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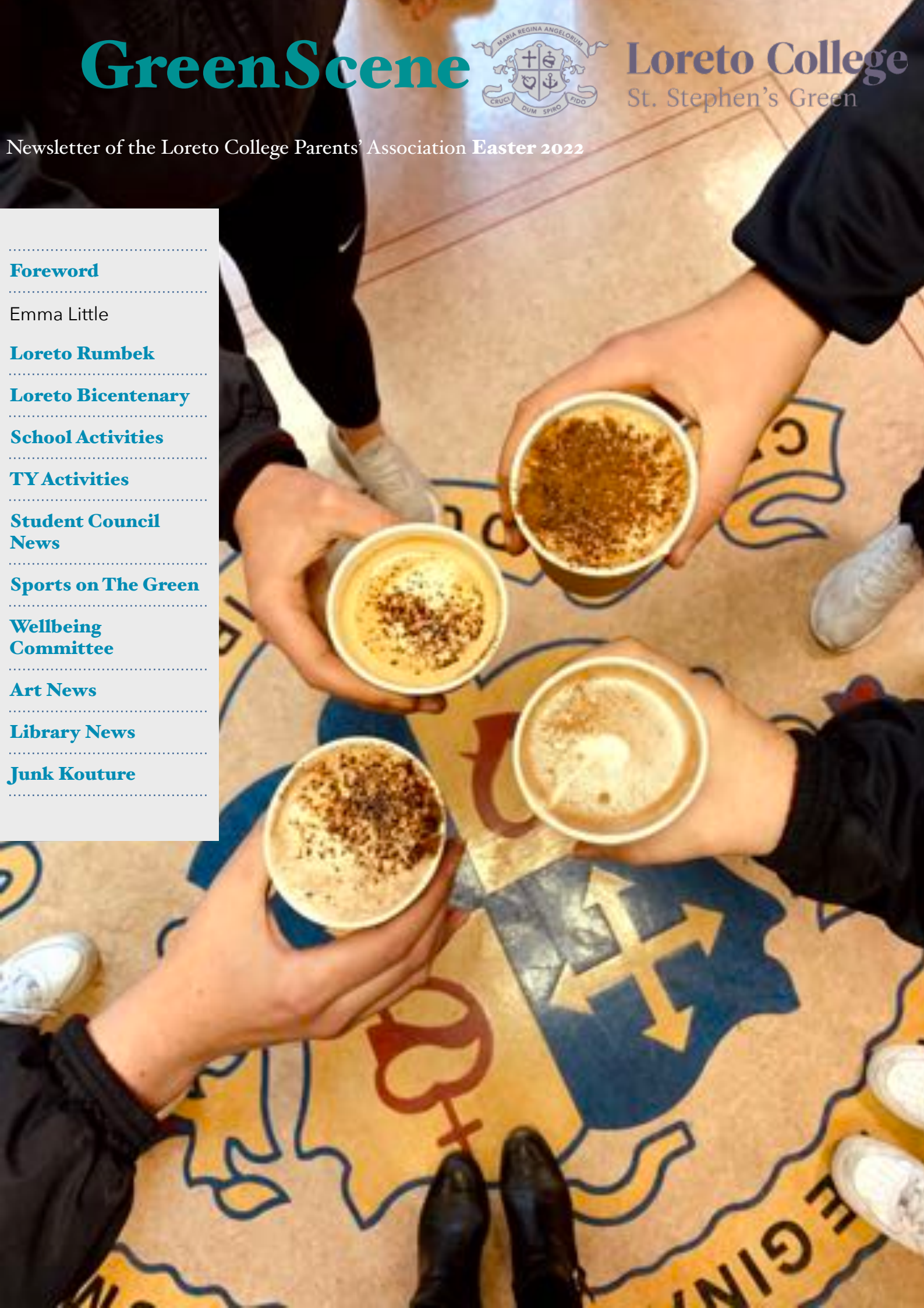
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Foreword

Dear Parents,

We live in what we might call “interesting times” with conflict, covid, and climate taking centre stage.

Our thoughts over the past few weeks have been occupied with the terrible suffering endured in Ukraine, and in those who have fled for their lives as refugees, and we applaud the students and staff in the school for their recent Walk Out and successful fundraising drive for UNICEF who are supporting as many of the 7.5 million Ukrainian children as they can.

We would also like to take a moment to reflect on this recent global pandemic, and offer our most sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to those amongst us who have suffered bereavement, or illness, and also to those who continue to be ill with long Covid.

The Parents’ Association would like to thank the school for its continued efforts to help our children navigate their journeys to adulthood through these unprecedented times, and we applaud the teachers, the school administration and all of the staff of the school for their resilience, grace, and continued good humour.

As restrictions are lifted, we are looking forward to meeting you face to face again, and, for the first time, in what seems like a long time.

With this in mind, informally, we would like to invite parents, and all in the school community to take part in our weekly “walk and talks” on Thursday lunchtimes in St. Stephen’s Green. We meet at 1 pm by the school steps, rain or shine, for a stroll and a natter, so come as you are, when you are able, and all welcome.

We are also planning an in person ‘Welcome to Loreto on the Green’ coffee morning on Saturday, May 7th for our newest parents, and parents from other years, at last, and will keep you updated on that via the school’s app.



We are delighted to announce that the fundraising lunch for Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan will be going ahead at some stage in 2022. The lunch committee is busy working on the details. We will keep you updated on what is sure to be a wonderful day. I'm sure we're all looking forward to meeting up again for this very, very worthy cause supporting our Loreto community in South Sudan, and we hope we have enough places for you all.

Speaking of Rumbek, we would like to offer our congratulations to the Director of the Loreto Rumbek school, clinic, farm, and refugee feeding camp, Sr Orla, for winning Ireland’s Presidential Distinguished Service Award (PDSA) for Business and Education from Irish President Michael D. Higgins. The award is presented each year to Irish people abroad working in different fields such as the Arts, Science and Sports. Sr. Orla was thanked by the President for her work educating and advocating for young women in South Sudan and raising the profile of Ireland internationally.

Well done Sr. Orla!

Should you wish to find out a bit more about Rumbek and donate to support the wonderful work done there for the girls, please click on the link below:

<https://www.loretorumbek.ie/donate/>

We hope for peace in the world, and for happier, healthier, and less “interesting” days ahead.

I join the parents’ association committee members in wishing you all a very happy, restful, and peaceful Easter. We look forward to meeting up again some sunny day.

With best wishes,

Emma Little

Chairperson, PA committee

Loreto Rumbek

Loreto Rumbek Update

The Loreto Rumbek mission under the trustee of the Loreto Province in Ireland continues to provide invaluable life changing education and services in South Sudan.

After a lockdown in 2020 the mission was delighted to reopen its doors last year and welcome back over 1,800 students made up of its



female boarders, primary pupils both boys and girls who all walk daily from their homes within a 5k radius of the school and the large number that attend the mission's clinic.



Loreto Rumbek has 15 teaching staff who are all very proud to be associated with the school that was South Sudan's 3rd best performing school in 2021. To continue high standards the mission provides a teaching training program to educate graduates to ensure teaching standards in not only Loreto, but surrounding schools is of excellent standards. Valuable additions to staff last year included Fr Alan and Ann a counselor who can provide invaluable and much needed counselling courses and support to the students. The mission also provides students with a wealth of extra curriculum activities including sports, arts and crafts and drama to name a few all to help students express themselves and deal with the many challenges they face in their daily lives.

The missions work doesn't stop with its students, an in-school feeding program is extended from students to malnourished children and families outside.

During the pandemic The Mary Ward Primary healthcare centre set up to



ensure students have access to healthcare expanded its services into the local community. Continuing to offer students security and opportunity the mission also offers training and supports to the wider community.

It is of no surprise that Sr Orla Tracey, Director of the mission received an International Women of Courage award in 2019 and Sr Orla's incredible work was once again acknowledged last year by Michael D Higgins when she received the Presidential Distinguished Award, sincere congratulations from all the Loreto on the Green community.

Any parents that wish to contribute to the Loreto Rumbek project can do so by contacting Sr Orla directly director@loretorumbek.ie or visiting the website www.loretorumbek.ie

Loreto Bicentenary

2021 Bicentenary celebrations of the Loreto orders foundation ...

Francis Teresa Ball was born in 1794 in Dublin, at the age of 9 she went to York to be educated and in 1821 answered a calling to return to Dublin with a vision to provide education to young girls who may not of had such opportunities.

Her journey began in 1821 when the Archbishop of Dublin provided Teresa with a run down house and land in Rathfarnham which she called Loreto House. The name was subsequently used by all future foundations set up when Teresa trained and sent



sisters to set up a flourishing network of schools around Ireland and all 4 corners of the globe. The Loreto order was founded and the sisters became know as the Loreto sisters.

200 years later Teresa Balls amazing vision and dedication to education was celebrated in the global Loreto community. Celebrations were somewhat restricted by the pandemic but many wonderful celebrations still took place . Pre recorded lectures and presentations with student interaction were sent to all Loreto schools, other celebrations to name a few included an online exhibition ‘The

Beginning is everything’, weekly reflections, prayers, TY projects, tree planting and through music a beautiful Loreto Anthem highlighting Teresa Balls incredible vision and celebrating women’s education was produced by Loreto Kilkenny.

School Activities 2021/2022



Science Department

Term 1 2021/2022

SciFest - after winning the Transition Year SciFest competition last year, current 5th year Anna Holloway entered the Dublin regional final at the end of last year and was the overall winner. In September she was presented with her prizes during an awards ceremony with her year group. Anna went on to represent the school in the SciFest National Final in November. Around the same time we also held our annual Transition Year SciFest competition with the students presenting some very innovative ideas. The winning group looked at the benefits of developing a smart watch for elderly people.

Science Committee - The Science committee involves a dedicated group of 5th years who organised

activities for Science week in early November including individual class quizzes, crosswords and prizes. They have also assisted with the 1st year Science Club and with the project entry forms for BT Young Scientist.

Science Club started in early October and is held weekly. It is an opportunity for 1st years to experience some practicals within a lab setting. They have done experiments on identifying acids and bases and made their own indicator, flame tests of different elements used in fireworks and looking at the effect of different materials on blocking UV light to see which materials would be best for a space suit.

BT Young Scientist - We had around 12 groups enter into BT Young Scientist this year ranging from 1st - 4th years. 7 groups qualified for the final and spent October to January working to collect

and analyse their data and present their findings under the supervision of their teacher. They had to write a report, create a presentation and make a 3 minute video on their work. All groups did an amazing job and were rewarded with two highly commended prizes and an overall winner of the Junior Social and Behavioural category. The next step is encouraging students to enter SciFest @ College in May to start preparing for next year's BT Young Scientist competition.

6th Years went on their Ecology Trip at the start of the year and had a Chemistry workshop hosted by Trinity.

European Science Olympiad - we had a number of 4th/5th year students enter the first round of the European Science Olympiad and 5th year student Alice Peardon has progressed to the next round.



Mission Possible

Margaret Dunshee 3rd Year

Between October and Christmas break, we organised a weekly collection of sandwiches for Soup Run from 1st-3rd year students, this was a nice way to allow many of our members to get involved in helping out with our local community.

We also got together to help with creating awareness around the school for our Christmas charity events, Aoi bhneas Christmas Hamper Appeal supporting victims of domestic abuse and Capuchin Day Centre helping the homeless. We hung up posters around the school and created a video informing the school community about the work of these charities and how the funds raised would be used.

English Debating - Mr Mulligan

Debating has been returning to the green over the course of the last few months. While there are less competitions than normal, our seniors have been taking part in the Leinster Schools Competition while our 3rd years have been taking part in the Junior version. Both competitions are entering into the knockout stage in January and we await word on if some/all of our teams have progressed. In addition to

this we had a number of teams take part in the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Irish qualifying round. While they didn't progress to Finals Day in the UK, they performed excellently.

The 2nd years also gained experience in preparing for the Loreto Debating Competition, although that competition has since been postponed. We are also looking forward to opening up debating to first years at the end of the month.

Literacy and Numeracy Committee

Anna Tsalkitzis and **Daisy O'Sullivan**

In Term 1, we focused on an initiative to promote Literacy around the school.

Over the course of a few weeks, we procured a variety of quotes from numerous poets, playwrights, and authors. After printing and laminating these quotes, we hung them up in each classroom. Some of the poets, authors and playwrights include George Orwell, F. Scott Fitzgerald and William Shakespeare. Now, all of the students attending the school are informed on some of the most influential pieces of literature of all time. As well as this, a Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) session was arranged for the 15th of December, 2021. Students in Loreto on the Green were able to enjoy some quiet reading time as a part of this event. As a result of this initiative, students were given a chance to explore literature in its vast scope. This past term has had a heavy focus on literacy, and for our next campaign we have already started designing a display that incorporates various aspects of both literacy and numeracy. We had Literacy and numeracy week in January with lots of puzzles, games and competitions for all. Thanks also to Ms O'Reilly for all her hard work with the Committee.

Multi-Cultural Society

Our MCS have had a very busy few months with a number of awareness and inclusion campaigns including Intersectionality week in November and Black History month in February. The group meets every second Tuesday and have been able to include all year groups with some careful COVID Planning. **Anna Tsalkitzis** has also been keeping us all updated with weekly bulletins on name days.



History Committee

Victoria Piekarska-Daly, Chairperson of the History Society

During term one, the History Society of Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green covered many topics, such as Black History Month, the Space Race, 100 Years of Women at the Legal Bar in Ireland and Banned Books Week in conjunction with the library. These were discussed at lunchtime meetings held at 1.15pm every Thursday. Member turnout was high, and everyone was eager to participate. The History Society will be hosting "History Week" in April.

SID Ambassadors

Well done to Ms Fusciardi and her Safer Internet Day Ambassadors **Grace Keaveney** and **Freya Sirr**, for all their hard work for the February 8th event. They arranged presentations for tutor time and a poster competition for 1st years. As the online environment becomes an increasingly integral part of young people's lives, digital citizenship education plays a vital role and online safety is an important element of this.



Stand-Up Awareness Week

Beth Lynam

We were very proud to organise some presentations about the LGBTQ+ Community to inform people in the school on how to be better allies. Stand-Up Awareness Week is about learning about the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + other identities). In the GSA club (Gay, Straight Alliance), we talked about what we could do to raise awareness and

decided to give a general presentation to 1st - 3rd years that informed the students about what these identities are, their flags and queer representation in books, movies and the media. We also had a Kahoot! quiz at the end of the presentation which the students really enjoyed. In our senior presentation we went into a bit more detail about LGBTQ+ History in Ireland. It was a great opportunity for students to learn how to be better allies and all the students came into school on Friday wearing rainbow colours to show their support! It was a brilliant week and amazing to see all the support we got!



Wellbeing Committee

This committee is made up of 4th, 5th and 6th Year students. This year we have focussed more on running a number of smaller events in the school and providing more daily and weekly support. We want to continue to raise awareness about the importance of minding our mental health and offer practical tips and advice to both students and staff. We have weekly reflections on Wellbeing Wednesdays and provide videos and Wellbeing material for tutor time. We assisted with Mary Ward Week inclusion initiatives and we also arranged for 1st and 2nd years to create good luck messages for all the 3rd, 5th and 6th year for their February exams and put them on their desks and lockers. We are planning for our Mental Health Awareness Day and Whole School support of the Pieta House Darkness into Light run/walk.

Student Council update

Isabella Barr 6B

The Student Council is a committee of students that consists of one elected representative from each class. Candidates put their name forward in each class and elections are held at the beginning of the year. Each member of Council took part in student council training that was offered to all Loreto schools earlier in the year. Everyone found this not only very beneficial but also enjoyable and a great way to get ideas from councils in other Loreto schools.

We hold meetings every month when we discuss issues that arise among classes and put plans into action to resolve these. We have really emphasised the promotion of the Council in school this year with the creation of a student council school Instagram page and notice board. This way we can not only reach students in the school but in the wider

community to promote our actions and look for any problems we can solve around the school.

At the beginning of the year we ratified our constitution and the 'Safe Usage policy' to ensure they were up to date and in line with the student body's beliefs 2021/22. Our main aim and action this year so far has been to make sanitary products available to all students throughout our school. We felt this was a very pressing issue and one that definitely affects the students. We invited senior members of staff to our meetings and upon support from them we sent a proposal crested by student council off to senior management for approval. We strive to give the students in our school a voice and to enact change within the school to better the experiences of everyone in the school. Before the end of the year we will also host spirit week, something students have always enjoyed in years gone by and something we are grateful to be given the chance to do post pandemic.

TY Activities

Dublin Barista Course by Leah Morrin

On the Thursday 16th of December 2021 three baristas from Dublin Barista School visited our school. There were several espresso machine stations set up around the classroom. To start the day off we got an introduction and preview of what we were going to do during the day. Then we were split up into three groups and shown how to make an espresso and the safety around the machine. Then we got to learn how to make a latte, an Americano, a hot



chocolate and many more drinks that are served in a café! During lunch time we got to create our own cafe where all other year groups could come and order a latte or a mocha made by us!

We all passed our one day Barista Course training and received a certificate. This certificate can be used for any of us to get a job in a coffee shop! We loved the experience and developed a newfound taste for coffee!



Gaisce Hike by Sarah Doyle

On Tuesday the 30th of November, we did our Gaisce Hike! It started in Tibbradden and we were really excited to get started! After around 40 mins of walking we reached a walkway of wooden planks and we walked all the way along them. After walking for about 2 1/2 hours we got to

Masseys Woods, we walked the whole way through and picked up a new friend on the way (a dog!). When we finished our lunch we packed up and took off to the Hell Fire Club. We got to the top eventually and we learned some of the history about the castle up the top. We took a few pictures and finally were on the last stretch home. When we reached the bottom of the mountain we got the bus back to school, exhausted but with a great sense of achievement!



Cathrine Fulvio Cookery School by Robyn Confrey

On the 11th of January we participated in a cook-a-long with Cathrine Fulvio. We cooked in our own homes which gave us a chance to get to know our own kitchens. We made chicken noodle soup, a prawn stir fry and apple crumble. Throughout the session we learned new skills such as chopping, poaching, stir frying, time management and more. We thoroughly enjoyed both cooking and then eating the delicious food!

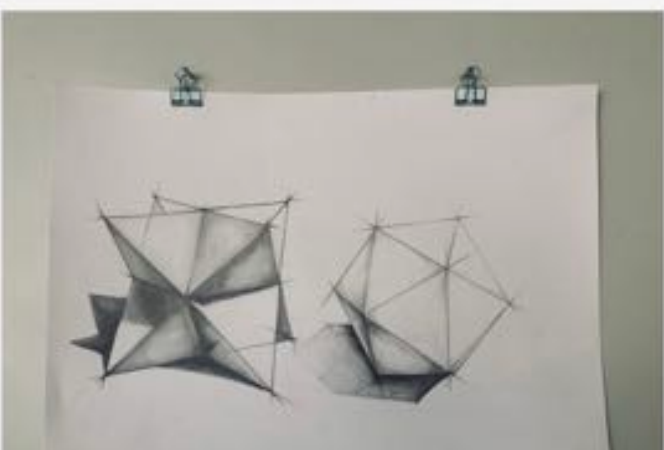
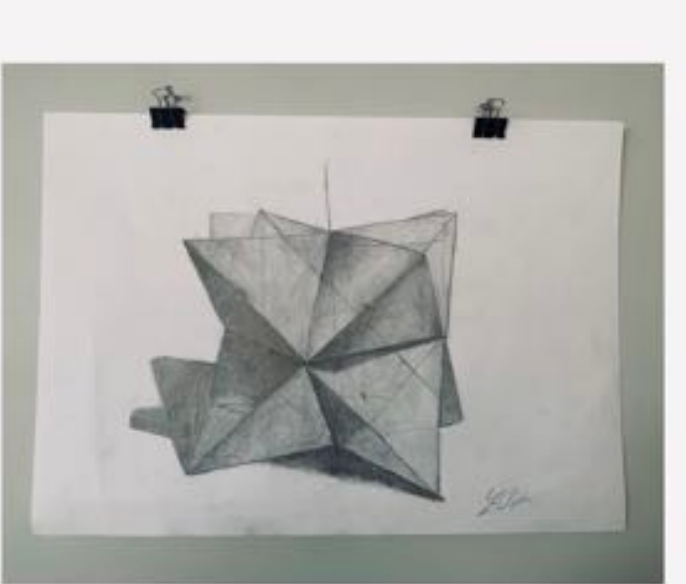


Art News

Art General by Ms.Fynes and Ms.O'Reilly

Over the past number of weeks Sixth Year Art students have been working diligently on their beautiful project work. The girls decided to submit a variety of pieces ranging from etchings, posters and one magnificent lifesize clay snake! Also many Sixth year students have produced stunning portfolios for admission to Art College. First year Art students are creating paintings of summer flowers and are thoroughly enjoying the process. Second Year Art students have created collages, drawings, sculptures and photographs that relate to the theme of 'My Neighbourhood' Third year Art students have been researching artists that inspire them and broadening their knowledge of both Art History and contemporary Art.

We are very proud of the wonderful work all of our students have produced this year!



TY Activities



Secret Street Tour of Dublin by Honor Lynch

Myself and my class recently took part in the “Secret Streets Tour” of Dublin. It is an experience that I will never forget. Our two incredible tour guides gave us a unique perspective on the city centre of Dublin. They were both previously homeless and showed us all the key places for homeless people living in Dublin. They were incredibly brave and vulnerable with us and explained their past

struggles with addiction and living on the streets. They had incredible stories to tell and the whole tour felt like a relaxed conversation rather than a performance, which made it more engaging and fun. I learnt lots of new things about Dublin which I didn't expect as I've lived here my whole life. I also learnt a lot about how intense the homeless crisis is in Dublin and all of Ireland and a lot of the extremities are brushed over in the media. Overall, it was one of the best tours of the city I've ever had and I recommend it to anyone.

Photography Workshop by Nina Brennan

On the 14th and 15th of January, we did a Photography Workshop with Tim Durham. We looked at some of his photographs from when he travelled the world and learnt about his process. We played a game where he showed us zoomed in photos and we had to guess what they were. He taught us about different camera angles and

photography techniques and how they can change your perspective on a picture. Then we got into groups and went into town to take photographs of a specific list of things that Tim had set us. The second day we looked at our photos and picked our three favourites. It was really interesting and fun to see everyone else's photos and how they found different ways of looking at things. It was a really positive and enjoyable experience!



Sports News

by Meagan Hoffman, Sports Co-ordinator

After eighteen months of no competitions due to Covid, we have had an incredible return to sport this year with huge success across the board! Our hockey teams have had a brilliant year, in particular our Junior A and Minor A teams who both made the Leinster Finals. Our Junior team are this year's Junior Plate Runners-Up, and our Minor team are the Minor 1 Leinster League winners after beating Temple Carrig 1-0 in a brilliant hockey final! It was such a special day for The Green with hundreds of our students cheering them on at Three Rock Rovers Hockey Stadium, showing the unbelievable spirit we have in The Green!

On the basketball court, we had top performances by all our teams with both our Senior A and Cadette A making the Semi-Finals of the East Leinster league, narrowly losing in both matches to qualify for the finals. Our Junior A and Minor A teams have undefeated seasons in the East region, and will face Dalkey and Holy Child Killiney in the Semi Finals at the end of the month.



Our Senior Gaelic team had a brilliant season, winning all their league matches, and making it to the Semi Finals where they lost to a tough Malahide CC side. In the pool, our Senior and Junior Relay teams came 4th overall in the Leinster Schools Championships, with **Mia Whelan O'Connor** (5th yr) finishing 3rd overall in both

the 400m & 100m Senior Freestyle races. Our Equestrian team are the 2022 Interschools Show Jumping League Champions, after winning the final competition in Killossery Stud at the beginning of February- an incredible achievement!

Our Cross Country team has had continued success throughout the year, particularly with our Minor (1st Yr) team who won the East Leinster Championships! The team then came 4th in the Leinster's, narrowly missing out on qualifying as a team for the All-Ireland's. Individually, Julie Cleary (2nd Yr) qualified for the All-Ireland's, where she finished 15th in the Intermediate age group, while **Emma McEvoy** (5th Yr) saw great success in the Seniors, finishing 1st in the East Leinsters, 2nd in the Leinster's and

Sports News

3rd in the All-Ireland's- an unbelievable cross country season for Emma!

Overall it has been an incredible year for sports in The Green thus far; we are looking forward to continued success in the upcoming summer sports term with our Tennis, Cricket and Athletics competitions.





LORETO ON THE GREEN,
LORETO HIGH SCHOOL BEAUFORT &
LORETO COLLEGE FOXROCK
PRESENT

THE FULL STORY

Loreto Inter-College Annual TY Writing Competition

€50 for the winning entry

€30 for the runner(s)-up

Closing date: Monday the 25th of April

*Full details on titles and rules are available on respective
college websites and social media pages*



**Inaugural Competition to mark the
bicentenary of Teresa Ball**



Library News



It's been a great start to the year so far in the Library. Always conscious that we are a National Well Read school, the focus is on developing that to the next level and keeping up the trend of students reading for enjoyment to create a life-long habit – as well as having as much fun as they can doing it!

It's been amazing to see the strong culture of reading that's here in school and it's always such a joy to see the excitement the arrival of new books brings. We have a steady stream of borrowers and there are definitely some titles that are flying off the shelves. So, in no particular order, our 'Loreto Top 10 Reads' are:

Heartstopper – Alice Oseman
One of Us is Lying - Karen M. McManus
The Sad Ghost Club – Lize Meddings

Red, White and Royal Blue – Casey McQuiston
It Ends With Us – Colleen Hoover
Girl Missing – Sophie McKenzie
Chocolate Cake With Hitler – Emma Craigie
Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating - Adiba Jaigirdar
The Tattooist of Auschwitz – Heather Morris
The Shadowhunter Chronicles – Cassandra Clare

Thanks to Covid 19 restrictions slowly but surely easing over the course of the year so far, we've been able to host some guests again. One of these that caused quite a sensation and made us ALL think in a very different way, was Rob Grant. Rob is a philosopher, lecturing out of TCD and also the author of 'The Philosophy Resistance Squad' – a proper roller-coasting adventure that

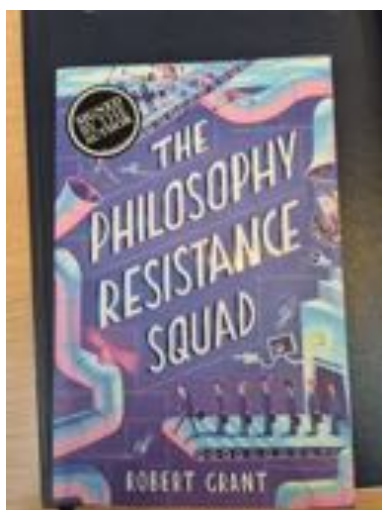
requires a bit of philosophy finessing to see off a wicked headmaster! Rob visited all our First Years and chatted about what philosophy is and how we can maybe apply some of it to daily questions that life asks us. It was massive fun and got us all up to debate furiously on what really IS technology and is it good, bad or indifferent and is it in FACT the purpose of life to be happy? A brilliant mental work-out and huge thanks to Rob for coming in and being so generous with his time.

We also started our 'Writer-in-Residence' scheme with the force of nature that is the author Dave Rudden. Dave brought his infectious enthusiasm for writing and storytelling to all our First Year classes as well as his unique approach to writing workshops to TYs and Sixth Years. He has also been doing some fun instructional short videos that aim to explain and demystify common exam and homework terminology. These have been sent to 6th and 5th Years and we hope to have them altogether for the community to view coming up to Easter. He has also been instrumental in getting our first podcast off the ground.

Which brings me neatly to.....**Behind The Red Door!** Our new project, a podcast, whose content, panels, social

media, theme tune etc, is decided on, and entirely led, by the girls, will be recorded on April the 4th in MoLI. We can't reveal our episodes yet, but we hope they'll be fun to listen to as well as spark off a really decent level of debate – some serious and some with a much lighter tone. We're so lucky that MoLI has agreed to let us use their amazing broadcasting facilities and the use of their techs and it's been a pleasure being creative with Lily and Jennie over there. We're also super lucky to have a special guest on each episode. We'll be joined in Episode 1 by Jenn Gannon, movie critic with The Mail and by author Louise O'Neill on episode 2, which promises to be a really thought-provoking and reflective episode.

Teresa Ball, an icon of the Loreto institution, is celebrating her bicentenary this year and we're running two competitions in her name, both of which we hope will endure long into the future. The first is the Teresa Ball 6th Year Writing Award, which will be presented at graduation to a 6th Year student



for a body of work. The closing date for this is April the 30th and it will be independently judged with workshops started to support it. We hope that it will be a good complement to the work the girls already do in English for Paper 1 as well as nurture and encourage those that write for pleasure or would like to pursue writing in later life.

The second Competition is for TYs, The Full Story, and we will have three Loreto schools participate this



year, with a view to rolling it out to ALL Loreto schools in the new academic year. The closing date for this is the 25th of April and again will be independently judged. TYs have had writing workshops with Dave support this and add to the already great work the girls did in their TY Creative Writing module. Joining us this year is Loreto Foxrock and Loreto High School, Beaufort.

Additionally, we've also called for submissions for a One Act Playwriting competition, open to ALL students, and run by the library. The closing date for this is the 1st of April and one of the major hopes for this is that we can ultimately produce the winning plays live for the whole College to see. And that, as they say, is that! It always bears repeating that a library is made by the super people that come to visit it. We could simply not be luckier to have the incredible students here that make this a brilliant place to be every day. Thanks to the library committee for all their super ideas and dedication and to everyone, students and staff, that make this a vibrant and unique place to work!

If you'd like to keep up with what's happening in the library we'd love you to follow us on Instagram. (Loretogreenlibrary).



THE INAUGURAL

TERESA BALL 6TH YEAR WRITING AWARD

AWARDED FOR A BODY OF WORK
AND INDEPENDENTLY
ADJUDICATED.
PRESENTED AT GRADUATION.
€150 WINNER'S PRIZE.

CLOSING DATE:
30th APRIL, 2022

Entry criteria available from
Librarian, English teachers &
Library website.

Book Reviews



Girl, Missing by Sophie McKenzie

Review by **Ruby McMahon** 1T

Girl, Missing is a book about a teenage girl called Lauren, who knew she was adopted but never knew her real

family. No-one had kept any secrets from her, but one day, she decided to look for her true family. This decision sends her on a journey into chaos, puzzles, and real danger with her best friend, Jam.

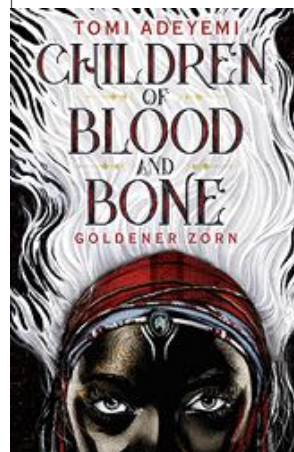
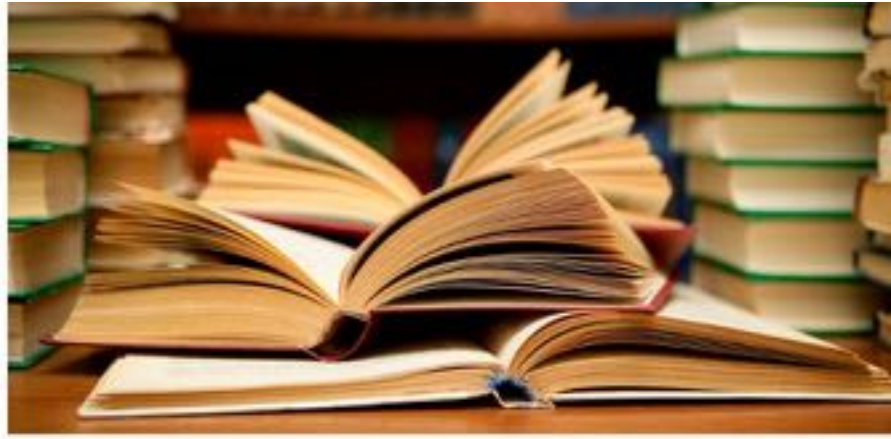
The genre of this book is murder mystery, so if you're someone like me who'll stay up till midnight reading it, then this book is for you!

My favourite character from this book is Jam because he's always been there for Lauren no matter what, his mother spends no time with him, being too busy with his younger siblings or her job, and his father has made many promises to be there for him but never has. Although he has many things going on in his own life he never fails to be there for Lauren.

This book is a page turner, it grips you with every chapter. Every time you think it's all going smoothly for Lauren something happens.

This is a book to read if you just want a 'happy ever after' adventure, but I would really recommend this book to everyone aged 10+, and especially to anyone who loves mystery and thriller books.

There is not one thing I could fault about this book. I would give this book a star rating of 5 because it's one of the most gripping books I've ever read.



Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Review by **Kelechi Nnadi** 6B

Children of Blood and Bone is an excellent, action-packed and suspenseful novel and is an outright feast for hungry readers. It is set in West Africa in the fantasy land of Orisha. Zélie and reflects on the times the land was filled with magic, where reaper mothers could summon souls and tigers gesticulated waves. But this all changed- the magic disappeared.

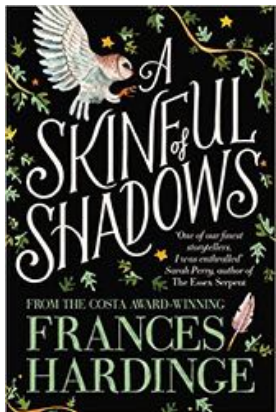
Anyone who was found with powers were ruthlessly killed by the cold-blooded king. Zélie's mother had been killed and Zélie made it her mission to embark on a journey to bring the magic back. She encounters many obstacles on the way including growing affection for the opposing side and acknowledging her own powers.

*They killed my mother
They took our magic
They tried to bury us
Now we rise*

Book Reviews

A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge

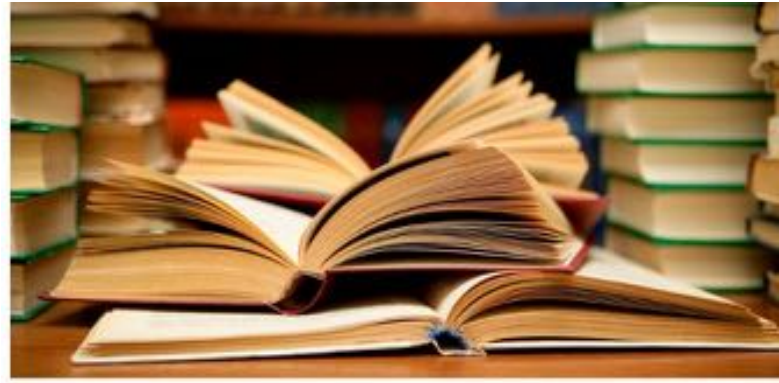
Review by **Amelia-Jane Lawrie** 2T



This is the story of a fierce-hearted girl. Sometimes, when a person dies, their spirit goes looking for somewhere to hide. Some people have space within them, perfect for hiding.

Twelve-year-old Makepeace has learned to defend herself from the ghosts which try to process her in the night, desperate for refuge, but one day a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard. And now the spirit is inside of her. The spirit is wild, brutish and strong, and it may be her only defence when she is sent to live with her father's rich and powerful ancestors. There is talk of a civil war, and they need people like her to protect their dark and terrible family secret. But as she plans her escape and heads out into the country torn apart by war, Makepeace must decide which is worse: possession – or death.

I like this book because of the way it's written. The book is very descriptive in detailing events that have occurred and it's also written in first person narrative – I have a liking for these kinds of books. The author created a book, not that of the horror genre, but of an eerie adventure that no one could imagine taking. The book is fictional of course, but Hardinge makes it feel so realistic when you are reading it. It's hard to understand how a spirit could possess someone – but this book denies all theories of that nature.



Slay by Brittney Morris

Review By **Daisy Dwyer** 4M

A few months ago I read this book called SLAY which I found in the library. As soon as I began to read it, I was obsessed.

The main character is a black teenager called Kiera. She is one of the four black people in her secondary school, and to other people she's seen as a quiet, reserved girl. But outside school, she is the anonymous creator of SLAY, a black people only video game. One day, she gets terrible news; a black teenager, a year younger than her, has been killed in relation to her game. Almost immediately, the game is labelled as 'racist' and Kiera's character in the game, Emerald, is facing the possibility of being sued.

As well as that, she's facing problems outside SLAY. Her boyfriend is constantly asking where she is, what she's doing. Her best friend, who's white, is asking uncomfortable questions about what is considered

cultural appropriation. She also thinks that the person who's sending her threats in the game is someone she knows...

No one really knows about this book which I think is such a pity. It's really an amazing book which is so realistic and easy to read and almost immediately I was engrossed in it. The story is told through the eyes of Kiera but there's also occasional POV's from other black people around the world and how they get treated for being black – consciously and subconsciously. They all play SLAY but I like how they don't end up relating to Kiera i.e. the guy who was the same age as Kiera didn't end up with her in the end.

This book helped me understand the racial injustice which happens in the world, through the little things, like video gaming. The story was so simple but so powerful. There's so little black main character books which I think is sad because this book was so amazing – but it shouldn't be amazing because it's one out of little black main character books. The fact that a book had to be written even, is sad because things like this shouldn't happen in the first place.

I would 100% recommend this book - not only for the representation in it, but for the amazing plot.

Junk Kouture



Our Junk Kouture design “Bubble Vision” was inspired by Old Hollywood ideas of glamour and mystery. We created our skirt and bodice predominantly from bubble wrap to mimic the plasticity of Hollywood. Our second main material was contact lens cases which represent camera lenses and the eyes of the public. We realised that these small plastic cases we use everyday add up and produce a huge amount of waste so we wanted to repurpose them in our dress. As well as these we sewed lace doilies, bottle caps, beads dipped in paint, ribbons and more plastic packaging for the skirt. Mesh from an old tutu was used for the glove and wire with an old pair of tights made up the collar. We learned a lot from the Junk Kouture process and have really enjoyed it.

by Freya Sirr 4B, Ruth Woods, Victoria Rose Maughan 4M

Junk Kouture is a fashion competition for teens, where you make outfits and accessories out of recycled materials. The process starts with forming a team and brainstorming ideas on what materials, themes and designs you will create your outfit around. It’s important to have a clear plan of action after forming a draft, to help you work as a team. For the competition you need to collect and sample your reclaimed materials and items. Which you can then create and build your outfit over a period of time. Most teams start an instagram account for their outfit to keep their followers updated on their journey. Having unique and strongly themed outfits gives your team a distinctive design.



Junk



Kouture



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