



Notre Dame Secondary School

Summer 2017

Newsletter

Contact Us

Notre Dame
Secondary School
Upper Churchtown Road
Dublin 14
01 2989533
principal@notredame.ie
secretary@notredame.ie
Principal – Mildred Brannigan
Deputy Principal – Mary O’Rahilly
Secretary – Laura O’Rourke

Please visit our website
www.notredame.ie



Welcome Back,

Our Newsletter captures the many highlights and wonderful achievements of our school year in and out of the classroom. It is amazing how much we have achieved and this is due to the wonderful commitment of our students, the dedication of the staff and the support of parents. We hope you all had a lovely Summer and look forward to the year ahead.

Congratulations to :

- *The Class of 2017 on their Leaving Certificate results the girls worked hard and did extremely well. We are very proud of you. Well done!*
- *Yvonne O’Kiersey and Heather Shipman who were selected as Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl for the forthcoming academic year 2017/2018.*
- *Clara O’Sullivan who won Gold in the Senior Shot Put in the East Leinster Athletics Morton Stadium Santry and 4th in the Leinster Athletics Shotput Final throwing her personal best of 8.29m.*
- *The School Choir and Miss White*
- *Our Transition Year Students for all their hardwork and for showcasing this work at their graduation night*
- *In keeping with Notre Dame Spirit the students who were involved in charitable works during the year*
- *The Gala Concert in May where many of our students shared their musical talents. Many thanks to Miss White and Miss O’Rahilly their assistance.*



Salters Institute Festival of Chemistry

Congratulations to the Notre Dame team of 1st Year students Yagnasree Akepati, Lara Kelly, Katie Wilcoxson and Patricia Zhang who came 3rd at the Salters' Festival of Chemistry hosted in Trinity College, Dublin. Twenty teams participated in the challenges early on a Saturday morning and following the challenges were treated to a Chemistry show followed by an award ceremony.

A big thank you to their teacher Ms Corrigan for all her hard work and accompanying the students at Trinity College.

Sports Day 2017

The sun was shining this year for Sports Day, the whole school was divided into teams Mermaids wore blue, Dragons wore Red, Unicorns wore White and Fairies wore Pink everyone had the opportunity to earn team points through the various events.

Alongside the usual athletic events, there were plenty of others involving throwing, obstacle courses, wheelbarrows and three-legs. The Mermaid (blue) team emerged victorious, earning themselves medals. The last event was the 100m sprint. Each year group competed against one other to discover the fastest student in each year.

A big thank you to the Parents Association who organised a tasty BBQ to satisfy the appetite we had all worked up after an afternoon of sport and laughter.



Inspirational Presentation by Elma Walsh

The mother of Donal Walsh, the Kerry teenager who passed away from cancer in 2013 yet struck the nation with his message to appreciate life, visited Notre Dame in February giving a very inspiring presentation. Elma was given a warm welcome in Notre Dame after RE classes had studied Donal's story, made banners and fundraised for the Donal Walsh Foundation over the past couple of weeks. Ms. White presented a cheque for €430 to Elma for the Donal Walsh Foundation which will go towards cancer research and teenage counselling projects.



1st Year Trip to Gartan

On Monday the 24th April, we got the bus from Dublin to Donegal with Ms. Morrow and Ms. Corrigan. We were on the bus for about two hours, chatting and having fun, and then we stopped in Monaghan to buy food for the rest of the journey.

We then spent another two hours on the bus to Letterkenny, where we transferred onto a shuttle bus which took us to Gartan Outdoor and Adventure Centre. When we reached Gartan we had lunch and met the instructors. They told us what our first activity would be – it was orienteering. This was followed by dinner and then our evening activity – ‘nightline’ – which was a blindfolded walk through the woods!



On Tuesday, our morning activity was kayaking on the lake. It was great, but it was very windy which made it very difficult. In the afternoon we went to the climbing wall. The instructors taught us how to use our harness and then how to climb the wall properly. We also did some abseiling which was really fun, but also a bit scary!

On Wednesday morning we had a 2 hour trek through Glenveagh National Park to get to the Castle. The landscape was very scenic and we got to see some deer through binoculars. When we arrived at the Castle we had a tour of it and learned about its history. After the tour we got to have cake in the café, which we all really enjoyed. On Wednesday evening Stephen, our instructor, taught us some self-defence. He showed us how to get out of a situation if someone grabbed our arms or jumper. It was very informative and interesting to learn and try out.



On Thursday morning we got a bus to the coast of Donegal for our coasteering activity. At the coast we started to climb over rocks, led by our instructors. When we got to a safe point we jumped into the sea one by one. It was fun, but very cold, even in wetsuits! After our jump we climbed back up onto the rocks and made our way back to the bus. On our way home we stopped at a small café for some hot chocolate to warm us up! In the afternoon we had an archery competition which Katie won. On Thursday evening we had a talent show. Yagnasree did a magic trick with cards, Norah and Ala guessed how many brothers and sisters everyone had by using a math’s trick, Patricia said ‘Hello’ in 10 languages and Claire, Ciara, Lara, Alannah, Lauren, Katie and Ashling sang and danced. The overall winner was the dance group. After the talent show we went outside and toasted marshmallows to make smores.

On Friday morning, the bus picked us up from Gartan at 9.30am and we arrived back to meet our parents on O’ Connell Street at 2pm. We were all sad to leave Gartan after such an enjoyable trip, but it was also nice to be home!



Senior Hockey

by Caoimhe Johnson

This year, our senior hockey team was made up of fourth, fifth and sixth years. Our coaches were Ms. Corrigan, Tara and Emilie, and we trained on Thursdays and Fridays after school.

We are really proud of how our season went this year. We won the majority of our matches. Every Saturday morning when we arrived at a match, we were all very motivated and this is what really helped us throughout the year. Our first match of the season was against Our Lady's Terenure, and we won 3-1 – it was such a good start to our season! Following on from that, we drew 1-1 with Kings Hospital, and 2-2 with Rathdown; but beat Dominican College 3-0 and East Glendalough 2-0. Our only loss in the group stage of our league was against a very strong St. Andrew's team. It was a tough match and we fought hard, but unfortunately it ended 2-1.

With these results, we came joint second with Kings Hospital in our league group. This meant we had to play them again in a play-off match. We got a bus to Three Rock Rovers where the match was being played. We were all very nervous as it had been such a close match the first time we played them. We ended up winning 2-1 with a goal in the last minute!

This win brought us to the quarter final stage of the league, against Holy Child Killiney. It was a very tense match. The score at the end of the match was 1-1. This meant we had to go to 1v1s. There was lots of pressure on the 5 girls taking them, and on our goalie, Sandra. Sadly it wasn't meant to be this year, and Holy Child Killiney progressed to the semi-final. We are all really proud of how far we got in the league and of how well we played together. We really bonded as a group and got to know each other very well.



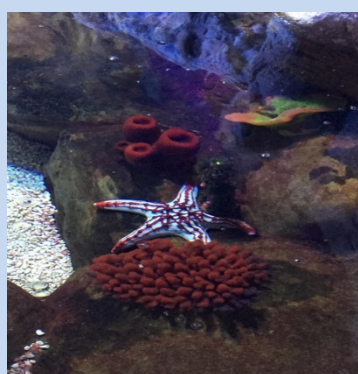
National Sea Life Centre

On the 1st of February 2017, as part of our Transition Year Science course, our year had the opportunity to travel to the National Sea Life centre in Bray, Co. Wicklow. It was part of the marine biology module in science. We left the school at approximately 12:25pm and returned at 3:40pm.

When we arrived at the centre in Bray we were met by our guide. She talked and walked us through all the sea life creatures and we could take pictures. We could touch a starfish and we were able to watch the guide feeding the stingrays.

This was a very enjoyable trip in my opinion. I liked walking around and learning about all the different species of sea life.

I would recommend the National Sea Life centre to people of all age groups as it was very educational.





Wellbeing Week

By Clíodhna O' Connell

Wellbeing Week in Notre Dame was the 8th – 12th May and the entire school got involved in activities. On Monday, everyone got given the name of another student in their year and they had to do random acts of kindness for that person throughout the week. The 5th Years also got a talk on Monday called 'Beating the Blues' from the charity Aware. On Tuesday, each form class received a basket of fruit which was donated by LIDL. We also had a 'DREAM' class during the day which meant we had to 'drop everything and meditate'. On Wednesday, for the last two classes of the day, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years got to watch a documentary called 'Happy' in the PE hall. On Thursday, during the middle three classes, we had sports day. Everyone was split into their four house teams: Mermaids, Unicorns, Fairies and Dragons. We competed in lots of different relay events to win points for our house teams, and ended with individual sprint races. The Mermaid team emerged victorious on the day! The final event for Wellbeing Week was on the Friday when 1st, 2nd and 4th years went on a walk to St. Enda's Park. We left school at break time, had a picnic in the park and returned to school for our last three classes. Overall, Wellbeing Week was a great success.



French Quiz

This year's French Teachers' Association Senior School Quiz competition was held in Loreto College on St. Stephen's Green. Questions were many and varied ranging from literature to politics, from geography to trivia, from history to languages with many schools taking part. Well done to Megan, Yvonne, Caoimhe and Jimena for proudly representing Notre Dame School.



Leinster School of Music Drama Exam

As part of our TY programme students took the Leinster School of Music and Drama Exams in May 2017. Each student had to prepare a speech, do a mock interview and read a passage from a novel. Well done to all our TY's who were well prepared by their teacher Miss Keogh and did extremely well on the day. Four students – Niamh Gannon, Caoimhe Johnson, received gold medals for achieving 95% or more which was a fantastic achievement.



Notre Dame Prizegiving 2017

On Wednesday 24th May 2017 we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our students over the course of this academic year. In presenting special awards we also acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all students. Congratulations to all our prize winners especially our cup winners.

Joanne Cregan Cup (Good Fellowship at Senior Cycle) – **Grace Yarr**

This cup is awarded each year to the student who, in the opinion of her teachers is an asset to her class and school and who is a positive presence in Notre Dame.

Caroline Healy Cup (Mathematical Sciences) – **Emily Guiney**

This cup is awarded each year to the student who shows great skill, endeavour and ability in the area of Mathematics and Science.

Hilary Fanning Cup (Student of the Year Award) – **Amy Neligan Coleman**

Each year this cup is awarded to the student who demonstrates skill, ability and commitment in her academic work and is also very involved in extracurricular activities within the school. The recipient of this cup is described by her teachers as a student who attained high academic standards all through her school years. She has worked consistently and has been supportive of other students. This cup is awarded each year to the Notre Dame student of the year.



Senior Hockey Cup – **Yvonne O’Kiersey**

Each year this award goes to the student who gives her all on the hockey pitch. This student inspired and encouraged others, particularly the younger players. Ellen is a very positive sports person with a great attitude.

Sports Shield – **Clara O’Sullivan**

All round sports person of the year

Good Fellowship Junior Cycle – **Yasmin Keane**

This award is given each year to the student who, in the opinion of her teachers is an asset to her class and school and who is a positive presence in Notre Dame.



Supervised Evening Study

Supervised Evening Study is available to students from 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 5th Year and 6th Year. Evening study begins on Monday 04th September 2017. This is an opportunity for students to stay on top of their study. Booking forms available from the school office.



Spraoi agus spórt le linn SnaG!

‘Scoil gan teanga, scoil gan anam’, the girls of Notre Dame have proven this to be true yet again in 2017.

This year ‘Coiste Gaeilge’ did the thinking and came up with lots of fun ideas for Seachtain na Gaeilge (SNAG). A huge congratulations to the Transition Year students for turning our ideas into reality. Many competitions, including poster campaign, Irish language competition with cártaí glasa and what’s your teacher’s favourite song, kept everyone involved and guessing throughout the fortnight, while the newly-formed *grúpa tradisiúnta* added a lively atmosphere and kept up all entertained.

The success of our Gaeilge 24 in Autumn encouraged and made ‘Coiste Gaeilge’ more determined to make 2017 Seachtain na Gaeilge the best yet. And it was! *Bhí an craic go hiontach agus bhí SNAG den scoth againn gan aon agó.*

Gan dabht, bíonn spraoi agus spórt ag baint leis an nGaeilge i Notre Dame.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghábháil leis an bPríomhoide, leis na múinteoirí ar fad agus le hIníon De Búrca agus le hIníon Ní Bhréin ach go háirithe, as ucht na tacaíochta a thug siad dúinn le linn na mbliana.

*Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad ar **SNAG 2017** go deo na ndeor!
Gaeilge abú!*

Amy De Búrca agus Caitlín Ní Thuama
Coiste na Gaeilge Notre Dame



World Book Day 2017

This year in Notre Dame we focused on promoting reading for enjoyment as our theme for World Book Day 2017. The corridors of Notre Dame were awash with colour and excitement as students took part in various competitions, activities and quizzes. Students had the opportunity to review books and share ideas as well as compete against one another in the ‘Design a Door Book Cover Competition’. The competitive spirit of Notre Dame swelled throughout the day and a ‘buzz about books’ in the classrooms, corridors and canteen echoed around the school. Well done to all the students and staff for helping to make World Book Day a great success!

TY Chinese 2017



The Chinese TY group made exceptional progress this year in all aspects of their learning. Many elements in language learning were covered throughout the course, from speaking about oneself and family, to school life and food. The real test came when we visited 'Hailan Restaurant' in Dundrum to see if we could order our food in Chinese. Not only did we order the food successfully, many of us even managed the mastery of chopsticks! Great enjoyment was had too in our cultural workshops where we learnt paper cutting, panda painting and calligraphy.

'The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence' is a famous Confucius proverb.

Well done to all the girls for taking this onboard this year.



Confucius Institute UCD

Congratulation to the Notre Dame students who took their YCT Level 1 Chinese exams. Well done to the girls on exceptional exam success. All of the girls attained over 80%, with over half achieving 95% and above. A special congratulations goes to Cathy Keenan on achieving 100%.

恭喜

All Ireland Linguistic Olympiad 2017



The All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) is a national contest in which secondary school students must develop their own strategies for solving complex problems. These problems are based on fascinating languages from around the globe.

AILO introduces students to the application of logic and linguistics (i.e. the study of human language) to problems of language understanding and translation. The goal is to develop students' problem-solving skills and to inspire them to consider the fascinating range of careers at the intersection of computing, linguistics and language.

This year saw 1,306 students take part in AILO competition from all over the country, a 33% increase on last year. The girls attended a training workshop in Gonzaga College before taking part in the first round of the competition. The 2017 competition was challenging but enjoyable and we are already looking forward to AILO 2018.

Music Mania 2017



Music Mania was back again in Notre Dame from the 15th – 17th May filling the entire school with music and fun once again! An action packed music-filled three days were had and there was a fantastic buzz with live performances to be heard, concerts to attend, competitions to be won and talents to be polished. Our highly anticipated **Talent Show** was the highlight, and there was keen competition as class groups and soloists alike meticulously prepared and rehearsed their acts. Music was to be heard coming from every corner of the school!

Each morning of **Music Mania** we kicked off the day with a musical start to get everybody going! Classes were visited for a “**Guess the Song and the Artist**” competition and “**On this day in Musical History**” facts.

Tuesday we had wonderful **Gamelan Workshops** - an amazingly interesting and fun instrument from Java! Many thanks to past pupil Anika Babel for teaching us about the instrument and how to play our very first piece on Gamelan! We all had great fun!

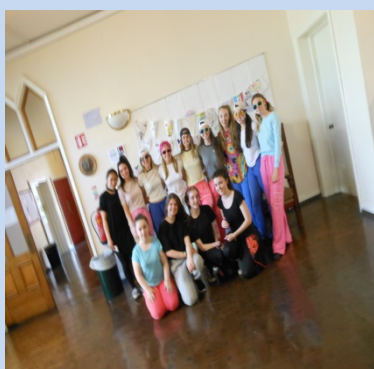
Tuesday night we had a fantastic concert in the hall – **Tunes for Tanzania**. We were treated to some very entertaining performances from Anika and friends, Francis Helmut and the Gamelan Jam Delapar! It was all most enjoyable and raised much needed funds for youths in Tanzania!

Wednesday night was our annual **End of Year Gala Concert**. A wonderful night was enjoyed by our audience, as they were treated to choir performances, Trad Group performances, Ukulele Group performances, group and solo singers and instrumentalists as well as Junior and Leaving Cert practical students performing some of their well-polished exam pieces. Well done to all who performed – you were brilliant.

Wednesday was definitely the highlight of **Music Mania**, and the entire school was bustling! To add to the excitement the teachers dressed up as famous musical artists... It was such fun. The climax of **Music Mania** was a whole school event on Wednesday. To begin, it was finally time to show off the many talents that had been practiced so well over the last few weeks for our talent show....and wow!....what talent we saw....there were group dances, group singing, traditional Irish music, choreographed acts, acapella groups, lip sync, solo performers, rhythm acts, and much, much more. The teachers even showed their talents! The atmosphere in the hall was electric. The judges truly had a difficult decision to make. Well done to everybody who participated, you were amazing.

After we all settled down from the excitement of the talent show and while the judges deliberated, we had a **Music-themed Music Mania Table Quiz**, organised by the Transition Years. They did a great job. Everyone had great fun guessing the lyrics, naming the song and unscrambling the emoji to reveal the song title!

Finally it was time to announce the winners of all the **Competitions** that had been running – congratulations to all our winners! And of course we revealed the results of the “*Who do you think is the teacher with the best taste in music*” competition, which the students had been busy voting on during the





week, based on music that teachers had shared with them during their classes!

When the judges had reached their verdict, they announced the winners of the Talent Show. The standard was extremely high and the judges awarded many acts!

Well done to all!!

A huge **THANK YOU** to all the **Transition Years** for their organisation before and during **Music Mania**. Thank you to all the **Teachers** who made lots of fun **cross-curricular links** - adding music to their classes throughout the three days, as well as dressing-up and getting so involved in Music Mania.

Finally, **THANK YOU** to ALL of the **students** for their enthusiasm, energy, singing, dancing and music-making!! You all made **MUSIC MANIA 2017** a huge success!!

KEEP MAKING MUSIC!!

Gaisce Awards

By Clíodhna O'Connell



In Transition Year we have the chance to take part in the Gaisce Awards which is the President's Award. This award encourages you to find your passion, get active and make a difference in your community. There are four key challenge areas to get the Gaisce Bronze Award – community involvement, learning a new personal skill, physical activity and an adventure journey.

For the adventure journey challenge you must plan the organization and preparation of an adventure for 2 days and 1 overnight in hostel accommodation.

We selected to stay at Knockree Hostel in Enniskerry and we were supervised by Miss Keogh who is an experienced mountain walker. When we arrived at the hostel we dropped off our bags and started out on our hike. We needed to cover 25kms over the two days. On day one we walked for about 5 hours. When we returned to the hostel we had to cook dinner. The following morning we walked for about 4 hours. The hikes were really enjoyable and thanks to Miss Keogh for helping us to complete our task



Work Experience in Tallaght Hospital

by Farah Mansour

I did my 2 week work experience in Tallaght Hospital in the childrens department. During my time there I learnt a lot about all the organisation that goes on behind the scenes to ensure all the children in hospital feel safe and secure. I helped in the play therapy department, the in-hospital school, the



blood test room and the Trinity Centre for Health.

Working in the hospital was a real eye opener and I definitely benefited from the experience. I really enjoyed my time in Tallaght Hospital.

TY Trip to Italy

By Sara Bradley

On Sunday 19th February we set off from Dublin airport at 6am for our trip to Italy. On arrival in Rome we checked into the hotel and we were all very surprised how warm and sunny it was so we popped on our shades and headed out for something to eat. After lunch we went to the Roman Forum, The Trevi Fountain and the Victor Emmanuel monument, we climbed to the top of the monument and the view was spectacular.

We got up to another beautiful day and walked and took in all the famous sights in Rome, the Colosseum, St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican City. We also made our own pizzas which of course tasted fantastic.

Later that day we took a 4 hour bus journey to Sorrento. During our time in Sorrento we visited Pompeii, climbed Mount Vesuvius but as it was very foggy we couldn't see the city.

We had a very early start the following morning for our journey home. We had a great trip and the memories of our time in Italy will stay with us forever. We would like to thank Miss O'Rahilly for organising the trip and looking after us so well in Italy along with Miss Healy.



Croke Park

By Niamh Gannon

We went on the Croke Park Stadium tour as part of our Gaeilge curriculum with our teachers Iníon Ní Bhréin and Miss White. We were asked to speak Irish for the duration of the trip. On arrival at the stadium we were shown a 10 minute film clip about the history of Croke Park and about the different County teams. After the film we got a mini tour around the building and went into the dressing rooms and were told very interesting facts about Croke Park and GAA. After the tour we got kitted out with harnesses to do the Ethihad Skyline tour this was scary at first but once we got used to it we experienced breathtaking views of Dublin and our guide told us some interesting facts about the history of Dublin. Before we left Croke Park we had some time to look around the GAA museum. We had a very enjoyable and interesting day.



2nd Year Retreat



Today, Tuesday March 14th, a lively bunch of Notre Dame 2nd Years enjoyed their retreat day in Benildus Pastoral Centre. Here are some of their thoughts on the day:

"I loved this day because I had such a good time with my friends. I learned a lot about myself." **(Palmera)**

"I thought the retreat was really relaxing and I learned a lot from it. It was also a lot of fun." **(Faye)**

"Today the retreat was educational, fun and it inspired me to be myself" **(Mariam)**

"It was a very enjoyable day and I had a great time. It was quite fun and a good spiritual journey." **(Maggie)**

"I enjoyed today and it was very relaxing. I hope to do it again sometime." **(Fareedah)**

"I thought the retreat was fun and more interesting than I thought it would be. I thought it would be based on religion but it was more based on self-confidence and comfort in your own body. It was really enjoyable." **(Aseel)**



Emmanuel 2017

Well done to 2nd and 3rd students who sang their hearts out all day in the Helix at Emmanuel 2017. A special congratulations to our three soloists - AnnaMei Chan Kinsella and Kaitlin Twomey who sang "*Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled*" and to Ruth Brophy who sang "*Come Home*". They did a super job and represented Notre Dame very well. Everyone had a fantastic day rehearsing with the other schools and performing that night for the audience. It was a great experience. Our favourite songs were "*Indescribable*" and the finale "*Every Praise*". We were all up singing and dancing and the atmosphere in the Helix was amazing. We look forward to being back again next year!

