

Loreto Abbey Secondary School,  
Dalkey

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

June 2024



## 01 A Message from the Principal

I would like to commend our students on a successful academic and sporting year which was filled with new opportunities for self development and leadership. While students' involvement in the co and extra curricular life of the school enables them to expand their friendships and form close ties, research shows that the key ingredient to student contentment is in fact regular attendance.

Consequently, from Term 2, we implemented our Attendance Campaign which focused on the link between attendance and attainment. We are delighted to report that there has been a significant improvement in partial and full day absenteeism which will continue to form part of our School Self Evaluation Process.



In addition, our final term was infused with a vast array of events, celebrating both the musical, academic and sporting life of the school. From our Summer Concert, to our Sixth and Transition Year Graduations, to the Year group Awards Ceremonies to Spirit Day, no stone was left unturned. I would like to thank our staff for their contribution to all aspects of school life but in particular, Mr Bernard O'Boyle whose dedication to our students' academic development spans 38 years.

Finally, Ms Byrne, Mr Flanagan and I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming your daughter back to school in late August 2024.

*Mr. Robert Dunne*



## 02 Attendance Strategy

As part of our School Self Evaluation process, we examine areas of school life that require a special focus. In line with the National Strategy for School Attendance promoted by Tusla, we analysed our students' attendance and punctuality in Term 1, putting in place a number of measures to support students and parents going into Term 2.

While there has been a marked improvement in full and partial day absenteeism, punctuality, as noted by parents in the SSE survey we carried out, continues to be a concern. Therefore, we have amended 7.2 of our Code of Behaviour to state that 'If a student is late twice in one week, detention will be imposed'.



In addition, we have also amended 7.14 of the Code of Behaviour in line with our reviewed Mobile Phone Policy. While some schools attempt to operate a mobile phone free campus, the nature of our student cohort is such that commuting is a daily occurrence for many and so our students' safe journey to and from school is a priority.

However, of late, we have had an increasing number of incidents involving students accessing mobile phones and associated apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram during school hours. Therefore, students found to be in breach of our Mobile Phone Policy will have their 'phone confiscated for 24 hours and parents will be informed. Should a parent state that their daughter requires her phone for her journey home, the student will then have to return the phone to the office the following morning in order to complete the designated period of confiscation. Students will also have to sit on the spot lunch time detention on the day of confiscation or at the next opportunity. It will be returned at 16.30 that day and a note will be made in the student's Journal. For second and subsequent offences, parents/guardians will be required to collect the mobile phone from the office.' We are hopeful that these measures will create a distraction free environment where teaching and learning will flourish.



**FULL ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Lueta Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey

**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

Every school year you have:

- 166 days
- 930 classes
- 930 hours
- 55,776 minutes

**Every School Day Counts**

# Second hand uniform sale

- Uniform must be
- in EXCELLENT condition
  - clean
  - wearable
  - no holes



Drop off unwanted uniform at  
cois fharráige anytime from  
30th May - 26th June

Any enquiries,  
please email:  
[una18@hotmail.com](mailto:una18@hotmail.com)  
Or text -  
0860889949

Uniform Sale in the concert  
hall Thurs 27th June 1-3 pm

PIC•COLLAGE

## 03 Uniform

As you can see from our incoming 6th Year Student Leadership Team, we are very proud of our uniform here in Loreto Abbey Dalkey. Following consultation with the Student Council and a focus group of parents the following will be available from Uniformity this year:

- Anorak style jacket, loose fitting with fleece lining
- Wide leg navy tracksuit bottoms with crest
- School jumper with white stripe instead of grey and new Loreto crest (students may continue to wear current jumper with grey stripe)

The following are essential components for your daughter's return to school in August 2024:

- Full school uniform including jumper, shirt, skirt and knee socks (grey for 1st-5th and black for 6th Years)
- Black or navy leather shoes only, no sports shoes or shoes with visible logos permitted, please see [www.loretoabbeydalkey.ie](http://www.loretoabbeydalkey.ie) for more information
- Sports uniform for PE only including fleece, school tracksuit bottoms, PE shirt and sports runners, no Converse runners





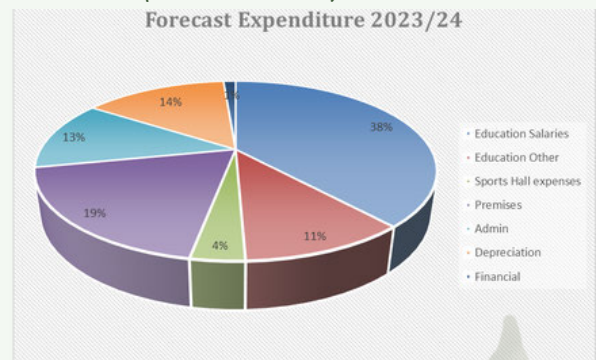
## 04 School Fees

The Board of Management has responsibility for the financial stewardship of the school and has always endeavoured to keep our fee structure manageable for families while providing a wide range of subject options, smaller classes, an advantageous pupil-teacher ratio, significant academic supports and a wide range of co and extra-curricular activities.

Our annual increases are generally in the region of 5%, however, this year the increase has been limited to 3.8%. We invest any annual surplus in the development of facilities. We do not include any hidden charges for development funds etc. and to date have avoided calling on the generosity of parents for capital fundraising.

As one of 50 schools that historically decided to retain a fee charging status, we receive no capital funding from the State; 43 teaching salaries are financed by the Department of Education with the remainder funded at Department rates by the Board. All salaries for administrative, support and coaching staff are financed by school fees.

