

## Letter from Ms O Kennedy Year Head for Incoming First Year Students 2020



Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe in these difficult times.

Although the opportunity to meet in person has not been possible, I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you. My name is Ms. Lisa O'Kennedy. I am a French and German teacher in OBCS and I will be the Year Head for our incoming first year students this year.

I know the past few months have been challenging for us all but our students starting in first year have had to deal with a lot in coming to terms with the end of their time in primary school in the most unexpected manner.

I want to reassure you that although one journey has sadly come to an abrupt end, you are about to start on an exciting new one with us in OBCS where my main aim is to ensure that you are happy students who are fully supported in embracing everything our school has to offer you both academically and personally.

Great preparations are already underway for you and while the start may not be exactly the same as in previous years, we will navigate the road ahead together.

The theme for our year is **"New Beginnings"** and often new beginnings are scary to think about, but I want you to put your fears aside and trust in us that we will be right with you all the time. You will not be alone in this transition – along with myself as your Year Head, you will have many people you can turn to - mentors, tutors, student development officers, a pastoral care team, guidance counsellors, subject teachers, SNAs, students in other year groups, secretaries, deputy principals and a principal to help guide you along the way.

**I know that every one of our incoming first year students is capable of achieving great success in Old Bawn.** You have already shown an unbelievable ability to adapt to extreme circumstances and I have no doubt that you will continue to show this resilience throughout your journey with us. Be proud of what you have achieved so far and be excited about the next chapter that awaits you.

I look forward to welcoming you through the doors of the school very soon and please be assured that we will mind you well!

Yours sincerely,

Ms. O'Kennedy

