



# Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 20 | JAN 2026

## Leadership Conversation with Broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan

This week, the TYs got a visit from RTE's PrimeTime presenter and broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan. During this talk she gave us great detail about her journey that lead to RTÉ and her television career. She showed dedication to her role and inspired many of us with her great stories and insights. She was engaging and funny, while still maintaining our attention during her speech and covering many interesting topics.

Ms O'Callaghan told us about some of the many famous people she has interviewed over her career, like Chappell Roan, Ed Sheeran, Seamus Heaney and many, many more. Her personal favourite was Father Paul Murphy, an Irish Army chaplain who was attacked by a very troubled young man in 2024. Father Murphy forgave this man on the stand and said God had also forgiven him. Miriam found this very inspiring and selfless of the chaplain. Her personal belief and main piece of advice is that if you show kindness to others, it will always come back around to you.

On a personal note, she spoke about the hardships she faced when she sadly lost her younger sister to cancer when she was 34. She lets the loving memories of her sister motivate her to do what she does and keep positive while working. She also spoke about how she balanced her professional life on our TV screens and her life at home as a mother to eight children and a friend to many.

Not only did Ms O'Callaghan inspire us all with her positive energy and enthusiasm of how she looks at life and the things she deals with them, she also made sure everyone had a smile on their face when they left!

- Julia Rogala and Rose Newbanks (TY)

# Mark your Calendar

Feb 5th	Junior Cycle Mocks begin
Feb 6th	Spring exams begin for 5th Years
Feb 9th	TY Work Experience Week
Feb 10th	Spring exams begin for 1st and 2nd Years
Feb 13th	School closes for mid-term break
Feb 23rd	School reopens
Mar 20th	School closed - Oide Planning Day
Mar 27th	School closes for Easter break
Apr 13th	School reopens

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



## Compliment Collages at Creative Compass

This week's Creative Compass lunchtime event was themed 'Sweet Words and Sweet Treats'.

The girls drew love hearts and their name on paper, passed them around and everyone wrote a compliment about each other.

They enjoyed their lunch and some mini doughnuts, and had a lovely compliment collage to take home at the end!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Loreto Abbey Dalkey past pupils Niamh Murray (Class of 2024) and Maedbh Le Roux (Class of 2025) who will both receive awards from the Physical Education Association of Ireland for their stand-out results in LC PE in their respective years. Well done!

## Join the February Reading Challenge

With a long weekend ahead and midterm to look forward to, this is a great chance to take a break and catch up on some reading for fun!

If you're looking for a challenge, try reading a book that fits one of this month's reading prompts - the choice of book is completely up to you!

The theme this month is '**Short and Sweet**', so you could read:

- ➡ A book of short stories
- ➡ A book with a pink or red cover
- ➡ A book with less than 150 pages
- ➡ A book with food or sweets on the cover
- ➡ A book with 'love', 'sweet' or 'heart' in the title





