

Blackrock College Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Boarding School
- Pastoral Care Programme
- Commerce & Economics
- Guidance and Counselling
- Science Department

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Summer 2014

Dear Parents

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.
Abraham Lincoln

Blackrock is full of energy, full of life. As the 2013 – 2014 academic year comes to a close, we recognise that we have been truly blessed. Teaching and learning has happened all around us. It has happened formally and informally, sometimes in unexpected places, at unusual times, from a range of sources. Opportunities have been manifold. Each boy has been encouraged to have a go, to put life in his years, and to channel his emerging genius, his creativity, his compassion and determination not just for his own personal development and sense of fulfilment but in the service of others. This is the Blackrock way.

The emerging genius has been all around us during that short gallop from Easter to Summer; from Sports & Family Day to the Graduation Mass to Prize Day; from the Summer Concert to the Junior Musical 'Connemara'; from Masterchef to Greenwatch; to the Gold-Medal Debates; on the Camino and at the Retreats, in the Soccer Leagues, Paul Stanley and Karl Ashe Tournaments, Cricket, Athletics, Tennis, on court and table and, of course, in the classroom and in the Creative Arts And Digital Learning Centre. This is just a sample. There has been so much to excite and engage us, to energise, inspire and challenge us.

Is there some secret to this? What makes us the way we are? What drives us on? I believe that the key – it is no secret - is our faith which shapes our sense of community.

Our faith shapes our decisions, urges us to step away from the easy option, to trust in God. We live and struggle with our faith. We find frustration at times, but also comfort. It shapes our search for wisdom. A Blackrock education is first and foremost a spiritual journey, a journey of refinement which impels us to reach beyond ourselves, to give to others.

For others give us so much. So many have made a contribution, a difference. Brian and I are deeply indebted to the Spiritan Community, to our colleagues in Teaching, Administration, Household, Grounds, Maintenance And Catering, to the Parents' and Students' Councils and the Year Committees, to the College Union, Archives, Learning Centre and Development Office and, of course, to the Class of 2014 who have been phenomenal. We urge them to keep close to us; to keep closer still to each other.

Finally, I wish you well for the Summer. May the **Be Caring, Be There, Be Truthful** and **Be Faithful** of Blackrock be with you always.

Yours sincerely

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal

SAMHRADH
BUÍ Ó LUÍ
NA GRÉINE



Second Year



Our Second Year boys have concluded their academic year with a wonderful production of **Connemara** in collaboration with Transition Year boys and the girls from Loreto College Dalkey. We congratulate all the boys involved in cast and crew. The **House Competitions** concluded with the final contributory events being the Chess Competition, the Art Competition, the Debating Final, the Soccer Blitz and Sports Day. And so at the final Assembly of the year, the Inter-House Barry Shield 2014 was presented to De Valera House.

At **Prize-giving**, Art Lynch received the Student Leadership Award for Second Year, Mike Henderson was awarded the Bro Thaddeus Judge Medal for Religion and the Gold Medal for Second Year Debating was won by Oisín Ryan. Oisín also received a Special Award for the Gold Medal he achieved at Vocab Express International. Special Awards for sports were given to Jack Small, Cian Boland and Luke Brandon at the final Assembly of the year.

The Academic Excellence Awards for Second Year went to Neil Holohan, Colm Cooney and Art Lynch. Book prizes for individual subjects were awarded to Josh Warren, Luke O'Hara, Liam Turner, Stephen Ryan, Liam McMahon, Art Lynch, Conor

Williams, Cormac Madden, Thomas Clarkson, Karl Noble, Luke Demichel, Neil Holohan, Ryan O'Farrell, Colm Cooney and Matthew Curran. Also, six Second Year students who each demonstrated an excellent contribution to the life of the College received Honours List Awards: they were Niall Brady, Tom Fenton, David McCarthy, Hugh O'Leary, Barry O'Sullivan and Liam Turner. Mike Henderson was awarded the Second Year Honours List for the Halls of Residence.

After a vote amongst their peers and consultation with Staff, the following have been nominated as **House Captains** for Third Year: James Burke and Liam Turner, Hugh O'Leary and Ross Phelan, Art Lynch and Curtis Winkelmann, Niall Brady and Josh Slevin, Josh Dixon and David McCarthy, and Hugh Kelly and Liam McMahon. We thank the outgoing cohort of Captains for their service and wish the incoming group well in their new responsibilities.

So after a busy term of sports and study, of music and drama, with events as diverse as Sci-fest, Mornings of Reflection and the Summer Concert, the Second Year boys can enjoy a well-earned summer break, preparing themselves for Third Year and the Junior Certificate.



Third Year

On the sports front this term we had Shanahan edging out McQuaid at Sports Day and in the Soccer League Duff defeating Ebenrecht in a very competitive A final, Shanahan having accounted for Ebenrecht in an absorbing encounter that went to a penalty shoot out in the B final. The Junior Tennis team lost out to Gonzaga in the Division I final and in Table Tennis the Leinster Junior Cup was added to League and All Ireland successes of last term. There was good Third Year participation in the Willow Wheelers 100 Mile Cycle for the Missions, while the Rowing team kept up their training and in Cricket good performances in the Cup were an encouraging sign for the group as they move up the school. Third Years also contributed to the marvellous summer concert and there was a very high standard in the Gold Medal Debate on the Motion "This house believes that smoking should be banned in all public places"

Following the very positive feedback from boys who went on the post Junior Certificate results trip to the XTREME.IE Adventure Centre, which the College Management and Parents Association are keen to build on, we have decided to extend the deadline to Wednesday September 3rd. At this stage we have the same number as last year, so we would ask that any additional boys wishing to attend would leave an envelope at **Reception** on their return following the holidays with their name and payment of €35 for the attention of Mr Sean Dunne. The Parents' Association will cover the cost of the transport and the departure time of 1.55PM should leave

sufficient time, going by last year's experience, to get lunch locally following receipt of the results at 12.00 noon. Expected time of return 6.45 PM. Congratulations to the boys who were recipients of awards at Prize Day and indeed to the great many other boys who also put in tremendous effort during the course of the year,

Subject Prizes :

Alan Francis, Cian Reilly, Mark Heavey, Harry Doherty, Peter Horan, Oisín McEnroe, James Kelly, Carl Delaney, Dylan McCarthy, Kevin O'Donnell, Mark O'Connor, Patrick Patterson, Joseph O'Donnell, Pierre Elzair and Riccardo Mei.

