

Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 5 | SEPT 2025



The Big Dig

On Tuesday and Wednesday, all 1st Year students took part in The Big Dig archaeology workshops, run by the School of Irish Archaeology. Students had a chance to meet with archaeologists on site and learn how a dig is organized and how artefacts are dated. They were then able to demonstrate their own historical and archaeological skills by taking part in a dig set up on the school grounds. They discovered artefacts including bones, tools, coins, swords, axes and shields. and weapons. Indiana Jones would have been jealous!

More photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkey_

Mark your Calendar

Oct 1st	School begins accepting applications for First Year 2026
Oct 2nd	School Open Evening for First Year 2026
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



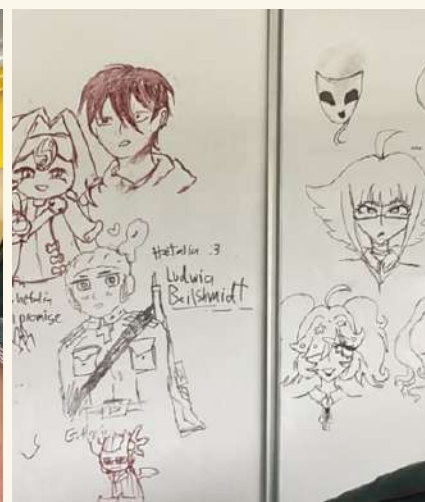
LEGO Club

Have you ever dreamt of creating your own robot, or a Rubik's Cube solver (top left)? If the answer is yes, then LEGO Club is for you!

In LEGO Club we work as a team to build and programme robots, as well as completing a research project for the FIRST LEGO League, an annual international competition which holds regional events around Ireland. Successful teams go on to the national and, potentially, world finals.

In the last few years, the LAD team has won numerous national awards for Robot Design, Robot Game, and Team Work. Each member of the team is encouraged to express themselves, learn new skills and bring their strengths to the team.

LEGO Club with Mr Cullen takes place on Monday afternoons from 3.45-5pm in B11. All are welcome!



Open Evening Reminder

On Thursday October 2nd, we will be hosting our annual Open Evening for First Year 2026, welcoming 6th class primary students and their parents to see what life at Loreto Abbey Dalkey entails.

We would appreciate if students who have been asked to help out could remain in school for the event, which will run from 4-7pm.





Monthly Music Mondays

This week saw the first of the Monthly Music Monday lunchtime recitals. This fun and informal session included students from 1st to 6th year singing and playing a variety of instruments, from drums to ukulele.

The next recital will take place before midterm at the end of October, and Ms Penston is already looking for students (or staff!) to book their slot and sing or play for an appreciative audience.

Well done to all who took part, and big thanks to those who came along to listen and support the performers!



Well Done Cadette A

Huge congratulations to our Cadette A basketball team who played an incredible match on Tuesday afternoon, beating Mount Anville 57-9 in the first round of the All Ireland Cup!

Freshers Week Comes to Dalkey

On Wednesday October 1st, our student council will be hosting a 'Freshers Week' event to showcase all the fantastic clubs and activities we have here at Loreto Abbey Dalkey.

From LEGO Club to Quiz Club, knitting to musical theatre, Green Schools to YSI...there's lots to choose from and we would encourage all students to get involved. Make sure to pop down on Wednesday and have a look!



Getting Hands-On in the Kitchen

This week, the 1st Years were excited to have their first hands-on Home Ec class. They learned essential knife skills, and about the importance of knife safety, before putting those new-found skills to the test with lots of fruit chopping to create tasty breakfast bowls.



Ember Faith Leadership Training

'Help me to fan into flame the Gift of God that is within me' was the theme of the EMBER group's two days of leadership training at Ovoca Manor in County Wicklow.

Together with our sister Loreto schools from Balbriggan, Bray, Crumlin, Foxrock and Swords, our 5th Year EMBER students were challenged with outdoor pursuits, such as rock climbing and orienteering, which tested their teamwork skills and created a powerful bond among the group.

Daily reflective time, which included a gathering at a bonfire, afforded each student space to think about her own faith journey and new position within the school. Training concluded with a commissioning ceremony led by Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin Paul Dempsey.

The training empowered everyone present to carry the flame of faith back to their school community, and the group looks forward to sharing this flame with the school in the year ahead.



Y.E.S Launch Event

Eoin McDonnell from Student Enterprise joined us on Thursday morning to speak to 1st, 2nd and TY students about the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES). He discussed idea generation, various roles within a business, and the skills you can learn from taking part in YES.

YES is an extracurricular activity, where students set up their own businesses and sell their goods/services at our Christmas market. Students can still join and Ms Gleeson has sent application forms by email. Applications are open until October 3rd and it costs €10 to join.



Rugby Blitz Success

Contact rugby has only just come to Dalkey this year, but our Senior Rugby Team were out in action with spectacular success this week!

The girls played in a senior 7-a-side contact rugby blitz run by Leinster Rugby in Donnybrook on Tuesday, and came home undefeated with three fantastic wins under their belts.

The LAD team beat Skerries CC (8 tries to 2 tries), Kings Hospital (5 tries to 4 tries), and Swords CC (4 tries to 2 tries).



First Match for Junior GAA

The first Junior GAA match of the season took place last weekend, and the team gave it their all until the final whistle!

Big shout out to Sophia McCulloch who scored a goal having never played GAA before. Shauna O'Brien and Beibhinn O'Donnell were a huge help in driving forward and scoring.

St Mac Dara's were a strong opposition and won 5:12 to 2:5



This Week's Hockey Results

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

Saturday Matches

First Year Group 1 lost 0-3 vs Rathdown
 First Year Group 2 won 4-3 vs Rathdown
 First Year Group 3 won 5-4 vs Rathdown
 First Year Group 4 won 4-2 vs Rathdown
 Minor A won 1-0 vs Rathdown
 Minor B won 2-0 vs Rathdown
 Minor C drew 0-0 vs Cluny
 Junior A drew 1-1 vs Rathdown
 Junior B won 4-0 vs Rathdown
 Junior C won 1-0 vs Wesley
 Junior D won 2-1 vs Wesley
 Junior E drew 0-0 vs Wesley

Wednesday Matches

Minor A lost 2-1 vs Wesley
 Junior A won 2-1 vs Wesley
 Senior 4 drew 1-1 vs Mount Temple

More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport

TY Talks this Week

MONDAY

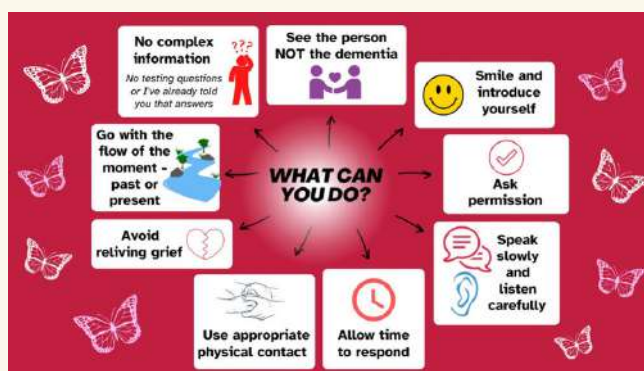
Triathlete **Mary O'Donnell** from Fermoy, County Cork graduated in 2024 with a Masters in Aeronautical Engineering from University of Limerick.

Mary spoke with the TYs about her STEM journey (including being the only girl to do Applied Maths in her Leaving Cert class), her career in the field of aerodynamics, her advocacy for more women in both STEM careers and the sporting world, the importance of following your passion, completing as a long distance triathlete, and the power of perseverance.



TUESDAY

Volunteers from **St John of God Dementia Care at St Joseph's** in Shankill, a residential home and day centre, spoke with the students about the different types of dementia, early signs, how to help someone living with dementia, and initiatives used at St Joseph's to make life easier for those with dementia. They also invited girls that were interested in to volunteer with them.



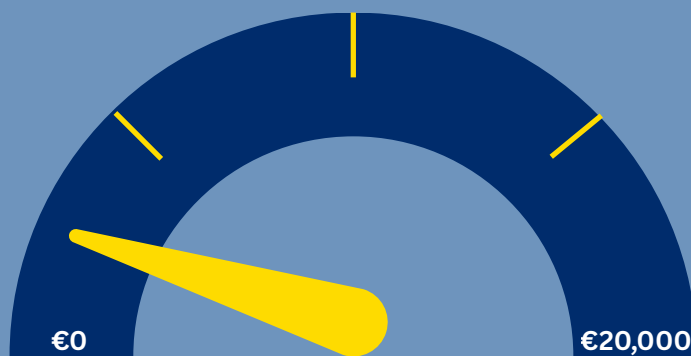
WEDNESDAY

Deeply moved by the plight of street children he encountered on a trip to Kolkata (Calcutta), sports journalist **John O'Shea** founded GOAL in 1977, and for over 45 years, GOAL has responded to almost all of the world's major humanitarian crises since, working with vulnerable communities in more than 60 countries.

After spending 35 years as CEO of GOAL, and raising more than \$1 billion, John resigned in 2012. Now, he shares his motivational stories with others, primarily students, in the hope of inspiring another generation to take up the challenge of humanitarian work.



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.

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
Sept 29th	First Aid (4A)
Oct 1st	Alex Hibbert talk
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)



TY Trip to Italy

Excitement is building for Italy 2026!

Information about the Transition Year trip to Italy, taking place next May, has been sent to all parents via our school app.

Please note: the deadline for payment of the deposit is October 1st.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Mulcahy or Ms Noctor.