



A Cara Walk to Start the Year

After an exciting and, hopefully, positive first week of classes, our 1st Years regrouped with their 6th Year Caras last Friday afternoon to spend some time together.

As the two groups of students walked the windy road to the picturesque surroundings of Dillon's Park, the 1st Years relayed the 6th Years with stories from their hectic and, at times, a little stressful first week of classes. The 6th Years listened, offered advice, shared stories and continued to reassure their younger Caras on how well they were getting on. What a great way to end the first week as a Dalkey girl!

Mark your Calendar

Sept 14th
Sept 14th
Sept 15th
Sept 16th
Sept 17th
Sept 17th
Sept 21st
Sept 25th
Oct 1st

6th Year Trip to Othello at The Mill Theatre
Meeting for 5th Year Parents, 7pm in Lecture Theatre
Meeting for 1st Year Parents, 7pm in Lecture Theatre
World Skills for Transition Years
Higher Options for 5th and 6th Years
Meeting for 6th Year Parents, 7pm in Lecture Theatre
Parents' Association AGM
School closed
Open Evening for 2027/28 admissions, 4-7pm

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



School Uniform Skirt

Our school skirt is designed to be worn just above the knee, with the pleats sitting correctly at the front. It should be worn as designed and should not be rolled up, shortened or altered in any way. When the skirt is rolled or altered, the pleats no longer sit correctly and the skirt becomes noticeably askew.

If a student has outgrown her skirt and it is no longer the correct length, a new skirt will need to be purchased.

We would appreciate the support of all parents in ensuring that your daughter wears her skirt correctly and at the intended length.



Goalies Back in Action

Goalkeeper training was off to an absolutely flying start this week!



Hunting for Road Signs

Today, 4B went to Dalkey on a Road Sign Scavenger Hunt as part of their Driver Theory module.

In remembrance of all the lives lost
during the 9/11 attacks.
May they rest in peace

9/11 Anniversary

Where were you when you heard the devastating news of the 9/11 terrorist attacks? Today on the 25th anniversary of this awful tragedy, Mr Dunne spoke to 4th Year students about his memories of how this devastating news broke here in Loreto Abbey in 2001. Without iPads or the internet at the tip of our fingers, it was a radio and the TV trolley that provided the most up to date information to a shellshocked school community.

Like people around the world today, we remember all those lives lost and changed forever by the devastating events of September 11th, 2001.

Mr Flanagan's morning prayer today also acknowledged this tragic anniversary. An abridged version is included below:

For those of us who remember it, it is hard to believe it has been 25 years since that fateful day. On that day 2,977 people lost their lives. 441 of those people were firefighters and paramedics trying to rescue those caught in the chaos. The first death recorded was a priest named Fr. Michael Judge.

After those attacks the poet Jim Rowen said this about New York after the buildings collapsed:

As the soot and dirt and ash rained down that day in New York / We became one color.

As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building / We became one class.

As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno / We became one gender.

As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength / We became one faith.

As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement, We spoke one language.

As we mourned together the great loss / We became one family.

As we cried tears of grief and loss / We became one soul.

We remember today the people who lost their lives on 9/11. We remember their loved ones still feeling their grief. We remember the people who rushed in to the danger to help those in need. We remember that in many places around the world, terrorism is still a fact of life, and we remember those people in our prayers today too.

This Week's Hockey Matches

As players get back into the swing of things and team trials take place in the coming weeks, some Minor and Junior friendly and trial matches took place throughout the week against St Gerard's, St Andrew's and Rathdown.

Well done to all teams!





Music at Loreto Abbey Dalkey

Music at Loreto Abbey Dalkey is vibrant and welcoming, with a wide array of activities to get involved in. Our music programme is bursting with opportunities for students of all ages and interests to find their rhythm and express themselves.

Choir and Orchestra

Junior Choir (1st to 4th Years) meets before school on Tuesdays. Older students can join the Senior Choir, which rehearses before school on Friday mornings.

If you are an instrumentalist, the School Orchestra is a great place to play, with rehearsals every Thursday morning before school. All these groups come together to perform at school events, showcases, and even at local community events.

Lunchtime Music Clubs

Lunchtime offers a variety of fun and creative clubs. Students can join Songwriting Club, where they can learn to write their own tunes. Fans of traditional Irish music will enjoy Trad Group.

Private Music Lessons

The music department also offers private lessons, with almost 40 students currently taking lessons in a wide range of instruments and vocal training. This is a fantastic way to develop your skills and receive one-on-one guidance. Whether you're a seasoned musician or just starting, there's a place for you in the Loreto Abbey Dalkey music community!

For more information, please contact Ms Penston on naoimh.penston@loretoabbeydalkey.ie



Update on the Annual Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

As part of our annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, we circulated a draft copy of the Risk Assessment to parents for comment in the June Summer Bulletin. The Parents' Association Executive were part of a focus group advising on the document. Similar consultations were conducted with our staff and with our students.

Awareness of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

- The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is displayed in the Reception area, at the Student Entrance, in the Sports Hall foyer, and on our website under the Child Safeguarding tab on the homepage and in the Policies section.
- All parents received a copy of the Statement and Risk Assessment by email and you will receive a copy of the newly approved Statement and Assessment following the Board of Management review on September 22nd 2026.

Awareness of the DLP / Trusted Adults

- Mr Robert Dunne is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) should you have any concerns about a child's safety or should you require clarification on our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- In school, students were advised in SPHE class about trusted adults - people they can talk to if they are worried or concerned. We encourage parents to have similar conversations.

Review of Risks in the School

We have many different activities during the year and we endeavour to ensure that every child is safe taking part. We have reviewed our activities, listed the possible risks and stated the steps we take to keep our students safe. This is all included in our Risk Assessment, which is part of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

If you have any ideas or suggestions about how we can improve, or if there is anything you would like to share as we undertake our review, please contact Mr Dunne.

How to Make the Most of This School Year



- Join in
- Try something new
- Share your talents
- Stay active
- Always try your best
- Ask for help, if needed
- Do something creative
- Make the most of each day
- Get plenty of rest
- Be kind, always

Lost Property

A reminder that it is most important that your daughter has everything labelled with her FoundIt stickers, as this will ensure a prompt return of any misplaced or missing property.

When an item is found in the school, it is scanned and an automatic email is generated and sent to the student informing her that her item has been found and can be collected from the Lost Property office.

The opening times for Lost Property are: Monday at 15.40, Wednesday at 13.00, and Friday at 15.40



Class of 2026 Debs

It was a night of glitz and total glam on Tuesday evening as the Class of 2026 celebrated their Debs in style. A great night was undoubtedly had by all!



Soccer and GAA

GAA and Senior Soccer teams were back to training this week and looking forward to the season ahead!



Lourdes Pilgrimage

Last week, five 6th Year students - Annabel O'Brien, Susannah Moir, Isabelle Higgins, Lily McDonald and Kate Barry - represented Loreto Abbey Dalkey on the annual Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Throughout the week, the students volunteered at the Accueil Notre Dame, a hospital near the Grotto, supporting over 100 sick pilgrims. The girls provided daily assistance on the hospital wards, offering care and hospitality to those in need. Afternoon tea in the sunshine and evening sing-songs in the solitude brought the generations together. This allowed the girls to build relationships with the pilgrims and listen to some wise words.

Alongside their service work, the group actively participated in key spiritual events, including the torchlight procession and the Stations of the Cross. They spent time at the Grotto and Basilica, lighting candles and submitting prayer petitions on behalf of the Loreto Abbey Dalkey school community. The girls also preformed a prayer on the second evening of the pilgrimage on the theme of saying yes to new opportunities.

Beyond their official duties, the students built lasting friendships with pilgrims and student groups from across the diocese. The pilgrimage proved to be a deeply moving and fulfilling experience for the students and the pilgrims.

60th International Literacy Day

September 8th marked the 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day, a UNESCO day to highlight the importance of literacy in all forms.

Some key findings from the UNESCO report:

Between 1975 and 2024, the global adult literacy rate increased from 65% to 88%, however the number of adults lacking basic literacy skills is still counted at 739 million globally in 2024 - and **two-thirds of this number are women**.

In 2024, 1.4 billion students were enrolled in school, increasing by 45% in pre-primary and by 161% in post-secondary education since 2000.

Despite this, **millions of children and young people are still being left behind**. Worldwide, 273 million adolescents and young people - one in six children - were out of school in 2024, a 3% increase since 2015.

Access alone is not enough. **Many children still fail to acquire basic literacy skills**. Globally, only 58% of primary students achieved minimum proficiency in reading and 44% in mathematics.

Literacy challenges persist and remain unevenly distributed, limiting opportunities and reinforcing social and economic inequalities, especially for women, older adults and marginalized populations.

Literacy is essential for navigating information-rich societies. Even in OECD countries only 9 per cent of 15-year-olds could distinguish fact from opinion in digital texts.

Literacy empowers people, enabling them to participate in societies and to navigate digital landscapes.



LORETO ABBEY DALKEY

Parents' Association

Annual General Meeting and Seminar



Monday September 21st 2026
19.00 in the School Lecture Theatre

Agenda:

1. Welcome and report on the work of the Executive: Ms. Karen Kavanagh, Chairperson
2. The year past and the year ahead: Robert Dunne, Principal
3. Seminar

AI in Education... What the Future Holds

Speaker: Mr. Steven Duggan

Steven Duggan is Vice President, International of Teravue, a global technology solutions & services company serving both blue chip and SME clients across 12 different industries. As a member of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, where he represents the global IT Industry, Steven recently authored the UNESCO policy brief on the use of AI in Education, 'Change at the Speed of Learning'

which was provided to the governments of the 193 UNESCO member states.



4. Refreshments