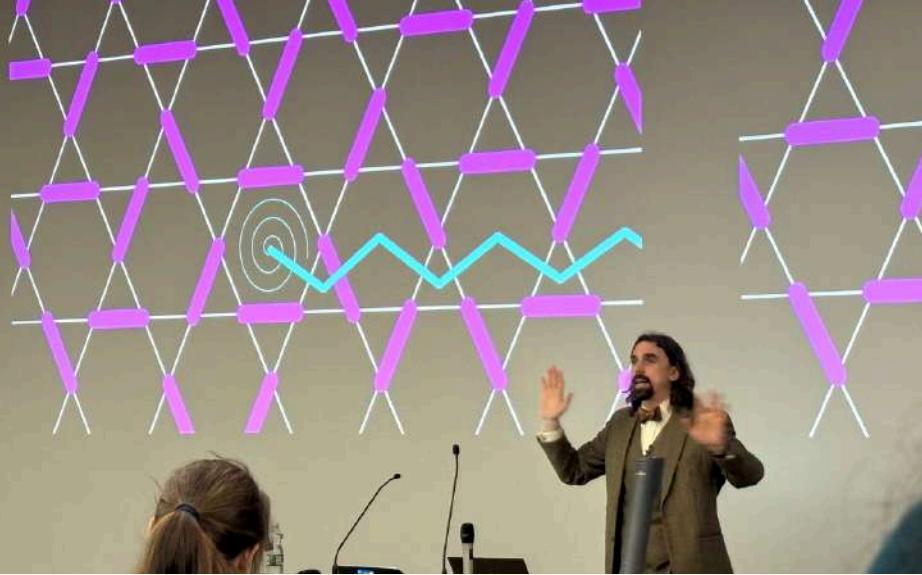
## Entering the Dragon's Den

The Dragons' Den event showcased the creativity and ambition of 1st and 2nd Year Y.E.S. students, who confidently presented their business plans to a panel of judges from the local area.

The students demonstrated a strong understanding of entrepreneurship through innovative ideas and well-structured, detailed business plans. The judges praised the high standard of presentations and commended the students on their professionalism, creativity, and entrepreneurial characteristics throughout the evening.

A huge congratulations to all students to have been involved in Y.E.S this year. The winners will be announced in an assembly next week.

We would also like to thank the judges for giving up their time to attend this event and for generously sharing their expertise with the students. Their valuable feedback and encouragement has been inspiring for all the students. The judges involved were Sheila Heavey, Sarah Emerson, Lydia O'Reilly, Robert Trench, Manos Byrne, Sarah McLoughlin, Emma Keating, Elaine Noonan, Sally Ann Moylan, and Lorenzo Rizzi.



## LawEd Workshop

On Wednesday, my class had a LawEd workshop facilitated by junior barrister Jack Meredith. We talked about different categories of crimes, such as murder, drugs, etc and looked at past cases associated with those laws. We also learnt more about specific laws, such as the Romeo and Juliet law, which was very interesting.

After learning about the different roles in law and what they do in a court case, we did a mock trial at the end of the workshop. We were given a scenario and allocated certain roles such as a barrister, judge, defendant, witness, etc. We got to play the roles and fight to defend or prove a person to be guilty, and then the jury decided. This was very fun and it was great to have a small insight into a court room.

- Charmari Feeney (TY)



## How to Grow a Quantum Computer

This morning, more than 50 students from TY and 5th Year headed off to UCD for the Tyndall Lecture, organised by UCD Physics. The lecture aims to give students a hands-on experience of a university Physics lecture on campus, and to help them connect their classwork to modern physics.

This year's speaker was Dr Felix Flicker, a theoretical physicist and senior lecturer at the University of Bristol. His lecture discussed quantum computing, the search for new quantum crystals, and some possible options that include a naturally occurring mineral which features some (but not all) of the necessary properties.

Students were also able to engage with Chorus, a creative STEAM initiative led by UCD Physics Dr Sharon Shannon and Adam Breen with interdisciplinary activities linking Physics, creativity, and real-world learning.

*Pictured above, silicon (dark) and calcite (light) which have useful properties for making computer chips.*



# Celebrating Mary Ward Week

This week we have celebrated Mary Ward Week, and it has been a chance to celebrate our Loreto ethos and identity.

During RE classes this week First Year students learned about the life of Mary Ward; the hardships and difficulties she faced and how she overcame them and strove to create the Loreto community we have today. The students also considered what symbols represent Loreto today.

## Support

On Wednesday morning, 6th Years took time out from the preparation for their mock exams to reflect on their place as part of the Loreto network. They watched the videos prepared by the Ember team and then took some time to socialise and chat to relieve the pre-exam stress.

This was kindly organised by their fellow 6th Year Issy O'Donoghue and the Ember Team, who lovingly baked treats and distributed a well-earned cup of tea to the hard-working 6th Years. This small act showcased the best of our Loreto community; helping and supporting each other.



# Community

Over the last number of months, the Ember Team has collaborated with our sister school Loreto Marryatville near Adelaide, Australia. The students got to know each other and learn about life on opposite sides of the world.

Both groups created videos which were shown in RE classes on different aspects of school life; including day in life, unique features and extracurricular activities. While distance and time may separate us and some aspects of school life may differ, the mission and inspiration for our schools is the same: Mary Ward.



# Faith

On Friday morning, members of the Ember team gathered in our convent chapel for a very special ceremony. In the presence of our Loreto Sisters they were commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. They were empowered to bring the love of God to others in the sacrament of the Eucharist. This reflects their role as active faith leaders in our school.

Following the celebration of mass with Fr Myles, the students enjoyed refreshments and conversation with our Loreto sisters, who continue to inspire our students as our celebration of Mary Ward Week draws to a close. Thank you to Sr Mary for preparing the students for this special moment and planning this special ceremony. It was a fitting and beautiful way to bring this special week to a conclusion.





## Leadership Conversations

Last Friday, the TYs welcomed Eibhlin Curley, Head of Enterprise for DLR Co Co, to speak about her career.

Eibhlin talked about her school life and how she went to Trinity College where she studied International Business and Marketing, before going to DCU where she was awarded a Masters of Business Studies. She also told us that even though school is very important, it is also important to have hobbies as you can learn as many skills from them as you can at school.

Eibhlin told us that she has worked many interesting jobs, including being a marketing executive in Enterprise Ireland, being a teacher in DCU in the Centre for Talented Youth, working for Fingal County Council, and now as Head of Enterprise for the DLR Enterprise Office.

In her current role, Eibhlin has responsibility for economic development and coming up with enterprise strategies and delivering enterprise supports through the Local Enterprise Office. This helps develop new businesses, create more employment and help the economy develop. She is also focused a lot on sustainability in her job.

When Eibhlin came in she asked us to say whether commonly used phrases about jobs were true or false. One of them was "do you have to go into the field that you studied in college," and a lot of us put our hands up for true, but she debunked this. She told us that life is not going to pan out the way anyone is expecting and that it's ok to want to do something else.

Overall it was a really lovely talk and it was great seeing a woman succeed in business. There was also a whole table of free merchandise from her work, such as tote bags, rubbers, pop sockets and loads more. What was even better, was that they were all sustainable!

- Lucy Bradbury (TY)

## This Week's Basketball Results

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

Minor A lost 22-11 to Mount Anville  
Minor B won 22-12 vs Cluny

Junior A won 35-6 vs Mount Anville  
Junior B won 32-23 vs Cluny

Senior A lost 65-50 vs Our Lady's Terenure and 58-55 vs Presentation Kilkenny in the Senior A All-Ireland semi-final play-offs





## Chess Competition vs Loreto Foxrock

Our 1st Year chess players were out in force on Wednesday for a chess competition against 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years from Loreto Foxrock.

The girls played a total of 53 games, coming away with a 37.5 to 15.5 final score in favour of Foxrock. Congratulations to all the girls, in particular Lorena Rodrigues Lowney who won 75% of her matches.



## This Week's Hockey Results

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

1st Year A lost vs Muckross  
1st Year B lost 2-0 vs Newbridge  
1st Year C won 5-0 vs Sion Hill  
1st Year E won 1-0 vs Loreto Foxrock  
1st Year F lost 2-0 vs Teresians  
Minor 1 lost 2-0 vs St Andrew's  
Minor 4 lost 1-0 vs Wilson's Hospital  
Junior A lost 1-0 vs Alexandra College  
Junior 2 won 2-0 vs Loreto Foxrock  
Junior 3 won 4-1 vs Loreto Foxrock  
Junior 3 won 4-0 vs Wilson's Hospital  
Junior 4 lost 1-0 vs Rosemont  
Senior 3 won 2-0 vs Dundalk Grammar  
Senior 4 won 2-1 vs Mount Anville  
Senior 5 lost 4-2 vs Loreto Beaufort  
Senior 5 lost 3-1 vs Mount Anville  
6th Years won 2-1 vs Loreto Foxrock



## 3rd Year Trip to The Merchant of Venice

This week, 3rd Year students took a trip to The Mill Theatre in Dundrum to see an abridged production of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, aimed at Junior Cycle students. Many thanks to Mr Ryan, Ms Bourke, Ms Glass, Ms Galvin and Ms Kilgallon who accompanied them.