The pie chart below illustrates the split of costs for 2023/'24..



In the past year, the Board has undertaken the following work:

- The Physics and Biology labs have been upgraded.
- New floors were installed in nine classrooms.
- Areas of the Sports Hall were refloored.
- A new social area on the C Corridor was created.
- The CCTV cameras in the Sports Hall were upgraded.
- Areas of the Sports Hall, two corridors and seven classrooms were repainted.
- Preservation works were carried out to the external walls.

The following Summer works schedule will be carried out this year:

- The entire flat roof on the extension wing will be replaced.
- New classroom doors on two corridors will be installed.
- New flooring will be installed in eight classrooms.
- The external windows in the Concert Hall will be repainted.
- Upgrading of the LED lights in the Sports Hall.
- Upgrading of the Changing Rooms in the Sports Hall.
- Redecoration of the Lecture Theatre.





# 05 Payment of Fees

The School Fee Policy may be accessed via our school website at:  
[https://www.loretoabbeydalkey.com/Content/2023/6/cb00-Fee\\_Policy\\_2023.pdf](https://www.loretoabbeydalkey.com/Content/2023/6/cb00-Fee_Policy_2023.pdf)

The efficient collection of fees is an important factor in keeping them as low as possible and the Board is grateful to the many parents who settle accounts on time.

Fee notes will be issued by the Bursar's Office in July and our preference is for parents to pay their invoices via direct debit from September to May 2024-'25 inclusive.

There are a small number of fees outstanding and the Board requires that these be settled before the beginning of the next academic year. Parents are asked to contact the Bursar directly if they experience difficulty in meeting the obligation to pay fees.

School Fees	2024/'25
Basic Fee	€4,800
Transition Year Surcharge	€450
Locker Fee (in year of joining only)	€60
FoundIt Fee (in year of joining only)	€10
International Student Fee	€5,200
Mock Leaving Certificate Fee	€140
Mock Orals per Subject	€20
Mock Music Practical	€30
Mock Junior Certificate	€150
Guidance 5th Year	€11
Guidance 6th Year	€11

School Fees	2024/'25
Sibling	Discounts
2nd Child	€375
3rd Child	€750
4th Child	€1,000





# 06 Supervised Study

Supervised Study will be offered to both Senior and Junior Cycle students as usual in the coming academic year. Please see below for times and pricing, application forms are attached to the email accompanying this newsletter.

## Arrangements for Senior Cycle Study

Location: Library

Monday	16.10-19.00
Tuesday	16.10-19.00
Wednesday	13.30-18.00
Thursday	16.10-19.00
Friday	16.10-18.00

\*\*\*Late Night Study for Seniors will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7-9pm, please see attached application form for more detail.

## Pricing for Senior Cycle Supervised Study 2024/'25

	5 Days	4 Days	3 Days	2 Days
Full Year	€525	€475	€420	€370
Term 1 Only	€265	€240	€210	€185
Term 2 Only	€290	€265	€240	€210

## Pricing for Junior Cycle Supervised Study 2024/'25

## Arrangements for Junior Cycle Study

Location: A4, A5, A6 (Library on Fridays)

Monday	16.10-18.00
Tuesday	16.10-18.00
Wednesday	13.30-16.00
Thursday	16.10-18.00
Friday	16.10-18.00

	5 Days	4 Days	3 Days	2 Days
Full Year	€475	€420	€370	€315
Term 1 Only	€240	€210	€185	€160
Term 2 Only	€265	€240	€210	€185





# 07 Loreto Dalkey School of Music

Private music tuition at Loreto Abbey Secondary School has enjoyed significant expansion during 2023-24, due to changes made to lesson scheduling and staffing. We are hoping to build on this even further and are currently accepting enrolments for private music lessons, commencing September 2024.

Tuition is available in the following instruments subject to sufficient demand:

- Voice
- Piano
- Violin
- Cello
- Drums/Percussion
- Harp
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Guitar/Bass guitar
- Ukulele



The study of Music enables students to develop holistically; they learn to think creatively, develop self discipline, realise how to conquer fear and take risks. In addition to the joy of achieving technical mastery, music practice also provides a therapeutic space away from life's stresses and ensemble music-making creates bonds which last a lifetime. Application forms and further detail are attached to the accompanying email.





# 08 Return to School Information August 2024

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in August 2024. The school calendar for 2024/'25 is now available on our website [www.loretoabbeydalkey.ie](http://www.loretoabbeydalkey.ie).

Key Dates for Incoming 1st Years are as follows:

- **Monday 26th August 8.45-15.40, Sports Hall:** Orientation (1) for 1st Years
- **Tuesday 27th August 8.45-12.30, Lecture Theatre:** Orientation (2) for 1st Years with Year Head
- **Wednesday 28th August 8.45-13.00:** Classes for all students

# 09 Employment Opportunities

We invite applications for the position of **Library Assistant**. Please see below for more details:

- The position will commence on August 22nd 2024.
- Hours are as follows: 4-7pm Monday & Friday, 4-9pm Tuesday and Thursday, 3-6pm Wednesday.
- Letters of application and an accompanying C.V may be forwarded to [principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie](mailto:principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie) by **Monday 17th June 2024**.

We also invite applications for the position of **Caretaking Assistant**. Please see below for more details:

- Hours are as follows: 15 hrs per week, flexible Monday-Thursday, 9-5pm Fridays
- Letters of application and an accompanying CV may be forwarded to [principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie](mailto:principal@loretoabbeydalkey.ie) by **Monday 17th June 2024**. Experience in grounds maintenance and gardening is required.

