



Loreto Secondary School St Michael's Yearbook 2022 - 2023

"women in time to come will do much"

-Mary Ward



Principal's Message

As another school year draws to a close, it is lovely to look back at all that has been accomplished by our school community. Reflecting on our school year, our achievements are a testament to the synergy and respect that exists within our school.

In St Michael's, our guiding aim is to create a holistic education, founded in the Loreto values that not only focuses on academic excellence but also nurtures the personal development of our students. Our extracurricular activities and school clubs have allowed our students to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, discover new talents, nurture old ones and build lifelong friendships. From art and music to sports and community service, our students have ventured into every sphere, demonstrating their talents and their commitment to making a positive impact in the world around them. Our Loreto values are a living part of our school experience.

This year was a particularly exciting year, with the return of many of our Loreto traditions such as Sports Day, Ceola and Carols by Candlelight. As a school we are very proud of our sporting and musical achievements, and this continued as we saw not only our first Senior A Gaelic All Ireland win but the first for any secondary school in county Meath! It was a historic day that we will not forget - not least for the spine-tingling sound of our students singing the national anthem, and the heart stopping performance of our team resulting in their amazing success. Music in Loreto is part of our fabric, and the halls of the school were filled again with the sound of our choirs rehearsing in anticipation of the Navan choral festival. The melodic tones of the girls were rewarded with success at both junior and senior level.

Memories of school are central to all of us, they shape us and build resilience, develop learning, growth and friendships. In looking back over the year's experiences it is lovely to see that there has been a variety allowing for shared successes. I hope that you can enjoy looking back over the wonderful year that we have had, and also maybe that the girls might see a new experience they might like to try next year and be open to new opportunities, friendships and personal growth.

Since Covid, a message of gratitude is an important one, and was part of the sermon of our Graduation Mass. A lens of gratitude can transform our experiences, and as part of our ethos we hope that the lived experience of our Loreto values can develop a positive, fun and fulfilling school experience.

A special attribute of our school is the sense of team spirit we have, and a team's success is as a result of everyone supporting each other, as such I would like to extend our appreciation to the parents and guardians for your continued support and partnership, which are essential to us in the educational journey of all the girls in Loreto. Throughout this year, our staff members have worked tirelessly to provide an inclusive, nurturing, and challenging learning environment. Their passion for education and their dedication to our students' well-being have created an atmosphere that fosters intellectual curiosity, creativity, and personal development.

As we bid farewell to our Graduating Class of 2023, we congratulate them and have no doubt that they will carry the Loreto values as beacons of light. We wish them every happiness as they begin their next chapter.

To our returning students, we encourage you to enjoy your summer break and also to use it as an opportunity for self-reflection, rejuvenation, and setting new goals. We look forward to welcoming you back in the next academic year with renewed enthusiasm, eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that await you.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break

Every best wish
Maria Harney

Student Leadership Team 2022 - 2023



Rosanna O'Neill (Deputy Head Girl), Chanel Azong (Head Girl) Helen Lenehan (Deputy Head Girl)

Prefects



Back Row left to right: Georgia McNevin, Aisling Kelly, Aine Dickson, Molly Weldrick, Eowyn Nugent, Maeve McCarthy, Mihaela Zlotea, Rosie Searle, Julianne Moloney, Kirsty Coen, Steffi Finegan, Erina Sinani, Bronagh O'Sullivan.

Front row left to right: Katlyn Darcy, Lauren Lynch, Doireann Mellett, Rosanna O'Neill (Deputy Head Girl), Chanel Azong (Head Girl) Helen Lenehan (Deputy Head Girl), Michelle Byrne, Aoife Kinsella, Enya Gleeson.

Peer Mediators



Back row left to right: Emma Woods, Sarah Leonard, Jane Okafor, Cassie Honan, Niamh Everard, Clodagh O'Grady, Alex Reilly, and Lilly Dwyer.

Front row left to right: Alannah Carbin, Katie Gordon, Ava Ridge, Sinead Donnellan, Helen Lenehan, Heather McCann, and Niamh Carroll
Missing: Lorna Greene and Katie McDonnell.

August



WELCOME FIRST YEARS

August 30th was a very exciting day as teachers, members of our 6th year leadership team and Year Head

Ms Hannon welcomed our first year students to St Michael's.



September

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CREATIVE COMPETITION

Congratulations and well done to all the first year Home Economics students who took part in the fruit and vegetable creation competition for open night. The standard was amazing, they were all so bright, colourful and creative and the 6th class pupils had great fun voting for their favourites.

The winners were: Owlbert- Shauna Esmonde 1W, Grainne Vaughan 1W and Zuzanna Paduchowicz 1S. The Shark Attack- Melinda Dora 1S and Mishel Ali Khan 1S.



Our u19 basketball team had a great win in September against Eureka Kells in a nail-biting game which ended 37-34.



It was Stetsons all round as our transition year students visited the National Ploughing Championships as part of their Agricultural Science Module.

Welcome Back Class of 2022



On Friday September 23rd, the Class of 2022 were welcomed back to St Michael's to celebrate their wonderful achievements and excellent results in the Leaving Certificate, with over two dozen students achieving 500 points or greater in their examinations.

Opening of School Year Mass



September 29th, St Michael's Day, we were once again able to celebrate mass in St Mary's Church to mark the new school year. It was lovely to gather as a school community, having been unable to do so for the previous two years.

This annual mass marks a very special occasion in our school year. It allows us to pray together as a community for God's blessing. The theme for this year's mass was "Celebrate the star that you are". Each class designed a poster that reflected their own star qualities. This remains in their base classroom for the year as a reminder of each person's uniqueness and potential to be a shining light for themselves and others.

October

All Ireland Champions

On Thursday October 13th the Sports hall was at capacity as we welcomed our All Ireland Champions – Stacey Grimes, Orlagh Lally, Kelsey Nesbitt, Aoife Farrell, Orlaith Mallon, Ciara Smith, Amy O’Dowd, Regina Hand and team physio Hayley Clarke back to St Michael’s to celebrate their amazing All Ireland success.



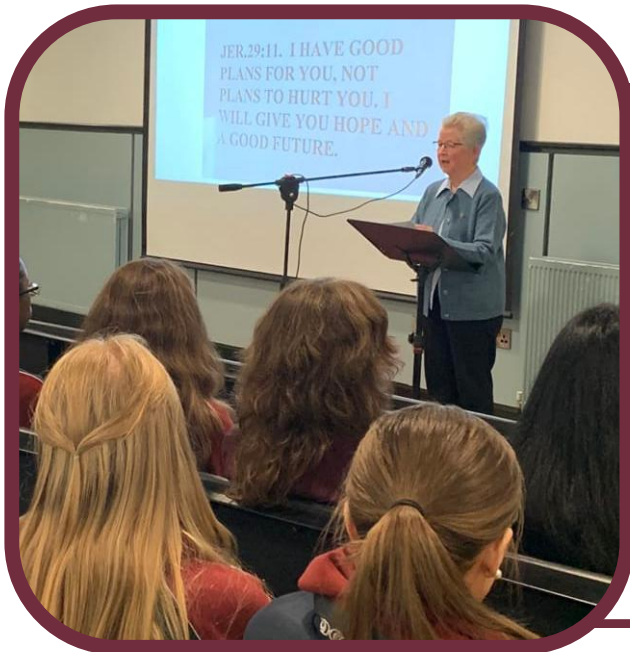
Raising Awareness of Homelessness

On Friday 14th October, Class 3 Mary Ward took part in a sponsored sleep-out to shine a light on homelessness, raising vital funds for Focus Ireland. Well done to all who took part.



Welcome Back Class of 2001

We had a very special evening in St Michael’s as we welcomed the Class of 2001 for a beautiful prayer service and reunion! It is always wonderful to meet our past pupils and take a trip down memory lane! There was plenty of fun recounting the stories of their Loreto days!



Mental Health Week 2022

Our theme was to CLANG together - to connect, learn, stay active, take notice and give back. First Year students planted daffodil bulbs in the school grounds, assisted by TY students. We were also honoured to have Sr Marie Brady speak with our Second and Third Year groups about the importance of sowing the seeds of kindness and empathy within them when young.

Student Council Elections

We are very fortunate here in St Michael's to have a vibrant and active Students Representative Council. The council held their elections in October, congratulations to all who were elected on to the council by their peers.

Well done to the winners of the SRC election poster competition for their imaginative and eye-catching posters.



Math Week 2022



What a week we had in St Michael's celebrating Maths Week! There were murder mysteries, bingo, times table competitions, code breaking, countdown, daily quizzes, mathamagics and a maths eyes competition. Both staff and students were challenged daily with Mathematical Riddles. A huge thank you to both staff and students for their endless enthusiasm. Pictured are two of our winners Erin Taaffe and Sophia Reilly.



Music Trip

On Friday 7th October a group of very dedicated musicians travelled to Dublin for a spot of music, light refreshment and retail therapy! That evening their souls were soothed with a Tchaikovsky Serenade and Beethoven Symphony in the National Concert Hall. They represented the school impeccably and even bumped into the author of their textbook, May Costello! A long but highly satisfying evening!

1st Year Orienteering

Well done to all our first years who completed their orienteering module in Blackwater Park in October. A special thanks to Meath Local Sports Partnership for running the event. Pictured here are classes Teresa Ball and Freedom.



Reptile Workshop

The TY class welcomed Melanie and Ben from Reptile Haven Experiences. It was a fantastic day, they learnt about a wide variety of reptiles such as the corn and cobra snakes, geckos, Sally the tortoise, and lizards. They also learned all about their habitat, feeding habits and origins.

MISSION WEEK

2022

Mission Week is one of the longest traditions in St Michael's. It is a week of meaningful fundraising and fun. During the week students, and indeed many staff members, accessorise their uniforms based on daily themes, join in on lunch time activities organised by our student leaders and most importantly raise funds for good causes. This years themes included goths, cowboys and Hollywood stars.

Why have Mission Week?

16 years ago the Loreto Missions set up the only secondary school for girls in South Sudan. The majority of the week's money goes towards helping the girls who attend Loreto Rumbek to continue to receive their education. For a look into all that is done in Loreto Rumbek, please visit www.loretorumbek.ie

Donations are also made to other local charities such as St Vincent de Paul.



Sports Snippets



Loreto Navan Junior A football team got their campaign off to a winning start in wet and windy conditions against Holy Faith Clontarf. A strong team performance saw Loreto Navan win on a scoreline of 1.15 to 0.4 points after a tight first half where there was only 3 points between the sides!



Well done to our winning Junior Camogie team who won their first match against St. Finian's College Mullingar on Monday 3rd October. The score finished 4.12 to 3.5.



Our Junior B football team had their first outing in October against St Wolstan's Celbridge. Thank you to O'Mahony's for use of their pitch.



In October our basketball u19s and u16s teams played Colaiste Oiriall, Monaghan.

Science Week 2022

Science Week is an annual nationwide week-long event celebrating science in our everyday lives. This year our students took part in a number of events including a rocket launch competition, CSI escape room and a junior science quiz. Our first year students displayed fantastic creativity in our annual art competition. We also welcomed back a past pupil, Sinead Ward, who is currently studying for a PhD in Chemistry in Maynooth University. Sinead spoke to some of our 6th year chemists about career opportunities, college life and the Leaving Certificate. Thank you to all the students who participated during the week.



Bake Sale for Homeless Shelter

Class 3 Justice ran a bake sale as part of their CSPE action project. The girls did an amazing job, raising over €550 for the T.E.A.M. Homeless shelter. T.E.A.M was set up to provide shelter for women and children in the midlands who find themselves homeless. A huge thank you to everyone who came to support the bake sale and donated to such a great cause.



Remembrance Mass

On Thursday 24th November, classes 1 Sincerity , 5 Joy and a third year music class represented the school at the Mass in St Mary's Church, which was said in remembrance of all deceased students, staff, Loreto sisters and family relatives of all the school community. Lists of the deceased were presented by students and staff, and students participated in the readings, prayers and music.



Personal Safety

Alex Walsh from Personal Safety Ireland returned this year to deliver one of the most popular workshops among our TY students. Students were shown how to defend themselves in different situations, including online.



TY Sleep-out

On Friday November 18th, Transition Year students took part in a sleep-out to raise funds for Councillor Alan Lawes' local outreach service. This service provides clothes and food to homeless people in the Navan area. The event raised over €1400.





Ceola Senior Choir visit the Irish Institute of Music and Song

On Monday 7th November, Ceola Senior Choir which includes students from 3rd - 6th year embarked on a Choral Retreat to the newly founded Irish Institute of Music and Song in Balbriggan.

The choir members were treated to a full day of choral workshops, music technology and production, and singing rehearsals.

Dr Michael Dawson (CEO of the Institute and Director of Maynooth University Chamber Choir) taught the choir a 4-part American Folk Song called "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" In the afternoon, the Institute was visited by four Choral Conductors from America who were delighted when Ceola sang their new song for them.

The choir was also introduced to the world of Music Production by Hugh Clarke. In this workshop, Ceola learned about how modern music is recorded in today's world. They had a go at recording their own version of a Billie Eilis song using only digital technology and their own voices.

The Choral retreat was a wonderful experience for the choir. Not only were they exposed to a whole world of exciting music making, but they got to spend the day together. New and existing friendships were strengthened and will continue to flourish as they sing together for the rest of the year.



Sports Snippets



In November the Junior A team had a convincing victory over Loreto Wexford in Newtownmountkenny.



On Thursday 17th November, 21 students took part in the Loreto Swimming Gala in the National Aquatic Centre, competing against students from 13 other Loreto Schools. All students put in a superb performance and with many reaching the finals and achieving new personal bests. We had three medal winners on the day: Sophie O' Donoghue, Ciara Williams and Emma Marriage.



Well done to our Senior Rugby team who took part in the North Leinster Senior blitz in Wilsons Hospital School Mullingar. In wet and miserable conditions the team played some great rugby. Loreto finished 2nd in the group. Lots of positives and plenty to work on for the next day!

December

6th year History trip

Our two Sixth Year Leaving Cert history classes travelled to Stormont Parliament in Belfast today as part of their study on Politics and Society in Northern Ireland. The students were given a very informative talk on the workings of the Assembly. They spent time in the famous Great Hall and viewed portraits of present and former politicians.



Yemi Adenuga

Mary Grace Fitzsimons, TY Class Boyne, organised for local Meath County Councillor, Yemi Adenuga to speak to third and fifth year students. Yemi is a community organiser and advocate for social justice initiatives. She discussed what it's like to be a woman in politics and spoke about her own personal journey. The students also got the opportunity to ask her questions. Everyone found the talk really inspiring. Students were given instructions on how to pre-register to vote, and encouraged to engage with politics so they can start to redress the political gender imbalance in Ireland.



Christmas in St Michaels





Christmas in St Michaels



Sports Snippets



Our Senior Soccer Team have been making great progress in the FAI Leinster Girls Senior League this year, with a number of wins under their belt. We'd like to extend our thanks to our local sponsors BodyBalance Physiotherapy for sponsoring our new kit.



A great team performance by our Senior Camogie team in cold conditions in Clane. Thanks to their fantastic defence and scoring, the girls racked up an impressive 8-11.



Well done to our u16 and u19 basketball teams who both had wins in a friendly end of year challenge.

January

Nollaig na mBan Carols by Candlelight



A fabulous evening was had by all at Carols by Candlelight, a beautiful celebration of Nollaig na mBan. Well done to our talented musicians and singers! It was especially lovely to welcome back some of our past pupils and staff who sang and played piano, violin, trumpet and trombone! Special thanks to our wonderful Parents Association for all their hard work and support, transforming the former chapel with festive garlands and lights!

Leinster Senior A Champions

Huge congratulations to our senior gaelic football team who had a great win today over Scoil Mhuire Trim in the Senior A Leinster final. The game finished 6-4 to 2-7.

There were fantastic performances all over the field and a massive work rate shown throughout led brilliantly by captain Lilly Dwyer. A huge thank you to all our supporters who really drove the team on and their support is greatly appreciated. A big thanks you to Ms Plunkett and Mr. Newman for training the team.



SISTER ACT

After months of rehearsals and preparation, it was time for our transition years to take centre stage. This years TY musical Sister Act was held in the Soltice Theatre over three sold out nights in January. The show was a spectacle of acting, singing, and dancing.

Congratulations to each and everyone one of our super talented TY students, whether it was on performing or behind the scenes they gave it their all and treated us to a spectacular show. Thank you to all the teachers who gave up their time to support the show, in particular Ms Maguire, Mr McGuinness and Ms Higgins.



Sports News

Athletics



Well done to the students who participated the North Leinster Schools Cross Country in Phoenix Park. The minor team finished 3rd overall and now some of these students progressed to the Leinster Schools Competition. Congratulations to all involved.

Junior Leinster A Final



After an excellent and hard fought campaign with back-to-back victories our Junior football team narrowly lost out by 1 point to a strong Moate team in the Junior A Leinster Final. Thank you to all the players for your commitment and hard work, and to their coach Ms Sheils. No doubt they will be back next year stronger than ever and ready to go again.

February



AILO REGIONAL SUCESS

Good news from the Preliminary Round of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. Congratulations to Anna Gardiner (TY) who placed 18 out of 1044 entrants and has qualified for the National Final in DCU. Anna was the only Meath representative in the final. In a wonderful achievement, a total of seven Loreto students scored above the national average.



Mid-Term Ski Trip

During February mid-term the students of Loreto St Michael's hit the slopes of Folgaria for the first of two ski trips. The weather was perfect and lots of fun was had by all. Thanks to all the teachers who accompanied the student, in particular Ms Shiels who made it all happen.

Mr McGrath



In February we said goodbye to a former colleague and friend, John McGrath. As Deputy Principal, Year Head and teacher, John worked in St Michael's for forty years. A dedicated, kind and wise member of staff in Loreto, he has left a lasting legacy in St Michael's. His business students knew they were in the best of hands and they excelled under his tuition and guidance. In each of his roles, we were always assured of John's support, a wise word, a gentle smile and a good sense of humour. Mr McGrath was simply a gentleman and a legend in Loreto. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

March

Social Justice Week 2023

Social Justice week is an integral part of our school calendar annually here in Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's. Over the course of the week we celebrated our 45th Social Justice Week, with a fantastic line up of guest speakers, workshops and activities for students.

Early in the week we were joined by Alex Whyatt from Global Action Plan who gave a workshop to 5th year students about Climate & Migration.

Mr. McGivney spoke to 2nd year students about his voluntary work with homeless services for women and children in the midlands and 1st years looked at the topic of Pollinators.

We were also delighted to have Fr. Peter McVerry visit once again this year to speak to 5th year students about the homeless crisis and the work that he has dedicated his life to.

6th year students had an opportunity to listen to a talk by Pat Doyle (CEO of The Peter McVerry Trust) and were actively involved in a thought-provoking question and answer session with him. Kealan Mc Morland who works as Assistant Principal at the Office of Emergency Planning gave an insight to 6th year students about his role with the Department of Defence.

As the week progressed, workshops took place for 2nd year students with Stephen Farley from Trócaire and the students from the Green School Committee presented to many classes over the course of the day.

Lizzy Noone from World Wise Global Schools joined us to work with 1st year students on the topic of Inequality and students were very engaged in these workshops. It was wonderful to see the student voice playing such a vital role in our activities this week including an opportunity for 2nd year students to peer-teach some of our 1st year students about Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Tony Daly from 80:20 spoke joined us to speak to our 5th year Politics and Society classes and to Transition year students on the topic 'Facts Matter-Media Literacy', looking at influence online and on social media.





Development Education and Social Justice are a core element to a Loreto education and activities took place in whole host classes over the course of the week also. Later in the week our 5th year Social Justice group took the helm and ran workshops with 1st year students on the topics of Fairtrade and Fast Fashion. Students engaged actively with questions and answers in this workshop as they explored the theme.



Rachel Duffy the current Rose of Tralee visited the school and spoke to 5th year students about the work of The Hope Foundation, women in positions of influence and using your platform for good.

3rd year students met with Sr.Fionnuala IBVM, United Nations (UN) Representative for the Loreto Sisters in Ireland and she explored topics with them including how we can improve society by working together, what Loreto can do and what we can all do.



Our school was a very busy place all week as we highlighted the value of Global Citizenship Education in our teaching and learning. Students had an opportunity to meet with a whole host of guest speakers from all walks of life and explored various different topics in these sessions and in class which brought us all back to our main theme this year and the importance of 'Our Shared World'.



Ash Wednesday



Fr Hurley, our school chaplain, with the participation of some students led our Ash Wednesday prayer service which was live streamed to all classes. After the prayer service, students were invited to receive the ashes in the sign of a cross on their foreheads to mark the beginning of Lent, a time for penance, prayer and self-reflection leading up to Easter.

Rock Climbing

Well done to the 36 students, from 1st and 2nd year, who competed in the All Ireland Climbing Competition. The students took part in 5 climbs in Awesome Walls Indoor Rock Climbing. Students competed in teams of 4 and made themselves and the school very proud.



Past Pupil Kate Kennedy



Past Pupil Kate Kennedy was honoured on March 8th with the unveiling of a sculpture by the American Ambassador Claire D.Cronin at Duleek Girls National School. Loreto Navan was represented by Jane Boylan. Kate Kennedy was a remarkable lady, a political activist and a source of inspiration for many young women. She truly encapsulated the values of Loreto with her work on equality and social justice issues.

International Women's Day



A group of TY students took part today in the International Women's Day celebration at the Cultur Migrant Centre in Navan. They recited Maya Angelou poem, Phenomenal Woman, and showed a Tik Tok video made in school. Four of the lead performers in our recent musical performed a song from Sister Act. The students were very warmly received.

Lunchtime Busking Fundraiser

On March 10th we were all treated to a fantastic busking session organised by our Social Justice group in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and to all those who donated or bought some fair trade chocolate.



World Down Syndrome Day

March 21st was World Down Syndrome Day. In order to raise awareness, junior students attended talks, and the TY pupils held a bake sale and encouraged everyone to wear odd socks. They raised over €470 in total for Down Syndrome Ireland.



Easter Poster Competition



1st Year Religion classes took part in an Easter Poster Competition, with the Theme 'He Is Risen'. The competition was judged by students from Class 6 Joy and Mr. McGuinness. Congratulations to all the winners on the high standard of their entries.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 iontach ar fad, bhí craic agus ceol againn! This year we enjoyed baking and art competitions, a Céilí, Lá Glas and the Tráth na gCeist Quiz! Comhghairdeas to the winners of the baking and art competitions. Once again, the standard was very high! Maith sibh gach duine!





School Tour 2023



Fifth Year Trip to Boston by Niamh Mulvany Class 5 Joy

On the 30th of March we jetted off to the USA for our 5 night trip to the beautiful city of Boston. We had a jam-packed trip with plenty of activities in the busy city. The activities varied, from interactive museums to walking tours of the city, and we even got to go bowling and shopping! Some of these fun activities included; The Museum of Science, Harvard University, the Tea party Museum, an Irish Heritage Trail and much more!

We also made some lifelong memories with our friends and classmates. It didn't matter where we were or what we were doing, we always found a way to laugh and have a good time, bringing some Loreto St Michael's spirit to the States. We met new people, were singing on the subway and anywhere we got a chance, and we even danced with some street performers. There was never a dull moment with the fifth years!



Sports Snippets



Hard luck to our Second Year team who had a hard fought basketball NE league semi final against Ardee Community School. Unfortunately it wasn't our day but the girls played their hearts out. We will have lots to work on for the future but they have been a credit to their families and their school.



Keeping the winning streak going for Loreto, the U 14B team won all 3 games in their Gaelic Blitz in Kells. It was a great team performance with all 23 players playing their part

Tag Rugby Blitz

Well done to two teams who participated in a tag rugby blitz in Navan Rugby Club. 1st year students completed a tag rugby module in PE and got a chance to practice their new skills at the blitz. A special thank you to our TY and 5th year students who coached and refereed there.



All Ireland Champions

Congratulations to our Senior Gaelic Football team on winning their Division A All Ireland Final against Sacred Heart School, Westport in Glennon Brothers Pearse Park in Longford today. Each and every player showed true resilience, determination and belief against a strong Westport side, and they did St. Michael's proud! They have made history as the first St. Michael's team to win a Senior Division A All Ireland final - what a truly outstanding achievement! Thank you to Mr Newman, Ms Plunkett and Ms Shiels for mentoring and coaching the team throughout the year to help the team to reach their true potential and to earn the success they truly deserved. Thank you also to all of the staff who played a part throughout the years to help the team to refine their skills to allow them to be the players that they are today. Thank you also to the 7 buses of supporters and family, friends and past pupils who attended the game and to those who were cheering us on from Navan who could not attend.

Final Score

Loreto St. Michael's: 3 - 09

Sacred Heart Westport: 0 - 15



April

Easter Ski Trip



59 Second Year students and staff had a fantastic time learning to ski in Madonna Di Campiglio , Italy during the first week of the Easter Holidays.

The staff and students also enjoyed the Italian cuisine and Aprés Ski Disco.

Ecology Field Trip



Current 5th year Biology students braved the cold weather to complete three investigations as part of their Leaving Cert coursework. Over the few weeks prior students have been learning about various ecosystems, species interactions as well as the human impact on these ecosystems.

Fr Hurley Visit



Fr Hurley , our chaplain visited some Religion classes during April for Question and Answer sessions. The students enjoyed the opportunity to hear about Fr Hurley's life as a priest and administrator in St Mary's parish, Navan.

Sports Snippets



Congratulations to the Minor Soccer Team who won their Leinster Division 1 Quarter Final against Loreto Balbriggan. The girls produced a strong performance, winning 7-0. Goals by E. Moore (2), A. Barry (1), M. Gaff (3) and S. Burke (1). Well done to all.



A huge congratulations to our Senior Soccer team who made it to the Leinster Division 3 Quarter final. With this being the teams first year in the competition they have done incredibly well, many thanks to Mr. Stobie, Ms. Higgins and all teachers for the support shown to the girls.



Well done to our Loreto girls for a fantastic day at the Meath secondary schools track and field in Claremont. A total of 22 medals were won on the day by our incredible athletes. The team won gold in the Under 17s and Under 19s, Grace 1500m gold, Abi 100m, Aishe 100m bronze and Shauna 800m bronze.

Also week done to Kasey Lou, CJ Cassell who won silver in their relay and shot putt, Kiera Smyth won silver in her Relay and 80m, Charley Coogan won silver in her Relay, bronze in 500m and bronze in 1100m.

Even more success was to come for our athletics team. They took 1st place in their relay at both Minor and Junior levels and qualified for the Leinsters. Fantastic achievement everyone.

U14 relay team - Kiera Smyth, Charley Coogan, Kacey - Lou Carberry & Milana Sharhayeu.

Under 16 relay team - Shauna Fox, Grace Gardiner, Aoishe Leddy & Abi Halpin.



May

Junk Kouture Finalists

Ireland's largest sustainable fashion show Junk Kouture is back at Dublin's 3Arena tomorrow after four years due to COVID, and two of our TY students have made the National Finals.

Grace Bellew's and Zuzanna Kolodziejska's amazing design, The Bloom of Black Magic, has been constructed from 100% recycled and re-purposed materials. The girls worked hard on their unique design, which takes inspiration from gothic fantasy and steampunk themes.

Many thanks to Mr Mc Guinness for mentoring the students!



Navan Choral Festival

The Post-Primary Competitions of Navan Choral Festival took place on Thursday 4th May. There were 80 students from Loreto St Michael's involved in the competition from 1st year to 6th year. The Junior Choir competed first thing on Thursday morning in the Arkle Suite of Navan Racecourse. This choir is made up of students from first and second year. The choir was formed in February of this year, and they rehearse every Monday during lunchtime. The Junior Choir sang "Ubi Caritas" by Victor Johnson and "When I Close my Eyes" by Jim Papoulis. The adjudicator commented that they made a wonderful sound for such a newly formed choir. They were awarded 3rd place with 85 marks.

Ceola Senior Choir competed in the "National Choir of the Year" competition later that day. They sang against twelve other choirs at a very high standard. Ceola performed "Stand Together" by Jim Papoulis and "Music Down in My Soul" by Moses Hogan. They received rapturous applause from the large audience in St. Mary's Church. The adjudicator was incredibly impressed with the choir's ability to sing such difficult music quietly - a challenge for the most professional of choirs. Ceola came 3rd on the day, with only two points in the difference between them and the winning choir.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to both choirs on their wonderful performances at the festival. Each student represented the school very proudly. The singers have devoted hours of rehearsal time this year, and are immensely talented. This was our first competition since 2019 due to the pandemic, so it is wonderful to be able to hear the choirs sing again.

A special mention to current 6th year student Michelle Byrne who accompanied the Junior Choir on piano, and former pupil Eadaoin Reid, who played with Ceola. It is a joy to have such talented students play with us.

Finally many thanks to Ms Maguire for all her amazing work with the choir.



SciFest Regional Finals

St Michaels had 5 groups taking part in this year's Scifest regional finals in TU Blanchardstown. Well done to all the students on their hard work.

- Medical device to assist with taking pills - Aoibhe McMullen Maguire, Eleanor Reilly and Maja Sasin (2 Justice)
- Pesticides: Help or hindrance? Katie Cromwell Dorina Bejdo and Naomi Bakre (2 Justice)
- Investigating ways of cleaning clothes at low temperatures Varvara Obukhovskaia and Weronika Kwasniowska (2 Justice)
- Creating an application to improve teenagers depression and anxiety. Emily Menting and Katie Clarke (2 Truth and 2 Justice)

Special congratulations to Isobel Grimes-Merrigan and Niamh Kearns from 3 Justice won a chemistry award for their project Shock Rocks.

Thank you to Dr Darley for her help in mentoring the groups.



Ezio Lupo

Katie Lynch, Milana Sharhayeu and Alannah Hogge-Carey (1 Freedom) have won the 2023 Ezio Lupo Bursary. They presented their project on the town twinning of Navan with Broccostella (Italy) in Meath County Council offices on 3rd May. The Loreto team project showed how sharing food can bring people together across cultures. The students will be travelling to Broccostella in the autumn, where they will be hosted by local families for 5 days. Many thanks to the Lupo family for their generous support of this bursary.



Lismullen cookery School

TY students have had the wonderful experience of joining in with cookery workshops in Lismullin Cookery School. They watched demonstrations and then baked bread, brownies and pizza.



5th Year History Trip

On Wednesday 3rd May, both fifth year history classes participated in the 1916 Rebellion Walking Tour of Dublin. The students were introduced to such historically significant sites as Dublin Castle, City Hall, the Four Courts, Liberty Hall and the GPO by their tour guide. They heard stories about the main participants in the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. The students also learned about the backgrounds of the O'Connell and Jim Larkin monuments in O'Connell Street.



TY Scifest

Well done to Transition Year students who completed SciFest @ school last Tuesday. Each project was judged twice with students defending their research, results and data analysis. A huge thank you to SciFest representative, Rory Geoghegan who judged and presented awards to the winning projects.



Gaisce

Congratulations to the TY students who completed their hike in Glendalough as part of their bronze Gaisce Presidents Award.



Green Schools Flag

Well done to Mr. Corrigan and the Green School's Team here in Loreto St. Michael's on receiving our first Green School's Flag! The team was awarded the Travel Flag after two years of work promoting and spreading awareness about environmentally friendly ways of traveling to and from school.



Bike Week 2023

As part of Bike Week 2023, 18 students cycled over 20km from Loreto to Wilkinstown along the old Kingscourt railway line which has recently been opened as part of the new Boyne Valley to Lakeland County Greenway. The sun shone as the group cycled through the town and on to the new greenway which is already awash with wildflowers and humming with birdsong. An ice cream was a welcome treat at Wilkinstown before returning to Blackwater Park for a picnic and an impromptu game of rounders! It was a great morning's activity and it was brilliant to see the bike stand full of bikes today.



Sports Day 2023

Congratulations to all students who showed up today in their colours for St Michael's sports day. Participation and performance across all year groups was outstanding. Students participated in over ten events gaining points and medals for their classes. A huge thank you to Shane for all his work and to all staff who made this day a huge success.



Sports Snippets



Athletics

The 4 girls representing Loreto St Michael's in the Inter 4 x 100 Leinster School relays came second, missing out on first by just 0.23 of a second. They have now qualified to represent the school in the All Irelands on Saturday 3rd of June. The girls who ran were Abi Halpin, Grace Gardiner, Shauna Fox and Aoishe Leddy with Anna Gardiner as sub. An absolutely amazing performance from all the girls.

Congratulations also to Cara O'Sullivan who won Gold in the senior girls Shot Putt and silver in the Javelin.



Basketball News

Class TY Tara hosted a 1st year basketball blitz as part of their Future Leader Module. Congratulations to class Freedom on winning the overall competition. This event was a fundraiser for the Irish Wheelchair Association who recently delivered a workshop for all TY students.

Basketball Sponsorship

A massive thank you to Michael Conlon and Conlon Engineering for sponsoring our new basketball basketball jerseys for our team. Conlon Engineering kindly organized a new kit including jersey and shorts. The girls are already looking forward to next year. Pictured here are students from across the year groups who represent the 8 basketball teams we currently have in our school.



Huge congratulations third year student Donna Stafford from 3 Mary Ward who gained a Bronze medal representing Ireland in the European Taekwondo Championships which took place in Cluj Napoca in Romania from 29th April - 3rd May. We are all so proud of Donna on her continued achievements in her sport.



Well done to our first year students who played in a Gaelic Football blitz in Seneschalstown GAA. The girls had a great day out! Thank you to Stacey Grimes of @meathlgfa for organising.



The U14B girls played a blitz in Stamullen. They played 4 games overall. All the girls played really well and should be proud of their performances. Unfortunately it was not our day and we were beaten in the semi final by Sacred heart Drogheda, who went on to win the overall competition. Well done girls on a great season of football.

Very well done to 106 first years who took part in the Royal County Run on May 2, organised by Meath Local Sports Partnership. Congratulations to Derinn McDonnell who finished first with an incredible time of 24 minutes and 37 seconds.



Presentation of JCPAs

Congratulations to the Junior Cycle Class of 2022, who received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement today!

Well done to everyone, we are proud of your achievements in some difficult circumstances over the last 3 years!



Class Prizegiving Ceremonies

During the week of the 22nd of may we celebrated the achievements of all the wonderful students in our school, here are a selection of photos from the 2023 prize giving ceremonies



6th Year Prizegiving

On Friday May 19th , we held the 6th Year prizegiving ceremony where we celebrated the achievements of our fantastic 6th Year students.

A special recognition for the winners of the three following awards:

Winner of the Joy of Loreto Award - Katherine Murphy

Winner of the Spirit of Loreto Award - Helen Lenehan

Winner of the Student of the Year Award - Caroline Kendall

Congratulations to all of our 6th Year students on all of their achievements throughout their time in St Michael's.



Launch of New Mission Statement

Loreto St. Michael's launched their new Mission Statement Makeover from 22 - 24 May. There were three different days of activities promoting some of the new central values of our brand new Mission Statement. Our three winners were Alex Eivers in 5 Joy, Olivia Cunningham in 3 Mary Ward and Aishling Mulligan in 2 Mary Ward. Well done to all you who nominated other students, we had around 300 entries across the three days. A monumental thank you to Abigail Connell in 6 Freedom who designed and created the magnificent image that accompanies our brand new Mission Statement.

Thank you to the Student Council for all their work on these activities.



Here in St Michael's we provide a happy and secure student-centred place of learning. Inclusivity, respect, kindness and encouragement are central to everything we do.



Past Pupil News



In October, Leaving Cert Class of 2022 student Sarah Fitzpatrick was awarded the highly prestigious Naughton Scholarship. This scholarship is intended as a reward and encouragement to exceptional students who would like to study in the STEM field (science, technology, engineering and maths) at University.

Sarah is now studying theoretical physics in Trinity College. We at St Michael's are tremendous proud of Sarah and her fantastic achievement.



Huge congratulations to our talented past pupil Laura Barry! Laura was presented with the Marketing, PR and Communications Professional of the Year Award in September



Past pupil Ruth Brady, is currently in final year of her law degree and is the auditor of TCD's Law Society which is Trinity's largest and most prestigious societies.



Congratulations to our very talented former student Angelika Krasinska for the amazing opportunity she received from the Creativity Features Academy.



Congratulations to Aisling Kavanagh and Aoibhín McKenny who were awarded Entrance Scholarships for having achieved 575 points and above in Leaving Cert 2022.

Congratulations to past pupil Jodie Everard, who was the recipient of a DCU Scholars Award on Monday 28th November. Jodie obtained 625 points in her Leaving Certificate and is currently studying Actuarial Mathematics. She is pictured here with Professor Dáire Keogh, President of Dublin City University





Well done to our super past pupils Aisling, Niamh and Emma Cassidy who completed the Paris Marathon today raising much needed funds for the Irish Cancer Society, Meath Palliative Care and the Gary Kelly Centre in memory of their mum



In an amazing year for ladies football St Michael's was extremely proud to have 9 past pupils involved in the All Ireland Winning Team - Stacey Grimes, Orlagh Lally, Kelsey Nesbitt, Aoife Farrell, Orlaith Mallon, Ciara Smith, Amy O'Dowd, Regina Hand and team physio Hayley Clarke

In October; Orlagh, Kelsey and Stacey received All Star nominations with Stacey receiving the all star award in November. Congratulations to all.



Past Pupil Sinéad Burke appeared on the cover of British Vogue May edition for 'Reframing Fashion' - the first time all cover stars are disabled. Not only that, she was also a Consultant Editor for the issue and shared why it's important to also have accessibility and representation behind the scenes.

We are so proud of Sinéad - a role model for all of us

We were delighted to welcome back our extremely talented past pupil Megan McDermott who added some beautiful murals to decorate our walls! Thank you Megan McDermott Design - we love the colourful new additions



In November past pupils Roisin O'Dea and Sophie Finegan used their lunch breaks from college to clock up the kilometres for what they called the Move-ember 300k fundraising venture for the Irish cancer society.

This fundraiser was to honour Roisin's late sister, Hannah (also past pupil of St Michael's) who passed away in February 2021 at just 21 years of age of cancer.



Parents Association Update

In early November, the parents association hosted a study skills seminar, featuring Joe McCormack. Joe is an Irish educational expert and secondary school teacher. He offered great tips on exam revision and preparation.

The Parents Association also held the annual "Cash for Clobber" fundraiser. This is always a very successful event.

The Carols by Candlelight took place in January. The Parents Association organised decorations and held refreshments on the night. This is always a very enjoyable evening and is looked forward to by the entire school community.

The Parents Association aims to support and host fundraisers to help improve the school environment. We are a very inviting group and hope to see some new faces in the incoming year! We have big plans for the incoming year, We hope to hold a car raffle in January 2024.



The latest school news can be found at



www.loretonavan.ie

