

Report to Parents from the Board of Management on the Operation of Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan. Academic Year 2015-16

Academic

- Excellent Leaving Certificate & Junior Certificate Results
- Twenty three per cent of students achieved over 500 points.
- Alice O'Neill, Nell Garvey, Emma Currivan, Juliette Boschaert, Roisin Lacey & Cliodhna Farrell achieved the maximum 625 points in their Leaving Certificate.
- Maria Louise Fufezan achieved all A's in her Junior Certificate.
- The following students won Entrance Exhibition Scholarships to Trinity College, Dublin, based on Leaving Certificate points:
 - Emma Currivan, Nell Garvey, Cliodhna Farrell and Roisin Lacey
- The vast majority of students went on to a range of Third Level Colleges. The school is a major feeder school for DCU, UCD, Trinity, Maynooth and St. Patrick's Teacher Training College.
- Examinations at Christmas and summer for 1st, 2nd and 5th Years.
- Examinations in January and summer for Transition Years.
- Examinations at Christmas and February (Mocks) for 3rd and 6th Years.
- Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations in June.
- Congratulations to the 5 Art students offered places in the National College of Art and Design. The school regularly has more students attending N.C.A.D. than any other school in the country. A number of other Art students were also offered places in DIT and IADT.
- The school offered language scholarships once again this year. The recipients were Lubna Arzal, Kelly Murphy and Sarah Kearney.
- There was a big uptake of students for Christmas and Easter study.
- We provided external Mock Orals for 5th Years.
- A Homework Club for First Years was run by Ms. Gaughan & Ms. Hunt and a team of teachers.
- Sixth Year students had the opportunity of having a teacher mentor for the year.

D.E.S. Inspections

- The school had an excellent Art Inspection in the first term.

Spiritual

- A variety of services took place during the school year. They included
 - The opening mass of the academic year
 - Advent Liturgies
 - Christmas Carol Service
 - A blessing of the school on St. Michael's Day
 - Catholic Schools week in January was marked by a number of activities including participation in the Saturday evening Mass in Balbriggan Parish.
 - Commissioning of the Ministers of the Eucharist
 - Retreats
 - Sixth Year Graduation Mass

- Mary Ward week in honour of our foundress.
- The school chaplaincy service and Religion Department continue to provide spiritual and pastoral support for students.

Charity/Social Awareness

- A Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group are active in the school. They engaged in a number of initiatives to raise awareness of Justice and Peace issues.
- A major fundraiser for our Loreto sister school in Rumbek, South Sudan and Jigsaw, Mental Well Being Service was organized by Ms. McHugh, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Ni Greachain, Ms. N. Ferris and the Senior Prefects.
- An active conference of St. Vincent de Paul is run under the leadership of Ms. Gaughan.

I.C.T.

- I.C.T. is integrated in all subject planning and an e-learning plan implemented.
- I.C.T. in-service for staff happens on a continuing basis.

Child Protection

- The Designated Liaison Person is Mr. Eddie Fynes, the Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Ms. Siobhan Murray.
- Staff have received the required inservice.
- All new staff are now part of a national vetting programme.
- Child Protection issues are on the agenda of each Board of Management meeting.
- A Vetting and Anti Bullying Policy are in operation.

Trips & Tours

A wide range of trips and tours occurred during the year. Amongst those were:

- A ski trip to Norway
- A first year trip to London - Harry Potter Museum
- A Geography trip to Spain
- A Geography trip to the Burren
- A Music trip to London
- An Art trip to Florence
- A Business trip to Italy
- History trips to Newgrange
- An English trip to London/Stratford
- A Home Economics trip to Italy

All of the above greatly enhanced the learning opportunities for our students. The teachers involved were thanked for their great work and commitment.

Transition Year

- The vibrant and dynamic Transition Year again provided wonderful learning opportunities for our students. In addition to three weeks work experience, the Transition Years were involved in a Fashion Show, a musical (“Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”), and the One Good Idea project. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the following:
 - School-Link with local primary schools
 - I.T. Literacy
 - Gaisce
 - Public Access to Law
 - Photography Workshops
 - G.A.A. coaching
 - “Early Drive” Driving course
 - Gael Linn course
 - Fundraising
 - Film Studies workshop
 - Mandarin Studies
 - Green Schools
 - Sports Science
 - Local History
 - Legal Studies
 - Relationship & Sexuality Talks

- Well done to all the creations which reached the Leinster finals of Junk Kouture and particularly to Dagmara Dobkowska who won the best hair and make up prize at the final in the 3 Arena
- Eight Transition Year students were trained in the Ember programme and will help lead the Loreto Faith Community in the year ahead.
- Transition Year students received an Ignatian Spirituality in-service
- The method of assessment for Transition Year students included the opportunity to formally meet with members of the Transition Year team to illustrate their learning throughout the year.
- Transition Year students had the option of an outdoor pursuits trip to Kippure Estate in Wicklow. Students also went to Causey Farm.
- The Transition Year Mock Trial team came second in the National final in the Criminal Courts of Justice. They were mentored by Ms. O’Neill & Mr. Daly
- A wonderful Transition Year Graduation night occurred at the end of May.
- The members of the Transition Year team of teachers for 2015-16 were: Ms. McHugh (Programme Co-Ordinator), Ms. O’Donoghue-McCaul, Ms. McCabe, Ms. Synnott, Ms. Bailey & Ms. Ryan.

Pastoral Care/Guidance

- The Pastoral Care and Guidance team for the school include Ms. Sarah O’Brien, Ms. Mairead McNally (Chaplain), Ms. Ciara McGuirk (Resource) Ms. Niamh Jacob & Ms. Margaret White (Learning Support).
- A successful orientation programme was held for in-coming 1st Years organized by Mr. O’Brien.

- A twinning programme was organized by Ms. McNally and Ms. Ryan with the relevant senior prefects.
- Anti-Bullying workshops were presented to First Year students
- A most successful Mental Well Being week was held in January.
- Mock Interviews were open to all 5th Year students.
- Relationship and Sexuality talks were given to all year groups by Accord

Extra Curricular Activities

The school is especially fortunate in the number of dynamic staff involved in a wide range of activities. They included

- Art Portfolio Class
- Art Exhibition
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Ceol Loreto Gigs
- Couch to 5 K
- Debating
- Drama Club
- Dance
- Golf
- Gaelic Football
- Hockey
- Homework Club
- Cookery for beginners
- Table Tennis
- Junior Choir
- Orchestra
- Public Speaking
- Quiz teams
- Run-a-Muck Challenge
- Sailing
- Senior Choir
- Soccer
- Soroptimists
- Tennis
- Volleyball

A big thank you to our many teachers involved in an array of extra curricular activities

Young Scientists/Science Awards National & International

- This was a wonderful year for the school in the Science field. The school won the Young Scientists Competition, and was runner up as well as winning awards in 8 categories in total including the N.A.P.D. 'School of the Year'.
- In the Northern Ireland Young Scientists the school again swept the boards.

- There were great successes at SciFest and a wonderful international award for Lauren Murphy coming third in the world in her category in the Intel International competition in Arizona.
- The following are the specific details:
 - Maria Louise Fufezan and Diana Bura are Transition Year students. They were the overall winners for their project 'An Investigation into the Effects of Enzymes used in Animal Feed Additives on the Lifespan of *Caenorhabditis Elegans*'.
 - Renuka Chintapalli is a Fifth Year student. She won three awards for her project 'Developing a predictive tool for identifying FLNc-associated biomarkers of Oesophageal cancer metastasis'. She was the Individual Runner up; won the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) award for the best impact on human health and the Perrigo Award which is the overall best biological award in the BT Young Scientist Competition.
 - Khadija Gull and Emily Tierney won two awards. They won the First Prize in the Biological and Ecological Sciences, Senior (Group) section, for their project 'Identification of alterations in members of the Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase (PTP's) gene family as novel therapeutic options for the treatment of Pancreatic Cancer'. They also won the Health Research Board award for most novel insights into medical understanding.
 - Maria Wyzykowska is also a Fifth Year student. She received third prize in the Social and Behavioural Sciences, Senior (Individual) section, for her project 'The effects of high intensity interval training on cognition and academic performance in female Leaving Certificate students'.
 - Another Fifth Year student is Lauren Murphy who won the Intel Award for Sentinus Young Innovators 2015 Overall Award and represented Northern Ireland at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in Arizona in May. Lauren developed a hand held rehabilitation aid for MS sufferers. This is the largest international pre-college Science Fair in the world.
 - Renuka Chintapalli – Overall winner of Northern Ireland Young Scientist
 - Khadija Gull & Emily Tierney O’Hanlon won the Senior Category & the First Derivative Special Award
 - Laura Cody & Tess O’Neill were runners up in the Senior Category
 - Kate O’Driscoll, Jessica Conway McLaughlin & Aoife Kenny won the Junior Young Scientists Category
 - Renuka Chintapalli reached the top 100 finalists in the world as part of the Google Science Fair.
 - Khadija Gull was part of the winning team in the Science bootcamp
 - Shelley Johnson, Sadbh Quinn Hegarty, Ella Cooper, Aoife Kenny, Kate O’ Driscoll & Jessica Conway McLaughlin won the top prize in Mathematics for their project in SciFest.
- Especial thanks to Mr. Garvey and particularly to Dr. Niamh McNally for her wonderful contribution as a mentor to the girls.

Other Successes

- The senior camogie team coached by Ms. N. Ferris and Mr. Brennan became Leinster champions and reached the All Ireland semi finals.
- The 2nd and 3rd Year hockey teams won their respective North Dublin Leagues
- Niamh Corry won the Senior Award at the Fingal Enterprise Awards

- Ciara O'Reilly and Emma Finnegan were runner up in the Junior section of the Fingal Enterprise Awards.
- The "supergroup" of various musical disciplines reached the final of the Waltons Music for Schools Competition.
- Maria Louise Fufezan won a German scholarship based on her Junior Certificate results.
- Maria Louise Fufezan, Sarah Ryan and Manny Choudry won Business awards in N.U.I. Maynooth based on the girls Junior Certificate results.
- Alisia Oriol won the Fingal County Council Poetry competition and reached the National final.
- Emma Morkeliunaite and Emily O'Sullivan won the Loreto Junior Mace Debating competition.
- Lisa Flynn won both a gold and bronze medal at the All Ireland Schools Judo Competition.
- Eibhlin Mallon, Lubna Arzal and Holly Keogh won awards at the Balbriggan Town Awards based on their T.Y. History projects on Balbriggan.
- Leah Fleming came runner up in the Donal Walsh Video competition
- The Cadette Basketball team won the Loreto League
- Ruth Guildea won the national PDST Poetry Award
- Wiktorija Witkowska was highly placed in the Texaco Art Competition.
- Lauren O'Keefe won the shot putt and hammer throw at the North Leinster Athletics achieving a personal best in the shot putt. Lauren also came 7th in the World Youth Olympics in the summer of 2015.
- Laura Cody represented Ireland at the U-18 Golf competition.
- Two past pupils Sophie Donnelly and Orlagh Darling won prestigious Trinity scholarships.
- The school sailing team won the Loreto Sailing competition.
- The school's athletic team won an array of medals at the Loreto Athletics competition.
- Maria Wyzykowska won the category award in the P.E. Expo.
- Caoilfhionn Ni Mhadagain won the U-15 Singing competition in the Feis Ceoil.
- The school's swimming team captained by Erin O'Hanlon won a range of medals at the Loreto Swimming Gala. Kate Barrett, Maeve Cope, Roisin Wearen and Alannah McCann all returned with medals.
- Saoirse Lambe won the school's annual Golf competition.
- The following students won awards at the prestigious John Hooper Medal for Statistics Awards – Renuka Chintapalli, Emily Tierney O'Hanlon, Anna Sowray and Kelsey Wilson. The poster by Aoife Conroy, Jess Barbelescu and Lauren Murphy represented Ireland in the Junior International Statistics Poster Competition where they came third.
- The U-15 soccer team reached the Leinster Final.
- Adele Rooney won the annual Run-A-Mile competition.
- Grainne Conway represented the Eastern Region U-15 Basketball team.
- Orla Young came second in the Junior Dublin Maths Competition.
- The school's wonderful Senior Choir participated in the Emmanuel Concert.

Centenary Celebrations

- The school's History Department organized a wonderful week's activities to commemorate the 1916 Rising. It included
 - A reading of the Proclamation to the student body by Lieutenant Sinead Hunt, a past Head Girl.
 - Visits to places of historic interest.

- A major exhibition in the school atrium
- Speakers from the world of history and politics including John Bruton and Eamon O’Cuiv.

Many thanks to the Loreto History Department.

School Development Planning

The School Development Plan focuses on the following areas

- Learning Environment
- Curriculum
- Teaching and learning
- Policy Development
- Student Support
- Staff Support
- Ethos
- The school also completed a School Self Evaluation process and School Improvement Plan which has been approved by the Board of Management.

Parental Contact

- Information meetings for incoming First Years
- Parent Teacher Meetings
- Subject Options Night & T.Y. Information Meeting for Third Years
- Regularly updated Website
- The opportunity to meet relevant staff, by appointment
- Regular text messaging

Parents Association

- The Parents’ Association met regularly during the year
 - The Parents’ Association is regularly updated on school events at meetings
 - The Parents Association A.G.M. was addressed by Ms. Triona Barrett, Loreto Education Officer.

Professional Development

- Department of Education & Science in-service is on-going.
- The school’s Teaching & Learning group meet every 4 – 5 weeks.
- Staff received professional development in a number of areas.

Student Leadership

- Congratulations to the outgoing Student Leadership team particularly Aine McCarthy, Head Girl and Stephanie Corrigan, Julie O’Connor & Sam Brillantes, Deputy Heads.
- Next year’s Senior Prefects, Captains, Co-Ordinators have been chosen. The new Head Girl is Ruth Moore and the Deputy Head Girls are Caoimhe Mackey, Renuka Chintapalli, Sinead Farrell, Meaghan Dinsmore
- Both Student Council and Senior Prefects received training at the start of the year and involved themselves actively in school life. Ms. Buckley, Ms. Finneran & Ms. McHugh mentor this group .
- Captains, Co-Ordinators and Senior Prefects have been chosen for the 2016-17 academic year.

Loreto Identity

- The Kolkata Guidelines and Loreto values are reflected upon at each Board of Management meeting.

- A new Loreto document “Continuing the Journey” will provide wonderful material on our Loreto ethos.
- Mary Ward, the founder of the Loreto Order, is particularly remembered during Mary Ward week in January of each year.
- The Loreto Education Centre and its Education Development Officer, Ms. Triona Barrett, provide a range of supports to our schools.

Miscellaneous

- Sonia O’Sullivan and Dave Matthews, both past Olympians spoke to the students about their experience.
- Brian Gregan, also an Olympian, worked on motivation under the Sky Sports Active programme.
- The Loreto P.E. Department in association with the Sports Committee organized the Loreto Athletics, Loreto Spikeball and Loreto Orienteering with great success.
- The Balbriggan Business Expo was held in the school’s Assembly Hall.
- The Business Department Annual Market Day was a great success. Roisin Hogan from the BBC’s Apprentice spoke to the Business students.
- The Home Economics captains organized a Christmas Bake Off for the Junior students.
- “Sam Maguire” arrived in the school as part of Dublin’s post All Ireland success.
- Sarah Furlong and Elin Ceban were nominated for the “Spirit of Community/Pamerica Award”.
- In association with Fingal County Council libraries, E.A.L. classes were provided.
- First Year Senior Prefects organized a brilliant Talent Show for First Year.
- An after school class was organized for First Years on App Design.
- Ms. Ryan’s T.Y. Sign Language class worked with six schools on the One Language Initiative.
- Prizegiving and commendation forms were used as part of the positive and affirmative philosophy of the school:
 - Senior Students of the Year – Julie O’Connor & Megan Wilson Griffin
 - Junior Student of the Year – Anna Sowray
 - Transition Year Students of the Year – Ruth Guildea, Diana Bura & Maria Louise Fufezan
 - Senior Music Student of the Year – Saibhin O’Sullivan
 - Junior Music Student of the Year – Dearbhla Mulligan
 - Science Students of the Year – Aoife M Doyle & Cliodhna Redmond
 - Mary Ward Person of the Year – Katie Howard
 - TY Mary Ward Person of the Year – Sarah Ryan
 - Junior Mary Ward Person of the Year – Claudia Andre
 - Senior Sports Student of the Year – Laura Brown
 - T.Y. Sports Person of the Year – Caoimhe Dunne & Lauren O’Keeffe
 - Junior Sports Student of the Year – Katelyn O’Brien

- Mr. Fynes retired and Ms. Ann Marie McDonough was appointed as the new school Principal. Mr. Fynes thanked all the students and their parents for their kind and generous gifts and words. He wishes all in Loreto Balbriggan the very best into the future.



Please note this list of activities and events is comprehensive but not exhaustive.