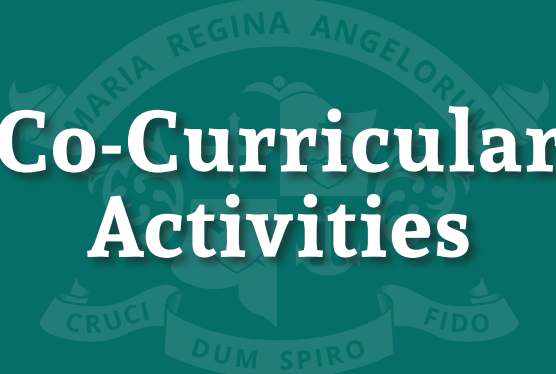




# Co-Curricular Activities





## Art Club

Throughout the year, the School Art Club embarked on a creative journey, exploring a variety of materials and techniques. From experimenting with paper to mastering the intricacies of paint, clay, and watercolour, each session was an opportunity for artistic expression.

A highlight was our inspiring trip to the Justice and Peace Art Exhibition in Dún Laoghaire, where students were immersed in the vibrant world of Art, observing

the work of their peers from surrounding schools. Under the guidance of Ms. McBride, our talented students produced a plethora of remarkable works, showcasing their passion, talent, and boundless creativity.

The Annual captures just a glimpse of the incredible artistic endeavours achieved by our Club members, showcasing our students' imagination and inspiration.





# Chess Club

## The Queen's Gambit

Walter Tevis, author and creator of the aforementioned acclaimed drama mini series, would be inspired by the dedication of our Chess Club who participated in multiple tournaments this year guided by Ms. McBreen and Hector Vjekoslav Novak, our professional Chess coach. Honing their skills in this complex game of strategy is enriching and worthwhile.

To gain an insight into the scintillating interactions that take place at lunch time in C11, we decided to ask Kate McLaughlin, a Chess Club member, a few questions:

### WHY DID YOU JOIN CHESS CLUB?

I joined Chess Club at the start of the school year. We meet each week in C11. It's a fun game and a great way to spend lunch. Hector is our teacher. He is teaching us new moves that can improve our chances of winning when we go to chess competitions in other schools, such as Oaklands, St. Andrews and Blackrock College.

The competitions are a great way to compete against other students and make new friends.

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

I like Chess Club as it's fun to play with your friends, make new ones and learn new skills. I enjoy when Hector teaches us more about Chess to expand our skills and creativity. Playing Chess against Hector and Ms. McBreen is also enjoyable.

### WILL YOU JOIN IT NEXT YEAR?

I will definitely join next year. I have enjoyed it this year very much and have learnt many new things about Chess as it's a very good game to be able to play and a lot of fun. I would highly recommend it.

Thank you to Ms. McBreen for her dedication to the mastery of this cerebral game of strategy.





# Gael Linn 2024

## Comórtas Diospóireachta

Convincing your audience of your argument in colloquial language is one thing, but commanding the attention of the adjudicators trí mheán na Gaeilge is something else indeed. Our proficient Gaelgeoirs on the Junior team this year were Roisin Murray, Kate Holland, Mary Rose Murnane and Kayla Sexton and on the Senior team were Blanaid Breathnach, Anna Sewell and Laura Stapleton. Here's what our captains had to say about their experience of the Gael Linn debates.

Róisín is ainm domsa agus is captaen foireann díospóireachta mé. Ghlac mé féin agus mo chairde Mary-Rose agus Kate páirt sa gcéad bhabhta de na Diospóireachtaí Gael Linn an gCéadaoin seo caite. Bhí an rún ná *"Seafóid atá sa teilifís réaltachta"*. Labhraíomar in aghaidh an rúin agus bhí sé taithí iontach. Moladh móir don Bean Murdock ár bainisteoir. Ghlac Kayla Sexton, Kate Holland agus mé féin páirt i gCraobh Réigiúnach na Díospóireachta freisin. Bhí an taithí iontach.

