



Library



LORETO ABBEY DALKEY LIBRARY

'Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.'

NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

Loreto Interschool Literary Festival

Telling tales is usually to be discouraged except when Dave Rudden, author of the trilogy *'Knights of the Borrowed Dark'*, and Rick O'Shea, radio broadcaster, are giving workshops on the art of creative writing. Our First Years attended the Loreto Literary Festival

in Trinity College's Exam Hall this year where they engaged in reading, writing and responding to literature. Thank you to our sister school, Loreto St. Stephen's Green for facilitating this wonderful literary event.





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'The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.'

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Loreto Abbey Dalkey Book Festival 2024

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful library in our school. This Spring we decided to celebrate this great space with the first ever Loreto Abbey Dalkey Book Festival. Over the course of a week-long celebration of all things literary we engaged in a series of events and workshops to celebrate the power of the written word.

On Monday, the man who leads Ireland's largest book club, RTE broadcaster, Rick O'Shea spoke about his love of Sci-Fi and Dr. Who. He spoke of the thrill of being invited to be an adjudicator at book festivals and how if a book doesn't grab you in the first 50 pages then it is time to move on. During the conversation Rick reflected on how right now may well be the golden age of Irish writing. In his esteemed view there

are so many wonderful Irish contemporary writers that it is difficult to see they will ever be matched in the future.

On Tuesday, DLR Writers In Residence, Sonya Gildea and Joanne Hayden visited us for a very enriching creative writing workshop. They worked with students on different approaches to creative writing. They looked at how inspirational prompts and insights can come from the most unlikely of places. Students had an opportunity to read their work at the end of the workshop and found it a most enjoyable experience. On Thursday, Creative Director of the DLR Mill Theatre, Dundrum, Ms. Kate Canning visited for a Q&A session on her life and work in the theatre. As a trained opera singer Kate spoke about how Maria Callas is an idol





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and how no biography has managed to fully capture the dichotomous magic and tragedy of her life. Kate also spoke about the importance of books to her as a teenager in boarding school in Waterford and how TV's Succession really is just Shakespeare for the modern audience. After the talk Kate facilitated a workshop for our drama club focusing on performing Shakespeare. It was a wonderful morning of improv and drama enjoyed by all.

Finally, On Friday, Legal Affairs Correspondent, Orla O'Donnell spoke to senior cycle students about her

work as a journalist, the difficulties in combating fake news and why so many people are interested in the True Crime genre. Orla also spoke about the books that have meant something to her over the course of her life and took questions from the students about her work.

Our first ever Book Festival was a great success and we are truly appreciative of all the people who so willingly gave of their time and expertise. Plans are already in place for an equally exciting line up next year. Watch this space!





*'There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry.'*

EMILY DICKINSON

Accelerated Reader Programme

Emily Dickinson eloquently captured the manner in which reading can transport us to fantasy worlds where our imagination can take hold. Put down the phone, disentangle yourself from social media and curl up in silence with fragrant pages, fertile with fables and tales. This is the advice that our Second Years were given this year by their English teachers as they engaged with the Accelerated Reader Programme.

This digital reading programme challenges students via quizzes on books suitable for their current reading level while directing them towards more complex reading material over time. As our Second Years move into Third Year, we encourage them to continue reading in order to broaden their ideas and develop their comprehension and expression. We look forward to enhancing our students' reading skills via Accelerated Reader in the coming academic year.

