

# Blackrock College



## Parents' Handbook 2018 - 2019

# INTRODUCTION

**BLACKROCK COLLEGE** has about 990 students with approximately 90 teaching, counselling and academic support staff. A Dean manages each of the five Year groups. Heads of Department are in charge of subjects or groups of subjects. There are 19 Subject Departments of which 6 have Assistant Heads. The list of Department Heads/Assistant Heads is published annually in the Student Homework Diary.

This Handbook summarises the activities of the school and provides useful information on the organisation and operation of the school.

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## Origins of Blackrock College: A Brief History

In 1859 a group of French priests, led by Père Jules Leman, came to Ireland seeking vocations for their missions in English-speaking parts of Africa. They were members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp), a French order known in Ireland as the Holy Ghost Fathers – now known internationally as Spiritans.

Finding very few educated enough to study for the priesthood they decided to open a college to provide second level education for Catholics - something that was lacking in Ireland which still suffered from the impact of the 1847 famine.

The French Fathers opened the doors of Castledawson House on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1860 to two boarders and six day students. It soon became known as the Collège Français – or French College. Apart from one lay teacher, all the staff were French and this was the language in daily use. The first College uniform was military-style and similar to that worn in lycées in France during the era of Napoleon III. The students of the French College were therefore known locally in Blackrock as ‘Boney Boys’ – Boney being short for Napoleon Bonaparte.

For a complete history of the College, it is recommended that you read “Blackrock College – 1860 - 1995” by Fr. Sean Farragher CSSp, available in the ‘**Creative Arts & Digital Learning Centre**’. Here you will learn such interesting facts as “in addition to the fees boys had to pay for “extras” including items now regarded as daily staples – such as tea, milk and butter. Some students also had wine if they had health problems.” A more recent publication to celebrate the Sesquicentenary of the College, “Fearless and Bold”, is available at Reception.

## **Spiritan Education Trust (S.E.T.)** *Formally Des Places Educational (D.E.A.)*

The **S.E.T.** is the Trustee/Patron body for the nine Spiritan Schools and Colleges in Ireland – Blackrock College, Willow Park 1<sup>st</sup> Year and Junior School, Rockwell, St. Mary’s Secondary and Junior, St. Michael’s Secondary and Junior and Templeogue College.

The **S.E.T.** is also Joint Patron of Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole.

Website: [www.desplaces.ie](http://www.desplaces.ie)

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# **BLACKROCK COLLEGE** **MISSION STATEMENT**

- ◆ Faith is nurtured.
- ◆ Students can develop their full potential.
- ◆ Personal responsibility is promoted.
- ◆ Students are prepared for an appropriate career.
- ◆ Students are made aware of their cultural heritage.
- ◆ Parental collaboration is promoted and encouraged.

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## MANAGEMENT

### TRUSTEES:

Spiritan Education Trust, Kimmage Manor, Kimmage, Dublin 6

Telephone: (01) 4997610 Fax: (01) 4927060

Email: [Sheila.lanney@spiritaneducation.ie](mailto:Sheila.lanney@spiritaneducation.ie)

Provincial  
Chairman

Fr. Martin Kelly CSSp.  
Mr Tom Sheridan

## COLLEGE MANAGEMENT

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Damien Kennedy	~	Chairman
Mr Alan MacGinty	~	Secretary
Mr Ed O' Farrell	~	Teacher Nominee
Ms Maria Ní Choncheanainn	~	Teacher Nominee
Ms Pamela Hughes	~	Parent Nominee
Mr Brian O' Sullivan	~	Parent Nominee
Mr Paul Gardiner	~	Trustee Nominee
Ms Elizabeth Boland	~	Trustee Nominee
Ms Siobhan O' Connell	~	Trustee Nominee

The Board of Management consists of 4 Trustees, 2 Teachers and parent Nominees. Meets monthly 11 times a year (excluding July).

Position	Name and Phone	Email
Principal	Mr Alan MacGinty	<a href="mailto:amacginty@blackrockcollege.com">amacginty@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Deputy Principal	Mr Brian Herlihy	<a href="mailto:bherlihy@blackrockcollege.com">bherlihy@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Deputy Principal	Ms Yvonne Markey	<a href="mailto:ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com">ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Deputy Principal	Ms Sinéad Nolan	<a href="mailto:snolan@blackrockcollege.com">snolan@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Financial Controller	Mr Stephen Waters	<a href="mailto:swaters@blackrockcollege.com">swaters@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Community Leader	Fr. Tom Nash, CSSp.	<a href="mailto:tomnash@blackrockcollege.com">tomnash@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Spiritual Director	Fr. Cormac O'Brolchain, CSSp.	<a href="mailto:cormacobrolchain@blackrockcollege.com">cormacobrolchain@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Director of Boarders	Mr Niall MacDermott	<a href="mailto:nmacdermott@blackrockcollege.com">nmacdermott@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Games Administrator	Mr Evan O' Brien	<a href="mailto:eobrien@blackrockcollege.com">eobrien@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Maintenance Manager	Mr Fintan O'Connor	<a href="mailto:maintdept@blackrockcollege.com">maintdept@blackrockcollege.com</a>
Household Manager	Mr Alan Sheridan	<a href="mailto:asheridan@blackrockcollege.com">asheridan@blackrockcollege.com</a>

## DEANS

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	Ms Rachel Harlowe	<a href="mailto:2dean@blackrockcollege.com">2dean@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	Mr Owen Brennan	<a href="mailto:3dean@blackrockcollege.com">3dean@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>Transition Year</b>	Mr Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:4dean@blackrockcollege.com">4dean@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Ms Caroline Dobbyn	<a href="mailto:5dean@blackrockcollege.com">5dean@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Mr Tom Ryan	<a href="mailto:6dean@blackrockcollege.com">6dean@blackrockcollege.com</a>

<b>Catering Manager (Sodexo)</b>	<b>Ms Mary McSorley</b>	<a href="mailto:catering@blackrockcollege.com">catering@blackrockcollege.com</a>
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## COUNSELLORS

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	Mr Donal Brennan	<a href="mailto:dbrennan@blackrockcollege.com">dbrennan@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	Mr Garry Sullivan	<a href="mailto:gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com">gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>Transition Year</b>	Mr Garry Sullivan	<a href="mailto:gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com">gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Mr Myles Ryan	<a href="mailto:mryan@blackrockcollege.com">mryan@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Ms Natasha Drew	<a href="mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com">ndrew@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>Hall of Residence</b>	Fr. Cormac O'Brolchain CSSp.	<a href="mailto:cormacobrolchain@blackrockcollege.com">cormacobrolchain@blackrockcollege.com</a>

## CAREER GUIDANCE / PASTORAL

<b>College Chaplain</b>	Ms Anita-Marie McGlynn	<a href="mailto:amcglynn@blackrockcollege.com">amcglynn@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year Chaplain</b>	Ms Lorraine Crimmins	<a href="mailto:lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com">lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Ms Natasha Drew	<a href="mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com">ndrew@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Mr Donal O'Nualláin	<a href="mailto:donuallain@blackrockcollege.com">donuallain@blackrockcollege.com</a>
<b>Transition Year</b>	Mr Garry Sullivan	<a href="mailto:gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com">gsullivan@blackrockcollege.com</a>

# HEADS AND ASSISTANT HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>Art</b>	Mr Annraoi Wyer
<b>Business Studies</b>	Mr James Fitzsimons (Head) Ms Naomi Keenan ( <i>Asst. Head</i> )
<b>Career Guidance &amp; Counselling</b>	Ms Natasha Drew
<b>C.S.P.E.</b>	Mr Ed O' Farrell (Head)
<b>English</b>	Mr John Sheil (Head) Ms Cathy Kelleher ( <i>Asst. Head</i> )
<b>Games Administrator</b>	Mr Evan O'Brien
<b>Geography</b>	Mr James Campbell
<b>History</b>	Ms Rachel Harlowe
<b>Irish</b>	Mr Richard Barrett (Head) Mr Evan O'Brien ( <i>Asst. Head</i> )
<b>Latin</b>	Ms Louise Maguire (Head)
<b>Maths &amp; Applied Maths</b>	Mr Andrew McKimm (Head) Mr Pdraig Costello ( <i>Asst Head</i> )
<b>Modern Languages</b>	Ms Caroline Cobbyn (Head) Ms Aimee Hester ( <i>Asst. Head/Spanish</i> ) Mr Hugon Simm ( <i>Asst. Head/German</i> )
<b>Music</b>	Mr Killian Grumley-Traynor (Head)
<b>Pastoral Programme</b>	Mr Flor Madden (Head)
<b>P.E.</b>	Mr Justin Vanstone (Head)
<b>Religious Education</b>	Mr Terry O'Reilly (Head)
<b>Science</b>	Ms Marie Kelly (Head) Mr Ray Ward( <i>Asst. Head - Physics</i> ) Ms Sinéad Nolan( <i>Asst. Head/Chemistry</i> )
<b>S.E.N.</b>	Ms Emily Ryan (Head)
<b>S.P.H.E.</b>	Ms Aoife Ni Riain (Head)
<b>Technical Subjects</b>	Mr Martin Dunne (Head)

# MEDICAL CENTRE AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**LOCATION:** BASEMENT OF CASTLE  
**EXTENSION:** 9811

## **OPEN:**

**Monday to Thursday:** 8.30 am – 10.00 am  
1.30 pm – 5.30 pm

**Friday:** 8.30 am – 10.00 am  
1.30 pm – 4.30 pm

## **NURSES**

Email: nurse @blackrockcollege.com  
Tel: 01 2669811

Ms Andrea Fitzgerald  
Ms Aisling Carr

## **PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

Mr Seamus Toomey  
Email: [physio@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:physio@blackrockcollege.com)  
Bookings can be made through College Reception 01 2752100

## **COLLEGE DOCTOR**

Dr. Frank Marmion  
01 2887328

## ANNUAL

The College Annual provides a comprehensive look at the events of the previous academic year. It also includes information on past pupils and articles on the school's distinguished past. It is published in **November** each year. The current editor is Justin Vanstone. He welcomes the submission of photographs of interest for inclusion in the next annual. Email: [annual@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:annual@blackrockcollege.com)

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## ARCHIVES

The College Archives house a collection of documents, maps and photographs dating back to the founding of the College. The collection is kept in a purpose-built archive located at the rear of the Student Library. Unfortunately, a huge amount of archival material was lost in a fire in the College in 1984, including some 10,000 photographs.

Material includes pupil and staff records as well as documents relating to the College Community and property. We also have records of the Past Pupils' Union and of college societies, students' publications, news cuttings, prize lists, menus and programmes. Correspondence files contain letters from past students detailing their lives in many parts of the world. Our photographs go back to the 1860s, providing an invaluable insight into the early life of the College.

We have a full set of College annuals, first edition in 1930; also books by past pupils and by members of staff, as well as many old textbooks. There are biographies and autobiographies of alumni and some works of fiction with thinly disguised descriptions of life as a student in the college.

We also hold cine films and audiotapes (now digitised) of College events, recordings of concerts and matches and copies of relevant television and radio programmes.

Requests are frequently received for information about the history of the College or its past students or for permission to access material for research. Such requests come from within the College for class projects, for various publications including the Annual, or from staff members interested in items relating to their particular subjects. From outside, requests come from historians, biographers, journalists, radio and television programme makers, students researching material for theses and from family historians.

We are fortunate to have such a resource and grateful to those who, over 150 years, have made this possible.

**College Archivist:**  
**Email address:**

Ms Clare Foley  
[archives@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:archives@blackrockcollege.com)

## THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The College Development Programme was designed to improve facilities throughout the campus and put in place the best possible educational environment.

**The College Development Office** was established in 2009 with the immediate intention of funding the Capital Development Programme. However, its role goes beyond fund-raising and involves the promotion of the College profile in Ireland and overseas, the development of stronger links, primarily through the College Union, with past students at home and abroad, as well as maintain connection with past parents and assist with public and external relations.

The Development Office is managed by Johnny O'Shea and is located downstairs beside the teacher's refectory. Tel: 2752134; 087- 6750059

## NEWSLETTER

**The College Newsletter** is published at *Mid-Term in October, Christmas, Mid-Term in February, Easter and at the end of the school year in May.*

Each Dean writes a report on the activities of their Year group. There are also regular contributions from those involved in Games, Pastoral Care, Boarding, Cultural Activities and Guidance.

The Parents' Association's Year Committees often provide a loose insert which includes updates on activities of interest to parents such as upcoming social events and seminars.

The Editor, Ms Cathy Kelleher, welcomes items for publication as well as good quality photos. She can be contacted at: [ckelleher@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ckelleher@blackrockcollege.com)

## PASTORAL PROGRAMME

The Pastoral Programme is co-ordinated by Mr Flor Madden. The programme is underpinned by a Catholic understanding of life. It helps students appreciate their lives in God's perspective as unique and of everlasting value. It heightens their awareness and appreciation of their inner life; intellectual, emotional, spiritual and the life of the will. In all things Jesus Christ is the exemplar. His maxim 'to love God and love our neighbour' is proposed as the right way to live.

For further information on the Pastoral Programme you can contact Mr Flor Madden by Email: [flormadden@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:flormadden@blackrockcollege.com)

### **The Blackrock College Pastoral Programme includes:**

1. Family Masses for all Years and Hall of Residence
2. Reconciliation Services for all students at least twice a year.
3. Involvement by 6<sup>th</sup> Year students as helpers to pilgrims on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (6 days in September each year).
4. Retreats for each Year Group.
5. Commissioning of House Representatives for all Years.
6. Input to Whole School Assemblies.
7. November Service of Remembrance.
8. Carol Service for the whole school and Hall of Residence
9. Ash Wednesday Services.
10. Graduation Mass & Reception.
11. Transition Year Pastoral Placement Programme.
12. Facilitation of specific events appropriate to particular school year groups.
13. Design, production & distribution of Prayer Cards.
14. Co-operation with appropriate College personnel to produce College Prayer Book and to facilitate its use in College Prayer Programme.
15. Formal & informal meetings to keep Pastoral Programme under review and prepare liturgies.
16. Transition Year 'Camino de Santiago' pilgrimage.
17. Preparation of boys for Sacraments.
18. Preparation of Eucharistic Ministers.
19. Mass is celebrated each morning at 8.20 am and on Thursdays at 1.00 pm in the College Chapel.
20. Catholic Schools' Week – last week of January

### **PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

This offers each **Transition Year** student an opportunity to work in one of 14 different local centres which serve the needs of people with wide ranging disabilities. They work as volunteers, befriending those cared for and support the in-house staff. The boys are prepared during R.E. class, in the week prior to placement. Their induction underlines the pastoral nature of the programme and encourages students to recognise the call of Christ in their own hearts and the work of Christ continuing through his Church. Debriefing on return to school is also in a context of prayer. Placements last 2 weeks.

### **CHAPLAINCY**

*The College Chaplain* is Ms Anita-Marie McGlynn Email: [chaplain@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:chaplain@blackrockcollege.com). Other works carried out by the school chaplaincy are: visiting the sick, attending funerals, co-operation with Counsellors, support for R.E. teachers, preparation for Sacraments and creating a link between the school community and local parishes. The Chaplain is an integral part of the Pastoral Team.

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Year Chaplain* is Ms Lorraine Crimmins Email: [lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com)

## STUDENT COUNCIL AND HOUSE SYSTEM

### House Captains and House System

The school is divided into 6 "Houses" of roughly equal numbers (approx 33 per house per year). Boys remain in the same House for their time at Blackrock. In 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> there are 12 captains, two for each House. In **Transition Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year** there are 18 captains, three from each House. Two House Captains from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year and three from transition year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year each Year are then elected to the Student Council.

### House Names

The Houses are named after famous past students and/or members of the Congregation.

- DeValera:** Eamon De Valera was a past student, teacher, former Taoiseach and President of Ireland
- Duff:** Frank Duff was a past student, founder of the Legion of Mary
- Ebenrecht:** Fr. John Ebenrecht studied art and architecture, as Bursar he designed and supervised the building of Blackrock College
- Leman:** Fr. Jules Leman was founder of Blackrock and Rockwell Colleges. He was devoted to the welfare of Irish youth and the needs of the Third World
- McQuaid:** Archbishop Charles McQuaid was a student at Blackrock College; former Principal and President of the College; former Archbishop of Dublin
- Shanahan:** Bishop Joseph Shanahan was ordained in Blackrock College, taught and acted as Dean in Rockwell, worked in Nigeria where he was ordained Bishop

The House system strengthens the sense of community within the student body and promotes student representation and leadership through House Captains. House Captains are elected annually in May by the students to represent their House for the forthcoming academic year. Two representatives are chosen except in Transition Year when a third representative is elected in each House. The House Captain's job is to lead his House and, ideally, he should possess organisational and motivational skills. He should lead by example in all matters and be attentive to the needs of his fellow House members, particularly new or isolated students. Training is provided. The House Captains work closely with the Dean of the Year and contribute to the good order and sense of community in the Year.

Inter-House Competitions are held throughout the year. Points are awarded to each House based on its performance. The aim of the House Competitions is to improve relations between House members as well as providing a platform for students to express themselves and their talents.

House competitions range from year to year in activities such as: rugby (10s), soccer, art, table tennis, chess and debating as well as the Swimming Gala and Sports & Family Day. Students are able to see the results of House competitions on the scoreboards in their recreation area. Scoreboards for each year group and the cumulative scoring of each House in the whole school are on display.

### STUDENT COUNCIL

There are 14 student members, two from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year and three from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year plus two representatives of the boarding school. Other students may be co-opted from time to time, for example it is the practice to co-opt the Head Cheerleader during the Cup campaigns. The Student Council is chaired by a 6<sup>th</sup> Year with a 5<sup>th</sup> Year student acting as Secretary. The Principal and Deputy Principals attend the meetings which take place every 2 weeks.

## BOARDING SCHOOL / HALL OF RESIDENCE

**DIRECTOR:** Mr Niall MacDermott  
Email: [nmacdermott@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:nmacdermott@blackrockcollege.com)

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:** Mr Toirleac O'Brien  
Email: [tobrien@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:tobrien@blackrockcollege.com)

**CO-ORDINATOR of STUDENT CARE:** Ms Andrea Fitzgerald  
Email: [afitzgerald@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:afitzgerald@blackrockcollege.com)

- The Director is in loco parentis.
- Boarders from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Year wear a different school tie to the rest of the school.
- The Hall of Residence Website is [www.blackrockcollegeboardingschool.com](http://www.blackrockcollegeboardingschool.com)
- Each Year group has a designated Housemaster with whom parents and students communicate on day-to-day issues as they arise.
- There is an **Administrative Committee** consisting of Director of Boarding, Maintenance Manager, Accommodation Manager and Medical Centre Manager.
- There is a **Boarders' Parents' Committee** which meets to discuss Hall of Residence matters.
- There is a **Boarders' Students' Committee** which meets to discuss Hall of Residence matters.
- There is a **Boarders' Food Committee** which meets to discuss Hall of Residence catering.
- **THE HALL OF RESIDENCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.**

### MEMBERS ARE:

<i>Mr Damian Kennedy (Chair)</i>	:	<i>Chairman of College Board of Management</i>
<i>Mr Niall Mac Dermott (Secretary)</i>	:	<i>Director of Hall of Residence</i>
<i>Mr Alan MacGinty</i>	:	<i>Principal Blackrock College</i>
<i>Mr Alan Rogan</i>	:	<i>Principal Willow Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Year</i>
<i>Ms Sylvia Wallace</i>	:	<i>Parental Nominee</i>
<i>Ms Andrea Fitzgerald</i>	:	<i>Co-ordinator of care</i>

## NIGHT STUDY

A number of places are available for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year dayboys **with priority given to pupils involved in extra-curricular activities after school on a regular basis.** Non-participation, indiscipline or irregular attendance will result in loss of place without refund.

**Administrator Ms Y Markey, email: [ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com).**

Applications to [nightstudy@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:nightstudy@blackrockcollege.com) .

**Mon-Tues-Weds-Thurs:** 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm with a 15-minute break

**Friday:** 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**There is a Saturday Morning Study for 6<sup>th</sup> Years:**

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

## CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

### Counselling

The personal well-being of each boy is central to the Blackrock mission. Individual counselling plays an important role in the mental, psychological, spiritual, social and intellectual development of the boy. Each Year group has a Counsellor who supports the Dean in the care for the boys. Boys are withdrawn from class with the permission of the Dean of each Year using the “billet” system. The billet will indicate the student’s name, the counsellor’s name and the time of exit from and return to class. Counsellors are always happy to see a student who is referred by an individual teacher, if and when the teacher is concerned about such a student. Parents may also request, through the Dean, an appointment for their son.

Reasons for Reference:

- (i) per Rota system
- (ii) concerns the boy may have
- (iii) issues with regard to cards, discipline, relationships, involvement in school life

### Career Guidance

One of the most important decisions that a boy will make is that of career choice. The purpose of guidance counselling in Blackrock is to empower each student to get to know himself, i.e. abilities, skills, talents, interests, values, so that when he reaches Final Year he will be able to choose a Third Level course and plan a career that suits his needs and abilities. There is a Career Guidance Counsellor in Transition Year, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year.

## ASSEMBLIES

### Whole School Assemblies

There are two Whole School Assemblies a year. The first for the opening of the school year, is at the end of September. The second Assembly takes place during the last week of January in preparation for the Cup Campaigns.

### Year Group Assemblies

Year Group Assemblies take place on a periodic basis depending on the Year group and the requirements of the Dean. Assemblies allow Deans to address the Year group on any upcoming events and matters of interest. The Principal addresses the Assembly at least twice a term.

**Cup Campaigns:** During the 2<sup>nd</sup> term Assemblies take place in preparation for the Senior and Junior Cup campaigns.

## PRIZE DAY

**PRIZE DAY** takes place in the Jubilee Hall on the last Saturday of the final term. This is the occasion on which the academic, cultural, social and pastoral achievements of the boys in each Year are recognised by the school. All current and retired members of the academic staff are invited to join the Award Winners and their parents at the ceremony. The awards are presented by the President of the Union. A Valedictory Address is delivered by the winner of the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Gold Medal Debate. The Principal delivers an end of year address.

Apart from Academic Awards, students receive recognition for the Honours List, Debating, Music and Drama, Religious Education, Service and General Excellence.

**Special Awards** are presented to students for excellence in activities or competitive events **in spiritual, pastoral, cultural, academic and social domains.**

**Equivalent Sports Awards** are presented to recipients at an **Assembly of their peers.**

## PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Parents are afforded the opportunity of discussing all aspects of their son's education in the College with class teachers at Parent-Teacher meetings during the course of the year. **Communication with Teachers at other times should be made through the Dean.**

Parent-Teacher Meetings take place in the Lecture Hall/Dining Hall Area and St. Patrick's Hall. As many Teachers have multiple classes, the consultation should be short and to the point. Certainly, no more than 3 minutes. If there is a requirement for discussion in more detail on a matter of concern, a further meeting should be requested and scheduled through the Dean or Deputy-Principal.

# TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year students must compile a portfolio during the year. They must also maintain a logbook and activities book. A booklet is available from the Transition Year Co-ordinator which details the full Transition Year Programme. You can also visit the Transition Year website at [www.rockty.com](http://www.rockty.com). Username: ty. Password: rock.

## ACTIVITIES

- **Blackrock College Radio:** broadcasts over a 5-mile radius for 1 week (47½ hours airtime) in November
- **Camino de Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage:** a group of pupils undertake a week-long pilgrimage. This provides the boys, approximately 20 in number, with a memorable spiritual experience.
- **Chinese:** Classes are run in conjunction with the Confucius Institute in U.C.D. and take place on Tuesday evenings. The programme runs for 22 weeks and culminates in an optional trip to China at Easter time.
- **Computer Programming:** This is run in conjunction with the School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity
- **Dragons' Den:** The Dragons' Den competition, an initiative of the Blackrock College Union, encourages pupils to develop their business acumen and entrepreneurial talents. It is judged by a panel of past pupils who have distinguished themselves in the world of business.
- **E.C.D.L.**
- **European Languages Abroad:** Some Transition Year pupils spend some time from a few weeks to one term abroad studying a European language.
- **Evening Courses:** Construction Studies, Legal Studies, Driver Education, ECDL, Sound Engineering, First Aid, Yoga, Chinese, Indonesian **Silat**
- **Faith Friends:** Transition Year pupils act as 'Faith Friends' for the Confirmation pupils in Willow Park. They meet with the pupils and help in their preparation for Confirmation.
- **Solas Safe Pass Course:** enables students to seek summer work on a construction site
- **Field Trips:** Bord Bia, GAA Museum, Irish Film Institute, Dublin Castle, Sea Safari, Climbing Wall, Kilmainham Gaol, Glasnevin Cemetery
- **Gaisce:** The boys are given the opportunity to achieve in four areas: Community, Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Activity and Adventure Journey. There are three levels of attainment, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Usually, students undertake Bronze in Transition Year and Silver in 5<sup>th</sup> Year; further details can be obtained on [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie)
- **Goal/Aidlink St. Patrick's Day Badge project:** the money raised supports GOAL and Aidlink projects in the Developing World. The money raised is split equally.
- **Green Schools Committee:** The main aim of this committee is to maintain our current Green Flag status, each Transition Year class is responsible for collecting recyclable material from over 60 places throughout the school
- **Greenwatch:** environmental magazine produced by 41 Geography class
- **Junior Musical:** This takes place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term in conjunction with Loreto Abbey, Dalkey
- **Lecture Series:** organised by the Parents' Committee and the Dean. Topics may include physiotherapy, health and fitness, alcohol abuse, bullying, social awareness, etc.

## TRANSITION YEAR ACTIVITIES (Continued)

- **M.A.D. Week:** Music, Art and Drama Week includes workshops on rap, song-writing, drama, guitar, dance, percussion, architecture, creative writing, photography etc.
- **Master Chef:** A Cookery Competition takes place in the final term. The Final is judged by an independent culinary expert.
- **Mini Company Projects:** the Tuck Shop is run by the Business classes, each class taking its turn. A percentage of the profits is donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society
- **Modules:** Car Maintenance, Home Economics, Film Studies, Careers and Mental Health, Arts and Crafts, Computer Studies, R.S.E., Social Studies
- **Pastoral Placements:** over a 2-week period the boys work with groups such as the elderly, intellectually or physically disabled children and adults
- **Public Speaking:** students take the R.I.A.M. Public Speaking exam in May
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society Fundraisers:** 24-hour Soccer Marathon, Mince Pie morning and Christmas Tree project. Funds raised are used to purchase Christmas hampers and also assist in the educational mission of the College Conference.
- **Website:** Pupils are taught how to maintain and update the Transition Year website which contains detailed and up-to-date information about Transition Year projects and activities. This is a very valuable resource for both parents and pupils.

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# BLACKROCK COLLEGE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR 159<sup>TH</sup> ACADEMIC YEAR

**PRINCIPAL ~ MR A MacGINTY**  
**DEPUTY-PRINCIPAL ~ MR B HERLIHY**  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ~ YVONNE MARKEY**  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ~ MS S NOLAN**  
**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR ~ FR. C O'BROLCHAIN, CSSp.**

## DEANS

|                            |              |                                                                            |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b> | Mr T Ryan    | <a href="mailto:6dean@blackrockcollege.com">6dean@blackrockcollege.com</a> |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b> | Ms C Dobbyn  | <a href="mailto:5dean@blackrockcollege.com">5dean@blackrockcollege.com</a> |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Year</b> | Mr P O'Neill | <a href="mailto:4dean@blackrockcollege.com">4dean@blackrockcollege.com</a> |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b> | Mr O Brennan | <a href="mailto:3dean@blackrockcollege.com">3dean@blackrockcollege.com</a> |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b> | Ms R Harlowe | <a href="mailto:2dean@blackrockcollege.com">2dean@blackrockcollege.com</a> |

## Director of Hall of Residence

Mr Niall Mac Dermott [boarding@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:boarding@blackrockcollege.com)

## Chaplains

Ms Lorraine Crimmins [lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com)  
Ms Anita-Marie Mc Glynn [amcglynn@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:amcglynn@blackrockcollege.com)

## Counsellors

|                                          |                 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Year                     | Ms Natasha Drew |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Year                     | Mr M Ryan       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year | Mr G Sullivan   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year                     | Mr D Brennan    |

## Career Guidance

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Year | Ms Natasha Drew  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Year | Mr D O' Nuallain |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Year | Mr G Sullivan    |

## AUGUST INTERVIEWS

The Deans will be available for interview each weekday from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August. We are convinced of the importance of meeting parents with their sons during this week. Pupils are expected to be **formally dressed** for this meeting. Appointments may be made during office hours through Reception only (Tel: (01) 2752100). **Parents of Boarders should also schedule a meeting with Mr Niall Mac Dermott.** If it is not possible to arrange an appointment during these days, arrangements should be made during the opening weeks of the term.

## RE-OPENING & VACATIONS

**Boarders** return on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August** (evening) from 6.00 pm.- 9.00pm.

**Classes for all will begin on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30 am – 12.00 noon, 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm**  
(8 x 30 minute classes).

**An Induction Programme for Second Years will be held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August**  
(1.30 pm – 3.30 pm).

**Induction for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Boarders will take place on Sunday evening at 8.00 pm.**

**On regulation days classes commence at 8.45 am; afternoon classes at 1.30 pm.**

**Hallowe'en:** **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October** (3.45 pm) to **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November** (Boarders return)  
Classes resume on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**Christmas:** **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December** (12 noon) to **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019** (Boarders return)  
Classes resume **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Mid-Term:** **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** (3.45 pm) to **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February** (Boarders return)  
Classes resume **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Easter:** **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April** (12 noon) to **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** (Boarders return)  
Classes resume **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**End of Year:** **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year.  
**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May** for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year

# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

POLICY DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE WEBSITE.

THERE ARE 4 FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL RULES:

|           |          |             |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| BE CARING | BE THERE | BE TRUTHFUL | BE GRATEFUL |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|

Adherence to these rules is required at all times, not only in school, but also in the surrounding area. A boy's conduct should always be courteous and governed by respect for the person, property and reputation of others.

**Each student and a parent/guardian are required to sign a contract at the start of the academic year.**

**This contract confirms your commitment to the Code of Behaviour for 2018 – 2019.**

## General Regulations

- A pupil, or a pupil party to a group, who brings the College Community into disrepute whilst identifiable as a member of the College, is subject to sanction. Sanctions such as detention or suspension will be imposed for serious offences – proportionate to the offence committed.
- Further, the College authorities reserve the right to resign the charge of a pupil for persistent idleness, violation of College rules or for any other reason judged by them to be in the interest of the common good.

**Each pupil is entitled to an education free from fear and intimidation.  
Bullying is not tolerated in Blackrock College.**

## Specific Regulations

- On regulation days the pupils **must check-in twice daily before 8.35 a.m. and 1.20 p.m. Pupils are deemed late after these times. Check-in commences at 8.15 am.**
- Absence from class without permission or the display of an uncaring attitude towards any member of the school community, or towards its property, is unacceptable. **Breach of this regulation will incur suspension.**
- Unauthorised use of mobile phones or devices is prohibited in the classrooms, the study hall, the lecture hall, between classes and during formal school activities. **Any misuse of these appliances will result in their confiscation. Sanctions will be at the discretion of the Dean.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year pupils are only permitted to have talk/text phones. No device with internet access is permitted at any time on the campus. **Breach of this regulation will incur suspension.**
- Water Bottles are prohibited in the classrooms, Learning Centre, Chapel, Lecture and Day Study Halls. **Sanctions are at the discretion of the Dean.**
- Chewing gum is forbidden within the College. **A fine of €10.00 will apply.**
- Smoking is forbidden by law within the College buildings and precincts. Pupils may not smoke whilst engaged in a school activity or identifiable as a member of the school community. **Breach of this regulation will incur external suspension.**
- Possession of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited while engaged in any school or school-related activity. **Failure to observe this regulation may lead to the College resigning the charge of a pupil.**

## OUT OF BOUNDS

In the interest of Health & Hygiene, Propriety and Safety, areas in the College Grounds and surrounding areas (listed on the College Noticeboards) are Out of Bounds. It is the responsibility of each pupil to be aware of these areas. **Sanctions for breach include suspension.**

## DETENTION

Detention may be imposed at the discretion of the Dean for unsatisfactory application, department, punctuality or behaviour. Saturday detention is held from **9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.** and is an integral part of the College's disciplinary procedure. **Failure to attend may result in internal suspension.**

## ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

**In the interests of the health and safety of the pupils, an e-mail or phone call to the Dean, early on the day of absence, is required.** An explanatory letter/signed copy of the e-mail from the Parent or Guardian, is also required on the day of his return. The Education Welfare Act obliges the College to inform the relevant authority of cumulative absences in excess of **twenty days**, and reasons thereof, during the course of the school year.

### Health

The school authorities should be given information of any medication that a pupil must take on a regular basis.

We strongly recommend that parents have appropriate medical cover in the event of injury or accident.

### TRANSPORT

**Pupils may not bring motor cycles or cars into, or through, the College grounds.** In the interest of safety, access to the Cross Avenue exit by motorists is not permitted between **8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.** **Cyclists should wear helmets at all times** – at night, a light and reflectors should be used. **Unauthorised vehicles parked in the College grounds will be clamped. A release fee will apply. Suspension may apply.**

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

There are two types of Report Card in use in the College:

1. **Weekly Application Cards** give an individual teacher's assessment of the EFFORT made by a pupil during that week.
2. **Progress Cards** are marked every four/five weeks. The marks based on class tests/assessments indicate the STANDARD attained by a pupil in the subject matter covered in class in the preceding weeks.

**We attach a great deal of importance to Weekly Report Cards. Cards are returned to boys every Monday. Please make sure that you review them with your son. Failure to do so, on a weekly basis, forfeits the many opportunities that arise for affirmation of your son's efforts. It also diminishes opportunities to assist where a deterioration in work is evident and an immediate response is the priority.**

### EXAMINATIONS

1. **There are full-scale examinations at the end of the Christmas and Easter terms.** Marked scripts are returned to pupils. Reports are sent to parents giving examination results and comments by the Dean of the Year on a pupil's punctuality, conduct, attitude and involvement in extra-curricular activities. In all years, adjustments may be made to classes based on these results.
2. **Formal examinations** take place in **2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year** at the end of Term 3. A summer report will follow. The result will be based on both the exam result and continuous assessment. Portfolio Assessment Interviews will take place at the end of Term 3 in Transition Year. Parents are afforded the opportunity of discussing all aspects of their son's education in the College with class teachers at Parent-Teacher meetings during the course of the year or with Deans by appointment at any time.

## College Homework Diary

Each pupil is required to have and to use the official College Homework Diary on a daily basis. This should contain a record of both the Oral and Written assignments given by the teacher in class during the course of the day. **Each class period should have an entry.**

**Parents are asked to check the College Homework Diary on a weekly basis.**

## Extra- Curricular Activities

Each pupil should be involved in some aspect of the College's extra-curricular programme – sport, music, debates, etc. There is concern when a boy's involvement is confined exclusively to attendance at class.

## Night Study

A number of places are available for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year dayboys **with priority given to pupils involved in extra-curricular activities after school on a regular basis.** Non-participation, indiscipline or irregular attendance will result in loss of place without refund. **Administrator Ms Y Markey, email:** [ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ymarkey@blackrockcollege.com). Applications to [nightstudy@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:nightstudy@blackrockcollege.com).

## Dress and Deportment

1. A high standard of dress and deportment must be maintained. **Pupils must travel to and from school in full College uniform, including footwear.** Deans are the judges of acceptable standards of dress and deportment.
2. A pupil wearing excessively long (**Hair should not be below the collar**) or excessively short hair (**Blade 3 is the minimum acceptable**) or hair that has been bleached or dyed will be considerably improperly dressed for class or activities associated with the school.
3. Pupils must be clean-shaven.
4. The wearing of jewellery, other than watches, whilst in school uniform or involved in school activities, is not permitted.
5. Except for games and Physical Education, the wearing of runners is not permitted during school hours unless excused by parents on medical grounds.
6. The top button of the shirt should be closed and shirts should be tucked in. College training tops should not be worn to class. Hooded sweat shirts are not permitted and may be confiscated.

**Parents have an important role to play in the maintenance of good standards of conduct and deportment. We ask for full co-operation in this matter. Pupils coming to school improperly dressed will not be permitted to attend class or school activities.**

## Clothing List

Uniform items will be available at the College during the week of interviews at the end of August. These items can also be purchased from *Uniformity* (Tel: 01 2300501) [www.uniformity.ie](http://www.uniformity.ie).

(a) **Second and Third Year:** Plain white shirt and College tie. Grey V-necked pullover with College Crest. Grey Uniform Trousers. **Black leather conventional shoes.**

**Boarders require a Blazer.**

(b) **Transition Year and Fifth Year:** Plain white shirt and College tie. Grey Uniform Trousers. Blue V-necked pullover with College Crest. **Black leather conventional shoes.**

**All pupils require a College Blazer.**

(c) **Sixth Year**

Conventional shirt, tie, pullover and beige or navy chino trousers. Skinny Trousers and Denims are not permitted. **Black or brown leather conventional shoes. College Blazer or Jacket.**

**Final Year pupils are expected to be neatly dressed, setting a lead in this as in all other matters.**

### Physical Education: House T-shirt

|                    |        |  |                   |              |
|--------------------|--------|--|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>DeValera :</b>  | Red    |  | <b>Leman :</b>    | Black        |
| <b>Duff :</b>      | Yellow |  | <b>McQuaid :</b>  | <b>Green</b> |
| <b>Ebenrecht :</b> | Purple |  | <b>Shanahan :</b> | Grey         |

Tracksuit/white shorts/white socks/sports footwear (runners and football boots)

### Please note

**The top button of the shirt should be closed and shirts should be tucked in. Hooded Sweat Shirts are not permitted and may be confiscated.**

## Loss or Damage of Pupils' Property

**It is essential that all pupils have their clothes and other property clearly marked to facilitate identification.** Pupils must be held responsible for the care and security of their own property. The School authorities do not accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property; e.g. schoolbags, bicycles, mobile devices, sports equipment, musical instruments, clothes etc. Parents are advised that these items can be readily insured under the normal household policy. **It is required that each pupil avails of the locker rental facility and should keep it locked at all times.** Padlocks are available for purchase at Reception at the cost of €6.00

**BLACKROCK COLLEGE**  
**Pupil Contract 2018 – 2019**

|               |
|---------------|
| Check-in No.: |
|---------------|

Name of Pupil: .....

Year:

Name of Parent/Guardian: .....

Mother's Maiden Name: .....

1. We both agree:
  - A. That from the time the pupil leaves home to attend school or to attend a school function, until the time he arrives home, he will:-
    1. Represent the College with dignity and to the best of his ability
    2. Abide by the College rules, regulations and Policy documents
    3. Wear the prescribed College Uniform in the correct manner
    4. Co-operate at all times with the directives of the staff of the College
  - B. That the pupil will complete all school work set (including homework assignments, etc. to the best of his ability)
  - C. That if the pupil brings the College into disrepute or acts contrary to the common good, the pupil may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures of the College.

The rules, regulations and policy documents of the College include:

- Code of Behaviour
- The Behaviour and Discipline Policy Document
- Anti-Bullying Policy Document
- Policy on Substance Use
- The Principles of Best Practice concerning the interrelationship between pupils and all school personnel
- Alcohol Charter
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Areas Out of Bounds
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy

They are available from the College website or on request and have been summarised in the Code of Behaviour document 2018 – 2019 circulated.

We confirm that we have familiarised ourselves with, and understand, the rules, regulations and policy documents of the College and accept them as being to the benefit of the common good.

2. We confirm that we will comply with any reasonable requests made by the Management of the College in the interest of the common good.

**PARENT CONTACT DETAILS**

**Phone Nos.**

Home: ..... (Father) Work: ..... (Father) Mobile: .....  
Home: ..... (Mother) Work: ..... (Mother) Mobile: .....

**E-mail:** (Father): ..... (Mother): .....

***THE CONTRACT MUST BE RETURNED, SIGNED, NO LATER THAN 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018. PLEASE RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.***

SIGNED: Pupil: ..... Date: .....

SIGNED: Parent/Guardian: ..... Date: .....

**EACH PUPIL IS ENTITLED TO AN EDUCATION FREE FROM FEAR AND INTIMIDATION.  
BULLYING IS NOT TOLERATED IN BLACKROCK COLLEGE.**

## BULLYING AWARENESS PROGRAMME

- In this programme we encourage the boys to adopt our **ABC policy**, to **A**void Aggression, **B**e Tolerant. **C**are for Others.
- Bullying is not acceptable in Blackrock College.
- Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another party.
- Bullying behaviour includes physical aggression; damage to, or interference with property; extortion; intimidation; abusive telephone calls; isolation; name-calling or “slagging”.
- Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, although not condoned, are not defined as bullying which is systematic and/or ongoing.
- The onus is on both staff and management to ensure that this type of behaviour is not tolerated within the College.
- Our Anti-Bullying Policy of: “**TELL, TELL, TELL**” in Blackrock College, which strongly encourages you to report any bullying incident to a counsellor, dean, class teacher or any person whom you trust. Remember being a silent witness protects the bully.
- The school Policy Document on Bullying is too lengthy to print here. If you wish to view a copy please contact Mr. Brian Herlihy (Deputy Principal).
- There are 2 Bullying Awareness Days in the College Calendar, held in the first and second terms respectively.
- The aim of these days is to help create a bullying-free school environment and to empower the students to talk about bullying and to report any incidents of bullying to a teacher, counsellor, Dean or any responsible person who can intervene.

**Each pupil is entitled to an education free from fear and intimidation.**

**Bullying is not tolerated in Blackrock College.**

## ADDICTION AWARENESS DAY

**Co-Coordinator:** Ms Jennifer McGuire

The purpose of the day is to bring to the attention of the boys how easy it is to lose control. Both Substance (Drugs, Cigarettes and Alcohol) and Behavioural (Gambling, Facebook, Gaming, and Mobile Phone) addictions are addressed.

Emphasis is put on the **danger of addictions**, the **early warning signs** and the **associated trauma**.

**PARENTS SHOULD FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE  
SUBSTANCE USE POLICY.**

# Mental Health Awareness Day

**Co-ordinator:** Ms Natasha Drew

The Focus of the day is to highlight the challenges to maintain mental health. Guest speakers, usually health professionals are invited to address each year group.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Each pupil should be involved in some aspect of the College's extra-curricular programme – sport, music, debates, etc. There is concern when a boy's involvement is confined exclusively to attendance at class.

### SPORTS

Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Cricket  
Cross Country Running  
Cycling  
Gaelic Football/ Hurling  
Golf  
Swimming  
Rowing  
Rugby  
Soccer  
Squash  
Table Tennis  
Tennis  
Water Polo

### EVENTS

Golf Competition (Fr. Fullen Cup)  
Hundred Mile Cycle (Willow Wheelers)  
Sailing Regatta (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Second Year Inter-house Rugby Blitz  
Senior Rugby Sevens Tournament (October)  
Soccer Leagues (3<sup>rd</sup> Term)  
Sports & Family Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Term)  
Swimming Gala (1st Term)  
Rugby 10s Inter-House Competition (September)

### *Athletics*

The College Athletics Programme is run by Ms Aoife Corrigan and runs through the winter in the form of The Blackrock College Athletics Academy expanding into a Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Athletics Squad who train and compete in the final term.

### *Badminton*

College Badminton takes place in the new Des Places Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays and is run by Mr Paul Kehoe.

## **Basketball**

Basketball is organised by Mr Patrick O'Neill, the Junior and Senior Basketball Squad train on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

## **Cricket**

Mr J Vanstone continues to coach the College Senior and Junior Cricket Team. Winter Nets commence in the Des Places Sports Hall after Christmas while the squads compete in the Leinster Schools' Cup in the summer term.

## **Cross Country Running**

Ms Aoife Corrigan manages the College's long distance runners on a Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams compete in the Leinster and All-Ireland competitions.

## **Gaelic Football/Hurling**

Coached by Mr Brian Grant, the College competes at both U14 and U16 age groups.

## **Golf**

The Blackrock College Golf Team continue to build on past success under the watchful eye of Ms Andrea Fitzgerald. The two senior competitions include The Leinster Stroke Play Qualifier and Four-ball Match Play.

## **Swimming**

Coached by Ms C Walsh the Blackrock College Junior and Senior Swim Team train in the College pool Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

## **Rowing**

Rowing has become an established sport within the College sports programme. Coached by Ms L Gannon and Mr N O'Mahony. The Junior and Senior Squads train 4 times a week and compete in competitions nationwide.

## **Rugby**

Blackrock College continues to pride itself upon its strong rugby traditions. Mr Seamus Toomey is technical director. The S.C.T. is coached by Mr J Vanstone, Mr G Pickering, Mr S Murray, Mr T Smeeth and Mr S Lambe, while the J.C.T. is led by Mr E Daly and his coaching team, Mr J Fairley and Mr John Creighton. The Junior 2<sup>nds</sup> is coached by Mr J Donnelly. Castle Rugby is coached by Mr B Grant and Mr J Fitzsimons. The House 3<sup>rd</sup>'s and 4<sup>th</sup>'s are managed by Mr K Barry and Mr R Kearney and 5<sup>ths</sup> are managed by Mr J Halpin. Colts Rugby (4<sup>th</sup> Year) are managed by Mr. B Savage. Mr Owen Brennan and his coaching team, Mr N McDermott and Mr T Mylff co-ordinate the Junior 3<sup>rds</sup>, 4<sup>ths</sup> and 5<sup>ths</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Year). The College U14 A's are managed by Mr A MacGinty, U14B's by Mr C Sommerville, U14 C's by Mr C Maher, U14 D's by Mr S McGlynn and U14 E's by Mr J Henderson.

## **Soccer**

The Senior Soccer Squad is coached by Mr Evan O'Brien and Ms Aisling Mullen. Training takes place on the school soccer pitches every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years are eligible for the Senior Squad in the first term. They compete in the Leinster Cup and Metropolitan League. After Christmas the Squad is opened up to 4<sup>th</sup> Years and two teams are entered in the Millennium League.

### **Squash**

Squash will be coached by Ms N Keenan.

### **Table Tennis**

Table Tennis in Blackrock College continues to thrive led by Mr R. Butler. The College train across all age groups and compete regularly in both Leinster and All-Ireland Competitions.

### **Tennis**

College Tennis runs in the final school term and is managed by Ms Naomi Keenan. Six Teams compete in Leinster Schools competitions including Senior 1<sup>sts</sup> and 2<sup>nds</sup>, Junior 1<sup>sts</sup> and 2<sup>nds</sup> as well as Minor 1<sup>sts</sup> and 2<sup>nds</sup>.

### **Water Polo**

Coached by Stephen Doyle. College Water Polo continues to be a popular college activity with success at regional and national level.

### **Chess**

College Chess co-ordinated by Ms J Groves continues to grow in popularity with recent success in the Leinster Senior league achieving third place in 2017.

### **Cycling**

Cycling in Blackrock College continues to thrive under the leadership of Mr C McDaid.

## EVENTS

### Golf Competition (Fr Fullen Cup)

An annual Competition organised by Ms Andres Fitzgerald takes place after Christmas.

### Hundred-Mile Cycle (Willow Wheelers)

This is organised by the Willow Wheelers Cycling Club on the Sunday of the May Bank Holiday weekend. Funds are raised for Spiritan Development World projects.

### Sailing Regatta

The College **Sailing Regatta** takes place in the First school term every year and sees boys battle for both the L'Afrique Trophy and The Brouder Trophy. Mr Mark O'Connor is in charge

### Second Year Inter-House Rugby Blitz

Held annually in the College the **Second Year Inter-House Rugby Blitz** takes place in October and gives students an opportunity to represent their House in a one-day competition.

### Soccer Leagues

College **Soccer Leagues** take place in the final school term each year. Organised by Mr S. Murray students represent their Houses in a term long soccer tournament.

### Sports and Family Day

The College Annual **Sports & Family Day** co-ordinated by, **T.B.A.** takes place in the final term of school each year and gives students an opportunity to represent their Houses in various traditional and athletic sports day activities while being cheered on by friends and family.

### Swimming Gala

The **School Swimming Gala** takes place in the first term and is organised by Mr J Vanstone. This annual event gives pupils an opportunity to represent their Houses in a variety of races. The Highlight is the President's Trophy.

### Rugby 10's Inter-House Competition

The **School Rugby Ten-a-Side competition** officially kicks off the season in September. Each Year has their own competition with the boys representing their Houses.

## ARTS – DRAMA - MUSICALS

### MANAGEMENT

|                                          |                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Mr Toirleac O'Brien</i></b>        | Director of Senior Show and Leman Concert                                                                                      |
| <b><i>Mr Killian Grumley-Traynor</i></b> | Head of Music, Choral Director, Musical Director of Senior & Junior Shows and Leman & Libermann Concerts, Director of MAD Week |
| <b><i>Mr Brian Savage</i></b>            | Director of Junior Show                                                                                                        |
| <b><i>Mr Patrick O'Neill</i></b>         | Producer/Front of House                                                                                                        |
| <b><i>Mr Garry Sullivan</i></b>          | Producer of Leman Concert, Technical Administrator                                                                             |

#### Senior Musical

This show takes place over 5 nights in November and involves students from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Years as well as 5<sup>th</sup> Year students from Mount Anville.

#### Junior Musical

This show takes place in May. Students from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Years from Blackrock and Loreto Dalkey take part in the show.

#### Leman Concert

This annual concert takes place in January in the National Concert Hall. About 150 students are involved. The programme includes 4 choirs, an orchestra, soloists, bands, vocal and instrumental groups. The concert showcases the musical talent within the school, both classical and contemporary.

#### Music, Art and Drama Week (known as MAD Week)

This is a Transition Year project that takes place in May. It consists of week-long workshops in disciplines such as song-writing, samba drumming, guitar, architecture, photography, rap, urban art, hip-hop, DJ skills, drawing, creative writing etc.

#### Summer Concert

This takes place on the Wednesday of MAD week and includes performances by the Orchestra, Libermann Choir, Parents' Choir, Boarders' Choirs and Soloists.

### **Orchestra**

The Orchestra has 40 members drawn from all Years. They have weekly rehearsals and perform in the Leman and Summer concerts. They also take part in competitions and provide accompaniment to the more talented soloists.

### **Leman Choir**

The Leman Choir has 80 members. They perform at the Leman Concert and at other celebrations during the year. They also take part in competitions.

### **Libermann Choir**

This is a Chamber Choir of 25 singers mainly from 6<sup>th</sup> Year who are auditioned from the Leman Choir. They perform at the Leman and Summer concerts and at the Graduation Mass. They also take part in competitions.

### **Boarders' Choir**

This Choir rehearses on weekday evenings and has 20 members. They sing at the Sunday Boarding School Masses and perform at the Leman and Summer concerts.

### **Parents' Choir**

This is a mixed choir of 50 parents who rehearse one evening a week. They perform at the Leman and Summer concerts.

### **Music for Masses**

A Family Mass takes place in either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> term for each Year group. The final Graduation Mass for 6<sup>th</sup> Years takes place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term, usually on the penultimate Sunday in May.

### **Carol Service**

The Carol Service, a whole school preparation for Christmas takes place during the second week of December.

### **Individual Music Classes**

Last year 40 boys took classes in violin, viola, piano, organ, voice, guitar and clarinet. These classes take place during the school day. There are also evening classes after school hours. If they wish, students can prepare for RIAM, Associated Board and State exams.

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

There are many fund-raising activities organised by the boys during the year. Some fundraisers are general while others are Year-specific.

### SUPPORTED CHARITIES:

- **Spiritan Missions**
- **Aidlink**
- **Blackrock Hospice**
- **Enable Ireland**
- **GOAL**
- **Happy Heart Foundation**
- **Irish Hospice Foundation**
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

### CHARITABLE EVENTS:

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR:</b> | St. Vincent de Paul Duck Race<br>Willow Wheelers 100-Mile Cycle                                                                                                           |
| <b>3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR:</b> | St. Vincent de Paul Duck Race<br>Shoe Box<br>Willow Wheelers 100-Mile Cycle                                                                                               |
| <b>TRANSITION YEAR:</b>     | 24-hour Soccer Marathon<br>Xmas Tree Project<br>Christmas Hampers<br>Mince Pie Morning<br>GOAL/ <i>Aidlink</i> St. Patrick's Day Badge,<br>Willow Wheelers 100-Mile Cycle |
| <b>5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR:</b> | SPIRASI 24-hour Fast, Willow Wheelers 100-Mile Cycle,<br>St. Vincent de Paul fundraiser                                                                                   |
| <b>6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR:</b> | St. Vincent de Paul 24-hour Fast,<br>Summer fundraising project for the Developing World,<br>Willow Wheelers 100-Mile Cycle                                               |

# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**GREEN SCHOOLS** is (i) an international environmental education programme, (ii) an environmental management system and (iii) an award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole-school action for the environment. In seeking our second Green Flag we have been asked to focus on energy conservation. Surveys of electricity and gas consumption have already been carried out. This project is led by Cathal Copeland.

## Green Schools Committee

The main aim of this committee is to continue our Green Schools programme and maintain our Green Flag status, which must be renewed every second year. Transition Year is at the core of the committee but there are representatives from each Year in the school. There is an on-going programme to promote recycling in the College and to reduce litter. The house-keeping and maintenance staff are fully involved in these programmes.

Two particular environmental awareness weeks are set aside each year to promote care for our indoor and outdoor environments. Activities include posters, clean up programmes, visiting lecturers and competitions.

## Bird Survey Project

A group of Transition Year Biology students survey the grounds each week recording the number of different bird species found in the College. The survey period runs from November to March and is part of the BirdWatch Ireland Garden Bird Survey. The project aims to:

1. Conduct a survey between November and February recording the different species found in the College grounds.
2. Prepare a report and permanent display on this survey to include:
  - A. Analysis of survey results.
  - B. Photographs and information about the different species.
  - C. Did you know? section.
  - D. Nature News Noticeboard.

**Nest Box Project:** A group of Transition Year Biology and Construction students are responsible for the nest box project. There are 32 nest boxes around the College grounds, located in Clareville, along the avenue to the Castle and around the rugby pitches. These boxes need to be maintained every year and additional boxes will be put in place when required. A survey of nesting birds is conducted every Spring.

**Tree Trail:** Transition Year Biology and Construction Studies students are responsible for the creation and maintenance of the tree trail. The tree trail is a project run by a group of TY Biology students who identified and researched the different trees to be included on the trail. It comprises 25 different trees around the College grounds each with its own label showing the Common, Latin and Irish names of each species. They have also prepared a PowerPoint presentation showing photographs, information on the trees and where they can be found in the College grounds.

### Aims:

1. Organise tree labels for 25 different species.
2. Prepare a report and permanent display.
3. Prepare a booklet on the Tree Trail to include:
  - a. *Map and layout of trail*
  - b. *Photographs and information about the various trees.*
  - c. *Did you know? section.*
4. Develop educational activities.

**Greenwatch** is an environmental magazine which is produced by Transition Year students. The project is led by Mr. James Campbell. All proceeds go to the SVP

## ASSOCIATIONS

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association comprises the Parents' Council and 5 Year Committees (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Year) and the Boarding School Parents' Committee. (Reference 1<sup>st</sup> Year, W.P.) The Parents' Association organises social, spiritual, and charitable events throughout the year. They also support the College in the delivery of the educational process. In addition there is a Parents' Choir which performs at the Leman Concert inter alia.

### YEAR COMMITTEES

There are 6 (including 1<sup>st</sup> Year) Year Committees with 14 parents on each Committee. They meet with the relevant Dean during the academic year to discuss matters relating to their children's education and development. The Committee organises social functions for fellow parents as well as evening lectures relating to parenting and adolescent issues.

### PARENTS' COUNCIL

Meets monthly, during term time. The Parents' Council is made up of 2 parents from each Year Committee including 1<sup>st</sup> Year (Willow Park) as well as the College Spiritual Director, the College Principal, the Vice President of the Union, a nominee from the Boarding School Parents' Committee, and a representative from the teaching staff. The chair (Ms Anne Deegan), Secretary (TBC) and Treasurer (TBC).

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## PAST PUPILS UNION

**THE PAST PUPILS' UNION OF BLACKROCK COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1898.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President of the Union for 2018/19      | Mr. John Rogan   |
| Vice – President of the Union 2017/2018 | Mr. Stephen Mullin   |
| Immediate Past President:               | Mr. Eunan O' Carroll   |
| Union Centre Administrator:             | Ms. Brigid O'Byrne   |
| Opening hours:                          | 7.45 am to 1.45 pm daily Monday – Friday                     |
| Email:                                  | <a href="mailto:unionoffice@rock.ie">unionoffice@rock.ie</a> |
| Telephone:                              | 01-2784310   |
| Internal:                               | Ext. 4183  |
| Web:                                    | <a href="http://www.rockunion.ie">www.rockunion.ie</a>       |

- Membership is open to all past pupils of Blackrock College. Associate membership is available to Teaching staff.
- The primary function of the Union is to provide a facility for the Alumni to interface with each other and the College and promote that relationship in a positive manner. It does this by facilitating class reunions 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years out.
- The Annual Dinner takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the spring mid-term break.
- The Annual Retreat takes place on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

### THE UNION MISSION FUND

The UMF's objective is to support the Spiritans in their missionary work. The Fund raises monies through collections and surpluses from reunion functions, sponsorship and direct donations.

## **BLUE AND WHITE SUPPORT GROUP**

To provide confidential assistance, support and advice to any member of the 'Rock family whose life may be in crisis.

The Chairman is Mr Stephen Byrne, Email: [stephenjamesbyrne1967@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjamesbyrne1967@gmail.com)

## **SCHOOL LIAISON**

Career interviews (6<sup>th</sup> Year). Career Talks (5<sup>th</sup> Year parents and students), Dragons' Den (Transition Year), support of College Musicals, Graduation Ball, Past V Present debate, Children's Christmas Outing (Transition Year).

## **GOLF**

The Union has an active Golf Society.

## **DATABASE**

The Blackrock College Union is the custodian Database of all the past pupils of Blackrock College.

There are 7,350 members of the union

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## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – PAST AND PRESENT**

The President of the Blackrock Conference of the SVP is Mr Jim Murphy; Email: [jim.murphy@bromu.ie](mailto:jim.murphy@bromu.ie) Monthly meetings are held in the school.

The Blackrock SVP manages educational development projects using the funds raised by the College students. Members also do visitation work in Killinarden, Tallaght.

Last year Blackrock College students raised over €100,000 for the SVP through various projects such as the Duck Race, Soccer Marathon, Tuck Shop, Poker Classic, Sixth Year Fast and Christmas tree sales. This money was used to provide 184 Hampers for underprivileged families in Tallaght. The rest of the money is used to fund Third Level opportunities for graduates of Killinarden Community School.

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## **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

All policy documents are available on the College web-site

## USEFUL CONTACTS

|  | TELEPHONE  |
|--|--|
| <b>COLLEGE SWITCHBOARD/RECEPTION</b><br><i>Ms Maria Flynn</i><br><i>Ms Jackie Scott</i><br><b>E MAIL (RECEPTION)</b> | 01 2888681 / 01 2752100<br><br>info@blackrockcollege.com                                       |
| <b>COLLEGE FAX</b>   | 01 2834267   |
| <b>DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE</b><br><br><i>Mr Johnny O'Shea</i>  | 01 2752134<br><br><a href="mailto:joshea@blackrockcollege.com">joshea@blackrockcollege.com</a> |
| <b>FINANCE OFFICE</b><br><i>Mr Stephen Waters</i><br><i>Ms Joanne Donagher Tonge</i><br><i>Ms Miriam Doyle</i>       | 01 275 2126<br>01 2752159<br>01 2752158  |
| <b>HALL OF RESIDENCE</b>   | 01 2752110   |
| <b>INFIRMARY</b><br><i>Ms Andrea Fitzgerald</i>  | 01 2669811   |
| <b>PARENTS' COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON</b><br><i>Ms Anne Deegan</i>   | <a href="mailto:Liam.anne99@gmail.com">Liam.anne99@gmail.com</a>                               |
| <b>PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY</b><br><i>Ms Jane Callaghan</i>   | 01 2752143   |
| <b>UNION OFFICE</b><br><i>Ms Brigid O'Byrne.</i>   | 01 2754183   |

## WEBSITES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BLACKROCK COLLEGE</b>                   | <a href="http://www.blackrockcollege.com">www.blackrockcollege.com</a>                             |
| <b>PAST PUPILS' UNION</b>                  | <a href="http://www.rockunion.ie">www.rockunion.ie</a>   |
| <b>TRANSITION YEAR</b>                     | <a href="http://www.rockty.com">www.rockty.com</a><br>Username: ty<br>Password: rock               |
| <b>HALL OF RESIDENCE</b>                   | <a href="http://www.blackrockcollegeboardingschool.com">www.blackrockcollegeboardingschool.com</a> |
| <b>TRUSTEES (Spiritan Education Trust)</b> | <a href="http://www.desplaces.ie">www.desplaces.ie</a>   |
| <b>DEPT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>        | <a href="http://www.education.ie">www.education.ie</a>   |