



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 11 | NOV 2025



Welcome to the Dalkey Jungle!

The 1st Years had a very exciting morning today, with a visit from Dave's Jungle. The students learned fascinating facts about the anatomy, habitat and behaviours of snakes, spiders, chameleons, frogs, and snapping turtles...and got to meet some of Dave's famous assistants along the way. These included Darren the 3.5-month-old Burmese Python, Sean the 5-year-old 15-foot Burmese Python, Sharon the tarantula, a vibrantly coloured Mexican chameleon, Gary the African Bull Frog, and a 21-year-old snapping turtle that could live to be more than 150 years old.

There was plenty of hands-on opportunities, including lifting Sean as a group, feeling Sharon's furry legs, rubbing the chameleon's textured skin, as well as watching the chameleon swing by his tail, Gary eat some mealworm snacks, and the snapping turtle's incredible jaw strength.

Teachers and older students had to get involved too, and there were more than a few screams heard in the Lecture Theatre this morning!



More photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkey_

Mark your Calendar

Nov 20th	2 nd Year Parent/Teacher Meetings
Nov 20-26th	5th Year Autumn exams
Nov 24th	School closed
Nov 26-28th	TY Musical in Mermaid Theatre, Bray
Dec 1st-5th	TY Work Experience
Dec 8th	School closed
Dec 10th	Careers Fair for 4th, 5th and 6th Years
Dec 12th	YES Christmas Market
Dec 16th	Christmas Carol Concert, Dalkey Parish Church
Dec 18th	Dalkey's Got Talent, Concert Hall
Dec 19th	Christmas Break begins at 12pm

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

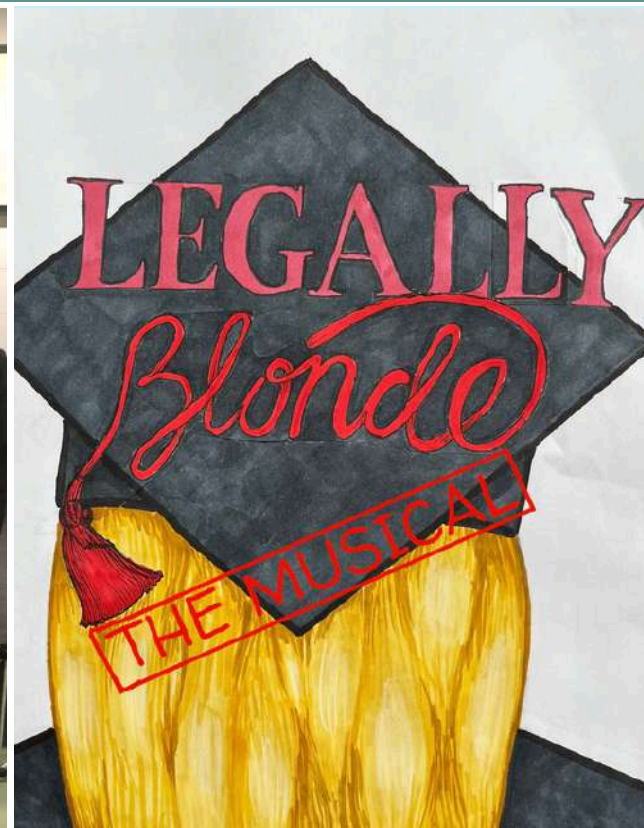


Model United Nations

Well done to Rachel Shannon (3rd Year), India Bagot (3rd Year), Hazel Gillen (5th Year), Meabh Hargaden (2nd Year), Neasa Burns (2nd Year), Rachel Lacy (3rd Year) and Chloe Leonard (2nd Year) who represented our school at PARKMUN in Newpark last weekend. Grace O'Mahony (6th Year) also chaired the DISEC committee.

Our students represented the delegation of Algeria and debated a range of issues, such as tariffs on LEDCs and Terrorism in the Sahel region. Congratulations to Neasa Burns who won Best New Delegate in ECOFIN and Chloe Leonard who won Best New Delegate in SPECPOL.

The Model United Nations Club is open to new members. If you would be interested in taking part, please contact Ms Hayes.



Legally Blonde

Grab your tickets while you can and see the hilarious, energetic, pink-powered spectacle that is the TY Musical 2025!

The TYs will perform six shows, a matinee and evening performance each on November 26th, 27th and 28th. Please note that the matinees are for school audiences only.

Tickets for the evening performances can be purchased directly from the Mermaid Arts Centre website. We have no control over ticket sales or availability.



Celebrating Science Week

While peak excitement for the 1st Years was the visit from Dave's Jungle and the chance to get hands-on with tarantulas and snakes, the 2nd Years had an explosive show of their own!

From electricity and sound to glowing coloured flames and methane bubbles, the 2nd Years were treated to an exciting science show, led by the 6th Year Science Prefects (with Ms Scott and Mr Cullen as their assistants). They even turned "water into wine" using the magic of acid and base neutralisation. Fortunately, no students were harmed in the process.

The 6th Year Science Prefects also organised a science quiz in the Lecture Theatre at lunchtime on Monday with lots of chocolate and prizes to be won, as well as daily science quiz questions over the intercom with treats for each day's winner.



6th Year Physics Trip to Intel

This week, the 6th Year Physics class visited Intel. We were shown around by Joe Jardine, an electronic engineer. He showed us computer set ups and emulating software that was the price of a house, but fit nicely on a shelf. We were then told about the process of manufacturing the silicon for these units and the clean rooms needed to do this (40 times cleaner than an operating theatre!).

It was interesting to see the influence AI has had on the field of electronic engineering. There was a robot whose job it was to check the sides of all the chips to ensure that there were no flaws. What would have been a mundane task for a person to do, can now be done quickly and efficiently by a robot.

The highlight of the trip, by far, was meeting the inspiring female engineers who worked there. It was interesting gaining an insight into their journeys and learning from the advice they had. It was clear they all loved what they did, and their passion was infectious as I think a lot of our class left with a newfound interest in Engineering.

- Grace O'Mahony (6th Year)



Ireland v Luxembourg

Our Minor and Junior basketball teams were lucky enough to attend the Ireland Women's Basketball EuroBasket qualifier against Luxembourg in the National Basketball Arena on Wednesday evening - and even got a photo with some of the players.

What a fantastic opportunity this was for them to see elite players in action!

The girls represented the school exceptionally well and were highly commended by staff for their exemplary behaviour. They were a real credit to the school.



Rugby Tournament Champions

On Thursday, Loreto Abbey Dalkey won our first ever contact rugby trophy...and what a day of rugby it was!

First, our Senior Rugby team took to the pitch in Donnybrook for the Senior 7 Contact Blitz. They played a cracking first game against Mercy Beaumont, just losing out with a 22-17 final score. However, they took a fantastic win in their second match, beating Swords 34-0.

Then it was time for the Juniors, who won their first game 30-5 vs St Louis, had a 10-10 draw with Ardgillan B for their second match, and a final win 45-5 in match 3 vs St Louis 2s. The Dalkey Juniors came away champions of the day, bringing home the trophy.

Huge congratulations to all players, Junior and Senior, for an epic day of rugby!

More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport



Tea with the Loreto Sisters

On Tuesday evening, the Ember team were delighted to invite the Loreto sisters from our adjacent convent to the school for afternoon tea. The team chatted with the sisters, learning about their life and work as missionaries around the world. The team explained to the sisters their role as faith leaders in the school and the work they carry out to support the ethos of our school.

This intergenerational conversation was very important, as the students learned about the great work the sisters have carried out throughout their ministry. The sisters in turn learned of the many initiatives carried out by Ember to promote faith and our Loreto Ethos. Many thanks to the sisters for taking the time to meet our faith leaders.



6th Year Talk with Reverend Ruth Elmes

We were delighted to welcome Reverend Ruth Elmes to speak to our 6th Year RE classes about the role of faith in her life and her path to ordination. The discussion offered some unique insights into the challenges faced by the Church of Ireland and the progression that has been made over the past few decades.

Rev Ruth also discussed how the role of the church has changed in people's lives and the fact that it will always be relevant in times of need. Thank you to the RE Department for organising.



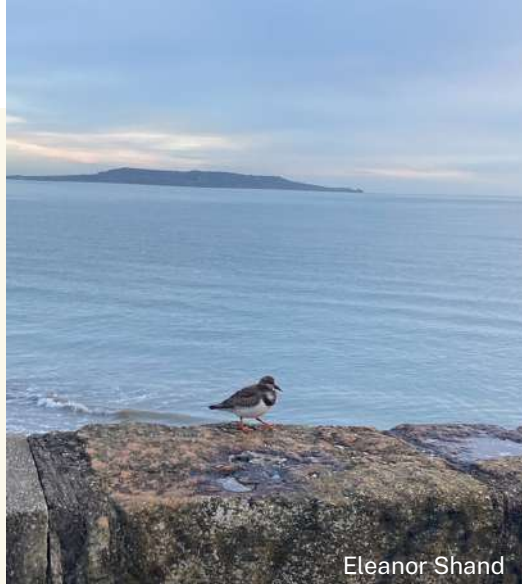
LCVP Trip to Butler's Chocolate Factory

As part of the Summary Report section of their LCVP portfolio, the 5th Year students took the initiative to plan and organise a trip to Butler's Chocolate Factory. Throughout the process, they gained valuable experience in teamwork, communication, budgeting, and time management - all key skills for future workplaces.

During the visit, they learned about the history of chocolate, the production process, and how a business can combine creativity with success. The highlight of the day, however, was decorating their own chocolate elephants, which made the trip both educational and great fun.



Eliza Booth



Eleanor Shand



Lorena Rodrigues Lowney

Photography Club

This week's challenge for Photography Club was 'Into the Wild', and students were asked to capture the beauty of the outdoors, including plants, animal and landscapes. The winner was Eliza Booth (1st Year), with runners up Eleanor Shand (1st Year) and Lorena Rodrigues Lowney (1st Year).

If you want to try out a new hobby and get involved, new members are always welcome to join Photography Club. Please email Ms Flood for more information.



Chess Championship 2025

Our second annual Chess Championship was held this week, with 22 girls participating. The competition was fierce, with some students even taking part in their first-ever tournament. In between their intense chess matches, the students kept their minds sharp by playing with Rubik's Cubes.

Congratulations to Ria Noonan (2nd Year) who won all five of her matches and took 1st Place, followed by Zoe Hanley (1st Year) in 2nd Place, and Victoria Griffin (2nd Year) in 3rd Place. Each of the girls received a Dundrum voucher as a prize.

Well done to all participants, and many thanks to Ms McBreen for organising and our arbitrator, Hector Vjekoslav Novak, for managing the tournament.



Student Council Training

On Tuesday, our Student Council took part in an online training session with other schools from the Loreto Network. During the session, students revisited the roles and responsibilities of a Student Council and heard inspiring presentations from other schools about their recent projects and initiatives. Our own representatives also shared a short presentation about our Council's activities.

To finish the day, the students worked together to begin developing the Student Council Year Plan, which will be posted on the Student Council noticeboard later this week.



Thank You to Our Science Teachers

As part of our celebration of Science Week, students from across the school wrote messages of thanks for their Science teachers, all accompanied by a chocolate treat to say a big 'thank you'! Pictured here: Ms Hanratty, Ms Garten, Mr Cullen, Ms Scott, Ms Sutton, and Ms McBreen (not pictured: Ms Butler, Ms O'Keeffe, Ms Mulcahy, Ms Bennett, and Mr Monaghan)



Road Safety Awareness

On Tuesday, our TY students attended the AXA RoadSafe Roadshow at The Helix in DCU. The event was a powerful and emotional reminder of the importance of road safety.

Members of An Garda Síochána shared their firsthand experiences of road traffic accidents, while family members spoke movingly about losing loved ones in collisions. The stories were deeply impactful and encouraged everyone to think carefully about the consequences of dangerous driving. It was a sobering but valuable experience for all who attended.



This Week's Basketball Results

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

Junior A won 33-27 vs Loreto Foxrock
Junior B won 40-8 vs Loreto Foxrock

Cadette A won 49-25 vs Loreto Bray
Cadette B won 38-6 vs Loreto on the Green

Senior A won 40-36 vs Loreto Bray
Senior B lost 29-28 vs Loreto on the Green



BREAKING NEWS

In a change to the timetable, Journalism Club will now take place on **Tuesdays at lunchtime** in the library.

Fancy a career in publishing? Want to try your hand as a journalist or editor? All are welcome to join - just turn up or email Ms Manning with any questions.

Journalism Club is the place if you want to:

- learn about writing for different types of media (newspapers, magazines, podcasts, broadcast, etc)
- try out your interviewing skills
- learn how to come up with great article ideas
- get tips for writing attention-grabbing headlines
- avoid falling for the trap of 'fake news'
- get lots of writing, interviewing, research, and editing advice
- ask questions
- practice writing and develop your unique style

FREE
EVENT



SANTA COMES TO DALKEY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30TH 5PM

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION CARPARK

Brought to you by



This Week's Hockey Results

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

Minor 3 won 1-0 vs St Gerard's

Minor 3 won 5-0 vs Newpark

Junior 1 lost 3-0 vs St Gerard's

Junior 2 won 4-0 vs Newpark

Junior 3 won 6-0 vs St Gerard's

Senior 1 won 2-1 vs Temple Carrig

Senior 2 lost 2-0 vs Loreto Beaufort

Senior 3 won 4-0 vs Loreto Foxrock

Senior 3 won 2-1 vs Wesley

Senior 4 lost 2-0 vs Loreto Beaufort

Senior 5 lost 2-0 vs Loreto Beaufort



More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport