

Blackrock College Newsletter



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- Seachtain na Gaeilge
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Beannachtai
na
Cásca!

Easter 2014

Dear Parents

One year in office, Pope Francis has made a huge impact on the world stage: 10 million followers on Twitter; most referenced on Facebook; Time Magazine 'Person of the Year 2013' and Fortune Magazine's 'World's Greatest Leader' (April 2014) – "a Leader's job is to define reality and give hope". In the words of Nancy Gibbs, the Managing Editor of Time "he has not changed the words, but he's changed the music".

The words remain the same. The Christian message is 2,000 years old. Easter is more than the renewal of a historical event. It is the cornerstone of our faith. It is a reminder that even in death, we will rise again. No matter what the circumstances, the setback, the challenge, we can overcome it and through Christ, live a life of victory.

What is victory? Is it a Cup Double? An All-Ireland Table Tennis Title? A race on the Liffey? Choral performances? These, of course, are welcome, bring much satisfaction but real victory is in caring for others, in simple acts of kindness, every 'please' and 'thank you', in holding a door, in telling the truth.

Victory is in restoring relationships. It is in forgiveness. At the Catholic World Youth Day, Pope Francis reminded the 3m Pilgrims, "He has transformed the Cross from being an instrument of hate, defeat and death to being a sign of love, victory, triumph and life".

We are encouraged to build community, to look out and ask, to go out and interact, to reach out and share. We do this at Blackrock through our support for our new sister school in Machakos, through the St. Patrick's Day Badge, through the Soup Runs in the Inner City but we also do it in Seachtain na Gaeilge, Environment Awareness Week, in the M.U.N. and Debating, in the Orchestra and Choirs, in Work Experience and Pastoral Placements, in the new Learning Centre and in the classroom. We do it wherever we gather.

Blackrock is a remarkable place, purposeful, energetic and busy, always looking to enhance its ways – same words, better music.

Parents are key stakeholders in our community. May I encourage your continuing participation in three simple rewarding ways: **firstly**, to visit our new website. There were 12,237 visits by 6,969 unique visitors in the first two months. Soon, you will be able to chart your son's academic performance on the website. **Secondly**, to attend our Junior Musical – Connemara! – which will run for three nights in May, in the Jubilee Hall (12th/13th/14th -please note change of date). **Thirdly**, to view the Evie Hone drawings on St Patrick's Hall. These were purchased at auction by the Parents' Council and donated to the College in memory of the late Fr Sean Farragher CSSp., College Archivist, Historian and member of the College Community for an extraordinary 64 years, before his death last December. I thank the Parents' Council Chairman Dermot Kelly and his Committee for their benevolence and their recognition of Fr. Sean.

Finally, our goal has always been to cultivate in our boys the best habits of the heart and mind, of the aesthetic and the practical, of the physical and the spiritual; to foster in them a strong character that loves to do the right thing, inspired by the Christian message.

I thank the many members of our extended community – the Spiritans, colleagues, parents and students, past and present – who share the 'Fides et Robur', the indomitable Blackrock spirit.

Yours sincerely

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal

Second Year



Application Cards

The boys of Second Year have now completed their second term in the College. How each has done should in large part be measured by the Application Cards that each boy has returned to his parents on a weekly basis. Boys should compliment themselves for achieving the Principal's List repeatedly, as half the boys have done. All should reflect on any area that has been highlighted for improvement. If that area remains the same at this stage of the year then a significant effort needs to be put into the final term. Parents should be fellow travellers with their sons on this journey of improvement; it is sometimes just too difficult for a boy to achieve without the encouragement and direction of his parents and guardians.

Parents' Events

The Second Year Parents' Committee began the half-term with two seminars, the first given by Dr Marianne Walsh of UCD on *Performance Nutrition & Sport* and the second by Mary Briody on *Building Confidence in the Teenage Years*. Both talks were excellently presented and attended. The Committee also organised the Second Year Parents' Dinner which was held in the National Yacht Club. A great night was had by all and we thank all the members of the Committee for their preparation of these events and for their service through the year.



2nd Year Boys enjoying Biology class

Ethos

Ash Wednesday fell during the first week back after mid-term and all the boys had the

opportunity to attend a service in the College Chapel. The Pastoral Care Department also organised a Reconciliation Service for each RE class and as always the boys entered into the spirit of the occasion. We also celebrated Environment Awareness Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Addiction Awareness Week with various activities this half-term.

House Competitions

The winner of the Table Tennis House Competition this year was Shaun Towlson and the Chess Competition was won by Patrick Hassett in a close-fought match against Hugh Kelly. The House Art Competition is underway and the final term will see points won for each House in the Soccer Blitz, the Gold Medal Debate and on Sports & Family Day. The Inter-House Barry Shield will be presented to the overall winning House at the final Assembly of the year.

Extra-curricular

Well done to Liam Turner who played a starring role in the winning Junior Cup Team, and Michael McGagh, squad member; to Joey Nelson, part of the Junior Squad in Table-tennis that reached the All-Ireland Final; to the College Sailing Team, three quarters of which was 2nd Year, that has qualified for the All Ireland Regatta in May; to Conor Williams and Harry Kearns, 2nd Year competitors in the Wesley College Inter-schools Music Festival; to Mark Crowley and his Basketball Team that is advancing in the East Leinster's; to Conor Halpin in our Cross-country Team; to Stephen Ryan and Oisín Ryan, competing in the Junior Schools Debating Competition in UCD; to Charlie Byrne and his winning 2nd Year Hurling Team; and to Callum Ryan, James Lunt, Alex Houlihan and Sean Kirrane, our U14 Badminton Team that won the Division 4 Dublin Schools Final. What a term, and what a year group... Well done.

Third Year



A most important Parents' Conference, at which it is hoped that each boy will be represented, will take place on **Wednesday April 30th at 7.30 PM** in the Lecture Hall. The evening is given over to the choice of subjects for the Leaving Certificate 2017. An additional information evening will be held on Monday 1st September which will deal with other aspects of Transition Year and will cover co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

There has, overall, been a very good participation rate in extra curricular activities this year. Congratulations to the very hard working Junior Rugby Squad on the successful campaigns, culminating in the Junior Cup and the Junior Seconds Cup returning once again to the school.

