

Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 6 | OCT 2025



Open Evening for First Year 2026

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome 6th class pupils and their parents for our annual Open Evening. This is an important event for our school, as it gives hundreds of prospective students and their parents a chance to see all that life at Loreto Abbey Dalkey has to offer, from academics and music to sport and extra-curriculars.

We would like to thank all staff and students who so proudly represented our school, giving tours and leading demonstrations and discussions. The compliments from our visitors were heartening, as they valued the enthusiasm, creativity, awareness, talent, and overall LAD spirit that was on display.

Mark your Calendar

Oct 10th	Focus Ireland Shine a Light Sleep Out
Oct 13th	6th Year Parents' CAO Information Evening
Oct 16th	6th Year Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings
Oct 20-24th	6th Year exams
Oct 22nd	Deadline for First Year 2026 applications
Oct 24th	School closed for mid-term break

The full school calendar can be found on both the website and via our school app



Our New Amigas

Amigas are our student anti-bullying ambassadors. Every class has two Amigas whose role is to promote positive relationships within class groups and to promote a school-wide culture that recognises that any type of bullying behaviour is not acceptable. Amigas are chosen by their class group to carry out this important student leadership role and are a vital part of our Bí Céineálta framework.

This year's group of Amigas began their training with Mr Flanagan this week, and were awarded their Amiga badges. We thank the students for accepting the role and look forward to working with them this year.



Like to Sing? Join our Parents' Choir!

Our Parent Choir is a fantastic way to meet other parents of current and past students in a social and musical environment. This wonderful group perform several times throughout the school year, including at our Christmas Carol Concert, Dalkey's Got Talent, and our Evening of Summer Music.

New members, male and female, are always welcome and no experience is necessary. **Choir rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Concert Hall.**



Chess Tournament Success at St Andrew's

On Friday, September 26th, our school was proudly represented by Ria Noonan, Cristina Vilaplana Villarroel, Niamh O'Toole, and Charlotte Hannon at the St Andrew's Booterstown Chess Tournament.

With over 80 teams from more than 30 schools, and nearly 500 people onsite, the competition was fierce! Our team played five scheduled games and showed a fantastic improvement on last year's performance. The event was not just about chess - the girls and Ms McBreen also enjoyed an array of fun activities between rounds, including karaoke, Just Dance, board games, and archery.

It was a lovely day of friendly competition, old friends, and new acquaintances. We are grateful to St Andrew's for the annual invitation.

"After checking in and attending the opening ceremony, the first match pairings were released on the dedicated event website. There was a wide range of skill levels, from beginners to seasoned players."

"There was a selection of non-chess-related activities available for those who finished their games early. These included karaoke, Kahoots and Blookets, origami, face painting, giant games and timed challenges such as stacking cups and making playing card houses. There was also a chess practice room for training in between rounds."

"Unfortunately, our school didn't win any prizes, but our team got 5½ points in total, and everyone won at least one game. All in all it was a fantastic experience to attend the tournament, and to play against all the other schools. It was a day for fun and friendship, and it was a great opportunity for our school. We hope to go back next year." - Ria Noonan, 2nd Year



Shanaghan Cup

Our Dalkey sailors took part in the Shanaghan Cup in the INSS this week. We were delighted to have two teams entered into the competition this year.

The Shanaghan Cup is run over three dates, so our teams will compete again in November and for a final time after Christmas. Thank you to the INSS for a fantastic day!



Senior A Success

Congratulations to the Senior A basketball team who have reached the final 12 in the All Ireland Cup after defeating Mount Anville and Colaiste Chiarain at the end of last week.



Cross Country

The Brother at Your Side Cross Country event took place in Santry on Wednesday, with a Dalkey contingent of 32 involved.

Emyrose Tomkin Beddy (1st Year) took 3rd place in her race, while Alessandra Stanley (2nd Year) took 4th in the Junior 1500m.

This was the first cross-country event of the year, and the teams are excited to keep up the momentum!

Climate Change Awareness

This week, members of our Green Schools Committee were interviewed by Dr Azza Warraitch, a global health researcher from DCU.

The interviews were arranged by Mr Oman and involved each student answering questions on when they became aware of climate change, how they see it affecting life now, and what they hope for the future.

Pictured, left to right: Mr Niall Oman, Lucy Bradbury (TY), Francesca O'Halloran (6th Year), Charmari Feeney (TY), Dr Azza Warraitch.



This Week's Hockey Results

Well done to all teams taking part in home and away fixtures throughout the week.

Saturday Matches

Minor A won 2-0 vs Loreto on the Green
Minor B won 1-0 vs Loreto on the Green
Junior 3 won 2-1 vs Alexandra College
Junior 5 won 4-2 vs Alexandra College

Wednesday Matches

Junior 4 won 4-0 vs Drogheda Grammar
Junior 6 lost 3-0 vs Temple Carrig





BOX UP THE JOY OF GIVING

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



Scan for more
information

15 YEARS OF
TEAM HOPE

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The Justice and Peace Group are once again delighted to support the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, a wonderful cause that brings joy and essential items to children affected by poverty. Each shoebox gift provides not only fun surprises, but also practical items such as school supplies, clothing, and hygiene products, making a real difference in a child's life.

All completed shoeboxes should be wrapped and placed under the spiral staircase by Thursday 23rd October. If you need any additional information, please contact Ms Flood by email. Thank you for helping to spread kindness this Christmas!



Air Quality Campaign

Mr Oman's 1C Environmental Studies class placed test tubes at three locations around our school to measure the level of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) emitted by vehicles.

This air quality campaign is organised by GLOBE Ireland, an affiliate of NASA, and many schools across Ireland are taking part in the campaign.



Polar Exploration Comes to Dalkey

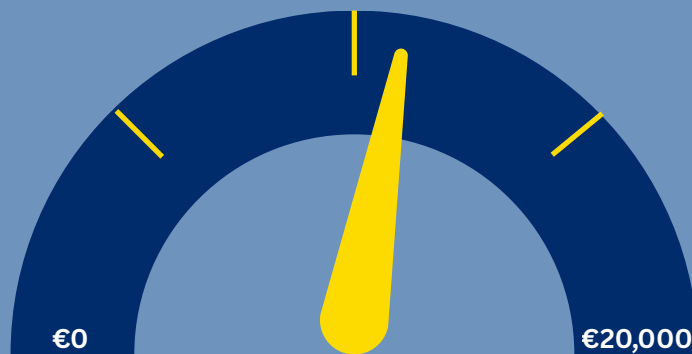
This week, our Transition Year students were treated to a truly memorable and fascinating talk from world record-holding polar traveller and author **Alex Hibbert**, who visited Dalkey from London to speak to our TYs about everything from endurance to Eskimos.

Alex has skied further on an unsupported Arctic journey than anyone in history, and is one of only 11 people to have broken the polar unsupported 1,000-mile barrier.

In July 2008, Alex completed his 1,374-mile, 113-day 'Long Haul' return crossing of a new ice sheet route, along with team-mate George Bullard. They received no resupplies or physical support and completed the final week on almost no food.

Highly active in the polar and cold regions, Alex has led independent projects for well over a decade. Journeys since the Long Haul journey have included a high-speed icecap crossing (330 miles in less than 12 days) and routes in Svalbard, the Alaskan North Slope, High Arctic Canada and nearly half a year living with the Polar Eskimos.

Donate
here



Help us smash
our target!

TYs Sleeping Out Against Homelessness

On **Friday October 10th**, our TYs will all be taking part in a School Sleep Out for Focus Ireland's Shine A Light, trading their cosy beds for a sleeping bag for the night. This is all about raising critical funds for Focus Ireland to help them meet the growing demand for their services.

You can check out the **fantastic videos the TYs have created** to highlight their fundraising, and why the Sleep Out is so important, on our Instagram page @loretoabbeydalkey_

Please show your support by donating and help the TYs reach their goal of raising €20,000 for Focus Ireland. Every contribution, big or small, gets us closer to creating a future where every child has a safe place to call home.

Donations can be made via the QR code (right), or online at <https://joinus.focusireland.ie/fundraisers/loretoabbeydalkey4thyears2025>



**COMING
SOON**

Upcoming TY Dates

Ongoing	Musical rehearsals
Oct 6-8th	Self-defence workshops
Oct 7th	Engineering talk
Oct 10th	Focus Ireland Sleep Out
Oct 13th	First Aid (4B)
Oct 14th	First Aid (4C)
Oct 15th	Reflection Morning (4C)
Oct 16th	Reflection Morning (4D)



Friday Quiz

What better way to round out an incredibly busy week, than with a Friday Team Quiz?!

The TYs organised and executed their own quiz full of music and memes, which the whole year took part in this afternoon.