

Loreto
College



Crumlin
Road

Newsletter

Summer 2021

www.loretoctumlin.ie



A fond farewell to the Class of 2021



Top Row: Chaddonay Maguire, Kellie Madden, Jennifer Idiahoke, Aaishah Buzakhar, Princess Omozusi, Laurepm Okolie, Kitti Gemes, Sagal Adan, Alecsandra Cortez, Laura Rooney Saunders, Naomi Labour, Angel Mikialu, Megan King
Second Row: Darcie O'Driscoll, Eva Marielle Anino, Aisha Bendriss, Ella May Canning, Ciara Bennett, Patricia Baratu, Julia Yasmina Zaleska, Grace Farrell, Megan Cochrane, Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie, Nicola Darker, Alannah Grogan
Third Row: Taylor Cummins, Kirsten Curtis, Ellie Cullen, Michael Humphrey, Camila Kavaliauskaite, Amatullah Metarfi, Aaliyah Hutch, Sarah Lacatus, Dawn Redmond, Lei Roelle Mabeza, Emily O'Neill, Charley Burnett Bowdler, Alexandra Meehan
Fourth Row: Kayla McDonnell, Cody McGrath, Sian Murphy, Abbie O'Hara, Holly Behan, Mia Martin, Amy McGrath, Lauren Maguire, Lauryn Lawlor, Shauna Nolan, Katie Tysom, Rosemary Olar
Fifth Row: Jessica O'Sullivan, Holly Gorman, Chloe Pingol, Inguna Jansone-Vogele, Lauren Whelan, Adina Gabriela Seitan, Sahra Tubeec, Megan Byrne, Vanessa O'Connor, Erika Lebedeva, Ellie Waldron, Chloe Redmond, Jodie Redmond

The weather was bleak, the drizzle was constant, and everything was damp, but the graduation ceremony for the 6th years who make up the class of 2021 was a uniquely special, warm occasion. The students insisted from the outset that they wanted to hold their graduation as a class group together. This sadly meant that their parents could not join them on this landmark day, but on Friday, 28th May, students and teachers gathered outside in our school field, socially distanced so that we could celebrate the achievement of our wonderful girls finishing school.

Led by Mr. O'Reilly and Ms. Ryan, the ceremony had a beautiful blend of thoughtful readings, evocative symbolism and moving words and music. Ms. Murphy presented the students with Loreto certificates as they processed up for their final roll call. Jennifer Idiahoke gave a stirring rendition of *Stand Up* from the stage musical *Harriet*, Holly Gorman led the presentation of gifts, Chloe Pingol gave a tearful and touching final speech as head girl and Ms. Murphy cited the words of Bob Dylan as she encouraged the girls to stay *Forever Young*.

The theme of 'New Beginnings' was a main part of Mr. Greene's final address to the girls as Year Head, where he cited the words of Seneca, to the strains of Semisonic's *Closing Time*; *'Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end'*. Emily O'Neill sang beautiful imagery from Cyndi Lauper and Mean Girls as she sang about the group's *True Colours* and celebrated that *I See Stars*.

The most beautiful and touching moment of the ceremony was saved until last, as Michael Humphrey spoke in the most moving words of his personal journey through secondary school and the help that the whole community in Loreto, especially his classmates in 6th year had given him. We wish all the girls every success as they embark on life's new journeys.

PE XPO Award for Zahra

Loreto College made its debut appearance in PE XPO in 2021. PE XPO is a physical education exhibition for secondary school students. This year, representing Loreto were Khadija Kashif in 4th year and Zahra Benyala in 5th year. The event was held virtually on May 5th from Bray.

We were delighted to learn that Zahra won best overall project in the 'New School' category. Zahra's fascinating project was on 'The Role of Genetics in Sports'. Congratulations on your well-deserved award

Both Zahra and Khadija put a huge amount of time and effort into their projects, and both did the school immensely proud. Thanks also for the support of their P.E. teachers, Ms. O'Keefe & Mr. Quinn.



Junior Cert Schools Programme Graduation



The final week of May was a momentous week for the students who graduated from the Junior Cert Schools Programme (JCSP). They celebrated their completion of the programme with a trip to Newbridge Farm on the Monday, and their graduation

ceremony hosted by Ms. Casey on the Tuesday. Congratulations to the 3rd years who completed 3 years of great work in the JCSP programme: Maria Balan, Chloe Barry, Leigha Broderick, Georgia Butler, Kayla Byrne, Leah Byrne, Carly Daleo, Esra Gharabi, Amy Hamilton, Ruqayah Jawad Al Rubaye, Aimee McKeever, Sophie Murphy, Brianna O Neil, Mya Ormond, Kirsty Scott, Abbie Whelan & Konouz Zayed. Well done on your many achievements over the last three years.

