



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 Meeting March 28th

Opening Prayer: G. Carville (Martin Mc Namee & Gladys Tuomey were remembered in our opening prayer)

Attendance: G. Carville (Chairperson), A. Campbell (Trustee Nominee), B. Campbell (Parent Nominee), J. Bishop (Parent Nominee), D. Mooney (Teacher Nominee), J. Sheridan (Teacher Nominee), E. Kelly (Sec B.O.M).

Apologies: S. Egan (Trustee Nominee), S. Mc Ginnity (Trustee Nominee).

Minutes

Proposed: J. Sheridan

Seconded: J. Bishop

Matters Arising

Addressed in the Principal's Report

Correspondence

- Applications from staff for personal days-granted
- Requests from the following subject departments to organise school tours in December 2023 and February 2024:
 - History (December 2023)
 - Home Economics (February 2024)
- Circular 0015/2023: Amendments to Junior Cycle Irish T1 & T2 Specifications and assessments arrangements for CBA 1 & CBA 2
- Circular 0013/2023: Programme of Professional Development for Special Educational Needs Teachers 2023
- Circular 0011/2023: Revision of Salaries for Caretakers and Secretaries employed under the 1978 Scheme
- Circular 0008/ 2023: Revision of Special Needs Assistants Salaries under the Building Momentum Pay Agreement
- Circular 0007/ 2023: Revision of Teachers' Salaries under the Building Momentum Pay Agreement
- Circular 0005/ 2023: Teacher Refund Scheme
- Correspondence from CEIST acknowledging receipt of our 2021- 2022 school accounts.
- Correspondence from the FSSU acknowledging receipt of our 2021- 2022 school accounts.
- Correspondence from CEIST Coordinator Sharon Mc Grath acknowledging receipt of our minutes of February 2nd.

- Correspondence from CEIST Coordinator Sharon Mc Grath following her school visit on March 1st.
- Correspondence from CEIST approving capital expenditure on lights for the astro turf pitch and replacement cookers in the Home Economics rooms.

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

Events to Date:

Friday February 3rd

- Pre Junior Cycle Exams
- Pre Leaving Certificate Applied Exam
- Pre Leaving Certificate Exam
- U/14 Girls GAA training at lunchtime
- Senior Choir at Lunchtime
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Ulster Ladies GAA All Star Awards

Saturday February 4th

- Saturday Study 9.00am – 1.00pm

Monday February 6th

- Bank Holiday

Tuesday February 7th

- Pre Junior Cycle Exams
- Pre Leaving Certificate Exam
- Pre Leaving Certificate Applied Exam
- U/15 Boys GAA
- U/15 Girls Soccer training
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Wednesday February 8th

- Pre Junior Cycle Exams
- Pre Leaving Certificate Applied Exam
- First Year Boys GAA
- First & Second Year Boys Basketball
- Ulster Athletics Cross Country
- Guidance Meeting 1.20pm
- U/15 Boys Soccer training
- Senior Art club 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Evening Study 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Thursday February 9th

- Pre Junior Cycle Exams
- Pre Leaving Certificate Exam
- TY Garda trip
- TY Reptile Haven Workshop
- Senior Cycle French Tour
- Senior Cycle German Tour
- Junior Choir at lunchtime
- Junior Art club at lunchtime
- Year Head meeting 2.00pm
- First Year Boys Soccer training 4.00pm
- Drama Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Friday February 10th

- Senior Cycle French Tour
- Senior Cycle German Tour
- TY Law Module P2
- Senior Choir at Lunchtime
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Saturday February 11th

- Senior Cycle French Tour
- Senior Cycle German Tour

Sunday February 12th

- Senior Cycle French Tour
- Senior Cycle German Tour
- National Credit Union Art Competition Prize Giving

Monday February 27th

- DCU Sports Scholarship Talk 12.15pm
- First & Second Year Boys Basketball
- U/14 Girls GAA game
- Student Support Meeting 2.00pm
- U/15 Boys Soccer training
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Teaching & Learning Committee meeting 4.10pm

Tuesday February 28th

- U/15 Boys Soccer Ulster quarter final
- 3rd Year talk on Transition Year
- TY iWish Conference
- TY Natural History Museum Tour
- U/14 Girls GAA training
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Third Year Information Evening 7.00pm

Wednesday March 1st

- First & Second Year Boys Basketball
- Choir event in Iontas
- Senior Art club 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Girls Camogie training
- Evening Study 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Thursday March 2nd

- U/15 Girls Soccer Ulster Quarter Final
- Junior Choir at lunchtime
- Junior Art club at lunchtime
- Year Head meeting 2.00pm
- Staff Basketball 4.00pm – 4.45pm
- Drama Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Trinity College Entrance Scholars Awards

Friday March 3rd

- U.14 Girls GAA training at lunchtime
- U.14 Girls Game
- Senior Choir at Lunchtime
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Saturday March 4th

- Saturday Study

Monday March 6th

- TY Sports Leadership Course
- U/16 Girls GAA Queen's Future Stars trials
- U/17 Boys Soccer Ulster Quarter Final
- Student Support Meeting 2.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Tuesday March 7th

- U/13 Boys GAA
- TY Sports Leadership Course
- Digital Team Meeting 4.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Wednesday March 8th

- TY Sports Leadership Course
- Camogie training after school
- Senior Art club 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Evening Study 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Thursday March 9th

- Second Year Girls Basketball Semi Final
- Junior Choir at lunchtime
- Junior Art club at lunchtime
- Year Head meeting 2.00pm
- Drama Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Friday March 10th

- School Closure due to poor weather

Saturday March 11th

- Saturday Study
- All Ireland Schools Cross Country

Monday March 13th

- Student Support Meeting 2.00pm
- Leaving Certificate Graduation Committee meeting 4.00pm
- U/14 Girls GAA training after school
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Tuesday March 14th

- TY Student Enterprise County Final
- U/14 Girls GAA training at lunchtime
- Combilift Tour
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Wednesday March 15th

- Seachtain na Gaeilge Lá Glas
- U/14 Girls GAA
- Camogie training after school
- Senior Art club 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Evening Study 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Thursday March 16th

- TY Home Economics trip
- U/14 Girls Soccer Quarter Final
- Junior Art club at lunchtime
- Year Head meeting 2.00pm
- Drama Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Friday March 17th

- School holiday St. Patrick's Day

Saturday March 18th

- Saturday Study

Monday March 20th

- Ulster Schools GAA Senior Boys All Star trials
- U/14 Girls GAA
- U/15 Boys' Soccer Semi Final
- Student Support Meeting 2.00pm
- First Year Boys Soccer training 4.00pm
- U/15 Boys' Basketball Training 4.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Tuesday March 21st

- Initiatives for World Down Syndrome Day
- U/14 Girls GAA Quarter Final
- TY MABS Money Talk
- 6th Year English Macbeth Play
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Fourth Year Parent Teacher Meeting 4.15pm – 6.45pm

Wednesday March 22nd

- First Year Boys Soccer Semi Final
- U/14 Camogie training 1.15pm
- U/15 Boys GAA training 1.20pm
- Senior Art club 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Evening Study 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Thursday March 23rd

- TY First Responders Walk
- JCSP Sports Event
- Guidance Apprenticeship Expo
- Junior Art club at lunchtime
- Year Head meeting 2.00pm
- U/14 Girls GAA training 4.00pm
- Drama Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Friday March 24th

- U/15 Boys GAA Ulster Final
- TY Mini Company Finals
- TY LA519 Resilience talk 10am
- Junior Camogie Blitz
- Junior Choir at lunchtime
- Senior Choir at lunchtime
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Saturday March 25th

- Saturday Study

Monday March 27th

- Wellbeing Week 'Being Resilient'
- 2C & 2E Guidance Workshops with Mr. Geraghty & Ms. Mc Sorley 13.01pm
- 1C Guidance Workshop with Mr. Geraghty 13.59pm
- 1D Guidance Workshop with Ms. Mc Sorley 14.57pm
- First Year Boys Basketball
- U/15 Boys Soccer Semi Final
- First Year Vaccinations
- Junior Certificate Home Economics Practical Exam
- Student Support Meeting 2.00pm
- U/15 Boys Basketball training 4.00pm
- Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting 4.10pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm

Tuesday March 28th

- Wellbeing Week 'Being Resilient'
- 1B Guidance Workshop with Mr. Geraghty 10.20am
- 1E Guidance Workshop with Ms. Mc Sorley 13.01pm
- 1A Guidance Workshop with Mr. Geraghty 13.01pm
- 2B Guidance Workshops with Mr. Geraghty 13.59pm
- U/14 Girls GAA game
- Junior Certificate Home Economics Practical Exam
- U/15 Boys Basketball training 4.00pm
- First Year Homework Club 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Evening Study 4.10pm- 6.00pm
- Board of Management Meeting 7.15pm

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday March 28^h**: Board of Management meeting
- **Wednesday March 29th**: U/15 Boys All Ireland Basketball
- **Wednesday March 29th**: Transition Year PE Expo
- **Thursday March 30th**: Easter Reflections
- **Thursday March 30th**: TY Road Safety Talk
- **Friday March 31st**: U/15 Boys Soccer Final
- **Friday March 31st**: U/14 Girls GAA Ulster Semi Final;
- **Saturday April 1st**- Wednesday April 5th: Leaving Certificate Oral Exams
- **Monday April 3rd**- **Friday April 14th**: Easter Holidays

Learning & Teaching

- Cian Mc Kenna and Kevin Yatagampitiya from the Leaving Certificate class of 2022 received UCD Entrance Scholars Awards. These will be presented at a ceremony in UCD on March 30th.
- Niamh Mullin from the Leaving Certificate class of 2021 received an Entrance Scholarship to Trinity College at a ceremony on March 2nd.
- The Pre Leaving Certificate and Pre Junior Cycle Exams were held before the midterm break. Student reports were available to access on Compass Education and Senior Management and the relevant Year Head are in the process of meeting students about their results.
- The Junior Certificate Home Economics practical exams are taking place this week.
- The Leaving Certificate Music practical exam takes place Friday March 31st.
- The Leaving Certificate Oral exams are scheduled to take place from April 1st -5th.
- The Fourth Year Parent Teacher meeting was held on March 21st. Parents & guardians completed surveys as part of the SSE process.
- Meetings of the Teaching & Learning Committee were held on February 27th and March 28th. Teachers present discussed the feedback from recent SSE surveys, looked at possibilities for developing peer observation among staff as well as opportunities for teacher led CPD among staff.
- 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. As part of our Wellbeing strand of SSE the last full week of each month is a Wellbeing Week. During these weeks' students get reduced homework and teachers have the opportunity to recognise student achievements with Wellbeing Awards. The theme for February's Wellbeing Week was 'Being Positive about Learning' and the theme for March is 'Being Resilient'.
- The Modern Foreign Languages Department held two very successful tours for Senior French and German students from February 9th – 12th. French students travelled to Paris and German students travelled to Munich.
- Sixth Year English students and their teachers attended a production of Macbeth in Dublin on March 21st.
- The Irish Department organised a number of initiatives as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge which included a fundraising initiative for the people of Syria that raised €800.
- First, Second & Transition Year students were successful in the Monaghan Enterprise Competition. Ashlinn Hughes, Sophie Malone, Saoirse Cunningham, and Hannah Comiskey's Protein Bites won third place in the Senior Category. Susanna Smyth's business idea Virtuo took second place in the intermediate category of My Entrepreneurial Journey Competition. In the junior category of My Entrepreneurial Journey, Bella O'Neill came third with her business idea Bella's Boutique. Kate Duffy's business idea Duffy's

Delights won second place and Aoife O'Neill's business called Rubies was awarded first place.

- The school had success in the Regional Junk Kouture competition with one of the entries 'Lioness of OLSS' qualifying for the national finals.
- Sixth Year student Keisha Mc Cann's entry in the Credit Union Art competition came second at national level and a prize giving ceremony took place in Dublin on February 12th.
- Representatives from DCU delivered talk on sports scholarships to 6th Year students on February 27th.
- Sixth Year students met with Third Year students as part of a Careers Fair on subject choice on February 22nd.
- A number of students attended an apprenticeship expo on March 23rd.
- A number of senior students visited Combilift on March 14th.
- Students in First & Second Year are participating in a number of Guidance related workshops the week beginning March 27th.
- Transition Year Home Economics students visited Monaghan Mushrooms on March 16th.
- Our school received the Prodigy Learning 'Centre of Excellence Award' for 2020- 2021 and 'Outstanding Centre of Excellence Award' for 2021-2022
- The school received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs to fund our fourth 'Border School' conference in November 2023.
- A meeting of the school Guidance team took place on February 8th.
- A Junior German Club has been set up that meets on a regular basis.
- Evening Study takes places from 4pm – 6pm,
- A homework club for First Year students takes place from 4.00pm – 5.00pm. First Year students are supported by our SNA's and TY students.
- Saturday study continues every Saturday for Sixth Year students from 9am – 1pm

The Principal paid tribute to the teachers for their willingness to embrace new initiatives so willingly that has generated so much positive discussion around Teaching & Learning in our school.

Extra Curricular

- Representatives from the Senior Girls GAA team- Hannah Haughey, Laura Grimes, Hazel Hughes and Niamh Flanagan received their Ulster Ladies All Stars at a presentation before the mid term break.
- A number of U/16 Boys GAA players participated in the Queens University GAA Future Stars trials. Stephen Hamill was selected for the final trial.
- A number of U/16 Girls GAA players participated in the Queens University GAA Future Stars trials. Katie Mc Adam, Alannah Mc Gahon & Dervla Cawley were selected for the final trial.
- A number of Senior Boys GAA players participated in the Ulster Schools All Star trials on March 20th.

- Students in the JCSP class held a sports blitz with students from Holy Family Cootehill on March 23rd.
 - The U/14 Girls GAA team fixtures continue with the second team qualifying for the Ulster semi final.
 - The U/13 Boys GAA team fixtures continue.
 - The U/15 Boys GAA team qualified for the Oisín Mc Grath Cup final.
 - Junior Camogie training continues after school on a weekly basis and the girls participated in a blitz last weekend.
 - The U/15 Boys Basketball team are training hard in preparation for All Ireland A Semi Final on Wednesday 29th March Vs St Josephs 'The Bish' Galway in the National Arena.
 - The 1st Year Boys Basketball team had a strong league and reached the regional (North + North East) semi final but lost out by 6 to a strong St Malachy's Belfast side. The boys now play St. Pat's Cavan for 3rd place (group of 12) and a spot at the All Ireland weekend tournament in UL in May.
 - The 2nd year Girls Basketball team were undefeated in their league campaign with comprehensive wins over St Louis Monaghan, Virginia College and Loreto Cavan. The girls fought hard but lost their semi final to a tough Abbey Vocational School Donegal.
 - The 1st Year girls and 2nd Year Boys Basketball teams enjoyed a competitive season but did not qualify for semi finals.
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- The First Year girls soccer squad has been selected. Training has been up and running for a couple of weeks and the girls have their first competitive game of the year scheduled against St. Louis, Monaghan soon.
 - The U/15 Girls soccer team played Royal College, Cavan recently in a friendly game that afforded each of the 30 girls on the panel an opportunity to play. On Thursday, March 16th the girls travelled to Buncrana to compete in an Ulster QF vs Crana College. They won 3-2 and have qualified for the Ulster Semi Final vs Deele College.
 - The U/13 Boys soccer team qualified for the Ulster Semi final and lost on penalties after extra time.
 - The U/15 boys soccer team have qualified for the Ulster Semi-Final, having beaten Rosses Community School 2-0 in February.
 - The U/17 Boys soccer team recorded a brilliant 3-0 win in the Ulster QF vs Deele College. 48 hours later, they were beaten by Carndonagh in the Ulster Semi-Final. Their final game of the season is a regional final vs Patrician High School.
 - Having been knocked out of the Ulster Cup by Carndonagh at the QF stage, the U/19's Boys soccer team's last game of the season is the regional final vs St. Aidan's, Cootehill.
 - Students from our school participated in the Ulster school's cross country competition on February 8th and Second Year student Malachy Treanor participated in the All Ireland finals on March 11th
 - Students from our school participated in the Ulster school's swimming competition on February 4th.
 - Sixth Year student Sophie Moore participated in a schools show jumping competition on March 17th.

- The school ECO club meets on a weekly basis. A number of students continue to participate in the Green Schools Water Ambassador Programme.
- A Junior Art Club has been set up that meets on a weekly basis.
- A Junior German Club has been set up that meets on a regular basis.
- The Junior Choir and Senior Choir meet at lunchtime on a regular basis and the choir performed at an event in Iontas on March 1st.
- The Drama Club meet every Thursday after school from 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Transition Year students have been busy since the last Board of Management meeting.
 - TY Reptile Haven Workshop
 - TY Art students visit to St. Mary's
 - TY Tug of War Workshop
 - TY Peer Mentors
 - TY Law Module
 - TY Garda trip
 - TY Work Experience
 - TY iWish Conference
 - TY visit to the Natural History Museum
 - TY Sports Leadership
 - TY Mabs money talk
 - TY First Responders Event
 - TY Mini Company Event
 - TY LA519 Resilience talk
 - TY Home Economics visit to Monaghan Mushrooms

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

Student Voice

- Sixth Year Student Leaders are assisting with supervision on corridors before school.
- A number of students from different year groups participated in a focus group with Student Voice Coordinator Ms. Murray.
- A number of Transition Year students act as peer mentors with students in our special classes.
- Sixth Year students met with Third Year students as part of a Careers Fair on subject choice on February 22nd.
- The Student Council meet on a regular basis.
- Members of the Student Council assisted with serving refreshments for recent parent teacher meetings.

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

Student Support & Discipline

Student Support

- Student Support Meetings are held every Monday P6
- The External Counsellor continues to support students on a weekly basis.
- The school meals programme continues to provide support to a number of families on a weekly basis.
- Students in First & Second Year are participating in a number of Guidance related workshops the week beginning March 27th.
- A number of fundraising initiatives were held in recent weeks as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge and World Down Syndrome Day.
- A meeting of the school Guidance team took place on February 8th.
- A Third Year Information Evening on Subject Choice was held on February 28th.
- Senior Management and Year Heads are currently meeting Sixth and Third Year students on an individual basis to review their Pre Exams.

Discipline

- Council of Discipline meetings take place every Thursday P6.

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

Faith Life of the School

- Weekly prayers are said over the school intercom.
- The Religion Department have organised Easter Reflections for Religion teachers to deliver in class

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.

Plant Development & Maintenance

- D. Mooney updated the Board of Management on developments relating to the new extension.
- E. Kelly updated the Board of Management in relation to the upgrading of heating systems in the school under the Summer Works Scheme.
- E. Kelly updated the Board of Management on developments with the entrance at Room 10 & 11. This matter has been referred to Allianz.
- E. Kelly updated the Board of Management on an issue with the lights on the astro turf pitch and a report is being prepared for Allianz.

IT

- A meeting of the Digital Learning Team was held on March 7th.

Policy Review The following policies were reviewed:

- Teacher Secondment Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- School Tour Policy
- Policy for External Speakers
- Anti Bullying Policy

Health & Safety

- None

Child Protection Issues

- The Principal & Chairperson of the Board signed the Child Protection Oversight Report. The Board was satisfied that the relevant reporting procedures were followed.

Bullying Issues

- None

A.O.B.

- Open Day for incoming First Year students on March 10th was cancelled due to snow.
- A meeting of the Leaving Certificate Graduation Committee took place on March 13th.
- The Principal updated the Board of Management on teaching allocation for 2023 / 2024. A Selection Committee was ratified for upcoming interviews.
- G. Carville will represent the Board of Management at the JMB Conference in Killarney at the end of April. Proposed: Seconded:
- 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

- June 1st

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

Agreed Report Staff: J. Sheridan

