



IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK

After many months of planning and several weeks of redesigning classrooms, putting up signs, stickers and hand sanitizers, it was with a sense of relief and appreciation that Loreto College, Crumlin Road was able to reopen properly on Thursday 27th August. Students returned gradually, learned about mask etiquette, the new one-way system around the school and how to properly clean and sanitise their hands. And now we find ourselves at the end of October having successfully navigated through the first half

term.

Alan McGovern, our caretaker had spent countless hours in the school on his own, painting classrooms, shifting furniture and doing everything he could to ensure that when students returned, the school would be ready for them. Ms. Walsh spent the month of August carefully measuring out desks in every classroom with a metre stick and labelling floors and walls with arrows, so we all knew where to go. Our principal Ms. Murphy and deputy principal Mr. Whelan coordinated the whole operation, as builders came in and out, putting a new suspended ceiling in our school and dining hall.

Students have adapted to the reopening of school with positivity and goodwill. They clean down their desks after every class, always ensure they have their face mask on properly and they and their teachers are engaging in new ways of learning through Microsoft Teams, OneNote and other online platforms. A huge thanks to everyone who has made our return to school such a success.

WELCOME NEW FIRST YEARS

We have 62 new first year students in our school divided into three classes. They are 1 Alice, 1 Dorothy and 1 Eileen. The class groups are named after leading Irish contemporary artists Alice Maher, Dorothy Cross and Eileen Grey.

The girls have been a very welcome addition to our school community and have been getting involved in school life with enthusiasm.

The senior prefects met with them in small groups on October 9th and October 23rd as each first year got paired up with a 'buddy' who will mentor them throughout the year. Robyn Gleeson and Dania Filiah are the new first year representatives on the student council and Robyn did her part to try and encourage everyone to get out and exercise by organising kickabouts on the school pitch at lunchtimes.

23 First years have also been clocking up the kilometres on our Loreto Virtual Camino. Well done to Lauren Rogers, Nusayba

Benyala, Hanan Omar, Hoda el Bakkouri, Dania Filaih, Rayaan Mohamed Hassan, Robyn Gleeson, Ava O'Neill, Stephanie Omozusi, Ewelina Paldyna, Orla Edel Doyle, Christina Flynn, Libby Murray, Cayleigh Walker, Tori McNally, Charlotte Ward, Kayra Taninian, Abi Fitzsimons, Abbie Lennon, Natalie Ossowska, Amy Sullivan, Brodie Cassidy and Amy Lea for showing such terrific school spirit.



Would YOU like to write articles for our school newsletter? Email agreene@loretoCrumlin.ie and put "Newsletter" in the subject line.

TRANSITION YEAR – COMMUNITY MATTERS



"Community Matters" is the theme for the 48 students who have embraced the challenge of Transition year in 2020-2021. The structure of the year may be changed and some of the courses are different under COVID conditions, but credits are there to be achieved for hard work and innovation. As with every TY programme, there is much opportunity for self-growth and improvement.

The year started with a half day workshop on September 15th from "School of Life". In this workshop, students were shown practical life skills that school and busy home life often doesn't have the time to teach. The girls learned about

personal grooming, presentation for interview and how to make that all important first impression.

They are getting plenty of chances to flex their muscles in Yoga and Zumba workshops and a module in dance is coming down the line. In November they will also be doing a comprehensive course on driver theory and driving from The Irish School of Excellence.

The half term ended this week with a day long trip to Causey Farm in Co. Meath. On their fun filled outing, the students had opportunities to learn how to bake brown bread, catch a pig, try sheep dog trials, and even feed a camel. To round it off, they finished the day with a great big leap into the bog. The clothes may have been ruined, but the day was made.



DEBATING NEWS

COVID has meant that traditional ways of competing in school debating competitions, like much else has had to go online. But thanks to the work of Ms. Ruth Murphy, it has kept going.

Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie and Chloe Pingol in 6th year had trials for the Irish team in the world schools debating competition on 26th September. They didn't get picked for the Irish team but getting the tap for the trial is a big deal.

Erin Crowe, Aisha Hassan, Amany Alzoubi McKevitt and Erin Hennessey in 3rd year all took part in the UCD Schools Debating Competition on Thursday, 22nd October via Zoom.

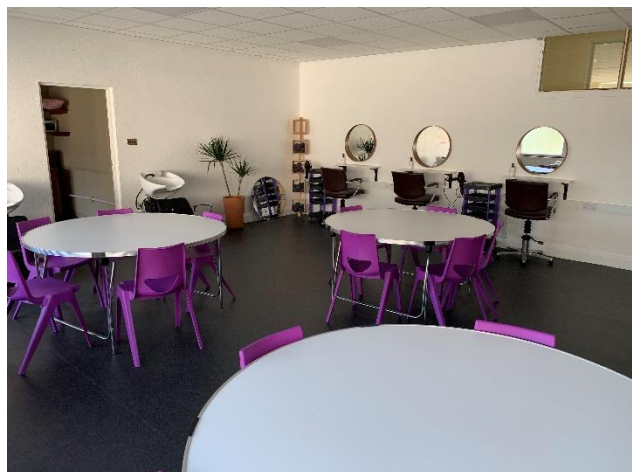
A BEAUTY-FULL NEW ROOM

A brand-new type of classroom has been devised, designed and constructed by Ms. Byrne, Alan our caretaker and the LCA students. It is our very own Hair and Beauty Salon.

Ms. Henry is teaching the girls Hair and Beauty with the help of local hairdresser and past pupil Jennifer Costello. There are fantastic new specialist sinks, hair dryers, a nail bar and comfy chairs for beauty treatments. The girls in the LCA class have lovingly furnished the room with colours and plants to make it the most relaxing and 'beautiful' place in the school.

The students are currently taking Hair and Beauty for their Leaving Cert in June and this new salon means that they can really get hands... and nails on experience in giving the best and most luxurious treatment to the people in their community.





Also, in LCA news, Practical Achievement Tasks are well up and running. These are tasks that allow the students to develop a skill or talent in something that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do. This can then be used to get them credits in their Leaving Cert Applied. Some girls have taken to getting fit, others have taken to the more technical aspects of hair and beauty and others such as Sagal Adan and Nicola Darker have developed green fingers on our school grounds. September was Thyroid Cancer Awareness month



and to mark this event, Nicola Darker and her fellow LCA students distributed purple ribbons to raise awareness of this issue. Mr. O'Reilly also informed us about thyroid cancer as part of his morning Chaplain's 'Check-in'.

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

The new student council had their first full meeting on Monday, 19th October. There were elections in 3rd year and 1st year to elect new members. The council is convened by Ms. Dillon and there are two representatives from each year group. They discuss issues that affect students in our school and try to bring positive changes to our school environment that help their classmates overall.

| First Years | Second Years | Third Years | Fourth years | Fifth Years | Sixth Years |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Dania Filaih Robyn Gleeson | Millie Flanagan Kerry King | Sally-Anne Kavanagh Mariya Shalabi | China Manalo Kimberley Kelly | Kieffer Cortez Sophie O'Connor | Sagal Adan Lei Mabeza Chloe Pingol |

LCVP VIRTUAL VISIT



One of the core parts of the LCVP (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme) is visits to workplaces and businesses in the community, and the opportunity to avail of mentoring from employees in these companies.

On Monday 13th October, the 5th Year LCVP class had a virtual session with Mary Kate Ryan and other staff members from the Qualtrics team to mark Ada Lovelace Day. There were fun activities as part of the interactive session and even though it was all done through the webcam of a Zoom call, the girls benefited hugely from this informative event. Thanks again to our friends in Qualtrics who so regularly take an interest in our students.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020

The Leaving Cert Class of 2020 have progressed from the most unique Leaving Cert experience in history. And they have progressed onto a wide variety of third level courses and jobs. From Occupational Therapy to Engineering, from DNA Forensics to General Nursing, Social Care to Maths and Statistics, Travel & Tourism to Biomedical Science and many, many courses in between, the 6th years who have just left us are dipping their toes into new and exciting pools of knowledge. Others have successfully found work and are serving their community during these challenging times. The Leonda bursary, in its second year of award was given to five students from the class of 2020. They are Paris Chebah, Fatima Chegrani, Kaylee Dunne, Megan Smith and Ibtisam Tubeec. BAM Community Benefit Education Bursary is awarded to students from Dublin 12 and Dublin 8 entering construction or professional healthcare courses. Jade Kinsella and Clarice Lawless were selected for this bursary

We wish every member of the class of 2020, all the success and good fortune they deserve.

CELEBRATING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

On 7th October, the teaching and learning stopped for one period in Loreto College as we gathered together via weblink to Our Lady of Dolours Church, Dolphin's Barn where a ceremony took place to mark the opening of the new school year.

Parish priest Father Fergal MacDonagh welcomed us into his sanctuary where a small group of readers representing each year group gathered with our new chaplain Mr. O'Reilly for the prayer ceremony.



Principal Ms. Murphy led the ceremony as she emphasised the message of *connectedness* and being together. It was a chance to reflect on all that had happened in the previous six months, a chance to remember family and friends who sadly are no longer with us and to be grateful for the chance that we could gather together again...even if it was online.

Prayers were said by Robyn Gleeson, Victory John, Aisha Hassan, Zoe Dempsey, Catherine Cadawas and Chloe Pingol. Mr. O'Reilly shared a reading with the school and the ceremony concluded with the presentation of badges to the 15 Senior Prefects. Holly Gorman, (Deputy Head Girl) read a prayer for the prefects. The ceremony was a poignant one and gave everyone in our school community a chance to pause, reflect and look forward in hope to the days ahead.



NEW EMBERS GLOW

The Ember Team have become an ever more important part of our school community since we commenced the programme in Loreto Crumlin in 2013.

Students on the Ember Team encourage faith-based activities and devise and participate in religious ceremonies throughout the year. The 5th year students who are on this year's Ember Team spent a day training in their roles on October 21st. The day ended with their commissioning ceremony. The Ember Team for 2020-2021 are: Maxine Rivera, Justine Brotarło, Sophie O'Connor, Caitlin Barry, Shannon McDonnell, Becky Mbu, Catherine Cadawas, Freya Ragas, Caitlán Hayes, Jennifer Moore, Siofra Kildee-Doolan, Saoirse O'Reilly (*pictured left*) and Caitlin Dunne.

TRINITY ACCESS ²¹

Engage, Innovate, Inspire

Trinity Access continue their support of students in our school, encompassing the three pillars of Pathways to College, Leadership Through Service and Mentoring.

On 9th October, members of the Trinity Access team Zoomed in to our 15 senior prefects (*pictured right*) to give them guidance in their roles as mentors for younger students.

Then on October 21st, 12 second year students began their journey on the Scholars of Ireland course, also carried out through Zoom.



GAISCE

Yet again, the President's Award, known as Gaisce is a major part of the year for senior students, especially those in transition year. Ms. O'Keefe last week met with the new participants who want to achieve their bronze Gaisce. The Gaisce President's Award challenges young people to develop themselves in four key areas: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey. It is a highly regarded award nationally and a very worthwhile activity for students to undertake.

Due to the school closing back in March, there was not the opportunity to award the hard-working bronze and silver medallists from last year. So Ms. Ryan and Ms. Byrne went around to 5th and 6th year students to put this right.

They visited classrooms and awarded bronze medals to Caitlin Barry, Zahra Benyala, Justine Brotarlo, Eva Burke, Catherine Cadawas, Ekenenna Chukwuewuzie, Keiffer Cortez, Reka Gemes, Caitlan Hayes, Siofra Kildee-Doolan, Robyn Kinsella, Becky Mbu, Sadb McAuley, Shannon McDonnell, Jennifer Moore, Sophie O'Connor, Freya Ragas, Shannon Redmond, Kelsey Redmond, Maxine Rivera and Charley Stephenson in 5th year.

The following 6th years were also presented with their silver Gaisce award:

Eva Anino, Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie, Kittie Gemes, Princess Omozusi, Chloe Pingol and Amina Sajid. Congratulations to all the girls for their dedication, hard work and terrific community spirit.



LORETO VIRTUAL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Since Friday, 9th October, students, staff, parents, and members from all over the Loreto community have been clocking up the kilometres as they participate in the Virtual Loreto Camino de Santiago. Although we cannot walk the pilgrimage route itself at this time, teams are participating from Loreto schools the length and breadth of the country, getting fresh air and keeping fit.

Each school has had their participants divided into teams which compete against each other in "healthy" competition. There are teams from virtually every year group in Loreto Crumlin and two highly competitive staff groups. Ms. O'Keefe is captaining the Loreto Crumlin ship as she keeps us all motivated and coordinates our efforts.

Even before the fortnight is finished, students from all over Ireland have managed to cover the entire circumference of the globe. In Loreto Crumlin, the 2nd Year group consisting of Lisa Slattery, Megan Dunne, Paris Curtis, Amaelia Flanagan, Katie D'Arcy, Angelika Sliwowska, Ella Williams, Kellie Baker, Carla Copley-Meates, Nikita Duff, Olivia O'Neill, Mia Edwards, Kathlyn Byrne, Christine Benjamin, Mia Byrne and Tiana Byrne were the first group to complete the full Camino consisting 780km.

Loreto Crumlin teams have done very well in the overall standings of all Loreto schools. Our second years finished 9th overall and our 4th years finished just two places further back in 11th. After mid-term there will be certificates for all who participated in this event and prizes will be awarded.

