



End of Year Celebrations

SIXTH YEARS



CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
*Sixth
Year*
STUDENTS ON
GRADUATING







Tess Finnegan Graduation Speech

Bright eyes, beaming smiles and beautiful faces were what struck Fifth Year me when I was helping at last year's graduation. The thought that graduation is synonymous with leaving hit me hard and I realised I was not ready to leave. But over the past year, without us even noticing, we've become ready. The theme of our graduation today is 'Thank you for your part in my journey'. Every single person in this church today has played a part in each of our journeys throughout the past six years. Through companionship, advice and experiences, we've been shaped into people who are ready for their next chapter of life. Six years ago, we planted the seeds that would become the strong roots of our lives to come. Today, we reflect on the people and experiences that have cemented those roots and let us grow and flourish, allowing us to continue now to let our branches grow further, taller and stronger.

As First Years, we set out on the initial stages of our journey; suddenly the youngest again, both excited and anxious about this inevitable change. Instead, open arms welcomed us and enabled us to take on every new day and soon enough we forgot our apprehension and it was replaced with a sense of belonging.

That sense of belonging originated from different sources for different people. One of the truest things I hear people say about our school is that there is something for everyone here. Whether it's hockey or choir, Lego club or basketball, you will find your place, your thing, here. We thank the teachers and coaches who have helped us figure out what our 'thing' is, but we also should thank each other, and be proud of one another. Being a member of a team, a club or one of the many supporters here ensured that our journeys are inextricably linked.

One of the milestones in our time in Dalkey was the Musical during Transition Year. This was the first time the Musical was held

outside of the school, which added an extra level of excitement and expectation to the performances. With only a few weeks until the opening curtain, there were lines, lyrics and dances still unlearnt, and the uncertainty was growing. But by the time we enjoyed our first standing ovation from the then Fifth Years, the fear had dissipated and the show was ready. The Musical took time, it took talent, a lot of faith and a lot of patience from Ms Green to make it the success it was. And even though it was hard to believe that it would all come together in the end, it did, and so have we. There's always going to be uncertainty as to what comes next, but I think that despite not knowing what lies ahead, we're ready to face it and embrace it.

Our journey through school has taken many twists and turns, each one shaping us in some way. Whether it's the great education we've received or the lessons we've learnt outside of the classroom, we've discovered so much about ourselves and about each other. Due to COVID, CBAs were some of the only real work completed in Second Year, when our main challenge was mustering up the courage to speak in front of the whole class.

Don't worry, I won't bring you back to the memories of lockdown as I can already see some teary eyes out there, but if nothing else, COVID was something we definitely were not ready for. However we had each other, our school community, even if it was through a device. Mr. Flanagan continued his morning prayers via email. Class continued via zoom. We took each day and each set of restrictions as they came, and once again, life returned to normal. Through Sixth Year we've done the same. We've taken each day as it's come, and even though the end has come quickly, I





don't think it's caught us off guard. We've been preparing for this next step, and we're ready to take it now.

Behind every lesson learned there is a teacher. They have played a pivotal role in shaping our lives so far. They've instilled values, inspired curiosity and nurtured the potential within each of us here today. Teachers, thank you all for your part in our journey. There is one teacher in particular who has played a special role in our experience here in Loreto. Ms. Green, our 'Dancing Queen', our wonderful Year Head. When it was announced that you would be staying with us through Senior Cycle as our Year Head, you could hear the sigh of relief in the Lecture Theatre. Your comforting and unwavering support has prepared us for our next chapter, and we now have to say goodbye. This line from the First Reading today feels like something I can imagine you leaving us with after these six years; 'So be happy and go forth in the dancing of the merrymakers, I have plans in my heart for you'.

Dancing in Cois Fharraige as Sixth Years on Thursday was one of the newfound freedoms we as little First Years would never have imagined. Although only a locker area, it is the place where our journey began and where it came to a close on Thursday when we filed through the school gates one last time. I couldn't imagine our Year Group with a single one of you girls missing from it, so thank you for the best six years of my life so far. To Anna, Evie, Chloe, Jayne and Anna, my Spice Girls, thank you for everything. We had our work cut out for us, but through all those early mornings and late nights we each made five new friends.

The most important people whom we must thank for their part in our journey are our parents. You prepared us for secondary school, you helped us along the way, and when we leave the school today, we know that your support will never falter. Thank you for listening to every worry, giving every lift,

helping with every project. We appreciate you more than you know, and we are grateful that when we leave here today, you will continue to be in our corner, following us through life.

We would like to thank Mr. Dunne for his part in our journey. We appreciate your dedication to creating the best learning environment we could ask for. Thank you for your wisdom, for your support and your sense of humour. We'd like to also thank Ms. Byrne, Mr. Flanagan and Ms. Breen as Deputy Principals. You have each played such important roles in our experience here in Loreto. You have shown us what great leadership looks like, while showing constant care and support in times of need. Thank you for your part in our journey.

We would also like to say a special thanks to Bishop Walsh. Thank you for this beautiful ceremony which was meaningful and memorable. Finally, thank you to each and every one of our teachers, you have played such an important role in preparing us for our graduation.

As I look out at the bright eyes, beaming smiles and beautiful faces of the Class of 2024, I realise that we are ready. I have confidence that every person who has played a part in our journey has prepared us for what's next. Now I'm not going to sing for anyone because I know if there are still people not crying they would be after hearing me sing, but I will read these lyrics from Fleetwood Mac's 'Landslide'; 'I've been afraid of changing, cause I've built my life around you. But time makes you bolder, even children get older and I'm getting older too'. Thank you.

Tess Finnegan



Sixth Year

PRIZE GIVING



Sr. Francis Jerome Award for English



Freyja Cleary

Academic Awards



Rebecca Cullen, Emma Wilson, Eleanor Foot, Clementine Van Steenberge & Tara Leahy

Dálta na Bliana Cup for Irish



Laura Stapleton

Deirdre Madden Cup for Home Economics



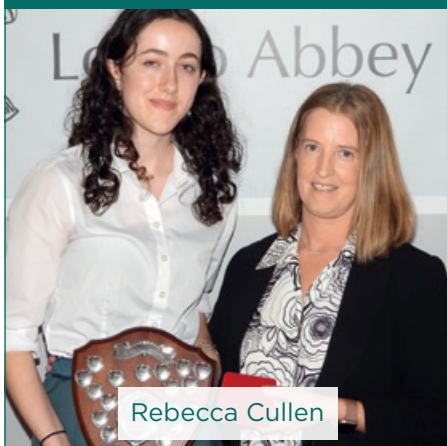
Lara Little

McWilliams Perpetual Cup for Business



Jessica Ellison

Science Perpetual Shield



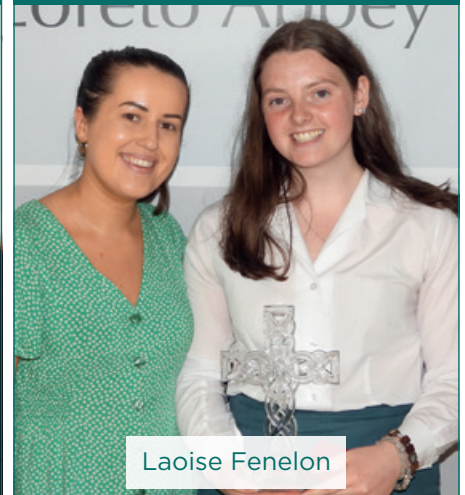
Rebecca Cullen

O'Rourke Trophy



Gabrielle Furlong

Religion Award



Laoise Fenelon



Geography Perpetual Trophy



Maia Kelly Murphy

Karen Dwyer Trophy for Modern Foreign Languages



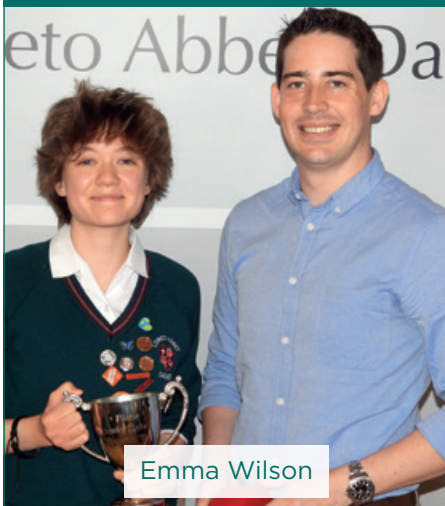
Tess Finnegan

Balfe Memorial Trophy



Lucy O'Donoghue

Pierce Cup for Debating



Emma Wilson

Jarlath McKenna Memorial Cup for Basketball



Áine Marmion

Gordon Wilson Trophy



Amy Noonan

Cosgrave Medal



Sibéal Cherry

Dr. McKenna Cup for Creativity



Rachel Nagle

Sports Star of the Year



Jayne Merren



Excel Perpetual Trophy



Evie Lamb

Una Hogan Perpetual Cup



Leah O'Driscoll

Loreto Past Pupils' Trophy



Anna Sewell

Loreto Education Trust Award



Anna O'Regan Mills

Spirit of Excellence Award



Alia Hall

Principal's Cup



Kate Egan

Principal's Awards



Niamh McGrogan & Eva MacGinley

