

THE LORETO TIMES

JUNE 2026



Rooted, Responsive, Relevant

LORETO TIMES JUNE 2026

MESSAGE FROM

PRINCIPAL

June 2026

End of Term Reflection

Dear Students,

Another wonderful year! I say every year that it is such a delight and an absolute privilege to be part of your journey, with you, and with our staff, in this great school.

At our Prizegiving on 26th June 2026, we acknowledged your gifts, talents, effort, participation, progress, and achievements, in subjects, classes and activities. We celebrated you as individuals, within your classes, and across your many groups and teams, along with recognising our school and wider community, within which you have flourished.

Our Pastoral Theme this year was SHINE: Sharing, Happy, Inclusive, Nurturing and Empowered. Our Prizegiving Ceremony gave us the perfect opportunity to reflect, with great joy, on how brightly you have shone in 2025-26. For that, we applaud you.

Well done to all who received awards this year, congratulations, they are richly deserved! To those who did not receive an award, feel equally proud of your year and of yourselves.

Every day requires effort. Every effort leads to progress. Every day brings learning.

Every opportunity you embrace teaches you—not just subject content, but something about yourself: what you can do, what you can achieve, your strengths, and where you can grow. Never place limits on that. Be daring, be brave, take chances, try new things, and move forward with an open mind. Always believe you have more to give, because you do. And the more you give, the more you gain. Our mission is to keep striving for your personal better and best.

Opportunity is something about which we often speak, as nothing in school happens by chance. Every experience afforded to you is created, planned, and organised. We enjoy the rich curricular and extracurricular tapestry of life in this school. You are incredibly fortunate to have a staff, teaching and non-teaching, who invest so much time, care and energy in providing a wealth of opportunities. We all love to see you engage, grow, succeed, and to experience real joy in your learning.

Our staff feel very privileged to have you as our students.

As well as supporting you, we support one another. The importance of a strong team is central to all we do. It works because we, collectively, make it work. As Helen Keller reminds us, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

We, staff and students, all need support at different times. That support often comes quietly through someone being there, stepping in, or simply carrying us when needed, without recognition and without expecting anything in return. Today, we thank our team for that care, that presence, and that generosity of spirit.

Our planner theme this year, "Gifted to serve," reflects the words of Mary Ward, our foundress, in this special 170th year of Loreto education in Omagh: "Do not bury your talents which God has lent you to be used in His service." Service is at the heart of our Loreto ethos. We see it every day in your actions, your teams, and most especially in the many ways you support others. Through our JPIC work, led by Mrs McElroy and her team, and supported by staff and Heads of Year, we have made a real difference locally, nationally, and globally, particularly in supporting our sister schools in Aweil and Rumbek in South Sudan.

It is good to make a difference. It is good to recognise that difference. And while you may not seek reward, remember your light shining for others is the reward.

We are proud to be part of a global Loreto network, sharing a common philosophy and legacy. As we mark our 170th year, we also look ahead. We have one more prizegiving on this site, one more full year here, before embracing an exciting new future.



The words from Sr Barbara Murphy, Provincial Leader of Loreto Ireland, shared at our 170th Anniversary Mass, inspire and strengthen us, going forward:

"In moving on from this amazing Loreto Grammar School, you will bring the best of yourselves, and you will meet the best of others... and this is exciting." We continually celebrate who we are, and the best of ourselves. And we will continue to bring that forward with confidence, with pride, and with excitement as we prepare to migrate to the Strule Shared Education Campus. We share and celebrate being recognised on the international list of "Most Admired Schools for 2026!"

We also welcome the recognition received through the Pearson Awards for "The Whole School Team of the Year - Making a Difference!"

Students, that is recognising our wonderfully committed staff, and you, as we all feed into the one team. What a great team and a great school. Thank you for all that you bring to our school, not just today, but every day. You make Loreto what it is!

As we finish this great year and move towards the summer, I hope each of you carries with you, a real sense of pride in who you are, in what you have achieved, and in the part you play in this very special school community. Look after yourselves, look after one another, and take time to rest and find joy in the weeks ahead.

Until next term and our next school year, "Go gcoinní Dia i mbos a láimhe sibh – may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Mrs Cullinan

January 2026

Maths Fest

“I didn’t realise how many jobs actually use Maths — it definitely changed how I see the subject.”



The problem-solving element proved to be a highlight, with pupils thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to apply their skills in a fun and practical environment. Feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting that they would have welcomed more time to complete all of the stations due to their enthusiasm and engagement. The success of the experience was clear, with pupils already discussing the possibility of returning next year and even contributing by designing and running one of their own problem-solving stations. To round off the trip, pupils enjoyed a well-earned lunch at McDonald’s before beginning the journey home. Everyone returned safely by the end of the day, tired but delighted after such a memorable experience. Overall, Maths Fest NI provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase how mathematics can be both enjoyable and meaningful, leaving pupils inspired, motivated and eager for future opportunities to engage with maths beyond the classroom.

On Friday 23rd January 2026, approximately 50 Year 10 pupils attended Maths Fest NI at the Foyle Arena in Derry, marking the school’s first maths-focused trip in many years. Excitement levels were high from the outset, with pupils eagerly gathering on the school grounds early that morning before setting off by bus. The journey passed quickly as anticipation built for the day ahead.

On arrival, pupils took part in a series of interactive problem-solving stations, rotating through a variety of engaging activities designed to challenge their mathematical thinking, reasoning and teamwork skills. The format of the day encouraged collaboration, allowing pupils to work together to solve tasks, discuss strategies and explore different approaches to problems. A particularly valuable aspect of the event was the opportunity to meet and interact with pupils from other schools, fostering discussion around reasoning, logistics and mathematical thinking. Pupils also had the chance to liaise with professionals who use mathematics in their careers, helping them to see the real-life applications of the subject and inspiring future aspirations.

“It was great working with people from other schools and seeing how they approached the problems.”

January 2026

Maths Fest

"I didn't realise how many jobs actually use Maths — it definitely changed how I see the subject."



"The challenges really made you think, but they were fun at the same time."

DEBATING SUCCESS AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LITERIFIC COMPETITION

Loreto students showcase sharp thinking, confidence, and collaboration on a prestigious debating stage

This February, I was amongst the senior debating team who had the privilege of participating in the Queen's University Literific Debating Competition. Alongside a range of schools from across Northern Ireland, we united to share in an enriching experience that fostered spontaneity of thought, originality of argument, and riveting rhetoric.

Our journey to Belfast was fraught with a sprinkling of nerves and the simmering desire for success. Although bleary-eyed from early starts and tiring journeys, our spirits were not to be dampened, and Vilte, Jessica, Zenalia, and I arrived to eagerly take up arms across three motions. These involved a pre-set topic on the successes and failures of Keir Starmer's Government (where the atmosphere remained civil even when shot through with politically centred debate!), before progressing to our unprepared subjects on the dangers of technology and the merits of life in Northern Ireland.

The trip was made memorable by a unique opportunity to meet with our peers and initiate a sense of camaraderie which would prevail throughout the day. Many memories and friendships were formed during a competition that also made time for healthy rivalry, and it would be remiss of me to omit Loreto becoming the first Tyrone school to participate in Literific history.

Our valiant efforts were duly rewarded, as myself and Zenalia were one of four teams to qualify for the Grand Final at Stormont held the following month. Our anticipation was amplified, and the pounding of our hearts practically audible as we entered the historic parliamentary chambers, with the cloak of responsibility to do our school proud draped across our shoulders. In a high-stakes, competitive debate that hinged on the highly pertinent topic of relations between Europe and America, we placed 2nd overall.

"An enriching experience that fostered spontaneity of thought, originality of argument, and riveting rhetoric."



It was an honour indeed to join the ranks of those who have contributed to Loreto's long history of excellence in debating, and I am confident that this competition, as well as those still to follow, will become the golden thread in the tapestry of our Loreto journey.

Isabella Coughlan, Year 11





Shakespeare Week

Bringing Shakespeare to Life: A Winning Performance

Year 9 student Grainne Bradley shines in Shakespeare competition with a powerful and confident portrayal

This year, Miss Ward entered me into the Shakespeare Monologue and Duologue Competition. I chose to perform Caliban from *The Tempest* because I liked how different he was from the other characters and thought he would be interesting to perform.

To get into character, I thought about how Caliban would move, speak, and react to the people around him. I used a mystical voice, stronger facial expressions, and slower movements to show his emotions and bring the character to life.



“I gained confidence as I performed.”

The monologue performances took place on Tuesday, with the duologues being performed on Wednesday. Although I was nervous before going on stage, I really enjoyed the experience and gained confidence as I performed.

On Thursday, I was thrilled to find out that I had been selected as one of the winners. Taking part in the competition was a great experience, and I would like to thank Miss Ward for encouraging me to take part and supporting me throughout the process.



Shakespeare Week Taking to the Stage

“Against all odds... we had won the duologue!”

“It was the thought of having someone by my side on stage that gave me the confidence to raise my hand.”

Katelynn and I agreed on a whim to take part in Shakespeare Week. We were sitting in English when we first heard about it, and initially, it did not strike me as something I would be interested in. But from across the classroom, Katelynn shot me a look that silently asked, “Do you want to?” It was the thought of having someone by my side on stage that made me raise my hand with a sudden surge of confidence. We chose a short, simple duologue from the play *Much Ado About Nothing*. The weeks of practice flew by, and we eventually found ourselves on the day of the performance.



Anna and Katelynn’s winning performance

“Excitement and anxiety were at war inside me as I waited to go on stage.”

I can remember the way my hands trembled as applause for the earlier act lingered, excitement and anxiety at war inside me. But once I stepped onto the makeshift stage, I was Benedick, and Katelynn was Beatrice. Perhaps we struggled with the language of Shakespeare, or took one step too many, but it didn’t matter, because when I took my seat again, I was glowing with pride.

“Against all odds... we had won the duologue!”

Then, against all odds, I found a certificate and an Easter egg in my hands the very next day. To my continued bewilderment, Katelynn and I had won the duologue! I was so dizzy with joy that I practically skipped home that day.

“The smallest keepsake became the most meaningful reminder.”

The best part was the little theatrical key ring I was given for taking part, and my school bag is its home now.

LORETO ECO NEWS

'The Green Fingers Club'

1ST PLACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: YOUNG REPORTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION - GRAINNE BRADLEY 9A5



ONE OF THE UK'S LARGEST FRESHWATER LAKES IN CO. ANTRIM

Grainne secured 1st place in Northern Ireland for her work highlighting environmental issues in Lough Neagh and providing workable solutions to the problem. Below is her winning entry in the One Photo Category of the 'Young Reporter of the Environment' competition. See her winning entry above.

Lough Neagh, the UK's largest lake, is currently facing a major pollution crisis. Toxic blue-green algae (which is a type of bacteria) is growing so fast that it turns the water into a thick green "soup ". Many people are starting to question why this is happening. To save Lough Neagh from toxic algae, we need to stop pollution from farms and sewers entering the water. Solutions include using natural reed beds to filter runoff, planting more trees along riverbanks, improving water treatment, and reducing the use of chemicals and fertilisers in the surrounding land.



"TO SAVE LOUGH NEAGH, WE NEED TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND WORK WITH NATURE TO RESTORE BALANCE." – GRAINNE BRADLEY



MAJOR FLOOD CAUSES SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN PLUMBRIDGE CO. TYRONE

2ND PLACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: YOUNG REPORTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION -AIMEE SAYERS 8A1

Aimee earned 2nd place in Northern Ireland in the Article Writing category of the 'Young Reporter for the Environment' competition, focusing on flooding in Plumbridge and its environmental impacts. Below is a copy of her winning entry.



LANDSLIDE IN GLENELLY VALLEY

Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone – August 2017: the village of Plumbridge has been left facing serious environmental damage after a sudden and a powerful flood swept through the Glenelly Valley. Hours of intense rainfall caused the rivers Glenelly and Owenkillew to overflow, sending fast-moving water across farmland, roads, and houses. While emergency services focused on protecting people, environmental experts have warned that the natural impact could last far longer than the physical clean-up.

Local people described the moment the river burst its banks. **“The water rose unbelievably fast,”** said one resident. **“Within minutes the river turned into a wall of mud and debris.”**



THE GLENELLY RIVER BECOMES HEAVILY POLLUTED AS IT GAINS MORE DEBRIS

Rivers polluted as floodwater picks up debris.

The rivers that were normally clear have turned into a thick, black muddy swamp as the floodwater collects oil, sewage, chemicals, and debris from the surrounding area. Environmental officers reported a sharp drop in oxygen levels, making it difficult for fish and aquatic life to survive. One inspector said “This level of pollution is concerning. It will take a long time for the river to stabilise again.”

Water insects which are a need within the food chain were killed or washed away in the flood. This brought concerns to the fish population as they will have nothing to eat and might never come back without a stable amount of food.

“TO SAVE LOUGH NEAGH, WE NEED TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND WORK WITH NATURE TO RESTORE BALANCE.” – GRAINNE BRADLEY



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LANDSLIDE IN GLENELLY VALLEY

Farmland hit hard by soil erosion

Farmers in the area have been hit hard by soil erosion, caused by the force and volume of water experienced by the flood. This has stripped away the top layer of soil, (the most fertile part) damaging underground drainage. Gravel and river wash have accumulated in areas and will need excavation and moved.

One farmer described the destruction as “devastating.”

“Years of work disappeared overnight,” He said, “The soil is gone, and the land will take a long time to recover.”

Experts say that soil erosion reduces the land’s ability to absorb water increasing the risk of future flooding.

Wildlife habitats destroyed

The flood caused widespread disruption to local wildlife. Birds lost their nests; small animals were swept away and larger animals dens got flooded and were forced to move. Freshwater species suffered the most. Insects, young fish, and river creatures were either killed or washed away, leaving the ecosystem unbalanced.

“Some species may take several breeding seasons to return” said a volunteer from a local wildlife charity.



**RIVER IN PLUMBRIDGE AFTER FLOODING-
TREES UPROOTED AT THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE**

**“NATURE IS ALREADY
STARTING TO BOUNCE
BACK—WE’RE SEEING
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Recovery efforts begin as Plumbridge looks to the future flooding!

In the weeks following the flood, the community began the lengthy process of repairing both the village and the surrounding environment. Volunteers worked together to clear the debris, restore damaged areas, and protect the land from further harm.

The first task was to remove the fallen trees and rubbish from the rivers to help the flow. Environmental officers checked the water-quality often to monitor pollution while they were doing this process.

"We are seeing early signs of improvement, but recovery won't happen overnight," said an environmental officer.

Farmers receive help to repair their fields, replace lost soil, and replant damaged areas. Some fields were reseeded to stabilise the ground and reduce the risk of further erosion. Wildlife groups set up monitors to monitor the return of insects, fish, and birds. People also planted more trees from where the old ones had fallen to create fresh habitats for returning species.

"Nature is already starting to bounce back," said one volunteer "were seeing new growth where everything was washed away."

Climate change raises concerns about future flooding.

Experts say the flood may be linked to global warming. As the planet heats up, the atmosphere holds more moisture, increasing the chances of sudden intense rain fall like the event that hit Glenelly valley. Scientists warn that flooding could become more frequent as the earth's temperature rises.

"Climate change is making extreme weather more common," said a climate researcher "communities like this need to be prepared for events like this."

Rising temperatures can also weaken river systems by changing rain fall patterns and increasing erosion. Protecting natural features such as riverbanks and forests will be essential in reducing future flood risks.

Earth is fragile, and we all need to help to protect it, it might be in the middle of summer but you never know what can happen, take the Plumbridge flood as an example, it happened on the evening of August 22, 2017, that is in the summer and the weather on that day was dry then it rained very heavily throughout the night and by morning a playgroup was flooded up to the roof.

March– June 2026

Eco Excellence: Celebrating Student Leadership and Environmental Success



From award-winning biodiversity work to national competition success, Loreto students are leading the way in environmental action, creativity, and change.

Erica- Eco Pupil of the Year

Over the last 3 years, Erica Mullen has shown outstanding commitment to environmental sustainability through her active role in the school's Green-fingers Team, established in 2024. As part of this initiative, Erica helped transform previously unused land within the school grounds into a thriving outdoor learning space and garden that benefits both students and local community groups. Erica played a hands-on role in enhancing biodiversity by planting apple and plum trees, sowing wildflowers, and creating wildlife habitats using bug hotels designed and built by Technology & Design students. Through these meaningful actions, she has helped strengthen the school's contribution to climate action and environmental stewardship.

“Erica has transformed unused school grounds into a thriving outdoor learning space that benefits both students and the wider community.”

A dedicated team member, Erica, consistently demonstrates environmentally responsible behaviour. She actively participates in planting and maintaining the school gardens and supports a wide range of sustainability initiatives, including the school's Christmas and GAA Swap Shops, which promote reuse and reduce landfill waste. She has also taken part in the Big Spring Clean over the past two academic years and has encouraged wider community involvement by engaging family members, including her grandmother, in these efforts.

Erica shows strong environmental leadership by working with staff, parents, and local community partners such as the Men's Shed, helping develop and maintain the garden and outdoor learning space. She regularly gives up her lunch breaks to ensure plants in the garden and greenhouse are well cared for.



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“Her enthusiasm, leadership, and sustained commitment make her a truly deserving Eco Pupil of the Year.”



In addition, Erica supports newer members of the Year 8 gardening club, helping to grow the Green-fingers initiative and raise environmental awareness among younger students. Her dedication has resulted in a welcoming, functional space that supports education, wellbeing, and reflection. The garden has also become a popular and inclusive area for Rightful Presence students from Arvalee School & Resource Centre, who actively engage in growing plants and vegetables alongside their peers.

Now a Year 10 student, Erica has demonstrated consistent commitment to environmental action throughout her three years at Loreto Grammar School. Her enthusiasm, leadership, and sustained contribution, particularly in enhancing biodiversity through the school garden, make her a highly deserving candidate for Eco-Pupil of the Year.

January- June 2026

Rightful Presence Programme in Loreto Omagh

Building friendships, confidence, and inclusion through shared learning experiences each week

Here at Loreto Grammar School, we are proud to promote a strong ethos of inclusivity, excellence, and community. Respectful relationships lie at the heart of our school, and we are committed to creating opportunities for meaningful engagement with others.

Each Thursday morning, from 9.30am-11.30am, we warmly welcome students from Arvalee as part of our Rightful Presence Programme.

Accompanied by their class teacher, Mr Moore, and classroom assistants, the students follow their own curriculum while becoming part of life at Loreto.

Our Junior Leadership Team, along with a number of senior students, plays an important role in greeting the visitors and involving them in a wide range of activities. Through shared experiences, friendships are formed and confidence grows.

There have been many memorable moments along the way.

“We feel truly privileged to welcome these wonderful students into our school.”

In Science, students donned white lab coats and goggles as they explored experiments and learned about safety in the laboratory alongside both Year 8 and Year 10 students. A visit to the Drama Department was filled with laughter and energy, as movement and creativity took centre stage. In Home Economics, sleeves were rolled up and aprons tied as delicious cookies were baked with the help of Year 11 students. There were plenty of eager taste testers ready to enjoy the results. Meanwhile, in Music, the rhythm came alive, with fantastic participation and joyful clapping alongside Class 8A4.

No visit would be complete without a trip to the canteen, where Lorna, Audrey, Maggie, and Flo always provide a warm welcome to both students and staff alike.

Students Roisin and Molly often share how much they enjoy their Thursday mornings at Loreto.

However, we feel truly privileged to welcome these wonderful students into our school and to play even a small part in their learning journey.

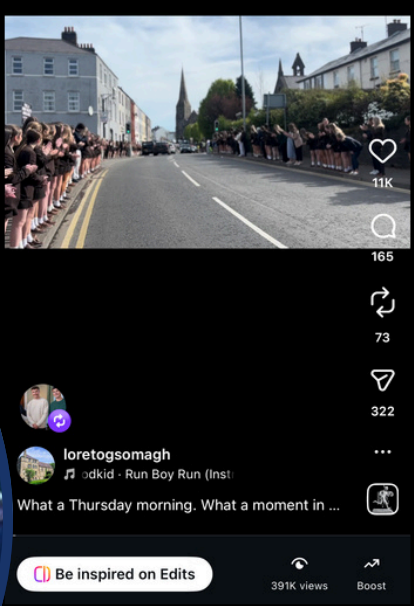


A MOMENT IN HISOTY: THE ADAMS BROTHERS PASS THE LORETO GATES

Students and staff lined the route at mile one at the gates of Loreto

It was was no ordinary Thursday morning for the students and staff at Loreto. As the sun rose over the town, the community gathered to witness a feat of extraordinary human endurance and spirit. Jordan and Cian Adams, the brothers behind the incredible "33 Marathons in 33 Days" challenge across Ireland, brought their journey through the heart of Omagh. "What a Thursday morning. What a moment in history." The atmosphere was electric as the brothers reached mile one of their daily journey, passing directly by the school gates. Students lined the streets, forming a sea of support that echoed with cheers and claps as the pair moved past.

"It's been uplifting to see so much encouragement and togetherness along the way... So proud of the community behind them and the positivity they continue to inspire."



GOING VIRAL:

Loreto Support Captures the World's Attention

A heartfelt show of community spirit turned into a global sensation.

Our video of the Adams brothers' arrival at Loreto, shared on @loretogsomagh, has gone viral across social media.

391,000+ VIEWS

11,000+ LIKES

322 SHARES

165 COMMENTS

A proud moment for our school, our town and our community.

You can watch the full video on our Social Media Pages.

GOING VIRAL

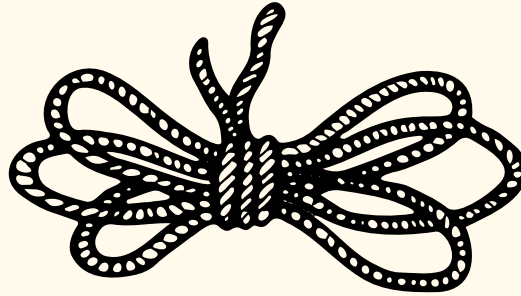
Viewers across the country tuned into The Late Late Show on RTÉ ONE to see a special feature on the brothers, which proudly showcased the footage of the Loreto Grammar School community in full voice. The caption on the screen said it all: "Loreto Grammar School, Omagh"—a testament to the town's unwavering support. Keep going, Jordan and Cian! Omagh is behind you!

APRIL 2026

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS POETRY

Inspired by the voices of Heaney, Duffy, Wordsworth, and Shelley, 10A3 presents a collection of original poems exploring the complexities, beauty, and emotions of love and relationships.

The Knot



A string held us together before we ever met
Holding our love and feeding my breath
It kept me safe cuddled like a net
Until it was cut, our first death.

The string was gone, no longer there
I took my first step toward empty space
Waiting for your presence to fill the air
Crawling behind you, time was on a race

It could not be seen, only felt
Twisting and turning pulling it together
The string of our love began to melt
Into a knot, embedded, forever.

Niamh Curry 10a3

APRIL 2026

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Single Shore



Deep blue waters come to my eye,
Warmness fills my heart,
Without my match I tend to sigh,
Destined to live forever apart.

The sun has set on his departure,
I had a trophy, but I was not one to win,
All creatures I see, paired together,
Yet our love cannot be, it sends me into a spin.

Viktoriya Donnelly 10a3

APRIL 2026

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Waves of the Ocean



One hug, I did not know would be the last
If only I realised how much time had passed
Water at the beach, smooth yet rocky
Waves move fast carrying me forward

Just how our relationship could have been
Like the tide that flows
Our love used to be constant, brave, and bold
Able to weather every season, it still goes
Forever to be known, ours is a love that echoes.

Holly Breen 10a3

APRIL 2026

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS POETRY

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Silence



Sitting, staring, longing for it back
Wondering what all I may have lacked.
Silence, with tears running like a tap,
Knowing I will never have a feeling like that.

Remembering all the good times,
Stabs me like a knife,
Leading me to think of my dear, good life.
I know it may pass quick like a thought
But for me it will always make me distraught.

Méabh Harley 10A3

FOOD NERDS COLLABORATION WITH QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

APRIL 2026

By Bláthin



Taking part in the Food Nerds project in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast was an exciting and rewarding experience. I really enjoyed the project because it was so different from normal classwork and gave us the opportunity to be creative while learning at the same time.

Throughout the project, we were challenged to develop our own food product range, while also exploring important topics such as nutrition and sustainability. It was particularly interesting to research what athletes need to eat and to think about how children's food products could help improve sports performance. This made the learning feel relevant, engaging, and practical.

My favourite part of the project was creating our product range, Kin. I loved designing the brand, coming up with product names, and developing a slogan. It genuinely felt like we were running our own business and creating products for real customers. I also enjoyed working on packaging ideas and deciding which ingredients would best suit our target audience.

Overall, I learned a lot from this experience and had a great time throughout. It helped me develop my teamwork skills, as everyone contributed ideas, worked together effectively, and supported each other during different activities. The project allowed us to learn in a fun and interactive way.

The Food Nerds project was a huge success. It struck the perfect balance between teamwork, creativity, and dedication. If I were given the opportunity to take part again, I would 100% say yes!



(Towards others & the world)

- Advocacy
- Participation in informed actions
- Collaboration & solidarity

AWARENESS OF
GLOBAL ISSUES,
CRITICAL THINKING
& MAKING
LOCAL-GLOBAL
CONNECTIONS



HEAD

- Understanding multiple perspectives
- Exploring root causes of injustice

RESPONDING TO
INJUSTICE &
INEQUALITY
DEMONSTRATING
SUSTAINABLE &
FAIRER WAYS OF
LIVING

NURTURING
EMOTIONAL
RESILIENCE,
WELL-BEING & HOPE

HEART

- Openness & confidence towards controversial issues
- Making self-other connections
- Ability for respectful dialogue

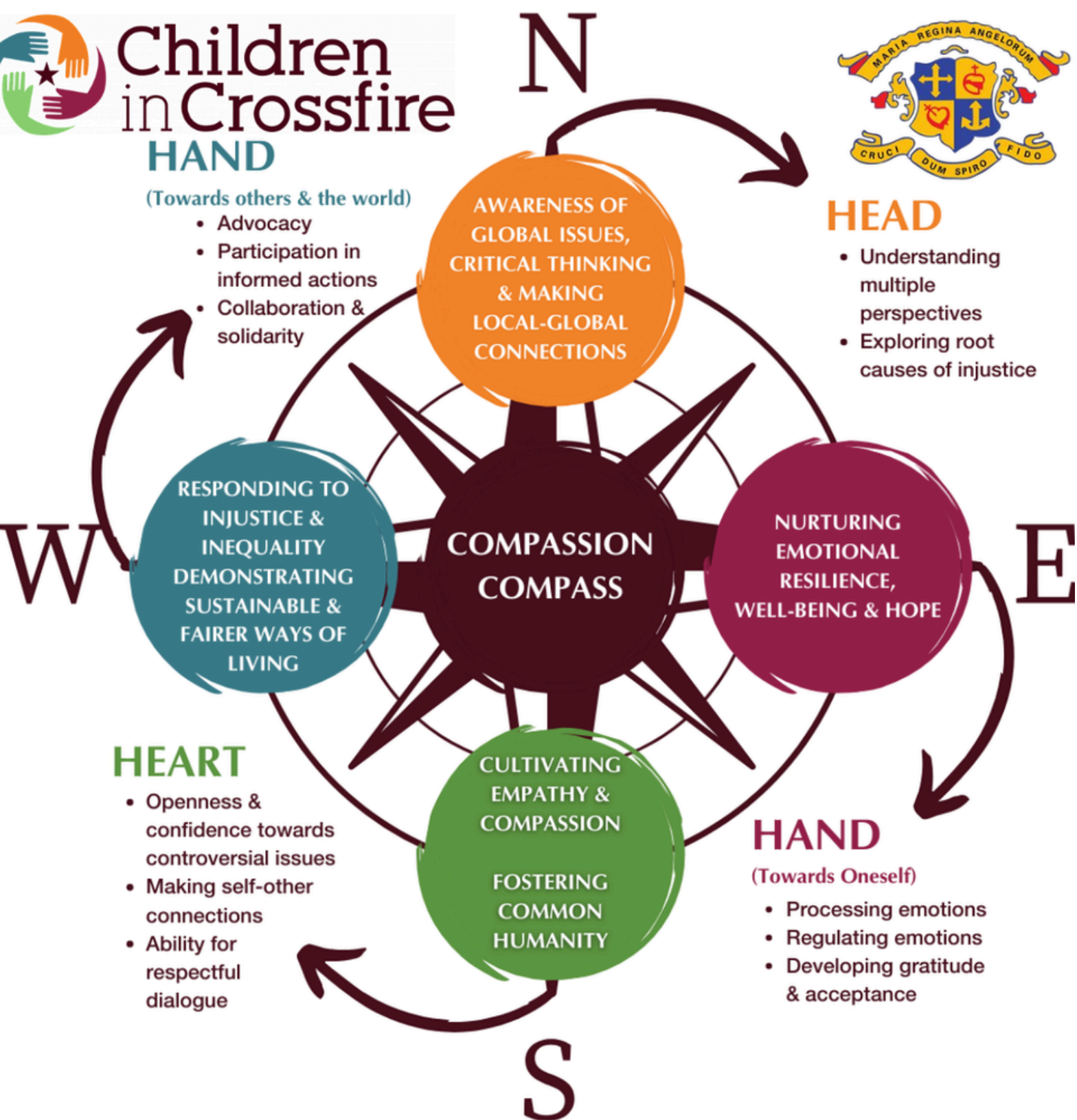
CULTIVATING
EMPATHY &
COMPASSION

FOSTERING
COMMON
HUMANITY

HAND

(Towards Oneself)

- Processing emotions
- Regulating emotions
- Developing gratitude & acceptance



Loreto Omagh is delighted to have reengaged with Compassionate Schools programme. Deeply aligned with our pastoral dimension and school ethos, our longstanding alliance with the organisation continues to shape meaningful practice. In a world that faces daily challenges, human compassion needs to be protected.

SHARED EDUCATION FOR POSITIVE INNOVATION (SEPI)

Bringing students together across borders to collaborate, innovate, and address real-world challenges



“SEPI was an experience that pushed me to speak to people who lived in areas I had not heard about before. Despite not knowing one another, we quickly fell into a rhythm of conversation, learning about the differences and similarities in our everyday life. I got to create an innovative plan with my team that addressed a real-life issue in the world: climate change. The best part was knowing that these ideas could actually be implemented by an established company EY. I was lucky enough to participate in the Final which was a thrilling event. SEPI was more than worthwhile; it was a new way of developing my communication skills, time management, and even social skills. If I had the offer to do SEPI again, I know I would.” Zenalia - Year 13

The Shared Education for Positive Innovation (SEPI) programme is a major cross-border educational initiative delivered by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with Catalyst, and supported through the PEACEPLUS programme (managed by the SEUPB). It aims to unite schools across Northern Ireland, the border counties, and selected DEIS schools in the Republic of Ireland.

The purpose of SEPI is to build collaboration between schools across communities and borders. It also promotes understanding, peacebuilding, and positive relationships, while empowering students to become innovators and leaders in addressing real social and environmental challenges.

In September 2025, all Year 13 Loreto students were given the opportunity to apply for a place on this programme, and 15 students were selected. A combination of online training and in-person conferences followed. Students were assigned to teams made up of at least seven students from other Northern Ireland and cross-border schools. They were supported along the way by EY and Catalyst and delivered pitch-offs in Monaghan and Armagh.

The experience culminated in the SEPI Innovation Awards in January 2026 at Armagh City Hotel. Loreto had four semi-finalists and was delighted to be represented by AS student Dearbhíle at the final with her team's pitch, Carbon Crushers. Over 1,000 students took part over the course of the programme.



CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TASTER DAY

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9.15AM - 4PM



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Use a Total Station to set out points from real construction drawings and see how engineers transfer information from plans onto site accurately

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Measure drawings, calculate quantities and estimate projects costs using simplified bills of quantities linked to the classroom models on the Strule Shared Education Campus

BIM COORDINATOR

Explore a live digital model of the building through BIM, identify coordination issues and learn how digital technology supports modern construction

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER

Take on hazard spotting challenges, see PPE in action and learn about safe working practices on a live construction site

SITE MANAGER

Sequence construction activities, coordinate deliveries and discover how live projects are programmed and managed safely and efficiently

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Chat with current apprentices and construction professionals about apprenticeship pathways, career opportunities, and life in the construction industry



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KS3 SCIENCE UPDATES

In Term 1, the Science Department completed a number of activities to promote interest in Science. On Monday, students explored the science of bath bombs. On Tuesday, we increased awareness of how to be good global citizens through a recycling competition. On Wednesday, students imagined what Science looked like in 1855, when Loreto Grammar School, Omagh was founded, in a lesson on fermentation. On Thursday, we demonstrated how food provides energy, and we ended the week on Friday with some House bonding through a House Quiz. The winning house is pictured to the right.



EY STEM Initiative

EY is a global employer that has created an app to encourage young girls to take an interest in Science. We promoted this app with Year 10 this year, alongside several schools throughout Ireland and the UK. We are delighted to announce that two of our students were among the top 10 users in the north of Ireland and have each won family tickets to see a Belfast Giants ice hockey match.

“The EY STEM app was very helpful with my revision and improved my understanding of topics we study in school, as well as global issues like climate change, which I found interesting. I am very excited to watch the Belfast Giants in July. I would really recommend the EY STEM app.”

— Aoife Coll, 10A3



Scientist of the Month:

In Science, we will reward consistent effort and a positive attitude to learning. Each month we reward students from either year 8, 9 or 10 who are modelling the behaviours of a great learner. Here are a few of our Scientists of the Month from Term 3.



A CELEBRATION OF IRISH SPIRIT AT LORETO: ST PATRICK'S DAY IN FULL SWING

Celebrating St Patrick's Day the Loreto Way



St Patrick's Day was celebrated in true Loreto style this year, with a joyful programme of events that highlighted Irish culture, tradition and community spirit throughout the school.

A highlight of the celebrations was the lively KS3 Céilí, where students enthusiastically took to the floor to learn traditional dances such as The Waves of Tory and The Walls of Ennis. With plenty of laughter, teamwork and rhythm, the céilí offered students the chance to experience Irish dance first-hand and appreciate the energy and inclusivity of this long-standing tradition. Year 8 students also enjoyed putting their knowledge to the test in a St Patrick's Day table quiz, which encouraged friendly competition while deepening their understanding of Irish history, culture and customs. The quiz created a real buzz and showcased the enthusiasm and teamwork of our younger students.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, our traditional music group filled the corridors with the sound of Irish tunes throughout the day. Their performances brought a sense of celebration to every corner of the school and provided a wonderful backdrop to the day's events, reminding everyone of the importance of music in Irish heritage.

MARCH 2026

ALICANTE TRIP

“Alicante Adventure: Language, Culture, and Lasting Memories”

Turn over to discover the unforgettable experiences, culture, and adventure of our Year 11 Alicante trip facilitated by the Spanish Department- Aine and Sarah share their experiences.



ALICANTE ADVENTURE: LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LASTING MEMORIES

Four unforgettable days of Spanish learning, cultural discovery, and fun in the sun during Semana Santa



66

“This was a really interesting way to practise real-life conversations and learn more about Spanish culture.”

Our trip to Alicante was an unforgettable experience, full of Spanish culture, learning, and so much fun. Over the course of four days, we improved our Spanish and got to witness the annual Easter processions during Semana Santa.

On our first day, we arrived and started off our trip by walking along the promenade, spending time in the park, and settling into the hotel.

“We were lucky enough to witness the famous Easter processions, which were such a memorable experience.”

Day two was a more educational day, where we went to our first Spanish class. We split into two groups and did some Spanish icebreakers and games, and then went out into the Explanada de España to ask locals questions about Semana Santa. This was a really interesting way to practise real-life conversations and learn more about Spanish culture. In the afternoon, we had a tour of Alicante. That evening, we experienced the incredible Easter processions.

On day three, we went back to our Spanish classes, where we again went out into Alicante to talk to more locals. After class, we got some free time to explore some of the shops in the city.

“One of the longest yet most interesting walks ever... with amazing views over the city.”

Later on, we went on what felt like one of the longest yet most interesting walks ever up to the Castillo de Santa Bárbara, where we got to see all of the views over the city and learned more about Alicante's history.

Our final day was another day of Spanish lessons, where we got to go to the local market to try some unusual fruits. We also had more time to go to the beach. Later, we visited a huge shopping centre for another treasure hunt activity and some more souvenir shopping.

To finish off the experience, our bus didn't arrive and we had to take taxis instead, but it ended up being a fun and memorable part of the trip. Overall, the Alicante trip was such a fun experience that gave us the chance to improve our Spanish, learn about new traditions, and make memories with friends. It is definitely a trip we won't forget.

99

“It ended up being a funny and memorable part of the trip.”

Sarah Harvey- 11A1

AINE'S AMAZING TRIP TO ALICANTE

An unforgettable GCSE Spanish trip filled with learning, tradition, and new experiences



“The trip helped improve our language skills and taught us more about Spanish culture.”

Our GCSE Spanish trip to Alicante was a fantastic experience that helped improve our language skills and taught us more about Spanish culture.

On the first day, we travelled to Alicante and visited El Palmeral Park. The park had beautiful scenery, great views, and was the perfect place to take photos. Afterwards, we returned to the hotel for dinner and settled in for the days ahead.

“It was a great way to practise speaking with native Spanish speakers.”

The second day began with Spanish lessons at a local Spanish-speaking school, which were both enjoyable and educational. They gave us the opportunity to practise speaking and listening with native Spanish speakers. Later, we visited the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, where we saw a variety of interesting modern artworks. In the evening, we watched the Easter parades, which were an unforgettable sight and a great way to experience Spanish traditions.

On day three, we returned to the school and completed a task where we asked local people questions in Spanish. This was a great way to build confidence and use the language in real-life situations. We then walked up to the Castillo de Santa Bárbara, where we enjoyed amazing views over Alicante. Our tour guide shared interesting stories about the castle's history, making the visit both informative and entertaining. That evening, we watched the Easter parades again, which were just as good as the first time.

“It was an excellent experience that improved my confidence and Spanish.”

On the final day, we spent some time at the beach, enjoying the scenery and relaxing before our journey home. We also had free time for shopping, allowing us to buy souvenirs and explore the local area one last time. Although it was sad to leave, I was very grateful for the opportunity and excited to see my family again.

Overall, the trip was an excellent experience. It improved my Spanish, increased my confidence, and allowed me to experience Spanish culture firsthand. I am very thankful to everyone who made the trip possible.



Aine McVey- Year 11

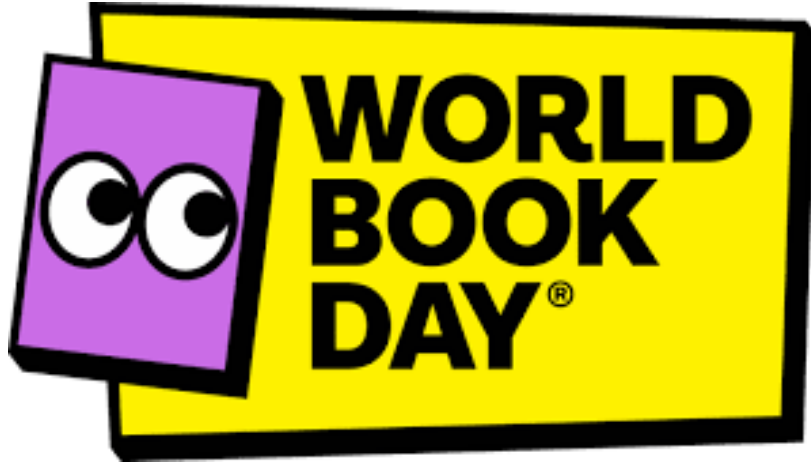
WORLD BOOK DAY 2026: A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

World Book Day 2026 was marked with enthusiasm, imagination, and a genuine love of literature across the English Department.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026: A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

World Book Day 2026 was marked with enthusiasm, imagination, and a genuine love of literature across the English Department.



This year's celebrations brought together students from across the key stages, offering a range of engaging activities that showcased both their creativity and their appreciation of texts old and new.

A much-anticipated highlight of the day was the return of the Year 9 Character Parade. Students embraced the opportunity to step into the shoes of their favourite literary figures, demonstrating remarkable creativity and innovation in their costume designs. From iconic characters drawn from the literary canon to figures from contemporary texts, the corridors were transformed into a vibrant tapestry of storytelling. The school was brought to life with these walking embodiments of literature, as students proudly displayed their interpretations of beloved characters.

The Year 9 festivities extended beyond costume. Students participated in a lively reading aloud workshop, which encouraged confidence, expression, and engagement with texts. This was followed by an interactive table quiz, where teams worked collaboratively to test their literary knowledge. A particular highlight was the ever-popular "Guess the Book from the Emoji" round, which sparked both laughter and competitive spirit as students deciphered cleverly constructed emoji clues. The celebrations culminated in the character parade showcase, where students had the opportunity to present their costumes and fully embrace the spirit of the day.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026: A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

World Book Day 2026 was marked with enthusiasm, imagination, and a genuine love of literature across the English Department.



Year 11 students were transported back in time through their own reading aloud workshop, which focused on extracts from *Little Women*. This session brought the nineteenth century vividly to life, as students explored the language, themes, and emotional depth of the text. Through performance and discussion, they developed a richer understanding of the novel while honing their interpretative and expressive skills.

Overall, World Book Day 2026 was a resounding success, celebrating literature in all its forms and fostering a shared sense of enjoyment across the department. From imaginative costumes and interactive quizzes to inspiring workshops and immersive readings, the day highlighted the power of books to engage, challenge, and inspire.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students had the privilege of working with esteemed mystery and crime fiction author Dr Brian McGilloway. During a dynamic and inspiring creative writing workshop, Dr McGilloway shared valuable insights into the craft of writing. He explored strategies for generating ideas, developing compelling characters, and crafting engaging and satisfying endings. Students responded enthusiastically to the session, gaining practical advice and inspiration to enhance their own writing as they prepare for their exams and beyond.



YEAR 10 FRENCH STUDENTS PRODUCE EXCELLENT WORK!

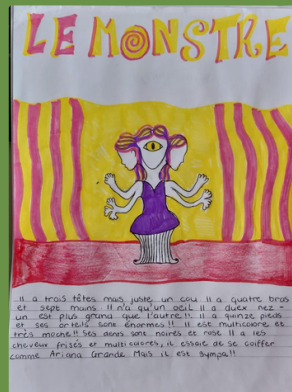
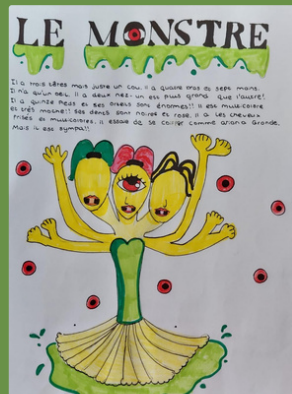
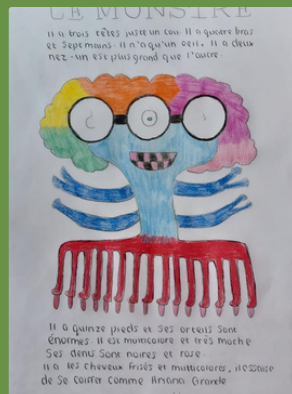
Des Monstres Fantastiques!

LE MONSTRE

Il a trois têtes mais juste un cou. Il a quatre bras et sept mains.
Il n'a qu'un œil. Il a deux nez—un est plus grande que l'autre!!
Il a quinze pieds et ses orteils sont énormes!! Il est multicolore
et très moche!! Ses dents sont noires et rose. Il a les cheveux
frisés et multicolores, il essaie de se coiffer comme Ariana Grande.
Mais il est sympa!



Anna Kania



This term, our Year 10 French students combined language learning with creativity in an exciting and imaginative project inspired by le corps (the body). Using their growing vocabulary from the “body” unit, students were challenged to design and describe their own fantastical monsters—and the results were nothing short of impressive!

What truly brought the project to life, however, was the artwork. Students created vibrant, imaginative illustrations to accompany their writing, showcasing a wide range of artistic styles and ideas. From towering, multi-eyed beasts with glowing wings to tiny, mischievous creatures with six legs and colourful fur, every monster was unique and thoughtfully designed.

CELEBRATING FAITH AND SERVICE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Loreto pupils and staff join a special Mass to honour Bishop McKeown's 25 years of episcopal ministry



“WE ARE INSPIRED TO LIVE IN GRATITUDE AND RENEWED PURPOSE.”

Principal, Mrs Cullinan, along with two pupils, Darcee and Grace were delighted and privileged to share in the celebration of the Mass to mark the Silver Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop McKeown in St Eugene's Cathedral on Sunday. Family members of both pupils also attended, representing our Loreto school community. We joined staff and pupils from neighbouring schools in Omagh, highlighting our shared journey of faith and service in education. We congratulate Bishop McKeown, give thanks for his ministry and leadership, and continue to be guided, through him, to follow our calling of the “Good Shepherd.”



In closing the wonderful liturgical celebration and occasion, Fr Michael Canny, Vicar General, informed the congregation that the special Mass was a shared opportunity to “look back with gratitude and to look forward with renewed purpose.”



We are inspired in our daily lives to live in gratitude and renewed purpose in answering our calling.

Comhghaidreas ó chroí Loreto don Easpag agus go mbeannaí Dia é agus a fhreagairt mar Aoire Maith.

We pledge to promote 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' for all members of our school community.



Connect

We will **connect** with those around us, fostering an inclusive and supportive community.



Give

We will **give** our time and presence, spreading happiness and love through acts of compassion and kindness.



Keep learning

We will **keep learning**, embracing new challenges and ideas.



Our pledge

We will **take notice**, remaining rooted in the present moment, grateful for all we have and appreciating the beauty of our surroundings.



Take notice

We will **be active**, experiencing the joy and benefit of movement in regular exercise.



Be active

June 2026

TAKE 5 FOR WELL BEING - LEVEL 3 ACCREDITATION



We are delighted to have achieved Level 3 accreditation in the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing Award. At Loreto, “Making Young Dreams Possible” is more than a vision, it is lived daily through our commitment to wellbeing, empowerment and belonging. This award recognises the way wellbeing is woven into the fabric of school life, where our students are supported not only to succeed, but to grow, lead and thrive.

We are deeply grateful to all staff involved in pastoral care and wellbeing in Loreto, and especially to our student leadership teams, who are central to delivering and shaping our wellbeing provision every day.

MAY 2025

Meet our

TEAM

U-14 ULSTER A CUP FINAL TEAM

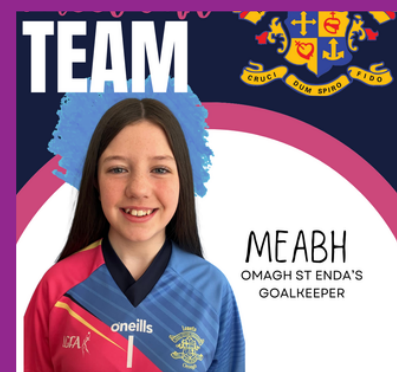


MAY 2025

Meet our

TEAM

U-14 ULSTER A CUP FINAL TEAM



U14A Ulster Final Match Report

Loreto Omagh 5-10 | Loreto Cavan 1-12

This year's U14 Ulster Final was one that will be remembered for many days to come.

We produced a superb all-round team performance to claim the U14A Ulster title, overcoming Loreto Cavan in a highly anticipated final.

From the throw-in, we showed our intent and went in at the break leading 2-6 to 4 points. It was the third quarter that ultimately proved decisive, when we delivered a dominant spell of football, adding an impressive 2-4 without reply. To their credit, Loreto Cavan refused to fold and mounted a late rally in the closing stages, narrowing the gap. However, the deficit proved too great, our girls showed great skill, determination and excellent game management to hold firm to see the match out on a scoreline of 5-10 to 1-12.

The win ensured back-to-back U14A titles and jubilation at the final whistle.

We would like to thank our main sponsors Devity Contract for their support for our football teams and also to Sperrin Restaurant for the kindly sponsoring the post match meal for the team.



Ulster A U-14 Final Photograph Gallery



ULSTER SUCCESS FOR TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES IN LORETO OMAGH



Track and Field Event: A Day of Talent and Excellence

Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, is celebrating outstanding success following this year's Ulster Schools' Track and Field Championships, with pupils delivering exceptional performances across a range of events.

Leading the way is Year 8 student Ceola McGlinchey, who enjoyed a remarkable Championship and firmly established herself as one of the most promising young athletes in Ulster. Ceola was crowned the Ulster Schools' Mini Girls Long Jump Champion, winning her first ever Ulster final with a superb jump of 4.48m.

She followed this victory with another outstanding performance in the High Jump, where she secured second place, clearing 1.46m -the same height as the winner, and only missing out on gold on countback. In recognition of her exceptional performances across the competition, Ceola was deservedly awarded Top Mini Girl in Ulster, a fantastic achievement for such a young athlete.

Loreto's success at Ulster was built on strong performances at the E District Championships, where the Year 8 team excelled and secured qualification as one of the top four teams progressing to the Ulster Year 8 Team Finals. Results at E-Districts included:

- Ceola McGlinchey – 1st place in both High Jump and Long Jump
- Cait Garry – 1st place in Shot Putt
- Caoimhe Mullan – 2nd place in 800m
- Gráinne O'Reilly – 3rd place in 800m
- Relay Team (Ceola McGlinchey, Caoimhe Mullan, Hannah McCullagh and Niamh Hans) – strong team performance



Sporting Profile

ATHLETICS

Track and Field Event: A Day of Talent and Excellence



At Intermediate level, Maebh Donnelly claimed 1st place in the 200m, while the relay team of Maebh Donnelly, Muireann Donnelly, Aoife Brown and Lucy Meenan secured 2nd place. Elsie O'Brien took 3rd in the 300m hurdles, Bethany Hackett achieved 2nd in the triple jump, and Orlaith Martin delivered an impressive 2nd place finish in the 3000m.

In the Junior category, Grace Garry excelled with 1st place in shot put alongside a 3rd place finish in the 80m hurdles.

At Minor level, Eimear McElholm claimed 1st place in the 100m, while Anna McAleer finished 2nd in the 800m and Marie McCoy secured 3rd in the same event. Hannah Donnelly added to the success with 3rd place in the 75m hurdles, and the relay team of Eimear McElholm, Emma Collins, Roashla McKenna and Ciara McCusker delivered an excellent performance to take 1st place. Speaking on behalf of the PE Department, Miss Barbour extended her congratulations to all athletes who competed this year:

"These performances are a fantastic showcase of the talent, commitment and determination within our school. We are extremely proud of every athlete who represented Loreto."

She also expressed thanks to Loreto's Athletics coach, Mr McGettigan, to the athletes' Club coaches for developing their skills and fostering their talent, and to all parents for their continued support throughout the season.

This year's achievements mark another proud chapter in Loreto Omagh's sporting success, with a very bright future ahead.

At the Ulster Year 8 Team Competition, the girls rose to the challenge in a highly competitive field, finishing an impressive second overall. Key performances on the day included:

- Caoimhe Mullan – 1st place in the 100m
- Ceola McGlinchey – 1st place in High Jump and 2nd in Long Jump

These results provided crucial points that secured Loreto's place on the podium and highlighted the strength and depth of talent within the team.

Loreto Omagh also celebrated success in the Senior competition, where Cora Scullion produced an excellent performance in the Senior Girls' 1500m, finishing 3rd overall and qualifying for the All-Ireland Championships. This marked Cora's final Ulster Schools' appearance for Loreto and another memorable moment in her athletics journey.

Unfortunately, due to injury, she was unable to compete at the All-Ireland event. The entire school community wishes her every success as she prepares to begin her athletics scholarship in America this August.

Loreto also had a large cohort of athletes who earned their place at the Ulster Championships through outstanding performances at the E District Championships, and while they did not reach the podium at provincial level, their achievements deserve significant recognition.



Loreto Interschool Public Speaking Competition

LORETO OMAGH HOSTS INSPIRING INTERSCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING SHOWCASE

Loreto Omagh hosted the annual Loreto Interschool Public Speaking competition. Students from Omagh, Letterkenny, and Coleraine competed. It was a pleasure to warmly welcome our fellow Loreto schools for a day that truly reflected the spirit and values of Mary Ward.

Students impressed with their confidence, clarity and depth of thought as they spoke eloquently on themes of joy, truth, freedom, sincerity and justice.

Year 8 winners: Amy (1st, Omagh), Fede (2nd, Letterkenny), Leila (3rd, Letterkenny). Year 9 & 10 winners: Emma (1st, Coleraine), Chloe (2nd, Omagh), Isabel (3rd, Letterkenny). Themes included joy, truth, freedom, sincerity, and justice. Well done to all participants and thank you to our Loreto colleagues for sharing such an inspiring day of learning, leadership and community together.



SPOTLIGHT: YEAR 8 CHAMPION



Year 8 first place: Amy from Loreto Omagh spoke on joy through acts of kindness. Second: Fede (Letterkenny). Third: Leila (Letterkenny) on truth in a digital world.

Amy performed this wonderful speech at our end of year Prize Giving Ceremony- Read the full transcript overleaf.

Inter Loreto Public Speaking-

LIVING THE LORETO VALUE- JOY

Amy Hutchinson – Winner of the Loreto Interschool Public Speaking Competition. Amy's winning speech explored one of the Loreto values, joy.

I ask you this: when you think of kindness and service, what comes to mind? Is it someone who smiles at you on the bus? The person who lets you go ahead of them in a queue? Someone fundraising for local charities or volunteering in their community? Or even a multi-billionaire trying to end world poverty? The truth is all of these are acts of kindness and service.

Kindness and service cannot be defined by one single act. Instead, they are a universal language, one of generosity, consideration, and compassion, given without expecting anything in return. And these acts can exist at every level: individual, community, national, and even global.

Let me give you an example. A little girl, like me, bakes cookies with her mum and gives one to a friend. This is a simple, individual act of kindness. She feels good because she has done something thoughtful, and her friend feels good receiving it... plus, she gets a pretty great cookie. Inspired by that feeling, and perhaps by a few compliments on how good her cookies are, the girl decides to aim even higher, raising money for hospices across her county by selling these cookies. Now her kindness has grown into something far greater.

“This example shows us two things. Firstly, that kindness and service exist on many levels. But more importantly, it reveals the ripple effect, how something small and simple can grow into something powerful, creating real, positive change for both individuals and communities.”



So, what difference can acts of kindness and service really make? Think back to the last time someone did something kind for you. How did it make you feel? Did you feel a warmth inside? A sense of happiness? Did you find yourself smiling without even realising it? Now think about the last time you did something kind for someone else. Chances are, you felt the same. I could explain the science behind why this happens, but I don't want to put you all to sleep! Instead, I think it's enough to say this: on an individual level, kindness feels genuinely uplifting, both to give and to receive.

At a community level, the impact of these lovely sensations goes even further. Kindness brings people together. It builds trust, strengthens relationships, and creates a real sense of belonging. And when people feel supported, connected, and valued, they feel safer, and happier too. And when we feel that way, we naturally want others to feel it as well. So, the ripple effect continues. I'd like to leave you with one final thought. Kindness and service are choices we can make every single day. No matter our circumstances, regardless of our personal circumstances. We always have the opportunity to make a difference. And in the words of Anne Frank: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

So why wait?



A fond farewell to Class of 2026

*Honouring community, friendship and the journey ahead
“It takes a village to raise a child.”*

This sentiment was beautifully reflected in a truly special Leavers’ Mass for our Year 14 students. It was a meaningful occasion filled with reflection, gratitude, and celebration, shared among the families, friends, teachers, and staff who have supported the girls throughout their journey.

As the Class of 2026 prepares to take their next steps, the Mass offered a moment to honour not only their individual achievements, but also the community that helped shape them into the young people they are today. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of support, care, and belonging.

Leavers’ Day itself was a joyful celebration of girlhood — a day filled with friendship, shared laughter, nervous anticipation, and growth. These moments captured the spirit of their time together and the bonds they have formed along the way.





Year 14 Leavers Class of 2026



Deputy Head Girl Emer captured this perfectly in her reflection, noting that there is no single definition of a “Loreto girl.” Instead, there are many — each with her own dreams, challenges, and unique story. What unites them is not sameness, but a shared sense of belonging and the unwavering support they have found in one another and within the wider school community. As the Class of 2026 steps forward into the next chapter of their lives, we wish them every success and happiness. May they always carry with them the strength and confidence nurtured during their time here, and may they never forget the words of Mother Frances Teresa Ball: “Now go, and set the world on fire.”



YEAR 14 LEGACY WALK

A Celebration of Community and Connection

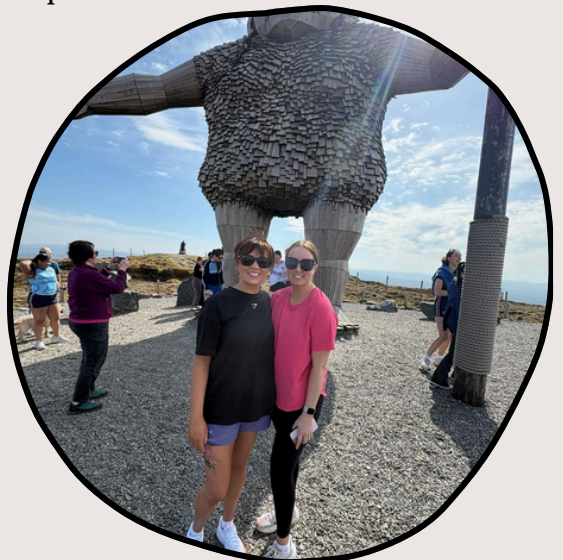


On a bright Saturday morning, families and friends gathered for the Loreto Legacy Community Walk, celebrating unity and shared memories. Organizers cheered as participants strolled through tree-lined paths, exchanging smiles and stories. Maighr  ad Donnelly remarked, “This walk reminds us that connection is the heart of our community.” The event truly embodied warmth and belonging.

On Saturday 25 April, the Loreto community gathered for the Loreto Legacy Community Walk, an event thoughtfully organised by our Year 14 pupils. As Year 14 approached the end of their school journey, they sought to mark this important milestone with a meaningful initiative that would celebrate their connection to Loreto while bringing together the wider school community. Year 14 invited past and present members of the Loreto family to come together in a spirit of unity and shared experience and the event provided a fitting opportunity for reflection, reconnection and celebration.

The Loreto Legacy Community Walk was a truly memorable occasion, and the Year 14 pupils are to be highly commended for their initiative and leadership in delivering such a successful event. It not only marked their final year in a meaningful and fitting way but also created lasting memories of their time at Loreto.

Participants set off from the picturesque Gortin Glens, following the scenic Mullaghcarn trail towards Darach the Giant. The day was blessed with exceptional weather, as bright sunshine and clear skies created an ideal setting for the walk. Current students, staff, past pupils, former colleagues, families and friends walked side by side, highlighting the strength and continuity of the school’s community across generations. The event provided a valuable opportunity for many to reconnect, share memories and strengthen long-standing relationships.



YEAR 14 LEGACY WALK

A Celebration of Community and Connection



“ Pupil Testimony- Maighread Donnelly Year 14

Completing the Mullaghcarn Trail with the girls in my year, our teachers, and our younger Loreto sisters was such an amazing and fulfilling experience. The beautiful warm weather made the day even more special, and I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk with girls I wouldn't usually get to spend time with due to different subjects or timetables.

As my time at Loreto comes to an end, it gave me a new appreciation for the girls in my year and their individual aspirations. It was also a much-needed break from the constant fast-paced nature of school life.

As the first group of Leavers of 2026 to take part in this walk, I feel incredibly grateful to have been involved in such a meaningful legacy project celebrating 170 years of Loreto. I hope it becomes a lasting tradition that future Loreto sisters will continue in the years to come—and that they enjoy it just as much as I did.

”



June 2026

Year 10 Supporting a Life-Saving Cause

A core aim of JPIC is to fundraise and this helps enable us to be agents of social change and to employ a great sense of service locally and globally.

In February, Damien from Air Ambulance NI highlighted what true service to others looks like through the steadfast work of Air Ambulance NI in our community and across the North. Year 10, on this day, following a powerful presentation, pledged to raise much needed funds through a sponsored walk, guided by the words that kindness is our best reward.

Our Year 10 students proudly presented Damian McAnespie from Air Ambulance NI with a cheque for an incredible £2,200 before setting off on their annual sponsored walk in support of this vital charity.

This achievement is a powerful testament to the values we hold dear at Loreto, sincerity, truth, justice, freedom, and joy and, above all, the kindness and generosity shown by our students. Their commitment to helping others truly reflects the spirit of our school community.

Pictured alongside our Year 10 students are our Principal, Mrs Cullinan, Mrs McNally, Head of Year 10, and Mrs McElroy, JPIC Coordinator.

We are incredibly proud of Year 10 and the compassion they continue to show in making a difference. 💙





LORETO PRE-OWNED UNIFORMS

CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Pass it on.

Wear it with
pride.

Help another
student thrive.

We are collecting pre-loved Loreto uniforms so that every student can feel confident, included and proud to be in Loreto.



WHAT CAN YOU DONATE?



BLAZERS



SKIRTS



SHIRTS /
BLOUSES



TIES



JUMPERS



PE KIT /
SPORTSWEAR



DROP OFF DETAILS



Loreto School Reception



Up to Wednesday 2nd July



8:30am – 5:00pm



Thank you

In Term 3, student council members joined a celebration with other Loreto schools to recognise the work they have carried out this year. They learned a lot from each other about the projects they carried out, their successes and the obstacles they encountered. This was a lovely opportunity to link with other schools in our Loreto community. The Loreto Education Trust acknowledged their commitment to developing our school community.



Thank you to our Student Council 2025-2026

