



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 5 | OCT 2026



Transition Year Team-Building

Each Transition Year class has recently enjoyed a day of team-building activities in Avondale Forest, learning new skills and getting competitive with team challenges:

“My class visited Avondale Forest, where we completed different areas of skills and challenges as part of a team bonding day. The class was split up into three teams to work together. We had to form a waterproof hut made out of loose materials like sticks, branches and ferns. Along with that, each group created a fire from flint and steel, which was then used to cook a stir fry. We were only given the ingredients, so the chopping, cooking and serving was all our own task. After the instructors taste-tested each dish, marshmallows were roasted above the fire. To finish the day, the groups competed against each other in a mind game and communication game, before shooting plastic bottles in the air using a pump and heading back to Dalkey.

- Lauren Ellis (TY)

Mark your Calendar

Oct 9th	TY Focus Ireland Sleep Out
Oct 13th	6th Year Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings
Oct 19th-22nd	6th Year Autumn exams
Oct 22nd	Deadline for accepting 2027/28 admissions
Oct 23rd	School closed for Oide Staff Training Day
Oct 26th-30th	Midterm break

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

Leaving Cert Results 2026 - Post Appeal

We are delighted to report that a number of students successfully appealed their 2026 Leaving Cert results, receiving higher grades as a result. The revised results breakdown from the Class of 2026 can be seen below:

Breakdown of Leaving Certificate Results 2026 (Post Appeal)	
Points	% of students
625	2.5
600-624	8.5
> 600	11
570-600	10
> 570	21
550-570	9
> 550	30
500-549	22
> 500	52
450-499	22
400-449	14
> 400	88
< 400	12

Sponsored by



For more details see Ms Hanratty or Ms Scott



ISTA Photograph Competition 2026

Theme: **Science in Focus**

Submit your entries now for a chance to win exciting prizes.

- Open to all secondary level students (R.O.I.).
- Up to two entries per student. Each entry must be accompanied with no more than 100 words explaining their relation to the theme.
- Entries must be included with the name of a current ISTA member teacher.
- Must declare that photos are not AI generated/enhanced.
- Closing Date Friday 4th December 2026.

Prizes

- Overall Winner - iPad
- Teacher's Prize - Visualiser
- Category Winners (Junior/Senior) One4All Vouchers
 - 1st : €200
 - 2nd : €150
 - 3rd : €100

• SEE ISTA.IE FOR FULL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND MORE INFORMATION

• SEND ENTRIES OR ANY QUERIES TO ISTAPHOTOGRAPHCOMPETITION@GMAIL.COM

Funky Friday

The Spirit Reps organised Funky Sock Friday today, greeting students this morning with music and sweets to get the day started.



Open Evening for First Year 2027

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome primary school students and their parents for our annual Open Evening. This is an important event for our school, as it gives hundreds of prospective students and their parents a chance to see all that life at Loreto Abbey Dalkey has to offer, from academics and music to sport and extra-curriculars.

We would like to thank all staff and students who so proudly represented our school, giving tours and leading demonstrations and discussions. The compliments from our visitors were heartening, as they valued the enthusiasm, creativity, awareness, talent, and overall LAD spirit that was on display.

A reminder that applications for First Year 2027/28 Admissions are now being accepted, with the closing date for applications on October 22nd 2026.



TYs Sleeping Out Against Homelessness



On Friday October 9th, our TYs will all be taking part in a School Sleep Out for Focus Ireland's Shine A Light, trading their cosy beds for a sleeping bag for the night. This is all about raising critical funds for Focus Ireland to help them meet the growing demand for their services.

Please show your support by donating and help the TYs reach their goal for Focus Ireland. Every contribution, big or small, gets us closer to creating a future where every child has a safe place to call home.

Last week, Sarah from Focus Ireland spoke to all Transition Years about the work and aims of the charity. She provided students with an insight into the incredible work the charity completes in a bid to end homelessness and the positive impact the money they raise can provide to those most in need.

We wish our TYs well as they embark on one final week of fundraising before their Sleep Out.

Donations can be made via the QR code (below), or online at <https://joinus.focusireland.ie/fundraisers/TYLoretoAbbeyDalkey/shine-a-light-school>



Donate
here



FOCUS
Ireland

**Loreto Abbey
Dalkey
SLEEP OUT!**



October 9th
A fundraiser
to combat
homelessness
in Ireland.

**In Ireland there is
5,659 children with
no place to call
home. If you can
please donate to
make a difference.**



FOCUS
Ireland

**WHAT'S IN MY
SLEEP OUT BAG!**





Lunchtime Talk: UCD School of Social Sciences

Our 6th Year students were delighted to welcome Emma Donovan from UCD's School of Social Sciences for a lunchtime talk today.

Emma provided an informative overview of the wide range of courses available within the Social Sciences and highlighted the diverse opportunities and career pathways that can stem from studying these subjects.

The talk gave our students a valuable insight into the possibilities available to them as they consider their options for third-level education.



Senior A Basketball

Huge congratulations to the Senior A basketball team who won 87-30 against Coláiste Bride this week in the All-Ireland Cup. Well done!



1st Year Rugby Blitz

Congratulations to all three teams of 1st Years who took part in a touch rugby blitz at this week.

Overall, we had 6 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss which is a fantastic result and a day very well-spent!

Anyone who is interested in taking part can come to weekly training on Tuesdays after school at the grass by the primary school. All players must have a gumshield.



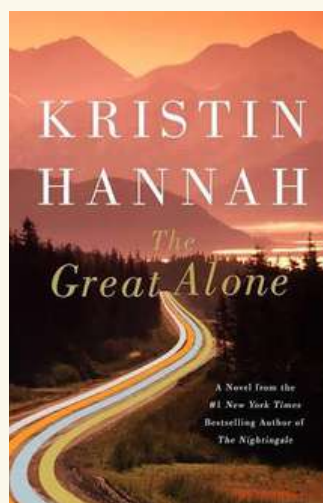
Book of the Week

This week's book, *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, was chosen by Ms Mulcahy:

As a huge fan of Kristin Hannah, I've read many of her books, but *The Great Alone* is definitely my favourite.

Set in the wilds of Alaska, the story follows the Allbright family as they try to build a new life in a remote and unforgiving place. Full of family, survival, love and plenty of twists and turns, it's a book that completely drew me in – and one I couldn't put down.

It might even inspire you to visit one of the most remote places in the world!



You can find this book in the Senior Fiction section



Music Mondays

The first Monthly Music Monday of the year took place in the Concert Hall this week, with a fantastic turnout to support the students and staff who showcased their amazing musical talents!

Mark your calendar for the next one which will take place on **Monday October 19th**. All are welcome to participate, or just come along to support and enjoy the show! Email Ms Penston for information.

Kristin Hannah's other books include *The Women*, *The Nightingale*, *Winter Garden*, *Home Front*, *The Four Winds*, *On Mystic Lake*, *Firefly Lane* and *Summer Island*.



Freshers' Day in Dalkey

On Friday, the Concert Hall was full of energy as the Student Council, led by our 6th Year Leadership Team, organised a fantastic Freshers' Day event.

Each year group got the chance to visit and learn about the many clubs, groups, and sports available in our school. There were stands set up for each club, with posters, sign-up sheets, and friendly student representatives who were happy to chat and share what their club is all about. From sports teams to creative clubs and everything in between, there was something for everyone.

Fresher's Day is a great way to highlight the amazing range of activities we have at Loreto Abbey Dalkey, and to encourage everyone to get involved and try something new. A big well done to the Student Council and all the students who helped make the day such a success!

Please see the following pages for a reminder of what's on and when!

Clubs & Groups

There is something for everyone with a wide variety of co- and extra-curricular activities taking place in school throughout the week. Everyone is welcome to join, just turn up and have fun!

MONDAY

Time	Club	Teacher	Location	What is it?
1.00 - 1.40pm	Green Schools	Ms Scott and Mr Oman	B02	A student-led group whose focus is to create a more sustainable school
1.00 - 1.40pm	Photography Club	Ms Delves	Lecture Theatre	Get creative with weekly themed photo prompts - all are welcome, no experience necessary
1.00 - 1.40pm	Creative Writing Club	Student Led	Library	Unleash your inner writer or poet and share ideas with other creative wordsmiths
1.00 - 1.40pm	Maths & Science Mentoring Club	Dr Young	B03	Senior students help Juniors with any difficulties they are having in Maths or Science
3.45 - 5.00pm	LEGO Club	Mr Cullen	B11	Have fun in the world of LEGO and robotics

TUESDAY

Time	Club	Teacher	Location	What is it?
8.00 - 8.40am	Junior Choir	Ms Penston	E01	Have fun singing with your friends in the school choir (1st, 2nd and 3rd Years)
1.00 - 1.40pm	Board Games Club	Ms Shortt and Ms Conlon	Library	Roll the dice, deal the deck or rule the board - join a game or bring your friends for some fun
1.00 - 1.40pm	Justice & Peace Group	Ms Flood	B08	A student group who raise awareness about issues of injustice and what we can do about it (5th Years)
1.00 - 1.40pm	Craft Club	Ms Quirke	A02	Knit, crochet, craft and have fun - no experience necessary
1.00 - 1.40pm	Trad Group	Ms Penston	E01	Play a traditional Irish instrument? Come and have some fun with us!
1.00 - 1.40pm	LEGO/STEM Club	Mr Cullen	B11	Have fun in the world of LEGO and robotics - everyone welcome
1.00 - 1.40pm	Art Club	Ms McBride	A08	If you enjoy drawing, painting, making things or just being creative, come along and join in (1st Years)
1.00 - 1.40pm	Debating	Ms Bracken	TBC	Develop public speaking, research and rebuttal skills, while preparing for upcoming competitions

WEDNESDAY

Time	Club	Teacher	Location	What is it?
1.00 - 3.00pm (monthly)	Film Club	Ms Glass	TBC	Grab some treats and watch a fun movie with your friends

THURSDAY

Time	Club	Teacher	Location	What is it?
8.00 - 8.40am	Orchestra	Ms Penston	E01	New members are always welcome. Just come along!
1.00 - 1.40pm	Model United Nations	Ms Hayes	B09	Engage with international relations and politics while improving public speaking and debating skills
1.00 - 1.40pm	EMBER Faith Leadership Group	Mr P. Byrne	B08	A student-led group who promote school ethos and spirituality (5th Years)
1.00 - 1.40pm	French Club	Ms De Brún and Ms McSharry	F03	Immerse yourself in some French chat, fun and games
1.00 - 1.40pm	LEGO/STEM Club	Mr Cullen	B11	Have fun in the world of LEGO and robotics - everyone welcome
1.00 - 1.40pm	Songwriting Club	Ms Glass	B10	Take the opportunity to refine your songwriting skills

FRIDAY

Time	Club	Teacher	Location	What is it?
8.00 - 8.40am	Senior Choir	Ms Penston	Concert Hall	Have fun singing with your friends in the school choir (4th, 5th and 6th Years)
1.00 - 1.40pm	Quiz Club	Mr Flanagan	Lecture Theatre	Test your general knowledge in a fun way with your friends and win some prizes
1.00 - 1.40pm	Chess Club	Ms McBreen	C11	Become a Chess Master in a fun and relaxed atmosphere
1.00 - 1.40pm	LEGO/STEM Club	Mr Cullen	B11	Have fun in the world of LEGO and robotics - everyone welcome
3.45 - 4.45pm	Dungeons & Dragons Club	Student Led	A01	Enter the fantastical world of Dungeons and Dragons. Come along and have fun

More clubs coming soon!

Stay tuned for details in the coming weeks...