Best of luck to the Junior Thirds in the upcoming final. The Cross Country team competed manfully in very difficult conditions in Cork and in Table Tennis the Junior Team were edged out in the all Ireland final. In Rowing, which has become very popular, the Under 16 '8' won their race in the Head of the River event from O'Connell Bridge to Islandbridge. A Cup for Sailing was also added to the mix in recent days. We urge the boys to keep up their involvement in extra curricular

activities in the final term.

With just **22 Class Days** remaining following the Easter break we would encourage boys to review any scripts that might have been returned to them. The early start to the Easter exams this year may have presented this opportunity and it ought to be grasped. The remaining Application Cards will be a very important means of communicating home in the run up to the Junior Certificate. Boys respond positively to encouragement so please insist on getting their cards on Monday evenings or Tuesday in the case of the May bank holiday. One would be surprised to see how many excellent cards are left in lockers.

It was wonderful to see a large turnout for the Third Year Parents Dinner. Congratulations to the Sub Committee who put in a lot of work. A number of members of the committee have to step down after two years and we would urge other parents to give serious consideration to putting their names forward for the Transition Year Committee. Names can be given to either a committee member or the Dean.

Transition Year



GOAL/AIDLINK ST.PATRICK'S DAY BADGE PROJECT

The badge campaign was launched by Mr Mario Rosenstock on 10th March in the College. The largest school fundraiser in the country looks like it is going to be a great success again this year. The boys have worked with great enthusiasm and energy in the hope of raising a significant amount of money for GOAL and Aidlink. Over 170 students were involved in the project. They visited primary and secondary schools, approached businesses both in Ireland and abroad for support and distributed over 100,000 badges nationwide.

The culmination of the campaign was a city centre street collection on the 13th and 14th March when shoppers were bombarded with a shamrock charm offensive. Over the course of the two days, the boys raised the very impressive sum of **€4,738.11**. Special thanks are due to Mr John Moran who very kindly made a shop unit in St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre available to us as a base during the collection days. This helped us enormously in organising the logistics of the street collections. I would like to thank my colleagues Mr Garry Sullivan and Mr Owen Brennan for their help in organising and running the badge campaign.

LOLLIPOP DAY

Approximately eighty Transition Year students participated in the annual Lollipop Day

collection on 28th February. The money raised is in aid of the Oesophageal Cancer Fund. The boys were great ambassadors for the Charity and looked very fetching in their Lollipop Day caps.

TRANSITION YEAR LECTURE SERIES

The lecture series continued after the mid-term break with a lecture by Dr Conor O'Brien about substance abuse as part of the College's *Addiction Awareness* programme. Ms Gabby Murphy from *Aidlink* also gave the students a very informative and helpful talk about charity fundraising. The lecture series will continue next term.

DRAGONS' DEN

The entrepreneurial spirit was very much in evidence amongst this year's Transition Year students at the *Dragons' Den* Final which took place on Monday 3rd March. The finalists were James Byrne, Stephen Alger, Sean Hassett, Matthew Long, Shane Marmion, Joe Ennis, Matthew Duignan, Tiernan O'Hagan, Neil Stokes, Conor Cowhey and David Fenn. The staggering range of products and the detailed research and impressive business plans produced by the boys resulted in our most fiercely contested and impressive competition ever. Stephen Alger won first prize with his Interactive Arts – Concise, Easy-to-use and Interactive Geography eBook. Tiernan O'Hagan's project Peck came second.



Transition Year

Special thanks are due to the *Dragons* Paul McGowan, Greg Moore, Aidan Corless, Stephen Kilroy, Declan Gardiner and Jonathan Stanley whose enthusiastic and dedicated support of this important Transition Year project is very much appreciated. I am especially indebted to Mr Cathal Copeland, Head of our Business Department. His hard work, patience and dedication have helped to develop this competition to an incredibly high standard. I am also very grateful to the Business Department for the support they give the boys when preparing for the different stages of the competition.



Stephen Alger (TY), winner of *Dragons' Den* with Mr Greg Moore, PPU and Mr Paul McGowan

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY (DLRC) ENTERPRISE BOARD FINAL.

Stephen Alger who won our *Dragons' Den* Final went on to win the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County (DLRC) Enterprise Board Final with his entry – *Interactive Arts – Concise, Easy-to-use and Interactive eBooks*. Stephen received a trophy and €500. Tiernan O'Hagan's project 'Peck' was Highly Commended in the same competition.

Stephen Alger then went on to represent DLRC Enterprise Board in the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards' Competition, held in Croke Park on Wednesday 2nd April. He went on to win the *Best Display Award* in the Senior category. We are all immensely proud of Stephen and his fantastic achievement and fully expect his project to go on to become a hugely successful commercial enterprise.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WEEK (MARCH 3rd – 7th)

A number of events were held during this week to increase our awareness about important environmental issues. The wren, one of Ireland's smallest birds was adopted as a mascot for the week.



The Transition Year Green Schools Committee was heavily involved in coordinating many of the week's activities. Many of these centred on the importance of raising awareness of issues like climate change; conservation (particularly of water and energy); recycling and environmental awareness. There was also a very popular *Guess the Age of the Tree* competition. Niall Marshall from Transition Year was one of the joint winners of this competition.

The Environmental Awareness Week was very much a collaborative effort. Many thanks to the Green Schools Committee and Coordinator Ms Anita Clare, Mr Copeland's 44 Business class, TY Biology student Rory Patterson, Mr Cathal Copeland and many other members of the College staff for making it such a great success.

VISIT TO THE TECH GROUP EUROPE PLANT

On March 13th, 25 chemistry and business students (accompanied by Mr Mark Smyth and Ms Deirdre Cullen) spent a day at the Tech Group Europe plant. Tech Group manufactures medical and pharma devices and is at the cutting edge of new technology and research in these areas. The students were introduced to a wide range of professionals, work practices and technology and were thus given an invaluable insight into both the business and scientific aspects of such a huge company.

The day was brilliantly organised and no detail was overlooked. The students were kept on their toes and found the experience very rewarding. We are enormously indebted to Mr Don O'Callaghan who, for the fifth consecutive year, has invited us to visit his company. He ensured that the students had an unforgettable day.

VISIT TO KPMG

On Thursday 3rd April, approximately 30 Accounting students paid a visit to international accounting firm KPMG. During the visit, they explored the many functions and services of such a firm. They were spoken to about the company's graduate training programme and given practical career advice about pursuing a career in the accounting profession. Many thanks to Mr Patrick O'Neill for organising this very informative trip for the students

VISIT TO CLOUGHJORDAN

On Friday 4th April, 26 students visited Cloughjordan House in County Tipperary where they spent the day cooking, gardening and learning a little about farming. We were blessed with very good weather so the outdoor elements of the trip were most enjoyable. In the course of the day, the boys were introduced to the wonders of yeast

in bread-making, the delights of using fresh-from-the-soil ingredients in cooking and the enjoyment of eating good quality food which they had cooked themselves. It was our first visit to Cloughjordan and the trip was a huge success. Many thanks to Ms Karen Marren for accompanying the boys on the trip.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge was once again a tremendous success this year. We were delighted to invite the Transition Year students from St Joseph of Cluny to join us for our annual Céilí. Needless to say, a great time was had by all. Many thanks to Ms Anne Payne for her tireless and enthusiastic organisation of a truly fantastic week of activities.



Seachtain na Gaeilge, An Céilí

IRISH ORALS

Irish orals were included in the TY Easter exam timetable again this year. From 2012, the weighting of marks for the oral component of the Leaving Certificate Irish exam increased to **40%**. This underlines the importance of oral fluency in Irish. By including an oral component in the Irish exam at Easter, we are alerting students to the vital importance of improving their fluency.

STUDYING EUROPEAN LANGUAGES ABROAD

Some Transition Year students might be planning to work on their European languages next term by spending time abroad. Please notify the Dean in writing if your son is going to be away next term. If your son is likely to miss his Portfolio Assessment at the end of term, please ask him to schedule an appointment to do his Portfolio Assessment in advance of his departure.

COLLABORATION WITH DLR MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Four of our Transition Year students Rory Patterson, Ethan Forde- Connolly, Marcus O'Faolain and Patrick O'Callaghan made a big impression when they performed in the recent DLR Musical and Dramatic Society's production of *Oklahoma* which was staged in the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire recently. It was the first time we had been involved in such a collaboration and the boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

COLLABORATION WITH MOUNT ANVILLE

For the fifth year running, our Transition Year students have been invited by Mount Anville to participate in their end of term show. This year, the girls are staging a fashion show on April 7th and 8th. All proceeds from the fashion show will be donated to the Simon Community. At time of writing, the show has not yet taken place. We wish everyone involved the very best of luck.

GAISCE

I would like to remind parents that students need to collect *Gaisce* confirmation forms from the Dean's office and return them to Mr Mark Smyth by the end of April so that he can process their *Gaisce* documentation. This year, we have a record number of students involved in *Gaisce*. They will receive their bronze awards on their last day of term (May 28th)

SPORT

Transition Year students have excelled in rugby, athletics and many other sports this term. Brian Masterson won the U18 400 metre race in the *Athletics Ireland* National Indoor Championships held in Athlone on 21st and 22nd March. He set a new personal best of 51.16 seconds. Caelan Doris, Conor Dean, James McGowan and Richard Mouatt were all involved in the winning SCT squad. Winning House 2nds and House 3rds teams contained significant numbers of players from Transition Year. Congratulations to all of you. At time of writing, the Colts are due to play in the Final of the East Coast League. We wish the team the very best of luck.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- Trip to China 21st - 28th April
- 2nd and 4th year show will be staged 12th – 14th May.
- Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (Camino). 3rd – 10th May
- Music, Art and Drama (MAD) Week - 6th – 9th May.
- Summer Concert – Thursday 8th May (7.30 p.m.)
- Master Chef Competition – usually mid - late May
- Transition Year Days of Reflection – 19th, 20th May
- Portfolio Assessments – 26th and 27th May.
- Class ends for Transition Year 28th May.

Fifth Year



Family Mass: On Sunday March 9th, Chief Celebrant Fr John Laizer, CSSp, affirmed that Religion does have a place in today's technological world. He urged the boys to avail of the Lenten season to do something good for others. At the Mass, Joshua Gorman-Climax presented a cheque for €3,500 to Mr Rory Halpin, the Chief Executive of Spirasi. 99 Fifth Years had participated in a sponsored Fast before the February mid-term break to support the work of Spirasi, the Spiritan agency for Refugees in Ireland. Mr Halpin, in thanking the boys, told them that their generous donation will make a real difference in the lives of the Asylum Seekers dependent upon Spirasi for their survival in Ireland.

Rugby: Rugby this term has been filled excitement and success. A number of boys were involved with the senior cup team who beat Clongowes in the senior cup final. Congratulations to Dan Mullane, Hugo Kean, Michael Reidy and Ross Casey. House rugby has also seen great success so far in the league, winning against St. Mary's and Belvedere. The house thirds have also beaten CUS, De La Salle, St. Michael's and Clongowes in their league. We also congratulate Hugo Kean on being selected for the Irish U-18 Schools squad, and will travel to the FIRA AER U18 European Championship taking place in Poland.

Model United Nations A delegation of Fifth Year pupils represented Blackrock at the Wesley College Model United Nations on the 28 February - 1 March 2014. The following students represented Nigeria and Rwanda on a number of different UN committees: James Quinn, Ronan Hearne, Scott Kinsella, James Brandon, Ivan O'Keefe, Joshua Kieran-Glennon, Joshua Gorman-Climax, Ronan Turner, Amir Anwar-Hameed, Michael Golden, Richard Grainger and Tom May. They submitted several resolutions, many of which were passed at committee level. In recognition of this, and of the boys' high standard of public speaking, they were awarded a 'Highly Commended Delegation Award' for the conference. This is a fantastic achievement as over 300 delegates from around Europe were in attendance at the Conference. Joshua Kieran-Glennon, Joshua Gorman-Climax, Richard Grainger, James Brandon, Ivan O'Keefe and James Quinn all received a Highly Commended Delegate award in their respective Committees. The boys now look forward to representing Japan and Egypt at the Saint Andrew's International MUN over the Easter Break.

