



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 16 | DEC 2025

A Christmas Message from our Principal

Welcome to the final edition of the Dalkey Diary for the term. This weekly communication provides parents and students with an opportunity to see the many aspects of life in a modern school. We are indebted to Ms Emily Manning, our editor, who collates photographs and articles and ensures that the Diary is published on time every Friday.

The final week of term is one of fun and excitement as we prepare for Christmas. The carol singing in Grafton Street, slightly curtailed this year due to the weather, the beautiful carol services in Dalkey Parish Church, the preparation of gift boxes and hampers for those in need, and the annual talent show in aid of our sister school in Loreto Rumbek all focus our minds on the message of Christmas, while fostering a sense of belonging to a learning community where positivity and hope are central.

As we reach the end of the term, I would like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to our educational mission and to the Parents' Association for the support and advice over the year.

I wish you and your families the blessings of peace, joy, good health and friendship this Christmas, and Mr Flanagan, Ms Conlon and I look forward to your continued support in the New Year.

Mr Robert Dunne

Principal

Mark your Calendar

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

Jan 5th
Jan 8th
Jan 20th
Jan 22nd
Jan 29th

School reopens
5th Year Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings
School closed
1st Year Parent/Teacher Meetings
Subject choice information meeting for
TY and TY parents



Congratulations to U14 Basketball

Well done to our U14s basketball team who won 34-12 vs St Andrew's and also won 23-15 vs Teresians to qualify for the All Ireland Semi Final.

Class of 2015 Reunion

We were delighted to welcome a group of past pupils from the Class of 2015 for their 10 year reunion this week. What a great chance to catch up with former classmates, friends and teachers!

Accelerated Reader



Well done to all 1st and 2nd Years who completed their second round of Accelerated Reader testing over the last week. Don't forget to read something fun over the Christmas break!



Christmas Carol Service

On Tuesday, the school community gathered together in Dalkey Parish Church for the annual Carol Services, giving us all time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Our theme this year was centred around hope. We thought about where we see hope in our lives and in contemporary culture. The service also provided time to think about who the shepherds represent in life today - the marginalised, the homeless and those discriminated against - as well as consider the motivation behind the journey of the wisemen. The message of the crib is all are welcome as the Ember Team enacted the nativity scene.

Prayers were read in each language of our school community, underlining the many cultures that make up our school community. These reflections were intertwined with beautiful hymns and Christmas carols sung by our school choirs, and instrumental pieces from our school orchestra and musicians. Thank you to the RE and Music departments for all their work.

More photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkey_







TYs Take to the Ice

On Wednesday, the Transition Years skated their way around the Alpine Skate Trail in Dun Laoghaire, perfecting their twirls, pirouettes, or just staying upright! Thanks to Ms McHenry for organising such a fun morning!



Neart

Supporting mental health in post-primary schools

JIGSAW
Young people's
health in mind



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Student Wellbeing

Our school is part of Neart, a national programme of support and wellbeing resources for students, staff, parents and guardians.

Neart offers parents and guardians free webinars and podcasts with practical tips on topics parents said matter most - like anxiety, supporting school attendance, social media, and self-care.

Sign up for the free Neart parent and guardian newsletter at jigsaw.ie/neart/ to stay up to date with the latest webinars, podcasts and practical guidance.



New Year Aesthetics at Creative Compass

Ms Gore's Creative Compass lunchtime club had a fun and festive time compiling boards for their 2026 goals and aesthetic with some Christmas tunes in the background!

Creative Compass is open to all students, and takes place on Tuesdays at lunchtime in the Lecture Theatre. For more information, please email Ms Gore.



Festive Baking in Home Ec

This week, Home Ec classes across all years undertook some fun and seasonal baking, whipping up impressive Yule logs, deliciously gooey cinnamon rolls, and gingerbread men.



Dalkey's Got Talent

Every year, our Dalkey's Got Talent showcase reminds us just how much talent there is within our school community! On stage we had singers, musicians and a gymnastic duo, while backstage the talents of planning, organisation, art and design, audio visual, costumes and props were also evident. Well done to everyone who took part, in particular the 6th Year Leadership Team, the Student Council, Ms Coyne, Ms O'Dwyer, and Mr Oman.

We were lucky to be joined by four celebrity judges to help decide on this year's DGT winner. Those judges were "tiny mic" queen and past pupil Olivia Spuds; Shona Mahon, founder of award-winning Irish beauty brand Wink with Mink; award-winning Irish hair stylist Ceira Lambert; and Noel Nagle, singer and tin whistler with the iconic Irish band The Wolfetones.

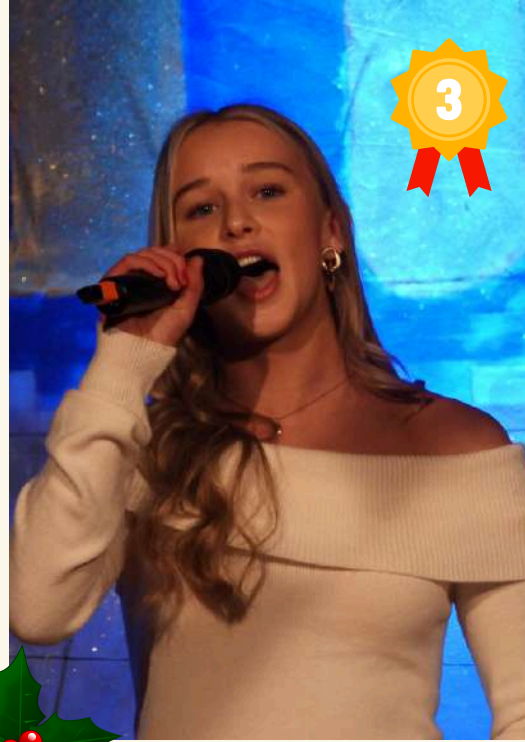
The judges deliberated long and hard to choose our winners, and the results were...in third place, Mia Cullinane from 5th Year for her stunning solo; in second place, the 1st Year gymnastic duo Laura and Ava; and in first place, our winner Katy Hickey from 6th Year for her fantastic performance of Proud Mary, with back up dancers Rosa and Elsa. Well done Katy!

More photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkey_











Celebrating the End of Term

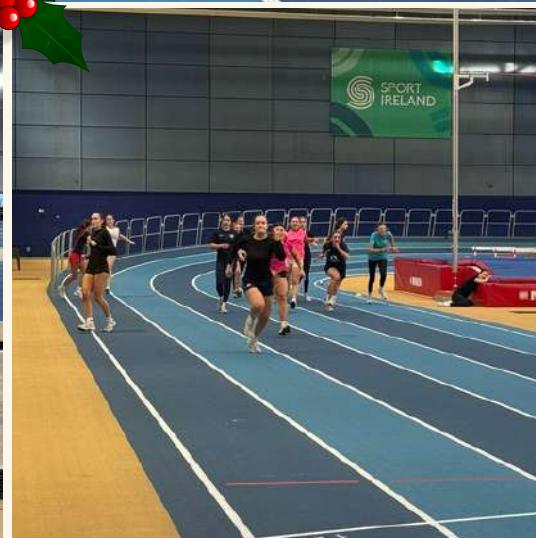
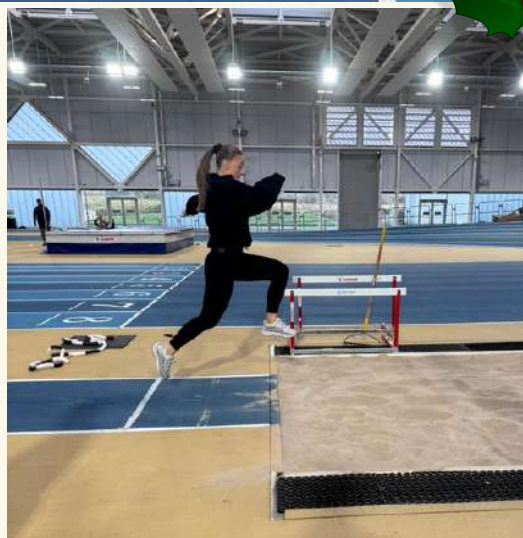
Ms McBreen's 6th Year Maths class celebrated the end of term with a class party. Well done for all your hard work this term!



2nd Year Christmas Bake-Off

Ms Dervan's 2nd Year Home Ec class had a fun and festive baking competition this week, giving their all to some Christmassy cakes, cookies and pastries.

Well done to all the top notch bakers who took part and produced delicious treats, and especially to Sarah Henry and Leah O'Broin who were the chosen winners!



TY Trip to Sport Ireland Campus

On Monday, a group of Transition Year students took a trip to the Sport Ireland Campus in Blanchardstown for an LCPE taster session.

Over the course of the day, the girls got to experience the world-class facilities of the National Indoor Arena, the National Gymnastics Arena, and the incredible high performance gym.



Christmas Card Competition

Thanks to everyone who entered this year's Christmas Card competition. Congratulations to our winner, Caitlin Collins in 2nd Year. Caitlin's winning entry will be used for our digital Loreto Abbey Dalkey Christmas card.



Une Visite à La Crêperie pour Noël

This week, the 2nd Year French classes visited La Crêperie in Dalkey with their teachers.

They enjoyed delicious crêpes in the most festive of surroundings and were delighted to receive such a warm welcome from Alison Reilly, her husband Julien and their family.

We would like to thank Julien for his kindness and patience as, for many of our students, this was the first time that they had spoken French in a real-life setting. The girls spoke beautiful French and it was a positive linguistic and cultural experience for them.

Alison is a past pupil of Loreto Abbey Dalkey (Class of 2006) and it was lovely to catch up with her and her memories of her time in our school.

Merci beaucoup Alison et Julien, et Joyeux Noël à tous!



CHRISTASTIC CHRISTMAS TUNES

Ten seasonal songs – 5 with vocals from Ella & Aimee and 5 with soloist Vanessa on Harp & Piano

Only €6 – all profits go to the Irish Cancer Society



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Christmas Basketball Trips to Bray Bowl

1st Year and Junior basketball teams had an end-of-term trip to Bray Bowl. Well done for practicing and training so hard this term, getting involved and playing plenty of matches.

Thank you to your coaches for organising a fun outing!

Charity Playlist

Well done to Vanessa Gulliver, Ella and Aimee Gardiner from 1st Year for creating a seasonal playlist to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society. Scan the QR code to purchase.



Leire Lasuncion



Anna Garrett



Grace McKenna

Photography Club

This week's prompt for Photography Club was "Christmastime is here". Students captured festive photos inspired by Christmas decorations, lights, and seasonal moments, showcasing their creativity as we wrapped up this term.

It was wins across the board for 1st Year this week with Leire Lasuncion our winner, and runners up Anna Garrett and Grace McKenna.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in joining photography club in the New Year, please email Ms Flood.



This Week's Hockey Results

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

1st Year G lost 2-0 vs Rathdown 3s in their Leinster Semi-Final match

Minor 3 lost 1-0 vs High School

Junior 3 won 2-1 vs Mount Anville
Junior 3 won 2-1 vs Our Lady's Terenure
Junior 5 won 2-0 vs Loreto Beaufort

Senior 3 won 1-0 vs Mount Anville
Senior 4 drew 0-0 vs High School



More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport

