

LORETO

Grammar School Omagh



Principal: Mrs Grainne T O'Hanlon B.Ed., M.Ed., P.Q.H.

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December 2020

Information Sheet

In September we said a fond farewell to Mrs Anne Cassidy Head of the French Department, after 34 years of service. We welcomed Mr Jonathan Younge as our new French Teacher.

In December Miss Brenda Bannon's service of 37 years was celebrated and following her leaving we welcomed Mrs Karen McFadden to the Religious Education Department

Both Mrs Cassidy and Miss Bannon have outstanding reputations as teachers and Heads of Department. We thank them for everything they have done for the pupils of Loreto.

As this news bulletin goes to print we are bidding farewell to our esteemed Principal Mrs O'Hanlon after 39 years in service. Mrs O'Hanlon states "She will miss the school, the staff and most especially the pupils' energy, creativity and diversity. She also paid tribute to the support of the Board of Governors and parents, concluding that this outstanding school would continue to flourish in the future.

Mrs O'Hanlon extended congratulations to the new Principal Mrs Susan Cullinan who will take up the post in the new year. Mrs Cullinan was a Vice-principal at Loreto and is looking forward to her new role in leading Loreto Grammar School Omagh in 2021.



Special Items of Interest

Christmas Holidays

Monday 21 December
to
Monday 4 January 2021
(inclusive)

Mrs O'Hanlon wishes everyone a safe, happy and heartfelt thank you for all the support she has received in her time as Principal.

Stay Safe During the Winter Months: Pupils need to be particularly vigilant during the daily commute between home, bus stops and school. Pupils should be aware of the need to be highly visible when walking along the road 'Be Bright, Be Seen'. Wear or carry something **REFLECTIVE** i.e. armbands, tags which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials. All school buses are fitted with seatbelts and pupils **MUST** wear them at all times when travelling. Additional information for parents/guardians of pupils who are using the EA transport service is available on www.earni.org.uk "Safe School Transport".

Pupils must wear a face covering on the bus unless medically exempt.

The Board of Governors' Report to Parents: This report provides a comprehensive overview of the work covered in the school year 2019/20. The report is available on the school website.

Reminder Exam Students: During the Christmas holidays students are reminded of the importance of creating time for study. It is important to enjoy the festivities and to have time to relax with family but is also necessary to balance study across all subjects. So much can be accomplished in these study days at home if time is used wisely.

GCSE Mathematics – All Year 12 students will sit a GCSE Mathematics module on **Monday 11th January**. Module M2 (9.15-11am) or M3 (9.15-11.15am) or M4 (9.15-11.15am)
Students should present with all the necessary equipment.

Mock Examinations

Year 14 Mocks: Thursday 7 January 2021
Year 13 Mocks: Thursday 21 January 2021
Year 12 Mocks: Wednesday 24 February 2021

Year Groups Activities

Year 8

The following students were awarded **Pupil of the Month** in their Form Class for living out the values of Mary Ward: Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Truth and Joy in their day to day life in Loreto! **November:** 8a1: Weronika McNulty, 8a2: Erin Fullerton, 8a3: Aimee McCloskey, 8a4: Bernadette McAleer, 8a5: Sarah McCusker. Well done girls you are exemplary role models for all.

Mathematician of the Month:

September: Presentation - Rebecca McPhillips 8a1, Ella McBride 8a2, Bernadette Vanzodyte 8a3, Millie McLaughlin 8a4 and Bethany McGinty 8a5.

October: Class Contribution - 8a1 Ann-Marie McCann, Bronagh Reape 8a2, Aoife McGarvey 8a3, Hannah O'Lone 8a4, and Deirbhile Daly 8a5.

November: Accuracy - Weronika McNulty 8a1, Isabella Coyle 8a2, Libby Howe 8a3, Bernadette McAleer 8a4 and Orla Donaghy 8a5.

December: Teachers' Choice Christmas Award - Ana Mackey 8a1, Clodagh McNulty 8a2, Eimear Kelly 8a3, Eimear McWilliams 8a4 and Sarah McCusker 8a5.



Year 9

Pen-Pal Initiative During this time of uncertainty, when we are physically distancing ourselves from others, the pupils addressed the importance of staying connected by reaching out to the wider Loreto School Community in Ireland via letter writing. The girls extended their hands of friendship with pupils in Loreto, Bray and we look forward to receiving reply letters in the New Year

Anti-Bullying Week Throughout the months of November and December, the pupils have been given a variety of excellent opportunities to explore this year's theme "United Against Bullying". The girls are to be commended for their efforts to investigate and speak out about the issues of Bullying in a sensitive and mature way. They researched issues in PD, and worked together to create and produce a wonderful year group video. You can view this on our Social Media pages.

As we prepare for the Christmas Season we hope the Year 9's continue to make a difference through the **spirit of friendship, selfless acts of kindness and prayer**. Best wishes to all and Happy Christmas

Year 10

The Year 10 Motto is '**Think again.org**'. Our 'Seniors of Junior School' are encouraged to develop the mind-set of looking at the options, the risks and then make an informed decision. This is a great life skill which will equip them to manage the many different situations which they will encounter on their life's journey. Every Year 10 pupil should remember "**Work hard, dream big and never give up**".

All pupils participated in a Year Group activity on Wednesday 14th October delivered by Frank Diamond from ALPs on '**Mental Health and Wellbeing; Resilience and The power of Human Connection**'. The focus of this virtual talk was looking after one's mental health, talking to others and self-care.

In PD class, during the month of November, the pupils focused on the anti-bullying message for 2020 which is '**United Against Bullying**'. Through a variety of activities, pupils were taught the importance of being an Upstander and not a Bystander. Always remember '**In a world where you can be anything, be kind**'.

Congratulations to the following classes who have been recognised for their **team spirit** in these challenging times;

- 10a1 - Most Positive Referrals.
- 10a1 & 10a4 - Least Negative Referrals.
- 10a1 - Best Attendance.



Year 11

Puzzle Tuesday: Congratulations to all students who have stretched their brains every Tuesday evening to try to decipher the puzzle posed on our Year Group Teams. Selection boxes have been distributed to the fastest responses either on Teams or by email. Well done everyone for giving it a go. So far our winners include: Eimear Brogan 11a1; Maria McDonnell 11a4; Brigh O'Kane and Behhinn Moloney 11a1; Erin Harvey 11a1; Aine Cunningham 11a2; Aleu Pineda 11a1; Lucia Sharkey 11a4 and Kelly McCaffrey 11a4.

Internal Anti-Bullying Competition

11a2 produced a winning poem
11a4 submitted the winning video
Great creativity has been shown by all students involved. Well done on this great Class effort.

We have now reached the end of the first Term in our GCSE study. Regardless of the uncontrollable disruptions a lot of good work has been achieved. It is essential that all students continue to keep to the deadlines set for assignments. Concentrate on the here and now and keep all your work up to date. Try to build in a little study time to ensure that you understand everything taught in class. If in doubt - ask for help. Wishing all in Year 11 a happy, holy and safe Christmas.



Year 12

Pupils participated in a **Vision Board Competition**. The girls were encouraged to design a vision board which represented their interpretation of the motto and vision for our year group- that Year 12 are **Girls with 'GRIT'**. **G** for Goals, **R** for Resilience, **I** for Integrity and **T** for Tenacity. The Pastoral Monitors were very impressed by the creative and innovative ideas exhibited by Year 12. Finally, they chose **Molly McElroy 12a1 as their winning entry**. Molly was presented with her prize and certificate by Miss Ryan (*Head of Year*) on the 18th November 2020. Molly's marvellous vision board is displayed on our Pastoral Notices in the main corridor of school.

To celebrate **Anti-Bullying Week 2020**, the girls participated in a Virtual Workshop hosted by Constable Harkness (PSNI). Constable Harkness delivered a powerful and informative talk on Internet Safety, paying particular attention to Cyber Bullying. The girls learnt a lot about how to ensure their personal safety online and what to do if they need support.

GCSE Irish revision classes will commence afterschool on 12 January 2021.

Classes will run on a Tuesday evening 3:30-4:30/5.00Pm (approx.) Venue TBC within the Year 12 Zone.

Email Mr Hughes if interested. shughes859@c2kni.net or make contact via the Year 12 Irish Team.

Post 16

Post 16 students continue to engage in a 'Resilience' focused PD programme. The 'Staying Safe, Moving Forward' programme has been designed to provide opportunities to reflect on progress, to set goals and build resilience.

The girls engaged in the 'United Against Bullying' 2020 Campaign through a 'Banter vs Bullying' lesson. Students reflected on how they can contribute to society, use their voice and be kind.

PSNI representative, Constable Harkness delivered a 'Safe Socialising' talk to Post 16 via Microsoft Teams Meet Now. This live and interactive lesson was highly engaging for the students.

Congratulations to:

- Niamh McEvoy (Y13) who won a **Gold Medal in the Nation's Cup Show Jumping competition** in Belgium as part of the Irish Team.
- The **Concern Debate Team** who have won the third round of their competition. The speakers for this particular debate were as follows: Captain - Aoife McGlinchey, Eva Birney, Eimear McElduff, Ellie May Murphy. There are 13 girls in the group and all participants will get a chance to prepare and present a speech at least once and help with the research. Well done girls and to Mrs Mc Girr for mentoring you.
- Maria McNally Y13 who entered the Braveheart Charity Competition to design a card. Maria won the competition with her card 'Why fit in when you were born to stand out?' and has won an iPad.



Designed by Maria McNally

Whole School Events

Art Competitions:

Congratulations to the winners of the **Omagh Credit Union Art Competition**: 1st place group winners will now go forward to Chapter 17 level of the competition. **Age group 11-13 yrs**: 1st Clodagh McNulty 8a2, 3rd Erin Donnelly 8a2, 4th Caoimhe Conway 8a1, 5th Anna Bradley 9a1, Highly Commended Orla Green 8a2 and Meghan McCaskie 8a1. **Age Group 14-17 yrs**: 1st Erin McElhinney 10a2, 2nd Georgina Darcy 10a2, 3rd Millie Duffy 10a4

Arty Avatar House Competition
Congratulations to the winners:
Year 8: 8a2 Aimee Monteith, Erin Fullerton, Eimear Harper, 8a3 Bernadette Vanzodyte, Libby Howe, 8a4 Emma Teague, Searlait Murray, Hannah O' Lone, 8a5 Nicole Januszewska, Beth Thornton, Caoimhe McAleer
Year 9: 9a1 Niamh McKenna, Aimee Catterson, Oonagh Pancott, 9a2 Una McCrory, Laura Maguire, Karla Corcoran, 9a3 Sarah Quinn, Emma Cassidy, Cora Scullion, 9A4 Sherona McKinney, Eabha Hughes, 9A5 Cara Corrigan
Year 10: 10a1 Aoibh O'Neill, Maya McBride, Grace Gallogly, 10a2 Sarah McLaughlin, Alana Cox, Erin McElhinney, 10A3 Clodagh McGlone, Rhianna McKinney, 10a4 Hannah Miller, Ellen Peace, Ellen McFarland

2020 Loreto Christmas Card: The winning design of Loreto's 2020 Christmas Card is by **Hannah Fox 8a3**. Hannah's artistic nativity scene captures the true meaning of Christmas, emphasising a feeling of hope for the future. Highly Commended: Clodagh McNulty 8a2, Cora Flanagan 8a3, Lilyrose Darcy 8a4, Erin McElhinney 10a2

Minister Peter Weir visited our school on 4 November 2020. Welcomed by Ms Mary Murnaghan Chairperson of the Board of Governors and the Principal Mrs Grainne O'Hanlon

Student Council

- On the 4th November, Student Council Representatives; Lily Rose Darcy, Orla Beth Mackey, Eva Conway, Eimear Kelly, Shauna Keys, Orla Browne and Aine Doran, proudly represented the Loreto student population by engaging in an intriguing question and answer session on 'Coping with Covid 19' with the **Education Minister, Peter Weir**.
- We are delighted to welcome three new members; Lily Rose Darcy Y8, Aimee Tracey Y8 and Aoife Coyle Y9, who were anonymously elected by Student Council members, after submitting exceptional applications. Huge congratulations ladies, we cannot wait to see the impact the Student Council will have this year.

Loreto Anti-Bullying Competition 2020

Congratulations to the winners of our #UNITEDAGAINSTBULLYING Competition. Prize winners will receive seasonal goodies for their efforts... *Be a Buddy not a Bully!*

Short story Section:

Bernadette McAleer 8A4

Poetry Section:

11A2 (Whole Class), Ana Mackey 8A1

Video Section:

11A4 (Whole Class)

Poster Section:

Niamh McHugh 8A1,
Rebecca McPhillips 8A1,
Clodagh Gallen 8A1,
Meghan McCaskie 8A1,
Aoife McWilliams 8a5,
Abby McCullagh 10A4,
Emma McCrossan 10A4,
Tara McQuaid 10A4.



Year 14 Careers Information

Universities and colleges have imposed specific deadlines and must receive completed Applications by:

UCAS - 15 January 2021 – Cost of Application - £25.

St Mary's College, Belfast - 13 January 2021 – Application Forms to be submitted using the Online Application Facility, accessible via the St. Mary's Website. Cost of application - Free. Video Interviews scheduled for February 2021.

CAO – 1 February 2021 - Cost €45; Apply online before 20 January 2021 to qualify for discounted rate of €30; photocopies of GCSE Certificates, stamped by the school office, must be forwarded by post to CAO within **7 days** of applying; ensure correct postage.

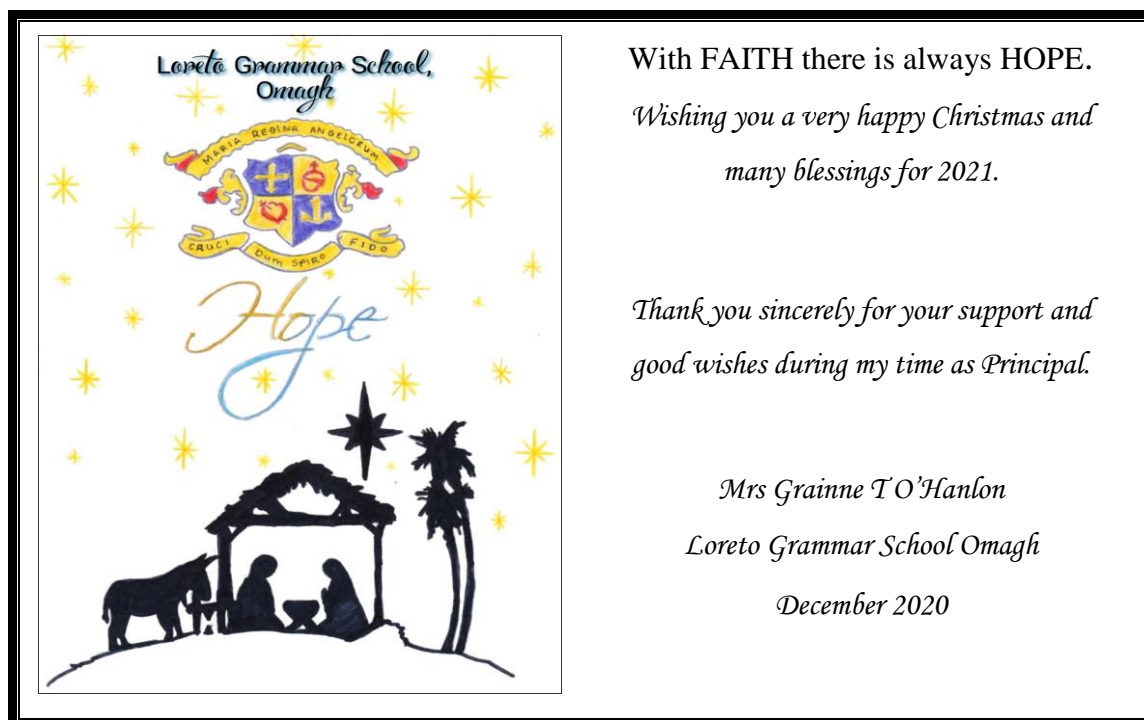
Parents are asked to ensure all the relevant documentation is submitted on time, and in accordance with the instructions issued by Careers Staff. If you have any questions please contact Mr Wilson, Head of Careers.

Dates for the Diary

All dates outlined may be subject to change. Parents will be informed in advance of any changes made.

Term 1 Autumn:	21 August – 21 December
School Open for pupils	Friday 21 August
Bank Holiday	Monday 31 August (1 day)
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	DENI Closure from 19 October Friday 23 October – Friday 30 October (6 days)
School Open	Monday 2 November
Christmas: School closed for pupils	Monday 21 December 2020 – Monday 4 January 2021 (11 days)
Term 2: Winter	Tuesday 5 January – Wednesday 31st March
School Open	Tuesday 5 January 2021
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February (5 days)
St Patrick's Day: School closed for pupils	Wednesday 17 March
Easter : School Closed for pupils	Thursday 1 April – Friday 9 April (7 days)
Term 3: Spring	Monday 12 April – 25 June
School Open	Monday 12 April
May Day/Staff Training: School Closed for pupils	Monday 3 May and Tuesday 4 May
School Closed for pupils: Staff Training	Friday 28 May
School Closed for pupils: Bank Holiday	Monday 31 May (2 days)
Summer: School Closed for Pupils	Friday 25 June

The school will be closed for pupils on the following days to facilitate Staff Training:	Staff Baker Days	Staff Development Days
	Thursday 20 August	Monday 17 August
	Monday 21 December	Tuesday 18 August
	Tuesday 4 May	Wednesday 19 August
	Friday 28 May	Friday 23 October
	Friday 25 June	Monday 4 January 2021



Card designed by Year 8 student, Hannah Fox