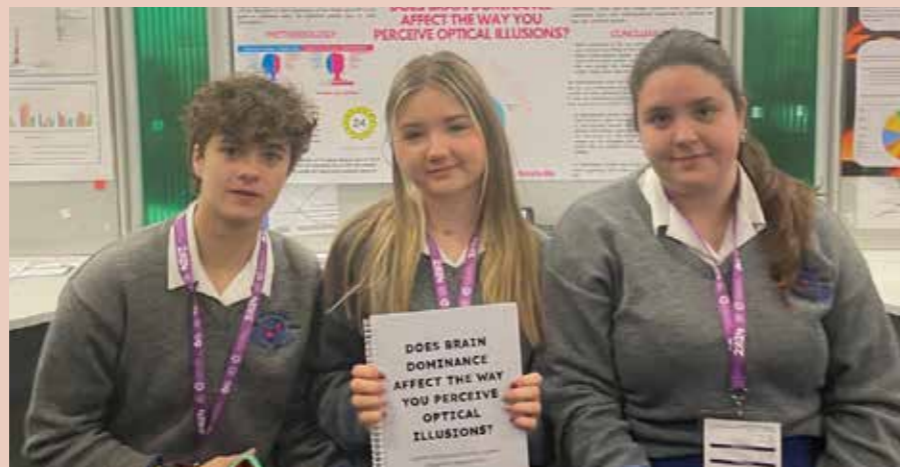
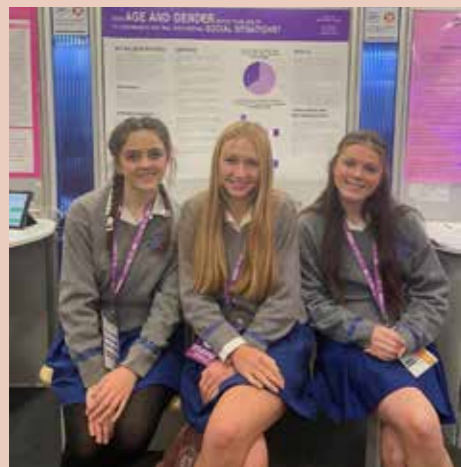


BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

We were delighted to have 31 of our Fourth Year students qualify for this year's BT Young

Scientist & Technology Exhibition back in January. 12 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!



Public Access to Law (PAL)

After placing as semi finalists in the Irish Public Access to Law Mock Trials, our team was offered the opportunity to compete in the Mock Trial World Championships. With our sights set on The Windy City, we began dissecting our case in July 2023. This was no easy feat as we were handed a two hundred page document with all of the case details, which were written in American legal jargon, no less! Through hard work, lots of practice and of course invaluable help from the teachers supporting us, we were able to reach a high, competitive standard of conducting a mock trial. We couldn't believe that what started as a transition year adventure was taking us to the USA, to trial against the world's best teenagers in the game.

Competing in the Empire Mock Trials

After four months of preparation we finally got to perform the mock trial against different schools from all over the world. We competed against two American teams, a Canadian team and a team from South Korea. It was an honour to

compete against teams of such high calibre. When we arrived over we were immediately astonished by the professionalism of both the set-up of the competition and of the other teams. It really felt as though we were prosecuting and defending a real case. The experience of performing the trial was extremely nerve wracking but equally as exciting. Thanks to the help of Ms Kehoe, Ms McDonnell, Ms Fitzpatrick and Con McDonnell we were really able to hold our own against the highly experienced American teams. Our examinations, speeches and objections made quite the impression and we received very positive feedback from the judges. It was great to know all our hard work finally paid off. While the competition was competitive there was also a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere which was nice for us newcomers and we were able to make lots of friends from our opposing teams.

Activities in Chicago ...

From the heights of the Willis Tower to the depths of the Chicago

subway, to say we were busy was definitely an understatement! Right from the get go we immersed ourselves in the Windy City. We explored Chicago on a scenic river architecture tour, learnt all about the American constitution while watching Hamilton at the James Nederlander Theatre, we were enthralled by the stunning artwork of the Art Institute Chicago and a trip to Target did not go amiss! I think everyone on the PAL Team will agree with me when I say that, out of all of the wonderful activities we did, going to the Chicago Blackhawks versus Florida Panthers ice hockey game at the United Center was definitely one of the highlights.

Getting the opportunity to go to Chicago was a once in a lifetime experience. To see a true city in all its glory and competing in the World Championships is something none of us will ever forget, and we will cherish the moments we spent there together greatly.

