

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Easter 2018

Dear Parents,

As I write, the snow is back. The final (S.C.T.) has been postponed, Ireland has won the 'Grand Slam'. We congratulate Jordi Murphy (class of 2009), Garry Ringrose (class of 2013) and Joey Carbery (class of 2014) on their contribution to this historic achievement. It was great to see all three of them on the pitch at the final whistle in Twickenham. Each of the three had battled back from significant injury over the previous twelve months. Quiet fortitude, commitment, effort, determination led them to this space, this time. They never gave up. Recovery be it in a physical, mental, emotional or spiritual domain can be lonely away from the public eye. Jordi, Garry and Joey have many admirers for what they do on the pitch but their strength and resilience at times of setback is an example to us all. It is **'Fides et Robur'** in action.

**Coach Joe Schmidt, post-match, referenced his "ordinary men who are an extraordinary team".** We have an extraordinary team of Spiritans, staff, parents, past-pupils and boys at Blackrock. We have seen much evidence of this team in action since mid-term. The Snow Days that closed the school saw an unprecedented level of co-operation between staff and students via Moodle. 126,700 hits (or events) over a five day period, Wednesday to Sunday, ensured the continuation of teaching and learning. Technology and team work brought "value added" to those who had the quiet fortitude, commitment and determination to keep going. It is the work away from the spotlight that turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. At the 5th Year family Mass, on Mother's Day, **Fr. Brendan Carr C.S.Sp told the congregation that "we are all God's works of Art. Life is about giving your all during times of uncertainty".** We are all ordinary with the capacity to be extraordinary. We just need that little bit 'extra'. Shared commitment is the key.

McKinsey and Company reported last November, after a wide ranging study of data from 18,000 schools in 72 countries, surveying 140,000 parents, 110,000 teachers and 540,000 students over a 12 year period, that the 3 most important factors to improve student outcomes are student mind-set, teaching practice and information technology.

A Blackrock education encourages each boy to have a positive mind-set to connect with each other through academics, debating, drama, music and sport, through Christian fellowship. Most of all through Christian fellowship for this is the glue that keeps us together. Our programme of Retreats, Pastoral Placements, Soup Run, Auxilium, Year Masses, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Awareness and Wellbeing days underpin our supportive and caring milieu blessed by the Holy Spirit.

We wish to instil in our boys a curiosity about life, about learning; to be wise, to share understanding and insight rather than mere facts and figures. In the words of the late **Fr. Kilbride "if you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything"**. We want them to value life, all life, to care about others, to stand by the vulnerable. A Christian mind-set challenges the strong to protect the weak. The message is to stand up and be counted in testing times.

The McKinsey Report recorded that outcomes are most positive in the classroom when technology is in the hands of the teacher rather than on the desks of the boys. There is a lot of merit in Artificial Intelligence, but there is no substitute for excellent teachers: that conversation, that prompt, that warmth; the friendly face, the interested voice, the encouraging smile. A blended approach to teaching and learning is at the core of the Blackrock educational experience. The teacher completes McKinsey's trinity and is the catalyst whose intervention is critical to wellbeing, the social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual development of our boys. Technology alone cannot provide this.

I thank all the Blackrock team who make this possible. May the spirit of the Risen Lord be forever present among us in Blackrock and continue to inspire quiet fortitude, courage of conviction, faith and faithfulness.

Yours sincerely

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) James Culhane Captain of the winning JCT team 2018
- b) James Gibney with his parents at the Fifth Year Family Mass
- c) Liam Turner (Captain of the winning SCT team ) presents the cup to Fr C O' Brolchain



# Second Year



## Application Cards

The class of 2022 has now completed a short but eventful second term in the College. The Application Cards that each boy has returned this half term are a good indication of those areas each repeatedly did well in and those areas each should resolve to tackle and improve in. Parents are encouraged to continue to ask their son each Monday what standard he achieved on his Card from the preceding week – this encouragement is a vital part of each boy's progress.



Joshua Fitzpatrick at the Emmanuel Concert



Stephen Wong at the Emmanuel Concert



Mark Phelan at the Emmanuel Concert

## Parents' Events

The Second Year Parents' Committee organised two seminars for this half term. Dr. Harry Barry's talk entitled "The Anxious Adolescent" was postponed during the snow but it is hoped to reschedule. Trevor Higgins' talk on "Positive Parenting & Coaching Tips to help our boys reach their potential" was well received and very well attended. Sincere thanks to the 2nd Year Parents' Committee for their organisation of these seminars.

## House Competitions

The winner of the **House Table Tennis** competition was **James Hamilton** with **Mark O' Reilly** in second place. The final term will see points awarded for the House Chess Competition, the Soccer Blitz, the Gold Medal Debate and on Sports & Family Day. The Inter-House Shield will be presented to the overall winning House at the final assembly of the year.

## Extra-curricular

The Emmanuel Concert, which is an annual celebration of sacred music, took place in the Helix on Monday 26 February and was a great success. Adam James, Mark Phelan, Joshua Fitzpatrick, Shane O'Sullivan, Stephen Wong & Louie Beatty represented 2nd Year magnificently. Well done boys!

Congratulations to our 2nd Year athletes on some excellent performances at the Leinster Schools **Cross Country** Championships. The standard was very high and our highlights in 2nd Year include **Oscar Lubliner's 10th place finish** in the Junior race which qualified him as an individual for his first **All-Ireland**. Well done also to Eoin Dunne who competed and was placed 72nd in his race. **Oscar went on to finish 9th at the All Ireland's Cross Country. This earned him a place on the Junior Schools Irish Team who will compete in Nottingham at the SIAB Schools Cross Country Championship.**



Oscar Lubliner who finished 9th at the All Ireland Cross Country

Well done to the Junior **Chess** team, consisting of Sean O'Connor, Patrick Curley, Matthew Collins, Mark McCabe, Jamie Blackburn and John Duffy who qualified for the Leinster Schools Chess Semi-Finals. They went on to qualify for the final where they played against the highly ranked Gonzaga College. In a keenly contested match, Gonzaga came out the victors. Runners up is a superb result for Blackrock College and one of the best positions for the College in a number of years. Well done to our Junior Finals team: John Cawley, Sean O'Connor, Jamie Blackburn, Mathew Collins, John Duffy and Andrew McCarthy.

In **Rugby**, our U14 C and D squad ended the season in style on Wednesday 7th March against Gonzaga. Both games finished 31-24. Well done to the

captains Eoin Power and Jack Molony and the squad. Equally well done to the U14 A and B who have had a great season. It augurs well for the JCT next year.

Well done to our **Junior Table Tennis** players who have had a great season and, in particular, to Jacques DePatoul, Alex English, James Hamilton, Callum O'Brien, Sean Patterson & Adam Tunney who have all been selected for the Leinster Development Squad.



Matthew Collins, Jamie Blackburn, John Cawley (3rd Year), Sean O' Connor, John Duffy & Andrew McCarthy

## Scifest

There were 123 projects, individual and group entered in this year's Second Year Scifest competition. Congratulations to the boys on their interest, research and presentations. The projects, on display in the Senior Wing, demonstrate significant scientific enquiry and curiosity. Well done to our overall winner, Matthew Collins for his project on River Quality. Equally well done to our winners Robert McNabb, James Treanor, Ben Casey, Zach Burke, David MacHale, Ryan Holmes, Ben Bracken, George Brady, Alex O Meara and Sam Cahill.



2nd Year Scifest Winners  
Back Row (L-R) Alex O Meara, George Brady, James Treanor, Ben Bracken, David MacHale, Ben Casey, Matthew Collins; Front Row, Robert McNabb (L) & Zach Burke (R)

Ash Wednesday fell during mid-term and, on return to school, the boys were reminded that they could *'take something up instead of giving something up'*. We also celebrated Environment Awareness Week, with the motto: *'Local Action has a Global Impact'*. Each of these messages links in very well with our **Auxilium Programme**. Since its inauguration in January the boys have committed themselves with great enthusiasm. A reminder to all boys that completion of the ten hours of service must be accompanied by a 'Reflection on the Process'. Remember: *"We do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience"* (John Dewey).



Hugh O'Connor (Pictured 2nd on the left)

Well done to Hugh O' Connor who achieved 1st place in the boys U17s at the "Northerns - Irish Toppers Championships". He was in second place overall at the weekend. A great achievement.

## Dates for your Diary

2nd Year Days of Reflection 24th April, 26th April, 1 May & 3 May.

2nd Year Parents' Social: Saturday 14 April

2nd & 4th Year Musical 1 May – 4th May

Auxilium Completion Date: Monday 30 April

Progress Cards: Friday 11 May

Summer Tests for 2nd Year: 30 May – 1 June.



# Third Year



Despite the disruption of the snow there has been a lot on since the February midterm. Before we returned to school it was great to see so many Third Years in the stands of Donnybrook for the SCT game against St Gerard's on the 18th of February.



Naoise Golden, Sean Dempsey and Alex Simpson (JCTV Clongowes)



Milo Byrne (JCTV St Gerard's)

The JCT Cup Campaign began with a win over St Michael's. We were fortunate to play our next JCT match against St Gerard's before storm Emma arrived, with the squad putting in an excellent performance. The JCT defeated a well-coached Castleknock team on Thursday March 15th. (15-3) and went on to win the Bank of Ireland Leinster Schools Rugby Junior Cup final on Wednesday 21st of March. Heartiest congratulations to James

Culhane and his team. A great achievement! Well done to all. The seconds beat St Michael's in their opening game. The thirds have won all three games in their league, most recently overcoming Clongowes, while a derby game between the 4ths and 5ths is on the horizon!



JCT Team winners of the JCT BOI Junior Cup 2018

Whilst the snow may have prevented the students coming to school it was great to see so many Third Years engage with the VLE (Moodle) and keep on top of their studies over the three days. We were unfortunate to miss out on Addiction Awareness Day, but this will be rescheduled for term three.



Grégoire Vidalinc winner in 'Build a Snowman' competition



Shane Redahan and Hugo Mangan winners in 'Build a Snowman' competition

In badminton our U16 A team have qualified for the All Irelands. The team of Darragh Dempsey, Darragh Harrison, Colm Kelly and Liam Prior won two of their three matches at the Leinster finals held recently in Baldoyle. The team is unfortunately without the injured Stephen Ó Nualláin. We wish them well in the All Irelands!

On the week beginning the 5th of March we had our Lenten Reconciliation Services, an opportunity for the boys for some self-reflection and to examine their relationship with God and those around them as we approach Easter. Speaking to my colleagues in the RE department, we were all very happy with the students active participation in the services.

Finally before we got into exam mode, the students went to see *Romeo & Juliet* in the Mill Theatre. I was very pleased with the feedback I received from my colleagues in the English Department and have no doubt seeing this performance inspired the students in their mock English paper!

Please note on Monday 30th of April there will be a conference for 3rd Year parents in relation to TY 2018 – 19. The focus of the evening will be subject choice for Transition Year, which of course will have a bearing on Leaving Certificate. The purpose of the evening is to allow students make an informed decision on subject choices.

## Dates for your Diary

26th April – Extracurricular photographs for the annual  
30th April – 3rd Year Parents' Conference  
11th May – Progress Cards  
13th May – Sports and Family Day  
26th May – Academic Prize Day

# Willow Wheelers Cycling Club



For 30 years the **Willow Wheelers Cycling Club** has provided a great cycling and life experience for Willow Park and Blackrock College students. In response to a demand for a cycling club that serves a greater cross-section of the Blackrock College community, the Willow Wheelers is establishing a new adult-focussed section for those aged 18+. Willow Wheelers Adults will provide an additional programme of cycling and social events for adults which will supplement the existing Willow Wheelers programme. The new adult section will welcome all parents, past parents,

past pupils, spouses and siblings of past pupils plus teachers as members of the Willow Wheelers.

All interested adults are invited to participate in two existing Willow Wheelers cycling events and Open Cycle spin, specifically for new adult members. These are:

- Willow Wheelers 100 Mile Cycle, Sunday 6th May starting at 10am in Blackrock College
- Willow Wheelers Track Day, Sunday 20th May, 11am-5pm, Éamonn Ceannt Park
- Willow Wheelers Adults Open Cycle, Sunday 13th May. 40 km cycle starting at 10am in Blackrock College

If you are interested in joining please contact us at the Willow Wheelers – [contact@willowwheelers.ie](mailto:contact@willowwheelers.ie)

# Transition Year



Despite being on a week of work experience and the 'Beast from the East' (that's the snow not myself), the Transition Years have managed to pack in a lot of activity into what has been a relatively short space of time. We had Jane Noonan from the Blackrock Alzheimer's Social Club speaking to the boys on Monday 5th March about the great contribution past TY groups have made and outlining to the boys the great work that is done by such a worthy local cause. There will be a collection in Dunnes Stores Cornelscourt on Friday 16th March in aid of this great cause and we aim to have a large number of TY students present to help out. The Past Pupils' Reunion TY Committee helped out at the 40 year reunion on Friday 9th March meeting and greeting past pupils, checking them in and providing tours of the College.

## Dragons' Den 2018

The 10th annual Dragons' Den was launched on Tuesday 6th March in front of a full TY assembly. Paul McGowan, Chairperson of Rock Dragons' Den and the largest numbers of Dragons ever, were present to launch the event. Paul gave a hugely informative and engaging presentation to the boys about what is involved and what the initiative hopes to achieve. Students were told that this is not a competition only for students of some combination of the business subjects; it is open to all and some of the best ideas are scientific in origin. The beauty of the process is that it assumes students are starting at square one, with support workshops provided at every stage of the process. Right after the Easter break there will be an Ideas Generation Workshop with Joseph Keating from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Enterprise Office. This will be followed, as the term progresses, by Business Plan workshops, Financial Planning workshops, and mentoring sessions with the Dragons amongst other initiatives. All of this will lead to the shortlisting of entries for the Dragons' Den Final on Friday 25th May.



Dragons' Den Launch in the Lecture Hall

## Faith Friends

We had 25 students involved in the Lighthouse Programme preparing Willow Park students for their confirmation. This programme involves a lot of commitment from the students who attend five separate workshops to offer leadership and spiritual guidance as the Willow students prepare for the sacrament. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to take ownership of their role in the promotion and safeguarding of the spiritual development of their younger peers in Willow. Many thanks to Mr. O'Reilly for his work with the group and well done to all involved.

## AIB Build a Bank Competition

Congratulations to our Build a Bank team of Michael Gadalloff, David Hearne, Fionn McArdle, Will Boyle, Mark Landers, Ben Melly Murphy and Louis Crowe who put a huge amount of work into their preparation for the Build a Bank Regional Finals which took place on Friday 9th February. Unfortunately we weren't successful in making it to the National Finals but the team can look back with real pride at a superbly, professionally run branch and there is no doubt they have learnt a huge amount from such a worthwhile initiative.

## Trips Abroad

Over February midterm 24 TY students travelled to Machakos, Kenya with Aidlink and another 9 TY students travelled to Ethiopia with Willow Wheelers. The main focus of the Machakos Trip was an educational immersion programme where our boys went to school side by side with their Kenyan counterparts in the Holy Ghost school in Sultan Hamud. The boys travelling with Willow Wheelers visited some of the incredible projects which have been supported by all the hard work around the fundraising which the group does. Incredible experiences were had by all and it was a real privilege to witness it first-hand myself in Sultan Hamud.



Adam Simpson with students from the school in Machakos

I cannot praise our boys strongly enough for how they adapted to such a significant challenge and by all accounts this mirrors the experience had by the boys on the Willow Wheelers trip.



24 TY students travelled to Kenya

On the 26th of March, 60 boys will depart Dublin and by the time you read this will seamlessly be blending into Beijing life. The boys have been attending Chinese evening class run by the UCD Confucius Institute in school every Thursday evening since September but the highlight of this programme is of course the trip over the Easter break which will be an incredible experience for all. We look forward to reporting back on it post Easter.

## Corporate and Family Duck race

There has been a lot of ongoing preparatory and planning work being done by the teams involved in the Duck Race and the 5k Rock Run. In terms of the Duck Race letters have been sent home with all students of 2nd -5th year, and the students involved have done an incredible amount of work in terms of engaging with our charity partners Goal and Aidlink in the planning process, sourcing and contacting potential sponsors, coordinating the logistical operation of the race itself along with getting a huge amount of experience in the overall process of event management. This event will take place in Grand Canal Basin on Friday 20th April at 1pm and all funds raised go directly towards Goal and AIDLINK projects.

## 5k Rock Run

The 5k Rock Run will take place this year in Blackrock College itself on Sunday 22nd April at 11am with onsite registration from 9.30. While of course having a second major fundraiser presents a challenge, it is a wonderful challenge to have when there is such a great group of students ready to throw themselves into the coordination of such an event. It is a wonderful opportunity for the whole of the Blackrock College community; students, staff, parents, extended families and past pupils alike to gather together and be a part of such a worthwhile initiative where all funds raised will go towards GOAL projects and The Blackrock College Machakos Programme 2018. By the time you read this you will have received communication around how to register, all relevant event details and there will be some great prizes on offer on the day itself! There will be prizes for the top three male and female, but lots of spot prizes so no matter where you finish you will have a chance of a great prize!

It is fantastic to see such a busy TY group. I hope that the students are learning a lot of hugely useful and transferrable skills and we hope that you can help us make the event a success in raising substantial funds for such worthy causes.

## 2nd/4th Year Musical

'The Girl Who Joined Blackrock' is a new musical featuring the music of Queen. The cast has been picked, rehearsals are up and running and you can expect a fantastic show 1st - 4th May in the Jubilee Hall.

### Dates for your Diary

13th April: TY Parents' Coffee Morning hosted by TY Barista Course Graduates

20th April: Corporate and Family Duck Race

22nd April: 5k Rock Run

1st - 4th May: 2nd and 4th Year Musical

8th - 11th May: Music, Art and Drama Week

5th - 12th May: Transition Pilgrimage to Santiago

13th May: Sports and Family Day

14th - 18th May: Work Experience

22nd - 24th May: TY Days of Refection

25th May: Dragons Den Final

28th and 29th May - Portfolio Assessment and Interview



# Fifth Year



## Family Mass

On Sunday 11 March, Fr. Brendan Carr CSSp, was chief celebrant at the Fifth Year Family Mass. The Fifth Year students were very active in their mass; serving on the altar, reading the liturgies, singing in the choir, providing beautiful music and much more, successfully generating a wonderful atmosphere of community and celebration.



Fergal McCluskey and Eoin Flannigan at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Rory Gallagher with his Mum, Denise Gallagher at the Fifth Year Family Mass

Fr. Brendan Carr reminded all to remember that life is not always straight forward and that during the journey of life there will be many challenges and even some darkness for all to overcome with the help of God. Amongst the many families in attendance we were delighted to welcome the travelling squad and their teachers and coaches from St. Bede's College in Manchester.

## CAT testing – Careers Guidance

As part of the Career Guidance Programme Fifth Year students will take a Cognitive Abilities Test and Centigrade Tests in the third term. These tests facilitate the College to identify students' needs and strengths so that they can be further guided in realising their full potential. Students are reminded that Career Guidance appointments are available by request.

## Debating

Fifth Year Michael Ryan was successful in reaching the final of the UCD-Trinity Leinster Senior Schools' Debating Competition opposing the motion that 'This House believes that Ireland should withdraw from the EU in light of Brexit.' We commend Michael for this excellent achievement. Michael was also a member of the victorious school team that competed in the annual Past V Present Pupils' debate. Max McKenna was also part of the student team that successfully opposed the motion "that this house fears the harmful effects of social media on society."



Michael Ryan (Past V Present Debate)



Max McKenna (Past V Present Debate)

## Cross Country

Success continues for Edward McKenna and the senior cross country team as they finished in third place in the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships, thereby qualifying for the All Ireland competition. We wish them well.

## Golf

Robert O'Callaghan and Shane Bresnan were delighted with their Senior Golf team victory in the Leinster Four Ball Championship in Woodbrook recently. We congratulate them and we wish them well for the coming months.

## Rugby

House Rugby is enjoying a mixed league season so far against a variety of teams. With some narrow victories and even more narrow losses, students are training hard and we wish them well as the final matches approach.

Fifth Year members of this year's Senior Squad have been focused on the SCT final and as we go to print we are delighted to report that their dedication and commitment has been rewarded with a splendid win in the SCT final in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the RDS on March 23rd (Blackrock College 35 Belvedere College 12). Well done to everyone involved. They have been delighted with and wholeheartedly appreciate the support and encouragement they received from their peers.

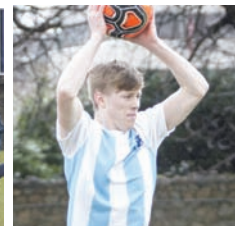
## Soccer

It has been a busy short half-term for the Senior Soccer squad who has been preparing for their Leinster Champions League quarter final and Metropolitan

League semi-final as well as enjoying a number of thrilling outings in the Joe McGrath Cup. They were delighted to welcome and host the St. Bede's squad recently and even happier with their two victories over the teams. Well done to all for continuing this wonderful sporting link with St. Bede's.



Ben Horkan and Mr E O' Brien (Soccer Coach) Rock V St Bede's



Scott Cullinane (Blackrock V St Bede's)

## Lourdes

An impressive number of Fifth Years applied to be student volunteers on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in Sixth Year. There are commended for their quality of application and interview where they all presented themselves as talented, honest and articulate young men. We wish those who have been selected; Diarmuid Foley, David Gallagher, Robert Kelly, Sean O'Brien, Mark O'Donohoe all the best with their preparations for the Pilgrimage next September.

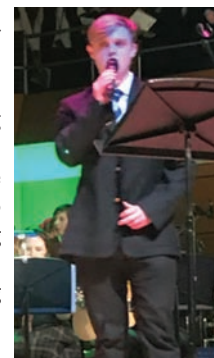
## Fifth Year Parents' Association

A wonderful evening was had by all at the parents' social evening held in Elm Park Golf Club in late January. Many thanks to Committee Chairperson Mr Donal O'Callaghan and the Fifth Year Parents' Committee and in particular the Social Committee for their organisation of this memorable event.

## Willow Wheelers

Two Fifth Year students, Conal Regan and Zak Facer travelled to Ethiopia in February as part of Willow Wheelers with the objective of visiting ongoing projects funded by their fundraising activities. Students visited many projects and the team have many tough decisions to make regarding the allocation of their funds. We commend them for their efforts and wish them well with their continued fundraising.

Fifth Year students are commended for their courteous and cooperative nature, together with their positive contribution to and involvement in extra-curricular activities and their continuing academic focus. As we head towards our final term of eight weeks, we remind all of the value of the weekly Application Cards to monitor effort and to measure the effectiveness of students' goal setting and time management. As we begin on the final term of this first leg of the marathon to the Leaving Certificate, all students and parents are encouraged to view and discuss the cards weekly both to affirm good practice and offer direction where needed.



Oisín Reid sang a solo at the Emmanuel Concert



# The Arts

## ART CLUB AT THE DLC



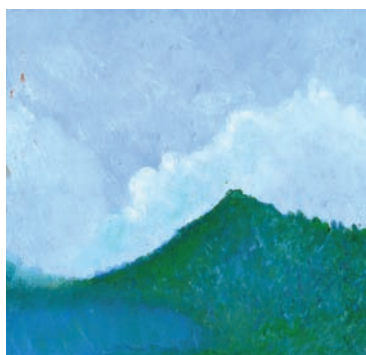
### EXHIBITION

21/2/18 TO 7/4/18

David Kealy (5th Year)



Fergus Woods (Fifth Year)



Thomas McCormack (Fifth Year)



Patrick Calma (Third Year)



Ned Fitter (Third Year)



Luke Moore (Sixth Year)



Eoin O' Sullivan (Third Year)



Donal de Buitléar (Third Year)

## Music & Drama

The Blackrock College Music and Drama programme continues with its rich tapestry of events.

A group of singers from second, fourth and fifth year took part in the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 26th of February. Very well done to all who performed. Four soloists represented the College: Mark Phelan, Joshua Fitzpatrick, Stephen Wong (Second Year) and Oisín Reid (Fifth Year).



Mock practical exams have taken place for Leaving Certificate Music students, which provided them with some invaluable feedback. Junior Certificate mock practicals have been rescheduled due to the snow.

The 5th Year Family Mass was celebrated on Sunday the 11th of March in the College chapel. Unfortunately, due to the heavy snowfall, the Wesley Interschools' Music Festival was cancelled. However, we look forward to competing in the Feis Ceoil on Tuesday the 13th of March. This is the first year that Blackrock College has entered the Fallon Cup, the liturgical music competition.



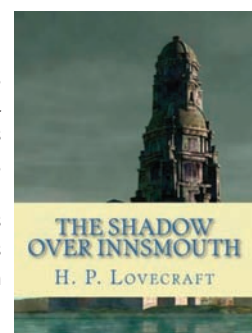
Christopher Kenny with his parents at the 5th Year family mass

The 3rd annual Father Dowling Festival Concert will take place in Willow Park Senior School on Thursday 22nd March. This promises to be an exciting event. The first year boys will perform alongside some senior boys from the College, strengthening our cross-campus links. Another much anticipated event is the Junior Musical, which will feature the music of Queen. Rehearsals are underway.

During Holy Week services, the Past Pupils' choir and the Adult Choir will contribute to the beauty of the liturgy. The Past Pupils' Choir will sing at the masses on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, while the Adult Choir will sing at the Easter Vigil.

## Blackrock TY Book Club

The second meeting, and first proper meeting, took place on the 6th of March. It went without a hitch, drawing the same number of members as the first (7). The book we had chosen to read first, *Fahrenheit 451*, was relatively well-reviewed, drawing, on average, a 4-star rating. As was decided at our first meeting, our next book was chosen by randomly selecting one of the seven suggestions given to us.



The next book is called, *The Shadow over Innsmouth*, by H.P. Lovecraft. We hope to have another successful monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th of April.

## Senior Debating

The annual Past Versus Present Pupils' Debate took place on the 8th February in the Lecture Hall. This has established itself as one of the most looked-forward to events in college life. This year's motion was **"This house fears the harmful effect of social media on Society"**, and it made for a lively debate. The Past Pupils were represented by Dave Fanning (class of '71), Morgan Shelley (2005), Joshua Kieron-Glenon (2015) and Shane Murphy (1982). The Present pupils (Oisín Ryan (6th), Stephen Ryan (6th), Michael Ryan (5th) and Max McKenna (5th)) successfully proposed the motion with a very disciplined approach to the topic. Stephen



# The Arts Cont'd



Ryan was deemed to be the best speaker of the night with a humorous concluding speech which was cogently argued.

The Senior Debating team represented by Oisín Ryan and Michael Ryan reached the Leinster Senior Debating Final. This is in itself a huge achievement. This year's competition began in September and hundreds of students took part in debates throughout the winter months.

The final was held on Tuesday the 6th March in UCD. The motion was that "Ireland should leave the E.U." Taking a brave and intelligent approach, the Blackrock team argued that we should leave because this would be in the interests of the weakest and most vulnerable people on our island, namely the Nationalists in the North, who would be isolated should there be a hard Brexit. Oisín outlined the framework of the argument in a superbly

reasoned manner, and Michael followed with one of the most powerful speeches of the night. The Belvedere team won the competition but Blackrock were worthy runners-up. We would have to search the College records to find a comparable success for our senior team. Well done Michael and Oisín.



The Present Pupils' Team and the Past Pupils' Team

# Snapshot of Kenya



Over February midterm 24 TY students travelled to Machakos with Mr P O' Neill and Ms M McMahon. The main focus of the Machakos Trip was an educational immersion programme where our boys went to school side by side with their Kenyan counterparts in the Holy Ghost school in Sultan Hamud.





# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2018



Cathal French( 5th Year), Robert Arbethny (6th Year) ,  
Rory Reid( 4th Year) and Robert O' Callaghan( 5th year )



Harry Donnelly, Rory Madigan and Michael McGagh  
(SCTV St Gerard's)



Willow Park support the JCT (JCTV St Gerard's)



Matthew Harvey and Mark McCarthy (2nd Years)  
explain their project at Scifest



Rory Maguire, Sean Dempsey and Thomas Quinn  
(JCTV St Gerard's )



Spectators in the College Sports Hall for the European  
League match between the Irish Senior and San Marino  
on Tuesday 27 February



Scott Cullinane (5th Year) and Matthew Curran (6th Year)  
Joe McGrath Soccer final



Blackrock College Soccer Team hosts St Bede's College, Manchester Soccer Team



Mr A MacGinty , President of the Union Mr E O'Carroll (class of  
1984) with Oisín Ryan( 6th Year) ,Max McKenna( 5th Year ) , Stephen  
Ryan (6th Year) and Michael Ryan ( 5th Year)  
winners of the PastV Present Debate



Luca Haugh (Second Year) prize winner in the 'Make a  
Snowman' competition



Adam Patterson taking a break during snow  
days to build an Igloo



# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2018



SCT Team, winners of the Bank of Ireland Senior Cup 2018



SCT V St Gerard's



Gavin Jones (5th Year ) Rock V St Mary's



Louis O'Reilly (6th Year) SCT V St Mary's



Tom Fenton and Conor Lacey taking a break from their studies (winners of the senior 'Make a Snowman' competition)



Mikel Aizpura and Stephen Maher (4th Year)  
Colts V St. Michael's



Blackrock College Quadrangle and Chapel ,  
Wednesday March 1st 2018



Gary Galvin (6th Year ) Joe McGrath Soccer Final  
(Blackrock V Clongowes)



Tom Mooreland with his family at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Mrs Colette Hayes, her son Patrick and grandson Michael  
Hayes at the 5th Year Family Mass



Scott Barron, Mr A MacGinty, Mr E O'Carroll,  
Michael Moloney and Charlie Byrne on the occasion  
of the presentation of the Junior Cup by  
James Culhane (Capt) to Fr C O'Brolchain



# News from the Past



## A hundred years ago

Fr Naughton, Dean of Studies in Blackrock 1911-1923, fell ill with pneumonia in March 1918, a very serious illness at that time, and two Bon Secours nursing sisters nursed him for over three weeks. This may have encouraged the College authorities the following year to request the Order for two of their members to be put in charge of the College Infirmary and Linen room. They were here from 1919-1934 when they were replaced by Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle (the "Selly Park nuns") who said goodbye to their top-floor convent in the College in 1995, ending a special era for the College.



Selly Park nuns  
Sisters Cajetan, Joseph and Lelia  
Sisters Fanahan and Scholastica



The College Infirmary

The SCT won the Cup for the 25th time and for the fourth year in a row, beating Mountjoy School.



**SCT 1918**

M Kelly, M McCormick, J Sullivan, T Glynn, J Gilleece, M Broderick, P Walsh, A Browne, T McVicar, J O'Mahony, D Cussen (Capt.) J Cussen, J Carew, M Coghlan, W Healy and A Kell.

The war continued to take its toll of young men who had looked forward to a fulfilling life after their Blackrock studies. John Keogh died on 22 March aged 25, Edmund Eastwood on 23 March aged 23, William O'Connor on 16 April aged 29, Edmond Butler on 18 April aged 26. There was no sign of the war ending and conscription for Irishmen was being proposed against which the Irish Catholic Hierarchy vehemently protested.



2nd Lieutenant Edmund P  
Eastwood, Leinster Regiment

## Fifty years ago

The usual Cup Match fever was gripping the College in March 1968. The SCT was suffering a lack of experienced players, made worse by the loss of Mick Kelly who, having brought talent and success to the Friendlies before Christmas, then left to join Manchester United.

Reviewing the year in the 1968 *Annual*, the editor states that in March 'At this time of the year, most Leinster schoolboys have their minds on the Schools' Rugby Competition and indeed the JCT proceeded to glory, winning the Cup for the 25th time.



Manchester United Youth Team, May 1968 (Mick Kelly on left at end of front row)

However, 'In the Spring', according to Tennyson, 'a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love'. In the March edition of the student magazine *Voice* the largest item on the Sports Report page covers Girls' Basketball (Loreto St Stephen's Green beat St Louis Rathmines) including the names of those on both teams. The other reports are signed by their author's names but it was The Watcher who wrote this item. In fact, he sent a similar item to the April edition. Perhaps at the time many readers knew the actual reason for this and the author's identity.



**1968 JCT**

A Stone J Cahill T Sweeney D Lang M O'Sullivan  
C DorisF Barnett H Crowley C Henry P Waldron  
(Capt) J Moran D Rogers L Quirke P Forte J  
Crowe

*Voice* was used as an outlet for complaints. A letter to the editor from Tom Brassil, Year IV, asks "why must the College authorities censor our St Valentine's mail"? A piece headed Chilly Willy complains about the fact that there is only cold water supplied to the dormitories. Chris Marvin says *Voice* isn't as good as before and gets a reply from the editors saying there is always room for the "Seán Bocht" type of writing and to try it.

By April the Secretary of the Fifth Year Debating Society, Patrick Murphy, was anxious to solve problems that might prevent a hoped-for return visit from the debaters of Loreto Abbey, Dalkey. Apparently, there was an objection to 'the girls coming through the school' and, more problematical, the lack of ladies' toilet facilities in the College. Regarding a wish to return the hospitality of the Loreto girls when the boys had visited the convent, he asks "Who should make the tea?" and "Where can we get the biscuits and sugar?"



**Fifth Year English Debate Committee** in trendy drainpipe trousers and winklepicker shoes.

H O'Donnell P Cronin D Donoghue D Curtin  
S McMahon Paul Murphy P O'Dwyer P Oatrick  
Murphy K Ward P Kelly



# Sixth Year



## Orals

Between February 19th and 23rd, a week of mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages took place. These mocks presented the students with a most valuable opportunity to prepare for their State Orals which will run from April 9th to April 20th. Many thanks to Ms. Bhreathnach for her organisation of these practice orals. It is envisaged that students will have the dates and times for their State Orals before we break for Easter holidays.

## Careers

On Tuesday 27th February, Gavin Walsh (Class of 2012) arranged for a number of recent past pupils to come to the College and provide information to the Class of 2018 about what is studied within a wide range of 3rd level courses. Despite the threat of snow, a large number of 6th Year students availed of this opportunity. The feedback from this event was extremely positive and the Student Council have requested that this become an annual event if possible and for it to be scheduled in January, before CAO applications have been made.

## Extra-curricular Activities Rugby

We congratulate the SCT and all three Castle rugby teams on a most successful term culminating in a fantastic victory in the SCT final on March 23rd. (Blackrock College 35 Belvedere College 12). Well done to everyone involved.



James Tarrant (Blackrock V St Mary's)

Best wishes also to the Castle 2nds and the Castle 4ths who remain in contention in their Leinster Leagues. As we come to the end of the SCT/Castle rugby season we thank especially Mr Vanstone, Mr Pickering, Mr Murray, Mr Grant and Mr T. O'Brien for all of their work with the Class of 2018.

## Cheerleading

We thank also the Sixth Year cheerleaders, under the leadership of Charlie Byrne, Matthew Curran, Liam Dunphy, Alex Houlihan and James Lunt, who have given unselfishly of their time and energy on behalf of both Cup



Thomas Clarkson and Michael McGagh  
(SCT final, Blackrock V Belvedere)

teams this season. The support in the stand at our Cup matches has been a testament to their planning, enthusiasm and creativity.

## Soccer

Our Senior Soccer squad have continued to progress through both the Joe

McGrath Cup and the Leinster League. On Friday March 9th, our Senior Soccer squad under the captaincy of Aran Horgan, welcomed St. Bede's College from Manchester to Blackrock for the annual fixtures between the schools. In the first XI game, Blackrock won on penalties after coming back from 2-0 down to secure a 2-2 draw, while our second XI, captained by Luke O'Hara, enjoyed a comfortable 8-1 victory. We thank Mr Evan O'Brien who co-ordinated this event and in particular, the Sixth Year students and their parents who hosted students for this weekend.



Jonty Byrne (Joe McGrath Soccer Final)  
(Blackrock V Clongowes)



Aran Horgan ( Captain ) Blackrock V St Bede's

## Cross Country

We congratulate Conor Halpin, Harry Kearns and Patrick Fahy who were members of the Senior Cross-Country team that won Bronze medals at the Leinster Championships on 21st February in Santry. This team, accompanied by Mr Rowsome, then travelled to Waterford on Saturday 10th March where they matched this feat and were placed 3rd in the All-Ireland Cross-Country Championships. Congrats to all.

## Music

There was a strong 6th Year representation planned for this year's Wesley Inter-Schools Music Festival but unfortunately this event fell victim to the snow. The Libermann Choir did compete in the Feis Ceoil in the RDS on Tuesday 13th March and many thanks to all who managed to juggle their Easter examinations with this performance.

## Table Tennis

Congratulations to Joey Nelson (Capt) and Barry O'Keefe, members of an unbeaten Senior Leinster League Table Tennis team thus far this season. They plan to represent the College in the Leinster Schools Cup finals next term and we wish them well in that.

## Golf

Robert Abernethy (Capt) and Jack Small were members of the Senior Golf team that qualified for the last four of the Leinster Schools Match-Play Competition with victory in the quarter final over Templeogue College by 7up. This competition will conclude in Term 3.

## 6th Year Parents' Association

The Parents' Committee is continuing its excellent work with much creativity and effort being directed towards fund-raising for the trip to Kenya this summer. The main focus will be on the Ladies Lunch, a Golf Outing and Church Gate collections. The DVD committee continue to



## Sixth Year Cont'd



welcome any material which parents might like to submit for inclusion on the Class of 2018 disc. Finally, the Graduation Committee is working hard on the planning and organisation of the Graduation Lunch in the Pavilion in Leopardstown. Information about this event will be included with the Easter reports.

### Debating

Following on from his participation in the victory of the College team in the annual Past v Present debate before mid-term, we congratulate Oisín Ryan



Oisín Ryan  
(Past V Present Pupils' Debate)



Stephen Ryan  
(Past V Present Pupils' Debate)

who was a member of the Senior Debating team that finished runner-up at the Leinster Final in UCD on March 6th. On the night he and Michael Ryan (5th Year) proposed the motion that Ireland should leave the EU.

### Finally

As the Sixth Year students approach the final term, they should rest assured that they can continue to make significant academic progress in these final weeks and that there are support systems and help available to them within the College in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the Class of 2018 all the best with these final preparations.

### Date for your Diary

Tuesday 1st May	6th Year Parents' Conference @ 7.30pm
Sunday 13th May	Sports Day @ 2pm
Sunday 20th May	6th Year Graduation Mass @ 12noon
Saturday 26th May	Academic Prize Giving @ 10.30am
Wednesday 6th June	Public Examinations begin @ 9.45am

## Science



On Tuesday February 22nd 2018, all 208 of the 2nd Year students took part in the Scifest competition. The winning projects will go forward to the regional final in April. We congratulate all the 2nd Years on their participation and we wish the winners of the competition the best of luck in the regional finals.



2nd Year Students – Winners of the Scifest 2018 Blackrock College Competition



Matthew Collins (2nd Year) Overall winner of the 2018 Blackrock College Scifest Competition with his project 'River Quality'

Category	Project	Student name(s)
Overall Winner	River Quality	Matthew Collins
Life Science 1st prize	Plants in Space-Geotropism	Robert Mc Nabb
Life Science 2nd prize	Cress growth	James Treanor
Life Science 3rd prize	Investigating plant growth in different solutions	Ben Casey Zach Burke
Physical Science 1st prize	The influence of golf ball design and technology on the golf shot, distance and accuracy	David mac Hale
Physical Science 2nd prize	Testing to see if the weight affects the speed of a kick	Ryan Holmes
Physical Science 3rd prize	Does ice melt faster in fresh water or salt water	Ben Bracken George Brady
Road Safety Award	Cycling to work saves energy but how safe are the cyclists	Alex O Mara
Display Award	Phototropism	Sam Cahill



# Guidance and Counselling



**DARE Applicants** – Final Deadline is April 1st. Section B & C must be posted to the CAO by this date. Please be aware the Easter exams are approaching and this limits the time the boys will have to get Section B completed. Please ensure your sons make contact with Ms Drew or Ms Ryan as soon as possible.

<http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/application-timeline/>



CAO – will reopen on 5th May 2018.

**HPAT** - Several students sat the HPAT-Ireland test on February 24th. We were fortunate to have an extra HPAT class on the Wednesday evening leading up to the exam. Many thanks to Mr Rory McCluskey (Class of 2015) for organising that and for running the very successful Saturday classes since October 2017.

**PLC** – PLC Colleges have an ongoing application process. It is not too late to sign up.

**Career Talks** – Mr Tom Ryan organised a career talk with past pupils who are presently in third level education. They came in to talk to the 6th years about college life.


**Addiction Awareness Day** – Our annual Addiction Awareness Day had to be postponed due to the weather. We have a great line up of speakers scheduled to come back in to talk to the students around the areas of addiction. Date to be confirmed.

**Bullying Report Tool** – The school's Bullying Report Tool is available on the school website. Instructions are on posters around the school and Ms Drew is attending assemblies to explain how to report in a safe confidential manner. Each message goes to Ms Drew. This tool gives the students the ability to report without giving their name or email. Please encourage your sons to report unacceptable behaviour. We all need support. Please contact Ms Drew if you require further information.

**Blackrock College**

**Anti Bullying Tool**

Go to the Blackrock College website

 Click on MENU

Then CLICK on

The Bullying Awareness Section

**REMEMBER**

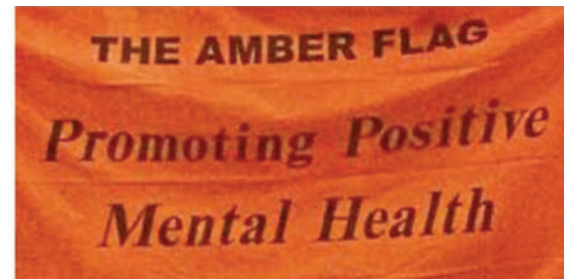
You do not have to give your email.

You can post anonymously

All notes will be treated with confidentiality and respect

We believe all parties deserve support !!

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



## AMBER FLAG

The **AMBER FLAG** initiative aims

- to encourage schools/colleges/clubs/societies/organisations to promote and actively bring about a culture change in the promotion of positive mental health within the educational system and other organisations.
- to enhance the already good work that is going on where mental health is concerned by offering an award. There is wonderful work going on in schools and clubs etc. on an individual basis.
- to acknowledge these efforts and unite all schools/clubs/societies/community groups in the promotion of **Positive Mental Health** leading to a cultural shift where conversations about mental health become the norm leading to the breaking down of the stigma that is often associated with mental health resulting in individuals seeking help sooner, when mental health issues arise.

### Positive Mental Health aims to:

- Promote mental health and well-being for all.
- Prevent mental health problems through increasing awareness, social support, reducing risk factors such as racism, bullying and isolation.
- Improve quality of life for students/people with mental health problems by promoting recovery through awareness and education.

A culture shift in Mental Health can only become the norm when challenges like achieving the Amber Flag become recognised as a central programme of activity in schools/clubs and associations.

### To Date-

With the support of the Student Wellbeing Council and Ms Drew we have completed an audit of the Mental Health activities we already provide and we have submitted our aims for the coming year to improve on what we have. Our application for the Amber Flag has been submitted. One of the many requirements for the Amber flag is representation in this newsletter. We will be keeping you updated on the activities that are happening around the school with regard to Mental Health in this section. Special thanks to Shore Oluborode and Ben Brown for their dedication.



### Dates for your Diary

CAO – Reopens 5th May 2018

DARE Final Deadline –Supporting Documentation by 1st April 2018



# Pastoral Care Programme



## Lent

This year Ash Wednesday fell during mid-term and so the usual distribution of Ashes did not take place in the College. However on their return to school our students in 3rd Year, Transition Year and 5th Year had the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. From 5th to 9th March there were twelve celebrations of Rite 2 of the Sacrament in the College Chapel. These services were led by members of the RE Department and Chaplaincy Team and supported by priests from the Spiritan community and from the Dublin diocese. We thank all who contributed their time, talent and ministry during the course of what was a very important and prayerful week in the life of the College. 2nd Year and 6th Year students will have the opportunity to attend Reconciliation during the Final Term.



Students attend Sacrament of Reconciliation



## Camino de Santiago

In Transition Year, preparations for the Camino, the Way of St. James, are gathering momentum. Practice walks have been arranged before the students and adults depart on 5th May, under the guidance of Fr. Marc Whelan CSSp who is travelling as chaplain with the group. One pre-departure hike is to St. James's Church at St. James' Gate in Dublin where the *credenciales* will be collected and stamped for the first time.

## Lourdes

In Fifth Year, twenty six students applied for the five places made available to Blackrock College on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September 2018. The applications and interviews were of an extremely high standard and it was noted by both Mr Garry Sullivan and Fr. Damian Farnon, both on the interview panel, that every applicant from the Class of 2019 would have made an excellent contribution to the pilgrimage. At the end of three days of interviews Diarmuid Foley, David Gallagher, Robert Kelly, Sean O'Brien and Mark O'Donohue were selected to travel, with James Gibney as first reserve. Preparations for the actual pilgrimage began with a most informative and well-organised meeting for all of Dublin's second-level pilgrims in Belvedere College on 20th March. We wish our students well with this undertaking.

## Pastoral Placement

Our Transition Year boys continue to benefit from visiting different venues around the city and assisting those who dedicate their working lives to people in need. Supporting these professionals who care for those with a physical, emotional, social or intellectual need is the very essence of what Our Lord meant when he said: "Just as you did this to one of these most vulnerable and most innocent,



Reflection after Pastoral Placement

you did it to me". On their return to the College, each group on Placement presents their Reflective Journal to the Pastoral Department here in the College and our Chaplain Ms McGlynn leads them in a prayerful reflection in the Prayer Space.

## 5th Year Family Mass

On Sunday 11th March, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Fifth Year Family Mass was celebrated in the College. Fr. Brendan Carr CSSp, a member of the Spiritan Leadership Team in Ireland, was the Principal Celebrant. In his homily he reminded all present of the value of the pathways of prayer, fasting and justice that we can follow through Lent, in enhancing our celebration of the great Christian feast of Easter.



Fr. Brendan Carr CSSp

The Fifth Year group also acknowledged Mother's Day, which fell on that Sunday, with a special Family Prayer Card being distributed by them after the Mass to all attendees.

A word of thanks and congratulations to Mr K Grumley-Taylor, Mr A Kavanagh and Mr S Orrock for their musical contribution to the College liturgies since the start of the year. Their work on the liturgical music programme with each year group contributes enormously to our family liturgies.



Conor O' Neill, Cianán Quinn and Diarmuid Foley served at the Fifth Year Family Mass

## Final Term

As we face into the final term of this academic year, Easter can be overlooked. Even in the Pastoral Department, with an eye on the Camino, the final Pastoral Placement group, the Days of Reflection for 2nd Year and Transition Year, and preparations for Graduation Day in May, there is a danger that we can just miss the importance that the season of Easter holds for our lives. However as Pope Francis has said about this Season: *The Risen Shepherd goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalisation. He comes to meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness, and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God.* Hopefully, all will find some time over the next few weeks to reflect on the events of Easter and be ready to bring the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus to someone in need of some human kindness.

### Important Date for your 2018 Diary

16th to 27th April – Final TY Pastoral Placement  
 24th & 26th April, 1st & 3rd May – Second Year Days of Reflection  
 5th to 12th May – TY Pilgrimage to Santiago  
 20th May – Graduation Mass on Pentecost Sunday  
 22nd, 23rd & 24th May – Transition Year Days of Reflection



# Sport



## Badminton U16

The U16 A team played in the Leinster Division 2 Finals in Baldoy on Thursday 8th March. The team (Darragh Dempsey, Liam Prior, Darragh Harrison and Colm Kelly) breezed through the group stages winning each of their games 6-0. Then they met Belvedere College in a repeat of the Dublin final, unfortunately for us the result was the same, 4-2 in the favour of Belvedere. The good news is that the team has now qualified for the All Ireland Division two finals to be held on Wednesday 21st March.

## Basketball

Basketball action has been limited since the midterm break with the U19 and U16 teams currently awaiting a date to be fixed for their South Dublin League final and semi-final respectively.

2nd Years have had one game since the February midterm away versus St. Mary's in the South Dublin League and won 52-15. It was an excellent performance from the team and to put up a score line like that certainly bodes well for the upcoming games. Before the break we have our East-Leinster Plate semi-final versus St.David's on the 14th March and another group game in the South Dublin League v St.Coneth's.

## Chess

The Junior Chess team came second in their qualifying group of the Leinster Schools' Chess League. This led them to qualify for Finals Day, which took place on Saturday 10th in Castleknock College. The team played group A winners, Castleknock College and gave an outstanding performance to earn a comfortable victory, qualifying for the final.

In the final they played against the highly ranked Gonzaga College. In a keenly contested match, Gonzaga came out the victors. Runners up is a superb result for Blackrock College and one of the best positions for the College in a number of years. The Junior Team consisted of John Cawley, Sean O'Connor, Jamie Blackburn, Mathew Collins, John Duffy and Andrew McCarthy.

## Cross Country

There were some fantastic team performances on Wednesday February 21st at the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships. The standard was of course high, but Blackrock College rose to the occasion. Particular highlights include Oscar Lubliner (2nd Year) finishing in 10th place in the junior race, qualifying him individually for his first All-Ireland. Our Inter team performed very well coming in 5th place. However it was our senior team, who gave the team performance of the day, finishing in 3rd place, qualifying them for the All Ireland. Our athletes will be joined also by Willow Park who came in 3rd place in the minor race. Our runners can be very proud, finishing with nothing left to give. We look forward to see how our 6 qualified athletes fare at the All Irelands on March 10th in Waterford I.T.

## Golf

Congratulations to our senior golf team captained by Robert Abernethy on reaching the semi-finals of the Leinster Schools' League match play after beating Templeogue College 7 up at Woodbrook golf club in Wicklow. The match was played in stunning conditions with the match being rescheduled after the recent snow. The team on the day was Robert O Callaghan, Robert Abernethy, Jack Small and Shane Bresnan. A big thank you to Conor Hart, James Cronin and Ms Fitzgerald in their preparation of the squad.



Senior golf team members at Woodbrook Golf Club  
Robert O Callaghan, Robert Abernethy,  
Jack Small and Shane Bresnan

## Rugby Senior

The Senior Team headed to the University of Limerick over the break in preparation for League Champions St Gerard's, who awaited them in the quarter final. Even with this extended time away, an intermittent performance against a side intent on reminding us that history and form counts for nothing going into a cup contest, meant that we required a James Tarrant drop goal mate in the game to come through 19-17. It served as a stark reminder of how difficult it can be to progress through such a fiercely contested competition.

Semi-final opponents were our sister college from Rathmines, St Mary's, making their first appearance at this stage for eight years. The speed, skill and confidence they played with in the quarter-final victory meant we would have to vastly improve our performance if we were to be successful and make schools finals. Thankfully, that is exactly what the team did. A really exciting and accurate performance, in front of great Blackrock support, brought victory and a greater sense of achievement in their performance.



Liam McMahon (SCTV St Mary's)

As we go to print we celebrate the SCT's win over Belvedere College. (Blackrock College 35 Belvedere College 12) Congratulations to Liam Turner and his team as they produced a magnificent performance to beat back-to-back champions, Belvedere College, in the Leinster Senior Cup last Friday. Our senior team played with excellent tempo, accuracy and intent as they brought home our 69th senior provincial title and our first in four years.

After a first half full of quality and all important points, the second half was one in which we had to show resilience and defensive character to hold off the inevitable response from an excellent Belvedere; our opponents know no other way than to fight to the end and must be fully acknowledged for their part in what was a wonderful sporting contest. Well done to all involved on the day and throughout the whole season. What a wonderful end to the term!



Thomas Clarkson, Sean O' Brien, Josh Dixon and Sean Molony  
(SCT final V Belvedere)

## Rugby Junior

After progressing into the Junior Cup quarter-finals at the expense of a gallant St. Michael's side last term, our JCT were drawn against an equally talented and hard-working St. Gerard's team. A hard physical encounter saw the team emerge victorious on a score line of 33 points to 10, with plenty of scope for improvement. James Culhane (3rd Year) and his junior squad overcame a well-coached



Michael Moloney (JCTV Castleknock)



# Sport Cont'd



Castleknock team on Thursday March 15th. (15-3). The JCT went on to win the Bank of Ireland Leinster Schools' Rugby Junior Cup final on Wednesday 21st of March. Fantastic achievement. Well done to all involved.

## Soccer

In the first of our Joe McGrath Cup matches Blackrock defeated Clongowes in a very tight game. A first half goal from Jonty Byrne (6th Year) gave Blackrock a 1-0 half time lead. Clongowes was the better side for long periods of the 2nd half and it took some excellent saves from Peter Quinlan (5th Year) and an excellent piece of defending from Scott Cullinane (5th Year) to keep them out. Gary Galvin (6th Year) made it 2-0 with 15 minutes to go which ensured the victory.

Next game saw Blackrock play Castleknock College. Another good performance saw Blackrock come from 1-0 to win convincingly 9-3. First half goals from Billy Griffin (5th Year) with 2, one each from Tony Smurfit and Gary Galvin (both 6th Year) saw a 4-1 half time lead. A strong start to the 2nd half saw Billy Griffin get his hat trick. Castleknock replied with 2 goals to make it 5-3 before James Thomson (5th Year) scored an excellent goal. 2 goals from Colm Cooney (6th Year) and 1 from Harry Norris (5th Year) gave the Soccer team a commanding 9-3 victory.

The annual St. Bede's weekend took place from Friday 9th – 11th March. St. Bede's travelled with 25 boys and 4 member of staff. It was a case of déjà vu in the 1st team game. Captain Aran Horgan and the team were trailing 2-0 at half time after a poor performance. However in the second half they managed to turn things around to snatch a 2-2 draw and for the second year in a row a penalty shootout win for our 1st team. In the 2nd team game an excellent performance saw the 2nd team win 8-1. On Sunday the St. Bede's boys and their host families joined the 5th Year Family Mass in the College chapel. Without the generosity of our hosting families to open their homes to the St. Bede's boys this fixture would not happen, it is a yearly highlight in our sporting calendar and we look forward to travelling over to Manchester next year.



Members of Blackrock College Soccer Team (Blackrock V St Bede's)

We look forward now to the upcoming fixtures, in the Joe Mc Grath Cup the soccer team have won 3 out of 3 and have qualified for a home semi-final against either Belvedere College or St. Fintan's Sutton, with the Leinster Champions' League quarter final against Patrician College Newbridge after Easter.



Members of Blackrock College Soccer Team (Blackrock V St Bede's)

## Table Tennis

Senior A is on the cusp of a record setting 9th consecutive Leinster title, with 6-0 wins this month over Gonzaga, Castleknock and Terenure. Junior 2A suffered a setback in a 2-4 loss against Castleknock, but are still in the hunt for honours in a Division 1 that also contains Blackrock Junior A and Junior B.



Just before the snow shut the country down, the Irish Senior team played a European League match against San Marino on Tuesday 27 February in the College Sports Hall. With Blackrock coaches Gavin Maguire and Alex Gillen playing on the Irish team, as well as 14 year old Art McLaughlin, who regularly trains with the Blackrock Squad, there were over 150 people in attendance to see Ireland record a 5-0 win over their European opposition. The week got worse for the San Marino team, as they were stranded in Dublin for six more days before catching a flight home!! As part of the hosting of the event, a large group from Willow Park and Blackrock were treated in the Jubilee Hall to a coaching session, master class and Q&A session with the Irish team.

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

## REFLECTION



Please note that school will start at 11.00am on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> due to Staff In-service.