

Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 11 | NOV 2026







In November, We Remember

“Those we have lost leave a permanent imprint on our hearts” was the theme on Monday as each year group attended our November Remembrance Services. In the peaceful setting of our convent chapel, students listened to reflections reminding everyone that the loved ones we have lost continue to guide us.

Ahead of the service, each student created a paper heart inscribed with the names of their departed loved ones. These hearts were displayed in the sanctuary, uniting our entire school community in shared remembrance.

The service concluded with Coldplay’s “Fix You”, offering a reassuring reminder that whenever we face difficult times, the light of our school community will guide us—and that we stand ready to wrap one another in care and support when we need it most.

Mark your Calendar

Nov 25-27th	TY Musical in Mermaid Theatre, Bray
Nov 27th	6th Year Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings
Dec 11th	YES Christmas Market
Dec 17th	Christmas Carol Service, Dalkey Parish Church
Dec 21st	Dalkey's Got Talent, Concert Hall
Dec 22nd	Christmas break begins at 12pm

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

We Need Your Talent!

Whether you're a singer, dancer, musician, comedian, acrobat, or have another great skill to share, we want to see what you can do. Solo acts and groups are all welcome.

Auditions will take place during the first week of December, so remember to sign up via the link sent on Google Classroom to secure your audition spot. Step into the spotlight and perform for the best talent show ever!

- The Student Council







All-Ireland Finals, Here We Come!

What a win it was for the Senior A basketball team on Wednesday as they took to the court at the National Basketball Arena for their All-Ireland Semi-Final against OLSPCK Belfast.

In a nail-biting finish, the Dalkey girls pulled out all the stops and kept their undefeated season going with a 57-53 win in overtime. They will now head to the All-Ireland Final on January 20th. Well done!











Model United Nations Success at LOGMUN

Last weekend, our students proudly represented the school at LOGMUN, hosted at Loreto on the Green. Representing the delegations of China and Turkey, our delegates dove into complex global issues, including “The Effect of Artificial Intelligence on the Environment” and “Youth Homelessness.”

Throughout an intense and rewarding weekend, delegates worked tirelessly to draft resolutions, submit amendments, and field challenging Points of Information (POIs), leading to many fruitful and lively debates.

A huge congratulations to our students who received Highly Commended Delegate awards: Alexandra Egan (TY), Anna Garrett (2nd Year), Rachel Shannon (TY) and Martha Power (3rd Year).

Join the MUN Club!

Do you want to build your public speaking skills, gain confidence, and learn more about international relations?

- When: Every Thursday at lunchtime
- Where: Room B08
- What to expect: Monthly conference opportunities and a welcoming environment for all new members

3rd Annual Dalkey Book Drive

After the success of last year's book drive, which saw **more than 500 books donated**, we are calling on students, staff and parents to get involved once more!

The growth of the library is an important part of the literacy and wellbeing initiatives within our school. With a range of ages, interests and reading levels, we are hopeful that our Book Drive will stock the shelves with a greater choice for all students to enjoy.

What kind of books?

We have three fiction sections - Junior, Intermediate and Senior - where books are categorised by suitable reading age and interest level.

In Junior Fiction, books include popular series such as *The Hunger Games*, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, *Divergent*, *The Inheritance Games*, *Murder Most Unladylike*, and *The Maze Runner*, as well as hundreds of standalone books such as those by RJ Palacio, Sarah Crossan, Sophie McKenzie, Cathy Cassidy and so many more.

In Intermediate Fiction, books include series such as *Twilight*, *Children of Blood and Bone*, *The Gilded Ones*, *Noughts and Crosses*, and *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, as well as standalone books such as those by Matt Haig, Becky Albertalli, Holly Bourne, Malorie Blackman, Agatha Christie, John Green, and many more.

In Senior Fiction, books include many of the Booker Prize and Women's Prize for Fiction winners, as well as authors including Sebastian Barry, Isabel Allende, Tracy Chevalier, Margaret Atwood, Fredrik Backman, Kristin Hannah, Kazuo Ishiguro, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Claire Keegan, Maggie O'Farrell, and hundreds more.

How to donate?

A link to our **Amazon Wish List can be found in the parent app**, but is by no means the limit of what we would love to see in the library. It's important to note that books do not need to be bought from Amazon, and we would welcome local bookshop support. This list is a shareable option that can be regularly updated as books are donated, so please check back from time to time.

We are also happy to accept **second-hand books in excellent condition**.

Please email Ms Manning at library@loretoabbeydalkey.ie with any queries.

Save the Date...

The Loreto Annual Dinner, a highlight on the school calendar, will take place on April 10th 2027 in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire.

This is a wonderful occasion for mums of current students to meet and socialise, as well as a great opportunity for past pupils to get together for a reunion.

Tickets will be available in the coming weeks, and usually sell out immediately - keep an eye on PA whatsapp groups for more updates.



SHOWTIME

Best of luck to all our TYs as they take to the stage with plenty of excitement and enthusiasm to perform *Annie* next week!

The whole school will get the chance to see the show across Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - and a few tickets remain for the evening performances if you have yet to get yours. Tickets are only available from the Mermaid Arts Centre website.

Huge thanks, as ever, to Ms Green, Ms Noctor, Ms Penston and Denise for their incredible work with the TYs to make the show a reality.

Photography Club

This week the photography club was set the challenge of capturing the cold in a photo.

With lots of great entries, the top three picks this week were a view out to Dalkey Island from Georgia Sex (2nd Year), sunrise sea views from Grace McKenna (2nd Year) and a dog braving the cold from Marnie Woods (2nd Year).

New members are always welcome! Contact Ms Delves to find out more about the weekly challenges and getting involved.


Georgia Sex


Grace McKenna


Marnie Woods



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The Justice and Peace Committee have again successfully facilitated another Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. In the shoeboxes, students collected small gifts, toiletries, and school supplies to send to children in need in Africa and Eastern Europe. Each filled shoebox will now bring joy and hope to a child who might otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated a shoebox this year, your small act of kindness will make a huge difference in children's lives.

To anyone that still wants to get involved, **you can still bring your box in on Monday 23rd November**. The boxes will then be dispatched so that they are received in time for Christmas.



6th Year Talk with Rev. Natasha Quinn-Thomas

"Follow your own unique path in life to wherever it takes you" was the message from Rev. Natasha Quinn-Thomas, Church of Ireland Rector of Delgany Parish, who spoke to 6th Year students today. At only 30 years of age, Rev. Natasha is one of the youngest Church of Ireland ministers.

Through a question and answers session facilitated by Mr Byrne, Rev. Natasha spoke of coming from a non-religious family and how her vocation and faith stemmed from her time in school in North Wales. She spoke about a gap year before college, working with those most in need in London, and how it led her on the path to ministry. She also spoke about how her family and friends supported her in this decision. Rev. Natasha also gave a unique insight into life as a minister while also juggling married life. We thank Rev. Natasha for taking the time to share her story.

1st Year Football

Congratulations to our 1st Year Football team who won 4-2 in their Cup match against Our Lady's Terenure earlier this week.



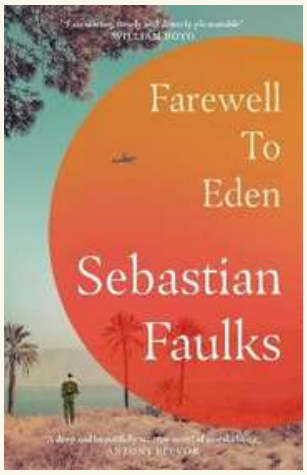




Book of the Week

This week's book, *Farewell to Eden* by Sebastian Faulks, was chosen by Ms Bourke:

If you are looking for a story to get lost in, I highly recommend *Farewell to Eden* by Sebastian Faulks. I enjoy historical fiction, and this book is set against the back drop of post Second World War Europe. It follows the journey of Philip Deval as he makes decisions and choices which leave a lasting impact on him and those around him. Definitely a book to get lost in during these dark evenings!



You can find this book in the Senior Fiction section

Thanks to Kate McEvoy (6th Year) who designed Ms Bourke's review for the WellRead Award noticeboard