**ROISIN MURRAY**  
THIRD YEAR

Bhí an rún suimuil a plé ar Dé Ceadaoín ná *'Ba cheart smacht iomlán a bheith ag thuismeothóirí ar soisialta a bpáistí atá faoi ocht mbliana déag d'aois'*. Bhí muid ag plé cumhacht na meán cumarsáide, bhforbairt an pháiste agus cé chomh tabhachtach is atá cursaí príomhoideachas agus cursaí slandála.

Go raibh maith agat a Beán Murdock, ár bainisteoir.

**BLANAID BREATHNACH**  
SIXTH YEAR





# Concern

## Debating Competition

***'Nothing is so unbelievable that oratory cannot make it acceptable'***

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

**'Africa will regret its reliance on China'**, undoubtedly a rather ominous sounding prediction, however, this was one of the three motions that our TY Debating team researched and argued in the Concern Debates this year. Issy O'Donoghue, Beth White, Grace Gavin, Shauna McLaughlin, Ana Madden Santos, Amy Butler, Áine Hanlon, Sophie Pierce, Emily Heavey, Eve Howman, Summer Glynn and Grace Gavin delivered speeches on a variety of issues concerning international politics. Learning about the economic relationship between Africa and China, the human rights violations of African people as a consequence of Chinese trade and the impact of neocolonialism was eye opening for the team.

The team moved swiftly on from this challenging topic to the next motion that **'African Nations must be allowed to develop fossil fuel resources to help lift their people out of poverty.'** Opposing this motion, the team argued that not only does the burning of fossil fuels have a detrimental impact on public health

but it also has an irreversible environmental and economic effect.

With a satisfying win under their belt, the team moved on to debate their final motion **'Big business is indifferent to the Sustainable Development Goals.'** While the team proposed this motion with well researched arguments regarding unfair trade and wages, the judges were unfortunately not convinced. However, our public speakers remain undaunted by this loss and recognise the benefits of becoming knowledgeable orators on a range of political and international topics.

Thank you to Ms. Galvin for coordinating this worthwhile co curricular activity.

**ISSY O' DONOGHUE, AMY BUTLER  
& EMILY HEAVEY**  
TRANSITION YEAR





# Debating Club & Competitions

## Inter Loreto Debating Competition

*'Let Truth be Thy Aim, Not Victory, or an Unjust Interest'*

WILLIAM PENN

Margaret Heffernan once said *'For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate'*. Debate allows us to be challenged and offers an opportunity to anyone who participates to grow and develop. Without debate, we would have baseless opinions, without any reason or motivation behind them. The act of debate highlights the power of speech, and the impact and importance of our words.

The Debating Club in Loreto Dalkey allows us to form rounded and well-informed opinions on relevant topics such as travel, the environment, celebrities, social issues and more. This year, the club was popular enough with First Years that they had their own lunchtime club, while older students met after school. Every week we meet for an hour, and it is one of the highlights of the week. The club allows for passion, discussion, and development, whilst also allowing fun and excitement. The most important thing about debating, and the club in our school, is that it enables you to find your voice. By attending Debating Club weekly, we have developed the confidence to express our opinions, which is a life-long skill that will never be lost or forgotten.

This year our Debating Club participated in many competitions such as the National Mace Debates, a unique form of debating rounds where the motion is only given to a team 15 minutes prior to their speech. To any First Years reading this wondering if they want to start debating, I strongly encourage you to try these competitions out! They are a perfect way to experience competitions if you have little debating

experience. (Plus there normally is pizza which is always nice).

Our Club this year also participated in the Inter-Loreto Debates. The first round was over Zoom which was challenging. The teams worked extremely hard and each committed themselves to their debates with the final motion only being revealed minutes before the Final itself began. After weeks of writing and editing speeches, one team comprising India Bagot and Rowan Sweeney both debated brilliantly in the Semi Final of the Junior Competition and made it through to the Final. The final motion was whether ***'This House Should Make Voting Compulsory'***. After a rigorous Final, Rowan and India placed 3rd and both brought trophies back to Dalkey.

Debating is an amazing skill to have, it puts you in positions where you have to think strategically and quickly while forming arguments and rebuttals. However, that's not all the Debating Club is. While an enjoyable aspect of debating is beating other teams and winning competitions, some of the best parts of the club are the friends and fun you have in the Lecture Theatre every Monday. Whether it's debating about Taylor Swift or sneaking in funny remarks in speeches, Debating Club is great for First Years and first time debaters to learn the enjoyment of strategically arguing in a fun space. Thank you to Mr. O'Connor for facilitating this invaluable club.

**MARY ROSE MURNANE**  
THIRD YEAR

**INDIA BAGOT**  
FIRST YEAR





# Dungeons & Dragons Club

Our school may have been built as far back as 1843, however, there is not a dungeon nor a dragon to be found on site. In fact what we are referring to is a unique club where creative storytelling comes alive through dice, boards and fictional characters. This year in Dungeons & Dragons Club, the party followed the story of a village where strange disappearances were occurring in the night time as unknown creatures had begun to stalk the town streets. Through much thinking, acting and rolling of the dice, the students of the club managed to solve the mystery and save the characters around them. Participating in an inter-school Dungeons & Dragons event with Blackrock College in their school library, was not only fun but a

great opportunity to meet other people interested in the game. As the club's Dungeon Master for the last 3 years, I have seen first hand how the club enables students to develop problem solving skills, lateral thinking and brings a lot of joy and laughter to Dalkey on Friday afternoons.

I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the club and I would like to wish the incoming Dungeon Master the best of luck.

**EMMA WILSON**  
SIXTH YEAR





# LORETO ABBEY DALKEY GREEN SCHOOLS

*'One to change a few. A few to change many.  
Many to change the world. It all starts with one.'*

The First Year Green Champions this year took the lead in implementing sustainable practices in our school. The group consisted of Andrea Collins (1A), Rachel Shannon (1A), Lauren Creevey (1B), Lucy Doolin (1B), Katie Montgomery Brennan (1C), Hannah Tracey (1C), Holly Fennessy (1D), Florence Walsh (1D), Vanessa Heap (1E) and Sophie Keane (1E). These students have led the way in Loreto Education in terms of climate action and our school is the first Loreto school to have such an initiative.

The Green Champions, under the guidance of our Sustainability Coordinator Mr. Oman, concentrated early in the school year on waste management in First Year classrooms. The girls worked on a presentation about improved waste management and the correct use of classroom bins. Once it was completed, each of the Green Champions delivered it to their own class. This significant work was then developed into a school-wide initiative by the Green Schools Committee to remove all classroom bins and replace them with triple bins around the school which contain

a section for recycling, compost and general waste. This had led to a marked decline in general waste and an impressive increase in recycling. Although under the guidance of Mr. Oman, Ms. Scott and Mr. Cullen, it was the students who were proactive in ensuring the success of the school's new waste management system.

The Green Champions next took part in a surface temperature measuring project led by GLOBE Ireland, an affiliate of NASA. Each Green Champion had the opportunity to use a temperature measuring device multiple times over the course of two weeks. The results were recorded and delivered by the students at a video conference to other schools involved in the project. Our Green Champions impressed the environmental experts with the initiatives in our school and the suggestions they had offered for natural 'cooling solutions' around our school.

In addition, The Green Schools Committee took part in a number of climate action events this year





including the annual 'Walk For Water' whereby they walked 5km carrying 5 litres of water to simulate what many people in the developing world have to do each day. Ms. Scott and Mr. Cullen also led staff and students in a 'bike bus' during Bike Week in May. The group cycled from Blackrock DART station to our school to highlight alternatives to driving.

We look forward to building further momentum in the area of sustainability in our school in September 2024 with the development of a new growing garden and digital weather station.

### **MR. OMAN**





## LEGO/STEM Club

This year the LEGO/STEM Club took an artistic turn and created a comic book to accompany their robot for the first LEGO League in DCU. The theme was **'Masterpiece'** and the team had to find a way to describe their hobbies at the competition. Luckily, they had Doris, a comic book character who represented the challenges that female gamers experience online.

The team produced a full comic book which took a huge collaborative effort from character design and storyboards right through to the finished product. Meanwhile, the builders and programmers were busy working through the LEGO game. They solved nearly every puzzle with great imagination and came away with the 'Robot Design Award' on the day.

Congratulations to Grace Kershaw, Nicole Gavin, Annalisa Macari, Maria Hamilton, Nicola Beardmore, Sofia Finnegan and Josephine Siebenbrock on this success. The theme for next year is **'Submerged'** and the LEGO/STEM Club is already plotting their way to another win.

Thank you to Mr. Cullen for leading this excellent initiative.





# Junior Drama Club

## *'All the World's a Stage'* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

This year, the Junior Drama Club delved into a diverse array of theatrical activities, providing an inclusive and safe space for students to unleash their creativity.

Inspired by famous theatre practitioner Stanislavski and his belief that *"There are no small parts, only small actors"*, the members explored the art of mime, honed their improvisational skills, and embraced the power of poetic expression.

Emphasising the importance of action and reaction, the club fostered a dynamic environment where students could grow as performers and individuals. Looking forward to next year, we hope to build on this foundation, continuing to nurture talent and strengthen the bonds within our school community, while introducing even more exciting and challenging theatrical pursuits.

**MS. NOCTOR**





# Knitting Club

*'Knitting is the Saving of Life'*

**VIRGINIA WOOLF**

The quiet clicking of needles could be heard from our new social area on the C Corridor every Tuesday lunchtime over the course of this year. Knitting Club, led by our Co & Extra Curricular Prefects, provided students from across the Years with some quiet time to hone their textile skills. To the soft chant of *'In through the bunny hole, around the big tree, back through the bunny hole and off goes she'*,

friendships were formed and in some cases beautiful blankets were crafted, most notably, Maja Surmacz knit a bespoke baby blanket for her cousin. The myriad benefits derived from knitting are well known including lower blood pressure, a reduction in anxiety and an increased sense of wellbeing and we look forward to widening our woolly circle moving into 2024/'25.





# Musical Theatre & Songwriting Club

## Lunchtime Songwriting Club

This group met up every Tuesday lunchtime in the Music Room, to explore creative possibilities with lyric composition, melody writing, musical collaboration, exploration and arranging. Their efforts culminated in many new original compositions, and an original performance at the Summer Evening of Music; '*Little Words*' was written and performed by Rachel Nagle, Emma Wilson, Lily McKenna, Matilda Manning & Rowan Sweeney, AKA **Lost Leads**.



## Lunchtime Musical Theatre Club

This group met up each Thursday lunchtime in the Dance Studio to explore singing, acting, movement and musical scene performances. Works explored included **Rent** (Jonathan Larson), **Les Miserables** (Boublil/Schönberg), **The Mikado** (Gilbert & Sullivan), and **The Hot Mikado** (Bowman). The latter two were arranged together as a fun, end of year performance in the Summer Evening of Music, performed brilliantly by Faith Robinson, Rachel Nagle, and India Bagot.





# An Gaisce Programme

## Ain't No Mountain High Enough

Community involvement, a physical and personal skill, along with a 20km hike were the key components of The President's Award, or Gaisce Programme undertaken by our Seniors. This year both the Fifth Years and Transition Year students were the recipients of the Bronze Award. Acquiring new skills and making a social contribution were fruitful experiences for our students, however, spending a weekend hiking and camping in the verdant valley of Glendalough was the highlight. Emily Bradbury, TY, had the following to say about the experience:

'It was a great way to get to know people in our Year. A few of us went shopping to buy food for our hike. We had to make sure that we had enough food to keep us all fed for two days and we had a budget that we had to follow. We walked 10km each day and we went camping for one night. Camping was something that I had never really done before and so this was an eye opening experience for me.

This trip was really enjoyable and we escaped the hectic day to day lives at home. We did not have to keep up to date with social media and instead we all chatted and played games around the campfire.

All in all, Gaisce was definitely one of the most important parts of TY for me. It was such a valuable experience and in a lot of ways was more important than other things that we did in TY. It took determination and it showed how important it is to never give up on something even when it is challenging. I would recommend that every TY student takes part in Gaisce because you can learn a lot from it if you choose to put the effort in. I really

learned how important this is during TY and this is a skill I will carry into the future.'

Thank you to Mr. Curtis and Ms. S. Murray for coordinating this worthwhile experience.

