



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 8 | OCT 2025

TY Sleep Out for Focus Ireland

Last Friday, more than 110 Transition Year students took part in the Focus Ireland Shine a Light Sleep Out to raise essential funds for Focus Ireland's services. The students headed home after school to get all their belongings, returning for a night under the stars from 7pm to 7am.

We are so extraordinarily proud of the effort the TYs put in to both fundraising and awareness over the last few weeks. Their efforts certainly paid off as they absolutely smashed their fundraising goal of €20,000, and instead **raised a staggering €34,274** with some donations still coming in. This makes Loreto Abbey Dalkey the top school fundraiser in the country and top 5 when put alongside some of the country's largest corporations.

All of this fundraising effort will go towards Focus Ireland's critical services - including the provision of one-on-one support for children with dedicated social workers, hot and nutritious meals in the Focus Ireland Coffee Shop, and access to education and training services - all of which are coming under increasing demand as the number of homeless families increases.

Thank you once again to our wonderful TYs, to the brave teachers who stayed with them for a night of no sleep, and to the whole school community for donating so generously to such a worthy cause.



€34,274 raised for Focus Ireland!



Mark your Calendar

Oct 20-24th	6th Year exams
Oct 22nd	Deadline for First Year 2026 applications
Oct 27th-31st	School closed for mid-term break
Nov 4th	3rd Year Parent/Teacher Meetings
Nov 20th	2nd Year Parent/Teacher Meetings
Nov 24th	School closed
Nov 25-28th	TY Musical in Mermaid Theatre, Bray
Dec 16th	Christmas Carol Concert, Dalkey Church
Dec 18th	Dalkey's Got Talent, Concert Hall

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

Volunteers needed

We are looking for mums to get involved with the **organising committee for the annual Loreto Ladies' Lunch**, which will take place on April 25th 2026.

We are also looking for two **1st Year parent representatives** to join the Parents' Association executive. Expressions of interest should be sent to Mr Dunne by emailing principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie



Class of 1975 Reunion

We were delighted to welcome members of the Class of '75 back to Dalkey for their 50 year reunion recently.

Our past pupils had a chance to tour the school (including some of the "forbidden" areas from their days here!) with the 6th Year leadership team, reliving fond memories along the way.



Spanish Folk Music

Thank you to some of our Seville exchange students for introducing Spanish folk songs to Ms Penston's TY music appreciation class!

Well Done!

Congratulations to all students who received merits this week. The list can be viewed outside Mr Dunne's office. Parents are invited to log in to VSWare to see their child's attendance and merits.



Loreto Swim Gala

What an unbelievable day it was for our Swim Team at the Loreto National Swimming Gala - for the second year in a row, we were crowned Best Overall Team, and the team came home with medals and trophies galore for individual and relay wins too!

With swimmers from 1st to 6th Year on the team, we want to congratulate you all. Results below show just how amazing this group is, but particular congratulations go to Rachel Marshall, Ashling McCarthy and Emily O'Dwyer who have had six years of incredible commitment swimming for Loreto Abbey Dalkey in Loreto and Leinster championships.

Individual Results

Rachel Marshall	1 st place 50m Over 17s Butterfly
Ashling McCarthy	1 st place 50m Over 17s Backstroke
Emily O'Dwyer	2 nd place 50m Front Crawl
Lily Knight	2 nd place 50m Breaststroke
Chloe Marshall	3 rd place 50m Breaststroke
Victoria Griffin	1 st place 50m U16s Breaststroke
Abi Brodrick	2 nd place 50m U16s Backstroke
Isabelle Knight	1 st place 50m U14s Backstroke
Orla Mortimore	2 nd place U14s Backstroke

Relay Results

2 nd place U14 Relay	(Elise Griffin, Zoe Hanley, Lucy Hanley and Orla Mortimore)
1 st place U16 Relay	(Kitty Hannigan, Isabelle Knight, Abi Brodrick and Victoria Griffin)
1 st place Senior Relay	(Ashling McCarthy, Rachel Marshall, Emily O'Dwyer and Lily Knight)



6th Year Geography Field Study

The 6th Year Geography classes went on their Geographical Investigation, or Field Study, on Thursday to Killiney and Shanganagh Beach with Ms Conlon and Mr Hughes.

Their aim was to find and record evidence of coastal erosion on the cliffs along our local coastline. Next, they will work on writing up the Field Study report in class and this will be worth 20% of their final grade for Leaving Cert Geography.

CBC Halloween Monster Mash

Our students have been invited to join in the fun of CBC's Hallowe'en Monster Mash, next Thursday, October 23rd.

Members of the school choir, orchestra and Musical Theatre Club will be taking part, and ALL students are welcome to join in, or come and support on the night. Just contact Ms Penston for rehearsal details.

Tickets are €8 each and must be purchased in advance of the event. Monster Mash tickets can be bought via the CBC Monkstown website or at <https://www.uniqueschoolapp.ie/go/pay?c=RKkVoh> (please note: each ticket must be bought in a separate transaction)



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.



Alice Brady



Maja Surmacz



Ella Connor

Photography Club

This week's prompt for Dalkey Photography Club was 'Shades of Autumn', where the girls were asked to capture colour, light, or atmosphere which showed the shift into Autumn.

The winner this week was Alice Brady (2nd Year), with runners up Maja Surmacz (3rd Year) and Ella Connor (2nd Year).

New members are always welcome to join Photography Club. Please email Ms Flood for more information.



This Week's Hockey Results

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

1st Year A won 2-0 vs St Gerard's
 1st Year B won 8-2 vs Sutton Park
 1st Year C won 4-0 vs Sutton Park
 1st Year E lost 5-1 vs St Gerard's
 1st Year G won 3-2 vs St Gerard's
 1st Year H lost 4-0 vs St Raphaela's
 1st Year I won 4-0 vs Sutton Park

Minor B won 2-0 vs Kilkenny College
 Junior B won 5-0 vs Kilkenny College
 Senior 1 lost 4-0 vs Mt Anville
 Senior 1 lost to Kilkenny
 Senior 2 lost 2-1 vs Kilkenny

More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport



Bread41 Workshop

On Thursday, a group of 6th Year Home Ec students had the opportunity to take part in a ReadyBreadyCation program by Bread 41. Eoin Cluskey from Bread 41 came out to our school to run the program. Eoin talked to us about the importance of connecting with food, the culture history around bread, choosing sustainable organic food, and eating seasonal foods.

He explained the core values of sustainability and their mission to create a zero waste and fully sustainable business. The 18 students who took part were fortunate enough to be able to make some yeast bread and cinnamon rolls in a baking lesson hosted by Eoin.

After completing this, we were not only inspired by Eoin's passion, but could see the importance of connecting with food and taking some time from our busy schedules to do one of our favourite hobbies - baking!

Thank you to Eoin for taking the time to visit our school and Ms Gleeson for organising this event.

- Farrah Clack and Arabella Lyster (6th Year)



Monthly Music Monday!

Next Monday, all staff and students are invited to Monthly Music Monday, an informal recital in E01 at lunchtime.

This is a fun opportunity for students to play for enjoyment or showcase what they've learned so far in the term, and learn from doing it in front of an audience.

If you would like to take part, email Ms Penston - all are welcome to get involved.

Even if you don't want to perform, please come and support your fellow students!

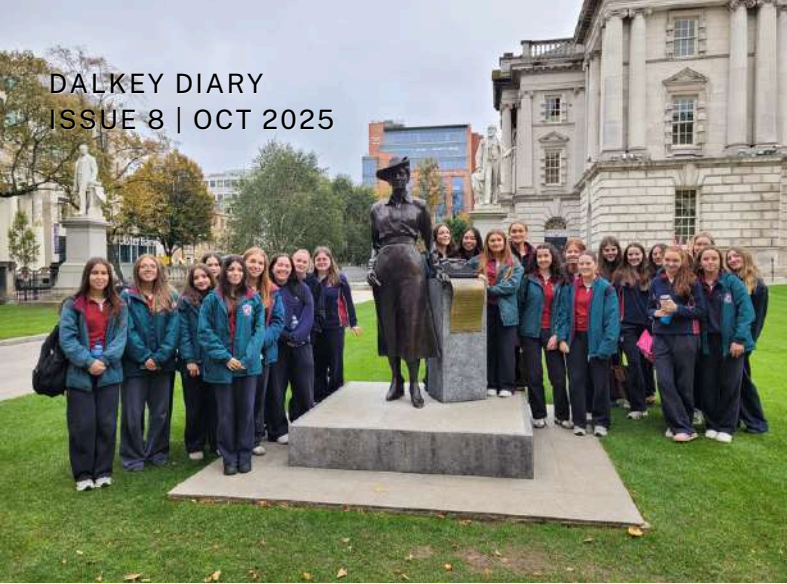


Leinster Golf Success

Well done to our golfers who were out in force last week for the Leinster qualifiers of the All-Irelands, taking place in Bray Golf Club. The Dalkey ladies played with epic style, and enjoyed excellent results - in particular Sadhbh Kelly (5th Year) who won the day and is now through to the All-Irelands. Well done Sadhbh!

Aoife Dempsey (3rd Year) placed 4th, Emily Heavey (6th Year) placed 7th, Chloe Creedon (6th Year) placed 14th, Katie Montgomery Brennan (3rd Year) placed 23rd, and Sophie Colleran (1st Year) placed 34th. Well done!

More sports photos can be found on Instagram @loretoabbeydalkeysport



5th Year History Trip

Last week's 5th Year History trip to Belfast was a tremendous success! The students, accompanied by Mr Oman, Mr Thompson and Ms O'Brien, toured the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum where they learned how World War 2 affected Ireland, North and South.

This was followed by a walking tour of Belfast city centre to visit sites that were bombed during the 'Belfast Blitz' of April/May 1941. A quick visit to the historic Belfast City Hall, before departing for Dublin, finished off an enjoyable trip for all.



This Week's Basketball Results

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

Cadette A won 52-43 vs Loreto Beaufort
Cadette B lost 35-29 vs Cluny
Senior A won 50-43 vs Loreto Beaufort
Senior B lost 48-27 vs Cluny



Collaboration with Loreto Marryatville in South Australia

'While over 16,000 kilometers and a time difference of 9.5 hours may separate us, we have a huge amount in common' - this was clearly seen when the Loreto Abbey Dalkey Student Leadership Team and EMBER Group met with students from Loreto Marryatville in South Australia via Zoom on Wednesday morning.

The students spoke about the different aspects of school life, from extra-curricular to academic. They also gained knowledge about life in each country. Both schools bonded over their shared Loreto ethos and identity. They also spoke enthusiastically about their plans for future collaborations throughout the school year.

Thanks to Mr Byrne and Loreto Marryatville's teacher Ms O'Connell for organising this collaboration. Watch this space for more exciting initiatives with our Australian counterparts!



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The Justice and Peace Group are once again delighted to support the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, a wonderful cause that brings joy and essential items to children affected by poverty. Each shoebox gift provides not only fun surprises, but also practical items such as school supplies, clothing, and hygiene products, making a real difference in a child's life.

All completed shoeboxes should be wrapped and placed under the spiral staircase by Thursday 23rd October. If you need any additional information, please contact Ms Flood by email. Thank you for helping to spread kindness this Christmas!