

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## SUMMER 2016

Dear Parents,

***"The fight is won or lost far away from witnesses – behind the lines, in the gym and out there on the road, long before I dance under those lights"***

**Muhammad Ali**

I write this letter on the weekend that "the greatest showman of them all" died. To many of our generation, he was irresistible. His interviews with **Harry Carpenter and Michael Parkinson, both of the BBC**, introduced us to a remarkable and inspirational character. For all his flamboyance and brashness, there was real substance to the man. He recognised that talent, ability, is not enough. Hard work, perseverance in adversity, willpower and determination are essential if you wish to bridge that gap between promise and performance.

On Prize Day, Sunday 28th May **President of the Union, David Coen (Class of 1986)** presented Books, Certificates and Medals to over 150 students, from 2nd through to 6th Year as we celebrated not just academic and artistic performance but also recognised and affirmed leadership, service, care of our community, faithfulness and spirit.

Every boy can aspire to Prize Day. It should be your son's ambition to 'Be There'. The first steps are taken 'behind the lines', unnoticed, unheralded. It starts with presenting for school on time, in uniform with your homework done. It continues with engagement - at *Oliver Twisted*, our Junior Musical, on *Sports & Family Day*, in the *Soccer Leagues*, at the *Summer Concert*, at your *Retreat*; in Transition Year it is a matter of supporting *Greenwatch*, participating in the *Master Chef*, being on the *Camino* or at *Work Experience*. Did your son engage with our Commemoration of *The 1916 Rising*, *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, *M.A.D. Week*, or his year's *Gold Medal Debate*? Each of these activities, and many more, provided the boys with an experience that prompted thought and reflection, built on community. To be part of this, effort must be put in long before the **"dance under those lights"**.

The lights shone on **JJ Garth (3rd Year) and our Junior Cricket Team** as they won our **first Leinster Schools' Junior Cup since 1965** in a thrilling Final with C.U.S. Equally, our **Senior and Junior Table-Tennis Squads**, led by **Louis Murphy (5th Year)** and **Barry O'Keeffe (4th Year)** respectively, continued to set the standard on the national stage. Athletics, Squash, Water Polo and Tennis as well as the in-house competitions in memory of Paul Stanley (Soccer) and Karl Ashe (Gaelic) provided other opportunities for our boys to shine. But it is often the work done in the shadows, be it on the Soup Run or in support of Machakos that sparks the Christian fellowship from which the real sense of self-worth grows. At Blackrock, the call is always to do more than is expected, to give more than is required.

***"Champions aren't made in the gym, champions are made from something deep inside them – a desire, a dream, a vision"***

**Muhammad Ali**

As the academic year closes, I wish to acknowledge my colleagues **Ms Christina Nulty** who takes early retirement after 28 years of service as a Teacher and at different times Head of Department, Dean and Assistant Principal; **Ms Colette Murphy** 22 years as Principal's Secretary; **Ms Marie Lambert** for 20 years in catering, **Ms Mishka Abrahams** for 14 years as Laboratory Technician, **Mr Kevin Healy** for 12 years in charge of Water polo and the legendary duo **Benny and Gerry Dowse** who have a combined 94 years at the College – **all champions of Blackrock**.

I thank each of them, our Spiritan Community, my colleagues, our Union and you the parents for your desire, your dreams and your vision which makes excellence at Blackrock a habit. May we continue together, to produce young men of compassion, drive, wisdom and faith.

Enjoy the summer. Keep safe. Be well.

God Bless.

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) 50 Yard Dash on Sports Day
- b) Chris Wong (5th Year) played 'The Foggy Dew' on the solemn occasion of our Whole School Assembly to Remember the Rising
- c) Peter Quinlan and Jack O' Neill (Third Years) Junior 4ths Final in Donnybrook



## Second Year



### Competitions & Activities

As the final term wound its long way along, the Second Year boys became more and more involved in extra-curricular activities; and what opportunities they had. Many were involved in the Junior Musical *Oliver Twisted* on the stage, back stage and in the orchestra. This was a wonderful production with Loreto Dalkey and congratulations to all involved. The *House Competitions* finally ended with the Soccer League, Debating and Sports Day being the final contributing events. As a result, the Second Year *Inter-House Barry Shield* was won by Shanahan House. Second Year boys also performed well in Schools and Inter-Schools competitions in Golf, Cross-country, Debating, Water Polo, Rowing, Athletics, SciFest, Cycling, Music, Choir and with the Willow Wheelers. Special mention to our Table Tennis players who are once again Junior Irish Champions and to our medal winners at the Irish Schools' Swimming Relay Finals.



The Barry Shield

### Prize Giving

This year at Prize Giving the Bro Thaddeus Judge Gold Medal for Religion was presented to Tom O'Connor. The Gold Medal for Debating in Second Year was won by Tom Dooley. The Academic Excellence Awards for Second Year went to John Huggard, David Halpenny and Freddie Gallagher. Also six students who, academically and in the life of the College demonstrated an excellent contribution, received Honours List Awards: in Second Year they were Josh Baker, Cian Colville, Gavin Hoey, Shane Murray, Sam Small and Matthew Wood. Liam Finn was presented with the Honours List



Art Class this term

Award for the Halls of Residence, with Jeff Kenny receiving the Student Leadership Award for Second Year. Special Awards for Sports outside the school went to Louis Crowe, Archie Ryan, Gavin Hoey, Will Ryan, Charlie Cullen and Morgan Lyttle.

**Book Prizes** in individual subjects were awarded to Ciaran Drohan, Oliver Bosworth, Tom Dooley, Aidan Canavan, Mathieu Demichel, Jack Tiernan, John Huggard, Freddie Gallagher, Aaron Ryan, Luke O'Brien, David Halpenny, Andrew Kennedy.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Four boys in Second Year received the Sacrament of **Confirmation** during the term and we congratulate Liam Finn, Joe Young-Hughes, Callum Byrne and Luke Pierce for their preparation for this special event. And hopefully after a good summer all the Second Year boys will return safely for their next challenge, the Junior Certificate examinations.



## Third Year



A longer than usual final term saw the completion of the competitive rugby season with the J2's captained by Tom Dwan and the J4's captained by David Kealey taking the cups home following their respective finals against Terenure and Mount Temple JCT. The J3's captained by Tom Moreland lost out to De La Salle Churchtown in the semi-final. In rowing there was success at the Queen's Regatta with Sean Hannon, Josh Loughrey and Conal Regan collecting medals and a sizeable Third Year contingent benefitting from the new partnership with Neptune augurs very well for the future. Well done to David Campbell, Sean Carney, Robert Kelly and Durand Osan who were successful at Leinster and All-Ireland level in Table-Tennis. While there were no finals reached in tennis, a good number of boys participated with John Fennelly and Conal Regan competing at senior level. Hopefully they will all have plenty of involvement in their respective clubs over the summer holidays. A large number took part in the East Leinster Athletics Competition at Santry with Edward McKenna qualifying for the Leinster's. In cricket the junior team captained by JJ Garth beat a highly fancied CUS in the Leinster A Cup final. Other Third Years on the team were Cian Duffy, Sean Lardner, Conor Austin, Cathal French and Abdullah Durrani. In Water Polo Max McKenna, Max Connolly and Theo Stephens-Kehoe prevailed in a competition



David Kealy (Captain), Harry Redmond, Dylan Connaughton and Robert Kinsley Junior 4ths Final in Donnybrook

held in St. Joseph's Cabra and Max Connolly was also a member of the winning Senior Team in the Bert O'Brien Tournament. Congratulations to Max on being capped for Ireland in Water Polo, Richard O'Farrell in Football, David Campbell in Table Tennis and JJ Garth in Cricket. In the Inter-House Competition Ebenrecht were narrow winners over McQuaid. All events were notable for the high level of participation. Ten of the year group went on the Willow Wheeler's 100 Mile Cycle and the year was well represented at the wonderful Summer Concert.

It has been a year where we've had a record number of boys on the Principal's List, a fact that is very important to acknowledge. We congratulate all those who were awarded prizes on Prize Day.

### Book Prizes for Subjects

Daniel Cullen, Harry Keyes, Patrick Doherty, Macdara Fahy, Harry Redmond, Oisín Ellison, Andrew Ryan, Lukas Thoms, Tom Dwan, Daniel Kelly, John Corless, Ethan R. Murray, Alex Carroll, Conor Mahon, Sean O'Brien, Ben White and Sam O'Carroll.

**Academic Excellence:** Harry Redmond, Andrew Ryan and Daniel Kelly.

**Honours List:** Tom Dwan, Tadhg Egan, Gavin Jones, Jack Loscher, Peter Murphy and Ben White - **Hall of Residence:** Diarmuid Foley.

**Student Leadership Award:** Tim D'Arcy **Gold Medal Debate:** Michael Ryan

**Religious Education:** Josh Loughrey.

**Special Awards:** Reza Azad, Michael Ryan and Drummond McGinn.

Over **70** boys have paid up for the outing at the **Xtreme.ie** adventure centre on the day the Junior Certificate Results are out. We will accept late applications up until **Monday the 5th of September**, please feel free to leave €35 with your son's name in an envelope marked Xtreme.ie at Reception.



# Transition Year



## Dragons' Den

On Friday the 8th of April the entrepreneurs of TY had their start up projects and businesses scrutinized by Blackrock College's dragons, led by Mr. Paul McGowan, in the final of the competition. There were five finalists in what was a great morning in the College. All finalists were complimented on the quality of presenting, their ideas and the fact that all businesses were up and running. Conor Little won with his project 'Recycled Fire Kindling'. Killian O' Callaghan came second with Callaghan Computers and Kelvin Hickey, Eddie Goggins and Ben Heapes 3rd with 3MN. I thank Mr. O' Neill for his leadership and organization of this terrific TY project.

## Transition Year Lecture Series

We had four more talks in the final term that were well received by the student body. Past pupil John Harley Breen gave a fascinating insight into his work with *Independent Diplomat* where he is involved with working with members of the Syrian Opposition to broker a peace agreement. Peter Cosgrove, from the National Recruitment Federation, gave an eye opening talk about the future of work and how careers in the future will be very different to how we know them now. Finally we were delighted to welcome Olivia Hughes from DELL who gave a workshop on careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

## Oliver Twisted

Yet again Mr. Savage wrote and directed a fantastic show, this time delivering his own take on the story of *Oliver Twist*. The show received rave reviews from a sell-out audience over four nights in the Jubilee Hall. Mr. Savage, Ms. O' Kane, Mr. Grumley Traynor and Ms. Smith had a very talented cast from Blackrock College and Loreto Abbey Dalkey and band to work with and produced a brilliantly funny and energetic show. The staff and cast were of course ably supported by a crew who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and produced and amazing set. It was a top class show.



Adam McGovern performing in 'Oliver Twisted'

## Camino de Santiago de Compostela

On Saturday the 7th of May, 20 TY students departed for Northern Spain on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The group was accompanied by myself, Mr. O' Neill, Mr. Walsh and again we were very fortunate to have Fr. Marc Whelan as the groups Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims before them, the group took the *Camino Francés* starting in Triacastela and covering over 130 km. Although the weather forecast was not promising we missed the worst of the rain and the sun even came out for two days! The incessant rain that soaked us through on Friday could not dampen our spirits as we arrived in Santiago on Friday 13th following six days walking. I thank my colleagues on the Camino, Mr. McMahon and Mr. Ryan for their organization of the pilgrimage.



Students take a well-earned rest mid-way between Sarria and Portomario on the Camino

## M.A.D. Week

Music Art and Drama week 5th - 8th May kicked off with a hilarious Magic Show performed by Mr. Jack Wise. The week provided the students with the opportunity to take part in a number of different workshops including: Samba drumming, song school, animation and hip hop dancing. Other highlights of the week included a trip to the cinema to see *Sing Street* and the fabulous summer concert. The week overall gives the students the opportunity not only to showcase, but to explore their artistic abilities. It would not be possible without the organization of Ms. O' Kane, Mr. Grumley Traynor and Ms. O' Connor assisted this year by a very hard working MAD Week Committee.



Back row: Liam Dunphy, Karl Noble, Conor Lacey, Viktor Odriozola, Alex Kilroy and Mike Henderson  
Front Row: Charlie Cooke, Matthew Robb, Tom Fenton and Daniel O' Callaghan

## Green Watch

Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D., Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, launched the *Green Watch* magazine for 2016 on Wednesday 25th of May. I commend editor Luke O' Hara, Geography 41 and of course Mr. Campbell for the all the work put into the magazine, a fantastic publication. It sold very well, with the money raised going to the Morning Star Hostel in the city centre.

## Master Chef

Yet again we were all blown away by the culinary excellence on display at the final of the annual Master Chef Competition. 9 finalists who qualified from 52 entrants produced an unprecedented variety of dishes including Thai, Indian and Sushi. As always the standard was



Master Chef 2016 Finalists: Alex Quinlan, Miguel Berroa, Barry O' Sullivan, Winner Oisin Ryan, Rory O' Reilly, Josh Garvey, Leo Downes, Conor Little and Harry Kearns

incredibly high and I did not envy the judging panel lead by Michelin Star Chef Mr. Derry Clarke. He was very complimentary of all finalists. Congratulations to Oisin Ryan who was awarded the Master Chef title, with Josh Garvey runner up and Conor Little and Harry Kearns joint third. I thank Mr. Toolan for his unending appetite and co adjudication. Particular thanks to Ms. Marren for all the work and organization.

## Extra-Curricular

There was a lot going on in the final term. On Sunday the 23rd of April Josh Warren was part of the U16 Coxed Quad who came third in their heat at the Irish Schools' Regatta. Stephen Ryan was a member of the Senior Water Polo Team that emerged victorious in the Annual Bert O' Brien Tournament. Stephen himself was awarded Player of the Tournament. In golf the horrendous conditions did not prevent Eoin Beecham from finishing third in the Fr Fullen Cup. The competition was held at the Castle Golf Club. Finally in sport Barry O' Keeffe captained the Junior Table Tennis team as they won the All Ireland title. Congratulations to Joey Nelson who was on the Senior Team that finished runner up after a tight match in the final. Joey was also a member of the UCD team that travelled to Belgium to compete at the International Youth Cup.

## Days of Reflection

On Tuesday and Thursday 24th and 26th of May students had the opportunity for reflection and meditation at the end of a very busy year. The venue was the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. The opportunity to look back on Transition Year and take stock prior to their end of year interviews was broadly welcomed by the students and the feedback was very positive.

## Conclusion

I would like to thank my colleagues in Transition Year: Conor McMahon, Garry Sullivan and Tom Ryan, Director of Pastoral Care who have worked tirelessly to run a very busy TY programme. I am also very grateful for all the work of the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Keara Hall. Their support has been invaluable. I commend the students on making it a terrific year, bringing great commitment, energy and a much needed sense of humor to all they did. I wish them well in 5th Year.

Have a great summer!

# Fifth Year



## Summer 2016

The final term has been one of continued commitment and focus with good levels of effort and performance evident both in and out of the classrooms. Academic Prize Giving highlighted the determination of the year group to reach the academic potential and we congratulate all those awarded prizes.

## Sports and Family Day

A truly fantastic day was had by all at this year's Sports and Family Day. As expected, Fifth Years and their families attended in high numbers to enjoy fine weather, a joyful ambiance and of course to witness the high calibre and at times intense competition as the Houses aimed for first place. Ebenrecht emerged victors overall but the day was won by all who participated enthusiastically in the many events. Well done to all involved and a special word of acknowledgement to Charlie Fitzgerald, one of four students shortlisted for the Sports Star of the Year Award 2015-2016, for his exceptional achievements in Table Tennis over the past year.

## Career Guidance - Centigrade Testing

We are grateful to Ms. Carleen McGee in the Careers Department for her administration of Cognitive Ability Tests and Centigrade Tests for all Fifth years this term. The results of these tests and the accompanying insights into future career options will be available for students on their return from the summer break.

## Music and Drama

Congratulations to the Fifth Year members of the Libermann Choir on winning the Frank Hughes Cup at this year's Wesley Inter-Schools' Music Festival. The joy and passion of the music students is obvious from the high numbers taking part. In particular we congratulate Oisín McEnroe who was awarded first place in the Strings over 16 competition and well done to Riley Dargan and Jack Browne who were Highly Commended for their pieces in solo singing and piano respectively. Well done also to members of the orchestra and the bands for their Highly Commended awards. Quick on the heels of their Wesley Festival weekend The Libermann Choir proudly placed second in the College's first appearance at the Feis Ceoil Senior Choir Competition in the RDS in March. Many Fifth Year members of the College Choirs, and Orchestra also performed wonderfully at the Summer Concert.

## History Trip to Belfast

On Friday 6th May 2016, 5th Year History students, accompanied by Ms Harlowe and Ms Dobbyn, embarked on a trip to Belfast. The objective of the trip was to introduce them to the history of the State of Northern Ireland as they will begin a study of Society & Politics in Northern Ireland in September. The itinerary was packed and required an early morning start, leaving the College at 7am. The first stop was a guided tour of Milltown Cemetery, followed by a talk at the Houben Centre, Ardoyne. Later on we visited the Peace Wall and saw the murals as we passed through some of the Republican and Loyalist areas of the city. The City Hall tour was given by a Sinn Féin Representative and we ended with a brief visit to Stormont to see the Parliament building. The trip served as an excellent introduction to an extremely complex history, one that promises to be a most interesting study next year.



Students at the City Hall in Belfast

## Debating / Public Speaking

John Heavey represented the Debating Society in the Leinster Schools' Debating Grand Final in UCD. John was Runner-Up in the Best Individual Section opposing the motion that "this house would open all borders."

The much coveted Fifth Year Gold Medal for Debating was contested in a lively debate by students who confidently, eloquently and passionately debated the motion that "this house would grant the legal right to die" before an audience of their peers. We congratulate John Heavey who was the deserving winner of the award.

The fruits of lunch time and evening sessions of public speaking were tested in May with the annual Public Speaking exams run by the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Many thanks to Ms. Kate Canning for her training of the students and well done to all involved.

## Waterpolo / Swimming

The Fifth Year members of the Swim and Water Polo teams, enjoyed a whistle stop yet excellent tour to Harrow to participate in the Gala and were delighted to finish second to Eton College. They look forward to continuing this fabulous relationship with Harrow. The students would like to wish their coach Mr. Kevin Healy well on his retirement.

The swimmers enjoyed a great day at the Irish Senior Schools' Relay Championships in the National Aquatic Centre in early May where Seán Desmond and Rolf Jager, members of the senior team, finished second in both the Senior Medley Relay and the Senior Freestyle Relay. Seán Desmond enjoyed further success in the Inter-Provincial Championship representing Leinster, finishing second overall.

## Golf

The Fifth Year golfers enjoyed a number of outings, including to Dun Laoghaire, Woodbrook and Royal Dublin Golf Clubs in their somewhat brief season this term. They were happy to progress to the quarter final of the Four Ball. Many are already setting their sights on next year's All Ireland Match Play and we wish them well.

## Table Tennis and Tennis

Over Easter, Senior Table Tennis Captain Louis Murphy and Charlie Fitzgerald travelled to Eilat, Israel to represent Ireland at the World Schools' Table Tennis Championships. Louis and Charlie

were also members of the UCD Team that won the Elite Boys Competition at the International Youth Cup in Belgium in May. Meanwhile the senior team appeared in their seventh All Ireland Final in as many years, losing out narrowly to old rivals St. Louis'. We congratulate Captain Louis Murphy and team members Stephen Campbell and Charlie Fitzgerald on another remarkable year of commitment and results in table tennis.

Enjoying the newly refurbished courts the senior tennis team including Rex Lloyd, Jerome Doyle and Des Roche competed well in the group stages of the Leinster Schools' League and are looking forward to developing further next year.

## Rugby

Congratulations to Stephen McLoughlin, Andrew Murphy, Patrick Patterson and Charlie Ryan on their selection for the IRFU U18 Tri-Nations Festival Squad which was held in Ashbourne RFC over Easter.



Andrew O'Doherty House 3rds  
Semi-final against Roscrea



Castle versus House Final

We congratulate the Second and Third House Squads and thank them all for two memorable games and great results against the Castle teams in the finals of the Leinster Schools' Leagues soon after Easter. We wish them and all this year's House Rugby players the best for next year.

## Cricket

Shane Keane, Ronan Mullen, James Kelly and Liam Bickers represented Fifth Year on the Senior Cricket team this term in their first season in the Leinster A Cricket League. Following on from victory in their semi-final against Kings Hospital the team were delighted with their victory in the Plate Final against St. Columba's. We wish them well next year as cricket continues to grow in popularity and many enjoy the provision of the new cricket mat in the College.

## Athletics

Fifth Year representation and participation in this year's Athletics Championships was highly commendable as were the many successful results. The Senior Relay team including Shane Keane, Patrick Patterson and Michael Nolan won their 4 x 100m event in the East Leinster Competition and went on to win Bronze in the same event at the Leinster Schools Track and Field Championships. Rolf Jager and Chris Aylward also enjoyed success at the East Leinster as did Shane Keane and Alan Francis who were subsequently placed 4th and 2nd in the Senior Long Jump, and Senior 110m hurdles respectively in the Leinster Championships. We wish Alan well in the All Ireland Championships while Shane's success in Athletics continues with a Gold Medal in the U18 Long Jump at the All-Ireland Juvenile Indoor Athletics Championship.

## Football

In the fiercely contested Summer Soccer League final Duff emerged the ultimate victors. We congratulate the House Captains and all the players for their enthusiasm and positive contribution that makes the League such a great end of term activity.

Fifth Year Day Boys lost out to the Sixth Year Day Boys following the defeat of in the final of the hotly contested annual Stanley Cup commemorating Paul Stanley (class of 1971) We commend all for their enthusiastic participation.

Fifth Year Senior Soccer players were delighted to welcome and host St. Bede's of Manchester for the annual challenge games just before Easter. Great sporting spirit was evident throughout the games. After a busy and memorable weekend, the players are already looking forward to next year's return visit. After a frustrating end to their season the soccer players are planning pre-season training over the summer and have high hopes and ambitions for next year's Leinster and All-Ireland Leagues. We wish them well.

Over Easter fourteen Fifth Year students made up the sixteen man squad of Grenada Football Club on tour in Barcelona for the international football tournament Copa Costa Brava. The team reached the quarter finals and lost out on penalties to an Italian side. Well done to all involved.

## John Hooper Medal for Statistics

Congratulations to Robert Sheedy and Joseph O'Donnell on their "Election Campaigning" project which received an Order of Merit Award in this year's John Hooper Competition organised by the C.S.O. The students finished in the top sixteen of over three hundred entries.

## Mathematical Olympiad

Congratulations to Mark Heavey who has qualified as a member of the Irish Squad for the 2016/2017 International Mathematical Olympiad based on his performance and place on the Roll of Honour at the 29th Irish Mathematical Olympiad. Well done Mark.

Thank you to the many members of the Blackrock staff; academic, sports, maintenance, house-keeping and others for their contribution to all the events throughout the year in Fifth Year. Thank you to Mr. Donal O'Nualláin and Mr. Myles Ryan for providing such discrete and effective support of students throughout the year.



# Fifth Year Cont'd



As the term and indeed the year draws to a close sincere thanks to the hardworking and committed Parents' Committee, chaired so efficiently by Mr. Dermot Horan, for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year. A special thanks to all Fifth Year parents who helped, through meticulous planning, to make the Sixth Year Graduation reception a resounding success, enjoyed and much appreciated by all involved.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the Fifth Year House Captains. Their interest in, leadership and support of the year group have been excellent in many ways with their hard work, motivation and commitment contributing to the smooth running of every day routines as well as events such as the Swimming Gala, SVP fundraiser and Sports and Family Day.

Finally and certainly not least of all, the Fifth Year group of 2015-2016 deserves a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts both inside and outside the classroom this past year. They have displayed a wealth of enthusiasm and talents and have conducted themselves in a caring and responsible manner. We wish them a happy and safe summer and every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.

## The Arts



### Music

This last term has been full of exciting musical events around the College. The inaugural **Father Dowling Festival Concert** was held in Willow Park 1st Year and the performers received rapturous applause and a standing ovation! It was a wonderful event and particularly gratifying to see the Libermann Choir join up with the 1st Year Choir. We look forward to welcoming these talented musicians to the College next year.

Following this, we had a poignant and moving remembrance of the **1916 Easter Rising** held in the quadrangle. Mr. André Cavanagh played 'Mise Éire' on the french horn as Chairman on the Student Council, Tim Maguire, raised the Tricolour on the Clock Tower. Chris Wong delivered an emotive and solemn rendition of 'The Foggy Dew'. The ceremony concluded with 'Amhrán na bhFiann' led by Ms. Patrice O'Connor and the Libermann Choir.

The **Junior Musical** was marked by masterful stage performances, brilliant humour, superb movement, excellent singing and music. Our boys and the girls of Loreto Dalkey embraced the project, and their proficiency and delivery on and off stage were exemplary. Musical directors Una O' Kane and Killian Grumley Traynor ensured spellbinding music – TOP CLASS!

**Music, Art and Drama (MAD) Week** was full of excitement, madness, and of course drama! All Transition Year students took part in a variety of workshops from magic to film making and animation to hip hop dancing. We also went to the Irish film 'Sing Street' in the IMC Cinema, Dun Laoghaire. One of the many highlights of the week was watching magician Jack Wise swallow a whole sword! The daily Lunchtime Concerts provided a platform to showcase some of the talented singers and songwriters we have in the school.

The **Summer Concert** was another fabulous evening's entertainment in the Jubilee Hall as the Choirs – Adult, Boarders, 16, Libermann and Corless (joined by Willow Park 1st Year) – Orchestra and Soloists entertained the appreciative and enthusiastic audience. These are special nights – a platform for our talented voices and musicians, and also an opportunity that provides a farewell to our brilliant 6th Years and a warm welcome to the 1st Year Choir and musicians.

The **Graduation Mass** was a deeply moving liturgy, appreciated by the boys and their parents. The combined efforts of the Sixth Year Choir and Orchestra enhanced the liturgy with their uplifting hymns and instrumental performances. It was a liturgy that marked the end of their time with us in the College, and one that they will always cherish and remember. We thank them, applaud them for their generous contributions to music in the college, and wish them well on the road ahead.



The Orchestra at the Summer Concert

### Debating

The Blackrock College Debating Society has completed another successful year.

The Gold Medal Debate for TY and 5th Years was contested in front of a large audience in the Creative Arts & Digital Learning Centre. The standard was high and this gives us optimism for the year ahead. The worthy winners were Ben Heapes (TY Year) and John Heavey (5th Year). Congratulations to all who participated.

Once again the 6th Year Gold Medal Debate proved to be a lively and enjoyable affair in which the whole year group got involved (for better or for worse). James Cronin was a worthy winner, and later delivered a memorable and witty Valedictory address on Prize Day.

Congratulations to all those who took part in debating this year

### Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre Well-being collection

With the prospect of state exams looming and our students' anxiety levels rising, we have started to develop a new part to the print collection, called the well-being collection. These are a mixture of titles on anxiety, mindfulness, CBT and coping with depression, as with our main collection all of our students are entitled to borrow these for a period of two weeks.

### Remembering the Rising Blackrock College Centenary Commemoration of 1916

The History Department, in conjunction with Lorraine Marrey in the CADLC, and Caroline Mullan in Archives organised a Centenary Exhibition entitled *Remembering the Rising*, to commemorate the events of Easter 1916. It ran for one week from Monday 25th April - Friday 29th April 2016 and it was inter-active. The students in Ms Harlowe's 4th Year History class, worked hard not only on researching the Easter Rising through themes (children, women, the

signatories) but also worked closely on compiling and curating the exhibition, which stretched from the Learning Centre to St Patrick's corridor where it linked in with the wonderful work done by our archivist Caroline Mullan. It was a great visual display and was a very worthwhile educational project for the boys throughout the school.

The **Programme of Events** for the week included a variety of activities. The week began on Monday 25th April with The Flag & Proclamation Ceremony. This was a Whole School event held in The Quadrangle. The ceremony was filmed and can be viewed on Blackrock College TV. This was followed, on Tuesday, by a visit from Professor Emeritus Michael Laffan of U.C.D. He spoke to our 5th Year History students and asked them to examine the portrayal of Easter 1916 from a number of perspectives. On Thursday, we remembered the Rising with Poetry & Music in a lunchtime concert organized by Ms Kelleher. To conclude the week, our 4th Year History students embarked on a guided tour of the interactive exhibition in Dublin's G.P.O. Overall, a worthwhile and engaging commemoration of these historic events.



Professor Emeritus Michael Laffan of U.C.D.



In early May the Learning Centre and Transition Year students welcomed Dublin writer Brian Gallagher. Brian is the author of a number of books of historical fiction for young adult readers including *Across the Divide*, set during the 1913 Dublin Lockout; *Taking Sides*, which takes place against the backdrop of the Civil War; and the very popular *Friend or Foe*, set during the 1916 Easter Rising. He wrote a follow-up to *Friend or Foe*, called *One Good Turn*, for World Book Day 1916. He has used these momentous events in Irish history to form the backdrop of his novels as he believes all storytelling is about conflict- no-one wants to read about a mundane, uneventful life.

He took us through the mechanics of writing a novel. The starting point has to be a good idea and it has to be one that he himself is passionate about. He finds out what music was popular at the time, what people were wearing, what other major events were taking place in the world. His aim is to transport his readers back in time so they can see the world as it was during the period. Once all his research is done then comes the hard part, writing! Brian's most recently-published novel is *Arrivals*, the story of two Irish families emigrating to Canada in the 1920s. He is currently working on a novel about the Black and Tans.

### Students' Art



Michael Gadaloff (2nd Year)  
Head of Christ, inspired by Durer



Patrick O' Callaghan (6th Year)  
working on his sculpture



# Snapshot of Final Term 2016



Ms Patrice O'Connor conducts the Sixth Year Choir and Orchestra at the Graduation Mass



Rory Patterson winner of the Fr. Corless Gold Cup with his parents, Mr David Coen, Fr. Cormac O' Brolchain and Mr Brian Herlihy on Prize Day



James McGowan at the Graduation Mass



Jack Gardiner (De Valera House) on Graduation Day



Stephen Rooney winner of the General Excellence Award with his parents, Mr David Coen, Fr. Cormac O' Brolchain and Mr Brian Herlihy on Prize Day



Adult, Boarders, I6, Libermann and Corless choirs and Orchestra at the Summer Concert



Chris Wong and Kevin McCabe at the Summer Concert



Neil Holohan (Fourth Year) and Patrick O' Connor (Second Year) performing in 'Oliver Twisted'



The sun shone on Day 3 of the Camino Trip as the Transition Year students walked 26 km to Palas de Rei.



Blackrock College junior and senior Table Tennis squads Leinster Cup Champions 2016



# Snapshot of Final Term 2016



The whole school assembled in the quadrangle to Remember the Rising



The Cast on the final night of 'Oliver Twisted'



Paul Dunne ,winner of Past Pupils Sports Personality Award for 2016, Alan MacGinty, and David Coen, President of PPU)



James Cronin 2016 Valedictorian on Prize Day



Blackrock versus Mount Temple JCT, Junior 4ths Final in Donnybrook



Castle versus House Final



Junior 2nds captained by Tom Dwan defeated Terenure in the Junior League Division



Mr Paul Keogh (Dean of 6th Year) with Sixth Years on Graduation Day



# News from the Past



## This time a hundred years ago- Easter 1916

The Easter Rising and its aftermath was the main concern with the College authorities as spring turned to summer in 1916. Although the students were very excited about the happenings so close to them, the resulting food shortages were not so thrilling.

Food was running out – always a big consideration for hungry students and an even bigger consideration for those who had to acquire it. The responsibility of providing meals would have fallen on the Holy Ghost Brothers in the school whose journal says "Our anxiety in the College is increasing as our supplies are getting very low". Nobody was allowed to leave the College because of the fighting and with so many shops closed, the Brothers' journal records on 29 April "Today all here are put on short rations".

*Provisions are running out in the township. Shops have been closed. Our anxiety in the College is increasing as our supplies are getting very low.*

The College had its own cows at its farm at Merrion but milk couldn't be collected because of the military who were practising at Elm Park. Bread was almost impossible to get because of a lack of yeast.

The Bursar, Fr Keawell, who was in charge of financial matters, harnessed the College horse and demanded permission from the military to get provisions. He managed to buy out a whole shop in the Mount Street area. He must have got a great welcome when he arrived back!



The College horse on a happier occasion

Dreadful reports were coming in about the executions of rebels and there was terrible shock at learning of past students being condemned to death – de Valera, Willie Corrigan and Fionán Lynch – although these were commuted to prison sentences.



*Mr de Valera, Past Student & Past Professor, who was one of the leaders in the 'Sin Fein Rising' was sentenced by court martial to transportation for life.*

Eamon de Valera under arrest



Fionán Lynch



*Mr Willie Corrigan, another Past Student, was sentenced to five years imprisonment, for participation in same 'Rising'.*

Willie Corrigan

Traditions continued at the College, including Sports Day. Elegant ladies in wide shady hats and men in straw boaters accompanied by children watched the athletes while enjoying afternoon tea and the visiting band.

Lieut. Nicholas J. Egan, who has been awarded a Military Cross for gallantry on service in France, was wounded in a bombing attack on June 10th last. A mound and crater had been captured from the Germans by a party under Lieut. Egan on the night of the 8th June. On the 10th the Huns counter-attacked, but the attack was broken up by Lieut. Egan, who led a small party into no-man's-land, and bombed the Germans in the open, and prevented them retaking the position. Lieut. Egan is the eldest son of Mr. John J. Egan, J.P., 12 Longford terrace, Monks town, Co. Dublin.



There were also past students fighting in World War I



*The Past Students Union dinner and Distribution of Prizes took place here today.*

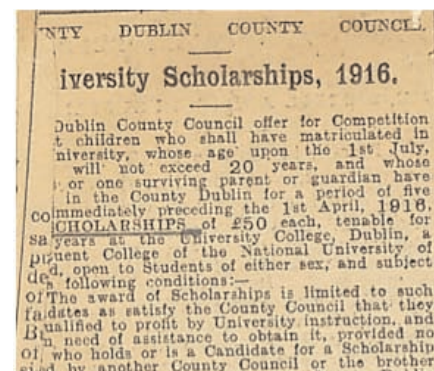
10 June 1916. These were combined events at the time.

After the exams some students remained to sit their University Entrance exams (Matriculation).



Castle students

A newsclipping gives details of Dublin County Council Scholarships that may be of interest to students





# News from the Past Cont'd



Before heading home for the summer, students paddle in the sea at Williamstown opposite the College, barefoot but wearing school caps, supervised by clergy in black hats and prefects in bowlers.

## News from the Recent Past

Congratulations to the 7 Blackrock past- students who were on the pitch in Murrayfield at the final whistle of the pro 12 final:

- **Luke Fitzgerald** (Class of 2006)
- **Ian Madigan** (Class of 2007)
- **Alan (AJ) MacGinty** (Class of 2008)
- **David Heffernan, Jordi Murphy** (Class of 2009)
- **Peter Robb** (Class of 2012)
- **Gary Ringrose** (Class of 2013)
- **Dennis Buckley** (Class of 2009), **sadly, was denied a final appearance through injury.**

Each represented his Province and the College with distinction and great sportsmanship on a fabulous occasion for Irish Rugby.

**Saturday 11th June 2016** was another significant day in the annals of Irish Rugby. **Congratulations to Hugo Keenan** (Class of 2014) who was a member of the Ireland U20 side that defeated New Zealand in that age grade's World Cup Tournament. Congratulations also to **Jordi Murphy** (Class of 2009) and **Ian Madigan** (Class of 2007) who were also members of the Ireland Squad that achieved Ireland's first away victory over South Africa.

## Sixth Year



The year has flown by; the Leaving Certificate is just around the corner and it has truly been a memorable journey. On returning from the Easter break, the Sixth years were straight into the thick of things. Language orals, practical exams and numerous coursework deadlines were completed within three weeks of their return, a very busy time for all. Thankfully everything went smoothly!

### Parents' Conference

The Parents' conference was well attended on Tuesday 3rd of May. Ms McMahon, our Sixth Year Chaplain, opened the evening with a Ceremony of Light. The focus of the conference was twofold; firstly to discuss the arrangements for the remainder of the term and secondly to outline the support structures that are in place for the students in the lead up to the exams.

### Gold Medal Debate

The Gold Medal debate was held on Wednesday Monday 11th May in front of a packed Sixth Year audience. The motion debated was,

***The class of 2016 is proud to be culturally Irish despite Globalisation.***

In what was a lively debate James Cronin emerged as the adjudicators' choice to be this year's Valedictorian. Many thanks to Mr John Sheil for his organisation of the event and to our adjudicators Mr Niall Byrne, Ms Cathy Kelleher, Ms Dobbryn and Ms Canning.

### Graduation Day

The Graduation Mass was celebrated on Sunday May 22nd. Fr Cormac O'Brolchain, our chief celebrant, gave a wonderful homily and assured the students that they would always be welcome in Blackrock. A special thanks to all the staff, students, parents and particularly Mr Tom Ryan on their organisation of the Graduation Mass. The celebrations moved into the Quadrangle and into the Dining Hall – a huge thank you to the Fifth Year parents for the reception in the Dining hall. The Graduation Lunch was held in The Pavilion, Leopardstown, with 584 people in attendance. James Cronin's valedictorian address was witty, entertaining and his delivery was perfect. Thanks to Helen Gardiner and the graduation committee on their organisation of the lunch. All in all, it was a wonderful day and fitting celebration for the Class of 2016.

### Table Tennis

Congratulations to Rory Murphy who was part of the Senior Table Tennis Team as they completed their 7th consecutive Leinster League/Cup double, with victories over Castleknock and Woodbrook.

### Cricket

Our first title since 1967!!! Well done to Andrew Mays, Captain, and his team on a fantastic win over St Columba's in the final.

### House Football Leagues

Thanks to Mr O'Brien and Mr Murphy on their organisation of the House Football Leagues. McQuaid and Leman squared up in this year's final. After a few minutes it was clear that the energetic Paddy Fox was going to cause the Leman defence problems and he duly opened the scoring. Leman had no answer to the counter attacking style of McQuaid and eventually lost 5-1. Congratulations to a dominant McQuaid House on winning the competition.

### House Competitions

After the results for the Rugby Tens, Swimming Gala, Sports Day, Soccer Leagues and Pool competition were tallied up, Leman House emerged as the overall winners. Congratulations to James Huggard, Tommy O'Brien and the rest of their house on this achievement.

### Sports Day

Sports Day this year was held on Sunday 15th of May. A huge crowd attended to witness the sporting talents of the boys in over 90 events. Ebenrecht House won out in 6th Year, closely followed by Shanahan. One of the highlights of the day saw the Boarders beat the Day Boys in the tug-o-war challenge. We were delighted to welcome Paul Dunne (Class of 2011) who was presented with the Past Pupils Sports Personality Award for 2016 by the President of the Union, Mr David Coen. Paul, in turn, presented the Sports Personality of The Year Award to Tommy O'Brien (6th Year).



Mr E.O' Brien, Tommy O'Brien (winner of the Sports Personality of the Year 2016 Award), Paul Dunne and Mr David Coen, President of PPU

### Stanley Cup

On Thursday 21st of May the final of the Stanley Cup saw the Castle Dayboys take on the House Dayboys. The game was a very tight affair and the Castle Dayboys won out 2-1, thanks to a double from Ben Garrett.

### Prize Day

Prize Day took place on Saturday 28th of May, congratulations to all 6th Year prize winners and in particular to Stephen Scanlon Rooney (General Excellence Award), Matthew Long (Top Academic) and Tim Maguire (Fr Jim Burke Cup for Leadership). And just like Graduation Day James Cronin provided a master class in public speaking.



Mikey Sexton, Alejandro Munoz-Alonso and Hugh Egleston (Castle versus House Final)

Finally, a particular thank you to Paul Maguire, (Sixth Year Chairperson), and everyone on the Parents' committee. The work that they have done throughout the year has been immense, from the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle, Graduation Lunch, Machakos Fundraisers and many more events, their commitment and organisation has been greatly appreciated by all.

To the Class of 2016 – you have been a remarkable group of students to work with throughout your final year. You have significantly contributed to the Ethos and Life of the College and we as a College were very fortunate to have students like you! Please drop by sometime and let us know how you are. Take care and God bless.



# Pastoral Care Programme



## Staff Retreat

On the first weekend of Term 3, a bright and sunny Saturday April 9th, a group of teachers from the College travelled to the Retreat Centre of the Redemptoristine Nuns in Drumcondra for the annual staff retreat. Two of our colleagues Mr Sean Goan and Br Joe Cannon were joined by Mr. Brian McKee in guiding those present towards 'A Spirituality of Teaching'. A morning of inspirational reflections that were both comforting and challenging was followed by a relaxed lunch in the Maples Hotel on Iona Road.

## Pastoral Placement RE46

Monday 11th April saw the start of the final TY Pastoral Placement for this academic year. In keeping with each of the previous seven groups, the feedback from each of the centres was outstanding. It has been such a pleasure to receive so many compliments from Directors and Principals about the contribution that this year's TY students have made to life in the schools, Day Care Centres and Residential Facilities that they have visited. Well done to all!

## Second Year & TY Retreats

Both 2nd Year and TY students participated in days of reflection during this final term. The eight RE classes formed the groupings for the Second Year retreats. These were facilitated within the College over four school days, by Mr Patrick Reynolds. The feedback from the students was very positive with many identifying the Reconciliation Service at the end of the Day of Reflection as a particular highpoint.

During the year, 76 TY students participating in the Gaisce Award undertook their retreat in Craanbridge, Wexford with Mr John Forrest; while the rest of the year group travelled to the Dominican Retreat House in Tallaght for their days of reflection on May 24th and May 26th. TY students found these days very useful, in particular, the focus placed by the retreat team on the nature of challenges that the Senior Cycle years may hold for the TY students.

## Lourdes 2016

On Thursday 14th April, our five 5th Year pilgrims met with the other second level helpers for an information evening about the 2016 Lourdes Pilgrimage in Belvedere College. This was followed by a visit to Blackrock on May 6th by Fr. Paul Thornton of the Dublin Diocese, who met these students in the company of the members of the Class of 2016 who had travelled last September. It was very encouraging to note that three of these Sixth Year students will be returning to Lourdes as 'white shirt' helpers in September 2016.

## RDS Youth Gathering

Ms McMahon and Mr Tom Ryan accompanied a group of TY and 5th Year students to the RDS on April 19th, to attend an All-Ireland gathering of senior students to mark the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This day which featured a powerful testimony by Richard Moore, the founder of Children in Crossfire, concluded with Mass with Archbishop Charles Brown, the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, as chief celebrant.

## Development Education Showcase

On Friday April 22nd, Transition Year students under the leadership of Ms. Payne, Ms. McMahon and Br. Joe, hosted the Spiritan Schools' Network Development Education Showcase. Each Spiritan school displayed a project on St. Patrick's Hall and presented their work at a general assembly in the Lecture Hall. The presentations, which were assessed by students from Kimmage Manor, covered themes such as Home and Homelessness, the Refugee Crisis and Poverty and Hunger in Ireland. The Blackrock project, 'The Power of Solidarity', emerged from TY student reflections based on the Kolkata, Kenya and Soup Run experiences. A particular feature of this project was the presentations made by the TY students to the Junior Cycle RE classes in the days that followed the showcase.



Students from the Irish Spiritan Schools work together in the Lecture Hall

## Morning Star Hostel

On Wednesday 11th May, in the company of Ms McMahon and Mr. Ryan, the TY soup run class visited the Legion of Mary Headquarters on Brunswick Street. The links between our College Soup Run and the Legion of Mary are strong, as we share the same inspiring vision to carry out mission work in the spirit of faith and in union with Our Lady. This visit proved important for the students as they learned about the Legion of Mary founder and Blackrock College past pupil Frank Duff. The students were also given a tour of The Morning Star; a hostel Frank Duff opened on the 25th of March 1927 for homeless men. This hostel, still run completely by volunteers and operating independently of all government funding, caters for homeless men who are 18 years old or more, and many of the homeless men we meet on our Wednesday night soup run, find refuge in the Morning Star.

## Camino 2016

Having completed a third practice walk in Glendalough (April 13th) and walked from Blackrock to collect the pilgrim passports in the Church of St. James in Dublin on Sunday 24th April, our 20 student pilgrims flew to Santiago de Compostela on Saturday May 7th in the company of Fr. Marc Whelan CSSp, Mr Walsh, Mr O'Neill and Mr Brennan, the Group Leader. While weather for the week was mixed, with the final 25km leg of the 141km trek from Pedrouzo to Santiago particularly wet, spirits and camaraderie among the group remained very high and since returning to Dublin, a group of the TY pilgrims have pledged to complete all 700km of the Camino Frances by the age of thirty!!! Buen Camino!



Camino 2016

## Confirmation

A wonderful occasion was celebrated in the College Chapel on Sunday April 24th when four 2nd Year students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Fr Cormac O' Brolchain administered the sacrament during a meaningful and moving liturgy. The Boarders' choir sang and Br Joe Cannon gave an inspirational homily on the life changing role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In preparation for the event Calum Byrne, Liam Finn, Luke Pierce and Joe Young Hughes attended special classes in the College organised by Br Joe and Mr Sean Goan the College Chaplain. For various reasons the boys had not made confirmation earlier so this was a great opportunity for them to take this important step of deepening their faith commitment to Christ and his Gospel. We wish them every blessing on the road ahead.



## Graduation 2016

The thunder showers stayed away and the sun made a most welcome appearance as the Class of 2016 gathered in the College with their parents to celebrate Graduation Day on Sunday 22nd May. Over 120 students performed a specific ministry during the uplifting and prayerful liturgy that reflected the real sense of a Eucharistic Community palpable within the Jubilee Hall. The gifts and talents of the Spiritan Community, the RE & Chaplaincy Departments, the 5th and 6th Year Parents' Associations and the Class of 2016 were all in evidence throughout the day as the celebrations moved from the Jubilee Hall, to the College Quadrangle and Dining Hall and on to Leopardstown Racecourse. We wish the Class of 2016 every blessing and hopefully they will always remember Fr. Cormac's parting words; whether you become a bishop, a multi-millionaire or a hopeless addict down on your luck, you will always be a valued part of the Blackrock College family and you will always be welcome back in Blackrock...Be There! Be Caring! Be Truthful!

## Br. Joe Cannon CSSp

During the past year the College has been richly blessed by the presence of Bro Joe Cannon CSSp. Born in San Diego California, Joe is a member of the American province of the Spiritans. He was on loan to us for one year and during that time he very quickly became a much loved member of the College Community, teaching staff and pastoral team. He brought energy, enthusiasm and inspiration to everything he did and the students particularly enjoyed his teaching style and the quality of his presence, especially within the Boarding School. The Pastoral, RE and Chaplaincy departments are very grateful to him for his generous engagement with all the projects that came his way. Bro Joe you will be greatly missed by us all. Thank you for the witness of your life!!



Bro Joe Cannon CSSp



# Science Department



## Third Year Quiz

On Wednesday 20th April six Third Year students accompanied by Ms Groves, travelled to Belvedere College to take part in the Dublin ISTA Junior Science Quiz. There were 31 teams taking part from schools across Dublin.

Congratulations to:

Team A, consisting of Luke Armstrong, Cian Dunne and Peter Murphy, who placed 5th. & Team B, consisting of Oisín Ellison, Niall Meagher and Andrew Ryan, who placed 7th.

## SciFest

Four Second Years accompanied by their teacher Mr Rowsome travelled to Blanchardstown and competed at the Regional SciFest in the Institute of Technology on Wednesday 3rd May.

In a competitive field of 70 projects we had two prize-winners.

Tom Dooley won the 'Maths in Science' award for his project titled 'Binomial Distribution'.

John Huggard came first in the Junior Physical science category for his project 'The Future of Fusion'.

The other two projects:

'To determine whether you can accurately determine the temperature of an area by calculating cricket beats' by Harry O'Leary

and

'Why does a cricket ball swing?' by Gavin Hoey received plenty of positive feedback from the judges.

## Fifth Year Ecology Field Trip

On Friday May 13th, 120 Fifth Year Biology and Agricultural Science students accompanied by five Blackrock College Science teachers took part in an ecological survey of the flora and fauna of the grassland habitat at the Airfield Estate, in Dundrum. An enjoyable educational day was had by all in glorious sunshine.



Fifth Years in Airfield Estate, in Dundrum

# Guidance and Counselling



All 6th Year students have now made 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, photography, music and drama. As well as this some students have applied for scholarships in a range of different third level institutions. Students can now avail of the CAO Change of Mind facility from May 5th until 5.15pm on July 1st. With this facility students can change their course order, add new courses provided they are not restricted courses and remove course choices on their course lists. It is vitally important that students order their courses by preference. No further changes can be made to their CAO application after July 1st. It is also important to make sure that 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 is to apply for third level courses which are of interest to them where they will be motivated to engage 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 have sat the HPAT test will receive their results after the Leaving Certificate in late June. A number of Leaving Certificate students have firmly accepted offers through the UCAS system in the UK while 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 is an ever increasing number of PLC courses available at present. Exciting opportunities are available to students when they do a Level 5 or Level 6 PLC course, which allows them the freedom to progress to Level 7 and Level 8 degree programmes at Third Level. This progression can take place from one college to another or to a university. If a student receives a level 5 or 6 award he can use the result in place of his Leaving Certificate results. It is very important for all students to understand this progression pathway and its implications. Further information is available from the guidance counsellors in the college.

Many 6th Year students have signed up to avail of UCD library which will be open to Leaving Cert students from Monday, May 23rd to Friday, June 24th. Students can use the James Joyce Library for quiet study and to consult resources. The cost for use of the library is €30. For further information and to book a place please see [https://www.ucd.ie/library/using\\_the\\_library/admission/leavingcert/](https://www.ucd.ie/library/using_the_library/admission/leavingcert/)

The 5th and 6th Year Computer Programming Course led by past student Mark O'Shea (3rd Year Computer Science and Business student at Trinity College) has now concluded. A total of twenty seven students participated in the programme which proved to be a very worthwhile initiative giving students a real insight into aptitudes required to study this discipline.

5th Year students have completed the Centigrade Career Interest Inventory. Centigrade is an interest-based questionnaire. It matches a student's interests and abilities with Higher Education courses and institutions in Ireland, the UK and those in Europe offering undergraduate degrees taught in English. Each student will receive a personalised workbook listing relevant Higher Education courses and institutions when they return to school after the summer break. This will encourage them to commence more serious research into third level

courses and careers that are available to them.

A number of 5th and 6th Year students participated in the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad this year with Mark Heavy (5th Year) qualifying for the final in Trinity College. Mark was awarded a Bronze Award for finishing 25th out of 100 students in the final, a most notable achievement for him.

Transition Year students were addressed by two very interesting speakers over the last term. Peter Cosgrove of CPL Recruitment addressed students on the 'Future of Work'. Peter's talk was well received, being very engaging and thought provoking. Past pupil Stephen Quinn of Atomic Sports also presented to students on the wide range of career opportunities available within the Sports industry. The College is very thankful to both speakers for taking the time to visit the students and impart their knowledge.

The 3rd Year Parents' Conference regarding Subject Choice and Transition Year took place on May 9th and saw a big turnout by 3rd Year parents. Ms Carleen McGee, Ms Lynn Dillon and Mr Martin Dunne addressed parents on subject content and third level requirements while Mr Alan MacGinty spoke in more detail about the subject choice form and the need for parents to support and encourage their sons when they embark on the Transition Year Programme. The PowerPoint presentations used on the evening are available to parents through the College website.

The Student Well-Being Committee compiled from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Year students have been meeting to assist in the planning of next September's Bullying Awareness Day. The Committee also has established an information noticeboard on the main corridor of the school where they aim to regularly update relevant articles on the areas of Well-Being and Bullying Prevention. The noticeboard features a Study Tips article at present that is relevant to any student preparing for examinations. Ms McGee would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work during this academic year.

The CBT and Mindfulness workshops that were available to all students have now concluded for this year. Over eighty students ranging across the year groups participated in the workshops. The workshops were facilitated by Lynn Agnew and Siobhan Murray of Dublin Counsellors. Areas covered in the workshop included problem solving, meditation, social media, communication styles and learning about thought processes. Feedback overall has been very positive from the students.

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.

As a Department we especially wish our 3rd and 6th Year students and all year groups every good wish for their upcoming examinations and we hope that they and their families enjoy the summer break.



# Sport



## Athletics

In the presence of exceptional competition, all of our athletes performed well at the Leinster Athletics Championships, many getting personal bests on the day. Highlights include Christian McKenna battling hard for a 3rd place finish in the senior 1500m, Alan Francis coming second in the senior 110m hurdles and Harry Cullen finishing in 3rd place in both shot and discus. However for many it was a case of so close yet so far, as they narrowly missed out on qualifying for the All Irelands. A lot to build on for next year.

We wish Christina McKenna, Alan Francis and Harry Cullen all the best at the All Irelands in Tullamore on June 4th.

## Senior Cricket

The Senior cricket team entering for the first time in a number of years in the A league were always going to find it difficult to top their pool being placed in a pool with perennial favourites St Andrews College and Belvedere College. The undoubted highlight of the pool play was Shane Keane's remarkable bowling figures of 7- off his 7 overs.

Blackrock qualified for the Plate competition and progressed in a semi-final against King's Hospital. This saw Blackrock play St Columba's in the Plate final. In wet conditions, Blackrock asked St Columba's to bat and some tight bowling early from Shane Keane (5th year) and JJ Garth (3rd year) saw St Columba's under pressure early. The wet conditions made fielding difficult but Blackrock did extremely well restricting the opposition to 94 for the loss of 6 wickets in their allotted 30 overs.

In reply Blackrock always looked comfortable with useful contributions from Joe McAleese and Conor Dean (both 6th year) However it was the partnership between Ronan Mullen (5th year) and Captain Andrew Mays (6th year) that set the platform for victory for Blackrock. It was fitting that captain Andrew Mays, who top scored with an impressive 44 not out, hit the winning runs. We congratulate Andrew and his squad on an impressive result, as the last time Blackrock won a final in the A league of Leinster Schools cricket was 1967.



Senior Cricket Team

## Junior Cricket

Cricket continues to develop strongly at Blackrock and JJ Garth's (Third Year) junior team have excelled at times this term. Victories against St Gerard's, High School, Wesley and Gonzaga in the group stage meant that they topped the group and progressed into the knockout stages with deserved confidence. The quarter-final proved a tough but exciting affair however, with St Joseph's Rush pushing us to our limits after we had restricted them to a modest total first up. The win finally coming after some excellent aggressive batting by Sean Lardner (Third Year) in particular late on.

Opponents in the semi-final were St Mary's and once again we restricted them to a lowly 43 runs in their innings but competitive bowling and fielding kept them well in the game until some composed batting in the middle of the innings by opener David Cosgrave (Second Year) and team captain JJ Garth managed to guide us through the difficult spell and into the Leinster Schools final which will take place against CUS in the final week of term.

## Rowing

Blackrock has now settled into the facilities at Neptune Rowing Club, with the regatta season well under way we are hoping for continued success leading up to the National Championships being held in Cork, from the 15th to the 17th of July.

The regatta season so far has been something that the club can look back on and be extremely proud of. Under 15 crews took home first place silverware in various regattas including Queen's Regatta, Commercial Regatta and Schools' Regatta.



A big congratulations to our second year rowers who represented Blackrock at Castleconnell Sprint Regatta with our under 14 double sculls team of MJ Power and Jack Tiernan both of 2nd year finishing first place.

Matt Smith (cox), Louis Crowe, Josh Loughrey, Conal Regan and Sean Hannon looking comfortable as they come into the finish in first place of the under 15's quadruple scull event at the Schools' Regatta on the 24th of May in O'Brien's Bridge, County Clare

We look forward to continued training and success leading into the National Championships.

## Tennis

Another enjoyable and busy season has passed for Blackrock's Senior, Junior and Minor tennis teams. 8 teams participated in total over a period of 6 weeks after the Easter mid-term break. All teams were drawn in highly competitive and challenging sections within each age group. The revitalisation of the courts during the term has added to the excitement towards the game and Blackrock played proud host for 11 home games.

Despite strong performances at both senior and junior levels, the teams did not proceed to the finals this year having lost out narrowly to teams such as St. Michael's, Gonzaga, Sandford Park and Terenure.

The minor teams had a season they can be proud of with great talent shining through. They recorded numerous victories before the Division 1 team lost out in the semi-finals on May 17th. They played a very talented Gonzaga team who were deserved victors on the day.

Although no trophies were brought home to Blackrock this year, we look forward to a better

season next year. Well done to all students involved who participated with great commitment and thanks to all team managers who organised each team.

## Table Tennis

It was a busy and successful final term for table tennis in Blackrock. The team returned from a successful World Schools' Championships in Israel, finishing in 12th position out of 19 teams; the highest finish by a Blackrock team, in this 4th opportunity to take part in the Championships.

Junior A secured the Mahony Cup for Leinster Division 1 for the 6th year in a row, while Senior A completed seven in a row Division 1 titles, taking the Kemp Shield for the 16th time. Junior B and Junior 2A finished as joint winners of Leinster Junior Division 2.

Qualifying for the All Ireland Championships through their league position, Blackrock Juniors won their Championship and in doing so made it 8 finals in 9 years, with 5-1 victories over CBC Cork in the semi-final and RBAI in the final. Blackrock Seniors, seeking a 7th consecutive final appearance and 6 titles in a row, came through to the final with a 5-0 win over Royal School Cavan, but were unlucky to lose out 3-5 in a very close senior final against St. Louis' from Mayo.

The last act of the season was Leinster Cup Finals Day in Belfield, where Junior A completed the last leg of their 'double-treble' - back-to-back League, Cup and All Ireland titles in 2015 and 2016 - with 4-0 wins against Blackrock 2A and Presentation Carlow, making it nine consecutive Leinster Junior Cup finals and six titles in a row. Senior A were not to be upstaged, as they made it eight Leinster Senior Cup titles in a row, with 4-0 wins over Castleknock and St. Brendan's.

At an individual level, Louis Murphy and Joey Nelson were selected for Leinster, while Joey Nelson and Charlie FitzGerald have been selected for Ireland for upcoming events.



David Campbell, Charlie Fitzgerald, Louis Murphy and Joey Nelson, World Schools Table Tennis Champions 2016 Elia, Israel.

## Swimming

This term the Blackrock Swimming Team had two major events, both in Ireland and abroad.

In March, the Senior, Intermediate and Junior squad were invited to Harrow College to compete against Kings' Canterbury, Eton and hosts Harrow. Our Swim Team finished a strong 2nd to our host. As well as this outstanding performance, many personal bests were made resulting in 5 Gold, 16 Silver, 8 Bronze, 4 in 4th Place and 2 Fifth Places achieved.

Back on home ground, on Sunday the 8th of May, our swim team competed in the Irish Schools' Relays Finals held at the National Aquatic Centre.

Our Senior Squad of: Sean Desmond, Rolf Jager (both 5th Year), Matthew Long and Sean Hassett (both 6th Year), won Silver in both the Medley and Freestyle Relays. Our Intermediate Squad of Rhys Rowlands (3rd Year), Peter Harrington (2nd Year), Max Connolly (3rd Year) and Harry Sharpe (3rd Year) finished just outside the Medals in 4th Place, in both their races. Our Junior Squad of Phillip Towns (2nd Year), Naoise Caudley (1st Year), Ethan Murtagh (1st Year) and Davide Mei (2nd Year) won Gold in the Medley Race and Bronze in the Freestyle event.

The team were amazing and were up against many swimmers who are on the Irish National Team. All in all this term has been full of great achievements with a huge amount of personal best times and each time representing an enormous amount of effort on the part of the swimmers.



Blackrock College Swim Team before the annual swim meet against Harrow

Photos courtesy Rock Photography  
[www.rockphotography.ie](http://www.rockphotography.ie)

[www.blackrockcollege.com](http://www.blackrockcollege.com)

## Reflection

*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."*  
**Muhammad Ali**