

# SECOND ROUND OF MATCHES FOR SENIOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM

BY EMILY QUINLIVAN NOLAN

**On November 8th, the Holy Family Secondary School volleyball team played their second round of matches at Holy Family Secondary School. The day was filled with exciting games that showcased the team's impressive skills and strong teamwork. The girls entered the competition with high energy and great spirits, fully prepared to face off against talented teams from St. Raphael's (Galway), Portlaoise College, and Rockford Manor (Dublin).**



The Holy Family girls quickly warmed up as the other teams arrived. Each opponent was strong, but the Holy Family girls were determined to give their best effort in every match.

The first match against St. Raphael's began with Ailbhe serving, helping the team take an early lead. Holy Family's strategy of placing the ball in the corners and creating continuous rallies paid off, and they won the first set 25-13. The second set was much harder as Raphael's adjusted their strategy, but Holy Family kept their focus. After a timeout called by the coaches, Ms Nolan and Ms O'Dea, the girls returned with renewed energy. An outstanding set by Lauren allowed Emily and Ailbhe to smash powerful attacks, bringing Holy Family back into the lead. The set ended 26-24, with Holy Family securing the win.

The second match, against Portlaoise College, saw Holy Family play with even more intensity. A controlled set from Lauren set up powerful attacks from Emily and Ailbhe, while Mimmy delivered a fantastic hit from the middle. The momentum shifted in Holy Family's favor, and they won both sets 25-15 and 25-11.

The final match of the day was the toughest, against Rockford Manor. Despite being fatigued after two previous matches, Holy Family fought hard. They played with determination in the first set, but narrowly lost 23-25. In the second set, they battled but were again defeated 18-25. Though they lost, the girls showed remarkable teamwork, going for every ball and making several standout plays.

Overall, the team should be proud of their performance. They displayed excellent defence, strong serving, and solid teamwork. While there are areas for improvement, such as communication and court positioning, the experience gained will help the team grow. It was a great day of volleyball, filled with valuable competition that will make the team stronger moving forward.