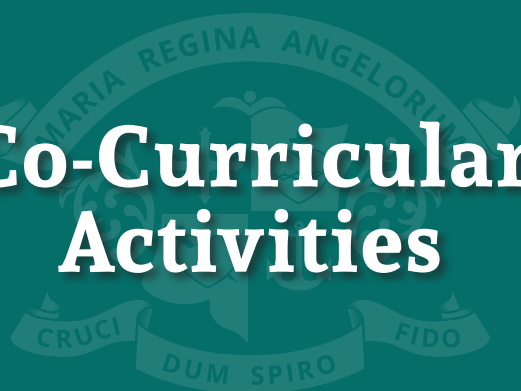




Co-Curricular Activities





Chess Club

Checkmate! Well check this mate, this year our Chess Club took part in multiple events. In September we attended St. Andrew's annual chess competition, where we saw over 60 teams, from more than 20 schools. There were over 350 people at this event.

We also had an inter Loreto Dalkey competition in November where Tess Hallilan Suarez (1C) took first place, followed by Cristina Vilaplana Villarroel (3D) and Maya O'Reilly (5B). Attending events such as these are a great way to test your skills, learn from others, meet new people and most importantly to have fun!

This year, we were led by Ms. McBreen and Hector Viekoslav Novak. Our Chess Club met every Tuesday and Thursday lunch with Hector to learn different plays and we were never left bored. We did activities from different places, and chess websites were a great help. On Fridays Ms. McBreen held a fun chess session at lunch where we could test out the new moves we had learnt that week. Chess Club is a great way to meet new people and no matter how much experience you have, everybody is welcome.

Thank you to Ms. McBreen for her ongoing support and encouragement.





Gael Linn 2025

Comórtas Diospóireachta

'Nothing is so unbelievable that oratory cannot make it acceptable'. Cicero identified the challenge debaters face, to persuade the audience to support their motion irrespective of their own personal opinions.

Ghlac Emily Farrell, Leila Burke Kennedy Ayla McGovern, Charlotte Hannon, Elizabeth Austin agus Anna Kealy Day páirt sa gcéad bhabhta de na Diospóireachtaí Gael Linn an Deardaoin seo caite. Bhí dhá rún le plé acu: 'Táimid dállta ag soilse Hollywood', bhí na daltaí i gcoinne an rúin seo agus 'Tuigeann Múintir na hÉireann fadhb na haeráide', bhí

an fhoireann i bhfabhar an rúin seo. Ghlac Charlotte Hannon, Elizabeth Austin agus Anna Kealy Day páirt i ndiospóireachtaí Gael Linn an bhliain seo. Phléigh siad an rún 'Is miotas í cairdiúlacht mhuintir na hÉireann' i gcoinne Coláiste Bhríde. Go raibh míle maith agat do Bean Uí Murdock.





Model United Nations Debating Competition

Model United Nations is an experience in which students get to simulate what it is like to be a part of the United Nations, all the while learning all about international relations, global issues, and what it means to be a diplomat.

At the start of Fifth Year, we had very little idea of any of this - but throughout our year, with the help of Ms. Hayes and Ms. Fogarty, we were able to become delegates of Loreto Abbey Dalkey's MUN team. We were lucky enough to attend three conferences during our time in the group. It was evident that with each passing conference we became more confident in our abilities as public speakers. In order to prepare for these conferences, we attended MUN meetings throughout the year, twice a week - where we held practice debates, wrote and performed speeches, and also put together all the necessary prep and material we needed for a conference.

Each of us developed new skills throughout the conferences that have proved helpful in everyday life, and have helped our confidence as public speakers. As we were each divided into our separate "committee rooms" we soon discovered that MUN is a great place to meet like minded people and we have made friends that we are still close with today. From representing Chile and Morocco to India and Germany we have done our fair share of travelling the political landscape, and we have learned a lot through representing the views of these countries.

Overall, our MUN experience will always be one to remember - especially since the skills we learnt throughout our time will be ones that will stand by us for life!

**KATE GAFFIKIN, GRACE O'MAHONY
& AINE MCGOLDRICK**

ZAGAMUN

I represented the delegation of Germany in the committee ECOFIN in **ZAGAMUN** 2025. This was my first Model UN I attended and I learned so much. I gained confidence in public speaking. I learned how to use formal English and the terms used in Model United Nations. ECOFIN was a bit daunting to start with but I found once I paid careful attention to what the other delegates were saying I could get a good understanding of what to do. I wrote a resolution on the issues of decommodifying housing and debated this with other delegates.

My experience in ZAGAMUN was great, I met new people and made new friends and gained an insight into the issues that face our world today.

SKYE DUNNE



HSMUN

We attended the **HSMUN** conference as the delegations of Somalia and India. The event allowed us to develop opinions on current events, and improve our public speaking. We had to think quickly and strategically, and create quick opinions and arguments in our heads. The conference is split into different committees, such as historical, DISEC, security council and Environment and Ecology. We were in the committees DISEC and Environment and Ecology. We debated topics such as 'The Illicit trade of small arms and light weapons,' and 'the illegal wildlife trade'. We learnt many things about these issues and what is happening around the world; and created ways in which we can solve them. Overall we found the conference quite interesting, and really fun. We got to make new friends, send notes to people in different rooms and build our confidence. We found the conference enjoyable and would highly recommend anyone doing it next year.

MOLLY BOOTH & ALEXANDRA EGAN





ROCKMUN

This year myself and a delegation from Loreto Abbey Dalkey were lucky enough to attend **ROCKMUN** 2025, which is a model UN conference. We were all quite nervous as this was our first conference, however we did a lot of preparation and our teachers (Ms. Hayes and Ms. Fogarty) helped us as much as they could. I was in DISEC, the committee for disarmament and international security. I wrote a resolution on the question of the use of herbicides in warfare with the help of Ms. Fogarty and Ms. Hayes. We travelled together to the conference and were all quite excited when we walked into the Blackrock College campus. We signed in and started lobbying. I wasn't sure how easy it would be to introduce myself and make friends, however I needn't have worried as I immediately made friends who really helped me through the entire weekend! We attended the opening ceremony before heading to our committee rooms, what followed after was an amazing weekend of debating, full of friends, amendments and learning. I learned so many new skills and felt that all these new skills really came to light when I got to debate my resolution. Before I knew it was over and I was sitting in the general assembly and then the closing ceremony.

I will never forget my first experience at ROCKMUN and my first MUN conference. I learnt so much and made so many amazing friends. I cannot wait to attend again next year (hopefully!)

HAZEL GILLEN



WCDMUN

I attended Wesley College MUN between 7th and 8th of March as a part of the delegation of Morocco. My committee was Health and Youth and the topic I chose to write my resolution on was the question of access to female hygiene products.

Model UN has expanded both my knowledge of world affairs and relations and life skills. At this particular conference, through my research I learned about period poverty- one startling fact that stuck with me was that 500 million women and girls around the world don't have access to adequate period products, and that this is an issue which affects both developed and developing countries. This conference helped me to improve my confidence - I submitted an amendment and stood up and spoke at the front of the room for the first time.

I really enjoyed my experience of Model United Nations this year and look forward to taking part next year and building my skills for the future.

SADHBH O'LEARY





LORETO ABBEY DALKEY GREEN SCHOOLS

"Education is key to creating a sustainable future."

Gro Harlem Brundtland

Former Prime Minister of Norway & Former Director General of the World Health Organisation

Sustainability Studies

2024 marked the warmest year globally since records began in 1850 during which 85 named storms occurred with 42 reaching tropical cyclone strength. Meanwhile, underwater, 77% of global coral reefs experienced bleaching events, the most extensive since 2016 and directly caused by elevated sea temperatures. Undoubtedly, these events are linked with human activity and while the current situation is

not of this generation's making, they are certainly key to slowing down the rate of climate change. Therefore, both our First Years and our Transition Years engaged in modules of Sustainability Studies in order to open our students' eyes to the micro changes they can make to contribute to a more sustainable planet. From Recycle It for Rumbek to planting onions, our students learned that education is the key to change.





First Year Green Champions

The First Year Green Champions of 2024/25 have continued to help our school become more sustainable this year. Throughout the year these students took part in initiatives from highlighting waste at Christmas time and proposing sustainable alternatives to delivering a presentation to their classes on our school's waste management system to highlight making better and more sustainable choices for lunch.

The Green Champions have also helped with our 'Recycle for Rumbek' project whereby collected cans and bottles are returned with the money raised donated to our sister school Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan. Our Green Champions offer us all an insight into what we can do and what can be achieved to make our world a more sustainable and environmentally friendly one.

JESSICA TUTHILL
FIRST YEAR



Green School Activities





Lego STEM Club

Llama, Cowboy Hat & Penguin

The Lego LADs had a very interesting year, to say the least. We went from six inexperienced First Years and five more Second and Third Years to a team that placed in Ireland's top eight at the 2025 FIRST Lego League National Finals, which I think is pretty impressive. But what that title fails to mention is the hard work it took to get there and the fun that was had along the way, as well as the frequent exasperation felt by our long suffering mentor, Mr Cullen as he had his classroom taken over by the team at all times class wasn't on, as well as having his whiteboards defaced by all manner of tallies, quotes and drawings of cats.

A meeting for all First Years who wanted to come was announced one Monday in September, and six brave souls ventured into the science lab. We were immediately shown "The Cheese", which had been used as a science experiment a year or two previously and now seemed immune to mould, and then handed an iPad and told to code a robot that had been left on the desk for us. Strategy for the coming year was discussed and within a couple of weeks we had begun work on our robot design for the competition, as well as our project to go along with it. As the theme was "Submerged", we decided to build a device that made energy from waves.

The competition seemed light years away, until suddenly we had a month to go. By this point we had a Shared Note to document things of interest that had happened and our panicked attempts to solely work on Lego and Lego related things, as well as the strange situations that ensued when we failed were very well documented. But the day of the

competition came, we participated in the robot game and delivered our presentations. At the end of the day, the judges announced the results. Unfortunately we hadn't won the regional competition, so didn't have an automatic spot in the Nationals.

However, it wasn't over yet. Two weeks later, Mr Cullen received a text from the judges. We'd achieved a wild card place in the finals! We fixed a few problems with our robot and developed our project further and on the first day of the Easter Holidays we dragged ourselves out of bed at 6:00am and drove all the way to Swords for the competition. Despite the zombie-like state we found ourselves in as a result, we did very well in the presentations and performed phenomenally in the Robot Games, getting all the way to the quarter finals. Despite losing to another team we were very proud of our accomplishments and cannot wait to compete again next year.

Had someone placed a security camera in B11 and got AI to analyse frequently uttered sentences, the phrases "llama", "cowboy hat" and "penguin" probably would have featured higher on the list than they'd anticipated. I do, however, like to think that this hypothetical AI training spy, would have also gained a sense of friendship, teamwork and perhaps some form of ability to focus on the task at hand. But maybe the last one is too much to hope for! Thank you to Mr. Cullen for leading us to Lego success.

MARTHA POWER
FIRST YEAR





Knitting & Needlework Club

Loops of Life

*On quiet Tuesdays, midday hush,
The needles click in gentle rush -
A rhythm soft, a soothing thread,
Where tangled thoughts are softly shed.*

*In C Corridor's bright woven light,
A circle forms, both calm and tight,
Led by hands with patient grace,
Each stitch a pause, a sacred space.*

*"In through the bunny hole," they say,
"Around the tree, don't lose your way,"
Back through again, then off she goes -
A nursery rhyme the fingers know.*

*Blankets bloom beneath the hands,
Warm as hearths in distant lands.
Maja's gift - a baby's start -
A cradle wrapped in handmade art.*

*In wool we find a quiet balm,
A slowing breath, a kind of calm.
Blood pressure drops, the spirits rise,
An unseen thread beneath the skies.*

*As seasons turn and yarns unwind,
We leave no knitter left behind.
Come join the circle, feel the peace -
Where rows and rows grant sweet release.*





Photography Club

Life Through a Lens

*Wild and withering, the wind takes flight,
It lashes the coast with a ghostly might.
Winter holds fast through term and tide,
Its fingers cold, yet wonders hide.*

*For beauty lingers in the chill,
A sunrise sharp, the dawn grown still.
A filigree traced on sea-ice glass,
Where golden sunsets gently pass.*

*Frost-kissed leaves in quiet gleam,
Like fragments of a half-lost dream.
We wandered out with lens in hand,
To find what waits across the land -*

*Light bending soft through window panes,
A weathered door that still remains.
A snail in stately, silent pace,
Retreating slow, a shrinking trace.*

*And seaward gazes found anew
The dance of gulls, the endless blue.
In reality, we came to see
The pulse of quiet poetry.*

*Kavanagh knew, as we now do -
The overlooked holds beauty too.
So pause, observe, let stillness be -
And find the world in subtlety.*

