

## Message from the Principal

Our final newsletter for the academic year 2019/2020 responds to an academic year like no other. We have all been challenged to come up with new ways to engage and to stay connected to one another. Community has never been more important.

Technology has delivered for us but, as the weeks have run fluidly one into another, time has confirmed that no advancement in technology will replace the teacher in the classroom or the camaraderie in the corridor. The response of the girls has been excellent. I am so proud of them all. Our girls have stepped up to this new challenge, through assisting others, kindness, discipline in their studies and learning. Our 6th years have certainly been challenged the most and have shown us their ability to adapt, never giving up before the unforeseen. They are ready for any challenge that lies ahead.

I have been impressed by the engagement of our Head Girl, Deputy Head and Prefects; their understanding of the situation and their determination to keep going and keep everyone going has been exemplary.

I thank all the Rosemont staff and teachers for the way they rapidly adapted and for the resourcefulness and good humour that have underpinned their delivery of the curriculum. I am thankful for their friendship.

We will return to school under the guidance of the Department of Education, taking whatever steps necessary to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We will continue to adapt to ensure best practice in learning will remain despite any restrictions that may be in place.

We will get through this and we will all have grown from the experience.

Wishing you and your family well as we enter the summer break.

Janet Dean  
Principal

## Academic Excellence

### English Department

Students responded with customary resilience to the sea change in learning by continuing their hard work and engagement. Online classes were very productive. TEAMS proved an excellent tool in the ease of sharing resources with students; the option to record classes; use of "chat" to provide every student the opportunity to contribute; and ability to access videos and even the occasional QUIZ or Kahoot! As teachers, there was a lot to get used to and we were delighted to avail of additional training on OneNote Class Notebook from Pat Cusack, FastTrack Architect with Microsoft and also a Webinar organised by Wriggle. Classes continued to progress through their coursework and achieve their targets including CBAs. The Transition Year students enjoyed the introduction to poetry on the Leaving Cert Cycle. This seemed a better fit for online learning than what was originally planned for a traditional classroom setting. Having completed modules the students took their end of year exams and we wish them a well-deserved summer break.

Ms Kelly

**WORLD BOOK DAY** was celebrated as never before –back when, in the school building- on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Students arrived for class dressed as their favourite characters and prizes for best outfits were won. Also, an "Extreme Reading" competition attracted amazing entries! More prizes were won.

Ms Collins





## Home Economics

During the lockdown period I designed a BBQ sauce that is finger licking good, that is if you like BBQ sauces. It is good for both indoor and outdoor cooking..... Irish weather style!

I used it over chicken pieces and then baked the chicken in the oven at 180C for 45 mins, uncovered for the last 20 mins.

It keeps well too, (covered) in the fridge if you double the recipe. My measurements are using a breakfast cup as a measure, but anything like a rem-kin dish etc could be used too.

### BBQ Sauce

Half cup vinegar, wine or cider or plain

Half cup water

One and half cups tomato ketchup

One and half cups honey

One tablespoon mustard powder

One tablespoon soy sauce

One tablespoon Worcester sauce or any brown sauce

2 teaspoons paprika ...*Smoked paprika is good too, it gives a lovely smokey flavour*

2 teaspoons salt

2 teaspoons black pepper

2 dashes of a hot pepper sauce. *You will hardly taste this, but if you like a bit more of a zing and heat add a teaspoon of cayenne or chilli powder.*

To add a citrus under note: add juice of an orange, lemon or lime. (or if you are stuck a tablesp of marmalade) Yum.

**Happy BBQing this summer!**

Ms Byrne

## STEM – Science Department

As a teacher, I initially found the opportunity to teach online a little daunting, but it quickly proceeded to become quite rewarding - for both my students and myself. I grew in confidence week after week by becoming more familiar with Microsoft Office365 and finding new online resources to share with students. I began by working with my whiteboard at home and uploading tutorial videos, and gradually I put more focus into Microsoft Teams - which is very much akin to a virtual classroom. Each of my classes operated through Teams, where I uploaded tutorial videos, homework assignments, notes and quizzes. I could also host live classes here, which allowed me to check in with students regarding their progress and this also enabled them to ask questions. Microsoft OneNote proved fantastic for my mathematics and science classes especially, as I could write out solutions to calculations in real-time. I believe that online learning has truly been embraced by both staff and students in Rosemont and we have all had the chance

to enhance our ICT skills. We are very lucky to have such dedicated staff and students who keep working hard and we wanted to finish the year in as normal a fashion as possible, in such unprecedented times. Mr Fitzpatrick

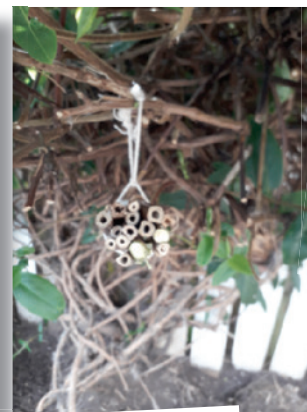
### Reel Life Science

As part of Chemistry and Biology the TY girls have been working on an initiative 'Reel Life Science' which is run by the National University of Galway. The girls had to create a short Science or STEM video at home within a number of categories such as Healing the Body, Climate Action, Science on the Farm, Science Heroes etc. We have had some fabulous videos such as 'The effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the environment', how Covid-19 tests work, The life of Stephen Hawking, Science of Ice cream etc.

All other classes have been working away, with great engagement and application.

Ms Nesbitt & Ms Carolan

### A selection of TY insect hotels Biology assignment for Earth day April 20th 2020





# Languages Department

## Gaeilge

Obair Scoile sa Bhaile

Dúnadh na scoileanna ar an 12ú lá de Mhárta agus ar an lá sin cuireadh tús le ré na teicneolaíochta i gceart ansin!

Saol nua agus difriúil a bhí ann do gach duine- tuismitheoirí ag obair sa bhaile agus ag tabhairt tacaíochta don scolaíocht sa bhaile. Daltaí scoile ag fanacht sa bhaile agus ag obair ar a bhfón póca. Múinteoirí ag múineadh ar Teams agus ag cabhrú lena bpáistí féin freisin! Leanamar ár gclár ama agus tar éis tamaill, bhí taithí againn ar an scolaíocht ar líne.

Caithfidh mé a rá gur éirigh thar barr le na cailíní leanacht ar aghaidh leis an bhfoghlaim sa Ghaeilge agus obair scoile a dhéanamh sa bhaile. Scríobh cúpla rang blaganna faoin saol nua ar líne. Chuir ranganna eile Taisceadán Todhchaí (Time Capsule) le chéile trí Ghaeilge. Bhí sé an-spéisiúil éisteacht le na rudaí iontacha a bhí ar siúl ag na cailíní agus iad ag fanacht sa bhaile. Tá dea-nósanna nua ag gach duine-daltaí amuigh ag rith ar maidin, ag am lóin nó tar eis scoile. Imríonn daltaí eile peil nó sacar sa ghairdín. Ceapaim go bhfuil gach duine ag cócaireacht beilí deasa anois agus go háirithe cácaí blasta! Tá téarmaí nua in úsáid againn anois ar nós *scaradh sóisialta*, *paindéim*, agus *ag fanacht sa bhaile*. Bhain mé taitneamh as na ranganna ar líne agus bhur scéalta a chloisteáil.

Braithim uaim an seomra ranga Gaeilge leis an radharc dochreidte. Ní fheicim an teach solais i mBinnÉadair nó na báid farantóireachta sa bhá nó an crann tógála in aice na scoile. Tá súil agam go mbeimid go léir ar ais ag obair le chéile i Rosemont arís.

Maith sibh as an obair dhian! Fanaigí slán agus bainigí sult as na laethanta saoire.

Ms Ní Bhrógáin

## Greetings from Rosemont's Modern Foreign Languages Department!

It has been a very different and interesting term for Rosemont's students of French and Spanish. Like second-level students all over Ireland, they have been working very hard from home and have been enjoying their learning in a very different environment. We have all been using Microsoft Teams to do our teaching and learning, and as teachers, we are proud of how well the Rosemont girls have engaged and taken ownership of their online learning. All kinds of learning activities have been taking place online, from reading our novel in 5<sup>th</sup> year Spanish, *Relato de un Naufrago*, by Gabriel García Márquez, to making videos in 3<sup>rd</sup> year on why learning languages is for everyone!

We were so glad in mid-March to see the safe return of our TY exchange group from Madrid! The girls had spent almost a month in Senara, and really enjoyed themselves with their host families, and attended school every day. We are very proud of how well the girls represented themselves, their families and Rosemont during their stay there, and are looking forward to having them all back in school again so they can tell next year's exchange group all about it in person. Another MFL event to look forward to will be the re-scheduled senior exchange to St. Dominique in Paris.

The MFL students and teachers had great fun working on the MFL video for our incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years. We've met lots of the girls through Sample Afternoons and Open Days, and put our heads together to come up with a snapshot of what it's like to learn French and Spanish in Rosemont. A big thank you to all of the Rosemont girls who took part in making it! We're thrilled to see that so many students are keen to try out both French and Spanish. We are looking forward to getting to know both classes of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years in September and to starting their language journey with them.

At this time of year, one event we all really enjoy as a school community is the School Awards Ceremony, where as teachers, we get to highlight the superb work of our MFL students. Highlighting student effort and achievement is important to all of Rosemont's teachers, so we are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to do so, when school re-opens in the autumn.

Last but not least, we want to say a very fond 'adiós' and 'au revoir' to Rosemont's Class of 2020. It's not our last goodbye, as we will be celebrating the girls' re-scheduled Graduation with them in the autumn as soon as we can. The girls showed true resilience and good humour in the face of the changed plans for Leaving Cert exams-real Rosemont girls! We've really enjoyed working with the girls in our French and Spanish classes, and for now, would like to wish them a very well-deserved rest over the summer.

We hope all our Rosemont families are staying safe and well and look forward to seeing everyone again soon in our beautiful school building. Wishing everyone a lovely summer.

Ms Collins & Ms O'Malley

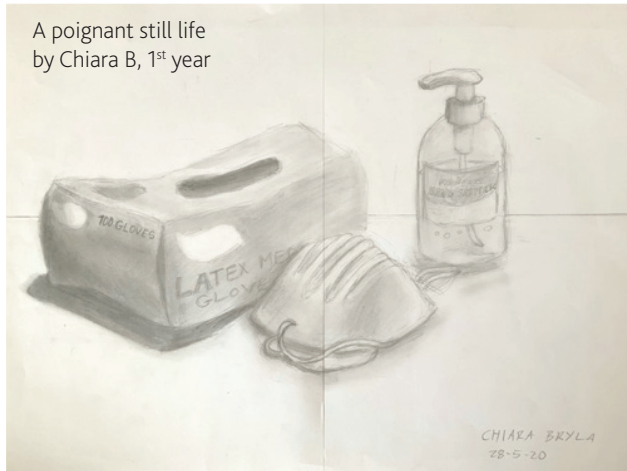


## ART

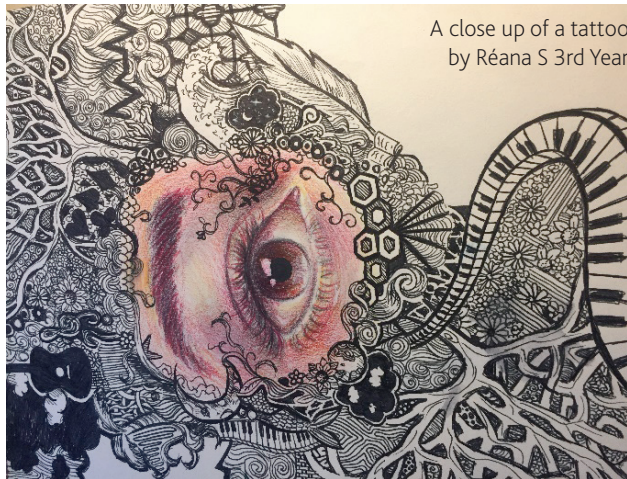
All of our Art students managed to work well from home and showed great discipline in their work. Although slightly limited by format the girls produced superb pieces in pencil, coloured pencil, paint and collage. For those wondering what to do over these lazy days, this is an ideal time to capture the vibrant colours of summer and get creative in your very own back gardens. Have a great summer and stay well.

Ms O'Connor

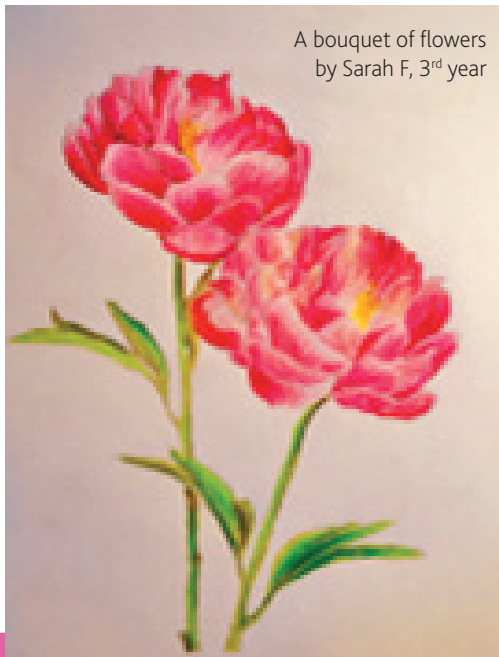
A poignant still life  
by Chiara B, 1<sup>st</sup> year



A close up of a tattoo  
by Réana S 3<sup>rd</sup> Year



A bouquet of flowers  
by Sarah F, 3<sup>rd</sup> year



Collage face  
by Eabha M, 1<sup>st</sup> year



## History

### *Additions To Fifth Year History!*

There has certainly been no drop off in 5<sup>th</sup> year attendance at the on-line history classes; in fact, we have had 2 new participants! Two of the 5<sup>th</sup> year Dads have begun an online presence for some of the Irish history topics. One of these eager adult students (Mr Pennington) even produced an essay on the topic of Irish neutrality which his daughter was completing. His arguments were compelling if at times leaning a little in one direction! Mr Farrell also added his contribution to the Anglo-Irish treaty debate. He, I think, needs a few classes!

I am sure the now almost 6<sup>th</sup> years would be quite happy to welcome these new students into class in September as long as they pass a completely unbiased exam.

On a serious note it has been very heartening to see the level of uptake and participation from all the classes during this difficult time. I am very proud of all the girls who have really thrown themselves into a very new situation!

Ms Farrell

## Business Department

Moving to online teaching has been a challenging but also very interesting experience. It has made us as teachers look at many new & innovative ways to deliver our content on a different platform. It has been a big learning curve for us also and we were always adapting to different developments. We found we missed seeing the girls in front of us in class & engaging with them as we normally would both inside & outside of the classroom. We are very proud of all the girls as they have engaged so well online & gave it their all. This experience has enhanced our learning as teachers & will influence our teaching going forward.

Ms Delaney

# SPORTS

## Netball Ireland League Success

It has been a busy year for Rosemont Netball Teams. In September 2019, our new first year students showed a huge interest in netball, many of the students had never played before but that did not deter them from learning a new sport. For the first time Rosemont entered two first year teams into the Netball Ireland League. Rosemont also had their minors (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> years) and seniors (TY & 5<sup>th</sup>) teams competing in the school's league. With such growth in the sport we were delighted to bring Katie Gerrard onboard as coach.

The teams competed against schools from Dublin, Drogheda and Carlow playing both home and away fixtures in the qualifying round. All four teams were successful in securing a place in the league semi-finals. However, as all our lives were turned upside down by the global pandemic, the schools closed, and the league came to a sudden end.

All schools involved in the league agreed to award the league based on results from the games played during the qualifying round. The 1<sup>st</sup> year teams had some tough opposition, both teams got fantastic results of 4<sup>th</sup> place and second place. The Minor and Senior teams had a fantastic match record with just one defeat this season making both teams winners of the league. Well done girls.

Ms Mercer



## Words from our Netball Coach

Growing up in the UK, I was introduced to Netball from a young age in primary school and eventually began going to my older sister's training sessions. Ever since, I have acquired a continually growing passion for the sport. Netball is a sport that requires discipline, skill, and great sportsmanship from all team players. There is not one single type of Netball player, every player brings a new and different attribute and level of skill to the game. Similarly, every game of Netball is completely different, containing different obstacles and challenges within. Its fast-paced and highly competitive nature is something that I have always been drawn to.

Coaching the senior teams at Rosemont this year has been equally challenging and enjoyably in abundance. When I look back to my first training session with the girls,

all I can think of is how they all entered the hall in groups, wide-eyed, silent and nervous to meet their new coach (which is hilarious to me now, because I now know how charismatic and vibrant they all are). Nonetheless, we all began to find our feet and played some Netball. The senior group consisted of a wide range of skill levels, from new players to players who were already trailing for their spot on the Irish international squad- this only made training even more fun! The challenge of having to explain the fundamental principles of 'foot-work' to some players and then turning around to other players asking about the specificities of a complex rule, was a phenomenal learning experience for both the team and myself as a coach.

The league this year was so much fun. Watching the girls grow individually as players and as a team together, week-in and week-out, is something that I have thoroughly enjoyed. The girls were eager

to represent their school to the best of their ability, which inevitably led them to become practically undefeatable in league matches. Every game I watched them overcome new challenges against their opponents and become stronger and more confident as a team. They began to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses and used it to their advantage. So, when the time came that I learned that both senior teams had won the league, I was certainly not surprised.

Winning this year's school leagues is not only a testament to the skill that the senior teams have shown throughout the year, but also to their constant want to better themselves as players for their school and team. They are an example that it is not winning that is the most important outcome of a game, but what you learn throughout the game that matters most.

Ms Gerrard







## Transitioning to Secondary School – My thoughts on 1st year

On the first day of school, coming up in the car with my mum, I remember feeling very nervous, almost hoping that my mum would just turn the car around and we could go home, but of course she didn't do that because she obviously knew what was best for me more than I did...

When we drove up to the school, I was nervous but glad to have someone I knew with me as I didn't know anyone going to Rosemont. Going in I saw people getting their locker numbers and meeting back up with their friends. I wondered why they were so happy because I mean it's the first day of school... how happy can you be? But they must've been happy to see each other again which I understand. I know I couldn't wait to meet up with my best friend when school was over since I hadn't seen her in a week!

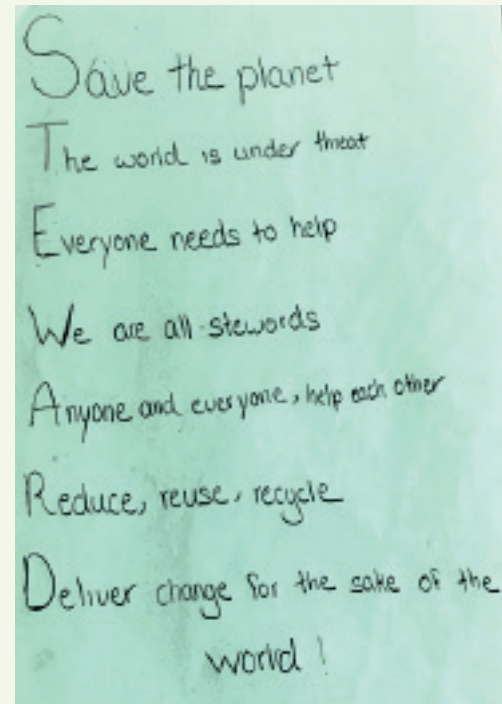
After the initial welcome me and my mum went up to find my locker and after that she left. When she left, I did feel sad because, for the first time in a while I felt lonely, not because I didn't know anyone there but just because we had spent all summer together! I know it makes me sound like a baby but I really did miss her, and all of my friends from primary and I still do miss them but I keep in contact with them so I know they're always there. That week, just like any other teenager (or person) I always looked forward to lunch, one because the food was surprisingly nicer than its portrayed in movies and two because the lunch ladies were so nice to everyone, especially the shy first years, they even learnt a lot of people's names!

Looking back now on the school year from lockdown, I had no idea that in just a few months, a world-wide pandemic would lead to online school and a limit to how far away we could travel from our own homes. Putting everything from first year in perspective, I realise that I was worrying about small things that didn't really matter like if my locker was open or if I had written enough sentences for homework. During this pandemic, I've come to terms with the fact that, it's ok to just be myself and that I can't change things that aren't in my control. I've also found that going into a new school not knowing anyone can be tough, but it taught me to be independent and made me appreciate how important my friends are. I have a feeling that if I had gone in knowing someone, I might not have tried all the things I did (inside and outside of school) and learnt that it's okay to enjoy my own company just as much as it is to enjoy someone else's. Rosemont being a friendly school with nice teachers made the move from Primary to Secondary school a lot easier.

From being in lockdown, I've had time to look back over everything new I did in 1st year. I joined the ukulele club, I went on a literary tour of Dublin, we (the first years) went into town to deliver toys to the homeless in the Capuchin Centre, I've started learning new subjects and I've met so many new people!

I'm not as nervous going back in September now that I know my way around the school and I know the people!

Alice W, 1<sup>st</sup> year



## Education for Life

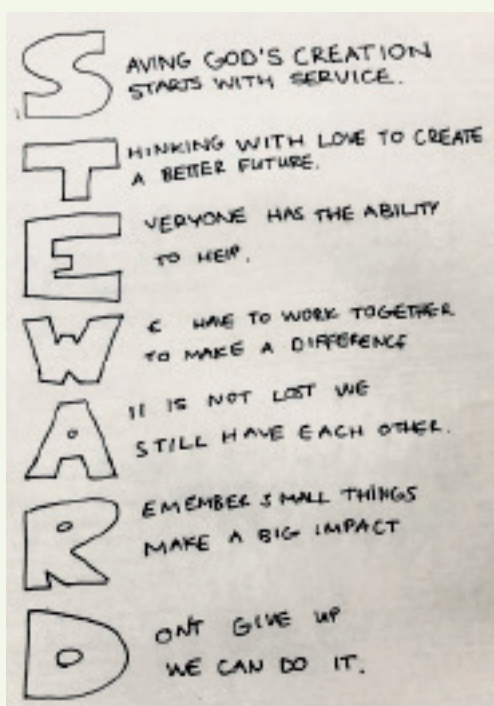
### Religion and Ethos

We celebrated Catholic School's Week during the month of February. This year's topic was **"Living in Harmony with God's Creation"**. All girls studied the responsibility we all have by living in harmony with God, our neighbours and our Earth. The girls had the chance to interact with nature around our school, attend Adoration in the chapel, and create posters to call attention to the misuse of a priceless resource: water.

As a final activity, the students created posters to show how they see themselves being good stewards of creation. They showed their poetic and artistic veins writing acrostic poems to summarize their thoughts and ideas.

### Ethos

At Rosemont we always feel a strong sense of community. You can experience this every day in the corridors of our beautiful



## The Prefects' Note

Many people would agree with us when we say that online school has not been easy. From the constant distractions of home life to the stream of work to keep on top of, homeschooling was not the fun "walk in the park" that we were expecting. However, we do think as a year we have managed to make the best of an unexpected scenario and maintained some sense of normalcy in our lives.

It is an understatement to say that there have been big changes to our school day. From extra sleep that still does not seem to be enough in the mornings, to rummaging through the fridge for lunch, it's safe to say that a lot of the structure school provides in our lives has been stripped away. Nonetheless we've all still been doing our very best to keep on top of both classwork and homework, and we should all be proud of ourselves. School at home has been tough for a lot of us, but we survived.

By using Microsoft Teams, we have been able to make a smooth transition from classroom learning to online learning. Microsoft Teams allows us to follow our usual school timetable as closely as possible. We can have live online classes during the day and contact our teachers if we have troubles with any work. Through Microsoft Teams, teachers are able to set assignments for us which help us to keep on top of our work and send us feedback on our projects, just like in school. Through the app, we also have access to PowerPoint and resources we use in class which makes learning at home much easier. Teams also allows us to hold video calls and phone calls which helps us to keep improving our oral learning in subjects such as Spanish, French, and Irish.

Such a drastic change to our learning environment is not the easiest thing to adjust to by any means. It took us a while to completely settle into a new learning routine but having the online classes the same time as our normal school schedule made it easier. Having this routine is comforting as it keeps us busy with schoolwork so that we stay as productive as we are in actual school. It's the same hours we normally operate in so we can still have downtime to take a break from all the work and just relax. It does take a while adjusting, but once it becomes a daily routine the days flow much better and we can cope with this new situation much easier.

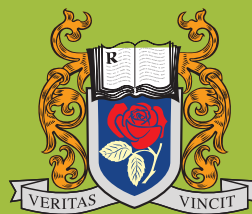
Online school has given us an amazing opportunity to learn new skills. The most obvious is technology skills, it was tricky in the beginning but eventually we managed to get things running smoothly. Adaptability is another thing that we have learned it has been hard to get used to the new "normal," but we have learned to change things up and managed to become comfortable with not knowing when this will all be over. It is important to look at this time as a time of opportunity and learning in order to make the best out of a difficult situation.

One of the main differences between online and traditional school has been the absence of our friends and classmates. Although maybe for the better, the chatter that is usually associated with a lively class has all but disappeared. This means many of us have had to find alternate methods of having the daily "catch-up" with friends. Zoom and Microsoft Teams have been great resources for an evening video call, while the trusted Snapchat, Instagram and Tiktok are keeping us in contact throughout the day. Maintaining a social life has been difficult especially when spending the day in bed, watching Netflix and speaking to no one, is a possible way to pass the time. But, somehow most of us have managed to resist temptation and remain functioning members of society throughout these difficult times.

In quarantine, there has been so much extra time for us to spend in the house. This, although challenging, led to us becoming more creative with our time and to build new skills. Being more health conscious, making healthy lunches and baking more. Being helpful at home, making dinner for the family and in turn learning new cooking skills. Many of us become much more interested in keeping active; trying home workouts, going on runs and more. With online classes we have all built new technology skills. A big part of doing virtual classes is learning to work independently. In short, many of us have been productive and learned new things whilst also enjoying the freedom and lie-ins that come with home school life. Although we are looking forward to seeing friends and getting back into the normal routine, summer will provide a much-needed break for us all.

Lucy H, Rachel D, Ruth A, Ellen M, Tess B, Sarah J,

Ms Reisz



## Alumnae News

**Frontline Work** - I myself was pulled from placement due to the pandemic as I am a student nurse. I had only a small amount of college work and assignments to be submitted so I volunteered to go on the front line as a health care assistant and have been working in Tallaght hospital for the past 7 weeks. It's been a busy few weeks but I am delighted, because of what I chose to study, I was able to offer my help and Tallaght have looked after me so well! Fortunately for me I have gotten to see my friends as I work alongside them, so that has been a huge help in keeping the spirits up through the hard times! I'm 100% more excited now to qualify next year and would love to travel and experience everything Nursing has to offer! Tallaght has been an eye opener. I've been working on both Covid and Non-Covid wards, both as equally busy as each other. I did 4 nights in a row last week and will be back to the madness next week! I hope everyone in Rosemont past and present are staying safe

Sophie Brennan, Class of 2017

## Rosemont International

### Finding the Good in these Strange Times

Like all students right now, the international students at Rosemont School have been facing the challenges of online learning, staying at home and staying positive.

#### The importance of family

*"For me personally, being in Ireland was something indescribable. And now that I'm back in Vienna and staying home while one of my dreams passes me by is not as easy as you may think. However, my family are here for me, putting a smile on my face every day."*

Helena Magdic, Austria.

#### Using this experience as a chance to improve, grow and gain more responsibility

*"It makes us more responsible for our work when we know we can't depend on anyone else."*

Anatolia Demian, France.

#### Helping others

*"Even though I am sad I couldn't finish my year in Ireland I understand that this is a serious situation and that I should do my part to help. I haven't seen my grandparents and I plan to stay at home until everything gets better."*

Carmina Laborde, Mexico.

#### Teachers and online classes

*"I really appreciate my teachers who truly help each one of us."*

Julia García, Spain.

## Note from the Head and Deputy Head Girls

It's so hard to believe that we have reached the end of the year already! The last few weeks have flown by; and even though at times it seemed like we would never make it we have almost reached the summer holidays.

Throughout the past weeks, it's unbelievable how quickly we have all adapted to our "new normal". Three months ago we couldn't have imagined what it would be like to experience online learning at home and all that it would entail. It is safe to say that most of us have become a lot more comfortable working online with whatever devices we have and have had the opportunity to develop our digital skills even further. Thanks to the school timetable continuing as normal, it has been much easier to follow a daily schedule. As summer exams come around, we know it can be harder to sit them at home rather than in school. It is very important to remember that all we can do is try our hardest and to do the best we can in the current situation.

Apart from all the studying, we have all had some extra time on our hands (the majority of which has been spent baking!) and it has been really nice to be able to catch up together via Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Now that the summer holidays are right around the corner, we will all have the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine and maybe even take up some new hobbies! We encourage you to make the most of the weather, going for walks or exercising within our guidelines.

On behalf of everyone, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the teachers for the amount of time and effort they have put in throughout the last weeks to make online learning a smooth and easy experience for all of us. Whether it's been hosting live classes or sending personal messages to help us along, we are all so grateful for all the help you have given us during our new schooling experience.

We would like to say congratulations to all the 3rd and 6th years for all the hard work they have put in during the year and over the lockdown period. Even though the year hasn't ended as planned, we know all of the work you have done will pay off and we wish you the best of luck with your results. We can't wait to see all the 6th years back in school next year for their graduation.

Looking back, this school year will be one we and the teachers will never forget. Although our current restrictions have posed problems, it is comforting to know that everyone in Rosemont has been able to pull together to support each other every day and make the most of the past few weeks. We hope you all have a fun and restful summer and are looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sofia P & Saidhbh F, Rosemont Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl