



Visit from Sr Orla Treacy

We were delighted to welcome Sr Orla Treacy, director of Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan, to speak with 3rd Year students. Sr Orla has spent 20 years working in South Sudan and has been awarded numerous prestigious awards for her work, in particular the International Women of Courage Award in 2019 and the Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad in 2021 from President Michael D. Higgins.

“Last week we had the opportunity to hear from Sr Orla who is an advocate for the education of young girls and putting a stop to child marriage. As part of Junior Cycle geography and religion we are asked to compare and contrast the life chances in Ireland with a developing country. This talk gave us an insight into the life of a girl in South Sudan, which will be very beneficial for our exams in June.”

“Sr Orla told us 52% of girls in South Sudan are married by the age of 18 and she compared the life of Bill, a 14 year old girl in Loreto Rumbek, with a 5th Year student in our school, Kate Holland. One scenario was to describe what would happen if you had a fever. In Ireland, people would usually take pain medication and rest. In South Sudan, fevers are a big issue. Sr Orla told us how many of Bill’s siblings and cousins have died from fevers as they were unable to get the help that they needed.

“Thanks to Ms Coyne for organising such an insightful talk, and Sr Orla for coming to talk to us.”

- Lauren Creevey (3rd Year)

“In Ireland, most teenagers experience everyday challenges like forgetting their homework or missing the DART. We received an eye-opening talk from Sr Orla about the everyday life of teenagers in South Sudan. We were reminded how fortunate we are to live in a country where forced marriages and long walks to collect water do not concern us.”

“Sr Orla spoke to us about the 5.30am starts to collect water and clean a compound before school, as well as about the challenges girls our age in South Sudan face. Girls are worth a certain amount of cattle and may be arranged for marriage to a man twice or three times her age. She has no say in the matter and many do not have the privilege of finishing school. It was hard to hear this as we sometimes take our opportunities for granted. Descriptions of life in South Sudan reminded us how fortunate we are.

“We really appreciated Sr Orla taking the time out of her day to come talk to us.”

- Florence Walsh & Doireann Doyle (3rd Year)

Mark your Calendar

Mar 17th	School closed - St Patrick's Day
Mar 19th	Feis Ceoil Choir Competition
Mar 19th	Meeting for TY parents - Cambodia Trip
Mar 20th	School closed - Oide Planning Day
Mar 27th	School closes for Easter break
Mar 28th-Apr 1st	Leaving Cert Oral exams
Apr 13th	School reopens
Apr 25th	Loreto Annual Dinner at the Royal Marine Hotel

The full school calendar can be found on both the website and via our school app

SISK Engineering Talk to TY

Last week, the Transition Years had a talk from two Sisk engineers who explained all about engineering as a career path.

Firstly they showed us all of the work that their company had done all over Ireland including Croke Park, Aviva Stadium, Luas Cross City, Dublin Airport and many more. They then talked about their school experience, university courses and career change that led them into their current positions in Sisk.

They explained the huge range of careers in engineering, showing how many paths you can really go down and all of the skills needed in these jobs, as well as showing that these jobs don't need to be male-dominated.

- Charmari Feeney (TY)



What Will You Read this Month?

March is a milestone month with World Book Day, St Patrick's Day and International Women's Day just some of the global events taking place. It also gives us lots of scope for this month's reading challenge! Try reading a book that fits one of this month's reading prompts - the choice of book is completely up to you!

The theme this month is **'March into reading'**, so you could read:

- A book by an Irish author
- A book by a female author
- A book with a green cover
- A book with a magical storyline
- A book about a famous woman in history





6th Year Business Trip to Europa Experience

Our 6th Year Business students acted as EU policymakers this week when they visited the interactive Europa Experience, part of the Dublin office of the European Parliament. They deepened their knowledge of the EU and its importance for Ireland, along with the decision-making process at European level.

Students acted as Members of the European Parliament and were divided into four EU political parties. They discussed a proposed law suggesting that food labels should display their impact on the environment and engaged in a voting procedure which mirrors what happens in the European Parliament. Following further debates on amendments to the suggested law, the final approval was sought by our “MEPs” – a resounding yes!

Our thanks to the staff at the Europa Experience for looking after us so well. Also, well done to our students who got involved in each activity and demonstrated great knowledge of their course content on international trade and European affairs.

- Ms Maginn and Mr Curtis



This Week's Basketball Results

Well done to all teams taking part in home and away fixtures throughout the week.

Minor B lost 23-15 vs Loreto on the Green

Junior A won 24-22 vs St Colmcille's CS and have now qualified for both the Dublin and All Ireland semi-finals





Ember Workshop with Loreto Primary

'The gifts of the Holy Spirit are there to help and guide you throughout life' this was the theme of the Ember Group's workshop which they delivered to the 6th class of Loreto Primary School on Wednesday afternoon.

During the lesson the Ember team explained the descent of the Holy Spirit and how the gifts of the Spirit received at confirmation support us when making decisions. Completing an activity on this content provided the Ember team with the chance to help and get to know these younger students, many of whom will start in 1st Year here in September.

Parable Plays

Ms Dervan's 1st Year RE class had a great time last week acting out the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Wedding Feast.

They all loved getting a chance to act out the stories they had been learning about and put a lot of effort into their mini "plays" of the parables. Well done!





St Patrick's Day Céili

This morning, the concert hall was packed with pupils from the Loreto Primary who arrived to enjoy a St Patrick's Day céili, dressed in all their greenest finery!

Huge thanks to Ms Penston, Ms Egan, Matilda Manning (TY), Charlotte Hannon (TY), Molly Booth (3rd Year), Emily Brady (3rd Year), Vanessa Gulliver (1st Year) and Caoimhe Bailey (1st Year) who provided plenty of toe-tapping music while the children practiced their dancing.



This Week's Hockey Results

Well done to all teams taking part in home and away fixtures throughout the week.

Minor 1 won 2-1 vs Holy Child Killiney
 Minor 1 won 2-0 vs High School
 Minor 4 lost 2-0 vs High School

Junior 1 lost 2-1 vs Loreto on the Green
 Junior 2 lost 1-0 vs Loreto Bray

Senior 2 won 1-0 vs Holy Child Killiney
 Senior 2 won 4-1 vs High School
 Senior 4 won 2-1 vs Loreto on the Green

How to Celebrate a Green St Patrick's Day

As we celebrate St Patrick's Day, we are reminded that Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle because of its beautiful green landscapes.

This year, our school is thinking about how we can keep Ireland green by caring for the environment. Small actions like reducing waste, recycling, and turning off lights can make a big difference.

Let's all do our part to celebrate a truly green St Patrick's Day!

Reuse decorations

Instead of buying new decorations each year, reuse ones from previous years or borrow from friends and family.

Avoid single-use items

Try not to buy single-use plastic decorations, hats, or accessories that are thrown away after one day.

Make your own decorations

Use recycled materials like old paper, cardboard, or magazines to create shamrocks, bunting, or posters.

Wear what you already have

Look for green clothes at home instead of buying something new just for the day.

- Kate McLaughlin (TY)



Wesley Feis

Last Friday, Loreto Abbey Choirs represented the school with great dedication at the Wesley Feis.

The Junior Choir, a large ensemble of 57 students from 1st and 2nd Year, competed in the Junior U16 two-part competition. They delivered an energetic performance of Greg Gilpin's 'Lightning', a fast-paced piece that captured the girls' enthusiasm for their first competitive outing.

The Senior Choir, consisting of 38 students from 1st to 6th Year, also took to the stage to perform Zoltán Kodály's 'Gypsy Lament' in the U19 three-part competition. This challenging, unaccompanied piece was commended by the adjudicator as an excellent choice of repertoire and he noted the girls' impressive intonation throughout the performance.

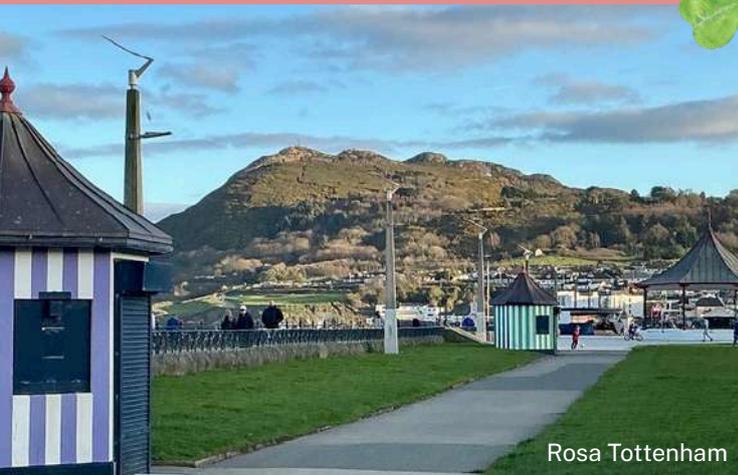
It was a rewarding day for both groups, showcasing the steady progress and hard work of the students across all year groups. Well done to Ms Penston and all who took part!



