



Dalkey Diary

ISSUE 1 | AUG 2025

A Letter from Our Principal

I extend a warm welcome to our new staff, our First Years, our new students from Spain and several students from other local schools. I would hope that you experience Loreto Abbey as a positive, happy and supportive learning environment and enjoy success here.

All classes have now returned, and students seem to be approaching the new school year with optimism. In the coming weeks, they will be encouraged to participate in the many extra-curricular activities that are offered here, and we encourage all to be involved in something.

I congratulate the class of 2025 on their excellent Leaving Certificate results. We are a school with a mixed ability intake and encourage all our students to do their best. 175 H1 grades were awarded across all subjects with six students reaching maximum points. A breakdown of our Leaving Certificate results is published on the table below. They are evidence of the quality of education provided here. As I have said on many occasions, statistics, no matter how impressive, do not adequately reflect the personal achievements behind the numbers. We are aware of the diligence, sacrifices, the resilience and the quiet determination that characterised this class and we wish them every success as they continue the next stage of their academic journey.

There are two new policy changes for the coming year. The first concerns our BÍ Cineálta procedures and the second concerns our Mobile Phone policy. Both were formally adopted by the Board in June following an extensive process of consultation with all our stakeholders. Important extracts from both policies are included in this newsletter and the full documents may be accessed on the website.

I wish to congratulate Mr Flanagan on his appointment as Deputy Principal. We will be joined by an additional Deputy in an acting capacity in the coming weeks.

In conclusion, I look forward to meeting you at school functions during the year and I wish your daughter every happiness and success in the coming year.

Mr Robert Dunne
Principal

Breakdown of Leaving Certificate Results 2025	
Points	%
625	6
600-624	12
> 600	18
550-599	15
500-549	22
> 500	55
450-499	20
400-449	11
> 400	86
< 400	14

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

We were delighted to welcome a number of students from the class of 2025 for a celebratory reception on the day they received their results. We look forward to seeing their next adventures!



School Traffic Reminder



Given the large numbers of students and staff who are approaching the school morning and evening, we ask parents to drop/collect their daughter on Harbour Road only, and **NOT on Loreto Avenue** (the road approaching the school and Sports Hall). This causes a backlog of cars, as well as posing a safety risk for students.

The school grounds are a designated parking area for staff of both the primary and secondary schools. Consequently, it is not possible to drop students in the grounds during school hours.

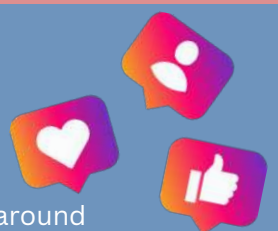
Recycle for Rumbek

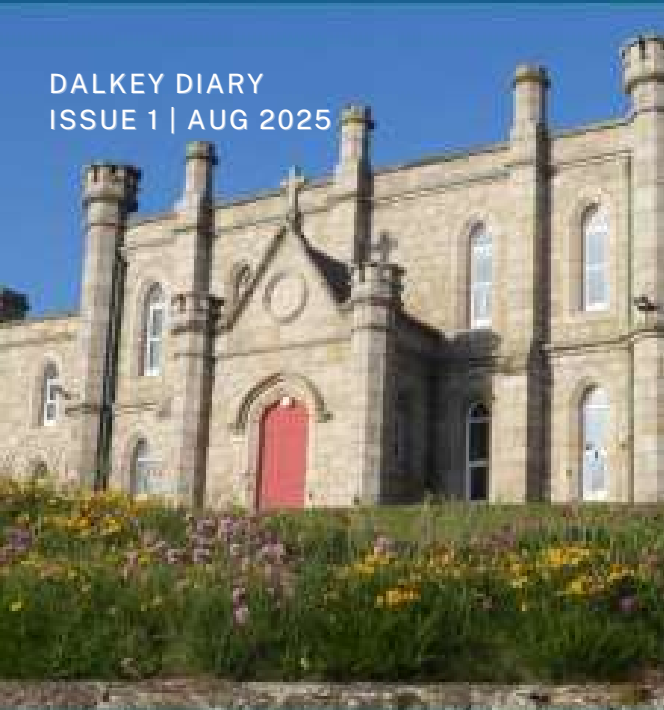
Drop your empty recyclable cans and bottles in the designated recycling bins with this logo around the school and the Sports Hall. All funds raised from recycling these items are donated to our sister school, Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan.



Follow Us

In addition to our weekly newsletter, you can keep up to date with what's happening around the school via our Instagram accounts: [@loretoabbeydalkey_](#), [@loretoabbeydalkeysports](#) and [@loretoabbeydalkeylibrary](#)





Summer Works

We carried out a number of summer works in order to enhance the facilities available to students and the school community.

These included:

- Repointing of granite turrets facing towards the sea
- Painting of exterior of the Concert Hall
- Painting of 7 classrooms
- Painting and new flooring in An Grianan
- Painting of spiral stairs corridor
- Painting of landings
- New flooring first floor of sports hall
- New shelving in the library
- Toilet systems in the sports hall upgraded
- Windows on the B and C corridors refurbished
- Completion of upgrade to the fire safety system
- Completion of upgrade to the IT infrastructure
- Carpets cleaned throughout the school
- Power-washing
- Re-lining of the carpark spaces
- Hockey pitch cleaned

School Contact Details

Main Office	office@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8900
Principal Mr Robert Dunne	May be contacted via his Personal Assistant Ms Holly Simmons on principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8906
Deputy Principal	Mr Will Flanagan will.flanagan@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8904
1st Year Head	Ms Aisling Green aisling.green@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8919
2nd Year Head	Ms Therese Ryan therese.ryan@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8916
3rd Year Head	Ms Colette Ni Ghallchoir colette.gallagher@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8905
TY Year Head	Ms Joanne McBreen joanne.mcbeen@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8909
TY Co-Ordinator	Ms Aoife McHenry aoife.mchenry@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
5th Year Head	Ms Aisling Mooney aisling.mooney@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8918
6th Year Head	Ms Marie Lonergan marie.lonergan@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8925
AEN Co-Ordinator	Ms Roisin Conlon roisin.conlon@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Chaplain	Sr Mary Delahunty IBVM mary.delahunty@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Guidance Counsellor	Ms Dara Shortt guidance@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8913
Guidance Counsellor	Ms Orla Brophy orla.brophy@loretoabbeydalkey.ie (01) 271 8913



Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to introduce our Senior Student Leadership Team for the 2025/'26 school year, and would like to wish them every success on their leadership journey.

Led by Head Girl, Sophie Pierce, the team comprises Derval O'Connor, Deputy Head Girl for Ethos; Lauren Callaghan, Deputy Head Girl for Junior Leaders; Ayla McGovern, Deputy Head Girl for Co & Extra Curricular; Stephanie Finlay, Deputy Head Girl for Sports; and Keelin O'Farrell, 6th Year Prefect.

Supervised Study

There are a limited number of places available for Supervised Study which takes place after school for 2nd to 6th Year students.



A registration form is available on our School App under 'Forms', or alternatively a completed form can be emailed to maria.roberts@loretoabbeydalkey.ie

Foundit and Lost Property

We use the FoundIt system in school to reunite students with their lost items. It is most important that your daughter has everything labelled with her FoundIt stickers, as this will ensure a prompt return of her 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 the Lost Property are:

Monday at 15.40
Wednesday at 13.00
Friday at 15.40



Pupil Accident Insurance

Each student is covered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week under the Pupil Protector Personal Accident Plan. The cost of the plan is included in the school fees. There is an excess of €100 on any claim.

For more information or to request a claim form, please contact Maria Roberts on (01) 2718926



Download our School App

All school communication and attendance systems are centralised through the Loreto Abbey Secondary School app (available on the App Store and Google Play). The app is completely private and secure, with access only available for current parents/guardians, students and teachers.

School notifications and updates will be sent out via the app, and parents can also submit absence notes, sign in/out digitally, give permissions, and make contact with the school.

We would ask all parents to please download the app today, so that you receive all relevant information.



Board of Management

The Board of Management of Loreto Abbey Dalkey published its annual report in June 2025. This report can be viewed on our school website.

Additionally, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and the school's Anti-Bullying Policy were both completed at the Board Meeting on August 28th 2025.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Alexandra McManus in 6th Year (pictured here with Ms Bailey and Mr Dunne) who won the Bernard O'Boyle Award for English in May. This award recognises excellent work and continuous effort throughout the year.

Food Village

Hot and cold food options, including vegan and vegetarian choices, are available to order 24 hours in advance via the Food Village app. Every student received their Food Village key tag this week and the school registration code is 'LORAD'.

Payment should only be made via the app or fob, **NOT by phone**. Meals will be available to order from Food Village from August 29th 2025.



REGISTRATION CODE:

LORAD

NEW LUNCH SERVICE

Order & pay via the Food Village mobile APP. Over 200 items to choose from everyday!





Welcome to our First Years

Making the transition to secondary school is a significant milestone in any young person's development. This week, our new First Years had a jam-packed day of activities run by the Transition Year students, incorporating everything from team-building games and dancing to cupcake-decorating and quizzes.

After a full day of events on Monday, the First Years then spent some time easing into school life on Tuesday when they met their 6th Year Caras who took them on walks around the campus and gave them some insight into what life in Loreto Abbey Dalkey will entail over the coming years.

We wish all of our First Years well in their first term and encourage them to ask for help from their Class Tutors or Year Head, Ms Green, if they require it.

We were also delighted to welcome parents of First Year students to a coffee morning on Tuesday 26th August. We look forward to meeting all parents at upcoming school events.



TY Musical Rehearsals Underway

It may only be week one of the new school year, but preparations for the Transition Year musical got well underway on Thursday, with the whole year group gathering excitedly for some early practices and auditions.

We look forward to seeing their singing, dancing and acting progress over the coming weeks as the TYs get ready to put on the ultimate show to entertain us all at the end of November.

Mobile Phone Policy Updates

At each of the back to school orientation sessions, students were advised of the amendments to our school's Mobile Phone Policy. Important excerpts of this policy are shown here, and we would ask all students and parents to familiarise themselves with the relevant changes.

The Mobile Phone Policy can also be viewed in full on the school website.

Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the mobile phone/smart phone must be switched off and stored in the student's locker whose responsibility it is to ensure that it is securely locked. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones at any time on the school premises, on school trips or sporting events with the exception of students with medical conditions that require access to a mobile phone or app as a diagnostic instrument. In the event that students are travelling to or from school trips or sporting fixtures on coaches, they must adhere to the Code of Behaviour.

b. Students found in contravention of (a) will have to submit their phone every morning to the relevant Deputy Principal to be stored in a magnetised pouch for the full school day for a period of five days from the day of the incident. In the case of a subsequent offence, this penalty would extend for a longer period of time.

School Uniform Reminders

Our school uniform promotes a sense of belonging to the school community and is a visual symbol of Loreto Abbey, our values, ethos and high standards.

We would ask **all students and parents** to ensure the Code of Behaviour rules regarding our uniform are followed at all times, as well as rules around piercings, false nails and eyelashes.

The following uniform items are to be worn on a daily basis:

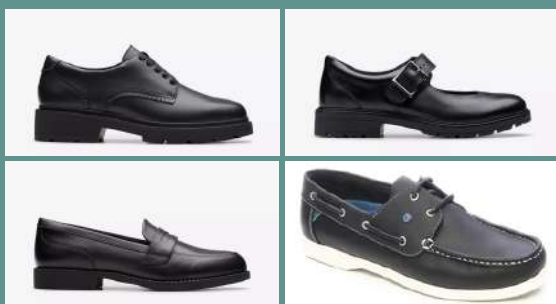
- Green jumper (fleece over in cold weather, no hoodies)
- Striped shirt
- Green skirt (knee length only, no tracksuit worn underneath)
- Grey knee length socks
- Black/navy leather shoes only (no runners, trainers, logos or details)

P.E. Uniform Only:

- School tracksuit bottoms/school leggings/school shorts
- School sports shirt
- School fleece

Please make sure to label **ALL** uniform items and belongings.

The following are examples of shoes which **ARE acceptable** as part of our uniform:



The following are examples of shoes which **ARE NOT acceptable** as part of our uniform:



Dates for Your Diary



The full school calendar of events, parent-teacher meetings, school closures, and other important dates for your diary can be found on both the school website and via our school app.

Welcome to Our New Staff Members



Ms Garton
Science & Maths



Mr J. Byrne
Irish & French



Ms Hanratty
Biology & Science



Ms Ahearne
R.E. & English



Mr Meagher
Art



Ms Flood
R.E. & History



Ms Bennett
Science & Maths



Ms Dervan
Home Ec, R.E. & SPHE



Ms Gore
Business, Finance & CSPE

Bí Cineálta Policy Updates

At each of the back to school orientation sessions, students were also advised of the amendments to our school's Bí Cineálta policy.

Important excerpts of this policy are shown here, and we would ask all students and parents to familiarise themselves with the relevant changes.

The Bí Cineálta policy can also be viewed in full on the school website.

Poster designed by Ella Hayes, 3rd Year



7.9 Bullying (Please refer to our Bí Cineálta: Anti-Bullying Behaviour policy)

Conduct which is injurious to the mental and physical well being of others is not conducive to good school morale or to a secure learning environment.

Students should not engage in any activity that could be interpreted by others as harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Bullying is defined in Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying and Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools as:

- Targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm.
- The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature.
- Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society.

Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey is committed to developing and implementing a Bí Cineálta policy that sets out how the school community prevents and addresses bullying behaviour. Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour that is not bullying behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

You will note a list of types of bullying behaviour with detailed strategies to prevent each one in our Bí Cineálta policy (June 2025) available in the policy section of the website.

Single offline incidents of intentional negative behaviour involving an imbalance of power are not considered bullying but must still be addressed under the school's code of behaviour. Posting a single harmful message/image/video online, and which is highly likely to be reposted or shared with others can therefore be seen as bullying behaviour.

However, in the context of the Anti-Bullying Behaviour policy, placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

Bí Cineálta!

If you think that you are being bullied or someone else is being bullied, you need to **tell a teacher or another adult that you trust**. They will know what to do to help.

Tell someone!

Get help!



IN A WORLD
WHERE YOU
CAN BE ANYTHING
BE KIND

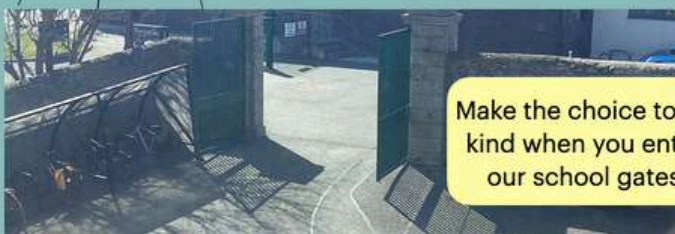
Bullying behaviour is when someone keeps being mean or hurtful to others on purpose over and over again.

When it happens a lot.

Not just once.

Our school has a Bí Cineálta policy to try to stop bullying behaviour. We look at this policy every year to see what is working well or what could work better. We will ask you what you think.

Please, tell someone if you think that you are being bullied or someone else is being bullied.



Make the choice to be kind when you enter our school gates

If a student tells a staff member that they think they are being bullied, we will:

- talk with the student
- ask the student what they want to happen
- work out a plan together talk to their parents
- talk to the other student(s) involved
- talk with the other student's parents



Sports Schedule

Kicking, catching, shooting and striking - there is so much to be gained from including sport in your week. We are incredibly lucky to have a range of sports coordinated through our school. All students are encouraged to take part...who knows, you may discover some hidden skills!

Below is the current schedule for training throughout the week. There may be some adjustments, particularly for 1st Years once teams have been finalised. Please note that GAA, Soccer and Cross Country will not begin until the week starting September 8th.

Hockey

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Wednesday
7.30 - 8.30am	-	-	-	Senior 1, 2 & Junior 1	7.30 - 8.30am	1D & 1E (classes)
1.00 - 1.40pm	-	-	-	S&C Training	1.00 - 1.40pm	1A, 1B & 1C (classes)
3.40 - 4.40pm	Junior 1, 2, 3	Junior 1, 2, 3	Senior 4	1D & 1E (classes)	3.40 - 4.40pm	Home/Away Matches
4.40 - 5.40pm	Senior 1, 2, 3	Senior 1, 2, 3, 4	Senior 5, 6	1A, 1B & 1C (classes)		
5.40 - 6.40pm	Minor 1, 2, 3, 4	Minor 1, 2, 3, 4	Junior 4, 5, 6	-		
3.40 - 7.00pm	-	-	-	Home/Away Matches		

1st Year schedule is provisional. Some times may change once teams are finalised.

GAA

Time	Wednesday
1.15 - 2.15pm	2nd & 3rd Year (Junior) GAA training in Cuala
Time	Thursday
4.00 - 5.15pm	TY. 5th & 6th Year (Senior) GAA training in Cuala

Cross Country

Time	Tuesday
3.40 - 5pm	Cross Country running (all years)

Soccer

Time	Thursday
3.40 - 4.40pm	1st Year Soccer
Time	Thursday
4.40 - 5.40pm	2nd Year Soccer

Basketball

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Wednesday
7.45 - 8.30am	-	-	-	-	1.00 - 2.30pm	1st Years (Minors)
1.20 - 1.40pm	1st & 2nd Year Shooting in Hall	1st & 2nd Year Shooting in Hall	1st & 2nd Year Shooting in Hall	1st & 2nd Year Shooting in Hall		
3.50 - 5.20pm	1st Year (Minors), Cadettes and Seniors	2nd Year (Juniors)	Seniors and Cadettes	2nd Year (Juniors)		

1st Year schedule is provisional. Some times may change once teams are finalised.

NOTE: There will regularly be basketball on Saturdays, particularly for 1st and 2nd Years, however times and groups will vary from week to week