



WINTER 2023 VOLUME 16 NO. 1

Flame



Pursuing excellence

Table of contents

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | Principal's message | 12 | Pursuing excellence through analysis |
| 4 | Class of 2022 excel | 13 | Achieving excellence |
| 6 | Student Leaders | 14 | Alumnae profiles |
| 8 | Celebrating Sacred Heart of Jesus Day | 16 | Shared stories across the decades |
| 10 | Excellence on stage | 18 | News in brief |

Reflections: A history of excellence



Our pursuit of excellence is a theme that has been echoed throughout the eight and a half decades of the College's history, illustrated through the achievements of students, the evolution of the curriculum as our world changed and the investment in facilities to support quality education.

One of the ways we've seen this come to the fore is how we have embraced technological change and incorporated technology into all aspects of College life, inside and out of the classroom. In 1999 a new computer laboratory was set up at the College, supporting student learning in animation and multimedia. The College invested in colour printers and a digital camera and a network was established to provide connection to the internet.

Staff completed professional development to enhance their technological skills and in-house training was provided to introduce digital school reports. Technology has moved significantly since then, to the point that we were able to shift to remote learning very quickly when faced with the challenges of the pandemic in 2020.

We're grateful to those who demonstrated excellence in the early years and paved the way for the adoption of technology that sees laptops in every class, a Digital Technology subject and access to a vast range of digital resources.

Editor's message

We talk about excellence frequently at OLSH College – academic excellence, excellence in leadership, excellence on the sporting field or performance stage and excellence in how we approach the day-to-day activities and relationships we engage in. Having excellence at the forefront of all that we do reminds us to always give our best and strive to do better, and it sets an example for others to observe and follow.

At OLSH College, we take the time to celebrate excellence and recognise those who pursue and achieve excellence publicly. In this edition of *Flame*, we celebrate alumnae who are achieving excellence in their field, our most recent graduates who are pursuing new pathways outside of the College and our current students who continue to demonstrate excellence in leadership, in the classroom and as they represent the College in their fields of interest.

Cath Ewart
*Director of Development and
Community Relations*

Principal's message

Over the past 20 or so years the consistent catchphrase of many schools has been the priority of seeking excellence in all we do. Excellence in learning, excellence in teaching, excellent results, excellent co-curricular opportunities – the list is most likely endless. The movement to articulate excellence in all areas as a priority for schools resulted in mission statements, strategic plans, goal setting and other whole-school publications ensuring that it was written down for all the community to see, hear and experience. The effect of this approach being endorsed and actioned from national, state and local education systems has been far reaching.

Continuous improvement in delivery of education is the cornerstone of what we seek for each student. At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Bentleigh this journey of seeking excellence and always striving to improve ensures that the students in our care are being encouraged and sometimes even pushed along to know deeply that they are always capable of taking the 'excellence journey.'

One of the challenges in this approach is that as human beings we have a tendency to place limits on our definition of excellence – often excellence is aligned to perfection. What we need to remember is that every journey towards excellence must include travelling through life not being perfect. We must encounter challenges, mistakes, failures, re-learning and repeat practice as part of our walking the pathway to excellence. It is these very experiences along the 'excellence journey' that become the driving force for our achievements and successes.

Ultimately, we then marvel at the diversity of gifts, at every level and in every arena possible. There are no limits to classifications of 'excellence' or to when and where it may occur. When this comes together it is in truth that we can collectively acclaim at *OLSH College Bentleigh*, we are *Heart people who pursue excellence*.

*Regnet Christus
May Christ Reign*

Anne O'Loughlin
Principal

God's gift is not the spirit of timidity but the Spirit of power and love. I can do all things in God who strengthens me.

Jules Chevalier Le Sacre-Couer



Class of 2022 excel

We were thrilled for our Class of 2022 when they received their VCE results, the culmination of many hours and years of work to take them on the pathway to life outside of OLSH College.

Our College Dux with an ATAR of 97.50 was College Captain Emily Collins. "When I received the call to say that I was the College DUX, I knew that it was time to celebrate, to rest and reflect on a special part of my life; a journey that has shaped who I am today," said Emily.

We had 11 students (14.5 per cent of the cohort) with an ATAR above 90 and 43 per cent of the Class of 2022 receive an ATAR above 80. Two students achieved a perfect study score of 50 for Food Technology (Amelie Afxentis) and Further Mathematics (Holly Watters, Year 10).

Eighty-seven per cent of these students are going on to tertiary education, with 79 per cent receiving a place at a university and eight per cent receiving a place at a TAFE.

We caught up with a couple of students from the Class of 2022 to hear how they are finding life six months on from their final days at OLSH.

Emily Collins

I'm completing my first year of Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) at Monash University. While university has been quite a significant part of my life in the past 6 months, I've also taken the time to focus on the sport I love. I started 2023 working at the Australian Open as part of the Court Services Team, working on court and behind the scenes with an incredible group of people. I suppose my studies have very much highlighted the importance of recovery, and so I'm also competing in tennis again at a high club level.

At university, I'm enjoying the beautiful people you meet and the learning experiences you share with others that bring your learning to an entirely new level. Although the abundance of resources is difficult to manage at first, you soon realise the value of understanding different techniques, perspectives, evidence and research that supports the studies of your course. I have found that university is a place of curiosity; it's a special time in your life to be curious about yourself and the path you choose to take.

The transition from secondary school to university is perhaps one of the most rewarding and reflective experiences I've encountered on my journey. Although it is no doubt exciting to meet so many new people, it can also be a scary thought to start fresh on your own. I think the most important thing you need to remind yourself – on any occasion that you are starting something new – is to be patient with yourself. I've also found that trusting myself and taking opportunities as they come is something that has helped me to truly embrace my journey. From my experience, I would much rather take the chance and learn than trouble my mind with the thought of what could have happened had I taken that opportunity or asked that question.

At the moment I'm loving every department of Physiotherapy, so I don't think I can choose a specific path from here just yet. Although, paediatrics, sports physiotherapy and private practice have interested me so far. Competing in State Grade for Tennis Victoria is also one of my goals at the end of my studies. I would also very much like to travel overseas to visit my family in Sicily and Ireland.

Millie Brown

I am studying a Full Time Musical Theatre course in East Brunswick called Showfit. We train seven hours a day, five days a week in singing, acting and dancing.

I am loving training professionally for what I am passionate and care deeply about. As much as I enjoyed the scope of education I received at high school, it is very rewarding knowing that I am spending my time and investing in a career that I truly love. It makes the hours, exhaustion and work enjoyable as I know there is nothing I would rather be doing.

I am lucky in the way that the structure of my course is very similar to that I had whilst at high school. However I wasn't prepared for the physical and especially social and emotional exhaustion that comes with training very closely with a small group of people, whilst juggling work and other aspects of my life. My routine has become even more important to me to ensure I am resting, eating well and still having fun. Taking time to myself and learning to prioritise rest has been the most helpful aspect within this transition.

I hope to follow my course with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre and professional theatre work in Australia. I would also love to take a year off to travel!



"I knew that it was time to celebrate, to rest and reflect on a special part of my life; a journey that has shaped who I am today"



Caption Principal's Award recipients Cateilin Wiley and Georgia Vaughan; Emily Collins with parents and Principal Anne O'Loughlin; Perfect Study Scores achieved by Amelie Afxentis and Holly Watters; Principal Ms Anne O'Loughlin with Millie Brown

Student leaders

We're fortunate to have a wonderful Student Executive team again this year and they have been busy leading activities across the College and representing the student cohort.

Most weeks, there are activities that take up their time including presenting at assemblies and events such as Open Mornings, preparing content for the newsletter and their social media profile, attending leadership meetings and working with the rest of the student leadership team on big events such as our Performing Arts Spectacular. Each one of them has their own interest and involvement in co-curricular activities, such as performing

arts and sport, and on top of this, they continue to strive for excellence in their final year of secondary studies. They really do live our OLSH pillars and are exemplars to their fellow students across all year levels.

As they head into their final term at the College, we asked the four leaders to share with us a few insights about their time here and their aspirations.



Halle Schroor
College Captain

Favourite subjects:

Specialist Maths and Drama

Favourite OLSH memory:

My favourite OLSH memory is rehearsing and performing in the 2022 Production, *High School Musical*. It was such a great experience which allowed me to meet students in other year levels with similar interests to me.

Describe OLSH in three words:

Welcoming, supportive and friendly.

Career aspiration:

I am not set on a specific career yet but I am interested in teaching or engineering.

What has your leadership role taught you:

My role has helped me learn that great leadership is creating a space where others feel that they are able to share their own ideas and be themselves.



Terri Woung
College Vice Captain

Favourite subjects:

Visual Communication Design and Chinese Language, Culture and Society.

Favourite OLSH memory:

I really loved Year 11 camp because I was able to spend time with my friends, and the activities we did allowed our year level to become closer and gave us a glimpse of what Year 12 would be like.

Describe OLSH in three words:

Loving, friendly and supportive.

Career aspiration:

At the moment, I don't have anything specific in mind, but I would like to have a career in both design and engineering.

What has your leadership role taught you:

My role has taught me that leadership isn't always about being the loudest person, it's about using your skills to efficiently collaborate and cooperate with a team that has similar goals.



Lily Hughes
Senior Prefect

Favourite subjects:

Psychology because I am able to straight away apply what I learn in class to the world around me, which helps me understand people better and helps make learning the content easier.

Favourite OLSH memory:

Over the years at OLSH, I've had a fantastic homeroom group. They never failed to put a smile on my face, and we supported and understood each other. It was a place where you never felt judged but loved and respected, regardless of what year you were in.

Describe OLSH in three words:

Warm, nurturing and faith-filled.

Career aspiration:

To study nursing and paramedicine with the goal of becoming a paramedic.

What has your leadership role taught you:

You don't have to do it all on your own, people are around you to support you and that as a leader it is okay to delegate and ask for help.



Aria Pisano
Senior Prefect

Favourite subjects:

Music and Drama

Favourite OLSH memory:

Going on Year 12 retreat in NSW – I had such an amazing time bonding with my existing friends and becoming closer with others in my grade. And of course, the gorgeous Hartzer Park grounds and summer in Sydney made for a very enjoyable week!

Describe OLSH in three words:

Inviting, accepting and nurturing

Career aspiration:

I'd love to become a musician! Otherwise, definitely a job where I can perform on stage.

What has your leadership role taught you:

This role has taught me that leadership is not just about the big events and massive initiatives, but about the little actions too – greeting people in the hallway, making connections, hearing student voices, and helping others stand up for themselves and their ideas.

Celebrating Sacred Heart of Jesus Day

In May, we joined together with parents, guests and friends to celebrate our shared faith for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This very special day started with a Mass of spirit and joy as we celebrated the great love of Jesus' heart for each and every one of us, and through us, for all of humanity and creation. Led by Fr. Mark Hanns msc, we began the eucharist recognising National Sorry day, and then lifted our voices in song and remembered those in need through the prayers of intercession prayed in so many languages represented at the College.

During the offertory procession, our students brought forward blankets and jackets for St Vincent De Paul's Winter Appeal. The contributions were very gratefully received and filled three vehicles.

We shared a BBQ lunch together in between House rehearsals for the long-awaited Performing Arts Spectacular House Competition. This year's theme was 'Around the World, featuring a cartoon character'. Each house had to create a mini-musical about a particular country and cartoon character. All Houses did a fantastic job, led by their amazing Year 12 House Captains. Congratulations to the Champion House for the 2023 PAS Bandstand Competition – Hartzler.



Following the House Competition, we were treated to a number of spectacular performances from students in our 'OLSH's Got Talent' competition. We would like to congratulate all who auditioned and took part, and well done to our top three performances.

1st Place: Aria Pisano, Ava Ronchi, Halle Schroor, Georgia Tiskelidis

2nd Place: Sarina Azad

3rd Place: Roma Narayan

Thank you also to our two judges – Colleen and Jemma – who had a difficult job selecting winners from an array of talent and who provided great feedback to the students. Well done to Isabel Stewart, our Performing Arts Captain for hosting the afternoon.



The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was a wonderful celebration of faith, outreach and the sharing of our artistic talents.

Excellence on stage

Many of these activities were student led, which gave them the opportunity to express their creativity and develop the skills to convey their ideas and take a performance from idea to fruition.

We've had two lunchtime concerts, performances at assemblies, the choir and band playing at our masses and the House Performing Arts Spectacular which involved every student in the College on stage, preparing sets and costumes, playing music and creating scripts.

Two of the highlights this semester have been our production of *School of Rock*, presented in partnership with De La Salle College and the VCE Drama and Music performances.

The first half of this year has been full of opportunities for our performing arts students to create, choreograph, rehearse and present performances that display their varied and inspiring talents.

Rocking the house down

Following the announcement of the cast late last year, our students began rehearsing with De La Salle College to create a high-energy, polished presentation of the *School of Rock*. There were many hours of blocking scenes, learning lines, developing choreography and rehearsing the show numbers with the student band.

As well as the on-stage cast, the show was supported by a student crew of set makers and stagehands, wardrobe and make up artists and tech support.

Zoe D'Alessandro who played Summer Hathaway, told us "One of the highlights of being in the *School of Rock* was meeting lots of new like-minded people who love musical theatre. I was lucky enough to get to play the

role of Summer Hathaway in this production, which has been a dream role of mine since I was little, and I am extremely grateful that had the chance to perform the role with this awesome group of people!"

"The experience helped me to improve my time management skills as juggling assessments and homework with the musical as well as all of my other extra-curricular activities was a challenge. But it is always worth it in the end, continuing to do what I love."

All the hard work by cast, crew and staff from both colleges culminated in four highly entertaining performances at the Alexander Theatre at Monash University. Stay tuned to our social media to find out later this year which production we'll be presenting in 2024.



VCE Drama and Music

Each year our VCE Dance and VCE Music students prepare a solo and ensemble performance which forms part of a unit of their assessment and requires the students to create, present and analyse their performance.

Our music students selected a piece to perform on their chosen instrument and through the process, identified technical, expressive and stylistic challenges relevant to that piece, and used technical practices to address these challenges in preparing their performance. The result was a series of expressive and beautifully presented voice and piano performances.

The VCE Drama unit requires students to work together to create, present and analyse their ensemble performance and through this explore dramatic elements and performance techniques. The performance presented was based on women's rights and the Australian Hall of Fame, and the students worked together to research, script, edit and refine the work into a 20 minute performance.

The result was an impactful and moving performance, dynamic in its style and movement through present and future settings.

We are very proud of all the hard work and passion that goes into these performances and wish these senior students well as they prepare their final performance pieces for assessment.

The drama ensemble allowed me to express my ideas and creativity in a fun environment. It helped me further develop my confidence and taught me a lot about myself and the girls surrounding me. It was a truly magical experience.

Bridget May, VCE Drama



Caption VCE Drama students wrote and performed their ensemble piece (left); VCE Music students with teacher, Ms Kellie Mentlikowski (above)

Pursuing excellence through analysis

Critical analysis is a foundational skill that helps students understand and respond to content across a range of subjects, and it is a skill that is used and honed as we continue through life.

All students face many opportunities each day to use their analytical skills in the classroom, and we encourage them to seek out ways to strengthen those skill in co-curricular activities such as the Ethics Olympiad.

The Ethics Olympiad is an international competition where teams analyse and discuss real-life, timely ethical issues in a collaborative format. It differs from debating as the students are not assigned opposing views, and instead they defend whichever position they believe is right. The speakers are awarded points for demonstrating deep, careful thought and perception of the topic, as well as their presentation of their argument.

We have teams competing in the Middle school and Senior school divisions. With Junior and Senior divisions competing in the international final in the past year. Teams from Singapore, India, New Zealand, Canada and Australia competed in the challenges that involve eight case studies, each ethically questionable in their own way.

"All case studies had a moral problem at their core and we had to develop a presentation that represented our views and understanding of the ethical values associated with the discussion," said Maddy Di Conza.

The team received an honourable mention from the judges.

The team is coordinated by teacher Ms Abbey Webster who mentors the team and guides the team through training and competition days. Ms Webster said "Participation in the Ethics Olympiad promotes awareness of ethical issues and the development of skills to enable our students to engage in meaningful conversations and appreciate a diversity of views."

"All case studies had a moral problem at their core and we had to develop a presentation that represented our views and understanding of the ethical values associated with the discussion"



Caption Ethics Olympiad team members Elly, Terri, Ruby and Halle

Achieving excellence

Another achievement in a lifetime of service

We were thrilled to hear that Dr Christine Connors OAM (OLSH College Class of 1976) was recently appointed as Chief Health Officer for the Northern Territory. Christine has been working in Northern Territory public health for more than three decades, leading the Preventable Chronic Disease Program and making a significant contribution to closing the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous health outcomes.

Prior to her appointment, Christine led the population and primary health care teams in the Top End region and during the pandemic developed a remote outbreak management plan. This involved contract tracing, vaccination and testing in remote communities from Milikapiti in the Tiwi Islands to the Daly River region.

The CHO is responsible for providing public health leadership to protect the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community.

Congratulations Christine – we wish you well in your role and thank you for the important work you are doing.



Caption Dr Christine Connors (left) and Emergency Nurse Sue Smith (right)

Partnering together

Our education offering is augmented by programs delivered onsite and outside of the College, selected to provide specialized content from professionals working in a particular sector. We're always grateful to those who share their knowledge and skill with our students and when the program is delivered by an OLSH College alumnae, it is truly special.

As part of their Health and Physical Education program, our Year 10 students were very fortunate to have a presentation by Sue Smith from the Alfred Hospital's PARTY program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) today. Sue has worked as an Emergency Nurse at the Alfred for more than three decades and part of her role is to provide education sessions to young people about risk reduction.

As she began her presentation, Sue revealed to the students that she was an OLSH College alumna (Class of 1985), and the students responded with a spontaneous and quiet cheer, such is the warmth of the OLSH spirit for others who have come before us.

Sue's message reflected her decades of service and experience in managing medical emergencies and the valuable knowledge that she was able to impart to reduce the incidence of risk. She spoke to the girls about recognising medical emergencies, how to help their friends and risk prevention.

Sue said "It was lovely to come back to OLSH. I enjoy delivering the Alfred Hospital's program to young people all across the State, and it was particularly lovely looking out and seeing OLSH students who were a similar age to me when I left the College and pursued my career in emergency medicine."

We're proud that an OLSH College alumna is making a difference in so many young lives through this program and we're so pleased you returned to OLSH Sue.

Alumnae profiles



Paula Stephenson
(nee Mulholland) (1987)

I thoroughly enjoyed my six years of life at OLSH College. School was full of learning, fun and friendships, several of which I still cherish today. I was privileged to be Class Captain in years 7 to 10, SRC in year 11 and College Vice Captain in year 12 and this experience has been foundational in my leadership journey throughout my career.

I started my nursing career at Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1988 and have spent all my career in nursing or health-related roles. I have built a wealth of skills and experience in clinical, education, leadership and health management. I have held senior management roles in several public health services and as an Associate Director with KPMG. I am currently General Manager, Mental Health and Wellbeing Services leading services and a large-scale transformational change program at Western Health. My love of learning has continued and I completed postgraduate and master's degree qualifications in nursing. I sit on the Sacre Coeur Foundation Board, the Victorian Nurses and Midwives Trust and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (Victorian Board).

As the second oldest of five girls who all went to OLSH, I loved our French convent school history and the opportunity to study the language. It has come in handy having a brother living in France.

My most amazing achievement in my life is my family. I am so proud and grateful to have an amazing partner in life Michael, four fantastic children, Anton, Isabella, Hugo and Philippa and a beautiful granddaughter Lottie.

My time at OLSH taught me the value of friendship, working hard, having fun and doing good for others. These are traits I carry through life and am proud to see engendered in my children. If OLSH students aspire to these values, I'm confident they will have a really full life. Work hard, aim high, be the person that you aspire to and have a lot of fun along the way!



Olwen Bell
(1997)

After graduating in 1997, I studied Psychology at Monash University and then moved to Amsterdam for a year. After travelling in Europe, I moved back to Australia and returned to Monash University, studying Business. I did 'safe' jobs for a few years – working in marketing, administration and education, then applied for a working holiday visa for Canada and turned my whole life on its head. I snowboarded throughout Canada and the USA, hiked bear country, rafted glacial rivers and drove through mountain blizzards that I thought I wouldn't survive.

In 2013, I started an annual international theatre festival, attracting performers from all around North America and across Europe and kickstarting the careers of some up-and-coming artists. Performing at more festivals than I can count, from Berlin to Montreal to New York, I made lasting friendships with quirky, creative people from all around the world. Most recently, I was the Marketing Manager for GlobalFest, a non-profit multicultural and fireworks festival in Calgary. I have also started studying a Master of Business Administration.

The last few years of travel restrictions curtailed my adventures and made me very aware of the distance I have been from my loved ones in Melbourne. After a decade away and now a citizen of Canada, I made the decision to move home and take up a contract at Melbourne Museum as a Marketing Manager. I will soon be joining The Nature Conservancy to work on environmental protection and restoration projects.

My advice is to travel and live somewhere else if you are able to. Try experiences you might not like. Do things that scare you. Then you'll discover you are capable of achieving anything you set your sights on.



Adele Gousal
(1999)

After graduating in 1999, I completed a Bachelor of Applied Arts at Monash University followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Art History at the University of Melbourne. I worked for Optus for a few years and used my earnings to produce jewellery in my studio, participating in exhibitions, and collaborating with old classmates and local artists.

In 2005, I started teaching resin jewellery and silicone mould making in-studio and at Holmesglen TAFE, in addition to my corporate job. I started working with a couple of fashion entrepreneurs on a fashion accessories label. Pivoting into fashion without a fashion degree or industry connections was daunting, but I was determined and focused. I studied Fashion Business at TAFE and sought internships that lead to opportunities with Australia's biggest brand houses.

Rewind to 1999, the idea of working in the fashion industry would have seemed completely unattainable – we hardly saw any women of colour represented in media let alone leading in corporate roles in the fashion industry.

Fast forward to 2023, and I have been fortunate to have worked with Country Road Group, General Pants Group, Seafolly and now Retail Apparel Group in a range of product design, technical, buying and production roles.

My career has also taken me to Sydney where I have been for 10 years, something my younger self would never have envisioned!

My favourite memories from OLSH were spent during Art and Graphics classes with my friends, singing in the choir, learning the latest dance routines and adventures at school camps.

My advice to current students would be to encourage yourself like you would cheer on your best friend. It's totally fine to not have it all mapped out when you leave school. No experience is a wasted one, and there is always so much to gain and learn along the way.



Sharika Datt
(2015)

After leaving OLSH College, I completed a Bachelor of Health Science (Health Promotion and Nutrition) and then travelled to Fiji for 6 weeks to volunteer in a small remote village, returning just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

I knew vulnerable communities needed help now more than ever so I began volunteering with CHASE, a volunteer-led organisation that aims to empower and educate young people from low-socioeconomic backgrounds through health education and community engagement. This experience allowed me to apply and further develop skills learned in my degree and connect with my community.

In 2021 I began working as a Health Programs Support Officer at Better Health Company (BHCo), a health promotion organisation that develops and delivers a range of free healthy lifestyle programs around Australia. I then travelled for four months and in November last year started a new role at the company as the Relationship Manager, supporting the delivery of BHCo programs.

I often reflect on the quality of education and the ongoing support I received during high school, from my family, my peers and my teachers. I am so grateful to have such fond memories of my time at OLSH.

My advice to current students is to be empowered by whatever you do and in every aspect of life. Make choices that uphold your values and surround yourself with people who lift you up. At times it may feel like high school is all there is, but there is so much more after.

Shared stories across the decades

It has been a joy to welcome six year levels back to OLSH College so far this year. We started the year welcoming back the Classes of 1962 and 1963 for afternoon tea and a tour of the College, marking 60 years since they finished their time as students here.

Since then we've welcomed the Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2013 back for their reunions and to share memories including squeezing into a classroom with a small TV to watch man land on the moon, the opening of the new library and science rooms and fond recollections of the OLSH Sisters.

As we take each group for a tour around the College, it is fascinating to observe the consistency of stories about spaces, teachers, activities and events remembered. While these past students attended the College two, three or four decades apart, they share the experiences of Feast days, teachers who have inspired them and the classrooms they connect with. The shared OLSH spirit permeates these stories and is evident in the way in which they reconnect and recount their journeys post-OLSH College.

One alumna said "It was wonderful to catch up with my colleagues from the graduating class and share some special memories. The welcome extended to us made me feel as though I was coming home as I have not been back for many, many years".

Thank you to those who have returned to the College this year and for your ongoing connection with each other. We have one more reunion in 2023 – the 20 year reunion for the Class of 2003. Find out more via our website www.olsh.vic.edu.au/community/alumnae/reunions.

Class of 1962 60 Year Reunion



Class of 1963 60 Year Reunion



Class of 1983 40 Year Reunion



Visit our Alumnae website

We have a new website and there is a special section dedicated to our past students. You'll find details of reunions, past yearbooks and Flame magazines, alumnae profiles and opportunities to get involved in the College such as mentoring students or sharing your career experience. Visit www.olsh.vic.edu.au/community/alumnae to find out more.

Class of 1973 50 Year Reunion



Class of 1993 30 Year Reunion



Class of 2013 10 Year Reunion



News in brief



1 Connections across the generations

Each year we recognise the intergenerational connection many families have with the College at our Generations Assembly. During the assembly, we welcome back alumnae who have daughters or granddaughters at OLSH College and they're presented with a candle and certificate. This year, we welcomed back Christine Georgas (Class of 1997), Kate Gothard (Class of 1994), Sophia Katsis (Class of 1997), Jacqueline Nandan (Class of 1984), Cheryl Howse (Class of 1973), Lisa Splawa-Neyman (Class of 1991), Amanda Waters (Class of 1998) and Elisa Williams (Class of 1990).

2 Final stage of our renovations underway

Our renovation project is well underway and we're on track to be finished by November this year. The Hall refurbishment commenced in mid-March with the demolition of the Hall and PAC toilets, knocking through the wall and roof between the Hall foyer and the PAC foyer and the redirection of some essential services between the two buildings.

In late March, we saw the demolition of the drama room, the old change room and toilet and the music rooms. During this term, construction of the new drama and music rooms commenced and the Food Tech area is finished so our students are now enjoying using this modernised space.

3 House activities drive Lenten fundraising

Our four Houses enjoyed some friendly rivalry to raise funds for our annual Lenten Appeal. Every year, each House comes up with an activity to raise money for the appeal and while the aim is to raise funds for our chosen charity, competitiveness does come into play to push each House total as high as possible.

Hartzer's main fundraiser was a sausage sizzle, while Sweeney chose St Patrick's day to raise their funds through selling lolly bags and asking for a gold coin donation for those wearing of green or silly socks. Chevalier celebrated Jules Chevalier's birthday with an ice-cream stall and Xavier completed the fundraising activities with a bake sale.

The appeal raised more than \$5,300, which was passed on to Caritas and the OLSH Sisters for their work in Papua New Guinea.



4 **World Youth Day**

In August, Year 12 OLSH College student Sophie Rochford attended World Youth Day (WYD) in Portugal, along with nearly 600 representatives from the Archdiocese of Melbourne and up to three million people from across the world.

The event is a gathering of young Catholics from all over the world and provides the opportunity for young people to gather with the Pope to celebrate and enrich their faith and to learn about the message of Jesus and to grow in his love. During the week-long event Sophie attended an opening mass, youth festivals including music and dance performances, Catechesis, Stations of the Cross, a pilgrimage and a sleep out and a final Mass led by the Pope.

5 **House spirit shines through**

We had a perfect autumn day for our House Athletics Carnival. There was great participation from the first race to the final relay, and wonderful support from the stands. Well done to all participants on the track, in the field and in our off-track activities, and congratulations to Chevalier House for their overall win and wins in the Junior and Intermediate sections, Hartzler in the Senior section and Xavier for the House chants.



6 **Hartzler Park experience**

Our Issoudun (Year 9) students recently spent an extraordinary month together at Hartzler Park in Bowral, NSW.

The girls had an amazing time learning, growing, building relationships and spending time together in community. In a month they have visited Canberra, Sydney, Kiama, Bondi, Coogee, Mary McKillop Place and Manly; hiked Mount Gibraltar, Fitzroy Falls and the Minnamurra Rainforest; planned, budgeted and cooked for 60 people; worked collaboratively on group tasks; learnt social and emotional skills and all of this with limited technology!!



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Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Bentleigh stands on the lands of the Bunurong people and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Front cover: Year 8 violinist Avelynn Lawson

Back cover: Highlights from OLSH College life in Semester 1, 2023