Chemistry Olympians



This great news happened while most of the school were in lockdown. 6th year students Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie, Erika Lebedeva and Chloe Pingol received their certificates for their participation in the 2021 Chemistry Olympiad in March. The three girls showed a great passion for science, encouraged by their Chemistry teacher, Mr. Lenehan.

New School Zone

We received word from Dublin City Council in April that the area around the entrances to our school on Crumlin Road and Sundrive Road will soon become a School Zone, improving safety for all students on campus and improving air quality in the neighbourhood. We look forward to the positive effects for everyone in our own school and the wider community.



School Zone - coming soon!

School Zones are a new initiative to tackle the issue of school gate congestion faced by many local communities.

The initiative is implemented by Dublin City Council and supported by Green Schools and the National Transport Authority to reduce traffic congestion in school areas. This aims to benefit the school community as well as local residents.

How will it help?

- Increase safety at the school gate
- Reduce illegal parking
- Increase footpath space
- Encourage active travel
- Reduce air pollution

For more information see <https://bit.ly/3invdel>



School Zone at Star of the Sea N.S.



Busy with the Quizzzy

The final term featured a number of students taking part in two quizzes. On 15th April, just after their return to school, Sally Anne Kavanagh, Ruth Owongo and Erin Hennessey from Mr. Larkin's 3rd Year Business class participated in the European Money Quiz. A month later, on 13th May, Sally Anne and



Erin again, alongside Faith Hurley, Paris Murphy, Megan Dunne, Carly Doyle, Amealia Flanagan & Katie Flannery took part in the All-Ireland Schools Quiz. The girls really enjoyed the event, in which they competed alongside Drimnagh Castle. The quiz was won by St. Peter's College in Wexford.



Transition Year News

The final term of school was a very busy one for Transition Year students. Their coordinator, Ms. Byrne organised a fully packed term. One of the first highlights was Wellbeing Wednesday on 5th May. The girls had workshops in makeup, healthy body/healthy mind and flower arranging, following up on the great session in December.



The following week, Patrick Strahan travelled from Mayo over to teach the girls the medieval craft of the blacksmith with his very own mobile forge. The girls got to make their own personal jewellery and sample the fine artistry of Middle Ages Ireland.

And although tours were limited this year due to COVID restrictions, the girls rounded off a memorable year with a

trip on the Dublin Bay Cruise, giving them a scenic view of their county's coastline as they travelled to beautiful Howth. It was a fresh and sunny day, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it. The Transition Year students celebrated all their achievements this year in their graduation ceremony on 24th May.



Darkness Into Light

For the second year in succession, Loreto College's involvement in the annual Darkness Into Light fundraiser for Pieta House had to be done socially distanced, and unfortunately this year in the pouring rain. However, that didn't stop our students, staff and their families from rising early on the morning of May 8th to raise money for Pieta House and the amazing work they do, preventing suicide and providing counselling to anyone in need of mental health support. Members of our school community walked, ran, jogged and cycled and in the case of Sophie Slattery in 4th year... swam. Well done everyone. A big thank you to Ms. Ryan who always leads the way in our walk to support Pieta House and who always does so much to boost our mental health too.



Garda Youth Award for Lauren

Just before she graduated, Lauren Whelan of 6th year was presented with a Garda Youth Award by Paul Sargent from Crumlin Garda Station. She received this well-deserved award in recognition of her leadership in the lengthy campaign to get HSE approval for Spinraza, the only treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Thanks to her efforts, and the campaigning of everyone at SMAIreland, Lauren and many others are now benefiting from the transformative effects of Spinraza.

The surprise presentation ceremony took place in the company of Lauren's many supporters among the staff and students of 6th year on 19th May. Her mother Lisa and sister Jasmine (graduate of 2015) were there to make the occasion extra special. Lauren will now be in the running for a National Garda Youth Award. Congratulations Lauren.



TAP (Trinity Access Programme)

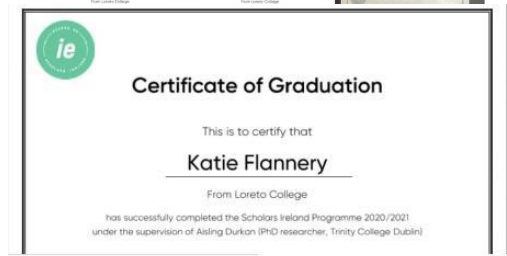
In March, there was well-deserved celebration of our super 2nd year students who participated in, and all graduated from the Scholars of Ireland programme. They put in a huge amount of work, much of it done during the school closure after Christmas. A big well done to both Amealia Flanagan and Lisa Slattery who spoke before 200 teachers and students about their experiences of the programme via video web link. Well done to all graduates pictured and listed right. There was great excitement for the twelve Bridge to College Transition Year students at their online graduation on 12th May. The students of this Trinity Access programme had reason to celebrate not one, but two well deserved awards. The ceremony marked the end of a very busy year for the girls who successfully combined studying this programme virtually, while keeping up with their busy TY programme.