Ceara Doocey, Sarah Keher & Anna Waldron



Tennis

Loreto Kilkenny entered the Leinster Schoolgirls' Tennis Competition 2024 for the first time in the Loreto's history. Four teams were entered at the Senior Level (U19), Junior (U16), and 2 teams at Minor level (U14). Many of the teams competed against many of the top tennis schools in Dublin and this provided the teams with valuable experience at a highly competitive level of tennis.

The teams competed against Mount Anville, Loreto on the Green, Loreto Dalkey, Holy Child Killiney, Teresians, and Mockross College. On writing this article, the Junior team has reached the semi-finals of the Junior B division and we wish the best of luck to the team that will compete against Muckcross College.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the competitive games and the opportunity to visit the Dublin schools. A Special thanks to Kilkenny Tennis Club for using the tennis courts for our home games and to the many parents who supervised and provided transport for the away games. Thanks to parents Aoife Limpkins and Paul Cotter for their help organising the events.

Minor White team: Rachel O'Connell, Niamh Cotter, Beatrice Bolger, Ailbhe Limpkin, Mia Rusnak, and Ava Clune

Minor Blue team: Aisling Marry, Lily Brennan, Emily Chambers, Leah Fogary, Ruth Loughlin, Sophie Meredith, Faye Kemple, Rachel O'Brien, and Hannah Styles

Junior Team: Onagh Fitzgerald, Niamh Fields, Aoibhe Callery, Katie Chambers, Mia Duggan, Julia Walsh, Jean Grace, Sarah Rowe, Orla Keating.

Senior Team: Aoife Cotter, Faye Reynolds, Eva Molloy, Hannah Cuffe, Ceara Doocey, Clare Keating, Jill O'Brien, and Kate Aylmer



26

Club Champions

We were also delighted to welcome some current and past pupils from the victorious Dicksboro All Ireland Club Camogie Champions back to the school. The team was captained by past Games Captain Aoife Prendergast.

Camogie

Junior Camogie

It may be a case of mixed emotions for our Junior Camogie squad looking back on the year that's been, such is the talent and calibre of player throughout the panel, but they can be proud of their many achievements and victories this season.

Firstly, after just losing out last year in the provincial final by a narrow margin, the girls reclaimed the Junior 7-a-side Camogie Leinster and All Ireland titles in Term 1. This involved facing off against some of the best players in the country at this age in many fast-paced contests. Our girls impressed throughout this campaign, lining up opposite Ursuline Thurles in the 7s All Ireland final. Despite going into the half behind their opponents, Loreto showed great maturity, composing themselves to fight back and take the lead in the second half, winning the contest convincingly for a finish.

This victory may well have provided huge impetus for the rest of the year at both Junior and Senior levels, as it showed all Loreto players the importance of perseverance and trusting in your own abilities, even when the chips are down.

Trainings continued to be of a very high standard throughout the winter as the girls qualified for the Leinster Junior A final, adding another provincial title at the expense of FCJ Bunclody, extending our school's lead at this grade.

A trip up north to Derry was the prize as the players, management and supporters made the journey up to Swatragh where our girls would take on St. Patrick's Maghera in the All Ireland semi final. On a day where wind made for difficult playing conditions, Loreto fell short to their opponents, who were every bit fired up for this game after losing out to our girls in last year's All Ireland final.

There will be no shortage of motivation for these girls for future years, and they can hold their heads high as they represented the school with pride all year round and will no doubt give us more big days to look forward to.

Senior Camogie on Cloud 9!

Our senior camogie squad truly had a year to remember. Firstly the girls defended their Leinster title in January, defeating Colaiste Abhainn Ri Callan on home turf. Next up was a titanic battle with familiar foes St. Pat's Maghera in the All Ireland semi final, played under lights in Dunmore. Extra time beckoned when the sides couldn't be separated after a frantic final few minutes. After 80+ minutes of camogie, it was the girls wearing the black and amber who outworked their opponents and showed great composure to earn a spot in the final.

No one needed reminding of the task that lay ahead as the Loreto girls were up against an Ursuline Thurles team who defeated this group of Loreto Kilkenny players after a replayed Junior final in Johnstown just two years previously. However it wasn't to be heartbreak this time round as the Loreto girls shone on All Ireland final day, showcasing their range of skill, teamwork and grit - the hallmarks of any Loreto Kilkenny camogie team.

Players left everything out on the Rathdowney pitch with a lively crowd watching on. Despite a strong challenge from the Ursuline girls, the cats ended up getting the cream, with Loreto claiming a huge victory. Full time **LORETO KILKENNY : 2-14(20) URSULINE THURLES: 2-6(12)**

Our graduating 6th Years on the panel played a huge role throughout the year as they helped Loreto Kilkenny to a record 9th All Ireland A Camogie Title at senior colleges level, topping the roll of honour. That is an accolade no one can take away from them.

The following day, in recognition of their achievements, the panel was invited by Kilkenny County Board to be presented to the crowd at half time in the Kilkenny vs Offaly senior hurling league game in Nowlan Park, a special honour fit for celebrating the victory of a special group.

We commend our graduating students for their dedication and hard work throughout their years here at Loreto and wish them well for the future. We will be seeing them continue to excel in both their academics and sporting endeavours wherever the road takes them.



27

Basketball

U19 Basketball

Another great year of basketball! Our u19's played in some thrilling encounters over the league campaign, winning and losing by narrow margins over the course of the season. The All-Ireland Cup saw us take on Pipers Hill in the first round and despite Pipers Hill taking the lead in the final quarter, our u19's managed to make a comeback, progressing to an All-Ireland 1/4 final by a one point victory. Our u19's fought hard in the following game but lost after a long trip to Galway.

We look forward to next year and bid farewell to our 6th year student and captain, Aoibhín Timmons.

U16 Basketball

Our u16's also had a great season. Some competitive league games saw them reach the semi-final against a strong Portlaoise side. The result did not go our way on the day, but we look forward to what next year has in store!

International Achievement

Congratulations to 5th year student Faye McDonnell and 4th year student Caoimhe Timmons on their international caps over the last year on the u18 and u16 Irish teams. Maith sibh



Volleyball

Volleyball got up and running in Loreto last year and this year saw the school taking it to new heights! We made our debut in the school's competition and certainly made our mark. Two teams played in the U-16 championship with one making it to All-Ireland quarter-finals, traveling to Dublin where they won one match and narrowly lost the second match, putting in a superb performance to bring the match to a final set. The senior championship also saw huge success. After defeating a number of accomplished schools in previous rounds including Presentation Kilkenny who have been well established in the volleyball circles for decades, we traveled to University Limerick for the All-Ireland semi-final. A fantastic experience competing in UL where the players gave an outstanding performance to win two out of three matches. We were narrowly defeated by Coláiste Eidhréidh who then went on to contest the All-Ireland final.

January saw the start of the Junior championship where our Second Year team geared up again. Just like the other teams, their debut was very successful, again making it to All-Ireland quarter finals where they won one match and lost the other. Disappointment was palpable on the bus when we got the news that Loreto had gone out on set difference!

Another first was our recent beach volleyball in Bettystown. A shout out especially to our exchange students who braved the Irish elements. Two teams competed with one making it out of the round stage. There was great excitement as we met our local rivals, Presentation Kilkenny. Loreto emerged victorious from the city derby, going on to take second place in the competition - our first ever set of volleyball medals for the school!

There was great interest in participating in volleyball this year with First Years showing commitment after school and other year groups playing on Thursday lunchtime. These girls started school volleyball less than a year ago and it is amazing to see how their skills have been progressing - serves, digs, volleys and spikes are the only moves on their minds!

What a start! Bring on next season, when we hope to be in the headlines even more often!!



Soccer

Loreto soccer teams excelled again this year. The First Year team won their regional final and went on to win the Leinster League after a marathon series of games. Defeating local opposition Presentation Kilkenny in an epic final was a wonderful way to end the year.

Our u 15 squad represented FAI Schools in the prestigious Rod Houston Cup for the first time ever in October. The competition is a home nations tournament over 3 days in Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire featuring the best of the best in schools Under 14 soccer and saw them compete with South Hunsley High School from England, Welsh Champions Caerleon Comprehensive School and Presentation Athenry from Ireland. A wonderful experience for the whole squad and memories they will treasure forever.

U 17 Soccer

The U 17 season started with a 3-0 win over Tyndall College in October. Then followed an absolute rollercoaster of a season, with nearly every game memorable. Roscrea (with 2 internationals) were beaten 4-3 in an epic contest that ebbed and flowed. Newbridge College were next, followed by an absolute classic with Pres Kilkenny that went to extra time and sudden death penalties, after Shania Koufie equalised with literally the last kick of the game following two goals from Leah O'Donovan. Cara Duggan scored the winning penalty.

Pres Wexford were dispatched in the semi final after a brilliant game; Megan Trait scoring the winner. Athlone CC pipped us in the Leinster Final, but what a season for the U 17 squad.

Senior Soccer

Our Senior Soccer team narrowly lost out in the Leinster Quarter Final after advancing through two rounds against tough opposition. A phenomenal win against a very strong Loreto Wexford side in the opening game set the standard for the games to come. Top performances from Lily Rice as well as goals from Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Ambar Laherty Pacheco and a long range strike from Orla Moore gave the girls an impressive 4 - 1 win. Advancing to the Leinster Quarter Final, an early goal from Orlaith Kirwan and great performances from Aisling Browne, Sophie Henderson and Brionadh Barragry weren't enough as the game finished in a 2 - 1 defeat. Huge thanks to all those in 6th year for contributing so much to soccer during your time in Loreto



Equestrian Team

This year, our school's equestrian team soared to new heights, led by Ms. Ashe. From numerous thrilling competitions to community fundraisers, we've had a blast. Thanks to our dedicated efforts, we sported shiny new uniforms at inter-school events, showcasing our unity and pride. Plus the addition of training evenings at Freshford Equestrian Centre. As we wrap up a fantastic year, we can't wait to see what the future holds for our team. Here's to more wins and unforgettable moments ahead!



Gaelic Football

We had a fantastic year in Gaelic football this year, with both our Junior and Senior teams going from strength to strength since their formations last year.

Juniors

Our Juniors beat all before them on the way to the Leinster Junior C Final defeating Coláiste Abhainn Rí, Callan and Presentation Kilkenny before defeating Killina Presentation, St. Mary's, Naas, Dunshaughlin C.S. before facing off against St. Vincent's, Dundalk in our school's first ever Leinster Junior Football C final.

Unfortunately, our enthralling ascent in the ranks of Gaelic football was to come to an end on that wet miserable windy day in Bray, with our girls putting in a hard-fought slog to narrowly miss out on being crowned champions on a score-line of 3-6 to 2-5.

Senior

What a year our Seniors had also! They defeated Kilkenny rivals Coláiste Abhainn Rí and Presentation KK in the group stages, progressing to defeat Killina Presentation and St. Mary's Naas before prevailing in a semi-final clash against an extremely talented Dunshaughlin C.S side. Dominican College, Griffith Avenue (Dublin), would be the opposition for our school's first ever Leinster Senior C Final. Despite the minor setback of the bus getting a flat tyre and the team having to change in a service station to make the best use of our time, it proved to be the most historic day of Gaelic Football this year, when our girls were crowned champions in a well-deserved winning score of 5-10 to 2-6. Sarah Kehoe was named 'Player of the Match', followed by our captain Aisling Browne (supported by her side-kick Tara McGrath) lifting the cup for Loreto Kilkenny.

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. We won all of our matches and then defeated Loreto Mullingar in the semi final before defeating Loreto Foxrock in the final.

#SeriousSupport

We were delighted to welcome former LGFA intercounty star Anne-Marie Doran, who conducted two workshops in the Lidl #SeriousSupport programme to some of our 3rd years.

The girls proudly showed her samples of the new jersey kits received from Lidl sponsorship, along with the Leinster cup, which made an appearance from our trophy cabinet!



Junior Gaelic Football



Senior Gaelic Football

Hockey

The hockey calendar in Loreto was jam-packed with fixtures this season as the school entered a whopping 16 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.

As well as competing in the prestigious Leinster League, the Senior A Hockey Squad rounded off their season with an overnight trip to Wesley College in Dublin in April. The team took part in a new All Ireland Hockey Tournament where they competed against various schools from each province.

The Senior B Hockey squad had a hugely successful season and battled it out against near neighbours Kilkenny College in their respective South East Cup Final. After a gutsy performance, the girls were narrowly defeated 1-0 after a thrilling and intense game. The Minor A squad were crowned as South East League Champions for 23/24 after beating Loreto Wexford in a hotly contested final.

Our first, second and third year hockey players also 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.



Senior A Hockey Squad at the Senior Hockey All Ireland in Wesley College



Senior B South East Cup Finalists



Minor A South East League Champions



Junior A Hockey Squad before the South East Cup Final against Kilkenny College

Athletics

Cross Country

It has been a fantastic season of cross country running in Loreto this year. Loreto's Minor team impressively battled all the way to the finish over a fast and undulating course to claim the Minor title at the South East schools competition in Carlow and claimed the silver team medal at the Leinster cross country championships in the Phoenix park. The team consisted of Amy Walsh, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Treasa Dermody, Amelia O'Brien, Molly Gannon, Lauren Phelan and Heather Shillingford. The intermediate team of Evelyn McEvoy, Hazel Coogan, Kate Aylmer, Anna O'Shea and Nessa Teehan, at the South East schools championship came in 3rd position. The Senior team took the silver title at both the South East Championships and Leinster Championships. The team consisted of Lelia Mahon, Isabella Burke, Aoife Fitzgerald, Ruth Coady and Pia Langton. An outstanding achievement for the girls. We like to thank Isabella for her huge contribution to the school in cross-country running over her six years in Loreto.

Track and Field

Well done to all the athletes that participated at the South East Schools track and field competition in Carlow. The minor team consisted of Jenna Trait, Treasa Dermody, Siofra Connolly, Saoirse Wall, Saffron Lucas, Amy Walsh, Emma Nichol, Eve Duggan, Rachel O'Connell, Emily-Jane Hurley Murray, Sadhbh Hickey Koep, Shona Parker Bannon, Patricia O'Connell and Snezhana Vasileva. They performed brilliantly overall coming in 2nd place in the team event. The junior team consisted of Sofia Blackmore, Cadhla Boylan, Ellen Daly, Ellie Millea, Rebecca Smith, Ellieann Spellman, Johanna-leni Hickey Koep, Leah Dooley, Dinoshi Subasinghage, Saoirse Furlong and Niamh Cotter. A great team performance by all in which they were the runners up in the team event by only 1 point. The Intermediate team claimed the team title with outstanding performances by the girls. The team consisted of Niamh Cleere, Evelyn McEvoy, Nessa Teehan, Kate Maher, Isabel Walsh, Grace Delahunty, Ella Wall, Molly Daly, Kate Alymer, Hazel Coogan and Gloria Kolozdiej. Well done to the Senior team who achieved amazing performances - Lelia Mahon, Blaithin Holden, Pia Langton and Isabella Burke. We like to thank Isabella and Blaithin for their huge contribution to the school in track and Field running over their six years in Loreto.

The Loreto's athletics competition is a long standing competitive championship between all the Loreto schools in Ireland. The team successfully defended the title and brought home the shield cementing our reign as the most successful Loreto school in Ireland for athletics. This year alone we received over 200 points overall, earned nearly 40 medals and took the senior and junior relay titles.



Sports Awards



Senior Athlete of the Year
Blaitthin Holden



Senior Basketball
Player of the Year
Aoibhín Timmons



Senior Hockey
Player of the Year
Anna Doheny



Senior Gaelic Football
Player of the Year
Aisling Browne



Junior Soccer & Gaelic Footballer
of the Year
Chloe Teehan



Minor Soccer
Player of the Year
Cadhla Boylan



Senior Volleyball
Player of the Year
Ericka Tanap



Senior Camogie
Player of the Year
Amber Laherty



Senior Soccer
Player of the Year
Lily Rice

Coco's Law

In March, we had a very hard hitting talk for 4th 5th and 6th years students on Coco's Law. Nicole, known as Coco, was 21 when she took her own life after being horrendously bullied online and in person for three years. And now there is a law in Ireland in her name making online harassment and abuse a crime. Coco's Law also prohibits the distribution or publication of intimate images without consent. Nicole's mum Jackie has spent the past number of years striving to honour her daughter's legacy by pushing for new anti-cyberbullying legislation. These regulations – named **Coco's Law** in reference to Nicole – will, she hopes, spare other families the terrible fate visited upon hers. *"I had to lose Nicole for other people to gain,"* she said.



A Year with TY Well-being Class- Nurturing Hearts and Minds

In the heart of our Transition Year journey, Ms. Ashe's well-being class was a place of sanctuary. Trips to art galleries sparked creativity, wellbeing walks grounded us in nature's embrace, and classroom activities equipped us with life skills for the road ahead. Bonding moments fostered friendships and laughter, creating memories to cherish. It was a wholesome year of growth. Here's to a year well-lived and the lessons learned along the way.



Student Council

Approaching the end of 2023-2024, the Student Council would like to reflect on the several accomplishments we have achieved this year. We are proud of the hard work that has been put into our projects, and the success that came with them.

In December, we ran our annual Candy-Cane Campaign. In total we raised €412 selling candy canes. This year we chose to raise for Human Appeal, who aid war-torn areas such as Syria, Somalia and Gaza.

The next event we held was International Day. This day brings students together to share their culture and celebrate the diversity of our school. We had in excess of 130 students participate in the festivities, which included several displays, dances and stunning traditional wear. The Council put in much time and effort to make the day go smoothly, and we were delighted with the outcome. We also had the honour of meeting the Minister of Education, Norma Foley on the day.

Another accomplishment included the permanent implementation of the period products. After several hours of planning and discussing with management, we are proud that the period products are now available for all students in the school bathrooms.

The Student Council achieved many of their goals through collaboration. We worked with Management to make a change to the school timetable. We also collaborated with the Parents Association to implement a new P.E. Uniform. It was interesting to collaborate with Management and the Parents Association in making decisions for the school community.

We would like to wish everyone reading this a great summer break. We would also like to sincerely thank the Parents Association and Management for helping us reach our goals. We hope the 2024-2025 Student Council will continue to make meaningful changes to improve student life here in Loreto.

Loreto Kilkenny Student Council



Green Schools

The Greenschools Committee started working on their new theme, Biodiversity, as soon as they returned to school and planted spring bulbs under the trees on the avenue. These spring flowers brought lovely brightness to the school yard during our very wet weather in March and April.

Clodagh Maye and Eve Lehane were successful applicants to the #andshecycles program and attended many workshops both online and in Dublin during the year. They were also joined by Mollie Trait, Abigail Ryan and others from the GS committee at numerous meetings in the Townhall, where they, and students from other schools were very involved in discussions with the Travel Officer regarding active travel in our city.

Work is continuing on our 'Bug Hostel' which does accommodate lots of bugs but doesn't look particularly pretty!!!! next years project!!



Ionad Saoirse (Ciara & Sheila / Sharon)

Faye and Kayla had a very enjoyable second year. They are working hard on their L2LP as well as completing their CBAs in Science and Art.

Our 3rd Year students, Erin, Hannah, Leah and Hollie, are busy completing their L2LP Programme and looking forward to TY next year.

They all completed some bird boxes in Horticulture and made a wide variety of dishes in cookery with Ms McDonald as well as working very hard in their other subjects. They travelled to Baysports with their 3rd year group and really enjoyed the experience.

Lucy and Ellen joined a small group and started their LCA Programme this year. One of their first tasks was to prepare a "Coisir Tae" for the LCA 6 Class. A lot of preparation went into this task, devising a menu and dividing up the task amongst the group. The rest of the year has been very busy doing their modules in Childcare, HCT, Vocational Preparation, Hair and Beauty and Reflection. They also spent two weeks on work experience in the locality.

Key Achievements this year:

- The Ionad Saoirse Group worked together to organise "World Down Syndrome Day" in the school.
- The girls entered their own Christmas Tree in the "St Canices Christmas Tree Competition".
- We have undertaken a quest to increase their fitness levels using the 'Map my walk app' daily with Ms Hobbs to build up their step count and get some fresh air!
- The girls really enjoyed organising "Barbie Day", where all the funds collected went to Sr. Patricia McLaughlin in Peru.
- We even had an inspection after Easter and the inspector said that she was so taken with the girls that she wanted to get back into the classroom! Their infectious personalities and enthusiasm for learning really won her over and she was very impressed at how all the girls in mainstream were so inclusive and supportive of the girls when she saw them in class together.

All in all, another very successful and busy year for all the girls in Ionad Saoirse.



Shoe Box Appeal

Congrats to everyone who contributed to the Hope foundation Shoe Box Appeal.

Each shoebox is an unconditional gift, given to a child with nothing asked for, or expected in return; no pledges, no obligation to go to church or attend classes; 'no strings attached'.

Over 500 shoeboxes were raised for the hope foundation.

Huge thanks to Ms O' Callaghan and Ms Ryan along with 4E Social Education class who facilitated the project.



School Tours

ITALY



School Tours

Die Deutsche Ecke

On October 26th a group of 20 sixth year German students and 3 teachers set off on a cultural trip to Berlin. They had an action packed four days visiting the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, The Berlin Tiergarten (Zoo) and many other attractions. In spite of a very busy itinerary the students had time to go bowling, visit the TV tower at night and sample authentic local food like Currywurst, Bratwurst and Schnitzel. It was a very enjoyable trip and the girls had the opportunity to experience German history and culture and practice their German as well.



Our 3rd Year Trip

The day had finally come! The buzz in Hughes Hall was palpable, which was evident with everyone being promptly on time for roll-call! First stop Golden Island Shopping Centre, Athlone for lunch and some retail therapy before rolling onwards to Baysports! The excitement was building on the bus with lots of music and lots of sweets, but the sense of adventure reached boiling point when we drove down the Hudson Bay drive to be met by the colourful inflatables floating on the lake.

First, we were greeted by the welcoming staff who gave us our wetsuits and life jackets. Everyone ran eagerly to the changing rooms and pulled on their wetsuits. After a brief health and safety discussion, the instructors divided us into two groups. While one group went on the inflatables another group went kayaking and paddle boarding. The kayaking and paddle boarding was great fun, and it was most amusing watching us all struggle with our upper body strength as we paddled furiously to race each other across the water.

Personally, the funniest part of the day was definitely the inflatables, which consisted of many challenges, jumping points and, of course, the

GERMANY

3RD YEAR BONDING



slides. I'm sure we'll never forget pushing, shoving and dragging one another up the obstacles. We'll never forget the screams, roars, laughs and frightful faces, especially those of the teachers, as we all plunged, flopped and splashed into the freezing cold March water.

The day ended with a much appreciated warm shower and a picnic by the bay, before we lugged our tired bodies back to the buses. On behalf of the whole year, I'd like to thank all our prefect team, our tutors, year head and the teachers who accompanied us on this trip for organising and giving us the most memorable day ever!

Lucy Johnston, Class Prefect 3C

Minister for Education visit from Norma Foley

Delighted to welcome Minister for Education Norma Foley on a whistle stop tour to Loreto Kilkenny.

We thanked her for taking time out to speak to students and staff. It coincided with International Day and proved to be a brilliantly positive experience for our school. The minister also was briefed on our upcoming extension and improvements to our school facilities. The minister also got the chance to meet with and congratulate our recent All Ireland winning Camogie team and also took time to meet members of our student council member.



Young St Vincent De Paul

This year in our young SVP class, we completed many activities such as the annual food drive, writing letters to the nursing home and writing positive notes of encouragement to the exam years. We also helped to renovate the new SVP shop in Kilkenny, this was a great experience for everyone involved and we hope we made an impact on our community.



Miss First Year

Theme: Barbie
What an amazing afternoon!

Thanks to hostesses Séarlait, Medha and Anna for presenting an amazing show. Sixth Year's for their Barbie themed extravaganza and for their opening performance of Dance the Night Away. The standard of performance by the Ms First Year contestants was massive. Greta Kearney Sang Hopelessly Devoted to You accompanied by her sister Emily on piano. Rachel Grogan performed Karate. 1F-Lucy Doherty sang Set Fire to the Rain by Adele. 1A-Treasa Dermody nearly brought the house down as she Danced to Kung Foo Fighting by Carl Douglas in a dinosaur suit. 1F-Charlotte McCreery sang beautifully and also played piano. 1B-Mia Gleeson introduced by Séarlait -Sang and Played Titanium on Saxophone. 1E-Maya Coffey introduced by Anna -Singing What Was I Made For by Billy Eilish.

Judges had an impossible job picking a winner and in the end after much deliberation chose Maya Coffey. Clíodhna McGowan past winner also performed beautifully.



Ukraine

Loreto Kilkenny Ukrainian Students - Лорето Кілкєні Українські Учні Welcome ! We are from Ukraine! - Ласкаво просимо! Ми з України! There are currently twelve girls from Ukraine studying at Loreto Secondary School. We hail from the following regions ; Chernivtsi, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kiev, Donetsk and Kherson. This year six new girls joined our Loreto family. We are so grateful to everybody at this school for such a warm welcome. We especially want to say a huge thank you to the staff and girls who are always there for us and helped us to settle into Loreto. We are so grateful and very happy to be here.

On 15th of December, we showcased our "Ukrainian Winter Traditions" in front of a packed audience in Hughes Hall. Bazhena, Yanina, Nikol, and Valeriia were involved in performing with the wider Ukrainian Community from Kilkenny scenes from "The Nativity". We really enjoyed the performance and the opportunity to showcase our traditional music.

The audience really loved our unique performance and we got a huge applause for the singing of " Carol of the Bells" (Щедрик) which is one of our most famous and best loved original Ukrainian songs .



Ms Murphy

This year, alas we say farewell and Auf Wiedersehen to a stalworth member of our German department, Maria Murphy. Maria has enjoyed a long career here at Loreto. She joined the school in 1991 and began by teaching German and History. Two years later, she joined the Music department and continued to promote, with passion German and Music. Many students have gone through Frau Murphy's classes and have described her as being a most dedicated and hardworking teacher, always keeping her students to the fore. Her bright smile and gentle nature will sorely be missed by students and staff alike here in Loreto and we wish her all our very best in her retirement.

Viel Glück Frau Murphy und Alles Gute für den Ruhestand. Wir werden dich vermissen!

Wir wünschen dir von der Deutschen Abteilung "Alles Gute" und "Schöne Ferien"!



HALLOWEEN - DRESS UP



Librarians On Tour

We left Loreto at around 8:30 and looked forward to the day ahead of us in Dublin! Our first stop was Trinity College Dublin. We got a tour of all the other buildings and grounds of the College by a student named Peter. It was an amazing tour and everyone really enjoyed it. Trinity is a really beautiful university and it will inspire some of us to go there after secondary school. Then we walked to the national Library of Ireland and had a great time looking at the WB Yeats Exhibition. While we were there, Leo Varadkar stepped down as the Taoiseach. So we had a look at the Dáil right beside the library to see what was going on. We also checked out the amazing Chester Beatty Library, which had a peaceful atmosphere and exhibited displays of ancient Chinese and Islamic scriptures. Finally, we got to Captain America's restaurant and everyone was starving! It was an absolutely amazing day with so many new experiences and activities. It was really well-planned and all the teachers, TY and book club members had fun.

