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Dear Parents

Some generations lived other hardships, but this Covid-19 pandemic year has been devastating, globally. Ultimately, the greatest lesson humanity learned is that "we are all in this together."

Firstly, I would like to thank the school administration, the teachers and all the staff for their hard work on making all the adjustments, on school policies and operation, as well on switching to online courses. It is not the best way to receive an education, especially for the 3rd year and 6th year students, but there was no alternative, and they really did a great job to continue their work, as the importance of education remains consistent.

A special thank you to the Greenscene team for creating this spring edition.

Also well done to us - the parents - on trying our best to motivate, encourage and assure our daughters that everything will be alright.

We can all agree that having kids in home-based learning and fulfilling household and work duties while cooped up indoors, parenting during the coronavirus pandemic is filled with challenges and frustrations. So caring about yourself and your family is more important than ever.

Allowing some time to recharge will make all of us happier and more productive in the long run, so please take care of your body and mind with some exercise, walking, reading a book or listen to your favourite playlist.

By staying positive and refusing to give up, despite these challenging times, our inner strength will endure. Better days will come!

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and a lovely springtime!

Eva Karagianni

PA Chairperson



Junk Kouture by Ella Johnston 5M



Junk Kouture is a global platform that aims to showcase the creativity of young people in a sustainable manner. One way it does this is through a fashion competition which challenges young designers from around the nation to create and model high end couture from everyday junk.

Participating in Junk Kouture was most certainly the highlight of my Transition Year. I truly enjoyed every minute of making my outfit. At the beginning, my team and I did not know what materials to use. We decided to pay a visit to a recycling centre in Ballymount to see if they had any eye catching materials. Thankfully they did. We were immediately drawn to the vibrant, colourful caps of Botox injection vials and we decided to use them as the basis of our outfit.

Our top is composed of over 700 purple, orange and red botox injection vial caps, each individually hand sewn onto a leotard.

The A-line skirt, made of deep purple faux fur, flows downwards, with the material brushing off the floor on the right side of the model's foot. This accentuates the model's figure and creates an interesting silhouette. Syringes filled with glitter hang elegantly from the end of the skirt, representing the botox injections themselves. The faux fur sleeves add a fun touch to the severe chainmail like top, and the glitter filled syringes standing upright on the headband correlate with those found on the skirt, while also providing an edgy, futuristic look. The medical wire twisted around the headband, falling slightly over the right side of the model's face, along with the glitter face mask, add a mysterious element to the design. (Who knew when we were making this outfit that face masks would be mandatory a few months later!) The medical tubing used as a belt and necklace further portrays the medical theme of this design. It was incredible to watch our creation come together. Isabelle O'Reilly modelled for the photo shoot. She was a fantastic model and the outfit looked stunning on her.

Unfortunately the judges didn't choose our outfit to compete in the Eastern regional final. There were so many incredible entries. My team and I were extremely proud of the three outfits from Loreto: Metallica, Techno Toxic and Some Like it Pink that had been selected to partake in this event. There was still a chance that our team could be entered into the regional final, as all the outfits that didn't get through initially were enrolled into a public vote, with five places being allocated to the designs that obtained the most votes. My team and I gained the most votes in the Eastern Region, and hence were through to the regional final. We were utterly thrilled and tremendously appreciative of everyone who had taken the time to vote for our design.

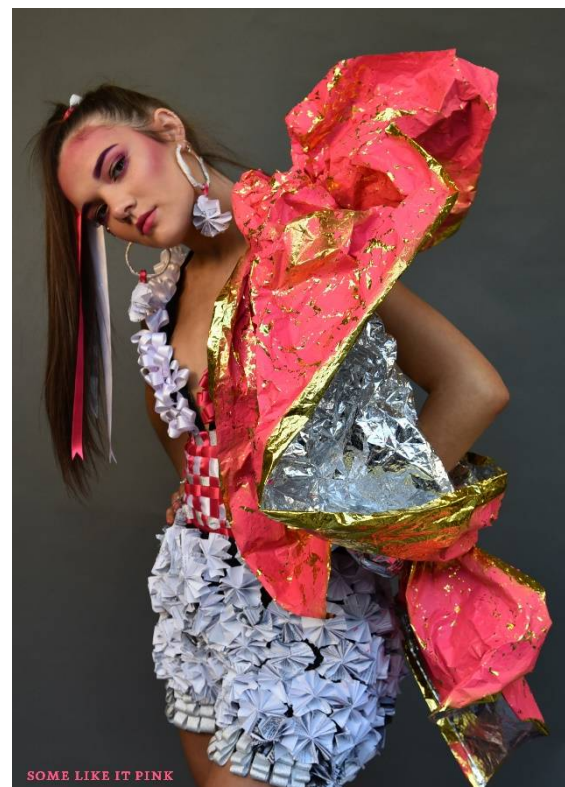
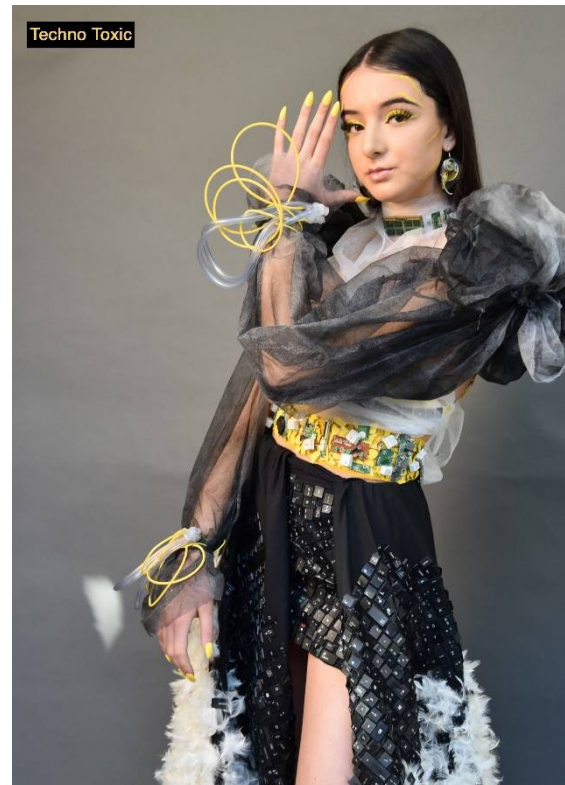
The Eastern regional final was held in the Helix in DCU in March 2020. I was extremely thankful to have received the opportunity to model the outfit for this event. I wasn't even thinking of making it to the National final; it seemed to be completely out of reach. All I hoped for was to perform on stage! I truly enjoyed performing my dance in front of the audience and the judges. It was really exciting to be on stage in front of so many people and thankfully everything ran smoothly. I was hugely grateful that we had made it this far in the competition. When the judges announced that our design was one of the fifteen that had been chosen to compete in the national final, my team and I were ecstatic. We couldn't believe it. I remember walking onto the stage in a daze as the audience cheered and clapped. I couldn't stop beaming out at them. It was such an amazing experience.

The final was televised on RTÉ 2. Sarah Jane modelled our design. The outfit looked terrific on her and she did an amazing job performing. The experience of watching the camera crew in Smock Alley Theatre record Sarah Jane's dance routine with professional camera equipment, lighting and sound engineers was incredible. The excitement of catching a glimpse of our outfit in the Irish Times and watching it appear on RTÉ was unbelievable, something that we never would have imagined. Public voting for the Audience Choice Award took place just before the national final. Although we didn't win an award, we finished third in this public vote, receiving over seven thousand votes.

Ms Fynes was an amazing help and support throughout the course of this project, she was always willing to give my team and I advice if we were unsure about anything. Under her guidance we learned how to deal with setbacks and overcome obstacles. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who voted for my team and to everyone who canvassed for

our outfit. Participating in Junk Kouture was an experience of a lifetime and I would highly recommend it.

Junk Kouture by Ella Johnston 5M



Twenty years of Lourdes and counting...



*Former pupil **Aoileann Banks** shares with us her experience of volunteering in Lourdes over the last 20 years*

I was very lucky to have been one of the six girls chosen to represent the Green on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September 1999. Little did I know, more than twenty years later (how can it be that long?!), Lourdes would remain a central part of my life.

My mum dropped me to the airport that first year and I clearly remember sensing her pride that her daughter was going to be helping in Lourdes. We'd visited a number of times on family trips to France previously, so

she was already captivated by the magical atmosphere of this special Pyrenean town and hoped that I would too be charmed.

The annual five days of the pilgrimage are filled with 5am starts, 11pm finishes, daily masses, processions, parties, picnics, singsongs, baths, and lots more besides. All in all it is an exhausting but utterly rewarding experience. I was totally charmed from that first year volunteering and have been returning ever since. Not only does the pilgrimage act as an annual renewal of faith and resetting of my life priorities, but it also acts as a regular touch point with the school. It's lovely to meet the newest sixth year group and their accompanying teacher each

September, a great chance to hear about how life on the Green continues to evolve and also a reminder of the things that never change! (Sixth year excitement of having a toastie maker!!)



My annual Lourdes trip is a non-negotiable for me, no matter what else is on, I make sure to fit it in. This has been tricky through the years and I have missed a few (professional exams getting in the way one year, being in the middle of a world trip in Malaysia another time). When children came along it could have been easy to give it a miss but instead, through the support and adventurous attitude of my family, I've brought the kids along too a number of times!



Some of my deepest friendships have been formed through my involvement in Lourdes.

I've been to many Lourdes weddings, roundy birthdays and alas funerals too. But being part of this special Lourdes family is one of the most important networks in my life. The pandemic made it impossible for the 2020 pilgrimage to take place, at least not in the normal way. There was a virtual pilgrimage which served to bring people together somewhat, but it's very difficult to substitute the *feeling* of being at the grotto, lighting candles, drinking some holy water, and hearing 'Ave Maria' in multiple languages sung by pilgrims from all over the world. It's hard to see how the pilgrimage will continue in the future years but I remain hopeful that I'll get back to Lourdes one day soon.



For any girls wondering if they should apply, worrying that they're not much into religion, or anxious about how to help with the elderly and not knowing what to do...I say, go for it!

***Aoileann Banks (née Nic Aogáin) –
Class of 2000***

WE ARE EVERYWHERE

by

May Whelan (nee Hoey)

Grandmother of Clíodhna Whelan 6T

In 1950 I went to Loreto, St Stephen's Green. It was a strange environment at first, because at the time I had missed a lot of School due to illness. However, I soon settled down helped by the staff and fellow students. We were a happy group helping one another with our studies. At the time there were boarders in the Green many coming from as far away as Donegal. When they returned from holidays, they had great stories to tell us of their holidays at home.

I travelled to school on the Green every day by bus from Clonskeagh but as I had been in Loreto Leeson Lane for my younger years this was just a continuation, and I was joined by local friends.

By a strange coincidence, many years later I met with a school friend and through that meeting made contact with two other friends who had joined the Loreto order – Sister Jacinta who is now in South Africa and Sister Hilary. We met up on several occasions and reminisced about our school days. When I joined my local active retirement group, I recognised the president as a former fellow pupil – we are everywhere!

You can imagine my delight when six years ago two of my granddaughters – Eimear and Clíodhna told me that they were going to the Green. Since then, I have been to the school on a number of different occasions. Although it is very different now, it is still very familiar.

I have been to a concert, to the Carols by Candlelight, and to Maytime Music in the Concert Hall. On each occasion the musical talent was great.

However, the highlight was my visit to the school, being welcomed at the door by my granddaughter Clíodhna with a 'Welcome to the Green' – it was for the grandparents' mass – a lovely occasion.

Eimear has now left the Green and graduated from college while Clíodhna is in her last year. Unfortunately, the situation is very strange this year with the virus making the situation so uncertain.

I wish the Green every blessing in the years ahead.





Loreto Choir c. 1950
Thanks to Mrs May Whelan for sharing this image with us

A Brief History of The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary



'Women in time will come to do much.' Mary Ward

It is impossible to celebrate the life of Mother Teresa Ball, the first sister to bring the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Ireland, without first paying homage to Mary Ward a woman of great faith, enormous resilience and strength of character. In 1609 she founded one of the first groups of active religious women in the Church, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known in Ireland and throughout the world as Loreto Sisters.

Born in Yorkshire in 1585, Mary's England was one of great religious and political upheaval. Elizabeth 1 reigned and religious intolerance was rife. Her parents were devout Catholics at a time when Catholics were being persecuted for their faith. Interestingly, her maternal grandmother spent fourteen years in prison because of her catholic faith. While two of her uncles, John and Christopher Wright, were involved in the Gunpowder Plot, led by Guy Fawkes, which was an attempt, in 1605, to blow up the English House of Parliament and assassinate King James I.

Inspired by the deep faith of her family, Mary felt called to follow Christ in religious life. But her religious ambitions were radical for the time she lived in. Her dream was to follow Christ in a 'new way,' one full of possibilities. She wanted her rule and way of life for her members to be based on the apostolic life of the Jesuits. Furthermore, she wished her members to be dressed in the ordinary clothes of the time, not to be confined by monastic enclosure and, most controversially, to be self-governing without any interference from male congregations or bishops.

However, her dreams were in contradiction to the norms of the Council of Trent. The cardinals of the Inquisition objected to her plans and, hence, to Mary Ward herself, her companions, their ideals and work. In 1631, at the cardinals insistence, Pope Urban VIII signed a Bull of Suppression, condemning Mary as a 'heretic, schismatic and rebel to the Holy Church'. She was imprisoned in Munich. Her Institute was pronounced to be 'suppressed, extinct, uprooted and abolished'. The schools were closed and the members of the Institute dispersed. While Mary was eventually released from prison, her life's work had been shattered. With a few faithful companions, Mary returned to her native Yorkshire and died there in 1645.

This was a tragic end to a life of passionate religious idealism and service. However, over the centuries Mary Ward's vision has prospered and grown. In 1909, three hundred years after

she began her work, Pope Pius X eventually lifted the ban and Mary Ward became recognised as foundress of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters).

Mary Ward was a woman who loved the church yet was never afraid to speak her truth in the name of God. She lived with a true inner freedom. Even when challenged by the church she loved, she never wavered from her vision. She remains a beacon of hope for women today.



200 years ago, Frances Teresa Ball set up the Irish Branch of the I.V.B.M. (The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) now known to us all as Loreto. As the bicentenary of this approaches, we take the opportunity to look back at this inspirational woman

Frances Teresa Ball's life spanned a critical period of rebellion and famine in Ireland. She was the youngest of 6 children born to a catholic family. Her mother was from Galway and her father was a silk merchant. Their family home was 63 Eccles Street, Dublin – at that time this was a fine Georgian home and today there is a small plaque displayed there.