Academic Excellence : Joseph O'Donnell, Oisín McEnroe and Mark Heavey.

Honours List : Chris Aylward, Bill Madigan, James McEvoy, Peter O'Reilly, Patrick Patterson and Robert Young. **Hall of Residence:** Kenneth Lyons.

Student Leadership Award: Robert Somers. Debating Gold Medal : Mark Heavey.

Religious Education: Andrew Murphy,

Special Awards for music and 1st Place All Ireland Chinese Proficiency Competition: Oisín McEnroe,

**Junior Certificate Results are due out on Wednesday
September 10th @ 12.00 Noon**



Transition Year

TRIP TO CHINA

The annual trip to China (21st -28th April) was a great success. 16 students, accompanied by Mr Garry Sullivan, Mr Frank Hurl and Ms Christina Nulty travelled to Beijing. The group visited the prestigious Beijing Number 4 School where they attended classes in paper cutting and martial arts. They also visited many cultural and historical sites including Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Olympic village and the Temple of Heaven. They also went to a Chinese acrobatic show and practised their haggling skills in the great Silk Market. Needless to say, they also went shopping!

PILGRIMAGE - CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Nineteen students participated in the Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage this year. The weather was generally kind and helped to make walking conditions over the challenging 130 kilometre route quite enjoyable. Everybody found the experience very worthwhile and were very proud of their well-stamped Camino passports at the end of their spiritual journey. A special thank you to Mr Owen Brennan, Mr Conor McMahon, Mr Patrick O'Neill and Father Marc Whelan for accompanying the boys on their pilgrimage. A special word of thanks to Mr Myles Ryan who organises and plans the pilgrimage every year.

CONNEMARA

Our fourth collaboration with the second and fourth year students in Loreto Dalkey, Connemara, resulted in a most entertaining drama production. Set in the west of Ireland and loosely modelled on the musical *Oklahoma*, this imaginative, hilarious, energetic and highly enjoyable show was staged in the Jubilee Hall 12th -14th May.

Credit must be given to the marvellous cast and crew whose hard work resulted in a show which lifted everybody's spirits. The set design was stunning and the crew, under the guidance of Mr Shane Fallon, produced a really impressive body of work. Well done to all involved. Many thanks to Mr Savage and Ms Una O'Kane for their dedication, hard work

and encouragement of all the students involved in the show.



P. O'Callaghan, H. Kearns, L. Demichel, M. Nugent, S. Ryan & S. Rooney in "Connemara"

M.A.D. WEEK

A very enjoyable and productive Music, Art and Drama week (May 6th – 9th) saw very high rates of participation from the students who availed of the opportunity to learn new skills. Several very diverse workshops were offered. These included workshops in DJ skills, samba drumming, song writing, magic and sound engineering. The feedback from the students was excellent. One of the highlights of the week was the Summer Concert which showcased, once again, the unbelievable musical talent of so many of our students. Many thanks to the inimitable Ms O'Kane for organising such a truly memorable week!



Transition Year

MASTER CHEF COMPETITION

This competition is one of the highlights of the final term and has excited a lot of interest amongst the student body with a record number of eighty four students competing in four semi-finals. The ten finalists: Ben Cassidy, Hugh Caslin, Daniel Evans, Jack Kealy, Ben Layden, Matthew Long, Joe McAleese, Kevin Murphy, Rory Murphy and Rory O'Brien cooked up a storm in the Final which took place on 27th May. The competition was judged by chef Betty Smith and chef and food writer Clodagh McKenna. They were hugely impressed by the exceptionally high standard of the competition. Ben Layden was a deserving winner and the memory of his divine lemon syllabub will linger for a long time to come. Congratulations to all the finalists. Many thanks to Ms Marren for the wonderful work she does in encouraging the boys and organising and running the competition. Thanks are also due to Mr Niall Toolan who was one of the judges throughout the competition and an enthusiastic supporter of this major Transition Year project.



Elan Richardson, TY, in Stanley Cup Final

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD/GAISCÉ

To date, sixty four students have gained their bronze *President's Award* this term. Similar to the *Duke of Edinburgh Award* scheme, The *President's Award* requires the students to undertake a number of tasks in order to qualify. These include doing community work, learning a skill and undertaking an adventure activity.

The community work organised by our students ranged from helping the elderly to working with children with learning difficulties and special needs. Many of the students did a twenty eight kilometre hike in Wexford, in conjunction with their retreat, as their *adventure* component. Congratulations to all involved. I hope some of the boys will go on to gain their silver awards next year!

FAITH FRIENDS

On Thursday 15th May, Transition Year students who were involved in the *Spiritan Faith Friends* Programme attended a very special celebration in Kimmage Manor. There, they met up with students from St Mary's and St Michael's who had also been involved in the programme this year. The students received Certificates of Achievement for their participation and involvement in the *Spiritan Faith Friends* Programme. This programme required the boys to undergo training so that, over a number of weeks, they could help prepare the 6th class Willow Park pupils for Confirmation. Three students – Steven Kilgallen, Patrick Kavanagh and Ben Layden – were presented with Gold Medals in recognition of their particular engagement with the *Faith Friends* initiative. Sincere thanks to Ms Orla Walsh, Mr Terry O'Reilly and Mr Myles Ryan for their facilitation and implementation of this very worthwhile programme.

THE SOUP RUN

Ms Mary Mc Mahon has continued to do the weekly soup run on Thursday and Friday evenings with volunteers from Transition Year. This very important project has given the students a valuable insight into the lives of the homeless community. I would like to thank Ms McMahon for her dedicated commitment to organising and running this project.

LECTURE SERIES

On 16th May, Pat Henry gave a wonderful lecture to the boys about exercise, nutrition and the importance of avoiding harmful supplements. This is the seventh successive year Pat has spoken to our Transition Year students and, as always, he met with a very warm reception.

On 26th May, Graham Jones from *The Solas Project* spoke to the boys about the work the organisation does with juvenile offenders and within the prison system. Several students have been involved in a prison rugby project during the year run by the *Solas Project* and have found the experience very worthwhile.

GOAL/AIDLINK ST PATRICK'S DAY BADGE CAMPAIGN

On the final day of term, Transition Year students are due to present a cheque for €45,000.00 to Mr Barry Andrews from GOAL and Ms Anne Cleary CEO of AIDLINK. This money was raised due to the students' hard work during the recent St Patrick's Day badge campaign. Both charities will, no doubt, be delighted to receive such a large donation in these difficult recessionary times.

ENGINEERING WEEK

A week-long programme for Transition Year students, run by the Engineering Department in U.C.D. from 12th – 16th May, was attended by two of our students. A third student attended a similar Engineering programme run by D.I.T. All of them found the programme most worthwhile and enjoyable.

GREENWATCH

Under the guidance of their teacher Mr James Campbell, 41 Geography class has just published the latest edition of *Greenwatch*. This is the twentieth edition of this very important College environmental magazine. Edited by Ben Layden and Ben Nolke, the magazine contains a wide range of very interesting and well researched articles. The

editorial team secured quite a coup when An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, launched the magazine in Government Buildings on 14th May. All of the students involved in the production, distribution and success of this year's *Greenwatch* have shown phenomenal enthusiasm and drive and hope to raise a significant amount of money for charity as a result of their efforts. Well done to all involved. The magazine retails at €5.00.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Special congratulations to our successful Colts team, captained by Jack Gardiner, who won the East Coast League in April.
- Congratulations to Neil Stokes who won the recent DLR Showcase competition. Neil's *Dragons' Den* business idea really impressed the judges.
- Our wonderful athletes excelled in the recent Leinster Schools' championships. The Intermediate 4 x 100 Metre Relay team consisted of one Third Year student (Patrick Patterson) and **three** Transition Year students Tommy O'Brien, Matthew O'Callaghan and Brian Masterson. The team won the Gold Medal and set a new Leinster record of 44.25 in the process! The previous record had stood for twenty one years!
- Special congratulations to the ever modest Brian Masterson whose stunning success in the 400 Metre event saw him not only win a Gold Medal but also set new Leinster record of 49.49 seconds!
- Tommy O'Brien's win in the Inter-100 Metre Hurdles was another great success story.

DAY OF REFLECTION

The Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght was the venue for the final Transition Year outing of the year. On the 22nd May a group of 65 students spent a very worthwhile day under the direction of the Retreat House team. The opportunity to reflect on life and to meditate was warmly welcomed by the boys who reported back very positively on the experience.

PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENTS

A busy final term has seen the students of Transition Year maintain the high standards set in the first two terms for enthusiastic participation in a whole range of activities. Congratulations to all those who successfully completed their **Portfolio Assessment Interviews**. I am always impressed by the initiative and creativity that go into the students' preparation for these interviews; the culmination of a very diverse and worthwhile year. The students' end of year certificates will be posted early in the summer.

FATHER FULLAN GOLF COMPETITION

48 students participated in the Fr Fullan Golf Competition which took place in Roundwood on 22nd May. Organised by Mr Toirleac O'Brien, the event was a great success, despite very cold weather conditions. Colman Kinane was the winner of the Fr Fullan Trophy with Steven Kilgallen coming second and Alan Horgan in third place in the competition. Thank you to Mr Owen Brennan for his help in the running of this very popular golfing event in the Transition Year calendar.

EVALUATION SHEETS – A GENTLE REMINDER!

I would like to thank parents who have already returned their evaluation sheets. If you have not done so already, it is not too late!

MR MYLES RYAN

Before concluding, I would like to wish Mr Myles Ryan the very best of luck in his retirement. His unflagging enthusiasm and generosity of spirit have resulted in him creating a superb Transition Year Pastoral Programme. Under his guidance, the students have been enriched beyond measure by their pastoral placements; encouraged to develop spiritually by their retreats and day of reflection and spiritually enriched by their *Camino* pilgrimage. In his initial address to both the parents and boys at the beginning of the year, Mr Ryan always places a lot of emphasis on the concept of "*Education of the Heart*". In the nine years that I have worked with him in Transition Year, I have witnessed that Education of the Heart in action and have seen how the boys blossom under its influence. Thank you Myles for all you have done for the Transition Year students over the years. Thank you also for having done it so very, very well!

AND FINALLY

I would like to thank Owen Brennan, Garry Sullivan and Myles Ryan for helping me to run a very busy Transition Year programme this year. Their support has been invaluable.

I would also like to thank my Parents' Committee, under the chairmanship of the inimitable Mr Colm Gaffney, for its hard work, enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Transition Year class of 2013-2014 for being such a great group of young men. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with them and I wish them the very best of luck in the Senior Cycle.

Enjoy the summer holidays!



Fifth Year



This term proved to be a very busy one in 5th year, with a number of events and activities taking place since Easter. Seamus Duff, Cathal Kinirons, Jeff Kirwan, Andrew McLaughlin, Roghan McMahon and David Walsh have been selected to travel with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next September. We wish them well.

The 5th Year rowers have made a big impact since the departure of the current 6th Years by setting a high standard for the younger years below. Jack Brennan has been brought up to the UCD Novice Men's '8' crew and will be travelling with them to Eton Dorney, the London 2012 Olympic course, this June. Most recently, Hugh Mohan (Stroke) and Doug Clinch (Bow) showed great determination, coming 3rd at the National Schools Regatta in the Men's U23 Doubles X in Limerick. On 17th May, Hugh and Doug qualified for the 'A Final' at Metro Regatta in the J18 Men's Doubles X. After a strong battle with Commercial, the boys came from one length behind at the 1000m mark to trump their opponents by a half-length. The boys finished 2nd overall, in spite of the poor conditions on the water. Rory McCluskey & Doug Clinch also performed very well to qualify for the Men's J18 Single Sculls 'C Final'.

The 5th year House Football League ran successfully this year, with Ebenrecht and Leman qualifying from Group 1, and DeValera and Shanahan qualifying from Group 2. In the first semi-final, Shanahan edged out Leman in a thrilling penalty shoot-out after drawing 2-2 in normal time. Shanahan will play Ebenrecht in the final after yet another stellar performance by Ebenrecht in their semi-final. Andrew Kilmartin displayed his talents and scored a hat trick in his semi-final! The Millennium Cup, which started before Easter, continued during the summer term. The team, managed by Evan O'Brien and led by Sean O'Dowd, ended up as eventual winners, beating St. Michaels in a closely fought final. Congratulations to all 5th years who represented the school during this event.

The Karl Ashe Memorial Cup was fiercely contested again this year, with a 5th year Dayboys team and a 5th year Boarders team representing the year. The 5th year Dayboys were narrowly beaten by the 6th year Dayboys in the first semi-final, and the 5th year Boarders fell short against their 6th year counterparts in the second semi-final.



Karl Ashe Gaelic Final 2014

Congratulations to the House Boarders team, who won this year's Stanley Cup, beating the 6th year Dayboys in the final.

In athletics there was a great turnout from 5th years at the East Leinsters on the 29th and 30th of April. Of the many 5th years who took part, four qualified for the Leinsters. Aengus Meldon got through in the 400m and 800m and elected to compete in the 400m and finished 3rd in a time of 50.3 seconds. Roghan McMahon and Cian Crotty both qualified for the All Irelands, Roghan finishing 2nd in the discus throwing 39 metres, while Cian was 3rd in the javelin after throwing 43 metres. Andrew Dunne also qualified for the All Irelands as he was a member of the senior 4x100m relay squad who finished 2nd. Good luck to all athletes competing in the all Irelands which take place in Tullamore on 31st May.

The Tennis Senior 1sts and 2nds were well represented by 5th Years this year. The Senior 1sts fought bravely in their group, beating Gonzaga and Belvedere College. However, they could not overcome a strong St Fintan's team and lost 3-2 with the final match going to an intense tie-break. Daniel Tierney, Conor Mullen, Robert Doyle, Daniel Doyle, Ivan O'Keefe, and Antoine Murphy all represented the school and were involved in some excellent displays.

There was a strong 5th year presence at this year's Junior Musical - Connemara, with band members Ronan Holohan, Ross Finnegan and Kevin McDonnell. Together, the band provided a polished and professional musical soundtrack to the performing 4th and 2nd years. Well done to all involved!

Many other 5th years from the College Choir and Orchestra performed in the Summer Concert which took place in the College Jubilee Hall on Thursday May 8th. Soloists Austin Dodd and Greg Crowley gave virtuoso performances on the night.

Sports and Family day saw great representation from 5th years. Congratulations to all Houses, especially to the DeValera and Duff Houses, coming first overall in 5th year with great performances at Sports Day.

Table Tennis has had another fantastic season in Blackrock College. The Leinster School's League finished with the Blackrock Senior A's and the Senior B's in first and second place, respectively. The two teams decided to share the title between them. The Senior Team, captained by Andrew Campbell, also defeated Presentation College Cork, and Ballyclare High School, Antrim, to maintain a fourth successive All-Ireland senior title. Following last years All Ireland success, a number of 5th years including Andrew Campbell, Geoffrey O' Connor and Sam Hardiman travelled to France to represent Blackrock College and Ireland in the World Schools Table Tennis Championships, where they secured a top ten finish. To wrap up a wonderful season, the Leinster Cup final finished with an all-Blackrock final, in which the A's narrowly defeated the B's.

The Water polo Team had a very encouraging term with victory in the O'Brien Cup at the new pool in St. Joseph's School Cabra. They brought two teams to the competition with the Blackrock A team the eventual winners despite having a handicap against them in every match. The team consisted of many 5th years including Andrew Ryan, Ben Lawlor, Matthew Sheedy, Stephen O'Hurley and Seamus Duff. However the Blackrock B team were in a very tough group that included Marian College and the Blackrock A team. They were unlucky not to win in the match against the A team with two late goals being the decider. 5th years on the B team include Matthew Farrell, Cathal Kinirons, Kealan O'Sullivan and Harry Lloyd.

This year's senior cricket league has drawn to an end with exceptional results from Blackrock. A great effort was put through by fifth years Amir Anwar, Conor Mullen and Harry Lloyd as the team reached the semi-finals but lost a grippingly close match against St. Andrew's.

The 5th Year Gold Medal Debate was held on 13th May. Joshua Kieran-Glennon won the award and Tomas Beecham, Michael Golden, James Quinn, Joshua Gorman Climax and Richard Grainger participated in the debate.

The Model United Nations group under the guidance of Mr. Smyth had great success at the St. Andrew's MUN conference in Dun Laoghaire over the Easter break. 5th Year delegates include Scott Kinsella, Tom May, Michael Golden, Joshua Gorman Climax, Joshua Kieran-Glennon, Ronan Hearne, Ronan Turner, Amir Anwar, Ivan O'Keefe, James Quinn and Richard Grainger. Numerous "Distinguished Delegate" awards and the overall "Outstanding Delegation" award were won on the day. The group are now looking forward to a trip to London next year.

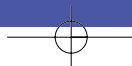
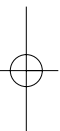
5th year students James Brandon, Jack Nagle, Colm Keogh, Harry Byrne, Hugh Mohan, Rory McCluskey, Matthew Sheedy, Tom McNamara, Seamus Duff, Rory Bourke and Ronan Doherty took part in the Willow Wheelers 100 mile cycle on Sunday 4th May. This annual fundraiser raises vital funds for Willow Wheeler's water, health and education projects around the world. This was the 25th year of the cycle which has raised substantial funds for Spiritan projects in South America, South-East Asia and Africa.

Sincere thanks to the Parents Committee for their hard work this year, from organising fundraising to catering for the 6th year graduation Mass, and so much more in between! A special thanks to over fifty 5th year parents who assisted the Parents Committee in making the graduation day reception a truly memorable occasion.

A huge thank you to the 5th year House Representatives: Fiachra Bourke, Roghan McMahon, Donncha Crowley, Richard Heapes, Louis Hoffman, Jeff Kirwan, Ronan Holohan, Ben Reynolds, Conor McCormack, Ryan C. Murphy, Hugo Kean and Jake Warde for their ongoing contribution to the year. The hard work of the House Captains led to the huge support amongst the year group for the many activities of the final term. Their leadership and motivation throughout the academic year helped greatly with the smooth running of 5th year.

It is only fair to thank all the teachers/staff and coaches in Blackrock who have given so generously of their time to make all of these events happen.

Last but not least, to all the 5th years, I must acknowledge and commend your efforts, inside and outside the classroom. The wealth of talent and enthusiasm shown in so many areas is outstanding. I wish each one all the very best for the summer and I thank you sincerely for the talents you have shared with Blackrock College.



Sixth Year Cont'd



The final term has been a busy and exciting one for the students of the Class of 2014. The journey through the halls of Blackrock College is coming to a conclusion and what a journey it has been!



Conn McCarrick makes a surprise presentation to Mr Myles Ryan at the end of the 6th Yr Graduation Mass

On Tuesday 6th May, there was a very good attendance at the final Parents' Conference for the Class of 2014. The evening discussed arrangements for the end of the academic year and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations. Ms. Mc Mahon, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all present in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

The range and depth of musical talent within the Class of 2014 was witnessed for a final time by the College community in the Summer Concert on Thursday 8th May. Individual performers included Ross O'Leary, Kevin Heavey, David Roper-Nolan, Geoffrey Wheeler and Kieran Brennan. Many thanks also to the 6th Year members of the Choir and to Jonathon Ng for his leadership of the orchestra both on the night and throughout the year.

On Sunday May 11th, there was an excellent turnout of 6th Year students and parents for the annual Sports and Family Day. Thankfully after a wet opening, the weather improved and keen competition between the six houses was enjoyed by all. Nick Timoney received the Sports Personality of the Year Award and victory in the House event went to Leman House captained by Gavin Kilgallen and Geoff Moylan. In the other major House event this term, Ebenrecht House captained by Jack Dwan and Joseph Horan won the 6th Year Soccer League, defeating DeValera 1-0 in the final.

After two qualifying events, the Gold Medal Debate on Tuesday May 13th was a humorous and lively affair and the motion that 'This House believes that the Education System inadequately prepares us for the Future' was keenly contested by all eight speakers. The judges were most complimentary of the extremely high quality of the debate before declaring Kevin Heavey the winner and the Valedictorian for the Class of 2014. Many thanks to Mr. Sheil for his organisation of this important 6th Year event.



Ross O'Leary (6th Yr) at the Summer Concert

The Graduation Mass for the Class of 2014 was celebrated on May 18th, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain was the main celebrant and in his homily he assured all the boys present that they would always be welcome in Blackrock. It was a moving and emotional occasion for all. Celebrations in the Quadrangle followed and many thanks to the 5th Year Parent's Committee for the reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall. It was much appreciated by all. Later, a magnificent Graduation Lunch organised by the 6th Year Parent's Committee was held in the Pavilion in Leopardstown. It was a most enjoyable evening and a fitting way to end both a memorable day and a memorable year. Congratulations to all.

In the penultimate week of term, the Paul Stanley soccer final on Monday May 19th saw the House Boarders defeat the Castle Dayboys on penalties after the game had ended 1-1. On the following Wednesday, the Castle Dayboys also suffered defeat at the hands of the Boarders in the Karl Ashe Gaelic Final on a score line of 5-8 to 3-5. Mr MacGinty presented the trophy and medals at Karl's bench in front of the Castle. Many thanks to Conor Murray and Dane Fitzpatrick for organising their squads and to Mr. Fawsitt for refereeing the final.



Dan Thomas illustration for Graduation Day

Over the Easter break, Jack Power was a member of the Irish U18 Rugby squad that finished runner-up in the FIRA European Championships held in Poland, James O'Sullivan and Eoin Gleeson competed in the All-Ireland School Rowing Championships in Limerick and Frank Vaughan, Paul & Ryan O'Dea and Harry Lawlor travelled to Harrow as members of the first Blackrock Swim Squad to compete overseas. Other achievements of note by Sixth Year students in this final term included, Sean Kearns' reception of The Herald's 'Schools' Sports Star of the Week Award, Harry Lawlor's captaincy of the Senior Water Polo team to victory in the O'Brien Cup, and the silver medal success of the Senior Relay Team involving Fred Kenny, Dan O'Mahony and Nick Timoney at the Leinster Athletic Championships in Santry. We wish them all the best for the All-Irelands in Tullamore in June.

The annual Prize Day was held on Saturday May 24th. Congratulations to all sixth year prize-winners and their families but we mention in particular, Conn McCarrick, winner of the General Excellence Award, Daire Brady who was the top Academic based on in house examinations and Dillon Coghlan, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2014.



Finally, a particular thank you to John Sheehan (Chair), Orla O'Connor (Secretary) and all the 6th Year Parent's Committee who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of 2014, to bring events such as the Graduation lunch, the DVD, the Immersion Project in Kenya, the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle and the Judge Catherine Murphy lecture to fruition this year. Many thanks also for the gift of an inscribed plaque with the names of all the final year students to the College, hopefully this will bring back many happy memories when the young men of the Class of 2014 return to the College.

The 6th Year students are now preparing for the final lap on their journey towards the Leaving Certificate. As a group they have made a most significant contribution to the college and have always displayed enthusiasm, good humour, commitment and a caring disposition. They have upheld the traditions of the College in style and have left their own imprint on the history of Blackrock. We wish them every happiness and fulfilment in their future lives as we say 'Farewell and Bon Voyage'.



General Excellence Award recipient Conn McCarrick with parents John and Ciara, Mr Alan MacGinty, Mr Greg Moore PPU and Mr Herlihy

Boarding School



As the year draws to a close for most boys in the boarding school (exam students aside), the final term has seen lots of activity in the boarding school. Since Easter, a large number of boarders were involved in the annual summer concert in the Jubilee Hall. A nervous and anxious Boarders Choir pulled it together to perform very well indeed. A number of students were involved in the school choir also and the orchestra.



David Stanley presents the trophy to Andrew Kilmartin, capt. Castle Boarders

On the sports front, boarders were actively involved in the house competitions over the last term, with some bringing home several medals. Well done to all involved. The culmination of the soccer season was the Paul Stanley Trophy when the House Boarders played the Castle Dayboys in a great final game and the Castle Boarders came out victors for the first time since

2006 after a penalty shootout. Well done to all the House Boarders involved.

The Boarding School achieved a unique double when they won the Karl Ashe Trophy for the first time. Well done to all involved in achieving this 'Double' for the first time. The athletics season kicked off in earnest and a number of boys were involved in the East Leinsters and Leinsters.

Sports and Family day was a great success, and once again the boarders' involvement was very high.

Public speaking exams took place and the feedback from the examiner and Mrs. Kate Canning was that the boys were all fantastic. Well done to the boys and we look

forward to seeing the results nearer the end of the summer holidays.

The exam year students are now studying very hard for their exams and all in the Castle wish them the best with their upcoming exams and we look forward to reading their results on their release.

It was great to see so many boarders involved in the recent Prize Day celebrations, whilst everyone in the boarding school did not get a prize and some may be disappointed, we would hope that this will help to spur them on to greater things and that their day will come. Well done to all the prize winners.

The Graduation Mass and lunch was a truly wonderful occasion and to have a full turnout of boarders and their parents is testament to the importance of the occasion. Thank you to Mrs McKenna who organised all the boarders' tables at the lunch.

The activities over the past term were varied, Quasar and Bowling, Paint Balling and Go Karting to name a few. Thank you to all who helped organise and supervise these outings.

The last event in the Boarding School Calendar was the annual BBQ and this year we will had over 100 in attendance on the 29th May. It was a wonderful event and everyone enjoyed a night of good chat and wonderful food.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Associate Director, Mr O'Brien, all the housemasters especially Mr. Conor McMahon, Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Mr. Dylan Fawsitt and Mr. Colton Cariaga, who are leaving us after dedicated and committed service to the boarding school; our household staff led by Ms Katherine Cummins; the Maintenance Staff led by Fintan O'Connor; the Medical Team led by the Mrs. Andrea Fitzgerald; our catering team led by Mrs Catherine Scott and Mr. Albert Beattie; our security team led by Mr. Wayne Ryan and all the Management and teachers in Blackrock College.

I would especially like to thank our Spiritan Community who celebrate their Eucharist with us week on week and are available to provide guidance and support to students, staff and parents when called upon.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to your return on the 25th August 2014.



Pastoral Care Programme

The 6 volunteers selected for participation in the September Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes met up with the student volunteers from the other Dublin schools on Tuesday 29th April. They got together in Belvedere College and a detailed presentation gave a good insight into the kind of work they would be doing and what would be expected of them. Some difficulties in the new online registration process were ironed out. Fr. Paul Thornton, chaplain to the Pilgrimage, was one of those who addressed the meeting and later in the term he visited the school. His role is to co-ordinate the prayer evenings and to be available in a supportive role to students and teachers. Before the boys fly out on 7th September a further evening has been arranged for Tuesday 2nd September when there will be a Mass and special blessing of hands. The boys will also have opportunity then to meet with their Duty Leader.

Our TY pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela flew out to Spain on Saturday 3rd of May. One week later they returned and it was heartening to hear their words of appreciation. We are indebted to Fr. Marc Whelan, Provincial and past student, who has acted as Chaplain to our Camino Boys since the pilgrimage was added to the TY programme. Three teachers walked with the group. Without their enthusiastic participation this initiative would not be possible. We were sorry to hear of the death of the grandfather of Stephen Barry during the pilgrimage. The group prayed for the Barry family as Stephen left the Camino early to return home for the funeral. Stephen was very much in the minds of the party as they completed 'The Way'. During the pilgrimage many pilgrims commented on the boys most favourably. One lady took the trouble to write to Mr. MacGinty: "Whilst on the Camino last week, I met a group of Transition Year Students, Teachers and Chaplain from your College. I want to let you know that they made me proud to be Irish. We were lucky several mornings to see them pray and sing before they started their walk. My brother-in-law travelled from San Francisco to walk with me and he too was incredibly impressed by this group of young Irish men. Well done to them all"

Second Year Retreats this Year took place on Wednesday 30th April and Wed. 14th May. The Retreats were led by NET Ministries who sent a team of ten facilitators and

four leaders from 'Authentic Youth'. Both of these groups have worked with our 6th Year boys in the past. The 2nd Year programmes included educational games, personal testimony, prayer, group work and discussion around discipleship.

Fourth Years completed their Days of Reflection this term in the Dominican Retreat House in Tallaght. Here too a very gifted group of facilitators offer an opportunity to the boys that each year brings very positive comment from the lads. Likewise this team express their appreciation of the good manners and open participation of the students.

So many people are involved in Graduation Day that it can be truly described as a Blackrock College event. Every agency of the College plays some part; Fathers and Brothers, parents association, boys, staff of every department, linen room, catering, grounds, housekeeping, secretarial, academic and administration. On this occasion the spirit of the College was evident on an impressive scale. Particular congratulations must be extended to 6th Year parents and especially the members of their committees who put in long and dedicated hours considering and giving effect to the detail which ensures the wonderful celebration that is Graduation Day. Many thanks also to the 5th Year parents who supplied the very tasty and much appreciated reception in the College Dining Rooms. The boys' participation in the Mass in the Jubilee Hall was exceptional and ensured a reverent, joyful, genuinely Eucharistic moment. Music, readings, processions and all ministries drew us in and beautifully celebrated all that this special year have contributed to and benefitted from their years in Blackrock. A Liturgist once told me that every liturgy should include a surprise and the boys even managed this as the Mass drew to a close! Our prayers go with them as they head into their Leaving Certificate. Long may they remember and carry with them the spirit of solidarity and service encouraged by Father Cormac Ó Brolcháin in his inspiring and challenging homily.



Guidance and Counselling

All Leaving Cert students have now submitted a CAO application. A number of 6th years have also attended interviews and auditions, sat suitability tests and submitted portfolios for relevant courses like architecture, art and design, music and drama. As well as this some students have applied for scholarships in a range of different third level institutions. CAO will also allow students to use the Change of Mind facility from May 5th until July 1st 2014 at 5.15pm. With this facility students can change their course order as well as add in new courses to their course lists. However, students cannot add in restricted courses at the Change of Mind stage. It is also important to make sure that those students who have exemptions in Irish and/or a Third Language have all the necessary forms completed and submitted to the relevant Higher Education Institutes. The message to all CAO applicants, even in these challenging economic times is still to apply for third level courses which are of interest to them and consequently they will be motivated to engage with these courses and find satisfaction and success.

A significant number of 6th year students have also made DARE applications this year and will be notified of the outcome of these applications after the Leaving Certificate in June. As well as this 6th year medicine applicants who sat the HPAT test on March 1st will receive their results in late June. A number of Leaving Certificate students have firmly accepted offers through the UCAS system in Great Britain. Others await final offers through UCAS.

Open days continue for Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses and a number of students have submitted applications for these courses. There are an ever increasing number of PLC courses, Level 5 and Level 6 FETAC on offer at present. Exciting opportunities are available to students when they do a Level 5/Level 6 FETAC course, which allows them the freedom to progress to

Level 7 and Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework. This progression can take place from one college to another or to a university. If a student receives a level 5/6 FETAC award he can use the result in place of his Leaving cert results. It is very important for all students to understand this progression pathway and its implications. Further information is available from the career counsellors in the college.

At this stage in the year 6th year students have completed field studies in Geography, research documents in History and Religion, notebooks in Home Economics as well as practical exams in Art, Music, Construction Studies and Design and Communication Graphics. These students find it comforting that they have already completed work worth 20-40% of the Leaving Certificate examination in particular subjects.

Many 6th year students have also signed up to avail of UCD library which will be open to Leaving Cert students from Monday, May 19th to Friday, June 20th. Students can use the James Joyce Library for quiet study and to consult resources. Furthermore, UCD library are also offering an added option of 3 hours supervised maths study in conjunction with the UCD Maths Support Centre. For further information and to book a place please see http://www.ucd.ie/library/using_the_library/admission/leavingcert/

Students in all year groups are now preparing for the final summer exams and counsellors have been assisting them throughout the year developing their organisational skills as well as helping them to devise realistic study plans. Counsellors in all year groups will continue to monitor the academic attainment and extra-curricular involvement of all students in the college.

Commerce & Economics Society



On Monday 15th May the Commerce and Economics Society welcomed Jim Power, Chief Economist of Friends First Group to Blackrock. Mr. Power gave a presentation to the senior Economics and Business students on the current state of the Irish economy. Key facts, figures and trends were discussed and as with every presentation, there was a lively question and answer session afterwards. This beneficial presentation ended a busy year of informative talks for the Commerce and Economics Society of 2014 and we would like to thank all our speakers for sharing their experiences with us.



Ryan O'Dea (6th Year) with Mr. Jim Power

Science Department



SciFest@College Competition

This year's SciFest regional competition was held in the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown on Wednesday 7 May.

Physical Sciences

Conor Halpin and John Warren: "To Investigate whether operating a phone affects our reaction times"

Tony Smurfit, Philip Maguire and Sean McCann: "To determine if whitening toothpaste actually works on stains"

Hugh Kelly and Harvey Gallagher: "To investigate drag and centres of gravity"

Life Sciences

Eoin O'Meara: "Does Solving a Rubics Cube increase your brain power?"

Eoin Fuller: "To investigate how physical endurance is affected by distraction"

Unfortunately none of our entrants won a prize, but we would encourage them to develop their projects for future competitions.

Physics Trip to Baldonnel Airport

A group of twenty TY & 5th Year Physics students went on a tour to the Irish Air Corps Flying Training School, Air Corps College, at Baldonnel airport. Lieutenant Odhrán Murphy captivated the students with an excellent

presentation on the 'Physics of Flight'. This was followed with a guided tour of the jet and helicopter hangars where the students got a close up view of some of the aircraft.

During this academic year we have visited the Air Corps College, at Baldonnel airport on two occasions. Sincere thanks to Lieutenant Odhrán Murphy for facilitating our visits.

Junior Science Table Quiz

Two Third Year teams, accompanied by Ms Kelly and Ms Groves, took part in the I.S.T.A. Dublin Branch Science table quiz which was held in Belvedere College during the afternoon of Wednesday 7th May.

Team A: Chris Aylward, Oisín McEnroe, Joseph O'Donnell

Team B: Jack Browne, John Heavey, Mark Heavey

Team A narrowly missed the medals after being knocked back to 4th place in a sudden death play-off.

Team B team came 16th.

Ecology Field Trips (12th, 13th & 15th May)

Five classes of Fifth year Biology students, accompanied by their teachers, attended day long Ecology Field trips to Knockree Wood on the 12th, 13th and 15th May.

Sport



Athletics

Athletes from all years took part in this year's Leinster Schools Championships in Santry on May 14th and 17th. The intermediate 4 x 100m relay team won the Gold Medal, while breaking the previous record set in 1993. The new record set by the team was 44.25. Well done to Patrick Patterson, Tommy O'Brien, Matt O'Callaghan and Brian Masterson. This wasn't the only record broken as Brian Masterson set a new record of 49.49 for the intermediate 400 M.

Gold medals were also won by Tommy O'Brien for the Inter-100 Meter Hurdles and Liam McMahon for the Junior Javelin. Silver medals were won by both the Junior (Calum Ryan, Tom Mahon, Colm Cooney, Liam Turner) and Senior Relay teams (Nick Timoney, Dan O'Mahony, Fred Kenny, Andrew Dunne), as well as Roghan McMahon (5th Year) was in the Senior Discus.

The following students took home bronze medals: Josh Slevin (2nd Year) in the Junior Discus, Liam Turner (2nd Year) in the junior 200 m, Tommy O'Brien in the Inter-400 m Hurdles, Aengus Meldon (5th Year) in the senior 400 m and Cian Crotty (5th Year) in the Senior Javelin. Congratulations to all athletes who took part over the two days.

Senior Cricket

The senior cricket season saw Blackrock drawn in a pool against Dundalk, CUS and St Andrews. The season started off with a comprehensive win against Dundalk. Batting first,



Third Year Sack Race on Sports Day

Blackrock set a competitive total of 115 with Andrew Mays the top scorer with 40, and useful contributions from Richie Rye and Joey Carberry. In reply Dundalk were all out for 45 with Andrew Mays (5 wickets) and Bryan Mollen amongst the wickets for Blackrock.