Comhairle na nÓg Scott Kinsella and Joshua Kieran-Glennon are hard at work as the College's representatives on the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown branch of Comhairle na nÓg. Joshua was elected Secretary of the Comhairle in September, and the two of them are members of the task group working to raise awareness of the issue of Mental Health among young people in the county. They are also organising an event for young people which will take place at the end of June.

Debating: Congratulations to Joshua Kieran-Glennon who represented the College as an individual in the Quarter-Finals of the Leinster Senior Schools Debating Competition in U.C.D. The motion "*This House Regrets the Rise of the Eurozone*" was debated and Joshua progressed to the Semi-Final of the competition, where he was unfortunately knocked out in a tough room, opposing the motion that "*This House believes that 'I was just following orders' is a legitimate defence for atrocities committed in the course of war*". A number of debaters participated in the Castleknock Community College Senior Mace Debate competition at the end of March. Preparations are under way for the Gold Medal Debate at the end of the year, which promises to be a very exciting afternoon.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 5th Years took part in many Irish-themed activities during Seachtain na Gaeilge in March. They competed in the Poc Fada and Dúshlán Trasnáin and in Tráth na gCeist and the winners were given prizes.

Fifth Year Parents' Association. On Friday 28th March, parents of 5th Year students attended a social evening in Elm Park Golf Club. It was a very enjoyable and well attended evening and many thanks to the 5th Year Parents' Association who

organised the event.

Addiction Awareness Day Addiction is defined as being out of control in our decision-making as a consequence of one or a combination of physical, mental, circumstantial and emotional factors. On 28th Feb, a range of speakers spoke about the harm caused by a dependency on Alcohol/Drugs/Gambling/Supplements/the Internet and of the warning signs. Some of our Speakers had expertise in social media, the law and medicine. Others shared their personal stories on the road to recovery.

Lourdes After application and interview for participation in the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Seamus Duff, Cathal Kinirons, Jeff Kirwin, Andrew McLoughlin, Roghan McMahon and David Walsh have been selected to travel. It will take place September 7th to September 12th 2014.

Water Polo Well Done to Ben Lawlor and Andrew Ryan who were members of the Leinster U18 Water Polo Squad that won the Interprovincial Series on Sunday Feb 23rd in the NAC, Blanchardstown.

Table Tennis: Congratulations to Captain Andrew Campbell (5th Year) and his Senior Squad on winning the All-Ireland Senior Table-Tennis Title defeating Ulster Champions, Ballyclare High School, in the Final held in the Basketball Arena, Tallaght on 1st April. This is the 4th successive All-Ireland Senior Title, an extraordinary achievement. A number of the team are representing Blackrock and Ireland in the Worlds Schools Competition in France over the coming weeks.

Music/Wesley Inter-schools Music Festival A number of 5th Year students participated in Wesley College Inter Schools Music Festival, held on the 7th/8th March. The Leman Choir won the Frank Hughes Cup awarded for First Place in the Boys' Choir competition and the Libermann Choir finished 2nd in the Unaccompanied Vocal Ensemble. Rock Band 'Loose Threads' comprising Kevin McDonnell, Ben Duffy, Ronan Holohan, Ross Finnegan and Richard Grainger were also highly commended in the Over 16's category. The Blackrock College Orchestra, under the baton of Mr André Cavanagh was also highly commended on Saturday afternoon. Also in music, Richard Grainger travelled to Abu Dhabi, UAE, with the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (NYOI) for St. Patrick's Weekend. The orchestra performed a series of concerts for high ranking Irish and Emirati dignitaries. The trip was partly to encourage further development in the arts, especially music, in a region where western music isn't intrinsically part of the culture. Greg Crowley also played as part of the Dublin Youth Orchestra in concert with the Youth Orchestra of Greater Miami in the RDS Concert Hall on 24th March.

Football: Two teams made up of 5th and 6th year students hosted St Bede's from Manchester in early March. The Senior Soccer Team won 5 - 0 on Saturday morning, and the 2nds Team won on penalties. The Millennium Cup Team have also been hard at work, and have recorded victories against St. Michael's and Castleknock College.

Rowing: Blackrock College Rowing Club have had a great start to the season, despite many events being cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. St. Michael's Head of the River (Limerick), Lagan Scullers HOR (Belfast) and Erne Head of the River (Enniskillen) were all cancelled. Nonetheless, some of our 5th year boys finally got to race on the Liffey on March 22nd. Jack Brennan and Ross O'Mahony were both involved in the Men's Inter 4+ that posted a very credible time. Doug Clinch, Tom McNamara, Rory McCluskey, Hugh Mohan and Jack Nagle are all involved in the squad that are set to compete in upcoming events during the summer term. Neptune Regatta (5th April, Islandbridge), Skibbereen Regatta (12th April, Cork) and the Schools Championships (27th April, Clare) are some of the key events where the boys will be in action.

Sixth Year



Lent 2014:

The start of Lent on Ash Wednesday was marked by a liturgy, led by Deacon Liam Kehoe in the College Chapel, where students were given the opportunity to receive blessed ash. During the season of Lent, sixth year students were also presented with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many thanks to Mr. Myles Ryan, Fr. Hyacinth, Mr. O'Reilly and the RE teachers for providing these opportunities for the students to celebrate and reflect on the support that their faith can provide at this busy and challenging time in their life.



David O'Connor (6th Year) scores a try in Senior Cup Final against Clongowes

Lectures:

Since mid-term the year group have been addressed by Oisín McConville, the Armagh GAA star, who told the students the story of his Gambling Addiction (Feb. 25th); by David Quinn of the Iona Institute who spoke on the title Christianity, Sex and Freedom (April 4th) and by Judge Catherine Murphy who outlined in a very clear manner how young men can end up in difficulty with the Laws of the State (April 8th). Many thanks to Mr. McMahon, Mr. O'Reilly, and the 6th Year Parents Association who made these most informative, valuable and well received forums possible.

Examinations:

Between March 3rd and 7th, a week of mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages took place. These mocks presented the students with a most valuable opportunity to prepare for their State Orals which ran from March 31st to April 11th. Many thanks to Ms. Fitzgerald for her organisation of the mocks and to Mr. O'Nualláin and Mr. Herlihy for the extremely efficient and smooth running of the real thing!

Between March 18th and 28th, the Class of 2014 sat their Easter written examinations. Full results will be available from April 12th and will provide the

Sixth Year Cont'd



students with a clear idea of both the quality and quantity of study that needs to be done over the remaining weeks of term.

Extra Curricular Activities:

Rugby: We congratulate the SCT and all Castle rugby teams on a most successful season. Firstly well done to Nick Timoney and his squad on bringing the SCT Cup back to the College for the 68th time following their 22-17 victory over Clongowes in the RDS on March 16th.



SCT captain Nicholas Timoney presents the cup to Fr. Ó Broilcháin, President of the College

At the time of going to print, the Castle 4 side was preparing for their Leinster League final against Wilson's Hospital, while the Castle 2 and 3 sides had suffered the heartbreak of narrow defeats to the House 2nds (S/F) and House 3rds (Final) respectively. The Castle 5 season concluded with a most sporting encounter in St. Michaels. We thank Mr. Smyth, Mr. Pickering, Mr. Savage, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Fawsitt, Mr. Greene and Mr. O'Connor for all of their work on the rugby pitches with the Class of 2014 and thank the students for representing the College in such a committed and sporting manner throughout the season.

Cheerleading: We thank also the sixth year cheerleaders, under the leadership of Alfie O'Sullivan, Jeff Burke, David Carr, James Fox and Andrew Hally-Doody, who have given unselfishly of their time and energy on behalf of both Cup teams this season. The support in the stand at our Cup matches has been a testament to their dedication, enthusiasm and creativity through the Cup campaigns. Many thanks to all who were involved.

Jack Kavanagh Trust: Nick Timoney captained the Spiritan schools rugby team in the Jack Kavanagh Trust fundraising match against a Jesuit schools selection in Donnybrook on March 20th. Conor Oliver, Jeremy Loughman, Joey Carbery and Jack Power were also members of the Spiritan team narrowly defeated 17-20. Congratulations also to Jack on his selection as part of the Irish Schools U18 squad for the FIRA European championships in Poland in April.

Music: There was a very strong 6th Year representation at the Wesley Inter-Schools Music Festival on March 7th and 8th. We offer particular congratulations to the 6th Year members of the Leman Choir that won the Frank Hughes Cup in the Boys Choir Competition and to Ross O'Leary winner of the Senior Rock Guitar Competition. David Roper-Nolan, Evan Holland and Dane Fitzpatrick were also awarded 1st Class Honours in their respective competitions.

Soccer: In the annual soccer matches between Blackrock and St. Bede's College Manchester, on March 8th, our first XI (captained by Fred Kenny) won 5-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Tom Curran and two goals from Brian Horgan. Our second XI (captained by Brian Furey) were also victorious winning 3-1 on penalties after a 0-0

draw; congrats to keeper Jake Macken on this victory.

Cross Country: James Grogan, Eoin Gleeson and Simon Curran were members of the Senior Cross Country team that won bronze medals in the Leinster Championships and qualified for the All-Ireland Final in Cork on March 8th where they were placed 6th overall.

Rowing: George Brassil was cox for the U16s '8' that won their race from O'Connell Bridge to Islandbridge in the Dublin Head of the River event on Saturday March 22nd.

Golf: Congratulations to Ted Collins who won the Nick Faldo U21 Series in Lough Erne on April 2nd and will now be travelling to the US in October for the World Finals. Ted has also been selected on the Irish U18 Golf Team to play Wales on April 5/6. We wish him well.

Olympiad: Jonathan McDowell, Jack Hanrahan, David Roper-Nolan, Seafra O'Faolain, Kevin Heavey, Oisín O'Reilly and Brian Yip all qualified for the Linguistics Olympiad final held in TCD on March 25th where Jonathan achieved gold standard, Jack silver, while David and Seafra both received commendations. Many thanks to Ms. McGee for facilitating this opportunity.

Pool: The 6th Year Inter-House Pool Final will be played between Andrew Reid (Ebenrecht) and Robert Love (McQuaid) before the end of term. Many thanks to the House Representatives and students involved for the smooth running of this tournament during Term 2.

6th Year Parents' Association:

The Parent's Committee is continuing its excellent work with much creativity and effort being directed towards fund-raising for the trip to Kenya this Summer. The DVD committee would welcome any video material which parents might like to submit for inclusion on the Class of 2014 disc. All items for inclusion can be left at reception in the College. Finally, the Graduation Committee is also working hard on the planning and organisation of the Graduation Lunch in the Pavilion in Leopardstown and booking forms for this event have been posted out to all.

Important Dates for Term 3

Tuesday 6th May
Sunday 11th May
Sunday 18th May
Saturday 24th May

6th Year Parents' Conference @ 7.30pm
Sports Day @ 2pm
6th Year Graduation Mass @ 12noon
Academic Prize Giving @ 10.30am.

As the sixth year students approach the final term, they should rest assured that they can make significant academic progress in these final weeks and that there are support systems and help available to them within the College in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the Class of 2014 all the best with these final preparations.

Boarding School



The Boarding School has had a very busy term in all aspects of school life as a boarder. It has been a very positive and enjoyable experience for all concerned and we are all looking forward to returning to our families for the Easter Break.

The following activities are taking place throughout each week: Public Speaking; Wednesday evening Mass in the Oratory; Boarders' Choir; Boarders' Book Club and Boarders' Cookery Classes for 5th and 6th years. Thanks to all the adults who help organise and oversee the continued success of these activities.



A number of Boarders made their confirmation alongside Willow Park School. It was a fantastic service celebrated by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lorcan O'Brien. It was wonderful to see so many Parents and Guardians travel from overseas particularly from Spain to witness their sons' confirmation.

The Boarders' Sunday Mass had a number of guest Celebrants including Fr. Lazier and Fr. Billy Cleary as well as our own Fr. Vincent Brown, Fr. Malachy Kilbride and Fr. Cormac Ó Broilcháin. As always, their sermons were engaging and poignant to the boys and their lives.

The Wesley Music Festival followed the following week and a number of Boarders were involved in the winning Choir (Jay Dolan, Dane Fitzpatrick and Geoff Wheeler), as well as

in the College Orchestra (Jack O'Sullivan, Ian Leavy and Lorcan Brophy), who performed to a Highly Commended level. Well done to all the boys involved. Sportswise, it has been a very busy term for our Boarders, we have representatives on most teams from Senior Cup Team to the Under 13 C's to the 2nd Year Basketball Team. We wish all our boys success and fulfilment in their upcoming competitions.

The boys went on a number of trips including Oklahoma (Rory Patterson starring) in the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire, the Skywalk in Croke Park, Stones in his Pockets in the Gaiety, The 1916 Exhibition in the National Museum, the Leinster v Glasgow Rabodirect game, the three 6 Nations internationals, the SCT and JCT matches, Stillorgan Bowling, Dun Laoghaire Cinema, and the Viking Splash experience (Thanks to the Rogers family for this opportunity).

Ronan Kelly, Bryan Mollen, Karl McCabe and James Fox also gave tours to the 30, 40 and 50 year out Past Pupils Reunions, they learnt a lot about the changes which have occurred over the years and they also found it an enjoyable experience. The buildings may have changed but the characters have not.

Thank you once again to all the Castle staff for their sterling work throughout the year. The Castle is a vibrant and wonderful environment due to the care and enthusiasm of the staff and boys for their home.

Pastoral Care Programme



As season spring spread the campus with new light and colour and the College had good reason to celebrate, the teaching staff and wider Blackrock College community were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Pamela Smyth, mother of Mr. Peter Smyth, past student and now our good colleague. We are always at a loss to adequately speak our sympathy but the funeral gave many, who have benefited from Peter's generous contribution to College life, an opportunity to stand with the family in solidarity. We express our condolences and assure the Smyth family of our prayers over these days when the loss is still fresh.

The half-term has been eventful in so many ways. The TY soup run has continued under the direction of Ms. Mary McMahon; the final Pastoral Placements of this academic year were completed; Addiction Awareness Day saw visits to every year group by speakers who offered salient insight; Camino pilgrims continued their preparations; Faith Friends concluded their work with the Willow Park Confirmation candidates and played a significant part in the beautiful Confirmation ceremony on Saturday 8th March; Lent was ushered in with ashes offered to the whole school community and 5th and 6th Year Parents' Committees moved preparations for Graduation Day up a gear.

Congratulations to the boys of Fifth Year for the enthusiastic way in which you took on the challenge of the Sponsored Fast in aid of Spirasi. The House Captains did sterling work in motivating their Houses to achieve the target, ?3000. Mr. Rory Halpin of Spirasi expressed appreciation at the Fifth Year Family Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Laiser. Father John is a member of the Provincial Leadership Team and Community Leader in Spiritan House, North Circular Road, where Asylum Seekers are met and listened to and helped by the team from Spirasi. Ronan Holahan welcomed Fr. John: "He is a Spiritan missionary priest, a native of Tanzania in East Africa; but having worked for many years now in Ireland I hope we may regard him as one of our own".

Each year the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes offers six places to

Blackrock College Leaving Cert. boys to participate in the September pilgrimage. Many past students have had this opportunity and testify to the unique event that it is. Their role is to work with sick and disabled people of the diocese to ensure that they have an experience to remember. Always the boys return to school very tired but exhilarated. There is something unique about these few days that exerts such a draw that the norm for the majority of our lads is a return to Lourdes under their own steam to make their contribution again and relive the joy they caught on their first visit. It is never easy to select the six who will travel. This year again, the applicants were of such high calibre that, if places were available, we would certainly have taken them all. Congratulations to Seamus Duff, Cathal Kinirons, Jeff Kirwin, Andrew McLoughlin, Roghan McMahon and David Walsh. This is the final selection, chosen after application and interview.

During Lent we have a weeklong celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is celebrated by each religion class in the College Chapel lit with many candles which symbolise the light and joy of the occasion. It is a beautiful opportunity to rejoice in the loving kindness of our God. Many thanks to the teachers who led the reflections and especially to the Fathers drawn from local parishes and from our Spiritan Community who give long hours to bring this personal grace to each penitent.

On Monday 24th March a quiet but significant ceremony took place on St. Patrick's Corridor. The Parents' Committee presented to the school, cartoons, won at auction, to the memory of the late Fr. Seán Farragher. The cartoons were worked by the celebrated stained glass artist, Evie Hone, as she prepared the commission of Pentecost windows that can now be seen in the little oratory in the Castle. Those who knew Fr. Seán will recognise the appropriateness of this gesture. Appropriate too that his good friend and collaborator, our artist teacher, Mr. Anraoi Wyer, played no small part in the occasion and that the cartoons should now hang beside the sacristy wherein Fr. Seán vested each morning over so many years to ensure that daily Mass should be available in the College Chapel.

Commerce & Economics Society



On Monday 17th of February, the Commerce and Economics Society organised a one day trip to London. A number of 6th Years accompanied by Mr Morris attended meetings and presentations in Lloyds, UBS and Goldman Sachs. The students enjoyed the day thoroughly and gained a fascinating insight into the world of international finance. Special thanks to Mr Greg Moore, Union President and Cormac Stafford (6th Year) who helped organise the event.



Comm. & Econ. day trip to London

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Toisc go raibh srúduithe na Cásca agus Seachtain Náisiúnta na Gaeilge ag teacht salach ar a chéile i mbliana, b'éigean an tseachtain a chur siar, rud a d'fhág go raibh sí ar siúl ón 31ú Márta go dtí an 4ú Aibreáin. I measc na n-imeachtaí a bhí eagraithe i rith na seachtaine bhí ceardlanna damhsa le Brónach agus céilí na hidirbhliana le cailíní Mhainistir Loreto, Deilginis. Agus ar ndóigh bhí bua iontach ag na múinteoirí ar an Idirbhliain sa chluiche peile (arís!). Tá gearán oifigiúil á dhéanamh ag lucht na hIdirbhliana áfach, a rá go raibh leath an SCT ag imirt ina gcoinne. Bhí go leor imeachtaí taitneamhacha

eile ar fáil: tóraíochtaí taisce, tráthanna na gceist, díospóireachtaí, seomra caidrimh, poc fada, ceol agus scannáin ina measc. Bhain daltaí na séu bliana, ach go háirithe, taitneamh agus tairbhre as an seomra caidrimh Gaeilge a bhí ar siúl ar feadh na seachtaine agus ba mhór an buntáiste dóibh go raibh a leithéid ann chomh gar do scrúduithe béil na hArdeistiméireachta. Gabhaimid buíochas le Roinn na Gaeilge as a n-iarraachtaí ar fad agus táimid ag súil go mór le Seachtain na Gaeilge 2015.

Guidance and Counselling



All Leaving Cert students have now submitted a CAO application. A number of 6th years have also submitted their portfolios for relevant courses like architecture, art and design while others applying for music and drama related courses are awaiting auditions. 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 adding in new courses to their course lists. However, students cannot add in restricted courses at the Change of Mind stage. There is also a Late Application deadline to CAO of May 1st 2014. 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 number of 6th year students have also made DARE applications this year. As well as this another eighteen 6th year medicine applicants sat the HPAT test on March 1st. These students will receive their results of the HPAT in late June. Some Leaving Certificate students have also firmly accepted offers through UCAS in Great Britain while others still await final offers.

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 Level5/Level6 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 and its implications. Further information is available from the career counsellors in the college.

At present many 6th years have completed and are busy completing field studies in Geography, research documents in History and Religion, notebooks in Home Economics as well as practicals in Art, 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. The Leaving Cert students have also completed their modern language orals.

Nine 6th year students recently competed in the final of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad which was held in Trinity College Dublin on March 25th. This is a contest in which students develop their own strategies for solving problems in fascinating real languages from around the globe. Students must use their ingenuity to solve puzzles such as deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics; interpreting Tenji, the Japanese equivalent of Braille and writing the names of football teams in Chinese. No prior knowledge of linguistics or a second language is required: even the hardest problems require only logical ability, patient work and a willingness to think around corners. The goal is to develop students' problem solving skills and to inspire them to consider the fascinating range of careers at the intersection of language, linguistics and computing. The students that partook in this competition are now awaiting the results of the final.

All year groups have now sat and received their Easter exam results. Counsellors in all year groups continue to monitor the academic attainment and extra-curricular involvement of all students in the college.

Evie Hone Cartoons



The cartoons (drawings) for the Pentecost stained glass windows in the Castle Oratory were unveiled in St. Patrick's Hall by the Chairman of the Parents' Council, Dr Dermot Kelly last Monday evening (24th March 2014) before an intimate gathering of members of the Union led by President Mr Greg Moore, family members of Fr. Seán, members of the Community, colleagues, parents past and present, and friends.

The Parents' Council had bought the three cartoons at an Auction in Whyte's on February 24th and presented them in memory of Fr Seán Farragher.

Fr Seán had been a member of the College Community since 1949 and College Archivist since 1957. He was much loved and revered by many generations of 'Rock men as a teacher, founder and leader of the legendary Camera Club, as well as author of many books on the history of the College, the Spiritan Congregation and its Mission.

Mr Wyer, Head of Art at Blackrock gratefully accepted the cartoons on behalf of the College and in his address, he outlined their historical significance and inspiration.

Evie Hone, a painter and stained glass artist of international renown had converted

to Catholicism and was accepted into the Church at Blackrock College in 1937. The Pentecost stained glass windows were commissioned by the College Union in 1942 in celebration of John Charles McQuaid's elevation to Archbishop of Dublin.

Fr Stephen Farragher, Fr Seán's nephew, spoke on behalf of the family, which was also represented by his sisters Bride and nieces Marie and Geraldine.

On behalf of the College Community and the Farragher family, I thank the Parents' Council for their generosity and initiative.



Fr. Stephen Farragher unveiling the Evie Hone cartoons

Department

Science Trip to Valencia

During the Feb mid-term break fifty two second year students accompanied by six of their teachers visited the Science Centre in Valencia Spain. One of the highlights was staying in the huge aquarium overnight and sleeping under the shark tank. They were given demonstration workshops in Chemistry and Physics. They also stayed in an Outdoor Adventure centre located in the middle of a forest in the nearby mountains where they immersed themselves in wall climbing, zip-lining, canoeing, cycling, hill walking and unlimited soccer tournaments! It was an exciting and educational trip.

European Union Science Olympiad

Congratulations go to Joshua Gordon Climax who won a silver medal for Chemistry at this year's European Union Science Olympiad competition held in Athens. He came in the top 30% of European competitors in the Chemistry section - a brilliant achievement!

SciFest@School Competition

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

Here are the names of the Second Years who have entered the competition:

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"

Best of luck to all!

Agricultural Science trip to Grange Research Farm in County Meath
Twenty three Fifth Year students, accompanied by their teacher Dr Carol Fitzroy visited Teagasc's Beef research farm where they learned about the wide variety of studies being carried out to improve beef production practises in Ireland.



Sport



We congratulate captain Nick Timoney (6th Year) and his squad on the retention of the senior cup, our 68th victory. It's a challenge going to the cup as favourites. A challenge this SCT group met with composure and determination. The semi-final win over a talented Newbridge side stands out as a game where everything came together. Quick ball from our hard working pack allowed our backs show off their handling and pace. To their credit Newbridge came back hard at us in the second half but again our boys answered the questions that were asked of them through committed defence and efficient use of possession.

The final was a different affair. Finals can bring about nerves and that was evident with our boys as they failed to capitalise on the majority of territory and possession in the first 25 minutes. Thankfully Conor Oliver and Hugo Keenan managed to score tries before half time. In the second half it was Clongowes turn to dominate and score twice to move ahead 17-14. Importantly, our boys didn't panic and responded with a try and managed to defend their line to win out 22-17. It is hard to win the Senior Cup; even tougher to retain it. Well done to all involved. We thank our Coaches Mr Smyth, Mr Savage, Mr Pickering, Mr Toomey and Mr Moore; medical support Dr Gallagher and Ms Fitzgerald for their extraordinary commitment, undoubted expertise and wholehearted dedication.



Nicholas Timoney, Captain, supported by Dane Fitzpatrick and Ian Kingsley in action in Senior Cup Final

Coaches Mr Vanstone, Mr Lambe, Mr Manion, Mr Fallon, Mr Toomey and Mr Moore for their expertise, commitment and dedication.

At senior seconds and thirds level the Castle and House battled it out against each other. The Castle 2nds and House 2nds saw one of the best games of the school's rugby season. The lead changed hands five times with the House eventually winning out 20-19. The Castle were unlucky to lose and nobody would have begrudged them the win considering all the support they gave to this year's SCT. The House went on to the final. They showed great skill and determination in defeating a Clongowes side (29-8) that they had previously lost to at the group stages. In the Senior 3rds league the Castle and House stormed through their respective groups and semi-finals to do battle in the final on the front lawn on Friday 4th April. In another tight affair where no quarter was given the House won out 13-10.



James Moriarty and Andrew Murphy (Captain) in action in JCT final

The Junior 2nds won a 6th consecutive league title on Wednesday 2nd April. They played a talented Belvedere in very wet conditions. It was a hard fought final with the J 2nds winning out 3-0! Well done to captain James McShane and his team mates. The Junior 3rds play their league final against St. Conleth's on Thursday 10th April. We wish them well.

Congratulations to Jack Power (6th Year) and Hugo Keane (5th Year) who have been selected for the Ireland U18 Schools' Squad to travel to the FIRA AER U18 European Championships, which will be held in Poznan, Poland, on the 9th to 20th April 2014. Congratulations also to Jeremy Loughman, David O'Connor, Nicholas Timoney and Conor Oliver who have been selected for Ireland U19s who will play France U19s on Thursday 17th April 2014 and Tuesday 22nd April 2014. Both games will be played at 2pm in St Mary's RFC, Templeogue.

To Table Tennis now - congratulations to Captain Andrew Campbell (5th Year) and his Senior Squad of: Sam Hardiman, Stefan Kelly (both 5th Year), Tim Maguire (4th Year), Conal Molumby, Geoffrey O'Connor, Paul O'Kelly (all 5th Year) and Sam Totterdell

(4th Year) on winning the All-Ireland Senior Table-Tennis Title defeating Ulster Champions, Ballyclare High School, in the Final held in the Basketball Arena, Tallaght. This is our 4th successive All-Ireland Senior Title, an extraordinary achievement. Our Junior Squad of Captain Charlie Fitzgerald (3rd Year), Henrik Brusenbauch (4th Year), Stephen Campbell, Kevin McCabe, Louis Murphy (all 3rd Year), Joey Nelson (2nd Year) and Evin McCos (1st Year) finished Runners-up losing the All-Ireland Final to St. Louis Community School Moy in a pulsating final which lasted four hours. Well done to head coach Richard Butler supported by Jack Donnelly (class of 2012) and Gavin Maguire.

The Senior Soccer squad capped off a fine season with a 5-0 victory over St. Bede's of Manchester on the 9th March. The seconds managed to seal victory in a penalty shoot-out. The 5th and 4th year group have started their Millennium cup campaign well with victory over St. Michael's and Castleknock. We were delighted that our

Senior and Intermediate Cross Country Squads had qualified for the All Ireland Championship which was held in Cork on 8th March 2014. Our SENIOR TEAM of: James Grogan (6th Year), Aengus Meldon (5th Year), Mark Gordon (4th Year) and Eoin Gleeson (6th Year) finished 6th overall.

Our intermediate team of: Luke McCann, Christian McKenna (both Fourth Year), Mark Dignam, (Third Year), Bernard O'Sullivan, Brian McGlone, Declan Norton (all Fourth Year), Niall Murphy and Chris Aylward (both Third Year) came 5th. Conor Halpin (Second Year) ran as an Individual in the Junior Race finishing a creditable 50th. This marked the end of the season and we thank our Coach Eddie McDonagh and Squad Manager, Ms Cullen for their work with our Squad. On the track Congratulations to Brian Masterson (4th Year) who won the U18 400 m in the Athletics Ireland National Indoor Championships held in Athlone on 21st March. Well done also to Aengus Meldon who came 3rd in the U19 800 metres.

Congratulations to our U16s rowing '8' of: George Brassil, Cox (6th Year), Scott Rolland, Robert Brown, Robert Somers, Conor James Byrne, Charlie Lawless, Andrew Ennis, Jack Stacey and Jack Crowley (all 3rd Year) who won their race from O'Connell Bridge to Islandbridge in the Dublin Head of the River event held on Saturday 22nd March, 2014. Well done, boys! We thank Ms Gannon for her organisation and preparation of the Squad.

Well done to our Junior Water Polo team who won the Leinster junior cup at the end of February. Captained by Ben Lawlor (5th Year) they defeated St. Joseph's Cabra, St. Mary's Drogheda and Marian College on their way to victory. Ben and Andrew Ryan (5th Year) represented a victorious Leinster U18 side in the 2014 inter pro championships. Ben has been selected by the Irish U18 side which will be competing in the Czech Republic over the Easter break.

Our U14 Hurling had a most enjoyable championship campaign under the guidance of Mr. Howlin. A first round defeat to Clonkeen College (10-4 to 9-5!) was offset by hard fought victory in a local derby with Oatlands College (1-8 to 2-3). This saw us progress to the quarter finals but unfortunately we were outclassed by Lucan Community School who had a number of representative player last Wednesday 2nd April. Well done to all involved.

Congratulations to the College Sailing team of Mark O'Connor, James O'Connor (both 3rd year), Patrick Riordan, Philip Maguire, Conor Little, Darragh Rowley (all 2nd year) and Mark Bolger (5th year), which finished 3rd of 9 teams in the Leinster Schools Sailing Regatta (Gonzaga won it) and has qualified for the All Ireland's in May. We thank Mr Fallon for his organisation of the opportunity.

Ted Collins (6th Year) has been reaching the heights on the Golf course recently. Ted won U21 Section of the Nick Faldo series in Loch Erne Golf Club. He will play in the world finals in the US next October. He has also been selected to play on the Irish Under 18 side to play Wales. Well done Ted.

Thanks to the coaches and parents who support the games programme so well and well done to the boys on all their efforts. We look forward to the final term and the new sports that come with it.



Jack Power scores a try in the semi-final against Newbridge

Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie