



OATLANDS COLLEGE – Parents Council

June 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Oatlands College Parents Council wish you and your families a great Summer and thank you most sincerely for all of your support throughout the school year 2016/17.

We have certainly had a busy year of activities, events and fundraising:-

Our year started with a welcome coffee morning for parents of new students to the school. We also welcomed back our Graduation Class of 2016, for a pre-Debs reception, always a favourite on our calendar. It is so lovely to see the boys and their partners all dressed up for the occasion.

Dr. Harry Barry was our guest speaker at our Parents Council AGM and he gave a wonderful talk “Anxiety & the Screenager”. Dr. Harry Barry has posted some of the content and videos from his talks on www.youtube.com - definitely worth checking out.

Our Christmas Fair is certainly one of the highlights of our year. It has grown to be an event that is also supported and attended by the wider local community. We are very thankful for all the additional helping hands we have from volunteer parents who sweep into action for what is a very busy weekend. In addition to raising significant funds for the School Development Fund we made donations / contributions to a number of charities including Vincent De Paul, The Womens Refuge, The Simon Community, Barnardos and The Hope Foundation.

This year’s school musical, in conjunction with Sion Hill, was “South Pacific”. This was yet another fantastic production and a huge success, receiving accolades from many other schools and colleges. Involving a cast of 160 boys and girls it is a huge team effort from the school and the Parents Council to get the show stage ready with make-up and costumes each evening. A definite highlight for the Transition Year Students, we are very proud to be part of this experience.

This was our third year hosting our “Battle of The Bands “Competition. This year we had entrants who travelled from as far as Ashbourne, Co. Meath to participate. Winners “Atticus” received €500.00 and will be invited back to entertain us at Battle of the Bands 2018. We are delighted to confirm that the Oatlands College Battle of the Bands Competition is now a fixture on many other Schools Musical Department’s Calendars.

Thanks to a generous benefactor we received a donation of a number of top tier tickets to some very high profile concerts and events – *Cirque Du Soleil, Jack Whitehall, Take That, Aerosmith and Cold Play*. We ran a series of Limited Draws/Raffles amongst the school parents, students and staff – with all proceeds going to the school development fund. Congratulations to all our winners.

Our twice-yearly Bag2School initiative not only allows for declutter and recycling but also raises funds for the school and the Laura Lynn Foundation. So please think of us when you are next sorting through wardrobes and whilst our event is usually October and May each year, we are happy to take bags of donations at other times.

As a Parents Council we are often asked to spend time in review of school policies / department of education initiatives. This year a team of us worked on feedback around proposals from the Minister of Education to develop a “School & Parent Charter”. We were also invited to participate in learning more about ERST (Edmund Rice School Trust) Charter.

Our final events of the year are particularly special ones as we say goodbye to the sixth year boys. Following the ceremonial occasion of Graduation Night, school finishes early the next day and we host a BBQ for the graduating class and teachers. This as always was well received, and was undoubtedly a much welcomed break from study and the exams.



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We are very pleased to confirm that together with your support we have raised €16,089 for Oatlands College Development Fund. This is a fantastic achievement. Whilst we will share details of our financial statements at our next AGM, we have broken down a high level summary of our fundraising as follows:-

Summary Oatlands College Parents Council Financials 2016/17

Event	Amount €
Book & Uniform Sale June'16	1,586
Christmas Fair	11,913
Limited Raffle Concert Tickets x 5 Events	1,202
Bag2School (<i>additional 10% to Laura Lynn</i>)	978
Battle of the Bands	410
<i>* Musical Raffle(s) & Tuck Shop</i>	<i>* 3,786</i>
<i>* monies raised for musical production costs</i>	

As you know these funds are directed to continuous updating and refurbishing of our school and its facilities. This year Oatlands College have renovated the Art Room and next hope to renovate the Home Economics room. There has also been an investment in new classroom furniture. The painting and decorating continues and the Canteen area will be done next. The school are continuously upgrading IT equipment and are currently developing a new website. Any surplus from funds raised will be reserved for the fit-out of new building works, which are currently pending negotiation with the Department of Education. We will hear more about this exciting project in the coming months.

All of the above would not be possible without the support and team effort of our Parents Council, our volunteers and the parents and students of Oatlands College. Thank you all most sincerely.

Looking forward, our next event is our Second Hand Uniform and Book Sale, which will take place on Thursday 22nd June (please see flyer for further details).

Another date for your diary is our Parents Council AGM, which will take place on Tuesday 3rd October. We are delighted to announce that this years guest speaker will be Sheila O'Malley, one of Irelands leading parenting experts (www.practicalparenting.ie). Further details will follow at the beginning of the new school term.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thanks and goodbye to the members of the Parents Council who are stepping down this year – Sharon Kelly, Clare Pluck, Thelma Lane, Ashlyn Casey and Alison Leahy. We will be challenged to fill your shoes ! We all wish you and your sons the very best in the next chapter.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,

The Oatlands College Parents Council

Chairperson Marie Kilmartin; Secretary Sharon Gleeson; Treasurer Katherine Looby