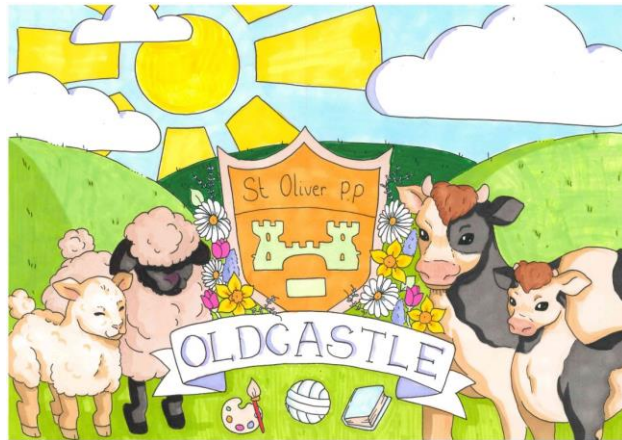


Spring Newsletter 2023

St. Oliver Post Primary School – Spring Newsletter 2023



"The world's favourite season is Spring. All things seem possible." (Edwin Way Teale)

Senior Cycle History Students Travel to Normandy, France



On the 30th of October, a group of 50 senior cycle students and 6 teachers went on a history trip to Normandy, France. The group spent three nights and four days visiting historic landmarks and D-Day museums. The main sites visited were,

Pegasus Memorial Museum

Pegasus Bridge played a vital role in preventing a German counter-attack during the Normandy Invasion

Le mémorial de Caen (Peace Museum)

Commemorates WWII, The D-Day Landings, and the Battle of Normandy

Arromanches 360 cinema

Here the students viewed a movie about 100 days of the battle of Normandy.

Arromanches Invasion Museum

Here the students were able to view archived footage and see the museum collections like the Hall of Allied Nations.



American National Cemetery and Memorial

Students got to visit this burial site, and hear harrowing stories of their lives. The students found the site to be quite elaborate.

German Military Cemetery

Burial site of fallen German soldiers during D-Day. There was a stark difference in the sites as this one was representative of the German culture.

Mont St. Michel

This is not only famous for its pilgrim religious value but also the breathtaking, unforgettable views.

Omaha beach

Here the students saw the remains of German bunkers and walked the same beach that those soldiers did 78 years ago.



Overall the students found the trip both informative and interesting. For the History students, they were given the opportunity to experience what they had learned and for the French students to put into practice their oral skills. A big thank you to Mr. O'Sullivan and his team for organising this trip.

1, 127, 980 metres covered in St Oliver PP School Track Challenge



On the 12th January our students took part in the annual Track Challenge. The proceeds of this fundraiser were towards all extra-curricular activities in our school. On the day it was great to see all students taking part in this active challenge.

The track challenge in 2023 broke all records. Collectively the school covered 2302 laps of the track, which is a total of 1,127,980M, 1127.98 KM. The record of previous years was broken by 51 laps!



- Highest Fund Raiser Senior Class 5A Rang Áine
 Junior Class 3A Rang Mhuire

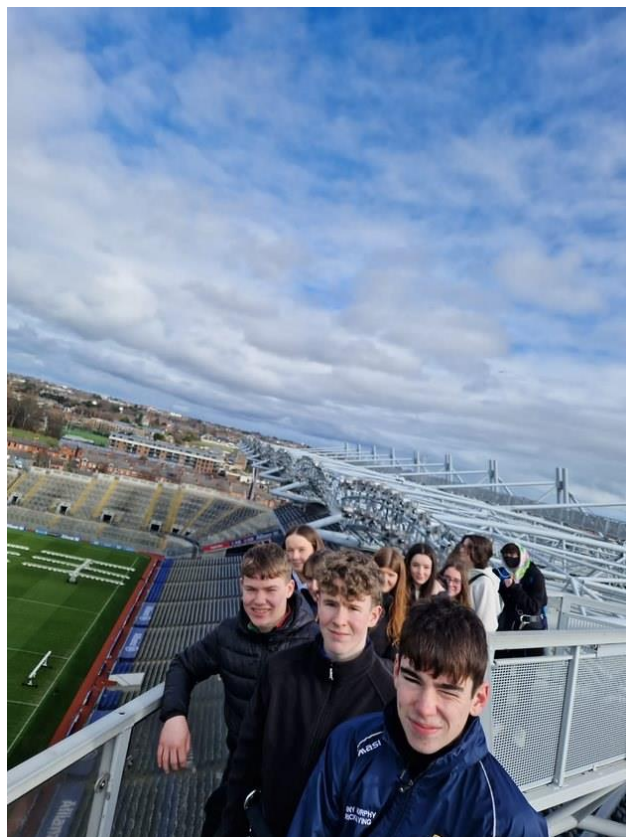
Both of these class groups were awarded with a trip to Croke Park, where the students visited the Croke Park Museum and completed the Skyline tour.

- Most Laps Covered Senior Class 5C Rang Fechin
 Junior Class 3A Rang Mhuire

Both of these class groups will receive addition points for their class on our school sports day.

A special mention to Thomas Sheridan in 3rd year who was our largest individual fundraiser.

Extra-curricular activities play a vital role in the development of many of our students. We would like to thank our local community for supporting us in this fundraiser.



STO Study Hub



STO Study Hub is a new student-led initiative in the school where Senior students are coming up with ideas and initiatives to lead study and learning within the school. They are working with Mr. Brady, Ms. Ní Áinle and Ms. McArdle. They have supported and presented junior students with study tips and ideas during our Teaching and Learning week. They also assisted with tea/coffee and refreshments for our 6th years during their mock exams which was greatly appreciated. This was funded and supported by Parents Association so our thanks to them for their support in this regard also.

Further description of the great work outlined by Karl Reilly in 5th year below.



1 - Karl Reilly & Rory Collins distribute sweets to 6th year mock students



2 - Tea/Coffee morning for 6th year students before a long English Paper 2

Hello, my name is Karl Reilly. I'm a 5th year student and a Student Lead Learner and a member of the STO Study Hub.

Since the start of the school year, I along with Rory Collins, Tom Lynch, Aoife Keoghan and Danielle Briody have been meeting with Ms NiAinle and Mr Brady every Thursday at breaktime to establish the Study Hub in our school.

We have discussed study skills that we find effective and how to create the right study environment.

Earlier in the year, we opened our work to the whole student body and conducted research. Firstly, we tried to get an understanding of study skills that students find effective. Some of the responses included answering exam questions, using flash cards and studying from short bullet point notes. Secondly, we asked students what challenges they face while studying. The most common answer was motivation followed by distractions such as a phone and finally relationships, for example other siblings in the house.

We had predicted some of the challenges before conducting our research. I had trialed the Forest App and Aoife had trialed the Flora App. Both apps are used to monitor your study and discourage you from going on your phone while studying. You get rewarded for staying off your phone and are credited with a tree growing in your forest. This makes it more encouraging knowing that you are working towards a goal and there is a feel-good factor to it knowing that you are acting sustainably.

We presented the Forest and Flora App to our whole school discussion. We continue to strive to support other students with their studies.

Before the Spring house exams, we went into 1st Year classes and provided suggestions for study and the conditions to study in. The study hub is a student-led initiative and by senior students like us going into 1st Year classes we feel we can relate to their experience, and they might take what we have to say more seriously as they know we have been in their shoes.

Before the mock exams, we put together a list of ideas to make the two weeks during the mock exams more pleasant. For example, we organised a coffee morning with the Parent's Association, kindly supplying tea, coffee and biscuits. Ms McArdle organised bananas for students with the support of Fyffes.

We also organised a raffle for students coming out of exams with prizes consisting of vouchers for the Happy Cup or Ciara's Candy. These effects throughout the mock exams act as mood boosters and help to take the stress off from the nature of exams.

This has been the first year of the Study Hub in our school and we hope to see it continue to grow. We welcome ideas and suggestions from teachers, the Parent's Association and the Board of Management.

Extra Curricular Events



Over 30 Transition Year students are now well on their way to achieving their Bronze Gaisce Award by the end of the school year. This self-directed programme sees the students learning new skills such as baking, dancing, computer skills and even dog training. All students will be heading on their Adventure Journey to Shannon River Adventure after Easter where they will be engaging in an overnight camping expedition. We wish them all the best of luck.

Well done, also, to Peter Hand who was offered a place on the STEPS Engineering Your Future Programme as part of his upskilling for Gaisce.



Congratulations to the four Transition Year students; Caoimhe Reilly, Sarah Maloney, Méabh Cahill and Holly Cosgrove, who, with the guidance of Ms. Crowe entered the Certified Irish Angus Competition earlier this year and successfully made it through to the second round. They have since went for a follow up interview which went really well but unfortunately the girls did not progress to the final stage of the competition. A great achievement for all as it is first time the school has entered such a prestigious Agricultural Science competition.

St. Oliver Post Primary GAA Teams



U14 Boys Win North Leinster Championship

In what is a remarkable story our U14/second year boys team were recently crowned North Leinster champions.

Under the guidance of Mr. Diver and Mr. McDaid the team played their first game in late November. Playing for the first time with a new group is always challenging and the lads were shown no mercy by St. Marys Drogheda as they were beaten by 15-18 -vs- 0-6.

The second game proved to be more successful with the team winning comfortably against Ratoath. Round 3 was an all or nothing tie against Kells. With a goal in the last minute the lads snatched a dramatic victory. This set up a semi-final date against St. Marys Drogheda, a repeat of our opening game.

In what was a massive turnaround the the team played incredibly well to win 4-6 - vs- 3-7. This is an unbelievable 58 point turnaround.

The North Leinster final was played on 1st March agaisnt Cnoc Mhuire Granard. In a very close game, where both teams held the lead at different stages, our lads held on to win by two points. A special mention to our goalkeeper Max Waters who saved a penalty, in what was the final kick of the game.

Considering their first game score line, to see this team winning a title proves that there can be a lot of development in skill and mentality over the space of a few short months. Congratulations to all involved.



3 - Second Year boys squad 2022/2023



4 - 2nd Year boys celebrate winning North Leinster

Senior Boys

The senior boys team kicked off their championship campaign on 15th November with a victory over Kells Community School. Their form continued as they topped their group of three with a further win over Moyne Community School.

Scoring 5-23 in these opening games the lads were full of confidence as they lined out against Gallen Community School in the North Leinster Quarter Final. In a hard fought and physical game in early January the lads took their chances well on the day to advance.

Kilbeggan were the opposition in the semi-final. After an early goal we were on the front foot from the start and we ran out winners by 3-10 -vs- 1-09.

On 31st January we played the North Leinster Final against O'Carolan College Nobber. O'Carolan College had won the competition the previous year, while still retaining the majority of their squad, entered the

game as favourites. Unfortunately the lads came up against a superior team and that is where our year ended.

This year saw huge progress for the senior boys and we are hopeful of going one step further next year. Some of our 6th year students togged out for the final time for St. Oliver Post Primary. We would like to thank them for their time, effort and commitment.



5 - Senior Boys 2022/2023



6 - U14 Girls 2023

U14 Girls

The girls played their first game of the year on 23rd February against Ashbourne Community School. In a competitive high scoring game we won 9-08 -vs- 6-08. The ladies made it two wins from two with a recent victory over Gormonston College. That sees the team finish top of their group.

With a squad of over 40 players it is great to see so the future is bright. This squad is showing great potential and hopefully they can progress to the latter stages of the competition.

Junior Boys - The Killer B's!

When 70 boys turned out for the u16 football trials back in October, it became clear that we would struggle to keep everyone happy!

And then the Killer B's were born!

This squad is made up of talented players who love their football no less than their counterparts on the 'A' panel.....they are just slightly more relaxed about their football!

Thus far we have beaten Lanesboro Community College, Castleknock Community College and Cnoc Mhuire.

The lads will now contest the cup final in the near future. It is great game time for all of our students in this group. Well done to all squad members.



7 - The Killer B's Squad 2023

Junior Boys - "A" Panel

After becoming North Leinster Champions in division D this group decided to promote themselves to division B for the coming year. This set the tone for this ambitious group and shows how much they are willing to challenge themselves.

In what is an exceptional group of players, the lads have won both of their matches comprehensively even in the higher division. On 12th January we met St. Josephs Rochfortbridge in our opening championship match. In the second and final group we beat Athlone.

Scoring 7:25 and conceding only 10 points in opening two games, the lads were favourites as they played the North Leinster Quarter Final against Scoil Dara Kilcock. Again the team performed on the day and won comprehensively. The lads will now play St. Marys Ardee in the North Leinster Semi-Final. A date is yet to be fixed for this game. Hopefully the group can keep continue their winning run.



8 - U16 "A" Panel

1st Year Boys


Our 1st year boys team made their eagerly awaited debuts for St. Oliver Post Primary on the 3rd Feb. The team played at home against St. Marys Drogheda. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way on the day but it was great to see a new group playing for the school.

The second game proved to be more successful for the group as they overcame Colaitse Rís, Dundalk. In the opening two games the whole squad got some playing time which shows great opportunity for everyone involved.

Unfortunately the lads were well beaten by Ashbourne in their final group game, which saw them exit the competition. Hopefully there will be plenty more football for these players in the years to come.



9 - 1st Year Boys 2023

A green outline of a lightbulb with several short lines radiating from the top, symbolizing an idea or innovation.

Student Enterprise PROGRAMME

Student enterprise has been a major part of St. Oliver Post Primary for a number of years. On 8th of December our TY students organised a Christmas market and many of our students showcased their enterprise companies.

One of our first year student Jamie Lynch was among many of our students to have his own stall. Jamie is in the process of starting his very own company; SoccerSock.

SoccerSock is a specially designed sock for soccer players that securely keeps their shin pads in place. SoccerSock's are so easy to use, just put on your socks and slip in your shin pads. When you start playing the match you won't have to worry about pulling up your shin pads every five minutes which improves performance and focus! 2 bands of Spandex material woven into your sock both above and below the shin pad creates a permanent pocket that firmly holds your shin pad in place. This means that you never have to pull up your shin pads or socks ever again! If you want to own a SoccerSock all you have to do is to register your interest... and don't worry, it is **COMPLETELY FREE!**



<https://soccersock.ie/>

- First go to their website
- Click on Register Your Interest
- Fill out the form

That's all you have to do. Once you have registered your interest, SoccerSock will send you an email when the item is in stock giving you the option to proceed with the payment.

Hopefully Jamie will achieve much success with his company.



A College and Careers event ran in our school the week of the 21st of November 2022. The main two events were the Careers Fair on Tuesday 22nd and the trip for 5th/6th year students to Athlone IT on Thursday 24th.

On the Tuesday we had talks from Higher and Further education colleges, apprenticeships and local employers. On the Thursday the students got a tour and talk on engineering and apprenticeship options within Athlone IT.



That week both Guidance offices were opened during tutor time for Drop in Guidance queries. There were also displays of teacher graduation profiles and past pupils in the GPA.

Leaving Cert Applied Programme

Our second cohort of LCA students are entering the final stages of the course. During the last term the students have been busy working on their Practical Achievement Task.

Some students learned new skills such as fishing, welding, traditional Irish baking, photography and painting. The images below show a painting by Killian Roche of his dog Po. The other images show the incredible photos James Lynch captured while practicing his photography.





As part of their Health & Fitness module the LCA students also completed a fitness block at Titan Fitness, Kells. The students took part in and examined many different training techniques. A huge thank you to Lauren, Aaron and David in Titan Fitness for all their hard work! This module was a huge benefit to many students and may see some become future personal trainers!



10 - LCA students at Titan Fitness

With their mock exams and task interviews completed it is fair to say this group are on the cusp of completing LCA.

This group has shown huge development since the start of the programme. Students have learned so many new skills and are now well equipped for whatever lies ahead. Well done to all the students and teachers. They have set the tone for our future LCA groups.



Our TYs have had a busy year since the Autumn newsletter, with a number of trips, in-house workshops and work experience.

On the 24th of November the students enjoyed their TY Ball, which was organised by the group. Shortly after the students got in the festive spirit as they travelled to Swords on Ice.

December continued to be a busy month as the students took part in the following workshops,

- School of Life
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Hair Care

Along with this the group also helped organise a Christmas market which created a great atmosphere in the school.



11 - TY students at Swords on Ice



12 - TY Students learning self-defence in their Leisure & Recreation Module



13 - Our caretaker Tom Peyton learning new skills with TY's in the School of Life workshop!

Some of the students also helped decorate our school for Christmas with the major feature being our first ever sustainable Christmas tree. The tree was designed by Mr. Kenny and was constructed out of repurposed pallets. The idea links in with our school sustainability theme.



Since their return in the new year the students have attended Go Quest Adventure Centre, helped create a Holocaust Memorial for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January and they have also had a full one week work experience, while still continuing their Friday work experience.

The TY group are now looking forward to their three day Belfast trip. The majority of students will also be taking part in the Gaisce trip which will allow them to complete their Bronze Award. No doubt it will be a busy and enjoyable last term for this great TY group.

Challenging our High Academic Achievers



The Centre for Talented Youth, Ireland (CTYI) was established at Dublin City University to meet the needs of high ability students aged 6 to 17 years. CTYI Ireland aims to identify students who have ability in areas of abstract, verbal or mathematical reasoning using the CAT4 results.

By providing relevant and interesting challenges based on ability and interest rather than age all talented students are given an opportunity to reach their potential both academically and socially. Here are some of the testimonies from our current 3rd years who attended classes last summer.

"In June I went to DCU for 3 weeks to take part in the CTYI program. The course I did was Criminology. We had debates every Wednesday and had mock trials. We had 3 people come into speak to us, a Gardaí, a prison guard, and a clinical psychologist. Every day for 2 hours after lectures there were different activities. I still talk to the friends I made there, and I've run into two since. I'd love to go again next year and see how staying over will be different."

Shauna Gibney 3C Rang Fechin

"During CTYI, I did the criminology course. We learned about prisons, the Gardaí and the different courts. We did a group project during the course which we presented at the end. It was very fun and I would love to do it again".

"I did the course in medicine, and we learned about a multitude of different subjects such as neutrophils and macrophages of the adaptive immune system, acting out how diabetic nephropathy damages the filtration system in your kidneys and learned in depth about the corona virus and how the vaccine works. Socially the people there were so nice and everyone in my class of 17 clicked, we could talk about things that we are interested in that we could not in school and we played Frisbee during all of our breaks. We went on a trip to RCSI and to the zoo with the behavioural psychology class. The after-school activities like Model UN were also a highlight of my time there".

Global Citizen Education Student Committee



It has been a busy term for our GCE students raising awareness about important events., understanding our role in the world and how we are all connected and have a responsibility to care for each other and the world we live in.

The main two events organised during the term were,

- ***Holocaust Memorial Day January 27th***

A display was created in the GPA remembering those who were victims of the holocaust and a timely reminder of the injustices in the world still. A candle was lit in global solidarity. Huge credit to TY history students and Mr. O Sullivan for putting together the display and a great link referencing the musicians of Auschwitz from Ms. Mc Swiney and her classes.



14 - 6th Year debate organised by GCE Committee



- ***Zero Discrimination Day March 1st***

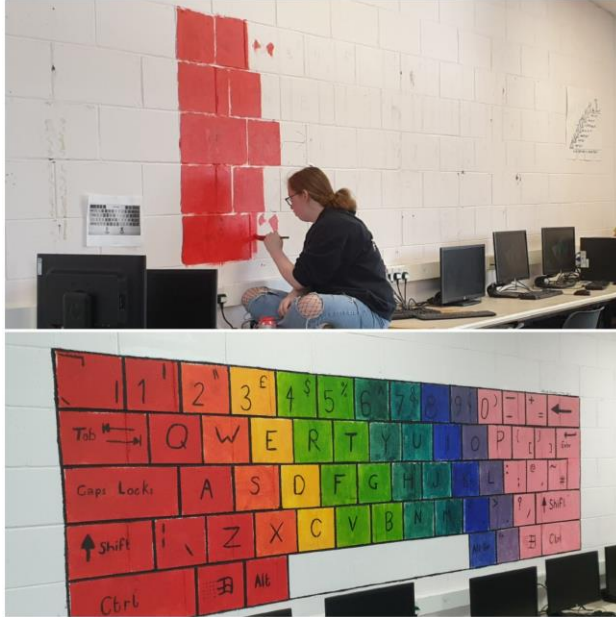
Zero Discrimination Day is a global movement that takes place on March 1 every year. The day is a call to action for eradicating discrimination in all forms and promoting social inclusion and tolerance. Not everyone enjoys the same level of privilege, but to deprive someone of their right to live the way they desire is a travesty. Every individual has the right to live with dignity, regardless of appearance, race, geography, or belief.

The GCE committee questions Ireland's "Cead Mile Fáilte" and those who feel have must wear a mask in our society.

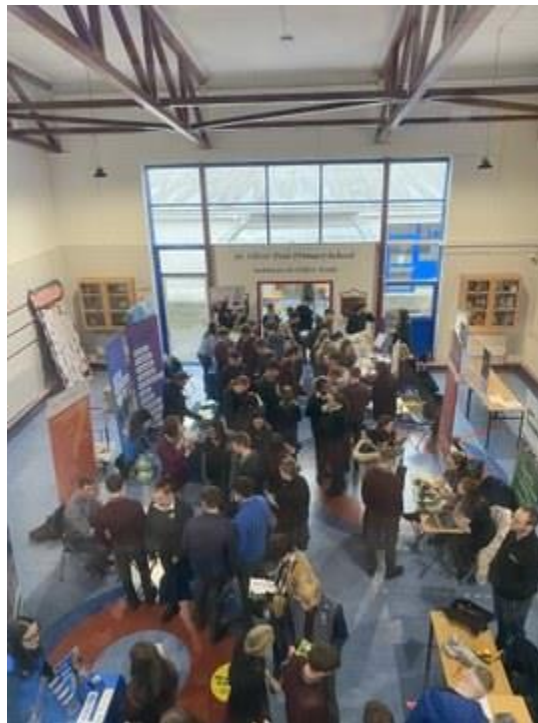
That concludes our Spring Newsletter. We leave you with some pictures of different events from our school throughout this term.

Keep up to date with all our school events by following us on Facebook & Twitter.

We look forward to updating you in our summer newsletter.



6th Year student Nicole Monaghan shows her skills and creative side to paint this beautiful Wall Art in the computer room where first years learn to touch type.



15 - Careers Day in STO



16 - 5th Year LCVP - Shoebox appeal



17 - Christmas door decorations



18 - Christmas door decorations



19 - Christmas door decorations



20 - Christmas door decorations



21 - Christmas door decorations



22 - Christmas door decorations



23 - Christmas door decorations



24 - Christmas door decorations



25 - Christmas door decorations



26 - Staff -vs- Students Volleyball



27 - Staff -vs- Students Volleyball



28 - 1st Year Woodwork



29 - 2nd Year French



30 - 6th Debate on LC Structure



31 - Dyslexia Ireland speaks to 1st Years