At the graduation, Loreto College won two awards. Firstly, they were named Overall Winner in the Leadership Project on Equality for their work on 'Gender balance in Education and in the Workplace & Women in STEM'. This programme was delivered to our first-year students in April. A further prize was awarded to Pia Porras and China Manalo for Best Team.

The rest of the school received a lovely prize also on May 13th, as the Trinity Access team sent us not one, but two ice-cream vans so that everybody in the school community could enjoy a '99' after lunch. We were also delighted to welcome back Warren Farrell, former member of our History and CSPE departments and now a very active member of the Trinity Access team.

A huge congratulations to the fabulous 4th yrs involved in the Bridge to College programme: Katie Curtis, Zoe Dempsey, Virbi Kaalep, Khadija Kashif, Kimberley Kelly, Taylor Kelly, Salma Magbri, Abigail Manahan, China Manalo, Paige Moore, Pia Porras & Zofia Radon.

And finally, to end the TAP year on a high, on Tuesday 18th May, twenty-three Loreto students collected their Trinity Educational Awards in areas such as Mentoring, Academics and Leadership. Although the awards ceremony this year took place online, it gave the girls a unique opportunity to celebrate their achievements surrounded by their families at home.



Many students were nominated by their teachers for having shown resilience, engagement, solidarity and school spirit, as well as for their efforts for making our school a better place. The following students received awards.

Mentoring Awards: Libby Murray, Abi Fitzsimons, Asma Hassan, Emily Farrell, Megan Owens, Alecs Cortez, Patricia Baratu.

Academics Awards: Millie Flanagan, Andreea Maria Salion, Erin Hennessy, Sally Anne Kavanagh, Niki Lymau, Ruth Owango Alumba, Romaisa Abdussayed, Dorar Filiah, Brooke Cassidy, Linda Gall, Aaishah Buzakhar, Amy McGrath.

Salter Sterling Leadership Award

Siofra Kildee-Doolan, Kelsey Redmond, Holly Gorman, Khadija Kashif.

We would like to congratulate these winners as they have worked so well in what has been such a challenging year. Well done all.



Mentoring Awards



Academic Awards



Sporting Heroes Inspiring Students

Third Year and Fifth Year P.E. classes were treated to some hands-on expert training this term. Students got a chance to learn from champions in Gaelic football and rugby out on our Astro pitch in the beautiful summer sunshine. On 7th May, Leinster Rugby's Community Rugby Officer Gareth Murray came to visit Ms. O'Keefe's 3 Childers class for a masterclass. The following Tuesday, 5th years got a great surprise as All Ireland Football champions Jack McCaffrey and Sarah McCaffrey dropped in to the 5th years to give an inspirational training session. It was such a joy to see the girls get a really positive experience from such great role models and sporting icons. A huge thank you to Gareth, Jack and Sarah for stopping by and to Ms. O'Keefe and Mr. Quinn for making this possible.



An Cluainín (The Little Meadow)

Our school is situated in the immediate outskirts of Dublin City centre where green space is scarce, but wildlife still exists. In the Spring / Summer of 2020, as we all came to terms with a new reality of life with Covid-19 and limited our activities and movements, many stories made national and international headlines about nature re-establishing itself and making its presence known in the absence of human activity. This was also the case in Loreto Crumlin where we recognised the opportunity for our students to (re)connect with nature. Our Transition Year students, working in collaboration with Trinity College Access Programme, chose a biodiversity related project as the focus of their student leadership pillar. This gave birth to *The Little Meadow (An Cluainín)*. With the help of Collie Ennis, (Zoology fellow in TCD), and the local Bloomin Crumlin group, we received fantastic guidance in the planning of this project, particularly the establishment of a pocket forest. They directed our students towards online resources and made practical suggestions that proved to be invaluable. Under the in-school guidance of Mr. Whelan, Mr. Larkin and our caretaker Alan McGovern, our TY students have established our meadow of wildflowers, a pocket forest and a pond. To date, we have seen fantastic growth on the meadow. The pocket forest is showing signs of life with many green shoots and is attracting a wide variety of insects, birds and even the resident foxes! The ponds have been populated with oxygenating plants and as Spring turns to Summer we hope to attract all sorts of flora and fauna to the meadow. We would like to acknowledge the help of Sr. Anne Dwyer, Sr. Veronica Donoghue IBVM members of Crumlin Clean-up (Laura Casanellas, Trevor Clowry, Michelle Hardiman) members of our Transition Year Trinity College



Access Leadership group, parents and past pupils. Also, the 2nd Year JCSP students, who with the help of Ms. Casey have seeded some raised beds on our grounds.

If you would like to read more about our biodiversity project, go to our website www.loretoCrumlin.ie, click on An Cluainín.



Our Library is reopening

Due to COVID restrictions, we had to close our library this year and turn it into a regular classroom. However, thanks to the hard work of the Library Prefects, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Henry, our library is nearing readiness to return to use in September. We are also participating in the Accelerated Reader programme for the first time next year. First and Second Year students will benefit from the programme that is proven to develop students' love of reading and their motivation to pick up a book and develop their literacy.



What else happened this term?

Our student council have put a beautiful map of the world on display in Mary Ward which shows all the different countries of the world from which all our students come. Thanks to all the girls on the council for this beautiful display, and Ms. Dillon and Ms Walsh for their help.



Faith Hurley in 3rd yr was a Spin 103.8 Shine Hero at the Shine Festival 2021 which happened online in March. The Shine Festival is an event to empower young women and girls in Ireland. Faith's contribution was truly inspirational. Well done Faith.



TY Career Ready Students had their first virtual meeting with their business mentors in May. The students really enjoyed connecting with their mentors and look forward to working with them in the future. 5th Year Career Ready students had presentations from investment company BNY Mellon and another on conscious consumption from EY.



Our Leaving Cert students of 2020 received their written paper results in February. Ibtisam Tubeec received her Leaving Cert result in Arabic and is now studying nursing. She featured on the RTE news interviewed by Emma O'Kelly. Tara Brilly, who is studying Engineering in TCD received a Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award for her outstanding Leaving Cert results.



Khadija Kashif in Transition Year entered FM104's TY Takeover competition which invited participants to submit ideas for new radio shows and demonstrate their audio creativity. Khadija qualified as one of 20 students selected from thousands of budding radio presenters who applied. She received a radio presenter masterclass from FM104 in March



We all know how difficult the months of January and February were with online learning. To reward those students who attended 100% of their online classes and acknowledge their commitment to their online learning, the Wellbeing team, led by Ms. Dillon & Ms. Ryan organised pancake packs for Shrove Tuesday.



Debating & Public Speaking Successes

It has been another fabulous term for debating and public speaking in Loreto College. Under the leadership of Ms. Ruth Murphy, Loreto students have competed vigorously in competitions online, and have excelled.

Way back in January, senior debaters Chloe Pingol, Ifunanya and Ekenenna Chukwuewuzie and Becky Mbu took part in the Irish Regional Qualifier for the Oxford Debating Competition.

Third years Aisha Hassan and Erin Crowe battled through intense rounds of debating competition to qualify for the U.C.D. Junior Schools Debating Competition. The final took place on Thursday, 18th March online. Both girls debated superbly in the final where the motion was "This House as a superhero, would sign the Sokovia Accords". They were up against competition from Belvedere College, Alexandra College, Holy Child Killiney, Loreto Dalkey and Portlaoise College.






Aisha achieved a phenomenal 2nd place in the Individual Speaker category and was richly deserving of this accolade. Erin debated superbly on the night as well, following on from her stellar performances last year.

On 27th March, the Hist. Girls' MACE debate took place, organised by the Historical Society in Trinity College, and held on Zoom. Loreto College entered one Team comprising of Ekenenna Chukwuewuzie and Zahra Benyala (both in 5th year). Both girls made it to the grand final and were awarded medals for this fantastic achievement. Motions they spoke on included: *'This House Would Ban Private Colleges'* and *'This House Believes that the traditional school subjects are still the best subjects'* and also *'This House Promotes environmental optimism rather than pessimism'*.

The year ended on a high for Ekenenna also in public speaking. On May 26th, 5th year Ekenenna was crowned National Champion in the Senior Grand Final of the 'Speak Out Ireland' public speaking competition. This is the second time that Ekenenna has won this highly prestigious award in just four years. In her speech, which you can view on YouTube, Ekenenna spoke passionately about young people, their resilience and the role that they can play in improving our world. It was a truly inspirational speech.



Download our school app and follow us.

-  You can download our school app from your app store
-  Use the "Shop" section to make online payments easily and spread them out over the year if you wish.
-  Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube Channel.
-  New School Website online by September.
-  Keep up to date on all our news, and more pictures on www.loretocrumlin.ie



YOUR NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE WANTS YOU!!!



Do you fancy putting your creative writing and journalistic skills into practice? We are looking for students to write articles for our website and newsletter and take an active part in our social media posts. We want to make it more about what "You do" and "You say".

For more info or to put your name forward, email agreene@loretocrumlin.ie or contact Mr. Greene on TEAMS.