

Midleton once again revelled in a year of triumphs, ignited by unwavering House camaraderie. Throughout the year, we have been graced by a remarkable surge of engagement from each House member. And our iconic house chant? It persists as a resounding anthem, amplifying the enthusiasm and excitement.

Autumn Term began with a display of skill and teamwork in House Netball. We brought energy and enthusiasm not only on the court but also while cheering from the sidelines. Following highly fought matches, we narrowly missed out on the third-place play offs for both the Seniors and the Middle School. However, U3 had an amazing time bonding as a House in their first House competition.

Midleton's public speaking skills were also displayed through House Debating, which gave members of the House the opportunity to talk about important issues. Megan (L5) and Charlize (L5) debated *This house believes that National Service is not beneficial for the country*. In the Middle School Public Speaking competition, Ameera (U4) won best questioner.

On St Cat's Day the Senior team continued the long-standing tradition of wearing funny outfits to compete in; this year the U6 wore inflatable shark costumes with the other girls in the senior team wearing their swimming hats and goggles! Our U3/L4 team placed 3rd and our U4/L5 team placed joint 5th. The Senior team fought hard and played well but despite their strength and determination, we came 3rd.

This year each House play incorporated the theme 'Paintings', with Midleton receiving Edgar Degas' painting *The Dance Class* to adapt into a play. House Drama is an exciting yet daunting task; it gives all members of the House a chance to challenge themselves by acting brilliantly on stage or being part of the essential backstage crew who allow the play to run seamlessly. We would like to say a thank-you to everyone involved and to Tosin, House Drama prefect, who wrote the piece with the help of Lizzie and Sarah, 2023-24 House captains. Special mention goes to Eliza (L4) for her highly commended performances which won her Best Junior Actor.

Spring Term kicked off with House Music practices run by our House Music prefects, India and Saskia (U6). The theme this year was *Disney* and Midleton undertook the song *Under the Sea* from the *The Little Mermaid*. Our chosen song was *Teenage Dirtbag* by Wheatus. We were extremely proud to receive 3rd place. Thank you to India and Saskia for their encouragement throughout all the rehearsals and performances.

House Gymnastics is an exciting event, the L6 choreograph all the routines from start to finish, apart from U3's trampette routine and Senior School Dance, choreographed by U5. The theme for the competition this year was *The Paris Olympics, 2024*. Our solo was phenomenally performed by Jess (U4) who placed an impressive 3rd place and showed outstanding skill and technique.

Although the Summer Term means exam season the longer days and sunny weather lifted our spirits as we kicked off the final school term with more House activities! House Cricket allowed the girls to put the cricket skills they have learned from year games into practice, which was particularly enjoyable for Middle School girls who competed during lunchtimes for a series of weeks, with many supportive onlookers cheering them on. Meanwhile, the Senior cricket team played a round robin tournament U3/L4 came 3^{rd} , U4/L5 came 3^{rd} , and the Senior division came 4^{th} .

Simultaneously, House Tennis was in full swing, with experienced tennis players taking to the court, in addition to those who had never played tennis before! The Seniors excelled in their division and finished triumphantly in 3rd place! U3/L4 came 6th, and U4/L5 won their tournament.

House Quiz and Sports Day brought the school year to a close. We came away with 3rd place for the House Quiz. On Sports Day we all proudly walked out to the sports fields wearing our royal blue face paint. We are proud to say that everyone in Midleton got involved, whether it was through running a race, jumping as far or high as they could, throwing a javelin or discus the furthest distance or shouting encouragement and holding the Midleton banner! We all came together and the Midleton pride was strong. We are happy to announce we came 5th overall, with special mention to Eliza (L4) who won the Victor Ludorum prize and Caroline (L5) who broke the school record for the shot put.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the U6 team for all they have done for us, particularly to Sarah and Lizzie, who have led Midleton as our fabulous House Captains of 2023-24. You have all been such inspirations and we wish you all the best for your future plans. We would also like to thank Mrs Wiskin our brilliant Housemistress and the rest of the tutor team for their continued support. We cannot wait for another exciting year ahead of us!