



## TY Sleep Out for Focus Ireland

Last Friday, the Transition Year students took part in the Focus Ireland Shine a Light Sleep Out to raise essential funds for Focus Ireland's services, sleeping under the stars from 7pm to 7am.

The TYs put in immense effort to fundraising and awareness over the past few weeks. Their efforts certainly paid off as they have raised **more than €42,000**. This makes Loreto Abbey Dalkey the top school fundraiser in the country and one of the overall top fundraisers when put alongside some of the country's largest corporations.

All of this fundraising effort will go towards Focus Ireland's critical services - including the provision of one-on-one support for children with dedicated social workers, hot and nutritious meals in the Focus Ireland Coffee Shop, and access to education and training services - all of which are coming under increasing demand as the number of homeless families increases.

Thank you once again to our wonderful TYs, to the brave teachers who stayed with them for a night of little to no sleep, and to the whole school community for donating so generously.



€42,000 raised for Focus Ireland!



# Mr Dunne's Message of Congratulations

This year, the Shine A Light campaign focused on Child Homelessness. Given that there are 5,500 children without a home, it is in the words of Focus Ireland, "not just a number but a generation growing up in crisis". Your generosity will support these children and provide their families with hot meals, critical advice, child support and, most importantly, education.

To date, you have raised €42,000 - an amazing response at a time when there are financial demands on all families. I wish to express our sincere gratitude to you for your work over the last four weeks preparing for our "Sleep Out". Many of you were part of groups that had specific responsibilities, thank you for your commitment and superb organisation. All of you contributed to the success of the event by your presence and your abilities to persuade your parents and friends to sponsor you, and in so doing to support such a worthy cause. A particular word of thanks to Mr Byrne who coordinated the event and a number of staff who supervised the group.

As you reflect on this, our first major project in T.Y., you can be extremely proud of your great achievement. While fundraising was one of our goals, it is important not to forget the other learnings from the event, perhaps equally important.

Firstly, you learnt the importance of working as a team and saw what can be achieved when people come together for a common goal. The success of our "Sleep Out" was not down to one individual, but was as a result of 130 making the effort to fundraise and help-out in the lead up to the event and on the night. There was a great solidarity as everyone realised that we were in this together and there was a strength in numbers.

Secondly, you learnt that there is always an initial enthusiasm for a project from a group but that this can decrease over time and leaders are needed to motivate and encourage and keep people on track. We have seen some great examples of leadership over the past month.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we, both students and teachers, got an insight into the experience of those who are forced to sleep on the streets. We experienced the cold and the wind, particularly from 3-4am, making it extremely difficult to stay warm even with Dry Robes. We did not experience rain, the threat of violence and the isolation that many rough sleepers feel. We could use bathrooms, make warm drinks, share food, and fill hot water bottles when we were cold. These luxuries are not available to those who sleep on the streets. We recognised too that at 7am, we could depart for our warm showers and beds and did not face a day wandering around the city attempting to keep warm.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Board of Management, the staff and Focus Ireland, thank you for your immense generosity and for seeing such a worthwhile project to its conclusion. We are so proud of you.



# Mark your Calendar

Oct 16th-20th

Oct 22nd

Oct 23rd

Oct 26th-30th

Nov 3rd

Nov 19th

Nov 25-27th

6th Year Autumn exams

Deadline for accepting 2027/28 admissions

School closed for Oide Staff Training Day

Midterm break

3rd Year Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings

2nd Year Parent/Teacher Meetings

TY Musical in Mermaid Theatre, Bray

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



## What Will You Read this Month?

As the evenings draw in with a chill in the air, it's safe to say that we are entering the season of fluffy socks, hot chocolate and cosy book vibes! October is the perfect month for reading and finding a book to fit this month's reading challenge.

Try reading a book that fits one of this month's prompts - the choice of book is completely up to you!

The theme this month is **'Spooky Season'**, so you could read:

- A book set in Autumn or at Halloween
- A book with 'fright', 'witch' or 'monster' in the title
- A thriller, horror, mystery or cosy crime book
- A book with an orange or black cover
- A book with magical or supernatural characters



## LCPE Awards for Highest Results

Huge congratulations to Meadhb Le Roux and Niamh Murray (not pictured) on receiving the Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI) award for having the highest LCPE results in the country for 2025 and 2024 respectively.

This is a fantastic achievement for both of these past pupils and their teacher Mr Monaghan.

Loreto Abbey Dalkey was the only school to receive two such awards, and this is testament to the hard work of the PE department with 31 Leaving Cert H1 grades achieved in the subject over the past four years. Well done to all!



## All-Ireland Quarter-Final Win

Congratulations to our Senior A basketball team who had a decisive win in their All-Ireland Quarter-Final game against Our Lady's Terenure during the week. Well done!



## Making an Impact in Science

To celebrate World Space Week, Ms McBreen and her 3D Science class took a deep dive into the cosmos to investigate what happens when asteroids strike Earth.

Armed with everything from golf balls to sliotars and a whole lot of flour to mimic the Earth's surface, students recreated their own planetary collisions. The lab may have ended up covered in a cloud of dust, but a stellar time was had by all!



## Loreto Bray Golf Invitational Competition

Well done to Vanessa Gulliver (2nd Year), Chloe Collins (1st Year), Caitlin Collins (3rd Year) and Sophie Colleran (2nd Year) who took part in the Loreto Bray Golf Invitational Competition at Bray Golf Club on Thursday.



## Book of the Week

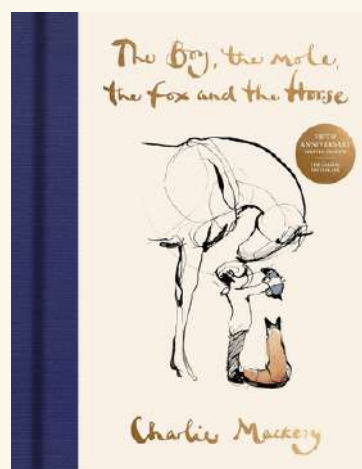
**This week's book, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, was chosen by Ms McHenry:**

This book was gifted to me last week, and I loved it so much that I already know I'll be buying copies for friends of my own!

Through beautiful illustrations and simple but meaningful conversations, the book explores friendship, kindness, courage and the importance of being gentle with ourselves and others.

It's a lovely reminder that we all have difficult days, and sometimes the simplest words can bring the greatest comfort.

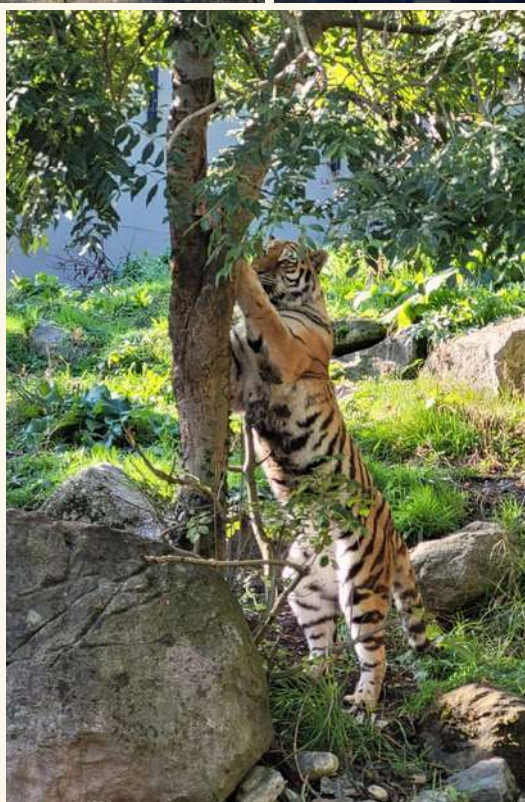
A book to dip in and out of whenever you need a little reminder of what really matters!



You can find this book in the Junior Fiction section



And if you enjoy the book, there's also a lovely animated film version of it that's worth watching, as well as a follow-up book called *Always Remember: The Boy, The Mole, The Fox, the Horse and The Storm*.



## 3rd Year CSPE Trip to Dublin Zoo

The 3rd Years went to Dublin Zoo on Friday as part of their CBA in CSPE, which involves researching endangered animals and efforts to protect them.

The students all took part in a workshop provided by the zookeepers all about conservations, the threats animals face in the wild, and how Dublin Zoo provides a safe and stimulating environment for its animals. The students also got to go around the Zoo to find their favourite animals and find facts for their CBA. The good weather helped and it was a great day out!



## Halloween Costume Swap

Got an old Halloween costume sitting in your wardrobe that you're done with? Don't buy something new - come swap it with us!

A Halloween Costume Swap is taking place every day at lunchtime next week in C11. Bring in your old costumes, grab yourself a fresh new look, and help be sustainable while you're at it! Plus, all donations will go straight to Loreto Rumbek. See you there!



## Hockey Results

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

Senior 2 won vs Newbridge  
 Senior 3 won 1-0 vs Newbridge  
 Junior 2 won 3-1 vs Newbridge



## CyberBreak 2026

We are encouraging students and their families to take part in CyberBreak 2026, an initiative organised by CyberSafeKids. Get involved and reflect on the benefits of finding a healthy balance between our online and offline lives.

Starting at 7pm on Friday, 16th October, CyberBreak challenges families to switch off their smart devices for 24 hours and enjoy some screen-free time. Our students have come up with some great ideas for how to spend their time away from screens, including pumpkin carving, arts and crafts, building forts, going for a hike, and baking. It is a great opportunity to take a break from our devices and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

For those who cannot commit to the full 24 hours, there is also a 12-hour CyberByte challenge, running from 7pm to 7am.

*Above are some of our Junior CyberBreak Art Competition entries.*



## Well Done Emily!

Congratulations to Emily Grimes (1st Year) who represented Loreto Abbey Dalkey at the Equestrian Interschools in Mullingar last weekend.

Emily jumped in the 90cm qualifier class and took home 1st place. She has now qualified for the finals, which will take place in March 2027.

## Accelerated Reader Literacy Programme

Well done to all 1st and 2nd Year students who completed their first round of Accelerated Reader Star tests over the past week, which is the first of four such tests that will be carried out throughout the year for each year group.

Students will also work on Reading Quizzes, through the Accelerated Reader literacy development and assessment programme, with the goal of becoming Word Millionaires (or Multi-Millionaires!) during the course of the school year.



**Renaissance**  
Accelerated Reader