

December 2019

Information Sheet

## Invitation to Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings are an opportunity to meet individual subject teachers and discuss your daughter's progress. The meetings will be located in the School Assembly Hall and Canteen. Your daughter is requested to attend the meeting with you in uniform. On arrival you will be provided with a list of your daughter's subject teachers, seating plan, Assessment 2 Results, Attendance Record and Year Group Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting you then. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please inform the school office.

**Year 11:** Monday 6 January – Morning 9:30-11:30am

**Year 10:** Friday 14 February – Morning 9:30-11:30am

**Year 8:** Monday 6 January – Afternoon 1:15-3:15pm

**Year 9:** Friday 14 February – Afternoon 1:15-3:15pm

### Special Items of Interest

**Christmas Liturgy**  
Wednesday 18 December  
in the  
Sacred Heart Church

**Annual Winter  
Prizegiving Ceremony**  
Thursday 19 December in  
the School  
Assembly Hall

**Christmas Holidays**  
Thursday 19 December  
to  
Tuesday 7 January  
(inclusive)

**Wishing you all the  
blessing of this Holy  
Christmas Season**

Mrs Grainne T O'Hanlon  
Principal



### Annual Winter Prizegiving Ceremony

We will celebrate the achievements of students in 2018/19 on Thursday 19 December at 7.00pm in the school Assembly Hall. Our guest speaker on the evening will be Ms Orla Bannon, sports journalist.

**GCSE Prizegiving:** A special ceremony was held on 6 November for the GCSE class of 2019. Guest Speaker was Mrs Claire Bowes past pupil and owner of the Omagh Music Academy. Claire's strength of character, positivity, wisdom and resilience was inspirational to the students.

**Exam Students:** Reminder: 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 and friends but it 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 Module M2 or M4 on Monday 13 January 9.15-11.15am. Students should present with all the necessary equipment.

**GCSE English Repeat:** Tuesday 14 January 9.15-11.00am.

**Results issued** in school on Thursday 5 March.

**Results for GCSE Repeat Science Modules** will be issued in school on Thursday 16 January.

### Mock Exams 2020

**Year 14 Mocks:** Tuesday 7 January

**Year 13 Mocks:** Monday 20 January

**Year 12 Mocks:** Wednesday 19 February

**Year 11 Mocks:** Monday 3 February

### The Board of Governors' Report to Parents

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the work covered in the school year 2018/19. The report is available on request from the school office.

Thank you to all the talented artists who entered the **Loreto Christmas Card Competition**. There was an overwhelming response to the 'New Decade, New Dreams' design brief with over 250 entries. It was most difficult to choose a single winner as there were some strong contenders, which have been highly commended.

The winning design for the front of the Card is by **Zuzanna Pawlowska 11a4**. Zuzanna's artistic family scene encompassed the true meaning of Christmas emphasising spending time with loved ones, depicting the holy star and highlighting dreams for the future. The festive winning design for the back of the card was designed by **Andrea McLaughlin 9a2**. Andrea used a strong colour scheme and shapes in her response to the brief, which was most eye-catching and original.

**Highly Commended:** Anna Bradley 8a1, Lucia Cullen 8a2, Mia McShane 8a2, Georgina Darcy 9a2, Molly-Rose McMackin 9a2 and Ellen Peace 9a4 **Well done everyone!**

**The Strabane Chamber Choir and the Loreto Prague Winning Choir** hosted a magical evening of music in the Strule Arts Centre on 5 December.

**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'. 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.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) "Safe School Transport."

**The Voice:** LGS senior pupils and Year 12 GCSE P.E. class organised a successful singing competition in November. £939.00 was raised for Loreto Sudan. Aine Campbell 8a5 was the winner. Thank you to all participants and to the audiences who packed the assembly hall daily.

**Loreto's Got Talent** was hugely successful this year again. Held on 17<sup>th</sup> December the successful winners were 8a4, 9a4 and 10a1. Thank you to Mrs O'Hagan and the Student Council for organising this enjoyable event.

# Year Groups Activities

## Year 8

### Halloween Pageant Winners:

- Scariest Costume: Eva McGirr 8a1
- Most Creative: Anna Bradley 8a1
- Funniest: Kate McRory 8a1
- Prettiest: Sophie McDermott 8a1
- Most Original: Ellie Ward 8a1
- Teachers' Choice: Wenci Cai 8a3 Eabha Hughes 8a4

### Mathematician of the Month:

**November: Accuracy** – 8a1 Kate McRory, 8a2 Dearbhaile O'Shea-Byrne, 8a3 Fianna McGuigan, 8a4 Hollie McMenamin and 8a5 Mairead Gormley.

**December: Teachers' Choice Christmas Award** – 8a1 Erlanda Mateikaite, 8a2 Mary-Cait McFarland, 8a4 Wenci Cai, 8a4 Clodagh McCloskey and 8a5 Katie Treanor.

The year group enjoyed a visit from the **Translink Safety Bus** in November as well as an informative presentation on Road Safety – Everyone's Responsibility from Constable Kirke, PSNI.

All students were invited to **create posters on the theme of Kindness**. Congratulations to the winners Eimear Rodgers 8A1, Teagan McAleer 8A1 and Katie Treanor 8A5.

On 20 November students from 8A1 enjoyed a trip to W5 hosted by **N.I. Commissioner for Children and Young People** to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. The students took part in a 'Rights Challenge' to increase their awareness of Children's Rights.

## Year 9

Congratulation to Eva Conway 9a2, her poster design to promote '**Trees for Bees**' was one of the ten winning entries, chosen by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, to highlight the important role pollinators and trees have in protecting our planet. Eva's artistic talents and creative response has won her 'wild' goody bag and the school will receive two apple trees in the New Year.

On 28 November a number of pupils showcased their singing talent when they competed in live auditing for "**Total Talent**" run by Epic Management and Promotions. The judges Meadbh and Una were overwhelmed by the talent. Congratulations to our Year 9 pupils **Cara Maye, Ciara Diamond, Cara McCance, Cassie Gillespie Megan Pritchard and Maya McBride** for their outstanding auditions – their live auditions can be viewed on our School Instagram page. **Cara Maye and Cassie Gillespie** will now go forward to the regional finals to be held in The Mellon Hotel in January and we wish them continued success

## Year 10

On the 13 November 2019, two pupils from each group presented their **anti-bullying power points** to the whole year during the PD lesson. The anti-bullying message is "**Change starts with Us**" which is a very important message that all pupils must take very seriously.

Pupils were involved in a **Young Enterprise Workshop** on 14 November which provided valuable insight into the many different strands that are involved in running a business. The competitiveness was clearly evident as each team wanted to ensure that their business made the most profit and provided the best customer service.

Pupils were involved in a **Sentinus Careers Workshop** on Tuesday 19 November which made the pupils aware of career opportunities in IT and Computing. Pupils found this very valuable as they were made more aware of the wide variety of jobs available.

In Term One the girls focused on their **team spirit** because together they knew that they could achieve so much. Congratulations to the following classes who have been recognised for their team spirit at Assembly on the 16 December.

- **10a2 - Most Positive Referrals**
- **10a5 - Least Negative Referrals.**
- **10a2 - Best Attendance.**

Congratulations to Eimear Kelly and Milly Hoban 10A1 who have been selected as regional finalists for the **Big School Cook Off 2019/2020**. In the new year the girls will now be invited to a SuperValu NI store to give a short cookery demonstration of their chosen dish. The final 'Cook Off' event will be held on the 4 March at Belfast Metropolitan College, where a panel of judges will decide the winning team, based on culinary excellence. Well done to all students who submitted recipes for this year's competition.

## Year 11

On 23 October students attended a memorable performance from Blackout Lyric Theatre Group which raised awareness about substance abuse and risk-taking behaviour.

During Anti-Bullying week all Year 11 classes presented role-plays with the theme 'Change Starts with Us'. Mrs Gavin was the guest judge at the event on 13 November and 11a1 was the winning Form Class.

**At Assembly** Maria McNally 12a1 gave a highly insightful presentation on **Heartstart**, and we have also had presentations on **Loss and Separation, St Vincent de Paul and Advent**. The Pastoral Monitors gave valuable advice on **self-care** and gave excellent tips on how to look after yourself in Year 11.

In PD, pupils have continued with the module on **Drugs and Alcohol Awareness** and have also had an ICT based lesson entitled "**Are we addicted to Technology?**"

**The Year 11 GCSE Mocks will begin on Tuesday 4 February.** This means that pupils will have approximately 4 weeks in the classroom after Christmas, to get fully prepared for the week of exams. Proper revision cannot be done in just the few nights directly before the mocks. The girls should be constantly engaged in revision in some way. As we approach the mock exams, parents need to encourage their daughter to:

- Plan carefully, well in advance
- Talk about her work to her teachers
- Fully understand her work before trying to memorise it
- Work through essays and notes, summarising essential points
- Keep to a schedule of revision, in addition to homework tasks
- Switch off the mobile phone and TV
- Curtail the amount of time she spends online.

Year 11 and A'Level Art and Design students completed a two day **Printmaking Workshop** with local artist, Fionnuala O'Neill on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> December. Exploring tone and colour through dry point, students produced lots of wonderful outcomes for their portfolios.

## Year 12

**GCSE Mathematics** – All students will sit Module M2 or M4 on Monday 13 January 9.15-11.15am. Students should present with all the necessary equipment.

**Results issued** in school on Thursday 5 March.

Well done to all who produced an anti-bullying movies/posters, which delivered the message "**Be the Change**". We all have a responsibility to create the school we want to attend.

On 27 November students had a very **informative awareness session on Diabetes**, delivered by Damien McHugh.

Congratulations to the 25 students who were lucky '**Advent Calendar Box**' winners. We all found it exciting to see who would be selected each day. Perhaps this is a reminder to all of us to share a little kindness with others.

### Forthcoming dates in PD:

5 February - Internet Safety Talk

12 February - Finance/Banking Talk

## Post 16

Our **GCSE Prize-giving** event on 6 November was an enjoyable morning and congratulations to all participants. We were especially thankful to Guest Speaker, Claire Bowes, for her motivational words to the Year 13 pupils.

Congratulations to Alanna Gallagher Y.13 and Hannah McGirr Y.14 on being selected by CCEA to have their wonderful GCSE and GCE artwork featured in the prestigious **CCEA 2019 True Colours Exhibition**. Alanna skillfully illustrated a modern version of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and presented her work in a 3D book for a library display. Hannah's contemporary style of photography mixed with embroidery captured her 'Teenage Disposition' theme sensitively. The True Colours exhibition will be on display at the Ulster Museum Belfast from 17 January to the end of February.

**Think Pink:** On 18 October, Year 14 students raised **£700 for Cancer Focus**. Our pupils organised a non-uniform day, a coffee morning for Year 14 and staff, a raffle, a Think Pink Photo Booth and a Think Pink Challenge for Key Stage Three students. A fun and worthwhile day!

**Government & Politics** students attended a live recording of **Top Table** hosted by Stephen Nolan at the BBC in Belfast on 3 December. The students listened to topical election debate and heard the views of a range of party representatives. Congratulations to Tara Lynne O'Neill and Holly Taggart Y.14 for their confident and entertaining televised engagement with Stephen Nolan after the show.

Government and Politics Students displayed social consciousness by supporting **Translink's 'Stuff a Bus' Christmas Gift Appeal**. A range of gifts for young people were presented. Translink and SVP warmly thanked the girls for their generosity of spirit.

Good luck to Lauren Gaynor and Clara-Jayne Garrity Y.13 who are representing our school in **The Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards Competition**.

On 13 December, the Senior Leaders organised a **Formal Fashion Show** in the canteen. Over 10 girls showcased their gowns and the event raised over £39 for Loreto Sudan.

60 Post 16 pupils have completed the accredited **Frist Aid** course delivery by Dr Kevin Moore over three weeks. This was a fantastic opportunity to help our students develop the skills and confidence to help in an emergency.

Dr Kevin Moore provided a **Nursing Interview Guidance** session on 11 December 3.30-5.00pm in the school canteen for over forty pupils. This highly informative session provided the girls with an opportunity to reflect on interview technique and how they can prepare for a Nursing Interview.

Loreto pupils participated in **The Friendship is Bigger than Borders** Initiative. On 28 November, Loreto pupils demonstrated a symbolic handshake across the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, showing **mutual understanding and friendship**. Claire Bowes, former Loreto pupil who lost her sight in the Omagh Bomb travelled to Derry with Post 16 and Year 10 students to meet students from Cork, Dublin and Derry.

**The Loreto Senior and Junior Choirs** have been entertaining the local community in various locations over the Christmas period.

## Whole School Events

### School Clubs:

**The Homework Club** runs Monday–Thursday 3.30–5.00pm in Computer Room 1 and is supervised by our Classroom Assistants who are always on hand to help pupils with their work. Juice and biscuits are also provided.

**The Wednesday Wellbeing Club**, led by our Health and Wellbeing Prefects, runs every week in Mrs Gavin's classroom 12.20–1.00pm. Come along and enjoy games, arts, crafts, puzzles, chats and nibbles.

**The PALS (Play and Learn Skills) Club** runs during registration period in our Sensory Room: Monday: Year 9; Tuesday: Year 10; Thursday: Year 8. The aim of the programme is to promote and develop confidence, communication and social skills in young people as individuals and in group settings. Contact Mrs Gavin for details.

### Shared Education:

- On 16 December pupils from 9A5 enjoyed a morning playing a 'Game of two-halves' - Hockey and Camogie along with pupils from Omagh High School and Omagh Academy.
- Y9 pupils played in Rugby Blitz with Omagh High School and Omagh Academy pupils.
- On 26 November a group of six Loreto Student Council members had the opportunity to attend the first Shared Student Council meeting. This event was hosted by Omagh CBS and afforded our Student Council members the opportunity to engage in dialogue and activities which focused on the appreciation of the legacy of each school as we prepare to move to the Strule Campus.
- Alongside Omagh High School and Omagh Academy our Y.14 BTEC students participated in a talk with **Irish Hockey star Shirley McKay** (Past pupils of Omagh Academy).

**Home Economics:** All KS3 students enjoyed seasonal cookery this term. At Halloween Year 8 cooked Apple Puffs, Year 9 Apple Crumble and Year 10 Apple Tarts. This festive season the girls enjoyed making Christmas Truffles.

Congratulations to Saoirse Armstrong and Ella Duffy Y.12 and Ellie Corry Y.13, who will represent Loreto in the **NIABF Young People Forum; Stormont Parliament Buildings on 7 February 2020**. These pupils will attend the Assembly Chamber and contribute to the following topics: Bullying in Faith Organisations; Disablist Bullying; Bullying Online; Sectarian Bullying; Bullying in Sports Clubs & Bullying Involving Young People in Care.

### P.E. Department:

- Swimming:** Congratulations to the Loreto team who won the Omagh School Swimming Gala.
- Athletics:** Ulster Club Championships for Cross-Country - Congratulations to Year 13 students Ella Quinn 3<sup>rd</sup> U-19 and Sorcha Mullin 4<sup>th</sup> U -18.
- Horse-Riding:** Well done to Niamh McEvoy who represented Ireland at the Longines Masters show in Paris.

**Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Week 11–15 November 2019** was another successful event in our pastoral calendar. 8A1 attended the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** on Wednesday 20 November in W5, Belfast. Year 9 spent the month of November exploring Anti-Bullying and Kindness with presentations on Loreto to Lusaka; Red Card for Racism and beautiful Anti-Bullying key rings during an interactive workshop. Year 9s, in conjunction with their excellent Pastoral Monitors, created a wall display on Kindness and a promotional video. Year 10s were split into groups of five to complete a communication task which involved creating a group powerpoint on an aspect of bullying. Pupils presented this to the class and one was selected to represent the class at the Year group Anti-Bullying assembly on **'Change Starts with Us'** on 13 November. Year 11 and Year 12 pupils engaged in a variety of role-plays; group discussions and activities to celebrate the theme that, **"Change Starts with Us"**.

## Pastoral House System – Update

**Congratulations to the following House Vice-Captains** Thank you for all the letters of application.

Year 8: 8a1 Kate McRory, 8a2 Grace Conway, 8a3 Maighread Donnelly, 8a4 Lucy Rodgers and 8a5 Katie Treanor

Year 9: 9a1 Caitlin Gallagher-Arruda, 9a2 Sarah McLaughlin, 9a3 Chanelle Patterson, 9a4 Ellen McFarland and 9a5 Anna Morgan

Year 10: 10a1 Brigh O'Kane, 10a2 Milly Hoban, 10a3 Emma Thompson, 10a4 Meabh Ward and 10a5 Alice Symington

- Congratulations to HOUSE TWO-ERRIFIC - currently in the lead.
- Congratulations to Elena Berzina 10A2, Emma Cassidy 8A3, Clodagh McCloskey, Ailish Kelly & Cara Eannetta 8A4 for the Winning MASCOTS for Houses 2, 3 & 4.
- Congratulations to Erin McElhinney 9a2 – winner of our Anti-Bullying Poster Competition.

## Voluntary Contributions

A special thank you to parents who have forwarded the voluntary contributions. The cost to you is approximately £5.00 per month per student and this provides invaluable support for your daughter and the pupils of Loreto. Contributions can be paid in instalments or Direct Debit. Please contact the school office for details. All parents are urged to consider making a voluntary contribution – the school needs your financial support. During 2016/17 funds raised from voluntary contributions have been used for provision in the following areas: School Nurse (Pupil Welfare Officer), Language Assistants' support, Learning Support and Equipment for pupils – calculators.

## Dates for the Diary

### Dates: School Closed

**Christmas:** Friday 20 Dec – Monday 7 Jan 2020

**Mid-Term Break:** Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 Feb

**St Patrick's Day:** Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 March

**Staff Day:** Thursday 9 April

**Easter Holidays:** Friday 10 April – Friday 17 April

**Bank Holiday:** Friday 8 May

**Staff Day:** Monday 25 May

**Staff Day:** Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 June.

**Summer Holiday begin on Friday 26 June at 3.25pm**

### Forthcoming Events

**Open Night** for P6 and P7 and their parents/guardians will be held on Wednesday 22 January 5.30-8.30pm

**Ski Trip:** Andalo Italy Saturday 25 January – Saturday 1 February

**Year 10 Choices Event:** Thursday 27 February (morning)

**Post 16 Information Event:** Thursday 27 February (afternoon)

**Year 10 Action MS Walk:** Friday 20 March 9.30am-12.20pm

### Blessings at Christmas

And may the star of Bethlehem guide you and your loved ones  
through the next decade

From the Board of Governors, Principal and Staff of  
Loreto Grammar School Omagh.



Artwork by Zuzanna Pawlowska Y.11



Artwork by Andrea McLaughlin Y.9