Mahveen Farooq - 4F

Quiz Day

A Quiz Day Collaboration with CBS Boys School Social Ed class orchestrated a memorable Quiz Day with CBS Boys School, fostering leadership and camaraderie. Our students honed organisational skills while planning the event, creating a day of enjoyable competition and shared learning. Laughter filled the air as friendships formed and barriers dissolved, with smiles lighting up the room. It was more than a quiz; it was a testament to the power of collaboration and the joy of learning together.



Gaeilge

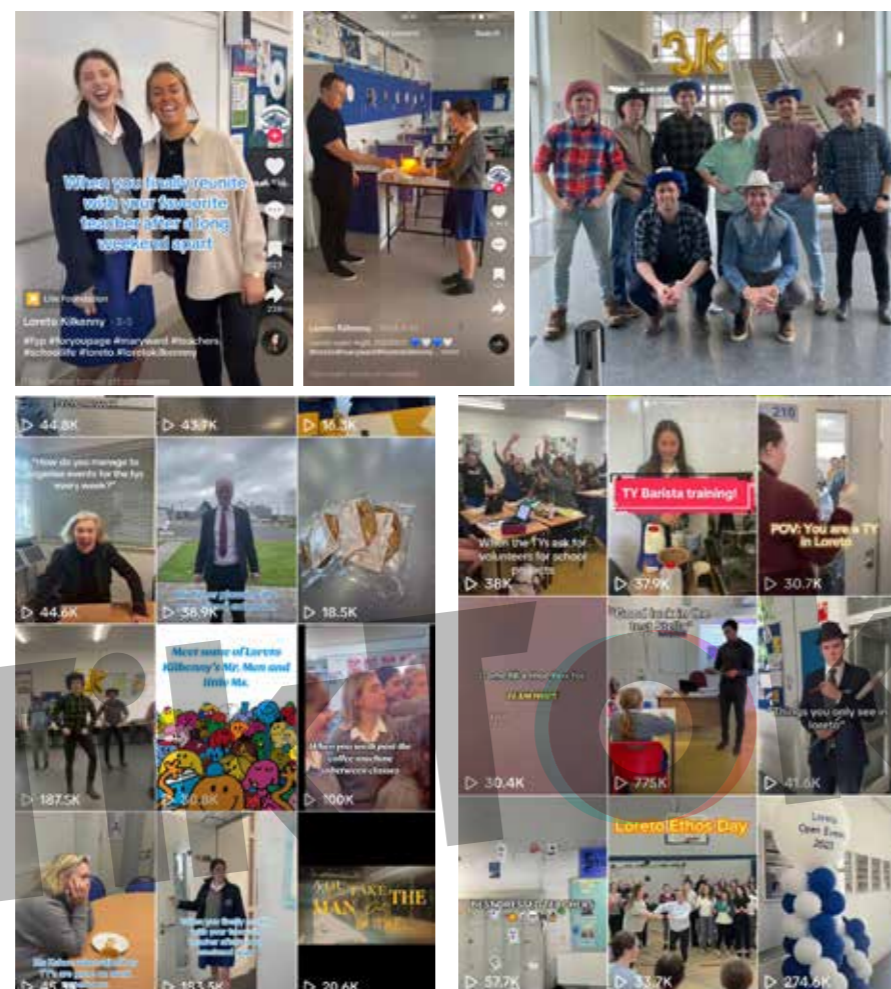
Seachtain na Gaeilge again was a huge success with a range of events and activities, culminating in a Céilí Mór le hIníon Bhreathnach mar Bhean an Tí.

D'eagraigh grúpa traidisiúnta na scoile le cúpla ríleanna in éineacht le roinnt damhsóirí Ghaelach le taispeántas gleoite i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge.



Loreto's TikTok: A Showcase of School Spirit

Loreto Kilkenny's new TikTok channel has become a vibrant hub for showcasing the school's spirit. From dances to behind-the-scenes classroom moments, it offers a peek into the diverse talents and camaraderie within our walls. With every post, we celebrate our community's unity and pride, spreading smiles and fostering connections that define Loreto's spirit.



Careers Night



On Thursday 22nd February Loreto Kilkenny hosted a wonderful evening for our senior cycle students. This event was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet representatives from a wide and varied range of careers. It gave the students a chance to ask meaningful questions and discuss the different pathways into their future careers. On the evening a number of colleges and institutes of higher education were present and provided our students with invaluable knowledge and information.

This evening would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of all who gave so willingly of their time and expertise. It was great to see so many parents of current and past students involved in making the night such a success. The connection between staff, students, parents and the wider community was very much evident on the night.

Many thanks to Clare O'Reilly (mother of past student Ella Brennan), Ms Kehoe and Ms Fitzpatrick for all their work.





5th Year Peer Mentors



Wesley College Winners



Barbie Day



PAL in Chicago



That winning feeling



Last Fire Drill