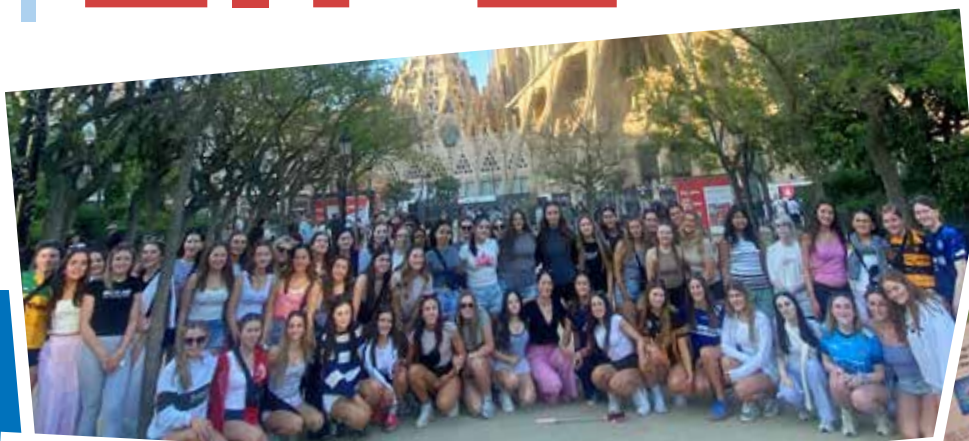




SUMMER 2025

LORETO

LIFE



Loreto Secondary School

Principal's Message

Niamh Fitzpatrick, Principal



2024/2025 has been another action-packed and memorable year in the life of Loreto Kilkenny. The many articles in local newspapers and the wealth of posts on social media are a testament to the rich array of events and activities that have taken place over the past year. It is fair to say that there is truly something for everyone at Loreto! I am continually impressed by the breadth of extracurricular opportunities available to our students and the unwavering commitment of our staff, who give freely of their time to make these experiences possible. Their dedication ensures that each student has the chance to discover and nurture their talents, develop new skills, and feel a deep sense of belonging within our school community. As a school, we are incredibly grateful for the work that goes on behind the scenes and the tireless support our staff provide in enriching the Loreto experience.

There were a number of changes during the year and we welcomed Ms Bhreathnach as a permanent member of our senior management team. She was also joined during the year by Ms Kehoe and Ms Maye, all of whom have made a fantastic contribution to the school.

In February 2025, Mr Colm Keher, who served as Principal for 17 years was seconded to the JMB. This marked a significant milestone both in his professional journey and for the school community that he served with dedication during his time here. During his time as principal, he made a profound and lasting contribution to the Loreto ethos, championing student voice, academic excellence, and the holistic development of every pupil. Every decision that was made was reached with the best interest of the school at its core. His unwavering support for innovative teaching and learning practices laid a strong foundation for continued success. Throughout his tenure, he was a passionate supporter of all school activities from academic initiatives and sports competitions to musical productions and school trips. He was a constant presence at concerts, debates, and award ceremonies, always encouraging participation and celebrating student effort. He took genuine pride in seeing students achieve their potential, whether through academic success or extracurricular

accomplishments. His unwavering belief in the abilities of young people left a lasting impact on the entire school community. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Keher the very best in his new position. I know that he will continue to take an interest in our fantastic school and remain a friend to Loreto. While his secondment to the JMB is a testament to his expertise and vision at a national level, his legacy remains deeply embedded in the Loreto school community.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our Parents Association for all of their great work throughout the year. Likewise, I would like to thank them for the very generous contributions that they have made towards the enhancement and development of student facilities. The Parents Association provides a forum for parents to contribute to the running of the school by sharing their perspective and ideas as parents. This perspective is greatly appreciated and I would encourage as many parents as possible to get involved during the coming year. Sincere thanks also to the members of our Board of Management who take on the responsibility of the management of the school on behalf of the Loreto Education Trust. Under the expert and dedicated leadership of our chairperson, Tony Joyce, they ensure the best possible facilities and the highest standard of teaching and learning. Their commitment and genuine interest in our school is inspiring.

As we come to the end of another academic year, we say a fond farewell to the class of 2025. We wish them every happiness, good health and success as they embark on the next stage of their journey in life. They have been a superb group and I want to thank them for their contribution to school life. Their sense of fun will be missed greatly! Please remember that you will always be welcome in Loreto and we look forward to hearing about the various paths that you will travel in the future.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer to all our students, staff, and parents/guardians. Thank you for your continued support of our school, together, we make Loreto Kilkenny the vibrant and thriving community it is today.

A Message from the Head Girl



As the end of the school year approaches and summer draws near, it's starting to feel real that my time at Loreto is coming to a close. It's hard to believe that six years have passed already—it feels like just moments ago we were starting 1st Year, full of nerves and excitement. Though it's sad to say goodbye, I'm also really looking forward to what lies ahead.

When I look back on my time here, what stands out most are the incredible experiences I've had outside the classroom. From our Transition Year production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* to Barista courses, the list is endless—and the memories have truly made my school life unforgettable.

Whether it was traveling abroad, singing in choir, or joining clubs, those moments created friendships and experiences that will stay with me forever. If there's one piece of advice I'd give to every student, it's to dive into the opportunities Loreto offers—you won't regret it.

Something else I've learned is just how fast time really flies. It's easy to let the days slip by without noticing, but I promise you—these years are special. Take the chance to speak to someone new, join a club, or try something that scares you a little. The connections and memories you make will be worth it.

This year has been especially full of proud moments for our school community. From the Senior

Camogie team winning the All-Ireland Final to our hockey girls reaching the Kate Russell final for the first time in over six years, we've had so much to celebrate.

Two of my personal highlights were the Olympics-themed Miss First Year show and our amazing Christmas concert. It was such an incredible experience and a true privilege to be part of these fantastic events. I hope you all enjoyed them just as much as I did.

As I reflect on these past few years, I want to thank everyone who's been part of this journey. To the teachers and staff—your patience, support, and constant encouragement have meant the world. A special thank you to Millie, Anna, and the entire Senior Prefect team for all the hard work you've done behind the scenes. And to every student who helped make Loreto the warm, vibrant place it is—thank you.

Lastly, to my fellow Sixth Years: what a journey it's been. From day one, we've looked out for each other, laughed together, and grown closer than I ever imagined. Being your Head Girl has been the honour of a lifetime, and I'm so grateful for every memory we've shared.

Wishing you all the very best in whatever comes next. Take pride in what you've achieved here, and never forget how far you've come.

Thank you once again,
Amy Walton

I hope this publication offers a meaningful insight into the wide range of exciting and enjoyable events that our students have taken part in throughout the past academic year. It truly reflects the vibrant school life we're proud to foster at Loreto.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable role our entire staff plays in providing such a rich variety of academic and extracurricular activities. Our students are fortunate to have access to these opportunities, and it's thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff that these experiences are possible.

A sincere thank you to all the staff and students who contributed photographs and articles to this end-of-year magazine—your efforts help capture the spirit and achievements of our school community.

And finally, a huge thanks to School Photographer Mr Tom Beirne who has repeatedly stood in to cover several school events during the year. His professionalism and standard of work is second to none and we look forward to having Tom covering future school events.

Davy Ryan



EDITOR'S
NOTE

Parents Association

Throughout the academic year, our regular meetings with fellow parents and school management offer a valuable opportunity to come together, learn about developments within the school community, and discuss matters that are important to us as parents—as well as to the students and staff.

Over the past year, the Parents' Association (PA) has actively engaged with school management on a range of topics including the PE uniform, curriculum, school facilities, the school calendar, and other school-related issues. In addition to this, we've been delighted to support key school events such as the Open Night for incoming First Years and the Graduation Ceremony for Sixth Years.

We also organise external speakers for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), with recent guests including Jackie Fox, Wayne Denner, and local health professionals—providing valuable insights for the wider parent body.

Our annual fundraising initiative, the Christmas Raffle, continues to play a vital role in supporting projects within the school. Over the past 12–18 months, the PA has contributed to the purchase of outdoor seating for students, funded additional school blazers for use by students representing the school, and supported the School Council's proposal for a new water station. We also contribute toward the production costs of the Sixth Year Yearbook.

The Parents' Association is open to all parents, and we warmly welcome new faces at any time. We typically hold 6–7 meetings per academic year, each lasting about an hour. If you're interested in finding out more about what's happening in the school and would like to be part of these conversations, we'd love to see you at a meeting in the coming year.



Dawning of a new day at Loreto



Likely lads



Ice Cream Fridays at Soccer Training



Dryrobes got that cozy drip

Prizegiving



Mary Ward Award
Saoirse Teehan



Harte Cup Winner
Hannah Cuffe



Loreto Joy Award Winner
Ellen Murphy



Overall Senior Sports Star
Anna Doheny



Overall Junior Sports Star
Amy Walsh



Senior Athlete of the Year
Ella Wall



Senior Gaelic Footballer of the Year - Louisa Gilmore



Senior Basketball Player of the Year - Faye McDonnell



Senior Camogie Player of the Year - Sarah Kehoe

Academic Awards

A special ceremony was held to acknowledge the excellent Leaving and Junior Cert results of the class of 2024.



Leaving Certificate High Achiever Award Recipient 2024 - Kate O'Neill



Top LCA student - Sascha Falsey Maher



Junior Certificate High Achiever Award Recipients 2024
Left to Right: Emily Lauhoff, Cara Hynes, Susan Boffin.



2024 Top Leaving Certificate Students with Chairman of the Board of Management Dr Tony Joyce, Principal Colm Keher & 6th Year Head Padraig Fitzpatrick.

Prizegiving



Head Girl Handover - Outgoing Head Girl Amy Walton & Incoming Head Girl Aoife Kirby



Senior Camogie Players Player of the Year - Angela Carroll



Deputy Head Girl Handover - Outgoing Deputy Anna Waldron & Millie Gilsean & Incoming Deputy Head Girls Katie Chambers & Sara Mulrooney



Junior Athlete of the Year - Ellen Daly



Games Captains Handover - Outgoing Games Captains Sinead Carroll & Anna Doheny and Incoming Games Captains Cara Duggan & Pia Langton



Junior Hockey Player of the Year - Isobel Walsh

English

SPARK CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

A Year of Creativity and Growth: Reflections from the Creative Writing Club

This year has been one of the most exciting and eventful in the history of the Creative Writing Club. From inspiring guest speakers to the launch of our very own anthology, *The Portal*, 2024–2025 has truly been a year to remember.

One of our biggest highlights was welcoming not one but two incredible local poets—Janis Woodgate and Alice Bennett. They generously shared their journeys as poets, offering insight into their creative processes and the ups and downs of writing life. Their engaging workshops encouraged us to take creative risks, experiment with new forms, and grow as writers. Their support and feedback were truly invaluable.

We were also fortunate to host the brilliant author Dave Rudden, who gave an inspiring talk about his experiences with writing and editing. He spoke passionately about the challenges of starting a novel, the importance of world-building, and how to stay motivated through the ups and downs of the creative process. His visit left us buzzing with ideas and energy.

Perhaps the crowning moment of our year came in May 2025, when we launched our newest anthology, *The Portal*. This collection of short stories, poems, artwork, and personal reflections is entirely student-written and edited by the Creative Writing Club. We were honoured to launch it in the beautiful Mayfair Library, and you can also find a copy in our own school library. It's a project we're incredibly proud of—a true showcase of the imagination, voice, and passion of our members.

The Creative Writing Club has never had a year quite like this one. We've grown as writers, bonded as a group, and pushed the limits of our creativity. We're so proud of everything we've achieved—and we're already looking forward to what the next year will bring.

We hope you have a wonderful summer break, and who knows—maybe we'll see you in the Creative Writing Club next year!



EYES

By Paule Karpaite 2nd Year SPARK member

They are just shapes,
little openings to see,
What the world brings
And what it leaves.

Little windows to different souls,
Bringing light or shadows into your wits
Enlightening our different skills.

Though minds are flooded,
the panes become foggy
Our mind a mess, vision blurry
Hurried thoughts rush to our eyes,
expressing emotions
With no lies.

Moon-eyed sights, none left to see
Like the stars decorating the night,
Like sparkles in the water's light,
The twinkling in our misty eyes.

The deep rustle of the leaves,
Like the wind on the waves,
Lashes flutter in uncontrolled breeze.

Eyes hazy and it sparks a thought,
Image of internal rot.

Emotions flood in their hold,
Threatening to overload,
It's starts with a leak and then a flood,
Flowing down our faces
Like mountain rain.

The words a flurry in our brain,
Like a race in your veins,
Truth be told,
your eyes show and I now know.



Geography

Trip to Mahon Falls

Our entire First Year group embarked on their very first school trip in Loreto with great excitement, heading to the stunning Mahon Falls in the Comeragh Mountains. Surrounded by breathtaking scenery, students had the opportunity to explore the unique landscape and deepen their understanding of the local geography.

From there, the group continued on to Tramore Strand to observe and learn about the fascinating coastal features of the South East coastline. Of course, no trip would be complete without a stop at the iconic Dooley's Chipper—an annual highlight that was as popular as ever!

It was a fantastic day full of learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories.



Geography Week in Loreto

Geography Week took place in November and brought a fantastic blend of fun and learning to the school. A wide range of engaging activities took place throughout the week, including lively Geography quizzes in Hughes Hall and classroom games such as Beat the Bomb, The List, and Queen of the Capitals.

The week wrapped up with the much-anticipated Geography Poster Competition. Students created stunning geography-themed masterpieces, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the subject. The winners proudly took home the much-coveted Stanley Cups as their prize.

It was a memorable week enjoyed by all, and a great celebration of the world around us!



Home Economics

It's been another action-packed and creative year in the Home Economics Department!

We welcomed our First Years as they began exploring both culinary and textile skills. Throughout the year, they prepared a variety of healthy dishes and each student designed and crafted a heart decoration as part of their textile studies. As a festive treat, they also enjoyed baking and decorating delicious Christmas cookies.

Our Second Year students took on the challenge of creating Christmas-themed bunting, developing their own appliqué ideas and experimenting with a range of festive designs. To celebrate their hard work, they made scrumptious Christmas Pudding Chocolate Biscuit Cakes—an absolute hit!

Third Years were incredibly busy preparing for their Food Studies Practical Exam. A record-breaking 129 students showcased their culinary talents over seven days, producing an impressive variety of dishes. This practical component accounts for 50% of their final grade—well done to all for their hard work and creativity!

Fourth Year students brought their usual energy and flair to the kitchen. The highlight of the year was the stunning display of Christmas Cakes—an annual Loreto tradition that never fails to impress. TYs also competed in the much-anticipated TY Bake-Off, with eight talented groups reaching the final. The judges had a tough job selecting just one winner from such a high standard of baking.

For our Fifth Years, it was down to business as they completed their Leaving Certificate coursework. They also conducted a project on local food businesses, which included an enjoyable and insightful trip to the local Farmers Market just before Christmas.

We wish all our Third and Sixth Year students the very best of luck in their upcoming state examinations. You've made us proud all year!



Art

Art Trip

Fifth and sixth year Art students went to view the artworks in Hugh Lane Art Gallery, Dublin, in September. We had a guided tour of the gallery, and saw the Francis Bacon studio as well as the main collection. This was an enjoyable field trip with lots of learning for the Visual Studies part of the Leaving Cert Art course, which is a great opportunity to learn about artists and their artwork.



Leaving Cert Art 2024

We had a record breaking year for Leaving Cert Art in 2024 with eleven H1 results. It is great to look back at the work and have the opportunity to now share some pieces with you from Leaving Cert Art 2024 with the marking process fully completed. It is always an honour to work with our students and a privilege to the best standard. Well done to our Leaving Certs from 2024.



6th year Tech Team

Thank You!
We are incredibly proud to acknowledge the exceptional contributions of our 6th Year Tech Team. Over the past three years, Malak Laassri, Marina Challoner, Lina Laasri, Maja Piatek, and Victoria Proniewicz have shown outstanding dedication, reliability, and enthusiasm in supporting both the Computer Science Department and wider school community. Their commitment has been invaluable, and we extend our sincere thanks to each of them.

Exciting Developments in eSports

Our eSports Club continues to grow, now welcoming students from 4th to 6th year. We are very grateful to Mr. Mulvihill for providing access to the Technical Graphics room for our practice sessions.

This year, we're thrilled to announce an exciting new project—building a gaming machine from scratch! Thanks to the generosity and guidance of John Cleere from AT Services Kilkenny, our students have been hands-on with fundraising and selecting the computer specs. We're eagerly looking forward to entering the build phase!

eSports Club Members:

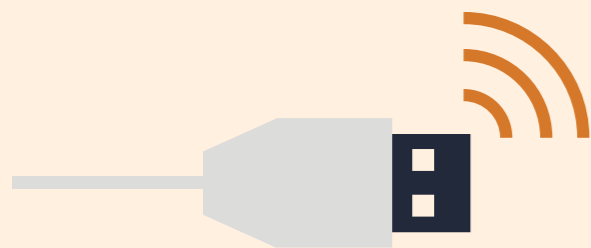
Malak Laassri, Divina Jimbat, Irisha Anthony, Liska Astrauskaite, Marina Challoner, Meabh Corr, Hannah Coughlan, Maja Piatek, Reem Daffalla, Abbie Hoyne Mulhall, Amelia Kaczmarek, Lina Laasri.

Sound System Superstars

A special thank you to Irina Constantin, Daniella Haughey, and Divina Jimbat for their expert management of the gym sound system during numerous school events. Their calm, professional approach played a key role in the success of these occasions—well done!

Coding Club Mentors

A sincere thank you to Naima Badat and Isabel Hayden for their ongoing support of our junior Coding Club. Their dedication to helping younger students build a strong foundation in coding has made a lasting impact.



Lego League & Coding Achievements

FIRST Lego League Team

Our dedicated FIRST Lego League team—Caitriona McEvoy, Dinoshi Tharulya Perera Subasinghage, Molly McGuire, Emily Downey, Evelyn Flynn, Annabel Wise, and Aoife Heslin—have worked tirelessly on their STEM project this year. They explored real-world challenges through teamwork, robotics, and coding.

We were delighted to welcome Antonia-Ly Pierce to the team in January. She quickly became a valuable contributor, bringing energy and creativity to the group. Special recognition goes to Caitriona McEvoy for her exceptional leadership and technical skill in coding.

Though external factors meant we couldn't proceed to the regional finals, the effort and commitment of the team deserves huge applause.



Competitions & Real-World Tech Projects

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

In November 2024, Loreto Kilkenny students took part in the national Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge—an opportunity to showcase their logical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Congratulations to the students who progressed to the **National Finals at Maynooth University on April 5th, 2025:**

Emily-Jane Hurley Murray, Viktoriia Bila, Siofra Connolly, Maeve Moran, Kate McCabe, Ruth Loughlin, Ceola Leamy, Niamh Cleere, Amelia Kaczmarek, Evelyn Flynn, Lucia Zurita Puebla, Antonia-Ly Pierce, Aoibhe Callery, Allie Gibbons, Caitriona McEvoy, Cara Hynes, Victoria Proniewicz, and Angela Carroll.

This outstanding achievement reflects both their personal talent and the supportive learning environment here at Loreto.

Mission Zero Project – Coding on the ISS

Our 4th, 5th, and 6th year IT students took part in the **Mission Zero** project, led by the European Space Agency. This initiative tasked students with writing a Python program to run on Raspberry Pi computers aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

The challenge required coding a display that responded to live sensor data aboard the ISS. Participants received certificates showing when and where their programs ran in space—a truly



unforgettable and inspiring experience, and a fantastic example of STEAM in action!

Microsoft Office Specialist Finalist

Congratulations to **Susan Kilua Bofin**, who qualified for the **Microsoft Office Specialist Irish Final** in the Word category. The final was due to take place at **Microsoft DreamSpace** in Dublin on **May 7th, 2025**.

Although Susan couldn't attend due to other commitments—including her leadership roles in PAL and the F1 in Schools Programme—qualifying alone is a remarkable achievement. Her attention to detail and dedication to developing real-world digital skills are truly commendable.

It's been an incredible year for digital creativity, coding, and teamwork in Loreto. Well done to all involved—you are inspiring the next generation of innovators!

LORETO A SCHOOL FOR ALL SEASONS



Ethos Reflection & Prayer

**Loreto Ethos Prefects 2024–2025:
Living the Value of Justice**

**By Nora & Grace,
6th Year Ethos Prefects**

This past academic year, we had the privilege of serving as **Ethos Prefects**, alongside a wonderful team of students and staff, focusing on the **Mary Ward value of Justice**.

Ethos Day – In Aid of Loreto Rumbek

On **October 18th**, we celebrated our annual **Ethos Day**, which raised funds and awareness for **Loreto Rumbek**, a girls’ school in South Sudan founded by **Sister Orla Treacy** in 2008. This school provides essential education to girls aged 5 to 20, empowering them with the knowledge and opportunities needed for a brighter future.

Earlier in the year, Sr. Orla visited our school accompanied by two of her students and their principal. They spoke passionately about their **new project**—the construction of a second school—and invited us to support it by **buying a brick for €10**. Though small, each brick represents a **life-changing contribution** to the education and empowerment of girls in South Sudan.

Our Ethos Day activities included:

- Just Dance in the PE Hall
- Butterfly decoration for our Justice Mural
- Awareness-raising talks and reflection activities

The day was full of **fun, energy, and purpose**, and brought students together to reflect on what justice means in a global context.

Ethos Walk for Aweil

As part of our commitment to global justice, we also took part in the **Ethos Walk for Aweil**, contributing a **kilometre** to the national effort across all Loreto schools in Ireland. This symbolic walk showed our **solidarity** with our sister schools and communities in South Sudan.

Ethos Mural Unveiling & Visit from the Chifundo Foundation

To mark the end of the **Year of Justice**, we were delighted to host **John and Elaine from the Chifundo Foundation**, who visited our school for the unveiling of our **Ethos Mural**. Created by students, the mural is a vibrant expression of the values we strive to live by each day.

During their visit, John and Elaine met with the **Ethos Leaders**, who shared stories of the various justice-themed initiatives we undertook—**from Ethos Day to our Walk for Aweil**. Their visit was an **uplifting and inspiring conclusion** to our year, reminding us of the impact of **community, compassion, and advocacy**.



Ethos Reflection & Prayer



Loreto Ethos Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for blessing us with such a special school community in which we are **free** to be our **true selves**. We **sincerely** ask you to help us be authentic in ourselves, honest in our actions, and genuine in our friendships.

We pray for **justice** in our school. We ask you to guide us in treating each other respectfully, equally, and fairly. We are thankful for our welcoming community, in which all are encouraged to participate and celebrate enthusiastically in a spirit of joy.

God, because of you, we have the **freedom** to pursue our individuality, interests, and education in Loreto. Remind us to protect, cherish, and live out the legacy of **Mary Ward** during our time in school and beyond.

Amen

A Year to Remember

This year has been incredibly meaningful for us as Ethos Prefects. We are grateful for the opportunity to help lead the school in living out the value of justice. From **local actions** to **global solidarity**, this journey has shown us that even the smallest actions—like decorating a butterfly, walking a kilometre, or buying a brick—can contribute to **real change**.

We are proud of what the Ethos Team has achieved this year, and we know the legacy of **justice in action** will continue at Loreto Kilkenny.



TV Highlights



International Day

Celebrating Culture: International Day 2025

On **8 April 2025**, Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny hosted its vibrant and much-loved International Day, an annual celebration of the incredible cultural diversity that makes up our school community.

The event was a **huge success**, with over **185 students** from across the globe taking part. Students proudly shared their heritage through **music, dance, traditional dress**, and **delicious food samples** that gave everyone a true taste of the world.

The school hall came alive with the sound of international music, the colourful display of cultural clothing, and the energy of **live performances** that showcased the talents and traditions of our multicultural student body.

With over **53 different countries represented** and **50 languages spoken** within the school, International Day serves as a powerful reminder of the richness of our community. It's a day that allows students to **celebrate their roots, educate others**, and wear their culture with pride.

Events like this not only celebrate **diversity**, but also promote **understanding, unity**, and **respect** among all students. We look forward to next year's celebration, which promises to be just as inspiring.



Choir / Music



Finding My Voice: Reflections on Choir at Loreto

I joined the choir in Loreto in first year, and it has truly been an amazing experience. Not only have I learned so much about music and singing, but I've also made so many wonderful friends from different year groups and classes. It's clear that everyone involved enjoys it just as much as I do.

One of the highlights this year was our trip to the **Navan Choral Festival on 8th May**. Our third-year choir, along with a few second years, set off bright and early at 7am to represent Loreto. We performed two songs—"The Rhythm of Life" and "Rise Up". Divine Landu delivered a beautiful solo, and the adjudicator even praised her "gorgeous vocals," which made us all very proud.

We were definitely nervous before going on stage, but **Ms. Leydon** was there to calm our nerves and guide us with confidence. Thanks to her support and our teamwork, we placed second, earning an impressive score of **87/100!**

It was a brilliant day out and such a rewarding experience to showcase everything we've learned—not just musically, but also in terms of teamwork and performing as a group. I'll definitely be continuing with choir throughout my senior years.

If you're thinking about joining, I can't recommend it enough. It's a fun and exciting way to discover new interests, build confidence, and make lasting friendships.



Loreto Orchestra Supports Focus Ireland at the Big Busk

In March, the Loreto Orchestra travelled to **Blanchardstown Shopping Centre** to take part in the **TodayFM Big Busk** in aid of **Focus Ireland**. In the weeks leading up to the event, the orchestra dedicated themselves to rehearsing and fundraising for this very worthy cause.

To support the campaign, the students organised **two bake sales**, with each orchestra member contributing homemade treats. The response was fantastic, and every cent raised went directly towards Focus Ireland's work tackling homelessness.

On the day of the event, the orchestra performed four pieces: *Singing in the Rain*, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Married Life* (from *Up*), and *Dambusters March*. There were also several solo and duet performances, all of which were warmly received by the passing audiences in the busy shopping centre.

It was a truly memorable day—**both successful and enjoyable**, and undoubtedly a core memory for each member of the orchestra. The sense of joy and togetherness was palpable throughout, and we were proud to play our part in supporting such an important cause.

Thanks to the generous support of the school community and members of the public, we raised an incredible **€550** through our bake sales and on-the-day donations.

– Niamh Fields, 5th Year



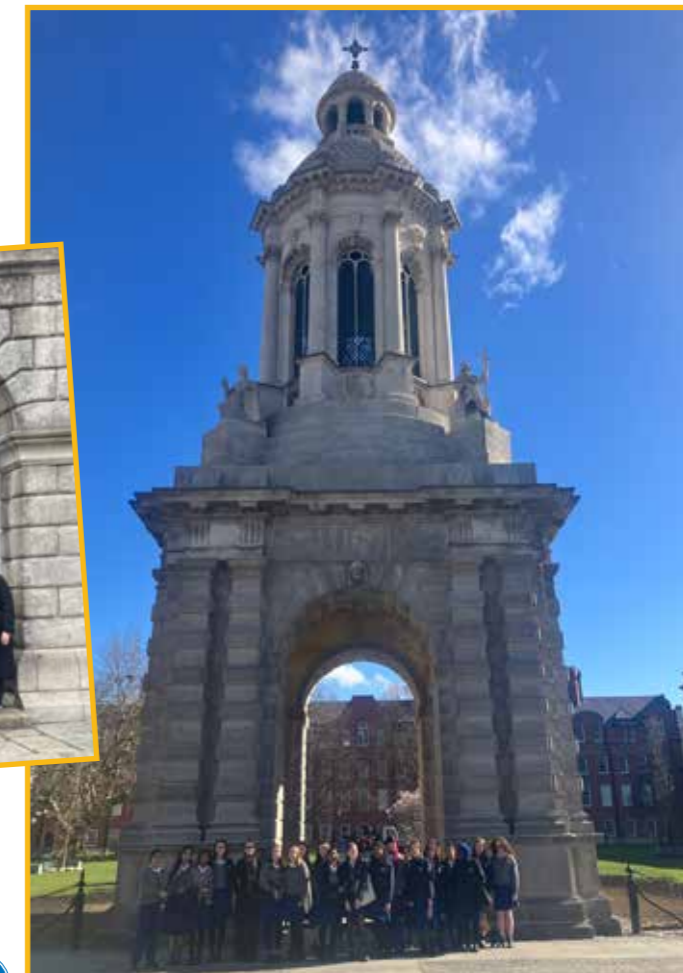
Ag Science

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science students on the annual Farm Walk and Talk in Kildalton Agricultural College with a presentation by Teagasc showing dairy, beef, sheep and Horticulture enterprises.



Librarians On Tour

The annual library club tour to Trinity, the National Library and Chester Beatty Library took place in February and was enjoyed by all.



Debating

Debating Success at Loreto Kilkenny

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of **Saoirse Teehan (6th Year)** and **Sara Mulrooney (5th Year)**, who both earned coveted places on the **Development Team for the Irish Schools Debating Team**. Throughout the year, they were trained by the national coaches of Team Ireland—an incredible opportunity and a true testament to their talent, dedication, and skill. This accomplishment marks them as among the **top school debaters in the country**—an outstanding honour!

Meanwhile, this year also saw the **4th annual Interclass TY Debates**, a much-anticipated event in our Transition Year calendar. Each TY class was represented by two debate teams who went head-to-head in a series of spirited **Mace-style debates**. After four competitive rounds, **Susan Kilua Bofin and Dayna Kelleher from 4C** were crowned winners.

Second place went to **Czarina Salveleon and Eve Nichol of 4F**, while **joint third place** was awarded to **Kalash Madan Lal and Caitriona McEvoy (4F)** and **Lucy Lennon Walsh and Laura Leahy (4E)**.

Well done to all participants for their thoughtful arguments, sharp wit, and respectful engagement. The future of debating at Loreto is looking very bright!

Junior Debaters Represent Loreto at Inter-Loreto Debating Competition

Our **Junior Debating Team** proudly represented Loreto Kilkenny at the **annual Inter-Loreto Debates**, a prestigious event that brought together talented young

debaters from Loreto schools across the country. The competition provided an exciting platform for students to engage in **thought-provoking discussions**, hone their public speaking skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded peers.

Although our team did not advance to the final round this year, they delivered **well-researched, articulate, and compelling arguments**, holding their own against some of the strongest junior teams in Ireland. Their performance reflected **impressive preparation, teamwork, and resilience**—qualities that will undoubtedly continue to grow with experience.

The atmosphere on the day was one of **enthusiasm, learning, and encouragement**. For many of our students, it was their **first time participating** in a large-scale debate, and they embraced the opportunity with **confidence and poise**. They also relished the chance to meet students from other Loreto schools and share ideas in a supportive and engaging environment.

We are **immensely proud** of all who took part and are excited to see this talented group of young speakers continue to develop their skills and passion for debating in the years ahead.

Junior Debating Team Members:

Ruth Loughlin (2nd Year), Faith Brennan (2nd Year), Kiera Dunne (2nd Year), Monika Talbot (1st Year), Ciara Power (2nd Year), Zara Butler (2nd Year), Ellie Power (2nd Year) and Grace Corbett (2nd Year)

Well done to all involved on representing Loreto Kilkenny with such **grace, intellect, and enthusiasm!**



TY Bake Off



Knock

LORETO PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK - 1 MAY 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE WALKING IN TRUTH

Loreto Schools Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine: A Day of Reflection and Unity

On May 1st, 2025, a group of 20 students from 2nd and 5th Year travelled to Knock Shrine to take part in the Loreto Schools Pilgrimage, accompanied by Religion teachers Ms. Avril Holland and Ms. Paula Farrell.

Joining over 400 Loreto students from across Ireland, the group gathered outside the Apparition Chapel to begin a special day themed "Pilgrims of Hope Walking in Truth."

Students participated in a series of reflective and educational activities, including engaging talks on "The Significance of Mary Ward in My Life" delivered by Gráinne O'Hanlon and Sr. Elizabeth Cotter, as well as a guided tour of the Shrine with insights into its rich history.

A highlight of the day was the Celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica, celebrated by Bishop Paul Dempsey. The moving and prayerful ceremony centred on the message: "Cherish God's vocation in you." Students from various Loreto schools contributed to the liturgy, making it a truly communal and meaningful celebration.

We are especially proud of our 2nd Year student, Keira Yu (2F), who designed the beautiful cover for the Mass booklet used during the service—an honour that reflects both her talent and Loreto Kilkenny's vibrant contribution to the event.

Each student received a Loreto Pilgrim Prayer card, a special memento of the day, and a reminder of the deep spiritual connections shared with the wider Loreto community.

The pilgrimage was a day of faith, friendship, and reflection, and one that will be remembered fondly by all who attended.



A FAIRYTALE EXPERIENCE PLAYING PRINCESS FIONA IN SHREK THE MUSICAL

At the beginning of the year, I could never have imagined the incredible experience that was about to unfold. Having the **privilege of playing the lead role as Princess Fiona** is something I am truly grateful for—and an experience I will never forget.

The months leading up to opening night were some of the most **challenging yet rewarding** times of our lives. We spent countless late nights and early mornings preparing, and seeing it all come together on stage made every second worth it. Everyone worked tirelessly—perfecting props, painting backdrops, and rehearsing scenes—to bring Shrek the Musical to life.

The **atmosphere in the Watergate Theatre during show week** was indescribable. We all grew so close, and the bond we formed will stay with us forever. Pulling off **five sold-out shows**, all up to the incredibly high standards of our teachers, director, and choreographer, felt like such an achievement. We truly couldn't have done it without their dedication, guidance, and belief in us.

Our first performance, for the First Years, was a little nerve-wracking—but once we got going, our team shone. In total, we performed to **over 1,900 people** across six shows, and it was such a special feeling to share the story of Shrek and Fiona with our community in Kilkenny. One of the most heartwarming moments was having young children come up to us afterward for photos—it made us feel like real-life fairytale characters.

The positive feedback from family, friends, teachers, and peers meant the world to me. I feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity, and if I could do it all again, I would in a heartbeat.

While perfecting our musical was no easy feat, the memories and friendships made through Shrek the Musical will last a lifetime.

- Emily Butler

SHREK THE MUSICAL



F1 Schools

Student Experience: F1 in Schools – A Year of Innovation and Teamwork

At the beginning of Transition Year, our teacher Mr. Mulvihill introduced us to the exciting world of Formula 1 in Schools as part of our Innovative Design module. Having heard about the success of Loreto's past team, Luas Suas, we were inspired to take on the challenge ourselves.

We split into two ambitious teams: PSI27 and Apex Racing Cars. Each team took on a variety of roles, from leadership and engineering to marketing, finance, and design—mirroring the structure of a real F1 team. The competition, one of the world's largest STEM challenges, required us not only to design, test, and race miniature F1 cars, but also to build a strong brand identity, promote our teams, and secure sponsorships.

What followed was a year-long journey of hard work, innovation, and creativity. We learned valuable skills in engineering (particularly CAD design), business

strategy, and digital marketing. From managing social media accounts and appearing on local radio to cold-calling businesses for sponsorship, we threw ourselves into every aspect of the project.

The journey culminated in a trip to Kinsale, Co. Cork, for the National Finals, where we competed against schools from all over Ireland. The day was packed with car races, interviews, team presentations, and networking with other students. We were proud to see our efforts recognised:

PSI27 placed in the Top 3 for both Best Verbal Presentation and Sponsorship & Marketing

Apex Racing achieved a Top 3 finish in Research & Development

It was a rollercoaster of a year filled with challenges, breakthroughs, and unforgettable experiences. The Formula 1 in Schools competition taught us so much—not just about STEM, but about teamwork, persistence, and believing in ourselves. We'd do it all again in a heartbeat.



Public Access to Law (PAL)



Loreto's Mock Trial Team Takes on the World!

In November, Loreto's Public Access to Law (PAL) team jetted off to Chicago to represent Ireland in the Empire Mock Trial World Championships—and they did not disappoint! Following months of dedication, preparation, and teamwork, the team proudly placed 1st in Ireland, 1st in Europe, and an incredible 13th in the world!

From Dublin to the World Stage

Our journey began in January, when we entered the national Public Access to Law competition, held in Dublin's Central Criminal Courts. After preparing and presenting our case against top schools from across the country, we were thrilled to place in the top 4 nationally, earning our spot in the World Championships in the United States.

A Summer of Preparation

In July, we received a 230-page case file, and the real work began. What followed was a whirlwind of legal research, team meetings,

mock trials, and a fair share of tea and biscuits. Alongside this, we undertook an ambitious fundraising campaign to make the trip a reality.

Destination: Chicago

On Wednesday, November 6th, we boarded our flight to the Windy City. Once we landed, we packed in as much sightseeing as possible—Chicago Bulls games, the iconic Willis Tower, and a few essential stops at Target and Wingstop!

Showtime in the Courtroom

The competition kicked off with an exciting opening ceremony on Friday evening. Saturday morning brought nerves and excitement as the defence team stepped into the courtroom for their debut performance. It was a steep learning curve, but an incredibly valuable one.

Later that day, the prosecution team delivered a powerful performance, building momentum heading into the final day.

On Sunday, the prosecution opened with another strong case, followed

by the defence team's closing trial that afternoon. With two wins and two draws, we proudly concluded our mock trial campaign.

The Experience of a Lifetime

After the closing ceremony—and a dance floor that became a Loreto-only disco—our whirlwind journey came to a close. Monday brought a final stroll through Chicago, heartfelt goodbyes, and an eight-hour flight back to Ireland, filled with memories to last a lifetime.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our teachers, families, and the entire school community. A huge thank you to Ms Kehoe, Ms Fitzpatrick, and Ms McDonnell, whose time, expertise, and encouragement made this incredible achievement possible.

From courtroom victories to boat trips on Lake Michigan, this was truly the experience of a lifetime—and a proud moment in Loreto's history.

– Laura Cahill & Sara Mulrooney



A Record-Breaking Year for Loreto Kilkenny

Loreto Kilkenny athletes enjoyed an outstanding year of success across cross-country, track and field, and relay events. With determination, teamwork, and commitment to our Mary Ward values, our students competed at the highest level—bringing home medals, records, and the coveted All-Ireland Loreto Athletics Shield for the fourth consecutive year.

Cross-Country Highlights

- **South Leinster (Carlow):**
 - Minor Girls: Silver team finish, just 1 point off gold.
 - Individual qualifiers: Amelia O'Brien (Junior), Eleanor & Shannon Doheny (Inter), Hazel Coogan (Senior).
- **Leinster (Phoenix Park):**
 - Strong runs by all, with the Minor team placing 5th.

Relay Success

- **South Leinster Relay Champs:**
 - Senior Girls 4x300m: Gold + new record
 - Minor & Inter: Silver in 4x100m

Track & Field Highlights

- **South Leinster:**
 - 30+ athletes competed.
 - Minor Girls named Best Overall Team
 - Strong results from Ellen Daly, Emily O'Keefe, Pia Langton, Hazel Coogan, and many others.
- **Leinster (Tullamore):**
 - Loreto Kilkenny named Best Senior Girls School
 - Top finishes in 800m, 200m, hurdles, javelin, and relays.
 - Outstanding contributions from Amy Walsh, Heidi Ryan, and Marija Kraljevic.

Loreto Kilkenny Wins All-Ireland Athletics Shield – 4 Years in a Row
Loreto Kilkenny claimed the **All-Ireland Loreto Athletics Shield** for the fourth consecutive year with a standout score of **177 points!**

Led by Captains **Ella Wall** and **Hazel Coogan**, the team won:

- Multiple golds in sprints, jumps, and field events
- 2 relay golds and 1 bronze
- Praise for outstanding teamwork and school spirit

All-Ireland Schools Highlights:

- **Amy Walsh** – 1st in 1200m Walk
- **Strong performances** from Molly Daly, Pia Langton, Ellen Daly & 4x100m relay team

Tailteann & SIAB Selections:

- **Kate Maher & Grace Delahunty** for Leinster
- **Kate Maher** selected for **Irish Team** (200m & 4x100m) in Wales

Well done to all athletes and staff for another stellar year of Loreto athletics. Huge thanks to our dedicated coaches and teachers—Ms O'Hanlon, Ms Holland, and Ms Muldowney, whose guidance and encouragement made this year unforgettable. Thank You.

Hazel Coogan (Field Captain) & Ella Wall (Track Captain)



Senior Camogie – Title Wave!

It was a record-breaking year for our senior camogie squad as they claimed their **10th All-Ireland title**, completing a historic **three-in-a-row** and etching their names into school sports history.

The journey began with the retention of the *Leinster title* after overcoming a resilient Loreto Wexford side at Halfway House GAA grounds in Bunclody. In the All-Ireland semi-final, they faced Munster champions Presentation Thurles in a classic Kilkenny v Tipp encounter. The Loreto girls' resilience and teamwork stood strong under pressure, earning them a place in the final.

The *All-Ireland final* brought another showdown with fierce rivals St. Patrick's College, Maghera, held at the state-of-the-art TUD Grangegorman campus. In an intense and closely contested game, Loreto's leadership, composure, and relentless work ethic came to the fore. With a phenomenal team performance, they lifted the *Corn Sceilge* once more, bringing home the school's **tenth** senior camogie crown.

To honour their achievements, the victorious panel was invited to Nowlan Park, where they were presented to the crowd at halftime during county hurling and camogie league matches, a fitting tribute to a remarkable team.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and admiration to our sixth-year players who signed off their school camogie careers in the best way possible. Their dedication and excellence have left a legacy, and we are confident they will continue to shine in club and county colours in the years ahead.

Junior Camogie Success

Our junior camogie team began the year by **retaining their Leinster 7s title**, earning a spot at the **All-Ireland 7s** in Dunganny. They battled their way to the final, narrowly losing to a strong St. Patrick's Maghera side.



In the **Leinster Championship**, consistent performances led them to the final once again, where they were edged out by city rivals Presentation Kilkenny.

A year full of promise and passion—the future looks bright for this talented squad!

Super 9s Champions

Our U15 camogie team made history by winning the **Gort Super 9s** national tournament in Galway, topping a tough group and defeating St. Flannan's Ennis in a thrilling final.

A special congratulations to the four Loreto girls selected for the *Super 9s All-Star Team*: **Katie Mulcahy, Rebecca Smith, Maura Barton, and Ruby Mullins**.

Further accolades went to:

- **Maura Barton** – *Top Scorer* of the tournament and *Player of the Match* in the final
- **Ruby Mullins** – *Player of the Tournament*



Gaelic Football

1st Year Loreto Gaelic Blitz – Champions!

On Tuesday, March 11th, our 1st Year Gaelic Football Panel took part in a thrilling Loreto Gaelic Blitz, facing off against Loreto schools from all over Ireland in a day full of competitive football, skill, and sportsmanship.

From the outset, our team showed exceptional determination, playing with heart and flair in every game. Strong performances saw them secure wins over Loreto Navan, Mullingar, and Stephen's Green, with only a narrow group stage loss to Loreto Omagh.

Undeterred, the girls bounced back to beat Mullingar again in the semi-final, setting up a rematch against Omagh in a hotly anticipated final. In a nail-biting showdown, Mariana Nolan fired home a stunning goal before going off injured. Inspired by her bravery, the team dug deep and Lavena Fogarty netted a late winner to clinch the Blitz title!

Emma Walsh proudly lifted the cup on behalf of her team, and celebrations carried on in style with a well-earned trip to McDonald's in Kilcullen!

A huge thank you to our brilliant coaches, Mr. Woulfe and Mr. Mahon, whose guidance and support made the day unforgettable.

By Hannah Ryan

Senior Gaelic Football – Making History

Gaelic football at Loreto Kilkenny has grown from strength to strength in recent years, and this season marked a major milestone. For the first time ever, our senior panel competed in the Roinn B Leinster Championship, following last year's success in Roinn C.

The campaign began on September 16th with a tough away fixture against Gorey Community School. Despite a heroic effort, we suffered our first Leinster-level loss in two years (6-13 to 5-09) in what turned out to be our most challenging match of the season.

With only the group winners advancing to the semi-finals, the stakes were high. The team regrouped and responded in style:

- November 5th: A commanding win over Castlecomer CS.
- November 12th: Victory against St. Leo's, Carlow
- November 28th: A hard-fought triumph over FCJ Bunclody

Despite finishing the group stage with three wins, it wasn't enough to progress. Still, the team can be incredibly proud of their performance at this new level.

For many of our 6th Year players, this marked the end of a three-year journey — progressing through Roinn D, C, and now B — and what a journey it's been. The foundations laid by this group will inspire the next generation of Loreto Gaelic footballers.

By Emily Smith



Hockey

A Record-Breaking Year for Loreto Hockey

The 2024/25 season proved to be one of the most successful in Loreto's hockey history. With an incredible 16 teams entered across South East and Leinster Hockey League and Cup competitions, it was a jam-packed calendar full of memorable moments, outstanding performances, and silverware.

Senior A – All Ireland Bound

The Senior A squad delivered a superb season from start to finish. Their campaign began in September with a silver medal at the Loreto Hockey All-Ireland, narrowly losing out to hosts Loreto Foxrock in a thrilling final. This strong showing set the tone for a dominant Leinster League run—arguably their best since joining the competition three years ago.

Key victories against top sides including Holy Child Killiney and Temple Carrig boosted confidence ahead of the South East Senior A Cup Final, where the team overcame Loreto Wexford with a commanding 2-0 win, thanks to goals from Eleanor Doherty and Faye Reynolds.

The Cup win secured Loreto's place at the Kate Russell Senior All-Ireland Tournament in Three Rock Rovers—our first appearance in ten years. The team represented with distinction, showcasing their talent against Ulster and Connaughts finest in a brilliant two-day display of hockey.

Junior A – Double Champions

The Junior A team also had a year to remember, going unbeaten in both the South East League and Cup—a feat not achieved in Loreto for several years. In another all-Loreto showdown, the team comfortably defeated Loreto Wexford in the South East Cup Final on home turf, capping off a dominant and consistent season.

Minor A – Rising Stars Shine

Our Minor A squad added more glory to the year, claiming the South East title and earning qualification for the Minor A June Smith All-Ireland Tournament in April. Hosted by Holy Child Killiney, the tournament provided a perfect platform for the young team to impress.

An outstanding team display in their opening game against Connacht included two superb goals from Ailbhe Limpkin, helping the girls push through the heat with grit and skill. They were unlucky to miss out on a bronze medal, but the tournament marked a valuable step in their development and a glimpse into a promising future.

A Bright Future Across All Years

Our First, Second, and Third Year players also experienced a busy and joyful season, enjoying success and growth through tournaments and friendly matches across the region. With strong foundations in place and a thriving interest in the sport, the future of Loreto hockey looks brighter than ever.

Whether it was in Cup finals or casual friendlies, 2024/25 will go down as a landmark year for hockey in Loreto. Congratulations to all players, coaches, and supporters who made it such a memorable season—we can't wait to see what next year brings!



Tennis

Tennis at Loreto – A Competitive Season in Leinster League

Loreto Kilkenny had an exciting and competitive season in the Grant Thornton Leinster Secondary Girls School League, fielding three tennis teams across Senior (U19) and Minor (U14) levels. The season offered our students a fantastic opportunity to develop their skills, gain competitive experience, and represent Loreto on courts across Leinster.

Facing Off with Leinster's Best

Throughout the league campaign, Loreto teams competed against several of the strongest tennis schools in the province, including: Mount Anville, Loreto Bray, Loreto Dalkey, Rathdown, Sandford Park, Santa Sabina, Teresians, Muckross Park, St. Mary's Naas, and Presentation Kilkenny.

Our players rose to the challenge in each match, showcasing determination, talent, and teamwork. The Senior Team performed especially well and made it all the way to the semi-final, where they were narrowly defeated in a hard-fought match against Mount Anville.

On the Rise – Minor 2 Team into Semi-Final

Our Minor 2 team impressively reached the semi-finals of the Minor C Cup eventually losing out narrowly to Loreto Bray.

Team Highlights

Minor 1st Year Team: Emily Walsh, Ava Dawson, Ciara Cotter, Hannah Ryan, Zephirine Kelly, Sophie Callery

Minor 2nd Year Team: Ailbhe Limpkin, Aisling Marry, Emily Chambers, Leah Fogarty, Sophie Meredith, Faye Kemple, Emily Jane Hurley, Hannah Styles

Senior Team: Aoife Cotter, Niamh Cotter, Faye Reynolds, Niamh Fields, Emma Moore, Onagh Fitzgerald, Julia Walsh, Jean Grace, Kate Aylmer

A Community Effort

The success of this season wouldn't have been possible without the support of our wider school community. Huge thanks to Kilkenny Tennis Club for the use of their courts for our home fixtures, and to the many parents who helped with transport and supervision during away matches.

Special thanks to Aoife Limpkin, Paul Cotter, and our dedicated staff: Ms. Nessa Canny, Ms. Bronagh Walsh, and Ms. Kay Phelan for organising and supporting the teams throughout the season.

It has been a fantastic season for Loreto Tennis, and we look forward to building on this momentum next year. Well done to all players—you've done your school proud!



Soccer

2024/25 Soccer Season – Loreto Girls Shine on All Fronts

1st Year Squad – On the All-Ireland Trail

It's been a dream debut year for our 1st Year Soccer squad, who have made an immediate impact on the national stage. Their journey began last October when both Loreto futsal teams reached the County Kilkenny Futsal Final in the Watershed, with the Blue team narrowly defeating the White team in an exciting intra-school showdown.

The momentum carried through to March, when the team won the Leinster Final in Newbridge after a tense battle against Loreto Beaufort. The match finished level after extra time, and our girls held their nerve to win 4–2 on penalties.

Soccer



LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILKENNY
THE WINNERS OF MADCUP ERASMUS SCHOOL CUP U16 2025

Next came a long trip to Dundalk, Co. Louth for the All-Ireland semi-final, where the team delivered a stunning 2–0 victory over Stranorlar (Co. Donegal), with goals from Lavena Fogarty and Emma Walsh.

The squad now prepares for their All-Ireland Final on Thursday, 22nd May in Cahir, Co. Tipperary, where they'll face St Mary's, Nenagh. Best of luck to all involved—your school is already so proud!

Special thanks to the dedicated coaching team: Barry, Mr Fitzpatrick, Mr Ryan, Mr McGinley, Mr Mulvihill, and Mr Mahon, whose support has been invaluable.

U16 Soccer – All-Ireland Champions & Bound for Madrid

Our U16 Soccer team has written their name into Loreto history with an unforgettable All-Ireland campaign, culminating in a dramatic penalty shootout win over pre-tournament favourites, Our Lady's Drogheda, in the national final.

After strong wins over St. Killian's (Dublin) and Ursuline Sligo, the squad progressed through the semi-finals, overcoming Pobail Cnoc Fola. The final was a thrilling contest, finishing 0–0 after extra time, thanks to Sofia Blackmore's heroics in goal and a defensive masterclass from captain Holly Drennan. When it came down to penalties, it was Emma Hogan's calm finish that sealed the title and sparked wild celebrations.

The celebrations don't stop there—this team is Madrid-bound! On June 19th, they'll head to Spain to represent Loreto at the international MADCUP tournament, where they'll face elite teams from Turkey, Spain, and beyond. They will also take part in the parade of nations at the Atletico Madrid stadium, a once-in-a-lifetime moment.

Squad:

Ailbhe Ní Chasaide, Amy Walsh, Anna Keogh, Cadhla Boylan, Daria Dascalescu, Emily Farrell, Emma Hogan, Eva Tynan, Holly Drennan (C), Holly Smith, Julia Healy, Kathy Phelan, Katie Mulcahy, Lily Ryan Murray, Lucy Hogan, May Kearney, Muireann Kenny, Ruby Mullins, Sofia Blackmore, Sophie O'Riordan, Stella Butler, Tara McGree.



Volleyball

Volleyball Takes Loreto by Storm

Since its recent introduction, volleyball has rapidly become one of the most popular and fast-growing sports at Loreto Secondary School. The excitement around the sport is unmistakable, with students from every year group enthusiastically taking to the courts at lunchtimes and after school. The gym now regularly echoes with the sounds of teamwork, energy, and determination.

All-Ireland Success for U16 Team

A huge congratulations to our outstanding Under-16 volleyball team, who made a thrilling run to the All-Ireland semi-final. After a series of superb performances, they were narrowly edged out by a strong Monaghan side—who went on to win the championship. The dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship shown by the squad throughout their campaign has been nothing short of inspirational, and the entire school community is immensely proud of their achievement.

A Truly Global Game

One of the most exciting aspects of Loreto volleyball has been the incredible contribution of our international students. Players from Spain, Ukraine, and Brazil have brought fresh talent, passion, and a vibrant global spirit to our teams. Their involvement has not only strengthened our squads but also fostered deeper friendships and inclusivity across year groups.

Looking Ahead

With such strong momentum and growing interest, the future of volleyball at Loreto looks exceptionally bright. Plans are already in motion to expand opportunities for training and competition next year, and we can't wait to see how our teams continue to grow and excel.

Well done to all our players and coaches—your hard work and enthusiasm have laid the foundation for an exciting new chapter in Loreto sport!



Sports Awards



Junior Basketball Player of the Year - Rinnah Mukelenge



Junior Gaelic Football Player of the Year - Eva Tynan



1st Year Athlete of the Year - Heidi Ryan



1st Year Hockey Player of the Year - Emma Walsh



1st Year Soccer Player of the Year - Maggie-Ellen Duggan



Minor Soccer Player of the Year - Holly Drennan



Junior Soccer Player of the Year - Caitlin Dermody



1st Year Hockey Player of the Year - Aoileann Cantwell



Senior Swimmer of the Year - Nessa Godden

Green Schools

Green-Schools Committee: Promoting Biodiversity at Loreto

This year, the **Green-Schools Committee** continued their inspiring work on the theme of **Biodiversity**, aiming to enhance awareness and appreciation of the natural world within our school community.

The year began with a **whole-school biodiversity survey**, designed to spark interest and encourage students to think about the importance of biodiversity in our environment. The survey results were proudly displayed on the canteen noticeboard, providing a vibrant snapshot of our school's growing environmental awareness.

To further promote their message, members of the committee delivered informative and engaging presentations to all **First Year CSPE classes**, outlining the value of biodiversity and its role in maintaining healthy ecosystems — both locally and globally.

The committee also got their hands dirty (literally!) by planting **spring bulbs** under the trees along the avenue and creating **colourful floral displays** outside the library. These blooms not only brightened up the school grounds but also supported pollinators and other wildlife.

In January, the committee installed **bird feeders** and **nesting boxes** around the school, offering essential food and shelter to our feathered friends during the cold winter months.

Work also continued on our **"Bug Hostel"** — a dedicated space to support insects like bees, butterflies, and ladybirds. Plans are in place to sow **wildflowers** nearby to help attract and nourish these vital pollinators.

The Green-Schools Committee has shown that even small actions can make a big difference. Through education, creativity, and care for the environment, they continue to make Loreto a greener, more sustainable place for all.



Shoe Box Appeal

Congrats to everyone who contributed to the Hope foundation Shoe Box Appeal.

Each shoebox is an unconditional gift, given to a child with nothing asked for, or expected in return; no pledges, no obligation to go to church or attend classes; 'no strings attached'.

Over 500 shoeboxes were raised for the hope foundation.

Huge thanks to Ms O' Callaghan and along with her Transition Year Maths class who facilitated the project.



Ionad Saoirse

Farewell and Celebrations in LCA & L2LP

This year, we say a heartfelt farewell to Ellen and Lucy, who are graduating from **Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)** after two years of dedication and achievement. Their six years at Loreto have flown by, filled with many memorable moments — most notably, their Enterprise Award win in TY for their creative and successful business, Bone Appétit. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Highlights: Barcelona Trip, Enterprise Final, Miss First Year Show

Meanwhile, **Erin, Hannah, Leah, and Hollie** received their **L2LP and JCPA awards** this year, recognising the consistent effort and enthusiasm they brought to their work. Their mini-company, Cute as a Button, was a fantastic success and a testament to their teamwork and creativity.

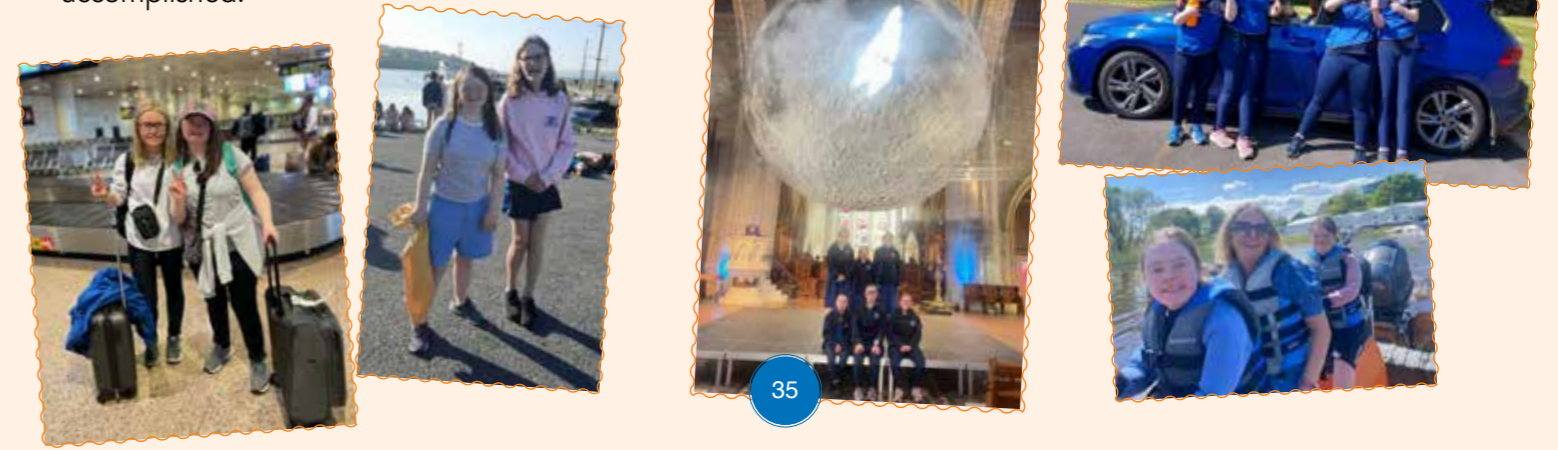
Highlights: Ballyhass Adventure Centre, Work Experience, Barista Training

Our 3rd Year students, **Faye and Kayla**, ended their school year with a wonderful trip to **Bay Sports**, a well-earned treat after completing their **L2LP programme** and the **Junior Cycle Art CBA**.

Highlight: Bay Sports Water Park

Throughout the year, the class participated in a range of hands-on workshops at the **Castle Yard**, including **soap and hand cream making**. They also enjoyed many trips into Kilkenny city as part of their **"Living in the Community"** module, gaining practical life skills and learning more about their local area.

This has been a year full of growth, creativity, and achievement for all our students, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they have accomplished.



School Tours

BARCELONA



Student Council

A Year of Progress and Participation

As the 2024–2025 academic year draws to a close, the **Student Council** would like to reflect on a busy and rewarding year. With fortnightly lunchtime meetings, online sessions organised by the Loreto Education Trust and the ISSU Regional Council (Carlow–Kilkenny), and ongoing communication with senior management, the Council worked hard to represent the voices of our student body.

One of our highlights before Christmas was the **Candy Cane Campaign**, a cherished annual tradition that promotes student friendship. This year's campaign was once again a success, raising **€400 for UNICEF** to support vulnerable children around the world.

Another major highlight of the year was **International Day**, held on April 11th. This student-led event was a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity in our school. With **over 185 students representing 53 countries**, Hughes Hall came alive with food, colour, music, and pride in heritage. We are incredibly proud of the Student Council members and subcommittees who planned, promoted, and hosted the event.

Throughout the year, the Student Council met with school management to raise and discuss several key issues. A recurring topic was **the PE uniform policy**. Students have expressed interest in being allowed to wear the PE uniform for the full school day when they have PE. We believe this would maximise time spent on physical activity and reduce the number of heavy bags students need to carry. Surveys have been distributed to gather student opinions, and discussions with management are ongoing.

We also addressed the **improvement of eating facilities**. Thanks to the **Parents' Association**, new microwaves were installed in the canteen—an upgrade welcomed by students. In addition, the Council is researching **outdoor seating options**, including discussions about suitable types and locations. We are also working toward the installation of **another water fountain**, with progress being made.

Transport has also been a priority. After collecting student feedback on the KK1 and KK2 bus routes, we met with **Kilkenny County Council member Maria Dollard** to advocate for additional routes and more frequent services during peak hours. Our concerns and survey data will now be forwarded to both **Kilkenny County Council's Engineering Department and Transport for Ireland**.

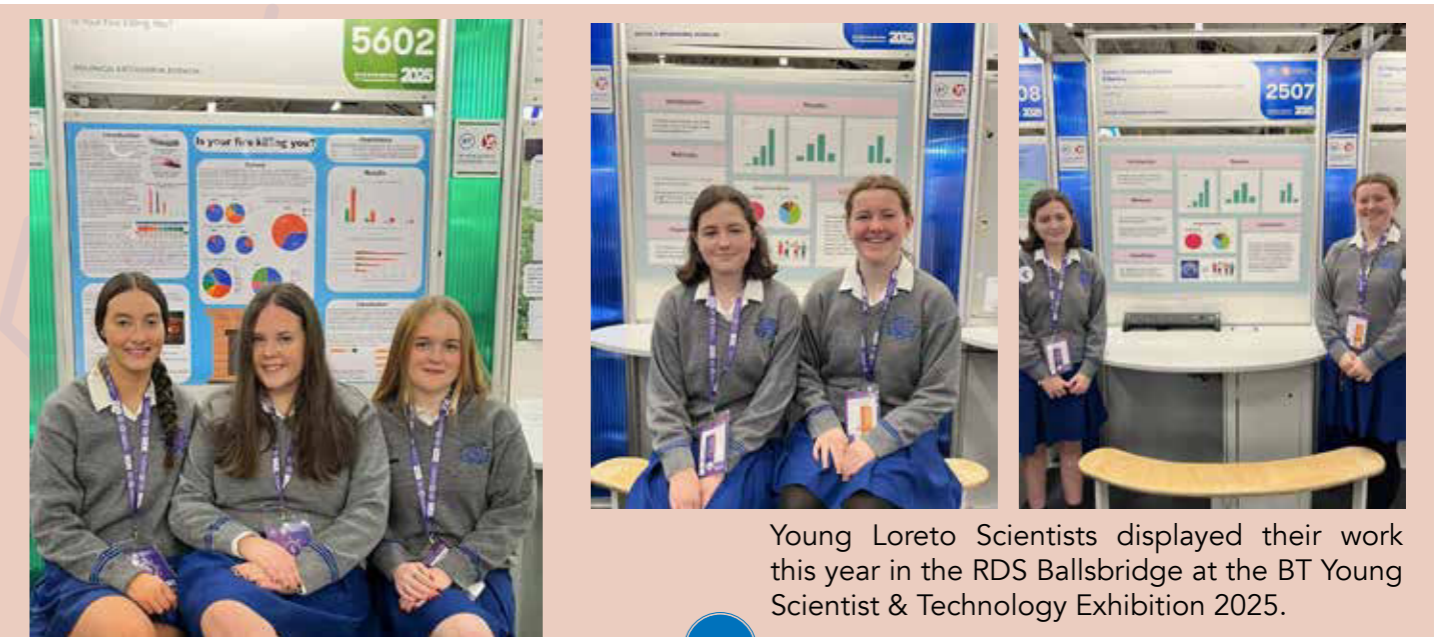
The Student Council would like to extend a warm thank you to **school management** and the **Parents' Association** for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the year. We are grateful for the opportunity to represent our fellow students and help implement real, positive changes in Loreto.

To all exam-year students: we wish you the very best of luck in your **Junior and Leaving Certificate** exams. And to everyone—enjoy a safe and relaxing summer!

Finally, we hope the 2025–2026 Student Council continues our work and builds on our achievements. Thank you for trusting us to serve you this year.

Kate Kelleher
Loreto Kilkenny Student Council

BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition



Young Loreto Scientists displayed their work this year in the RDS Ballsbridge at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025.

Miss First Year



Miss First Year 2025 – What an Amazing Afternoon!

What a fantastic afternoon of talent, fun, and unforgettable performances at this year's Miss First Year event!

A huge thank you to our wonderful hostesses Amy, Anna, and Millie for presenting the show with such enthusiasm and energy. You truly kept the audience engaged from start to finish!

A special shout-out to our Sixth Year students, who opened the show with an Olympic-themed extravaganza that set the stage for an unforgettable event. Their creativity and spirit brought so much colour and joy to the afternoon.

The standard of performance from our First Year contestants was nothing short of outstanding. Each act brought something special to the stage:

Valentina (1A) wowed us with a beautiful piano performance. Anna (1B) impressed with her high-energy Irish dancing. Gráinne McDonald (1B) sang with grace and confidence. Julianne Hearne (1C) amazed everyone with her lightning-fast Rubik's Cube skills. Emily Walsh (1D) delivered a lovely vocal performance. Eva Mary Garcia Donoughue (1C) captivated the audience with her heartfelt rendition of Count On Me by Bruno Mars.

With such incredible talent on display, our judges had an incredibly tough decision to make. After much deliberation, they selected Eva Mary Garcia Donoughue as this year's Miss First Year. Congratulations, Eva!

A massive well done to all the contestants, you made this an event to remember. We can't wait to see what next year brings!



Young St Vincent De Paul



Loreto Kilkenny Young St. Vincent de Paul Group Makes a Difference in the Community

Kindness, empathy, and a strong sense of community spirit defined the 2024/2025 work of Loreto Kilkenny's Young St. Vincent de Paul (Young SVP) group. This year, Class 3F led several heartwarming and meaningful initiatives, demonstrating their commitment to social justice and making a real difference in the lives of others.

The group began their journey with a **clothing collection for patients at St. Luke's Hospital**, ensuring those in care had access to comfortable and suitable garments. This thoughtful action highlighted the importance of practical support and showed compassion in action.

As the festive season approached, the group organised the school's annual **Christmas Hamper Appeal** — a non-perishable food drive to support families in need. Their leadership helped spread generosity and awareness throughout the school, with the entire Loreto community contributing to this important cause. Through this initiative, the Young SVP members encouraged their peers to reflect on social inequality and the power of collective action.

Another highlight of the year was the launch of a **pen pal programme** with the 6th Class girls from **St. John's Senior School**. This initiative helped bridge the transition to secondary school, fostering new friendships and building connections between students. It was a powerful way to promote empathy, confidence, and community spirit.

To close their year of service, the group paid a visit to **St. Luke's Hospital**, bringing freshly baked cakes and buns to the dedicated hospital staff. This act of kindness was a small gesture of thanks to frontline healthcare workers and offered the students valuable insight into the challenges faced by those in the medical field.

The Young SVP 2024/2025 team should be incredibly proud of their achievements. Through practical help, outreach, and awareness campaigns, they have shown how young people can be powerful agents of change. Their efforts truly embodied the values of **compassion, solidarity, and community**.



Ukrainian Students at Loreto



We are proud to share that there are currently **16 students from Ukraine** studying at Loreto Kilkenny. Our girls come from diverse regions including **Odessa, Kharkiv, Kiev, Dnipro, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Kherson**.

We are deeply grateful and happy to be part of this warm and welcoming community. Thank you to everyone for making us feel at home!

For some of us, this is our final year at Loreto, marking the last time we will have the chance to take part in school events like **Miss First Year, Christmas Concert, Carol Service, and International Day**. For others, these events are brand new experiences to cherish.

We are especially proud of **Romaniia**, a 6th Year student and Senior Prefect, who represents our nation at all school council meetings, building bridges and working alongside other Senior Prefects to ensure our voices are heard.

We would also like to highlight **Valeriia**, a 5th Year student, who, alongside Romaniia, represented Loreto Kilkenny in the **Semi-Final of the Senior All Ireland Volleyball Tournament**. Volleyball is flourishing at Loreto, with many Ukrainian students actively joining the Volleyball School Club.

The future looks bright, and we are excited to continue growing and contributing to school life.

Written by Nikol Skanronska & Valeriia Ahalakova

Balance & Bliss Week – Promoting Wellbeing

From February 24th to 28th, Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny came together to celebrate Balance & Bliss Week, an uplifting and impactful initiative focused on positive mental health and wellbeing. Organised by a passionate team of ten Transition Year students from the Amber Flag Team and coordinated by Ms. Bronagh Walsh, the week offered a range of meaningful activities designed to support emotional resilience, self-care, and a sense of connection within the school community.

Throughout the week, each year group had the chance to participate in various workshops and events promoting mental wellness. Highlights included:

- Yoga sessions for calm and focus
- A powerful talk by the Donal Walsh #LiveLife Foundation
- A mental health workshop by Teac Tom, raising awareness of local support services
- An inspiring nutrition session with Olympic dietician Laura Mahony
- Engaging activities like bracelet making, quizzes, games, and mindfulness exercises
- Breathwork, meditation, and positive affirmations integrated into daily routines

The initiative also made sure to include and appreciate staff. A special **staff brunch** provided a chance to relax and connect, while **gratitude treats and thank-you notes** from students acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Loreto's teachers and support team.

Thanks to the incredible effort and creativity of the Amber Flag team, Loreto Kilkenny was proudly awarded the **Pieta House Amber Flag**—a symbol of excellence in mental health awareness and school wellbeing.

Huge congratulations to our 2024/2025 Amber Flag Team:

Rebecca Brennan, Ruby Flynn, Allie Gibbons, Amy Lynch, Chloe Mabbott, Caitriona McEvoy, Eve Nichol, Olivia Proniewicz, Abigail Ryan, and Molly Trait

Balance & Bliss Week was more than just a collection of activities—it was a celebration of community, care, and the power of coming together to support one another. Well done to all involved for making it such a memorable and meaningful success!





HALLOWEEN - DRESS UP



History



History Comes Alive at Loreto!

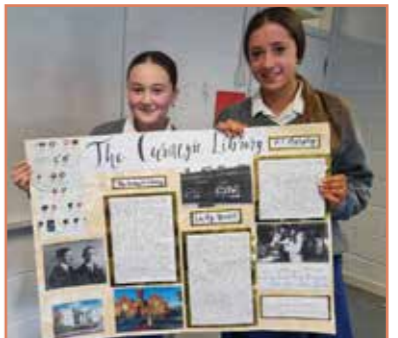
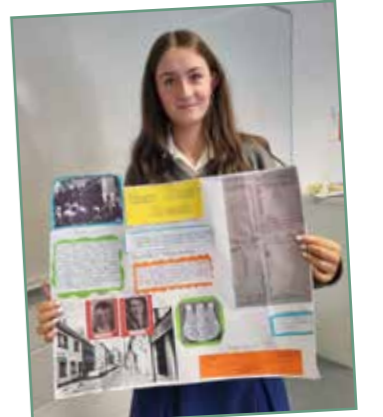
History was truly brought to life at Loreto this year, with students across all year groups engaging in exciting and meaningful historical experiences.

Our Transition Year students took part in a memorable trip to Glasnevin Cemetery, where they stepped into the role of tour guides. They presented graveside orations and shared fascinating insights into some of the most significant figures in Irish history, including the heroes of the 1916 Rising. Their research, confidence, and presentation skills made for a powerful day of learning and remembrance.

Meanwhile, our 2nd Year History students showcased their creativity and connection to local heritage through their 'My Past in My Place' CBA projects. These thoughtful presentations, grounded in local history, offered unique perspectives on how the past shapes the present in their communities.

Not to be outdone, our 1st Year students explored the rich heritage of their own city with visits to Kilkenny Castle, St Canice's Cathedral, and a climb up the iconic St Canice's Round Tower. These excursions offered a hands-on opportunity to experience the history that surrounds them every day.

With such passionate engagement across all year groups, history at Loreto continues to thrive, nurturing curiosity, understanding, and a deep respect for our shared past.



Farewell Colm

Farewell and Best Wishes to our wonderful Principal Mr Colm Keher.

We bid farewell to Mr Keher in February as he embarked on an exciting new chapter with the Joint Managerial Body (JMB), the entire Loreto Kilkenny community extends our deepest gratitude and best wishes.

Over the past 17 years, Mr. Keher has been a pillar of strength, vision, and dedication in our school in Loreto Kilkenny. His unwavering commitment to education and student wellbeing has shaped the lives of countless Loreto students and staff members alike. Under his leadership, Loreto Kilkenny has gone from strength to strength, growing not just in size and facilities, but in spirit, ambition, and community.

Thanks to his vision and guidance, we now enjoy a state-of-the-art school campus, supported by a dedicated staff and a student body we are immensely proud of. His passion for excellence, compassion for others, and steady leadership will leave a lasting legacy in the heart of our school.

While we are sad to see him leave, we are confident that he will continue to inspire and make a difference in his new role.

Thank you, Mr. Keher. You will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

Wishing you every success and happiness on your new journey. Thanks for everything.

Loreto Staff & Students.



Basketball



Lourdes Trip



Lourdes Youth Helpers: Our Journey Begins

We are absolutely delighted to have been chosen as Youth Helpers for this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes! The journey started with submitting our applications and eagerly awaiting news about the interview process. After going through interviews, the anticipation grew, would we be selected? When we finally heard the good news, we were overjoyed!

Since then, we have been busy preparing, meeting regularly to organise fundraisers to support the trip. These preparation days have been invaluable, not only do they help us raise funds, but they also give us the chance to connect with fellow Youth Helpers from other schools.



During these sessions, we've been deepening our understanding of Lourdes and our faith. For example, at our most recent preparation day, Bishop Coll spoke to us about the importance of Mass, and we were inspired by a presentation on Carlo Acutis, a young figure of faith who touched many lives.

We're all incredibly excited and ready to travel to Lourdes, eager to support and assist those who need it most. This opportunity means a lot to all of us, and we look forward to making a positive difference on this special pilgrimage.



Ethos Prefects Unveil Justice Mural



1st Year Soccer Squad 2025



Winter Wonderland at Loreto



Kate Russell Fan Club



All Smiles on Junior Cert Results Day



Ethos Walk



3rd Years Take on Ireland Largest Inflatable Waterpark at Bay Sports



**One Small Step for Man...
One Giant Leap for 2C**