

Principal's Message

Dear parents/guardians,

Following our musical production 'Back to the 80's', we are well and truly back to the present. The school is a hub of activity, both in academic preparations and extra-curricular activities. Our students are working hard preparing for exams, our staff are working hard up-skilling for the new Junior Cycle and collaboration between the home and the school has never been better. All parents/guardians have access to VShare to track the attendance and performance of their child. Our recently upgraded website offers up to date information on the school. We have recently added a Twitter page to keep everyone up to date on current activities and we have well and truly come into the 21st century with our Facebook page. All of the above are designed to help parents keep in touch with the educational experience of their child. In order to develop this further the Old Bawn Community School app for smart phones is currently being designed and will be launched shortly. It will link with the website,

Twitter and Facebook. In order for the school to continue to perform at the top of the league tables we need your involvement and support.

A big welcome and well done to our two new Deputy Principals, Ms. Ursula McCabe and Mr. Kevin Shortall, who have worked tirelessly to improve the student experience in the school, supporting students, teachers and activities. The school has a significantly better learning environment as a result of their presence.

We have commenced work on our five year strategic plan and your views will be vital to help shape the next five years in the development of Old Bawn. We will be in contact shortly to get your views on what you need from us to support your ambition for your child. As the school moves towards our 40th anniversary celebration in 2018 we intend to launch the strategic plan at our birthday celebrations early in the 2018/2019 academic year.

Mr Paul Crone

Read about this year's musical inside!



Snack Scheme

Old Bawn Community School have received a grant from the Department of Social Protection to provide breakfast for each student. Since September each student receives a snack for morning break as part of the School Meals' Initiative.



Old Bawn Adult Education

Old Bawn Adult Education provide a wide variety of courses catering for the personal, professional and leisure interests of adult learners in the school catchment area and further afield. We offer over 50 courses per term which run for 5 or 10 weeks from 7.30-9.30pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings. New for spring term 'Old Bawn Grinds Academy' offering Leaving Cert grinds in a wide range of subject areas. For further details on all our courses check out our website at www.oldbawnadulteducation.ie.

A Busy Term for Transition Years 2017

The Transition Years have had a very busy few months. They had a fantastic overnight trip to Kippure for their bonding session. This was followed by a trip to the Ploughing Championships, a seminar on Alcohol Awareness, a dance workshop in the Rua Red, a talk from Autism Ireland and Down Syndrome Ireland, both charities for which the Transition Years collected during their national fundraising campaigns. The students did two successful weeks of community involvement and work experience where they developed new skills and opened up their minds to the world of work and charity.



The students have participated in a full day First Aid Training. PE has been very exciting so far this year with a trip to Zipit where the Transition Years were flying through the woods and they participated in a four week Circus Skills workshop where they developed hand eye coordination, body awareness, balance and fine motor skills. The German class delivered two lessons to the 2nd years which was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience for all. The students also did Couch to 5K training and ran a 5K in Tymon Park as part of the fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity.

A full day was spent doing a driving workshop where students got a taste of driving, how to change a tyre, the cost of running a car and they also got to wear beer goggles - an exercise which showed the dangers of driving while under the influence. This is just a taste of what has been going on. The year has been a great success so far and we are looking forward to all the forthcoming events in the calendar as we watch the students develop new skills and mature.

Ms O. McCarthy

Annual 5km Run October



The second annual OBCS 5km run/walk took place on Saturday 14th October in Tymon Park. A group of up to 50 parents, staff and students swapped the school uniforms and normal weekend attire for tracksuits, trainers and running gear to join the weekly park run. The event proved to be a great success with many of our Habitat for Humanity volunteers participating and raising money for their trip to Romania in June 2018. Huge congratulations to all those who took part and represented the school so well, many of whom had been training three days a week since the beginning of September. Thank you also to all the Parkrun volunteers for welcoming us so warmly to their weekly event and to all the teachers, staff, parents and students who trained, participated and contributed so generously.

Mr B. Teevan

OBCS Debating Society

The Debating Society is one of Old Bawn Community School's newest clubs. The club was set up only a mere two years ago.

The Debating Society has been very successful in the last two years. We have gained many members since starting the society in 2015 and we have recently won debates against Firhouse Community School and Presentation College.

Motions we have debated include 'Genetic Modification is a Positive Advancement in Society,' 'Animals Should Not be Kept in Cages' and 'The Irish Voting Age Should be Lowered to 16'. The teachers who are involved in the Debating Society are Ms Ounnar, Ms Brennan and Ms Foy. With the help of these teachers, we have been able to go from strength to strength; learning new skills such as rebuttal, speech forming and public speaking.

The Debating Society includes students from 1st to 3rd year, but we are hoping to form a senior team made up of 4th to 6th years next year. The society meets in the McMahon Library during lunch on Mondays.

Mr Crone fully supports Old Bawn Community School having a Debating Society so we'd like to thank Ms Ounnar, Ms Brennan and Ms Foy for taking it upon themselves to start up a debating club after years of trial and error.

Heather Jones 3rd year Kestrel



OBCS Debaters 2017

Blitzing Basketball at OBCS

Warm congratulations to the U19s Girls' Team who moved up a division this year. A special congratulations to the U16s Girls' Team who are now through to the All Ireland Semi-Final in mid-January and who are also through to the next round in their league. A special mention should go to Victoria Babalola, Loveth Ota, Michelle Okafor, Dindu Disu and Kamile Skinderyte for their match performance.

Warm congratulations should also go to the U16s Boys' Basketball Team who beat St Vincents' 47 to 35 in the quarter final of the Dublin League and are now through to the Semi-Finals. Well done everyone!

Ms M. Murray

Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity builds towards Fundraising Goal

In June 2018, Old Bawn Community School with Habitat for Humanity, will bring a group of 15 Students and 5 Teacher volunteers to Romania to help build homes for families in need. This will be our third trip there following on from our 2014 and 2016 builds. We have been working hard to achieve our goal of raising €36,000 and we are excited to have reached €27,000 to date.

We have done numerous bag packs, held a Racenight and a Darts Night, ran 5km together in Tymon Park and even face painted outside Croke Park on All Ireland Hurling Final Day to help raise funds. These ventures are being made possible by the fantastic work of our students and the brilliant support from Staff, Parents and the wider Old Bawn Community who have been very generous. The value of being involved in this initiative is immense to our students and it creates a lasting impact with the families who they meet and work alongside with on site. Our students help them achieve their dreams of finally owning their own home.

Mr T. Ryan

London Trip

24 students who have been involved in the musical flew to London during the October midterm break. During their very brief stay the group packed in two musicals, 'Wicked' and 'Aladdin', in addition to participating in a dance and movement workshop and an acting workshop. Accompanied by five teachers, everyone had a super time and brought back many new tricks and skills in preparation for this years school musical.

Ms S. Gibbons



New Politics Club

The aim of this new club is to provide an environment and platform for students to discuss and become educated in local, national and international politics and affairs. Workshops, guest speakers and possible trips to The Oireachtas will be included. Some possible key issues to explore: "The role of the media in Ireland" & "Should 16 year olds be eligible to vote in national elections." Sign up sheets will be outside room 37 and the club will be hopefully up and running after the Christmas period. Mr S. Loughney

College Awareness Week 2017 'Beginning Your Journey'

OBCS launched College Awareness Week this year by designing a wall mural highlighting the importance of self-belief and having a post secondary school plan. The idea is to inspire students to begin their journey towards a third-level education. Over 200 students were involved in creating location symbols which contained their college and career choices and dreams of the future. Head Boy, Luke Coulton Dillon and Head Girl, Leah Furlong along with Mr Crone, raised our bespoke 'OBCS is College Ready' flag to begin the week long events in the school.

Throughout the week students attended a number of college talks delivered by third level institutions in the school. We'd like to thank Ms Dwyer and the Guidance Team; Ms Ounnar & Ms Marley for organising these talks. Teachers showed their support for the campaign by wearing hand-made Alma Mater pins which created a lot of positive conversation around college.

A special thanks to the TY Peer Leaders who created the wall mural and who were college ambassadors for the week. Sarah Swan, 6th Year, was our official CAW photographer this year.



BACK TO THE 80'S

OBCS Musical 2017



Back to the 80s told the story of the William Ocean High school graduating class as remembered by one of the characters, in Old Bawn Community School style. A Star Wars dream sequence, high-energy dance routines, the obligatory 80's party scene, copious amounts of blue eye-shadow, as well as some of the most popular songs ever written, the result is a musical that not only delighted and amused the audience, but inspired the cast and crew involved.

Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Thompson used their phenomenal talents to create some iconic props for the stage. A giant moveable Rubik's cube and a dazzling light up Rubik's cube were created and played an integral part in the performances. The stunning stage began to take shape as Ms Hayden, Ms Ryan and their fantastic team of students turned the upper assembly into a vivacious high school. The team managed to capture the vitality and spirit of the characters in their spectacular interpretation of what an American high school may have looked like in the 1980s.

The unbelievably talented cast of seventy four students took little time in making the story of the graduating class come to life. Every single cast member embodied their own unique character and did so in such a convincing way that audiences were brought on an almighty roller coaster of emotions and quickly began rooting for the underdog as they became so engrossed in each and every character. The students rehearsed every Friday after school and gave up countless lunch breaks and evenings all in the name of creating a remarkable musical, one that could rival many professional productions.

Under the guidance of Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Thompson, the show really began to come to life as the light and sound team prepped and fine tuned their skills which assisted in sensational scenes and staging. In the days before the show the atmosphere in the school was palpable. The supreme music from the 80s had the school singing and dancing as they moved from classes.

The matinee performances included primary schools from the local area as well as service users from St. Michael's House and students from St. Laserians school in Carlow. The first performance had an additional treat as a student band performed a number of the iconic songs from the musical and demonstrated another level of talent within the school community. Furthermore, the audiences were treated to the magic skills of Jack Martin who astonished those in attendance with his sublime magic tricks.

Once show time arrived, every single cast and crew member was confident they could deliver a slick, professional production and that they did. Each and every performance surpassed its predecessor and each standing ovation was duly earned. With unprecedented ticket sales for each performance, the atmosphere was electric with every single person, on stage, back stage and in the audience coming together to sing and dance their way through the Back to the 80s Megamix - five minutes of brilliance that left everyone wanting more.

As always, the annual musical would not be a success without the direction, dedication, hard work and commitment of Ms Gibbons, Ms L. McCarthy, Ms Mullen and their supporting team; Ms Murray, Ms McBride, Ms P. O'Connor, Ms McCormack and Ms Ryan.