



# St. Paul's Autumn Newsletter

Magazine produced by Transition Year Students

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

**“Experience is not what happens to us, it is what we do with what happens to us” Aldous Huxley**

Overwhelmingly, our students are glad to be back in school. They have returned with enthusiasm and energy and the resolve to keep going. Students and teachers have shown a steely determination and unity of purpose to make the best of **“what happens to us”**. They have collectively and individually embraced the challenges presented to them by COVID - 19 and responded magnificently.

Our values guide us in good times and in bad. Our “Be the best you can be “ value is about being in school, daily coming together for shared experiences which previously we may have taken for granted. Not now.

I believe the pandemic has given our students a deeper understanding of who we are and what we stand for. What we stand for has been evident over the last year and a half as our students embraced the new way of engaging with their teachers. They looked out for one another and were determined to keep going. They got through it and will be the better for the experience.

The Leaving Certificate students of 2021 have been magnificent. They endured much uncertainty yet kept positive and committed to each other and to the school. They have left a strong legacy. Whenever 2021 is talked about, and it will be frequently, the dignity, character and loyalty of our 6<sup>th</sup> years will be acknowledged. I am proud of them and wish them well as they embark on new journeys.

And so with optimism we look forward. The L.C. class of 2022 has assumed the mantle. The 2021/2022 academic year has begun and there is much to look forward to. The school's newly built ASD Unit is almost finished. Once completed, our students will have access to a specialist classroom, sensory room, kitchen and additional Learning Support Rooms. Our ASD class, Sr. May's, was named after Sr. May Farragher, our first Special Educational Needs Teacher in St. Paul's. Sadly, Sr. May passed away before the Summer Holidays. May she Rest in Peace.

As this new academic year begins, I would particularly like to welcome the First years to our community as well as other students who have joined various years throughout the school. I would also like to welcome new staff members –Ms. Mac Loughlin, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Mc Hugh Mr. Mc Ginty and new SNA, Ronan Molloy.

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St. Paul's is a Christian community of learning, a caring community, built on respect for each other where each member can give of his best, striving to **be the best they can be**. We are much more than an assembly line of academics, mathematicians, scientists, artists, linguists. We share a common creed. Each one of our students has much to offer, has a contribution to make. We must encourage each other to make it, to make a difference.

**"To be the best you can be"** requires a daily commitment to homework as well as to extra-curricular/local club activities. It is now possible again to take part in extra-curricular activities or training in your local club albeit with some restrictions remaining as of yet. However, we are beginning once again to enjoy these activities. The requirement to commit to a couple of hours work each night between homework and revision cannot be overstated for students. Anything less than that will lead to unnecessary anxiety as examinations approach. Parents can ensure that this is happening at home. Furthermore, parents should check their son(s)/daughter(s) homework journal regularly. It is far better to suffer the pain of discipline than the pain of regret.

At the start of another year I wish to thank my colleagues, the teaching staff, for their continued enthusiasm, hard work and interest in each child's wellbeing and academic progress. I thank you, the parents, for sending your child(ren) to St. Paul's to be educated. We ask that you share our collective vision for students of the school – the pursuit of excellence for each person, **to be the best that one can be**. Collectively we move forward, determined to make the best of **"what happens to us"**.

**Orla Malone**

## ***Leaving Cert Results***

On September 3rd the Leaving Certificate results were released online. As a school community we could not have been prouder of the results from the class of 2021. They had the option to choose predicted grades, sit the exams or use a combination of both. Most students opted to sit a number of exams, with some opting to sit all of them.

The class of 2021 had to face a lot of adversity throughout their time in senior cycle and they showed tremendous maturity and work ethic under difficult circumstances. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Pictured below is an aerial photograph of the class of 2021 on their last week in St Paul's.



# Meet the First Years

We wish to welcome our First Years as they begin their journey in secondary school.

We have 74 First Years in the group and they have settled in really well. They are getting to know the school and enjoying some new subjects

Pictured below are the three class groups, St. Odhran, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, all socially distanced, enjoying some of the fine autumn weather.



# STUDENT COUNCIL 2021/2022

Pictured below is some of this year's student council. They have gotten off to a busy start organising a number of events to raise money for a new defibrillator for our school.

The student council acts as important voice for students throughout the school. We are excited to see what issues they raise and what ideas they bring to each meeting. Well done to all involved.



## Jersey Day



The green of Oughterard and the blue of Killannin were out in force for this year's Jersey day.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Student Council's first fundraiser of the year. All monies raised will go towards the cost of replacing the school defibrillator.

Pictured are Mr Murray and Adam Tierney as they prepare for Sunday's quarter final showdown in Pearse Stadium.

Best of luck of luck to all involved from Oughterard, Killannin and Moycullen.



# LCVP SLEEPOUT

Recently our Leaving Cert LCVP class gave up their beds for the night to sleepout in aid of the Simon Community. The event was a huge success with students raising 5010 Euro. All proceeds were donated to the Simon Community

As pictured below the LCVP class were really innovative in running a number of events in conjunction with the Sleepout. A huge thank you to Ms Gorham for all her hard work organising the event and also to Dough Bros Galway for providing much needed “fuel” on the night.



# Green Schools Committee



A huge congratulations to Mrs Forde and Ms Healy and The Green School's Committee who were awarded the school's first green flag for litter and waste management. They have raised awareness about the amount of waste we produce as a school community and how we can reduce, re-use and recycle more effectively. The committee is hoping to achieve the next flag for efficient water usage in the school during the coming year.



## Maths Week

Maths Week 2021 is taking place from October 16th-24th. We have lots of activities, quizzes and puzzles happening in school this week.

Pictured are last year's junior and senior winners, Dennis Kelly and Finn Neary. Already this week the entries are flowing in from both groups.

The TY's (pictured below) are hard at work solving the maths puzzles.



# School Sport

As Covid-19 restrictions ease we have been able to get a number of our school teams back on the pitch.

It was our senior ladies (pictured below) who were first out of the gate as they beat Salerno in a hard fought win in the opening game of the league.



We wish to extend a huge congratulations to Kate Dillon (third year) who was recently selected to play on the Irish Girls' U16 Golf Team.

Kate has made history in Oughterard Golf Club by becoming the first female member to play off a scratch handicap (0).

Kate has worked tremendously hard on her game over the summer months to achieve this and we want to wish her the best of luck in all up coming competitions.



# Galway Football

This year we have a number of students representing Galway at inter-county level. They represent their club, school and county with the upmost pride and commitment. We are very proud of them all.

Pictured below are a selection of the players involved this year, Klara Banek, Aoibhinn Eilian, Ronan Delap, James Lowry, Cailim McDonagh, Ultain Smith, Marta Banek and Maeve Walsh.

Also pictured below is past pupil Matthew Tierney who has returned to us this year as a student teacher. Matthew was recently one of three men in the country nominated for the PwC GAA/GPA Young Player of the Year award.





# Virtual Open Night

**St. Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard**

**Thursday 21st October, from 6pm**

Parents can find the link to the open night on our school website:  
[www.stpaulsoughterard.com](http://www.stpaulsoughterard.com)