In the 17th and 18th centuries wealthy families sent their children abroad to be educated, often to France, Spain. The Ball family sent their daughters Anna Maria, Isabella and Frances, then aged 9, to the Bar Convent in York. This is the oldest surviving Catholic convent in England,

established in 1686 and run by the sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Both Mary Ward and Frances Ball had many things in common. Notably both lived in times of religious intolerance, when women were considered to be weak and fickle.

During Frances Ball's lifetime hedge schools were being replaced with the national school system based on the Stanley Letter which regulated, among other things, how religion could be taught in school.

Frances settled down in school and started to excel there and was soon noted as being an intelligent, artistic and popular student. In 1808, when she was 15 years old Frances returned to Dublin at her mother's request. Frances did not wish to end her studies and her brother, Nicholas brought her home from York in 1808 and he insisted that her education continue.

Frances Ball Change of Plan

March 1810 Frances Ball aged 17 went to her Debutantes' Ball, accompanied by her brother, Nicholas. At the time it was expected that she would marry a wealthy man and settle into family life. However, that evening, while dancing Frances had an experience that was to change the rest of her life. She heard a voice saying, 'Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice and all things else shall be added unto you.' She spoke to her close friend Fr Daniel Murray who advised her to pray to understand the meaning behind these words.



Fr Daniel Murray hoped that Frances, once trained in the spirituality of the I.B.V.M. would return to Ireland to provide an education for Irish children.

Frances' sister Anna Maria was a strong defender of the underprivileged. She founded an Orphanage in Harold's Cross and a refuge for women in the Coombe. She was the co-foundress with Mary Aikenhead of the Irish Sisters of Charity. Frances accompanied her on her visits to the poor of Dublin.

Frances continued to follow her vocation. Her mother, however, was not so delighted with this change of plan for Frances and at first did not want her to return to York as a novice. Mrs Ball had a change of heart on listening to a sermon about parents who block God's plans in their children who wish to follow Him. Frances's mother thought these words were meant for her. She relented and allowed Frances to return to York.



While at York, Frances (now Teresa Ball) was joined by two other Irish girls, Anne Therry from Cork and Eleanor Arthur, originally from Limerick. The Leader of the community in York, Mother Coyney, agreed to train Frances and a few other Irish girls and allow them to return. She did not feel that, given the political situation at the time, a group of English educators would be welcome in Dublin. At age 20 Frances left for York and she joined the I.B.V.M. order on 8 September 1814. She took the name Teresa after Teresa of Avila.



Meanwhile, her friend and mentor, Dr Murray, soon to be Archbishop of Dublin had purchased a run-down house and 40 acres of land in Rathfarnham for Frances, (Mother Teresa) and her fellow two sisters, Sister Baptist Therry and Sister Ignatius Arthur, to establish a convent and school. The three sisters left York in August 1821.



When they reached their destination the house in Rathfarnham was not habitable, so Frances accepted an invitation from Mary Aikenhead of the Sisters of Charity to stay with them in Stanhope Place until Rathfarnham was made ready. The Irish Branch of the I.V.B.M. (The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) became known as Loreto. While waiting for the house in Rathfarnham to be made ready, the three sisters rented a house in Harold's Cross. In May 1822 they opened the first IBVM convent in Ireland there. On 4 November 1822 they finally moved into Rathfarnham.

Waiting to greet them were Frances' mother, her sisters Anna Maria and Isabella, her brother Nicolas, the sister and husband of Eleanor Arthur (Sister Ignatius), an old friend of Frances, and the 13 boarders from their temporary school in Harold's Cross.

Loreto Education Circa 1822

The school system of the time bore some similarities to the school curriculum today but there were many differences too. French was the official language of instruction. Languages, drama, music and art were studied by all. Needlework was encouraged. The students did not return home for Christmas. Frances (Mother Teresa) advised her teachers to be tender in their treatment of the pupils but firm at the same time. There were awards for good behaviour distributed at assembly.

New Members

From 1822 – 1825 five young women joined Teresa Ball's group of Loreto sisters. Between 1828 and 1833, sixteen girls who had been educated in Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham joined the order.

Expansion

The success of the Abbey in Rathfarnham spread far and wide. Mother Teresa received constant requests to found schools in other parts of Ireland and abroad.



Loreto St Michaels School in Navan Co. Meath

In July 1833 they opened a second Loreto School, this time in Navan, Co Meath. In September that year Harcourt Street, Dublin which moved 1841 the house moved to the house of Lord Charleville in St Stephen's Green

In 1841 Mother Teresa Ball sent 7 Loreto sister and 5 Postulates all in their twenties to India. These 12 women under the leadership of Delphine Hart travelled by ship from Dublin to Kolkata, a voyage of 17 weeks at sea. In January 1842 began a Loreto School with 60 pupils.



By the time of her death on 19 May 1861 in Loreto Dalkey, Mother Teresa had founded 37 communities around the world. She is buried in the grounds of the Abbey, Rathfarnham.

After her death, Loreto schools continued to thrive around the country and around the world. Frances Ball, the young girl from Dublin, followed her heart and in so doing ultimately created an amazing legacy. In truth, her story never ends as her spirit continues in all Loreto ventures throughout the world. Today there are 150 Loreto schools worldwide educating 70,000 pupils.

Restoration and Conservation Work on the School

By Brendan Fitzgerald

As you will have noticed, the St. Stephen's Green façades of the school have, for much of the past year, been hidden behind an elaborate scaffolding. This scaffold has enabled some very important restoration and conservation works to the historical fabric of the school's protected structures under the direction of RIAI conservation architect Liam McLoughlin of McLoughlin Architecture, Naas.



Scaffolding goes up July 2020

The main purpose of the works was to carry out necessary roof repair works and to restore the protected facades and windows of numbers 53, 54 and 55 St. Stephen's Green. The buildings date from the mid 1700's and were acquired by the Loreto order in stages, No.53 in 1834 and then No.54 in 1889 with No.55 being added in 1970 when St. Vincent's hospital moved to Elm Green.

The facades had fallen into poor repair, made worse by some ill-considered previous brick repointing during the late 20th century. Here, the traditional lime mortar had been replaced with a cementitious or cement-based mortar, an intervention architect Liam McLoughlin described as catastrophic.

The original brick facades and buildings were constructed with lime mortar to allow the structure to live and breathe. When this breathability is blocked, through the use of cement-based mortars, the brickwork becomes very susceptible to damage. Moisture becomes trapped within the structure and the only way it can escape is through the brick. In winter, the dampness in the brickwork then freezes and expands, causing the facing of the brick to fail over time, a process known as spalling. No.'s 53 and 54 showed considerable evidence of this kind of damage, particularly to the upper floors. The facade of No. 55 was identified as being in better condition as it had retained its lime mortar with only cleaning down and minor repairs required.



Brick repairs



Wigging



Old pointing with sample new section

The repair of this damage is a skilled and painstaking process involving specialist conservation techniques, trades and materials. This was carried out by Oldstone Conservation Ltd, whose team showed great skill and dedication. They also offered considerable flexibility and adaptability working within the school calendar, keeping dusty and noisy trades to a minimum during school hours and dealing with Health & Safety and supply issues caused by the impact of COVID-19. Luckily, once begun, the works were considered essential and so have been allowed continue throughout the pandemic.

Given the importance of these buildings, there was also very close collaboration with Dublin City Council Planning & Building Conservation Department. Each stage of the project was subject to an approvals process which involved considerable and in-depth consultation with DCC and their input throughout was both valuable and proactive.

The first step in the work was to very carefully rake out the old cementitious mortar. While there was considerable damage to the original bricks, happily none required full replacement. The façades were then carefully steam washed, using specialist equipment by skilled tradesmen. Where necessary, brick repairs were carried out. Floor by floor and building by building the process of repointing began with an appropriate lime-based mortar using a pointing treatment known as 'wiggling'. Here, the space between the bricks is filled with a mortar which is then finished to a fine thin line. A coloured repair mortar is carefully tooled in on each brick to emphasise the detail of the raised lime mortar joint. When complete, a second careful wash process is carried out to ensure that no residual colour pigmentation remains across the façades.

In addition to the brickwork, the original timber windows have been fully restored to the architect's specification by Cozyglaze, a company specialising in the restoration, repair and upgrading of slide & sash timber windows in heritage buildings. Much of this work had to be carried out at night to allow the school continue to operate by day where sashes were carefully removed and factory restored whilst the frames were restored in location.

Patent type window reveals were agreed with DCC to be retained to minimise the damage to the brickwork, and were appropriately made good and correctly restored.

Additional works made possible by the access afforded by the scaffolding include roof repairs, replacement of flat roofing and rooflights; cleaning of parapets and the zinc cladding of plant rooms, -all carried out using best practice. The granite window sills had layers of paintwork carefully removed and the cills were restored where required. The façade of 54 required the insertion of some structural ties to help stabilise a portion of the weakened façade under the direction of Ken Moriarty of Torque Consulting Engineers.



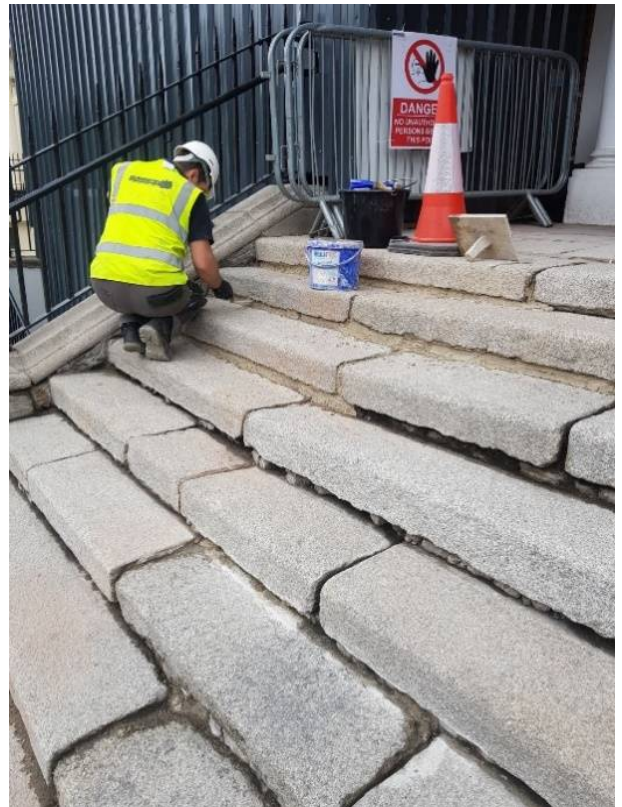
Steam pressure cleaning

Remaining works include some repair and repainting of the railings. However, these are in very good condition and, like other elements of the building, are a credit to the diligence of Loreto's maintenance staff over the years. The finished façade will also benefit from sympathetic floodlighting designed by Rocky Wall of Wink Lighting from Bray.

The finished project will represent a significant contribution to the built heritage of the St. Stephen's Green. It will be testament to Loreto's stewardship over these important buildings and, in the words of Conservation Architect Liam McLoughlin, will emphasise the importance and significance of the school to the City of Dublin.

The steps leading to the front door of No.53, ascended by generations of students and staff, have also been restored. Rather than lift and replace them however, the decision was made to repair the steps in situ and to retain the slight unevenness showing their age and the wear they have endured. Cement based mortars were removed and replaced with more appropriate lime mortars.

Repointing steps



Ditch the Dish and Enrich

Paul Cleary, Education and Community Officer with Dogs Trust

Enrichment covers a vast scope of techniques, tricks and methods, all of which are designed to help animals; So we thought that it might be interesting to cover the different types of enrichment we do in Dogs Trust, both with the dogs in our care, and with our education dogs.

So, what exactly is Enrichment?

When zoos first became popular, the enclosures for the animals were designed for the people visiting to get really good looks at the animals, and the animals needs were generally neglected. This resulted in many animals living short, unhealthy lives.



An outdated polar bear enclosure, designed solely for humans, not its occupants

Many of the animals began exhibiting behaviours like pacing up and down, licking the walls for hours on end, and it wasn't rare for the animals to self-harm. They developed techniques that met the animals' needs, by challenging and entertaining them. If the animal foraged for their food, the food was then scattered throughout their enclosure. This technique of animal care was named "enrichment" and as it became

more widespread, animal welfare improved, and the techniques got more varied, complicated and ultimately, more successful.



What has this got to do with dogs?

Well, dogs often perform their own repetitive behaviours. Sometimes dogs may chase their shadows, paddle their water bowls or lick a surface repeatedly. Just because a dog is performing these behaviours, it doesn't necessarily mean the dog is very stressed, but they can be indicators.

What types of enrichment do we do in Dogs Trust?

Olfactory enrichment

Often enrichment will take advantage of a particular sense, and what better sense to rouse in a dog than their wonderful sense of smell.

By scattering treats in long grass, sand or among dog-safe plants, dogs will use their nose to locate the treats. Dogs naturally use their nose to locate objects, something that seems so foreign to us that we often forget to utilize this sense when playing with our dogs, but getting a dog to use their nose to find treats is not only fun for the dog, but engaging for their brain.



Pluto is using his powerful nose to locate some of his favourite treats

We have a tendency to think exercise is the only way to tire our dogs but think about how you feel after a long day at school, or a long day at work behind a desk. It is the same with dogs, and although it is important they still get their physical exercise, mental exercise is just as important.

Puzzle enrichment

Speaking of mental exercise, we often hide treats and rewards in different objects, making our dogs work for their returns. A good cardboard box, or newspaper is often a fun thing to dissect. Be aware that some dogs may try to eat paper and cardboard, and if that is the case it may be best to avoid this, but if not, a box can provide hours of fun. Add some treats to an old pillowcase and tie a knot in it.



If you don't have any cardboard, or if you don't fancy destroying your pillowcases, there are plenty of enrichment items you can get in a pet shop.

And you can mix up the fillings. Try peanut butter. Dogs are nutty for the substance, and as a bonus it is really stinky, so you can hide it well, and your dog will likely find it eventually. Or you could try soaking their regular kibble in water and mashing it up. Or perhaps get really adventurous and try bananas, strawberries, blueberries, or even sweet potato or carrot. All of these are safe to give dogs and will mix up their rewards.

Feeding time.

Some dogs are so food orientated, they will gobble up their dinner in a matter of seconds, so in these cases we can offer them their dinner in a puzzle feeder or lickimat. These will transform a meal of 10 seconds, into an activity that will last them a lot longer and will keep them entertained throughout.



Piper adores her Lickimat

All the techniques above can be utilized by your own dogs at home. You might find your dog really enjoys them and you'll have a new way to bond with your doggy pal.

My New Friend, Mara



Despite Covid, February mid-term break 2021 was the best ever!

A long time ago my brother and I decided to ask for a dog every day. It was our New Year's resolution! We stuck to our promise and nagged and nagged. Now, four years later, we are living proof that nagging really does work!

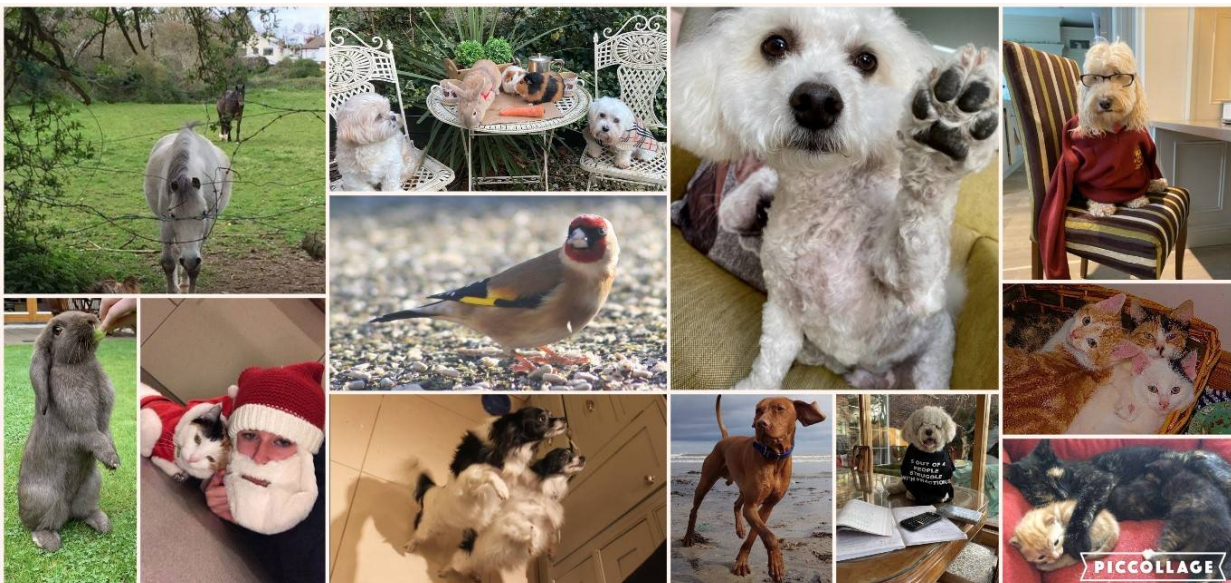
On our first visit to Dogs Trust, I was both excited and nervous. I didn't know what to expect. I knew that in requesting a German Shepherd, she would be big. And she was! Although I approached Dogs Trust with caution on that first visit, I knew from that day forth that Mara was the dog for us. With a generous black and tan coat and beautiful brown 'Disney eyes', she is the friendliest and most gorgeous dog I have ever come in contact with. I love her so much.

We have just completed the adoption process so Mara is now officially a member of the family! I must say that I am very happy with the way Dogs Trust handled things! Everything that was done was always in the best interests of us and of course the dog. They make sure that everyone in the family is happy before taking on the responsibility. First you go to visit the dog you have reserved in the Dogs Trust Centre. After a few visits, the dog will then come to visit you at your house. Then, when they are comfortable enough with the family, they will come to your house for a sleepover! When Mara came for her sleepover with us, she never went back! Dogs Trust have been so kind and considerate to both us and all of the dogs in their care! They minded my Mara so well and it is because of them that I have the dog of my dreams in my home!

All of the dogs in Dogs Trust deserve a safe and loving home. Maybe one day you could help rescue a dog too and give them the love and support they have been deprived of and they deserve. Remember if you are a kid like me who really wants a dog, don't give up asking. I hope you'll find the right dog for you soon!

www.dogstrust.ie

by Meadhbh Ryan 1T



From the Archives – Loreto 90 years ago



THE WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The Wellbeing Committee continued with incredible involvement and interest as ever this year. Our committee is made up of over 40 students across senior years, targeting mental health awareness and our wellbeing festivities.

With the support of our teaching representatives Ms. Beatty and Ms. Kelly, we have involved the student body in our aims. Now more than ever mental health and wellbeing are critical parts of our everyday lives, and it is vital that this aspect is reflected on in our schools. Every Wednesday our core leadership group meet to develop ideas and convert them into realities.

We have shared a list of resources with the student body and staff. This included links to websites and various sources of information and media. We have graciously been allowed to create our Wednesday reflection, and each week we share different amenities that promote positive wellbeing and mental health. We like to tie it in to a relevant topic at present, an example of this was our Mary Ward week reflection. We shared her bravery and quote "Women in time will come to do much" to inspire others, as well as some support services.

Over midterm to further involve the whole student body, we created a Loreto "Bake-Off". This was widely popular and we received many incredible entries! We wanted students to take some time for themselves and enjoy both baking and eating some delicious looking creations! The winners received house points, tying in the aspect of house and school spirit.

The wellbeing committee runs an Instagram page to promote our presence in the community. We post weekly affirmations, positive quotes, movie or music suggestions and share general resources.

Our committee has many plans for the future, some of which are already in motion. We're currently working on creating a weekly tea and chat for the years who are still working online. This event is extremely popular in the school, and feedback is always positive and asking for more!

We are currently working on organising an event that involves the Amber Flag and the Darkness into Light charity walk. We are of course being mindful of COVID-19 restrictions and the limitations we are dealing with. We hope to host a day where students wear orange to promote the amber flag, and subsequently tie this in with individual students doing the darkness into light walk, or even with their families.

It's only with the support of staff and students that make our wellbeing committee what it is. Our student representatives are always generous in donating time and energy into encouraging other students' involvement and mental health awareness. We are extremely grateful to be given such independence also, and have our voices heard in such incredible ways. It's important to gain insight into the students minds before offering support systems, and this is made far more accessible through our work.

Keela Duffy Naughton, 6T

Student Activities 2020 - 2021



Yseul



Yeats Museum



Tufa Monument Reykavic Marina



SP2



UCD Students



TY Retreat

Alice McVegh 1T

I am the representative for the student council this year. School for us has been different to what the 1st years in the past have experienced. In preparing this article I sent questionnaires to many of the first years via email to get their thoughts and feelings so far since September addressing both classroom education and the online education since Christmas.

The first area I explored were the factors that the girls found helpful so far. The resounding answer here was friends. Most girls mentioned the Loreto Community which was so palpable despite the wearing of masks and social distancing enforced. A huge effort was made by the 6th years to welcome us and it was really appreciated. Assigned seating early on was also helpful as no one had to worry about being left out or on their own. This was especially important for girls who knew very few on arrival. Another helpful area was that everyone could try the sporting and extracurricular activities offered - from hockey to debating, everyone was welcome. Many mentioned how google classroom has been a great resource for us. Teachers can easily assign work with due dates, which gives the students clarity and direction. The teachers have been really interactive and patient with this especially since online learning began in January.

The main challenge that was highlighted was the area of online education. Long hours in front of the iPad, back to back classes and then homework on top of hours of zooms. The lack of physical movement even in terms of changing classes in our normal daily routine was missed. A lot of first years felt they were just settling into friendships when online school commenced abruptly. The student council understands that this is the most difficult couple of months since school started but we will hopefully be back to the Green soon. The well-being class at

the end of school on Wednesday is one of the girls highlights of the week as they get to chat to each other, have a rant or check up on answers!

An unexpected resounding positive thing about first year was the iPad! The students in first year said the iPad worked very well for them. It was light and small and easier to carry, an added bonus especially having had no lockers this year. Communicating with the teachers is very easy with the iPad so this was a big plus, with teachers always approachable. Another unexpected great memory that stood out for the students were the two dance lessons! It was a great experience and we all had so much fun!

The highlights included the Talent Show. I cannot explain how much fun the practising, the filming and the whole production was! Our class became so much closer in those few weeks, even though it was quite different this year! The second great experience was the house colour dress up days. It was extremely fun to dress up in our house colours and be a team! The quiz at the end of the day was so enjoyable. The virtual Camino Challenge was another great event. The final question I posed was what if anything have we learned about ourselves?!. Some first years have learned that they can work independently and have learned to fend for themselves! The value of feeling part of a community, the Loreto community and also part of their class team is so important. Secondary school is quite different in so many ways to primary school. New teachers, new faces, new building, going into the city centre, commuting, longer days, later nights! Let's hope we will be all back together soon, and in the meantime the student council will continue to support and remain as a forum for communication and well being.

Amelia Trenaman 3G

The year that was 2020 was certainly unforgettable. I think I speak for everyone when I say that we had an increased appreciation for being physically in school over the course of online learning. On the return to school in September of 2020, things were much different to the school we had left on the 12th of March.

Wearing masks was one of the things that was different, and not the most comfortable way to learn. As someone who wears glasses, the mask often restricted my vision by allowing fog to build up on them which made learning quite uncomfortable. Masks were annoying to say the least. Regardless of this, we got used to them.

One thing that proved difficult was the classroom setting. We would be reminded every day to "Keep the desks on the blue dots!" ; "Wipe down the desks and chairs!" and to "Open that window more, please!". I will never underestimate heaters ever again. Ever.

Even little things like how long we were allowed to have masks off to eat lunch were monitored, which everyone found very hard. With limited social contact anyway, socialising with friends at lunch in the classroom was harder to do.

But the rules didn't take everything away. The annual Talent Show went ahead

online. Each class was tasked with creating a music video based on a theme which were all shown on the last week of school. Many thought that this year's Talent Show was actually better than the previous ones.

When the time came to return online, I don't think anyone was surprised. But things weren't going to be too easy. Having so many Zoom classes every day made everyone overwhelmed, and on top of that there was homework and study to be done. We are very fortunate to have iPads and even if WiFi doesn't always work, to have the ability to switch from physical school to online school overnight in March and also in January was a blessing.

Some things that I found particularly useful throughout the year were Studyclix and Quizlet. Studyclix provides past exam questions and other study tools for students from 1st to 6th year. Quizlet allows the user to make digital flashcards for subjects and has options to test yourself also.

All in all, it has been a hard year for everyone and even though there are still many uncertainties, students should be proud of themselves for persevering through this frenzied year. The Student Council hopes that students are staying well and safe at this time and wish them all the best throughout this lockdown.



Freyja McDonald 6th Year Art



Pia Devine Osbourne Second Year Art

Education During Covid

Claire Connolly 6B

When it was announced last summer that the school would reopen in September, many of us began to prepare ourselves for an unfamiliar, possibly unsettling, environment where no one could read another's facial expressions, embrace a classmate when reuniting after months of being apart, and each year separated from the other as though we were in different schools. However as the student body settled into the routine of cleaning our desks after class, waiting for break to see each others' smiles and remembering a warm jumper for when the draft from the windows was a little hard to handle, Loreto St. Stephen's Green began to feel like a community again. We continued to gather each day while the rest of the country were in a Level 5 lockdown and for this, we counted our blessings every day. As students and teachers alike cannot socialise much outside of school, the school day is a source of human interaction

that everyone very much needs and appreciates.

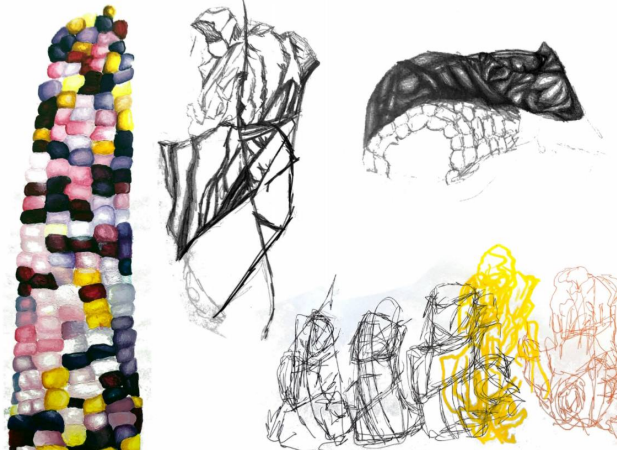
After four months of school in the building we unfortunately had to make the move back to online school just as we had the previous March. Although this was disheartening, this time round both students and teachers had gained enough experience to learn the do's and don'ts of online school. Many students have learned that following our normal timetable helps to give our days structure and a sense of normality. Moving around the house just as we would classrooms helps to keep us focused and stops us falling victim to procrastination and distraction. Similarly, live Zoom classes help to keep us engaged with work and makes asking questions more seamless.

Although at the start and even now we experience a few technical difficulties with Zoom and Google Classroom, my

technological skills have greatly improved and I am much more confident completing and submitting work with the use of online tools. Zoom can also act as a great means for socialisation with classmates and friends as often my classmates and I are put into breakout rooms to do group work or simply for a chat. Just as people all over the world have been hanging out virtually with friends, so do my school friends and I; having the knowledge to set up a zoom ourselves helps us stay in contact and share experiences. We all very much enjoy our weekly Zoom calls.

As a sixth-year student the amount of time spent working for and also worrying about our final grades naturally creates a lot of

stress. We all need to take breaks and many of the options sixth-year students who have come before us had are simply not possible for us. We've learned to take pleasure in the simpler things that we can still do, such as going on long walks in nature with family or getting takeaway coffees from our local cafes on the weekends. Spending more time with my family, learning to better coexist in a house where the majority of us must stay and work everyday, has been an unexpected positive for us. If this pandemic experience has taught me one thing, it is to appreciate the ordinary things that are always there for you, such as family, friends and nature, even during extraordinary times like these.



Ava Murphy Howard Sixth Year Art

The New Student Council System: Smart School Council

Sophie McManus 4T

The new Student Council system differs from the old one in a great many ways. The old council structure only allowed students to deal with superficial issues, such as mirrors in the bathrooms or how to go about school life. Now, we have introduced the Smart School Council approach, which was mainly based in England but has since branched out to Ireland as well. We are the first school to take charge of this system in the country.

It mainly focuses on having everyone's opinion heard, making bigger and long-term changes to the school, as well as having the students' voices heard by higher authorities, such as the Parents' Association and Board of Management. We are beginning to look at things such as subject option choices in our school, as well as other areas like Wellbeing. This year's council probably won't make many changes due to certain time constraints and the lack of in-school learning, but we will create a baseline for years to come and continue to make our school more inclusive in listening to opinions which will help to make our school a smart School when it comes to making choices about how we want to shape our future generations.

Sport in The Green

Meagan Hoffman, Sports Coordinator

This year has looked quite different without school leagues or competitions taking place due to the pandemic. However, we were delighted to have started back with sport on a phased basis at the end of September. During Phase 1, our focus was to introduce sport back into The Green with an emphasis on individual skills and development, while adhering to the public health guidelines. We were initially able to start with hockey and cross country and had a tremendous amount of girls participating in both, particularly with our 1st Years.



Our cross-country girls trained twice a week around Stephen's Green and Iveagh Gardens, where they enjoyed endurance and speed-based workouts. Our hockey girls trained within small 'pods' in their class groups, with sessions held on the school astro pitch, in Railway, and in YMCA on the weekends. It was really nice to see our astro pitch in use every day after school for hockey, and due to the 'non-contact' guidelines, the girls really got to progress with their individual skills



Phase 2 of our 'Return to Sport' began after the Midterm break where we added basketball into the sports schedule, along with maintaining hockey and cross country. We purchased outdoor basketball hoops which allowed us to hold basketball sessions on the school astro pitch.



Again, the girls worked within small pods in their class groups and all sessions were individual skill based. The girls were delighted to have basketball back in The Green and it brought a new dynamic to an indoor sport by playing outdoors and under the astro lights!

By December, we had advanced our training pods into 'development pods' within each year group. This was extremely beneficial as the girls were able to work alongside girls of similar ability and skill level, allowing each pod to progress at varying levels.



Before the Christmas break, our 1st and 2nd year cross country runners participated in the East Leinster Virtual 'Goal Mile Event' where they competed against other East Leinster schools in a

timed mile run. The results were announced in February and our 1st year, Julie Cleary, came first overall with a time of 5:47, and both our 1st and 2nd year teams came 4th overall!

After the Christmas break, we launched our Sport Google Classrooms for hockey, basketball and running to ensure the students stayed active while in remote learning. Within these classrooms, all students in the school were given access to videos created by our coaches that included strength & conditioning, fitness and skills workouts, as well as weekly challenges to complete. These challenges have been fantastic as they have allowed the girls to feel a sense of competition, while also having some fun! Overall, it has been great to see the girls engaging in all of the workouts, and the feedback from the students has been terrific.



Although we have been restricted with sport in general during Covid, it has been brilliant that the girls have still had the opportunity to stay active and work on their skills in their respective sports. We are looking forward to when we can return to sport fully, but until then, we are keeping active on Twitter in promoting the students and their involvement. Be sure to check out our Sports Twitter page (@Loretosport) to see some of the various workouts and challenges that the girls have completed thus far!

Art News - Ms. Fynes



Over the past number of weeks Art students have been busy at home working on both self-directed and class projects.

First year Art students are creating sculptures and stop-motion animations and are thoroughly enjoying the process.

Second Year Art students have been busily responding to RTÉ's This Is Art competition by creating pieces that describe what 'Now' means from them. Students have created collages, drawings, sculptures and photographs that describe how they feel at this unusual moment in history.

Third year Art students have been researching artists that inspire them and broadening their knowledge of both Art History and contemporary Art.

Sixth year Art students are creating beautiful paintings and etchings in response to the theme 'Alteration'. Many Sixth-year students have produced stunning portfolios for admission to Art College.



We are very proud of the wonderful work all of our students have produced and their enthusiastic attitude to learning online!

News from The Multicultural Society by Ileri Adetuberu, 5B Chairperson of the Multicultural Society

The Multicultural Society is an organization created here in Loreto on the Green to celebrate and raise awareness of different cultures both in the school and in Ireland as a whole.

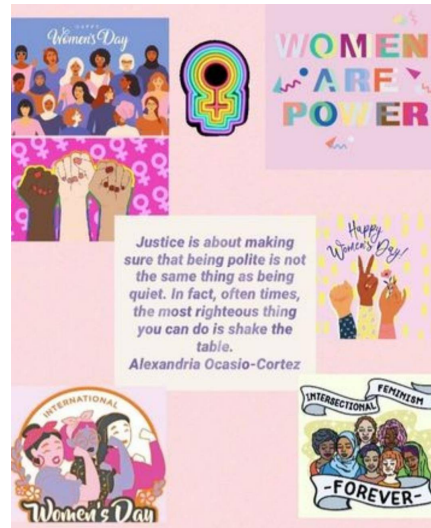


The multicultural society was created in September 2019 by Asha Rait, Kelechi Nnadi and myself. As students of colour, we wanted to raise awareness about different cultural minorities and ethnic groups in the school and across Ireland. As we all came from different backgrounds, we were able to provide diverse perspectives and ideas to form a solid foundation for the Multicultural Society. Over the past few years, we have gained new members and now have the four senior representatives of the multicultural society, they are as follows; Ileri Adetuberu (chairperson), Kelechi Nnadi (Deputy chair), Muireann Carey (Secretary) and Lauren Cotter (PR).

Since we started, we've accomplished many things. In 2019 we created a mural in the school to celebrate many figures from African American culture.

Since the lockdown, we've found a number of ways to celebrate culture virtually. Last year we celebrated Multicultural Day by presenting our various attire from our cultures in a video.

We were also able to celebrate Black History Month with a number of quizzes on Zoom. We held a virtual poster competition and we received some wonderful entries that displayed and celebrated black culture.



We celebrated International Women's Day by raising awareness of issues relating to women's rights and mental health.



Throughout the year, we look forward to celebrating different cultural events and meeting with our members to come up with new ideas. In the future, we hope to be able to reach and connect with other schools across the country to raise awareness about cultural diversity.

Our organization helps everyone to celebrate and appreciate culture, regardless of where they come from and we hope to make it as fun and enjoyable as possible.

Honor Lynch 3B writes about the experience of making her prize-winning first short film and her love of film.



The Run scooped top prize in the 2021 Frame of Mind Short Film Competition for Honor and Amber Lynch

Here is a link to the Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0V1j1zQK--Q&t=956s>

I have always had a keen interest in film, literature, and theatre. I used to do drama in primary school. In early 2020 I developed a real interest in filmmaking. It combines many of my passions such as art, photography, music, science, and writing. I aspire to be a filmmaker or a cosmologist/theoretical physicist (preferably both). A cosmologist first and then a filmmaker.

My entry was titled "The Run". It depicts a number of days in the life of a young girl struggling with anxiety brought on by Covid, not being able to see friends or go to school etc. It is inspired by my own life as Covid-19 and lockdown really hit me hard. Some days I just felt hopeless. Everything felt out of my control and it felt like every day was repeating itself. I depicted the repetition of days in my short film by overlaying sounds and speeding up images, it came out considerably successful. This short film shows how the young girl finally decides to go for a run. A message I wanted to get across and I hope people interpreted from this short film, is that the battle with mental health is long and arduous. It doesn't abruptly end with one run etc. But the coping mechanisms like running do make it a small bit easier. Over-lockdown I did find running a safe space. A few times a week my sister, my dad and I would drive out to the Phoenix park and go for a run. Honestly, I never feel freer and at one with nature than when I am running and immersed in plant life. This short really means a lot to me, as it is my directorial debut and first "proper" film. I used to make millions of short comical movies when I was younger. I wanted to show anyone can be battling mental health problems and it happens to people of all ages. I think some people's perceptions are that only adults and teens suffer and children are immune. But in reality, it could be anyone including young children. I also wanted to help people find a coping mechanism (mine is running) so they can feel that few minutes of freedom and an escape from reality. It could be playing music, swimming, roller skating, drawing, reading and so many more options.

Another part of creating the film that was really enjoyable was that my sister (Amber) was playing the lead. Obviously, we had to film within regulations but she did a very good job. Thinking back, she is the only person I would cast and fitted the role perfectly. It was great to work on the film with her as we are completely honest with each other, which is nice when trying to perfect a scene. We had a lot of fun brainstorming ideas, creating storyboards and composing the music. It was definitely a fun project to do together and sparked my sister's interest in acting again. She also composed the music for the film with a small bit of help from my uncle's partner (he's a classical composer and played violin to accompany her piano). I think the music plays a big part in this short as it signifies a turning point. It wouldn't be the same without it and I have to credit my sister for that.

What really made me even more content with this film was that my uncle who has battled with mental health problems in the past told me that after watching the movie he decided to go out for a run which made him feel just a bit better about the day.

One of my biggest inspirations is Wes Anderson. Everything in his films from music, set design, dialogue, screenplay is executed to an incredibly high standard. I have watched all of his films and each is practically a piece of art. The camera angles are planned and structured which is a theme that seeps into the dialogue which is both hilarious and quirky. Wes manages to depict important messages through his movies while still making them comical. A great example of this use of comedy and morbidity is "The Royal Tenenbaums", which hands down has to be one of my favourite movies of all time. Wes incorporated relevant themes such as suicide, drug abuse and death into a wacky comedy per say. It doesn't seem possible but he still manages to still make the film sensitive. I recommend any of his films, every single one is completely unique apart from a common theme of "control" and the lack of it we have over our lives.

Honor Lynch 3B



Freya Sirr Third Year Art

Life in the Library by Ms Madden

2020-2021 has certainly been a school year with a difference! Because of Covid restrictions, every available space in the school building was utilised to ensure that girls were adequately distanced from each other during the school day. Although a large part of our Library was used as a classroom for 3M, we were very fortunate to maintain enough space to store all our fiction, foreign language novels, English literature and history and geography reference books. As our library catalogue can be accessed online, the girls were able to email the Library and request books which were delivered to their classrooms.

Once school life settled down our first year book club meetings recommenced. Instead of pre-school meetings in the Library, they were held in a classroom at lunchtimes. The level of interest was so high we had to hold four separate meetings to accommodate the numbers. When the schools closed from January to March the book club meetings moved to zoom and it was great to see the girls' happy faces from my desk at home!

What would we have done without reading and netflix for the past year! With so much more time spent at home, getting lost in a book has been a very welcome distraction from current realities. It has been so important for our mental health and wellbeing. Some of my favourite reads in recent months were:

Snow by John Banville
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Rules of Civility by Amor Towles
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
American Dirt by Janine Cummins
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

We have been encouraging staff and students to share book recommendations on our Instagram page @loretothegreenlibrary. If anyone would like to suggest a book just email it to library@loretothegreen.ie and it will be posted on the Instagram page.

For anyone who likes reading popular magazines, RBDigital is a fantastic app. There are hundreds of popular magazines available to download for free thanks to the public libraries. Register at <https://llgma.rbdigitalglobal.com/home>. You'll need your public library card number.

TeenBookCloud can now be accessed free of charge and without login via Dublin City Libraries This is an online collection of ebooks, enhanced novels, graphic novels, videos and audio books. Go to www.dublincity.ie/residential/libraries/using-your-library/eresources#borro and scroll down to find TeenBookCloud. You don't need a public library card number for this.

Some of our most popular reads this year were:

- The Good Girls Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson - the sequel 'Good Girl Bad Blood' has just been published
- S.T.A.G.S. by M.A. Bennett. 'Dogs' and 'Foxes' are book 2 and 3 in the series
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. Angie has also published On The Come Up

- Children of Blood and Bones by Tomi Adeyemi (age 14+) - The sequel is Children of Virtue and Vengeance
- One of Us is Lying by Karen Thomas (14+) 'One of Us is Next' and 'Two Can Keep a Secret' are book 2 and 3 in the series

For some more reading ideas, girls can access recommended reading lists on the school website or by clicking this link <https://www.loretothegreen.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Summer-Reading-Suggestions-for-1st-to-3rd-Years.pdf>. Some book seller websites such as toppsta.com and waterstones.com offer a very good breakdown of recommended reads for various age categories.

The Childrens Books Ireland website also contains a wealth of reading lists on all sorts of topics. These lists can be accessed in <https://childrenbooksireland.ie/reading-lists/>

Below is a photo of one of our zoom Book Club meetings



Five Feet Apart Book Review by Alicia MacDonald 1M

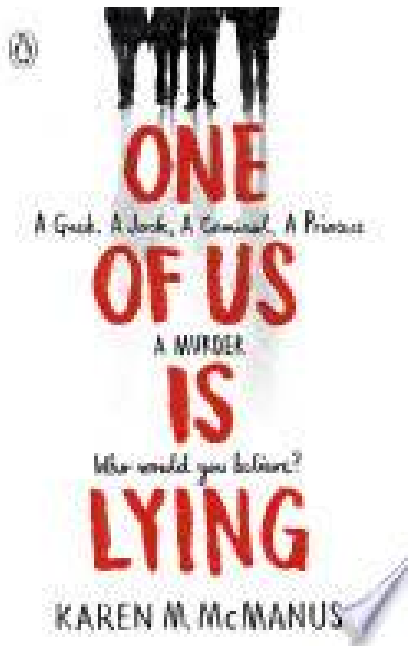
The book *Five feet apart* is a very emotional and moving book and has given me a different view of the pandemic as well as making me more grateful for the good things in my life. It has shown me that during this pandemic, life has been tough, but we should all be grateful for what we have.

The book is about two teenagers fighting cystic fibrosis who have a dangerous bacteria that cannot be transmitted to each other's lungs. The book is moving in the sense that we learn about cystic fibrosis and how dangerous life can be with people battling it, but also how brave these two people are and how they will fight for love.

The book describes life at the moment very well, since patients with cystic fibrosis have different bacteria in their system and they must maintain social distance to ensure that their bacteria is not transmitted to one another.

Covid 19 is similar, as we must maintain social distance to ensure we stay safe, as well as wearing masks. Although COVID-19 is temporary, these two teenagers have been battling cystic fibrosis for their entire lives.

Five feet apart has an amazing storyline and I think it's a really great book for people aged 12-17. I think this book will change people's view of the pandemic and therefore more people should read it.



One of us is Lying Book Review by Muireann Emerson 2G

Five students enter. Four leave alive. If that doesn't have you hooked, I don't know what does.

Bay view High seems like an ordinary high school. Students go about their average day and after school, five students are placed in detention. Studious, Yale hopeful Bronwyn, Baseball star Cooper, criminal Nate, prom queen Addy, and outsider Simon. Within the detention, Simon dies. The only thing more shocking than that is that the other four all have secrets, and each of them are now suspects.

I couldn't put this book down! It is full of plot twists, thrills and mysteries. It has been especially hard to find excitement in lockdown and 'One of us is Lying' is definitely a great read to keep you occupied. There are also two other books in the series if you want more!

I would recommend this book to ages ten and over. I was engrossed the whole way through and would love to read it for the first time again. A real page Turner!

Great Books

by Daisy Dwyer 3T

When the lockdown began, we all needed something to keep us sane. For some people, it was binge-watching Netflix or obsessive baking of banana bread. For me, it was the reading of books.

I've never really gotten the whole idea of reading to be a chore. I always enjoyed the pleasure of opening a new book and feeling that excitement of 'where am I going to go this week?' Authors have this amazing skill of being able to transport you to places in your mind from the comfort of your own home. I truly believe that this is the thing that is keeping people sane. We all need that special place to go to, especially since the pandemic began.

There are good books and then there are great books. Good books have interesting characters, smart plot lines and an alright ending, I mean it could have been better. *Great books* however keep you captivated. You begin to lose all sight of reality, which is exactly what we need at the moment. Great books have realistic, unique characters. Great books have plot lines that keep you on the edge of your seat until you are nearly falling off your seat. Great books make you laugh, cry, cringe and shout out 'No what are you doing that's a crazy idea!'.



Graphic by Emma Chi 6B

Great books keep humanity sane. The pandemic has knocked us down but great books bring us back up again. So if you have nothing to do today except go out for dinner, go on holidays and meet up with your friends (you know the usual stuff), pick up a book. Read it. Cry, laugh, shout along with the characters. Get lost in reality. Enjoy. I know I have.