### Student Reviews

I really enjoyed our year outing to the Mill Theatre to see *The Merchant of Venice*. I would rate the production 4 out of 5 stars, because I think there was a good balance between traditional and modern parts of the play.

I was surprised by some of the characters, and some characters being a bigger part of the live play than the written play.

Watching this play helped me prepare for my Junior Cert by helping to bring the play to life and it gave me a better understanding of the characters.

- Harriet Gleeson (3rd Year)

Yesterday I went to see *The Merchant of Venice* and it was a really enjoyable experience. I'd give it 4 out of 5 because it cleverly mixed traditional Shakespeare with modern touches, for example the music, which made the story easier to follow and more engaging. The contrast between serious drama and humour also kept the audience interested throughout.

I was surprised by how relatable some of the characters felt and how clearly the emotions were portrayed, for example, I felt Shylock's character was a very accurate representation.

The performance really helped me prepare for the Junior Cert by bringing the themes, characters, and key scenes to life in a way that's much more memorable than just reading the play. Overall, it made Shakespeare feel less intimidating and a lot more accessible.

- Amelia Chapman (3rd Year)

“How far that little candle throws his beams!  
So shines a good deed in a weary world.”



## Model United Nations

Well done to Hazel Gillen, Neasa Burns, Meadbh Hargaden, Chloe Leonard, Martha Power, Catherine McDowell and Freya Sweeney who represented the school at ROCKMUN in Blackrock College last weekend. Particular congratulations to Chloe Leonard who won Best Junior Delegate in SOCHUM.

The girls represented the delegation of Columbia and debated a number of issues, such as the impact of AI on youth development and conflict escalation in the Sahel.

The Model United Nations Club is open to new members. Expressions of interest should be sent to Ms Hayes.



## Photography Club

This week, students in the Photography Club were challenged with the prompt 'A Moment You'd Miss'. The students were asked to capture something small or ordinary that people usually walk past, but tells a story when you stop and look.

We had lots of great entries this week, however the entries that really stood out included Eleanor Shand (1st Year), Leire Lasuncion (1st Year), and Kaia Zelli (1st Year).

New members welcome! If you are interested in joining photography club, please email Ms Flood.



## Gael Linn Debating

Congratulations to both our junior and senior Gael Linn debating teams who had great success in the competition this week and who have now progressed to the next round.

The junior team comprises 3rd Years Aoibhe Boyle, Aoife Noonan and Eimear Buggy, while the Senior team is made up of 5th Years Roisin Murray, Laoise O'Morain, Kate Holland and Kayla Sexton.

# CHARITY TABLE QUIZ

To Raise Money For The TY Volunteer Trip To Kenya with

GLOBAL ANGELS KENYA

Thursday 12th February @ The Queens, Dalkey, 8:30pm  
Teams of 4-6 people, €10 entry per player  
For Info / To Reserve a Table - [tykenyaquiz@gmail.com](mailto:tykenyaquiz@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Trip to Kenya

A group of four TY students (Lucy Bradbury, Molly Wildgoose, Jess Daly and Lulu Slattery) are travelling to Kenya in March on a volunteer trip to help work on a farm and community project run by the charity Global Angels.

To help fundraise for the trip, a quiz night with silent auction, raffle and spot prizes will be taking place in The Queens on Thursday 12th February. All are welcome to attend, see details above.

The girls' fundraising link for their trip is [www.gofundme.com/ty-kenya-donate](http://www.gofundme.com/ty-kenya-donate)

## GAA and Soccer

Hard luck to our 1st Year GAA football and 2nd Year soccer teams who battled very challenging weather during their matches this week. Unfortunately, both were runners up, but very well done for playing despite the conditions!

# 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.

