



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 18 | JAN 2026



Minister for Health Leadership Conversation

Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD visited our school on Monday for an empowering leadership conversation with the TY students.

During her talk, she told us that she went to Loreto College St. Stephens Green, where she played lots of basketball, and discussed how her break into politics came from being a legal advisor to Enda Kenny. She described thinking about running for local elections and asking her family for their thoughts, to which she was met with no support. It was one friend that pushed her and told her “What do you have to lose?”. The support of one friend was enough to push her to put herself out there, and she won the vote. She encouraged us to just “turn up” no matter how hard it gets.

Minister Carroll MacNeill told us that if there’s anything we want to do, to go after it and not be afraid of seeming too “confident”. Most notably she pushed us all to pursue a career in politics and said she “hopes to see one of us as Taoiseach one day”.

- Siún Hudner (TY)

Mark your Calendar

Jan 20th	School closed
Jan 22nd	1st Year Parent/Teacher Meetings
Jan 29th	6th Year Mocks begin
Jan 29th	Subject choice information meeting for TYs and TY parents
Feb 5th	Junior Cycle Mocks begin
Feb 9th	TY Work Experience Week
Feb 9th	Spring exams begin for 1st, 2nd and 5th Years
Feb 13th	School closed for mid-term break

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



Well Done Philippa!

Huge congratulations to Philippa Arthurs in 1st Year who represented Ireland when she competed in the India International Regatta 2026 in Chennai last week.

We are delighted to report that Philippa won the event, completing a series of 10 races over 4 days against young sailors from around the world. Well done Philippa!

DCU Cross Country

Well done to all our minor, junior and inter cross country runners who took part in Wednesday's event at DCU.

Congratulations in particular to Olatz Cole Garcia in 1st Year and Alessandra Stanley in 2nd Year who both took home silver in their respective categories, and the minor girls team who took 2nd place overall.

DON'T FORGET

A further reminder that we are back to **full normal uniform from Monday.**

Students are not permitted to wear their tracksuit other than for PE class.



Model UN in Belvedere

Well done to all the girls who participated in Model United Nations in Belvedere this weekend. The girls represented the delegations of Ireland and Sierra Leone, debating topics such as Question of the Environmental Impact of Artificial Intelligence and the Question of Stateless Persons.

Well done to Martha Power (2nd Year) who won best Junior Delegate in the E&E committee and Hazel Gillen (5th Year) who won Highly Commended Delegate in the Security Council.



Using the School Gym

The school gym is a great way to build an active weekly routine. You can get your exercise in daily before school from 7:50am to 8:30am, and also on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4:30pm. The gym is supervised for students during these hours.

Feel free to stop by and use the facilities - it's the perfect energy boost before school, or for a post-school switch off! Please note that a gym assessment and instruction must be carried out before use.

Jump Zone

On Thursday, the TYs enjoyed an afternoon at Jump Zone. From bouncing and dodgeball, to gymnastics and gladiator duels, it was a fun activity for the whole year to enjoy!



ITALIA

TY Trip to Italy

Excitement is building for the Transition Year trip to Italy in May!

The final payment for the trip is due by Thursday January 22nd.

A link for payment and further details have been sent to parents via our school app. If you have any queries, please contact Ms Mulcahy or Ms Noctor.

COMING SOON

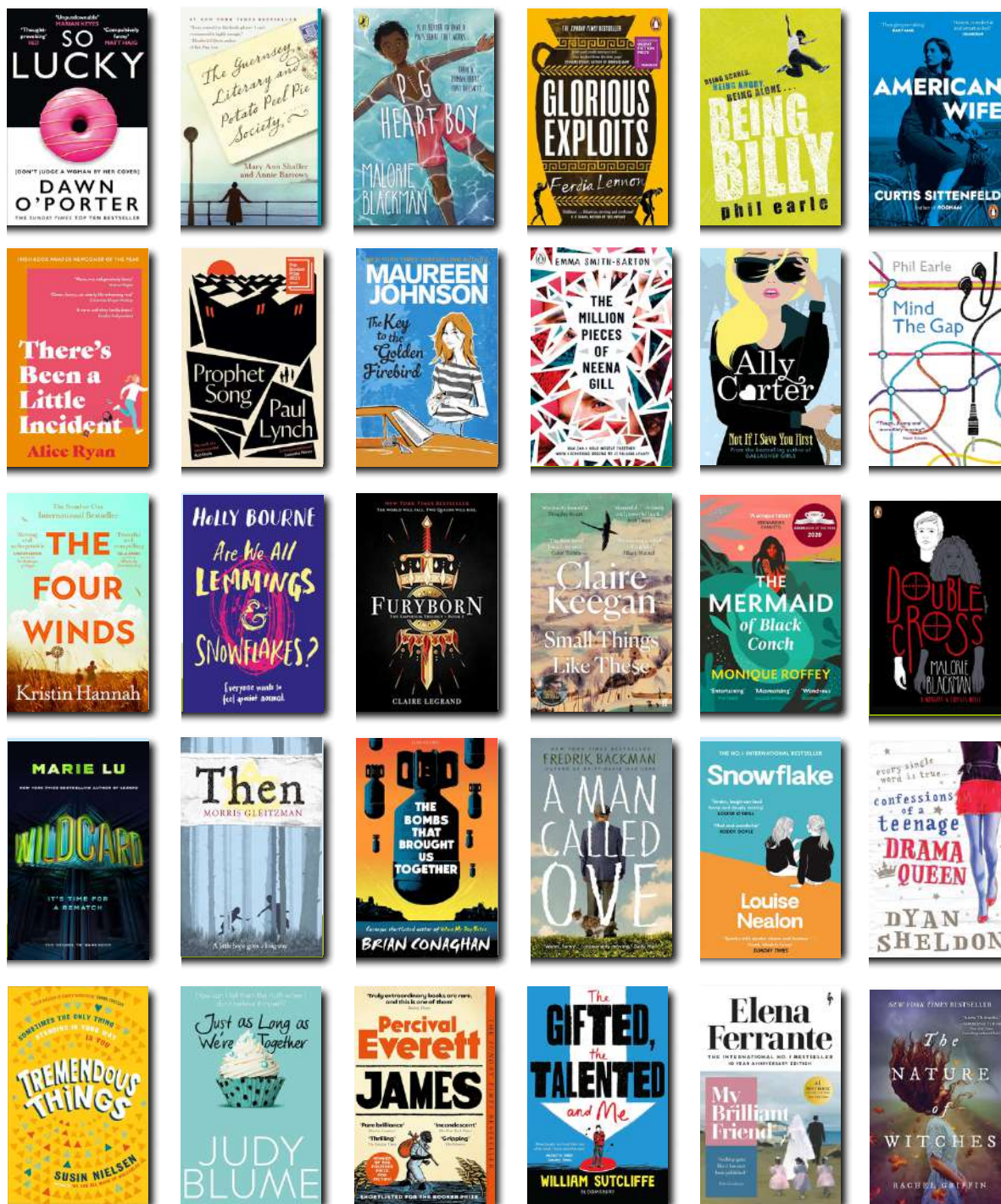
Upcoming TY Dates

Jan 19th	Leadership Conversations: Maria Cristina Villarroel
Jan 23rd	Leadership Conversations: Eibhlin Curley
Jan 26th	Leadership Conversations: Miriam O'Callaghan
Jan 29th	Subject choice information evening for TYs and TY Parents
Feb 9-13th	Work experience week

Check Us Out!

Thank you to all who have donated so far in our library book drive - these are just some of the latest additions to the library shelves! A link to the library wish list has been sent out via the school app, and second-hand books in excellent condition are also very welcome.

All students and staff have their own library account, so these books can be borrowed straight away. Library books can be borrowed for two weeks at a time, or you can reserve a book if it has already been checked out.



@loretoabbeydalkeylibrary



Kate McLaughlin



Alice Brady



Méabh Hargaden

Photography Club

This week, the girls in the Photography Club were challenged with the prompt 'New Beginnings'. The girls were asked to capture a moment that reflected a fresh start, winter light, or a clean slate.

The photos which stood out this week belonged to Kate McLaughlin (TY), Alice Brady (2nd Year), and Méabh Hargaden (1st Year). Well done to everyone who participated in this week's challenge.

New members are always welcome! If you are interested in joining photography club, 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 D lost 3-0 vs Loreto Beaufort

Minor 2 won 5-1 vs Sandford Park

Minor 4 drew 1-1 vs Newbridge

Junior 4 won 6-0 vs Loreto Beaufort

Junior 6 lost 2-0 vs Maynooth PPS

Senior 1 drew 0-0 vs High School



More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport



Ember Renewal Day

On Thursday, the Ember team joined with over 20 schools from the Archdiocese of Dublin for Ember Renewal Day. The day offered each group a chance to showcase their work, be inspired by the initiatives of others and to reflect on their hopes for the year ahead.

The day concluded with mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin Paul Dempsey who explained to all present how SOS (Sleep, Outdoor Activity and Spirituality) are hugely important for everyone to reach their full potential.



This Week's Basketball Results

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

Minor A lost 33-27 vs Loreto Foxrock

Minor C lost 36-24 vs Newpark

Minor C lost 38-16 to St Gerard's

Junior A won 31-14 vs Loreto Foxrock

Junior C lost 32-12 vs Newpark

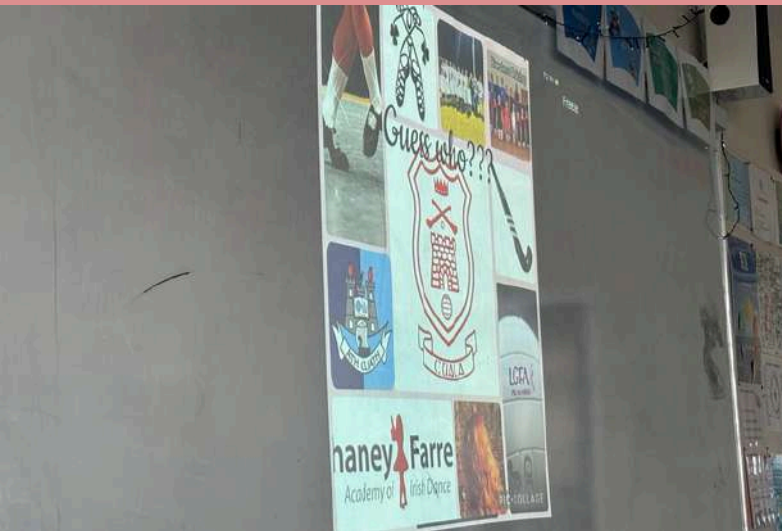


More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport

'Guess Who' at Creative Compass

This week, students had a chance to play 'Guess Who' at Creative Compass.

The girls created vision boards that best represented themselves (without giving away who they were) and the group played a game of Guess Who, voting who they thought the vision board belonged to!



Inter-Loreto Debating

Students who participate in debating develop essential life skills such as critical thinking, logical argumentation, and an appreciation for diverse perspectives. It's also a fantastic way to prepare for college life.

We were delighted that two teams of our TY students represented Loreto Dalkey in the Inter-Loreto Senior Debating Competition this week, where debates took place over Zoom.

The motions debated were: "Celebrities are good role models", "Public transport should be free for under 25s", and "As a parent, I would send my child to an all-Irish school".

Congratulations to Kelly Chen and Ysabel Zabal, who have made it through to the finals, where they will compete against two other Loreto schools. A special well done also to Grace Dolan and Julia Boland, who embraced the experience and gave it their best!



ARE YOU HAVING A NEW YEAR CLEAR OUT?



Do you have **unwanted Christmas gifts** that need a new home?



Or **books you know you won't read**, despite the best of intentions?



What about **second-hand books** in excellent condition?

IF YES, THE LIBRARY IS HAPPY TO TAKE THEM OFF YOUR HANDS!

Our library book drive continues and we are still looking for **donations of new or second-hand books** in excellent condition. A link to the library wish list can be found in the parent app.