The second game saw Blackrock again batting first, however CUS with a strong bowling line-up took a number of wickets early and Blackrock were unable to recover with only Andrew Mays making double figures. The bowling performance was very determined with Bryan Mollen taking early wickets however

with such a small total to defend, the CUS victory was inevitable.

The last game of the season saw Blackrock playing the tournament favourites St Andrews. Batting first St Andrews scored 133 with Bryan Mollen, Paul O'Dea and Andrew Mays bowling well. Blackrock made a valiant effort to chase down the St Andrews total with Bryan Mollen and Conor Mullen the top scorers.

Junior Cricket

The Junior season began straight back into the Summer Term and captain Shane Keane led the boys tremendously well as they narrowly failed to chase down a very competitive total of 145 posted by CUS. Scoring 120 in return, Conor Mullen in particular shone with 49 not out. Clongowes, the next opponents were unable to prevent Blackrock scoring another high total with the bat of 146-8 in their 20 overs. James Kelly and Shane Keane doing particularly well at the crease to accelerate the run-rate when it was needed. Good bowling from Reece Plumtree, Shane Keane, Jack Stapleton and Brian Miles restricted Clongowes to just 84 in return.



Stanley Cup winning team

The third game of the season played in poor weather at Kenilworth square saw Blackrock restrict St Marys in their innings with Shane Keane holting their innings early on and Reece Plumtree taking 3 late wickets. In the run chase Conor Mullen top scored with 22 with useful hitting late in the innings from Taine Plumtree and James Kelly. However it wasn't quite enough and St Marys snuck home with a win by only 4 runs.

The final game of the season saw Blackrock take on a strong St Andrews side. Blackrock batted first and scored 102 in their 20 overs with Conor Mullen, Patrick Summers and James Kelly making good contributions with the bat. In reply it was all one way traffic and Blackrock were unable to stop the St Andrews run flow with them running out winners with 8 wickets in hand.

Water Polo

On the 30th of April the Blackrock College Waterpolo team competed in the O'Brien tournament in Deaf Village Ireland in St Joseph's Cabra. Blackrock had entered two teams in the tournament and were hopeful they could retain the trophy for the 6th time.

The first match saw Blackrock senior team up against Marian college. Blackrock were handicapped -3 goals however this wasn't to stop them as they eased past Marian 14-3. Next game was Blackrock seniors against Blackrock juniors. The junior team started 5-0 up but after the final whistle blew the senior team were through to the semi-finals winning 9-6. The junior team were very unlucky against Marian, losing the match 7-3. The first semi-final saw Blackrock up against mount temple. This game was a bit harder for the Rock team however they managed to defeat mount temple 9-5 with some superb goals from Ben Lawlor and Riccardo Berenguer. Blackrock were through to the final which saw them up against St Mary's Drogheda who were a very strong side. Unfortunately for Blackrock they started the game 3 goals down and they knew they would have to work hard for the win. After some heroic saves from goalkeeper Andrew Ryan and some superb goals from Mathew Sheedy, Stephen Herlihey and Ben Lawlor Blackrock were victorious for the 6th time edging out St Mary's Drogheda 10-5. A big thanks to coach Kevin Healy for all his work with the lads this year.



Nicholas Timoney receives Sports Star of the Year Award from Mr Greg Moore, President PPU

Table Tennis

It's been another great year for the table tennis teams, with success at all levels. Senior A finished off their season in style, winning the Leinster Senior Cup for an unprecedented 6th consecutive year, Junior A also finished off their season in style, as a 6th Leinster Junior Cup success in 7 years secured the Leinster double comfortably, Junior B also had a fine season, as they lost out narrowly for the Division 3 title, finishing in Runners Up position.

Minor A completed their own Leinster Cup three in a row, as they took a hard fought but unexpected 'Cooling Cup' title, ahead of Presentation Carlow and St. Ronans NS on Cup Finals day. Finally in team news, Easter saw Blackrock competing once again at the World Schools Championships, this time in France, where the team finished in 10th position, following matches against China, Turkey, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, England and Armenia.

On an individual front, Andrew Campbell and Geoffrey O'Connor (both 5th Year) were part of the victorious Leinster squad at the Irish Junior Interprovincial Championships in Lisburn in April, while Charlie Fitzgerald (3rd Year) has been selected for the Schools Six Nations Championships, taking place in Cardiff in June. Following Irish Ranking success during the season, O'Connor (ranked #9 in Ireland U17) and Fitzgerald (ranked #3 in Ireland U14) have both been selected to join the Irish Squad for a two week training camp in Germany in July, where they will link up with the squads from Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

Summer Soccer

The Millennium cup competition was held during the final term of the school term. Captained by Seán O'Dowd (5th year) our A team won the A competition beating St Michaels College 5-0 in the final. Our B team were unlucky in defeat to Castleknock College 3-2 in the B competition.

This competition gave both 4th and 5th years the opportunity to represent the college for the first time on a soccer field and did so playing excellent football. Hopefully with both teams progressing to the finals of the competition it gives the players motivation to kick on next year and continue the progress that the senior soccer team made this year.

Colts Rugby

With the Colts season extending past the Easter break, it meant there was still a rugby final to be played in the summer term. Against a very strong Roscrea side Blackrock took the lead early thanks to an early drop goal from Paul Cullen. Soon after a 50metre break saw Conor Kelly beat the Roscrea defensive line making it easy for fullback Brian Grogan to cross the line. Roscrea fought back hard scoring a penalty then a converted try, but tries from Niall Murray and Ferdia Power put the result beyond doubt and took the score line to 25-10, and ensuring another senior league title for Blackrock.

Tennis

This year's tennis season kicked off immediately after the Easter exams with 7 teams competing across two divisions. Trials were held across 3 days and 49 boys were chosen to represent the college. All teams competed extremely well within the group stages and many wins were recorded for the college. We congratulate the Junior 1st team who made it the whole way to the finals but lost out to a very powerful Gonzaga College. Our Senior 1st Team also had a great season, missing out narrowly on qualifying to St Fintan's in Sutton. We congratulate all the boys who took part and thank them for their dedication and commitment.

Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie