



# GROVE NEWS

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Summer 2024

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

Somehow May has arrived again and as I write this; we are organising the finishing touches to the formal farewell to our class of 2024. The theme of their graduation is "Growth" and it seems really hard to believe that six whole years of growth have passed by since they arrived at our door. The next few weeks hold an important milestone for them, before they embark on another period of intense growth along the next pathway of their personal journey to being their best selves. We all wish them the very best with this exciting and developmental period of their lives.

This is my favourite time of the academic year. The weather improves. It is finals time in all school sports. We have Gaisce hikes, Activity Day, Wellbeing Week, School Dance Off, TY Show, Culture Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Year trip to FerryCarraig, The Zoo, Sci Fest and the trip to Powerscourt amongst many other activities. The above-described frenetic pace of school life displays one aspect of how committed our teaching staff are to the holistic progress of all of your children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the professional job they do daily, and for all the extras that they provide in the interests of their students. Unfortunately, there will be one or two changes to our staff before September, but we will make sure that those joining the team will not weaken it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians for their interactions this year. Clear open lines of communication are vital to the success of any school community. I would especially like to thank the volunteers from the Parents Council who have organised gardening and coffee mornings and have helped with parent evenings, graduation and student talks. If you are in a position to contribute to their future, I strongly encourage you to make contact with them via [e.waters@olgrove.ie](mailto:e.waters@olgrove.ie)

Best wishes to our exam classes. Grasp the opportunity that you are faced with and demonstrate all you have learned in your time at the Grove.

I hope all families experience joy-filled moments throughout the summer period. We look forward to welcoming you all back this coming August.

Warm regards

Colm

## Farewell Class of 2024 and Welcome Class of 2030

The class of 2024 graduated school formerly on Thursday May 16th after spending a lovely day in Powerscourt with their Tutors Ms. McDermott and Ms. Donovan. Sixth years, their families, their teachers, the Sisters of Jesus and Mary together with Father Paul from Dundrum Parish celebrated the class of 2024 and their six years in Our Lady's Grove. Thank you to the Parents' Council who provided refreshments, to Leah, Kirsty and Aoife from Transition Year who made the Graduation Cake and to Ms. Cashman, Ms. Sloan and the School Choir for the beautiful music. As we say goodbye to the class of 2024 we look forward to welcoming the class of 2030 to Our Lady's Grove. We hope that you enjoy the last month of sixth class with your teachers, families and friends. We can't wait to meet you in August.



**Congratulations to Cheidza Walsh and Isabella Tighe Head Girl and Deputy 24/25 and Farewell Martina Szczepaniec and Katie Sayers Head Girl and Deputy 23/24.**

# Celebrating our Students

Prize and Awards Day is always a wonderful day of celebration in our school as we gather together to recognise and celebrate the many different ways our students contribute to our school community.

## Student of the Year Awards

The student of the year awards recognise those students who have contributed to our school community beyond the normal school expectations. In first year the nominees for the award were **Eve Kilcline**, **Lucy Dilworth**, **Maisie Fagan**, **Izzy Higgins**, **Evgenia Trachuk**, **Caoimhe Clarke**, **Malak Ammouchi**, **Sneha Raji**, **Grace Hughes** and **Joy Xing Yan**. **Lucy Clinch** won the award. In second year the nominees were **Isabella Pivoto**, **Sajedah Elwardaney**, **Maeve McGregor**, **Christina Browne**, **Ammara Usman**, **Laura Hughes** and **Eile Guerrine**. The winner was **Liesel Cullen**. In third year the nominees were **Emily Richaud**, **Megan Adderley**, **Alexis O'Brien**, **Ella O'Kelly**, **Saorla Ferriter**, **Lucy Collins**, **Aoife Clinch** and **Aine McEnroe**. The winner was **Maissane Chabira**. The fifth year nominees were **Katie McHugh**, **Abbie Collins**, **Julia Lee**, **Layla Hamed**, **Chiedza Walsh**, **Juliet Wall**, **Ava Barry**, **Jessica Gray**, **Ellen Sherry**, **Kotryna Vasyliute** and **Aoibhe Keeling** and the winner was **Tekka Whelan**. In 6th year the nominees were **Eva Cooney**, **Alyssa O'Rourke**, **Freya Blizzard**, **Ruby Ryan Swan**, **Sheherbano Syed**, **Zoe Walsh** and **Sarah Al Naqqash** and the winner was **Martina Szczepanec**.



Transition Year Award Winners



## Academic Excellence Awards

The academic excellence awards recognise those students who have achieved academic excellence across their academic subjects within their year group. In first year the winner was **Lucy Clinch**. In second year the winner was **Elsa Walsh**. In third year was **Aine McEnroe** won the award while in Transition Year the winner was **Sarah McEnroe**. In fifth year the winner was **Isabella Tighe**.



In sixth year academic excellence within each academic subject is recognised: Art: **Fiolla Hysa**, Biology: **Sherherbano Syed**, Chemistry: **Sarah Al-Naqqash**, Music: **Riona Ferriter**, Physics: **Nada Abasi**, Maths: **Rachel Lehane**, History: **Riona Ferriter** and **Harsimer Kaur Singh**, Home Economics: **Riona Ferriter**, Accounting: **Rachel Lehane**, French: **Riona Ferriter**, Economics: **Eva Cooney**, Irish: **Riona Ferriter**, Classics, **Maeve Joyce** and **Alyssa O'Rourke**: English: **Eva Cooney**, Chinese: **Maeve Joyce** and Spanish **Sofia Bustos Molina**. Congratulations to **Riona Ferriter** who won the Outstanding Achievement Award.

## Claudine Thevenet Cup

This year the Claudine Thevenet Cup was awarded to **Ava Barry** (5th Year) for her advocacy in fostering Autism inclusion and empowerment in Our Lady's Grove. If you would like to join our Autism Friendly Group please do so via the QR code in your Wellbeing Team.



Ava Barry Winner of the Claudine Thevenet Cup

# Student Leadership

## Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Prefects

A huge congratulations to **Chiedza Walsh**, Head Girl and **Isabella Tighe** Deputy Head Girl and the following students who were appointed as Prefects for the incoming academic year. These are **Aoibhe Keeling, Kayla Mangan Swan, Hannah McDowell, Abbie Collins, Julia Lee, Juliet Wall, Aoife Ross, Leah Nealon, Tekka Whelan, Ellen Sherry, Sarah Maher** and **Layla Hamed**.



## Mentor Team

Each year TY students apply to become Mentors to our incoming 1st years. This is a very important role as 5th year mentors act as big sisters to the younger members of our community and work hard to help them connect with each other and the wider school community. They commit to spending one lunch time every week with their mentees and also to attending clubs and societies with them to help them get to know each other. Mentors are also an essential part of the Induction process and give up the last few days of their Summer holidays to help our 1st years as they start secondary school. The mentors for the new academic year are **Amy Doran, Bobbie Jo Keddy, Cayleigh Marquez, Ciara Coughlan, Ella Milton, Emily Sayers, Emily Waters, Grace O Kelly, Hannah Harte, Iulia Cofa, Jemimah Jasmin, Katie Byrne, Kirsten Hayden, Leah Dempsey McGrath, Toni Byrne, Sarah Saadoun, Iman Jasarevic, Roisin Wall, Saaksharaa Prem Kaur, Beth O Reilly, Najeehah Hamdani, Maja Swiader, Sarah McEnroe** and **Sinead Ni Bhaoghill**.

## Student Council and Class Captains

Thank you to the student council for all the hard work this year. We look forward to working with the new Council in 24/25. Congratulations to the newly nominated Class Captains for 24/25 **Aarya Singh, Lara Patras, Aine Ni Raghallaigh, Grace McLaughlin, Isabella Pivotto, Isabella Dunne, Eile Guerrine, Ammara Usman, Nadia Cleary, Audrina Nunes, Alexis O Brien, Ashley Pyeandee, Ayesha Ali Shah, Emily Sayers, Leah Dempsey McGrath** and **Ella Milton**.

## House Leaders

**Lexi Dowling, Grace Bent, Katie McHugh, Emily Powell** and **Aisling Kelliher** are the House Leaders for 24/25. This was a busy year for our houses, with quizzes, sustainability events and preparation of House Christmas Hampers for DePaul Ireland. Congratulations to Marie Curie the winning house on Activity Day and to Rosa Parks our overall House of the Year.



## Green Schools

The Green Schools committee was formed in September and meet regularly monitoring all aspects of sustainability in the school. A big thank you to the sixth years **Riona Ferriter** and **Sarah Al Naqqash** for leading the meetings. The students worked on aspects of the current flags; travel, water, energy, litter and waste. The committee is currently working on attaining the biodiversity flag. It has conducted surveys, monitored plant and animal life on our grounds, planted seeds and is working on a biodiversity plan for next year. It also conducted a travel audit this year. Congratulations to the committee on all this hard work. We look forward to welcoming old and new members to the committee next year and wish **Ellen Sherry** and **Kayla Mangan Swan** the new 6th year Green Schools Prefects the best of luck as they continue this work.



## Thank you Prefects, Student Council and Ambassadors 23/24

Thank you to the outgoing Prefect Team who together with **Martina Szczepaniec** (Head Girl) and **Katie Sayers** (Deputy Head Girl) worked hard throughout the year to connect with their class groups, support clubs and societies and together with other student leader groups promoted our school at many events throughout the year. A special word of congratulations to **Eva Cooney** who was awarded Prefect of the Year.



# CREATE WELLBEING WEEK

## Culture Day

Our second every Culture Day took place in March as part of our CREATE Wellbeing week. Students were invited to represent a country or culture that they were interested in or had a connection to and then to work in groups to represent that country or culture at our celebration in the school hall. Students dressed in colours or clothing that represented the country or culture and designed powerpoints to teach each other about the places and traditions they wished to represent. 5th year students organised a playlist of songs suggested by students which we enjoyed dancing to in the hall.

In many traditions sharing a meal and eating together is a symbol of welcome and respect and all of us enjoyed the delicious food and drinks that students prepared at home and brought into school. Many thanks to the 5th years who helped organise the day and to our students and families for the huge effort, energy, time and care that went into the making and sharing of food.

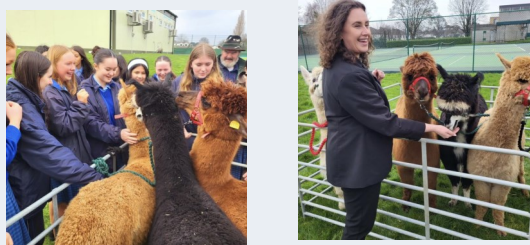


In the afternoon, students took part in a fashion show modelling clothing from all over the world while **Sarah Al Naqqash** and **Riona Ferriter** in 6th year explained the significance of the garments. This was followed by teach the teacher where students taught teachers and the whole student body how to say welcome in all the languages students speak in our school. We are already looking forward to Culture Day 2025 and building on the traditions that we are making together as we celebrate the wonderful diversity of our school.

**If you are interested in getting more involved in any of our many Wellbeing initiatives, please get in touch with Ms.McDonnell via your Wellbeing Team or with the Wellbeing Prefects **Abbie Collins** and **Hannah McDowell**.**

## Alpacas

Students and staff enjoyed spending some time with Alpacas on March 8th as part of CREATE Wellbeing Week. Thank you so much to Cornstown House in Ashbourne who arrived bright and early with the friendly alpacas.



## Empathy Walk and Talk

Students and staff also took part in Narrative4 Empathy Walk and Talk initiative. Within their House groups students walked in pairs with students from other year groups and asked and answered a series of questions designed to help us get to know each better. Everyone completed the 3 km walk and returned to the front hall and received their wrist band, and certificate of completion.



## Fashion Exchange

Thanks to Ms.Mulligan and 5th years who organised a lunchtime clothes exchange during Wellbeing Week. Students were delighted to exchange preloved items of clothing.

## Vive le Sport!

Congratulations to our Fifth-Year French class who have won first prize in a national video competition, focusing on the importance of sport. The competition was sponsored by the Minister for Sport and the French Embassy, and we were delighted to welcome Minister Thomas Byrne and H.E. Vincent Guérand, French Ambassador to Ireland to the school on Tuesday 30 April for the presentation of prizes. In this year of the Rugby World Cup and the Olympic Games the video emphasises how sport can break down barriers,

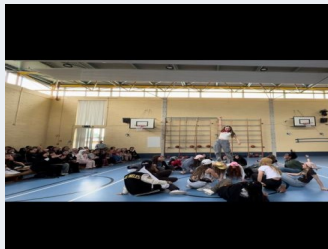


enhance physical health, and support mental well-being. The video also highlights the values of discipline, perseverance, respect, and friendship that are fostered

through sports activities. We are very proud of our Fifth Years for this achievement which not only showcases their language skills and sporting prowess but also their ability to convey powerful messages with great creativity. Félicitations à toutes!

## The Dance Off

Now in it's 8th year the annual Dance Off has become a major feature of the end of year calendar. As part of their leadership development, 5th year students applying for the position of prefect choreograph a dance and then teach it to each class group. Each class group performs the dance and then adds on their own piece of improvisation. This year the standard was even higher than usual with the 6th years struggling to select a winner. It came down to the wire between TYs and 2A. In the end TYs were victorious with a high energy performance. The Staff Dance Crew once again left the audience shocked and awed by their dancing 'prowess' in particular by their energetic and somewhat coordinated rendition of Rock the Boat and Riverdance. The morning ended with the whole school dancing the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide. Well done to everybody for taking part and in particular to our first years who really threw themselves into the whole experience.



## Music



Congratulations to our incredible group of musicians who took to the stage recently for the TY production of 'Hayfever'. Chiedza, Aoibhe, Amy, Aoife, Sarah, Aoibhe and Aine. Thank you for the commitment, time and patience you dedicated to the show.

Thank you to Sinéad Ní Bhaighill who treated us to a beautiful performance of 'Comptine d'un autre été' by Yann Tiersan when the French Ambassador and Irish minister for sport visited us recently. Over the last few weeks, passing by room 1, we have heard many diverse performances echoing up the hallways and into nearby classrooms. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students have worked incredibly hard preparing for their recent music practicals. Our external examiners were entertained by a variety of instruments in Our Lady's Grove this year including voice, piano, drumkit, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, domra, ukulele, recorder and the violin. Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> year music students who have particular congratulations to every single one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students for embracing the study of Music for three years. Congratulations also to two of our 1<sup>st</sup> year students Joy Guo and Grace Hughes who represented Our Lady's Grove by competing at the Wesley Music Festival on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to the OLG school choir. This wonderful group of choir members have been extremely busy throughout the school year rehearsing for numerous performance occasions. From the beginning of last September, choir members have attended rehearsals on a weekly basis, learning new songs and revising some old favourites, as we began our preparations for the busy music calendar. The dedication and commitment choir members have displayed throughout the year is to be commended and admired. They have rehearsed before school, at lunchtime, and occasionally after school when the need arose. The choir have created a positive and uplifting atmosphere throughout our weekly rehearsals and it has become the highlight of the week for both students and staff. In November 2023, on a cold and dark Sunday afternoon, the OLG school choir made the trip to the 65<sup>th</sup> Kilcoole Music Festival and were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their performance of 'All is found'. The school choir were also awarded choir badges to wear which reflects the hard work, commitment, and talent each member has displayed this year, and will continue to show into the near future. The school choir also sang beautifully at the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation. We look forward to welcoming new and old members next year.



## Home Economics

In April, the third-year students successfully concluded their Food Skills practical examination. Throughout this assessment, they adeptly crafted a diverse array of culinary creations in response to three distinct briefs: designing a meal conducive to promoting a healthy digestive system, innovatively utilizing technology in meal preparation, and curating a gastronomic experience tailored for a special occasion.



The Feast workshop began with a presentation tracing food production's evolution, covering key historical moments. It then addressed critical issues in today's food system, revealing discrepancies between perception and reality. Part III focused on the future of food, introducing concepts like urban farming and offering sustainably sourced superfoods for sampling. Additionally, zero waste snacks were prepared to encourage practical application at home.

The Cooking Club convenes every Tuesday after school, providing students with a valuable opportunity to hone their culinary prowess and refine their presentation skills. Notably, Faye Broderick, Elsa Walsh, and Eve Curran have enthusiastically embraced this platform for skill development and have subsequently entered the esteemed Healthy Home Chef Competition, organized by the St. Angela's Centre of Excellence for Home Economics.



The Crochet Club convenes every Monday at lunchtime, providing an avenue for students interested in crocheting or knitting to enhance their skills. Fifth-year students generously assist in instructing and guiding participants, resulting in the creation of numerous exquisite pieces throughout the year.

The second-year students last year completed their CBA1 (Classroom-Based Assessment 1), which centered on the comprehensive design brief process. Integral to this assessment was the meticulous hand-embroidering of their imaginative designs onto tote bags. The resulting creations are strikingly beautiful and distinctly individual, serving as vibrant showcases of their boundless imagination, unparalleled creativity, and exceptional hand-sewing prowess.



## Transition Year

Transition Year students made the most of every opportunity afforded them throughout the year. They are just back from their Gaisce Hike and looking forward to a third week of Work Experience before heading into Summer.



Since Christmas TY Students have completed the Dare to Believe programme, taken part in the Chinese Bridge competition where they won the outstanding organisation award, took part in school Playwright competition where **Aoife Fingleton** and **Sinead Ni Bhaoghill** placed third and fourth, competed in

SciFest where **Emily Waters** came second in the Environment Science category with her project comparing sea swimming and pool swimming while **Sinead Ni Bhaoghill** took first place in the Human Science category with her project Espresso or Depresso.

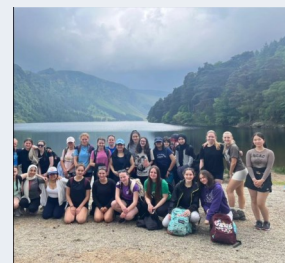


TYs have travelled far and wide with trips to Paris, Go Quest, Glendalough, Cork, Athlone and a Comedy Show in town. They also took part in the IWish Women in Stem workshop as well as Law programmes, Creative



Careers programmes. Medical Programmes and industry and apprenticeship workshops. The Transition Year play was also a resounding success with special

thanks to Mr. Doyle, Ms. Cashman, Ms. Walkin, Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Wright for all their work putting it together.



Special congratulations to **Leah Dempsey McGrath** who was the recipient of the Spirit of Transition Year award and to **Sinead Ni Bhaoghill** for winning the academic excellence award.

# Sports News

The school is very well represented in a wide range of sports and the students take part both competitively non-competitively. We are very fortunate to have such great facilities at our disposal. We have a large number of girls taking part after school in Hockey, Netball, Soccer Tennis, Athletics, and Pilates. This year saw the soccer their first matches and they were very successful. The girls have also had an opportunity to take part in table tennis, badminton, basketball, and tennis at lunchtimes. A big thank you to all the external coaches in various sports and thank you to our own staff Ms. Carley, Ms. Wright and Ms. Kelly and Ms. Doolan . Thank you to all of the captains of the various teams for all their hard work coordinating teams for matches and leading their teams in games. Well done to our Transition Year students who helped out coaching the younger students and do so each year giving something back to the school. It is greatly appreciated.

## Hockey

This year we had many students playing hockey, 5 teams entered in the Leinster school girl leagues. All our teams played very well throughout their leagues , especially our junior team captained by Rosin Wall made it all the way to the semi-finals of their league which is a huge achievement for all those involved. As well as their achievements in their league our Junior team won our local shield tournament the Dublin South Central Hockey League so congrats to this team. They were: Junior team:, **Roisin Wall, Mariam Elrouby, Katie Byrne, Aoife Clinch, Molly O'Carroll, Ella O'Kelly, Abigail Grady, Chloe Clarke, Elle McNulty, Hana Ali, Roseanne Weadick, Megan Adderley, Hannah Harte, Meave Mc Gregor and Elsa Walsh.**

Each year we award the 'most improved player' and an overall 'player of the year' in both hockey and netball. The following girls were awarded the 'most improved players' this year in Hockey: 1st Years: **Lucy Clinch**; Minor: **Lucy Lehane**; Junior: **Mariam Elrouby** and Senior: **Emily Waters.**

The 'Player of the Year' this year has been awarded to: **Molly O'Carroll**



## Netball

Netball is continually growing in the school with more students attending on Monday and Thursday afternoons than ever before. Many thanks to Ms. Carley and Emilie Badin and to the Transition Year students who gave up their Thursday afternoons to coach the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year teams and accompany them to numerous league matches throughout the season. We were delighted this year to enter several teams into the Netball Ireland Schools League and we had some wonderful hard-fought home and away matches but at the end of the day, it was all about having fun in a team environment. We would like to congratulate all our teams in the league this year but want to give a special mention to our 1<sup>st</sup> Year Team who were runners up in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year B Netball Ireland Schools League and to our Senior Team who won the Bronze Medal Match in Senior A Netball Ireland Schools League. The Runners-Up of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year B Netball Ireland Schools League were; **Maisie Fagan (Captain), Faye Broderick, Grace McLaughlin, Claire McCarthy, Mouna Ben Ali, Mariam Tawfik, Sania Dinar, Arya Singh, Gaurvi Jain, Alice Redmond, Fatma Omar and Fatima Ali Shah.**



The Winners of the Bronze Medal Match in the Netball Ireland Schools League were; **Juliet Wall (Captain), Aisling Kelliher, Isabella Tighe, Hannah Harte, Aoife Fingleton, Sinéad Ní Bhaighill, Toni Byrne and Sarah McEnroe.**



## Athletics

A large number of athletes competed this year at both Cross country and at the track and field Championships. Congrats to **Lucy Dilworth** on coming 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Leinster 'B' Cross country race. A large number of athletes made the finals at the track but were unfortunate not to come away with a medal. The Senior relay team made the final and **Abbie Collins** made the 100m final. We have a very keen bunch of athletes so we hope to build on their success next year.



## Soccer

Soccer is up and running for a few years now and this year the students had an opportunity to play other schools. It is hoped the sport can continue to grow next year. Many thanks to Ms. Doolin for all her work in Soccer this year.



## Sportsperson of the year

The sportsperson of the year this year is **Roisín Wall**. She has excelled in her sport both in school and outside of school. She has competed in Cross Country, track and hockey for the school. Outside of school she has played for the Dublin Camogie team. She captained the junior hockey team this year to the Semifinal of the Leinster Schools league and they were the successful winners on the Dublin south Central hockey league. Congratulations Roisin!



## Sport and Activity Day 2024

Students arrived to school on Friday May 10th dressed in their house colours and ready to take on the challenges of our annual Sport and Activity Day. Within each year group, students form teams according to their House. From obstacle courses, to netball, to basketball, to wordle whiz, to maths madness and musical heardles, house teams worked together, cheered each other on and desperately tried to win points for their house. As part of the Art activity students also made house crowns which were proudly modelled by happy third and second years. Midmorning, there was a welcome break for Ice Cream. The afternoon ended with the relay race. The winning house on Activity day was Marie Curie House. A massive thanks to Ms. McDermott who organised the day and ensured that everyone had fun.





# Parents' Council News

On behalf of the OLG Parents Association we would like to wish all 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students all the best in their exams in June.

The Parent's Association has had a busy year between Uniform Collections/Sales, coffee mornings and information sessions, gardening/outdoor tidy ups. Our 1<sup>st</sup> year Parent's morning is always very popular in the opening week of term. It is a great chance for new parents to the school to meet other parents and teachers.

We have held some Saturday morning gardening/tidy ups and we are very grateful to all the parents who give up their time early on a Saturday to help out in keeping our school grounds look so well.

Our Parents Christmas Coffee morning was a very successful event with a chance for parents to listen to some of our budding musicians and choir. In April we held an informal session for Parents of students in 3<sup>rd</sup> year to come and learn about our Transition Year programme from some of our TY students.

The girls gave excellent accounts of their experiences and shared much about the year. The PA has grown in numbers again this year and it is fabulous to see so many parents getting involved. If you would like to join the PA please email [e.waters@olgrove.ie](mailto:e.waters@olgrove.ie)

**Check out our website [www.olgrove.ie](http://www.olgrove.ie) or follow us on [@ourladygrove](#) on Instagram and '@olgrove on Twitter for all our news.**

**We look forward to welcoming prospective families to our Open Day 2024 on Thursday October 3rd 2024.**



**We wish everyone in our community a happy and healthy Summer**