



AUTUMN / WINTER NEWSLETTER  
2021

# Holy Faith Clontarf Parents' Association

*Our mission is to build a community to support our daughters.*

## Parents' Association up and coming meetings

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Tuesday, February 01, 2022

Wednesday, March 02, 2022

Tuesday, April 05, 2022

Wednesday, May 04, 2022



## DID YOU KNOW?

Holy Faith Clontarf has 648 pupils, 45 teaching staff, 3 admin staff, 1 caretaker, 5 ancillary staff and 5 sport coaches.

Welcome to the Autumn / Winter Term Newsletter 2021 and a special welcome to all who are new Holy Faith Clontarf Parents. 110 girls joined the school in first year and 80 students are the first in this generation of their family to start in Holy Faith Clontarf.

The 2020/2021 School Year was extremely challenging for everyone with the introduction of online teaching, social distancing, reduced numbers in classrooms, streaming classes in the Halla, ventilation requirements, sanitizing surfaces, the cancellation of outings, trips and experiences and schools closed for the entire Spring term. We are grateful to Ms Gogarty and her team of teachers for all they did to keep the girls safe and well in mind and body during the last year – the walks, the breaks, the corridor patrols, the reminders to maintain social distancing where possible and so much more.

We were all very happy to have the girls back to school last September, getting on with class work, back to sports and after school activities and most of all feeling the joy and energy of being among friends again. We have all learned that school benefits society in many ways, far beyond the transfer of information to the next generation.

The Parents' Association has continued to meet online each month, except for October when we met in Clontarf Castle to elect our new officer team. I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of our outgoing chairperson Julie Way and secretary Louise McKenna who both gave many years of service to the PA and led many innovations including online careers talks and our Annual Parents Lunch. They moved us seamlessly to online meetings when Government restrictions meant we could not meet in person in the school. Thanks too to Elaine Feeny who helped with our online communications and newsletters for 2020/2021.

I welcome Trish Birch as our new secretary and Jennifer Rothwell as our new Communications Officer. Clarissa Bryans remains on as treasurer, and I have switched from Vice Chair to Chairperson. Our new Vice Chairperson is Kara Cullen.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our monthly meetings and at as many activities as we can organise within government guidelines in the coming year. Until then we wish you and your families a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Máire Ní Chléirigh  
Chairperson.

## TY Christmas Fair

Well done to the TY students on their very successful Christmas Fair. Thank you to the Business Studies teachers for coordinating the event with the mini companies and to the students and staff who supported it.



## Holy Faith Annual Lunch

Happy guests Fiona Walsh, Niamh Creighton and Elena Smyth enjoying a complimentary glass of prosecco on arrival at St. Annes.



Some of us stayed long past the sunset, enjoying the chance to catch up with friends, the gorgeous views and great service provided by the restaurant and bar team in the lovely St. Annes Golf Club.



Cara Ahern, Coleen Savage, Elaine Herbert, Louise McKenna and Máire Ní Chléirigh who along with Clarissa Bryans, Kara Cullen, Elaine Feeney and Julie Way made up the team of parents who organized the event.



Our wonderful guest speaker Fiona Coghlan who entertained and educated us with tales of her time as a student in Holy Faith Clontarf and University of Limerick and told us about rising to the challenges of playing women's rugby at college, provincial and international levels. We are fortunate to have such a great role model teaching our daughters maths and PE in the school. Fiona is wearing a silk scarf gifted by Jennifer Rothwell.



## School Development Plan

Following a consultation process the school's Board of Management has applied for funding to the Department of Education to provide additional accommodation for the school. The additional space will be for specific purposes such as labs, music room, art room, etc. as well as some 'multifunctional spaces'. It is hoped that additional spaces like these will enable the school to reconfigure existing rooms to provide some bigger classrooms. This is in order to better meet the learning needs of students rather than to cater for bigger class numbers. It will likely be the summer of 2023 before works commence. This improvement to the building will be a great way to mark the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

## Upcoming events

Getting involved in helping at these events is a great way to learn about the activities of the Parents Association and to be part of the school community, to meet other parents, and have some fun while supporting your daughters' educational experiences. Other events we hope we will be able to be involved with include the TY Show, the 6th year graduation and some careers events...all to be confirmed in line with government restrictions on gatherings and visitors on school premises.

## FIRST YEAR PARENTS' SOCIAL EVENT

This event is normally held in the first term in the school hall. It's an opportunity to get to know the parents of your daughters' new classmates. We hoped that government restrictions would be relaxed in October and that we would be able to access the school hall again. This has not happened, so we are seeking a suitable venue in the parish to host a gathering for the parents of this year's First Year classes. We hope to have a date and venue early in the new year, subject to public health guidelines. We will also host an evening for second year parents as we are mindful that you did not get to meet as usual last year.

## DEBS RECEPTION

The Class of 2021 are hoping to have a Debs Ball in February 2022. As is traditional the Parents' Association hope to host a reception for the girls, their parents and a guest on the evening of their Debs Ball. We have provisionally booked a venue, as this is another event which could be held in the school hall in previous years. Date and details to be confirmed following consultation with the girls.

## ANNUAL TABLE QUIZ

We have reserved the Great Hall in Clontarf Castle for our annual table quiz on Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This will be our main fundraiser for the year as usual. We will need a team of volunteers to assist with canvassing local businesses for sponsorship, beginning in the new year. The more helpers we have the lighter the load on everyone. Please email the Parents' Association at [paholyfaithclontarf@outlook.ie](mailto:paholyfaithclontarf@outlook.ie) if you can give us a few hours of your time either with raising the sponsorship or with the running of the event on the night. Join our online meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> to learn more about how you can help. The link will be posted as usual via the school App before the meeting. We have an experienced team of parents who help to run this event, but new recruits bring energy and ideas and are most welcome.

## PA Executive Members

20/21

Chair: Máire Ní Chléirigh

Vice Chair: Kara Cullen

Secretary: Trish Birch

Treasurer: Clarissa Bryans

Communications: Jennifer

Rothwell

Share your ideas, your knowledge,  
or your expertise.  
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## Dates for your Diary

- January 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Online PA meeting
- February 01<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Online PA meeting
- February 2022 – The Class of 2021 Debs Ball
- March 02<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Online PA meeting
- March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Table quiz
- April 05<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Online PA meeting

