Our Lady's Secondary School
Castleblayney
Co. Monaghan

Tel: 042 9740351
Fax: 042 9749197
E-mail: office@olss.ie
Web: www.olss.ie

Principal: *Mr. Eddie Kelly*
Deputy Principals: *Ms. Jane Treanor, Mr. Darren Bishop*

Board of Management Agreed Report November 10th

Opening Prayer: M. Caffrey

Attendance: M. Caffrey (Chairperson), M. Sherry (Parent Nominee), J. Bishop (Parent Nominee), Z. Brady (Teacher Nominee), A. Connolly (Teacher Nominee), E. Kelly (Sec B.O.M).

Apologies: B. Campbell (Trustee Nominee), S. Egan (Trustee Nominee), A. Campbell (Trustee Nominee).

Minutes

Proposed: M. Sherry
Seconded: Z. Brady

Matters Arising
Addressed in the Principal's Report

Correspondence

- Applications from staff for personal days (approved)
- Applications for maternity leave & parental leave (approved)
- Application for use of school facilities:
  - Castleblayney Musical Society- use of the Concert Hall (approved)
- Application for school tour:
  - Geography trip to Iceland 2028 (approved)
- Circular 0072/2026: Guidance in Post Primary Schools
- Circular 0073/2026: Teacher Supply Post-Primary: Teaching Hours Extension Scheme for 2026/2027
- Circular 0074/2026: Implementation of Local Bargaining with Effect from 1 September 2025
- Circular 0077/2026: Prescribed Material for Leaving Certificate Music Examinations 2029, 2030 and 2031
- Circular 0078/2026: Work Stoppages by Trade Unions in the Education Sector
- Correspondence from CEIST acknowledging receipt of and approval for Appendix V for ICT equipment.
- Correspondence from CEIST Coordinator Rita Meagher acknowledging receipt of our minutes from our September meeting.

Events to Date:

Wednesday September 30th

- TY Musical Rehearsals
- U16 Camogie Blitz
- Senior Girls GAA S & C 7.50am
- U16 Boys GAA 1.45pm- 3.00pm
- U15 Boys Soccer 1.15pm- 2.15pm

Thursday October 1st

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Girls GAA at lunchtime
- U16 Boys GAA
- TY SEPI Programme
- Open Night 7.00pm- 10.00pm

Friday October 2nd

- School Holiday

Monday October 5th

- First Year Boys GAA Lunchtime League
- Darts Club on Monday at lunchtime
- Amber Flag Committee Rm 36 1.20pm
- TY Don't Pour Your Dreams Away Workshop
- U16 & U19 Girls Basketball
- Senior Girls GAA
- First Year Boys Soccer 4.00pm- 5.00pm
- U16 Girls GAA 4.00pm- 5.00pm

Tuesday October 6th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- U16 Girls Basketball 8.00am
- Book Club Rm 17 1.20pm
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- Junior Drama Club at lunchtime
- U16 Boys GAA
- U16 & U19 Girls Basketball
- U17 & U19 Girls Soccer 4.00pm- 5.00pm
- U16 & U19 Camogie 4.15pm- 5.15pm
- U20 Girls GAA 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Wednesday October 7th

- Senior Girls GAA S & C 7.50am
- TY Musical Rehearsals

- Junior Cycle Results
- U15 Boys Soccer 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Thursday October 8th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- U19 Girls Basketball 8.00am
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50 pm Rm 37
- U14 Boys GAA
- U16 Girls GAA Queens Future Stars
- U16 & U19 Boys Basketball
- U14 Girls Soccer 4.00pm- 5.00pm

Friday October 9th

- Staff Prayer Meeting 8.10am- 8.30am
- Mini-Company Lunchtime Club for 1st Years - 1.30pm in Computer Room 5
- U16 Girls GAA at lunchtime
- U16 Boys GAA
- Senior Boys GAA

Monday October 12th

- Senior Girls GAA S & C 7.50am
- MFL Wellbeing Week Tutor Challenge
- 1st year 'Languages Connect Us' Poster Competition Winners announced
- French Exchange Initiative
- Maths Week Initiative
- First Year Subject Option Choice Presentation 9.07am
- Darts Club on Monday at lunchtime
- Amber Flag Committee Rm 36 1.20pm
- U16 & U19 Girls Basketball
- TY Frank Diamond Talk
- U15 Girls Soccer 4.00pm- 5.00pm
- U16 Boys GAA 4.15pm- 5.30pm

Tuesday October 13th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- MFL Wellbeing Week Tutor Challenge
- European breakfast treats in the Staffroom
- 2nd Year Filmfest P6 & P7
- French Exchange Initiative
- Maths Week Initiative
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- TY STEM Breaking Barriers Workshop
- First Year Boys GAA Lunchtime League
- Book Club Rm 17 1.20pm
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Camogie 4.15pm- 5.15pm

- U14 Boys GAA 4.15pm- 5.15pm
- U16 Girls GAA 4.15pm – 5.30pm
- Senior Girls GAA 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Wednesday October 14th

- TY Musical Rehearsals
- French Exchange Initiative
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- Maths Week Initiative

Thursday October 15th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- MFL Wellbeing Week Tutor Challenge
- 3rd Year Brettspiele/Jeux de Société P7
- French Exchange Initiative
- Maths Week Initiatives
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Girls GAA at lunchtime
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- First Year Boys GAA 4.00pm- 5.00pm
- U16 Boys GAA 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Friday October 16th

- MFL Wellbeing Week Tutor Challenge
- 1st Year MFL table quiz, presented by TYs P6 & P7
- French Exchange Initiative
- First Year Maths Mania
- Mini-Company Lunchtime Club for 1st Years - 1.30pm in Computer Room 5
- Senior Girls GAA
- TY RISE Workshop
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- U14 Boys GAA 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Sunday October 18th

- Interschools Equestrian Competition

Monday October 19th

- Darts Club on Monday at lunchtime
- Amber Flag Committee Rm 36 1.20pm
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- U14 GAA training 4.15pm- 5.15pm
- U16 GAA training 4.15pm- 5.15pm

Tuesday October 20th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- Feachtas Tráth na gCeist

- TY SEPI Programme
- Book Club Rm 17 1.20pm
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Girls GAA 4.15pm-5.15pm

Wednesday October 21st

- TY Musical Rehearsals
- U14 Boys GAA

Thursday October 22nd

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Girls GAA at lunchtime
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026
- Study Skills Talk for First Years by Inspire Education
- U16 GAA training 4.15pm- 5.15pm
- First Year Boys GAA 4.00pm- 5.00pm

Friday October 23rd

- Mini-Company Lunchtime Club for 1st Years - 1.30pm in Computer Room 5
- Zambia Immersion Project 2026

Saturday October 24th

- Saturday Study 9.00am- 1.00pm

Monday November 2nd

- Darts Club on Monday at lunchtime
- Amber Flag Committee Rm 36 1.20pm
- TY STEM Passport Graduation

Tuesday November 3rd

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Book Club Rm 17 1.20pm
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- U16 Girls GAA
- U16 & U19 Boys Basketball
- TY Goodness Mia Oats Workshop

Wednesday November 4th

- U16 & U19 Girls Basketball

Thursday November 5th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- First Year Boys GAA
- Senior Girls GAA

- Senior Boys GAA

Friday November 6th

- Mini-Company Lunchtime Club for 1st Years - 1.30pm in Computer Room 5
- U16 & U19 Boys Basketball

Saturday November 7th

- Saturday Study 9.00am- 1.00pm

Sunday November 8th

- School Equestrian Competition

Monday November 9th

- Darts Club on Monday at lunchtime
- First Year Girls GAA at lunchtime
- Amber Flag Committee Rm 36 1.20pm
- TY Gambling Talk
- U15 Girls Soccer 4.00pm- 5.00pm

Tuesday November 10th

- Breakfast Club 8.00am- 8.45am Room 12
- Book Club Rm 17 1.20pm
- Lunchtime Activities 1.20 pm – 1.50pm Rm 37
- First Year Boys Soccer at lunchtime
- U15 Boys GAA 4.00pm- 5.00pm
- Board of Management Meeting

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday November 12th- Friday November 20th:** November Assessments
- **Monday November 16th:** Transition Year Work Experience
- **Thursday November 19th:** Oide CPD (school closure for students)
- **Sunday November 22nd:** School Equestrian Competition
- **Monday November 23rd:** Geography Week
- **Monday November 23rd:** Senior Girls GAA All Stars
- **Wednesday November 25th:** Careers Fair
- **Tuesday November 24th:** TY Sports Leadership Programme
- **Thursday November 26th:** TY Sports Leadership Programme
- **Thursday November 26th:** TY Musical
- **Friday November 27th:** TY Sports Leadership Programme
- **Monday November 30th:** TY Musical
- **Tuesday December 1st:** 6th Year Music trip to Dublin
- **Wednesday December 2nd:** TY Christmas Markets
- **Thursday December 3rd:** First Year Coco Law Talk
- **Friday December 4th:** OLSS Christmas Trade Fair

- **Friday December 4th:** TY Business Talk
- **Sunday December 6th:** School Equestrian Competition
- **Monday December 7th:** School Holiday
- **Tuesday December 8th:** TY Musical
- **Tuesday December 8th:** TY SEPI Initiative
- **Tuesday December 8th:** Fifth Year Parent Teacher Meeting 4.15pm- 6.30pm
- **Thursday December 10th:** Christmas Reflections
- **Friday December 11th:** First Year Coco Law Talk
- **Friday December 11th:** TY STEM Breaking Barriers Workshop
- **Wednesday December 16th- Tuesday December 22nd:** Pre Leaving Certificate Oral & Practical Exams

Leading Learning & Teaching

- The Principal commented on the excellent Junior Cycle Results across all levels and subjects. The Principal thanked all teachers and support staff for their work with the students throughout their three years at Junior Cycle.
- The Principal informed the Board of Management of the results analysis completed by Athena tracking and the criteria by which staff and Senior Management were analysing Junior Cycle results. A copy of the Athena Analytics Report will be emailed to Board of Management members.
- The Principal updated the Board of Management on developments with Senior Cycle Reform.
- The November Assessments for First, Second, Third, Fifth & Sixth Year students takes place from November 11th- 20th.
- The Guidance Department, with the support of staff, organised a Study Skills week for all students with various talks, resources, etc the week beginning November 2nd.
- Teaching & Learning is on the agenda for all staff & subject department Meetings.
- School Self-Evaluation: The development of our areas of focus for School Self Evaluation for the forthcoming year will continue through the Teaching & Learning Committee, Subject Department meetings and staff meetings.
- All First Year students and their parents & guardians received a presentation on First Year subject choice.
- All Fourth Year students and their parents & guardians received a presentation on Fourth Year subject choice.
- The MFL Department organised various initiatives the week beginning October 12th as part of a languages awareness week. A number of French staff & students visited our school as part of a French exchange. The Principal noted the success of this initiative and the work of the MFL Department and Ms. Christie in facilitating this.

- The Maths Department organised various initiatives the week beginning October 12th as part of Maths week.
- A number of initiatives were organised by the Guidance Department as part of a Study Skills Week.
- The students in the Sixth Year Politics & Society class organised a number of guest speakers and talks as part of their Leaving Certificate project.

- The school participated in the Feachtas Tráth na gCeist on October 20th.
- A number of Fifth Year students graduated from ATU Sligo as a result of their TY STEM programme last year.

- All students in the school have received access to the Exam Revision Platform.
- The Cruinniú Coiste Gaeilge meet regularly at lunchtime.
- Evening Study takes place from 4pm – 6pm.
- Saturday Study for Sixth Year students takes place every Saturday from 9.00 am- 1.00pm

The Principal paid tribute to the teachers for their willingness to embrace new initiatives, which has generated so much positive discussion around teaching and learning in our school.

Managing the Organisation

Finance

- The Principal presented a Finance Report to members of the Board of Management that included the following information: Income & Expenditure from the start of the year, list of creditors, debtors and unreconciled payments

Child Protection Issues

- Child Protection Oversight Report.
- The Board of Management watched & discussed several webinars relevant to the new Child Protection guidelines for post primary schools.

Bi Cinnealta Procedures

- Bi Cinnealta Oversight Report

Health & Safety

- None

Leading School Development

Policy Review

- Upcoming:
    - Child Safeguarding Statement

The Principal presented the Board of Management with audit of policies and a list of policies due for review during the 2026-2027 academic year.

School Self-Evaluation

The development of our areas of focus for School Self Evaluation for the forthcoming year will continue through the Teaching & Learning Committee, Subject Department meetings and staff meetings. All staff, parents/guardian & students completed an SSE survey towards the end of September and the results of these were presented at a workshop at a recent staff meeting. The areas of focus for our school for the 2026-2027 academic year are as follows:

- ICT
- Literacy
- Questioning
- Wellbeing.
- Attendance
- Results tracking
- Success Criteria & Learning Intentions

The Board looked at the SSE Plan and SIP Report for 2023- 2026 and discussed a draft plan for 2026-2027 subject to further consultation with staff, parents & students after the current industrial action.

Plant Development & Maintenance

- The Principal updated the Board of Management on developments relating to the new extension and the Emergency Works Scheme.

Faith Life of the School

- Weekly prayers are said over the school intercom.
- Ms. Mc Ardle has organised monthly prayer meetings for staff.

The Principal & members of the Board of Management thanked Ms. Duffy, members of the Religion Department and everyone involved in the promotion of the faith life of our school.

IT

- The Principal informed the Board of Management that a new set of chromebooks was purchased.

- The Principal informed the Board of Management that those Fifth Year students who ordered digital devices received them today.

Extra Curricular

- The Principal updated the Board of Management on developments with different sports teams.
    - GAA, soccer, basketball (both)
    - Hurling & Camogie
    - U16 Girls Camogie Ulster semi
    - U16 Girls Queens. GAA Future Stars.
- The school equestrian team has entered an Inter Schools Showjumping competition.
- The school choir practices regularly at lunchtime most days each week for upcoming school events.
- The following activities are available to students at lunchtime:
    - Club na Gaeilge
    - Board Games & Activities
    - Book Club
    - Sport Leagues
    - First Year Mini Company Initiative
    - Junior Drama Club
    - Darts Club
- Transition Year Events & Activities
    - TY STEM Passport
    - TY Musical
    - TY SEPI Programme
    - TY RISE Workshop
    - TY STEM Breaking Barriers Initiative
    - TY Don't Pour Your Dreams Away Workshop
    - TY Wellbeing Talk
    - TY Goodness Mia Oats Workshop
- The Principal commented on the success of the Zambia Immersion Project October 13th- 24th.

The Principal thanked the staff for their extraordinary generosity of time & spirit in giving students opportunities to develop their skills, talents and interests outside the classroom.

Enrolment 2027

- Open Night was held on September 30th & the Principal updated the Board of Management on developments for admissions to First Year in September 2027.

Developing Leadership Capacity

Middle Management

- The Principal informed the Board of Management of recent appointments at Middle Management level.

Student Voice

- Sixth Year Student Leaders are assisting with supervision on corridors before school.
- Transition Year students are assisting with peer mentoring activities for the JCSP classes.
- Elections took place for the Student Council 2026-2027, and the Student Council meet regularly at lunchtime.
- Ms. Duffy is working with Second & Fifth Year students on a Student Voice initiative.

The Principal & members of the Board of Management thanked everyone involved in promoting Student Voice at Our Lady's.

Student Support

- Student Support Meetings are held every Friday.
- The school meals programme continues to provide support to several students every week.
- The school has engaged the services of a Student Youth / Home School Liaison Officer every Wednesday through an initiative with Monaghan Education Centre.
- An Amber Flag Committee was set up to promote positive mental health.

Discipline

- Council of Discipline meetings take place every week.

The Principal & members of the Board of Management thanked everyone involved in the Council of Discipline and the Student Support Team for the hard work, care, and support shown to students across various levels.

A.O.B.

- A discussion took place on the recent ASTI directive.
- The Principal informed the Board of Management of a School Meals Inspection on October 13th. The Principal noted the diligence and efficiency of O. Ferrick & L. Duffy in preparing for this inspection.
- The Chairperson of the Board of Management thanked the Principal for a comprehensive report and thanked the Senior Management Team and all staff for their continued hard work & commitment to the school.

Next Meeting

- December 15th

Agreed Report Parents: To go on the website and the link sent to the parents on the school app.

Agreed Report Staff: A. Connolly