Photography Club

This week, the Photography club were challenged with the prompt “this is Ireland“ for upcoming St Patrick’s day celebrations. The girls were asked to capture a candid scene that simply feels Irish without staging. The students had great fun getting involved with the festivities and we had some great entries.

Photos which stood out this week included these by Rosa Tottenham (1st Year), Molly Booth (3rd Year), and Zoe Hanley (1st Year). Well done to everyone who took part in this week’s challenge. Entries to the Photography Club are always welcomed. Please contact Ms Flood for details.



Rosa Tottenham



Molly Booth



Zoe Hanley



Inter Loreto Debating

The Inter Loreto Debating Competition proved to be a wonderful opportunity for our students to develop their confidence and critical-thinking skills.

The motion for the junior debate was: “This House would make participation in one school extra-curricular activity compulsory for all students”. Ria Noonan and Martha Power (2nd Year), argued strongly against the motion. They represented the school with great determination and skill. Martha also received a prize from the earlier qualifying rounds for being the best junior speaker.

The senior team, Kelly Chan and Ysabel Zabel (TY), performed exceptionally well. After progressing through the earlier rounds, they reached the semi-finals and were narrowly beaten.

The event was opened by Peter McNamara from the Loreto Education Trust, who welcomed the teams, some who had travelled from around the country. In his address, he reminded the students of Mary Ward, the foundress of the IBVM, who travelled to Rome three times in an effort to persuade the Pope that women were capable and deserved to run their own order without male involvement.

He reflected on Mary Ward’s determination and persuasive ability, asking the students to consider whether there is any profession they might enter in the future where debating and persuasive skills would not be valuable?

Overall, it was a fantastic day of friendship and debating, and while we did not bring home the trophy this year, our students represented the school with pride and are continuing to grow in confidence. Well done!

- Ms Ahearne



Model United Nations

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Model United Nations conferences at Wesley College and Holy Faith Clontarf over the past few weeks. Model United Nations provides a unique platform for students to step into the shoes of international diplomats, debating global issues and collaborating to find solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Representing the delegations of Saudi Arabia, Serbia, India, and Panama, our students took on active roles across various committees, including Ecology and Environment and UN Women.

The participants worked diligently to research, analyse, and draft resolutions on complex global challenges. Engaging with topics such as Fast Fashion, the Repatriation of Historical Artifacts, Cyberwarfare, and the Prevention of Sex Trafficking allowed the students to gain a profound understanding of international law, humanitarian ethics, and the power of diplomacy.

Throughout the sessions, the girls delivered eloquent speeches, proposed strategic amendments, and challenged their peers through rigorous Points of Information (POIs). The high standard of debate and the depth of the discussions pushed the students to think critically, negotiate, and speak with confidence.

The dedication shown by these students highlights their growing awareness of global citizenship and their potential as the leaders of tomorrow. There are two more Model United Nations conferences before the end of the year, expressions of interest should be sent to Ms Hayes.

Digital Storytelling at Creative Compass

This week at Creative Compass, students created 90-second news reports about wellbeing, whether that is financial, mental, physical or social, as part of Sky's digital storytelling challenge, The Edit.





LEGO Lads

What can you tell about a community from thousands of years ago from a single clay pot? The LEGO Lads discovered that the answer is actually quite a lot with some of the hands-on exhibits at the National Museum of Ireland.

On Thursday the team were on a fact-finding mission for their project to improve universal design at the museum and make it more accessible for everyone. Interactive exhibits, quiet spaces and even a lift to access the upper levels are just a few of the ideas the team had to offer. Siobhán Pierce and Matthew Lester were kind enough to share their time and expertise to discuss these ideas and more.

The team are now ready to head to the First Lego League Final on March 21st to present their project and compete with their robot against the top teams in the country.

Despite the bad rain, a trip to the LEGO shop and lunch in town was in order after the museum.

- Mr Cullen



1st Year PE

Ms Sutton's 1st Year PE class finished their 6-week running programme. They celebrated their achievements with a class breakfast. Well done!

