

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Summer 2018

Dear Parents,

**Senator Robert F. Kennedy**, when talking about the qualities of youth, described them as **“not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the life of ease”**.

A Blackrock education encourages a spirit of adventure; it prompts us to reach out to others and give of ourselves. A Blackrock education is synonymous with courage – moral courage. This is more than the ability to know right from wrong, but to stand up for it. I quoted the late **Fr Malachy Kilbride** on Prize Day **“if you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything”**.

We should not be timid when witness to wrongdoing for fear of disapproval, censure or mocking. We live in a society where materialism and individualism are the order of the day. There have been huge cultural shifts. We must encourage our boys to rise above self-interest and self-gratification to move beyond the false intimacy and disrespect for self that can arise in a modern culture.

We must ensure that our young men are equipped with the values to negotiate difficult choices, the courage to make the right choice. It was **Mark Twain** who said that **“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear”**. A Blackrock education urges us to be courageous so that we may stand for what is right.

We all long for true happiness, to experience joy in our lives. Often, our quest lacks definition, lacks focus, which as a consequence, leads us to settle for excessive physical pleasure and ego validation. True fulfilment comes from wanting what you have rather than having what you want. Self-esteem is fed by the Christian belief that we all matter, more than we dared hope, that we have something to contribute if we maintain our Christian reference point.

We have seen so much in the final term that gives cause for hope not least our Graduation Mass and the passing out of the class of 2018. They did not opt for a life of ease. Their infectious enthusiasm was evident most recently on Sports and Family Day, at the Gold Medal Debate and of course on Graduation Day. But more importantly, their day by day engagement with their Teachers, our Support Staff and with one another was an example to those who follow behind. During 5th Year, I challenged the class of 2018 to ‘Be Blackrock’. Mission accomplished. They understand Blackrock, appreciate Blackrock, serve Blackrock, are Blackrock. Their character is imbued with ‘Fides et Robur’. At your time of reading, they, and the 3rd Years will have sat their state examinations. We hope that all went well.

They leave behind a vibrant and inclusive school, which will continue to meet the spiritual, academic, intellectual and creative needs of our boys. Our Summer Concert, Camino, 5K and Duck Race; Sports and Family Day and Prize Day; Gold Medal Debates, Master Chef and Dragons’ Den; Addition and Environment Awareness, the award of the Amber Flag, Machakos, 100 Mile Cycle, Work Experience and Days of Reflection; Junior Musical, Soccer Leagues, Cricket, Athletics, Table-Tennis, Tennis, Rowing and of course, the work of the classroom define us, build self-esteem. The miracle is that we fit it all in and, yes, since Easter! All of this is the product of tremendous teamwork. Our Staff, Students, Parents and Spiritan Community gave tirelessly to each occasion. Everyone makes a difference. I thank you all.

Enjoy the summer break. May the Be Caring, Be There, Be Truthful and Be Grateful of Blackrock be with you always.

God Bless,

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) Joey Nelson, Captain of the Senior Table Tennis Team and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)
- b) Harry Kearns, winner of The General Excellence Award 2018
- c) Joseph Eigbefoh reads at the 6th Year Graduation Mass



# Second Year



The final term in 2nd Year has been filled with activity. On Addiction Awareness Day the boys had the opportunity to hear two speakers. **Pdraig Walsh, a behavioural psychologist from Actualise**, provided an introduction into the overall area of addiction by focusing on how habits are formed. His colleague **Michael Keane, a Neuroscientist and Director of the Actualise Clinic**, spoke about the psychology behind the addiction to social media.

In early May, many Second Year boys were involved in the production of the **Girl Who Joined Blackrock**, on stage, in the orchestra or as part of the crew. It was a fantastic event which provided us with four nights of terrific entertainment. Equally well done to all Second Years who participated in the wonderful **Summer Concert**.

The **House Competitions** concluded with the last contributory events being the Soccer Leagues and Sports & Family Day. Consequently, at the final Assembly of the year, the Inter-house Barry Shield 2018 was presented by the Principal to Shanahan House.

At **Prize-giving**, John McDermott received the Student Leadership Award for Second Year, Conor Reidy was awarded the Brother Thaddeus Judge Medal for **Religion** and the Gold Medal for **Second Year Debating** was won by Michael White.

## The Academic Excellence Awards

for Second Year went to Colm Fagan, Eoin Dunne and Michael White.

## Book prizes

for individual subjects were awarded to Conor Alken, Oscar Lubliner, Matthew Kane, Colm Fagan, Will Fitzgerald, Charlie O'Brien, Luc Mullin-Fund, David MacHale, James Brophy, Michael White, Colum Corless, Ethan Laing, Toby Loughrey, Alex Finlay and Patrick Van Zuydam.



James Brophy on Prize Day



Patrick Van Zuydam on Prize Day

Six Second Year students who each demonstrated an excellent contribution to the life of the College received **Honours List Awards**: they were Patrick Curley, Matthew Kane, Ethan Laing, Rory Luff, Mark Mannion and David O' Riordan. Pdraig Foley was awarded the Second Year Honours List for the Halls of Residence. The **Auxilium Award** went to John Duffy. Special Awards for Sports were presented by the Principal to Richard Ainsworth, Conor Gorman, Oscar Lubliner and Hugh O'Connor at the final Assembly of the year.

After a vote amongst their peers and consultation with Staff, the following have been nominated as **House Captains for Third Year**: Conor Reidy and Eoin Dunne for de Valera; Colm Fagan and Federico Mei for Duff; James Boland and Ryan Holmes for Ebenrecht; Charlie O'Brien and Will Fitzgerald for Leman; Patrick Van Zuydam and Andrew McCarthy for McQuaid; and Joe Broderick and Michael White for Shanahan. We thank the outgoing House Captains for their excellent service and wish the incoming group well in their new responsibilities.

The final term saw an impressive array of **extra-curricular achievements**. Seven Second Years participated in the DIT Kevin's St Regional **SciFest** competition in April. Congratulations to Matthew Collins who received the 'Environmental Award' for his project 'River Quality' and Ben Casey and Zach Burke who received a Special Commendation for their project 'Investigating Plant Growth with Different Solutions'. We congratulate all boys for their achievement of making the regional finals.

The Neptune **Rowing Regatta** on the weekend of the 6th/7th April provided much success for our rowers with Rory O' Shea and Matthew Kane winning their Junior 14 double sculls event.



Rory O' Shea and Matthew Kane

Congratulations to joint **Basketball** captains Jimmy Gilligan and Murray Baker and their squad on winning the East Leinster Plate final. A fantastic result.

The Irish Senior Schools' Relay Swimming Championships at the National Aquatic Centre in April saw Patrick Curley and Philip Breen placed 4th in the Junior Medley Team Relay and the Junior Freestyle Team Relay. Congratulations and well done to all of the participants. Well done to our **Junior Table Tennis Squad** on winning the **All-Ireland trophy** in April.



Oscar Lubliner representing Ireland in Nottingham

Forty six 2nd Years played in the **Fr Fullen Golf Cup**. Congratulations to the winner, **Jacques de Patoul** and runner up, **Matthew O'Brien**.

Hugh O'Connor had a fantastic **sailing** result achieving 1st place overall in the Northern Toppers. He was also on the winning team in the recent Inter-schools Sailing Regatta in Dun Laoghaire.

Congratulations to our Junior I **Tennis Team** who brought back the junior trophy to the College for the first time since 2008. The team included three of our Second Years, James Brophy, Will Fitzgerald and Callum O'Brien. They travelled to Templeogue LTC on Tuesday 23 May and won overall 4 - 1 against Gonzaga. Well done to the boys on this terrific achievement. Two Second Years, James Harvey and Rory O'Shea, joined forces with Willow Park students on the Minor I Tennis Team. They met a strong opposing Belvedere team in the final and were the runners up on the day.



James Harvey, 2nd Year (Back Left) and Rory O' Shea, 2nd Year (Back row, middle), Runners up at the Leinster School Boys' Tennis League Minor Final



Max Mooney playing for his football team in Spain

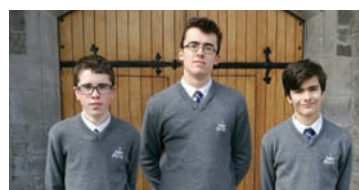


Kilmacud Crokes U15s won the Dublin Division I Gaelic Football Championship Final in May.

Eight of the team are Blackrock boys including five 2nd Years: Cian Ryan, Sean Purcell, Patrick Corbett, Patrick Van Zuydam, and Fionnan O Shaughnessy.

And from 3rd Year: Robert Kenny, Daragh Dempsey and Sam McConnell.

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



2nd Years (L to R) Robert McNabb, Michael White and Luca Haugh from the CADLC Committee on their Trip to Maynooth University Library.



Ethan Laing on Prize Day



# Third Year



Even though the Junior Certificate is looming large on the horizon, the Third Years, to their credit, have maintained their enthusiastic engagement with the extra-curricular programme.

We picked up where we left off before Easter with more success on the rugby field as the junior 2nds captained by Niall Brophy beat Belvedere 35 – 5 in the final of the seconds league. The 3rds captained by Peter McDermott were victorious against Castleknock in their final. Both games were played as a double header in Donnybrook Stadium, with great skill and determination on display as we secured a Junior Treble. Commiserations to Jake Crosbie and the 4ths who agonisingly lost by a point in their semi – final. Playing attacking rugby and contesting to the very end, they confirmed the enormous talent amongst this year group.



John Cawley and Harry Whelan



David Nagle, Reilly Smith and Cormac O'Brien (3rd Year) on Sports Day

In athletics Third Year had strong representation in the recent East Leinsters: James Culhane taking third place in the U16 200m, with our 4x300m U16 relay team of James Gray, Michael Nealon, Alex Dinn and Oscar Bourke Mullaney finishing third. Harry Whelan and Tom Henderson are part of the Inter 4x100m relay team who have qualified for the All Irelands – we wish them well. Elsewhere in athletics I applaud the large contingent of Third Years who competed in the recent 5K Rock Run in aid of Machakos. And again it was fantastic to see so many students representing their houses in the annual Sports and Family Day. It was a great day for all.

In cricket the Junior Team captained by Ben Brownlee progressed to the semi-final with wins over St Joseph's of Rush and Belvedere. The team can take some solace as their semi-final opponents CUS went on to victory in the final.

Congratulations to the junior 1st tennis team who recently won the Leinster School Boys' Junior Tennis League. The team captained by Tony Rowe and including Stephen O' Nuallain,



Gregoire Vidalinc, Darragh Harrison and Matthew Gibney

Colm Kelly and Sean Probert beat Gonzaga 4-1 in their final set of matches.

We entered two teams into the recent ISTA Annual Science Quiz. With over 50 teams in the competition our team of Robbie Gallagher, Matthew Keeley and Eoin O' Sullivan finished 5th and our team of Matthew Gibney, Gregoire Vidalinc and Darragh Harrison was victorious! A tremendous achievement.



Matthew Keeley (winner of Gold Medal Debate)

I commend the 24 Third Year students who collected awards at the Academic Prize Day. A day when we acknowledge academic excellence and student leadership. 14 students collected Book Prizes for subjects. In debating Matthew Keeley received the Gold Medal for Third Year. Our student leadership award went to Matthew Doyle and Honours list consisted of: Niall Brophy, Oscar Bourke Mullaney, James Culhane, Alex Kelly, Michael Moloney and Eoin Whooley. Both the student leadership and honours list are voted by the student body. Well done to all Prize Day winners!



Back Row: David Nagle, Mark Kelly, Alex O' Keefe, Lee Sheehan, John Duffy, Matthew McCarthy  
Front Row: Sam Bruton, Cian Moloney, Cian Macken, Matthew Canacott



Back Row: Hugh McNeill, Mark Murphy, Naoise Golden, Niall Brophy, Marcus Keyes, Oscar O'Brien  
Front Row: Maxie Cosgrove, Alex Simpson, Hugh Cunnam, Finn Sheehan, David Hale

Personally I am indebted to Darina Reid (Chairperson) and the Third Year Parents' Committee for their support and all the work they did throughout the year. Thank you. Finally I wish the Third Years all the best in their forthcoming exams. This group has bundles of personality and huge potential which no doubt they will show in the exams.

The BCPA2021 Committee would like to sincerely thank all the Third Year Parents who attended our recent Annual Parents' Dinner in Elm Park GC. and those who so kindly donated auction and raffle prizes. Between the Raffle and the Auction we are delighted to announce that a total of ?7,105 was raised for AWARE in memory of Mr Sean Dunne. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

# Transition Year



## Fundraising Activities

The final term began with a busy flurry of activity as we moved towards Friday 20th April and Sunday 22nd April when the Duck Race and 5K Rock Run would be taking place.



Oliver Bosworth, Tom O'Connor, Jack Kane and Joe O'Dwyer



TY Duck Race Team at Grand Canal Basin

The Duck Race took place in Grand Canal Basin on a beautifully sunny afternoon. An outstanding €16,177.50 was raised in aid of Aidlink and GOAL and special thanks must go to the student leadership team involved in the organization of this event: Jack Kane, Joe O'Dwyer, Adam Kelly, Oliver Bosworth, David Ryan, Jack Keegan and Tom O'Connor.

Having launched the 5K Rock Run at Bank of Ireland Blackrock on Wednesday 11th April, again we were blessed with the weather as the 5K Rock Run returned to the grounds of the College on Sunday 22nd April. There was a fantastic community spirit and atmosphere around the event as over 300 participants from all parts of the Blackrock College community came out to support a fantastic event in aid of the Blackrock College Machakos 2018 programme and GOAL. My thanks to the huge number of TY students who turned up on the day to help with stewarding and the many other duties involved with operating an event of this size with special thanks again reserved for the student leadership team for the 5K Rock Run consisting of: Michael Gadaloff, Callum Byrne, Mark Kavanagh, Luke Reynolds, Aidan Canavan, Seb Lowe, Liam Heylin, Shane Murray and John Huggard. €15,378.81 was raised through this event giving a combined total raised of €31,556.31!



David Ryan and Ms E. Whyte (winner of the 5K Run)

# Transition Year



## Dragons' Den

Many top quality business plans were entered however a shortlist of six finalists was drawn up by the Business Department in conjunction with the Dragons. The six finalists were: Keith Ahern & Jonathon O'Neill (Comride), Mark Hughes, Harry O'Leary and Callum Byrne (Cornucopia), Peter O'Grady (Coffee Logs), Ben Melly-Murphy (Dropshipping), Charles Cullen (Park Turtle) and Evan MacNamara (Squisheys & Co.). Congratulations to Charlie Cullen, the overall winner.



Mr Eunan O' Carroll (Class of 1984, Charlie Cullen and Paul McGowan (Class of 1981)

## Transition Year Lecture Series

We had four more talks in the final term that were well received by the student body. Bobby Healy, founder of Ireland's most valuable tech company CarTrawer, gave an excellent insight into the tech industry and changed many boys' opinions of what type of individual can succeed in such an industry. It made such an impact that students subsequently arranged meetings with Mr. Healy to discuss their own entrepreneurial ideas! Wendy Jacob gave a superb talk on controlling anxiety, emotional intelligence and how to channel and manage negative thoughts and emotions. A hugely valuable talk. As part of Addiction Awareness Day on 30th April the boys received two excellent talks from Brian Penny and Oisín McConville on their own personal addiction battles in the past. Lastly on 24th May John O'Shea gave a hugely inspiring talk on Social Entrepreneurship and spoke with incredible passion about his work, past and present, and the capacity of each individual to make a difference.

## The Girl who joined Blackrock

If anybody ever were to accuse Mr B.Savage of a lack of bravery I would point them to some of the main characters in this show. Yet again Mr. Savage wrote and directed a fantastic show, hugely funny and entertaining, excellent



Callum Byrne in *The Girl who Joined Blackrock*

singing and superbly choreographed routines and an all-round great night of entertainment. The show, in collaboration with Loreto Abbey Dalkey received rave reviews from a sell audience over four nights in the Jubilee Hall. Mr B.Savage, Ms U. O' Kane, Mr K.Grumley Traynor, Ms A.Ryan had a very talented cast and band to work with and we commend them all for a phenomenal show. The staff and cast were of course ably supported by a crew who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and produced an amazing set. Fantastic!

## Camino de Santiago de Compostela

On Saturday the 5th of May 20 TYs departed for Northern Spain on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The group was accompanied by Mr O. Brennan and Ms S. Nolan and again were very fortunate to have Fr. Marc Whelan as the group's Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims before them, the group took the Camino Francés starting in Triacastela and covered 144km. While the weather was by and large very positive, occasional bouts of sickness and the odd blister presented their challenges to the group but all challenges were met head on and I am told the group were fantastic company on the trip and hugely positive. The feedback from the students has been excellent. I thank my colleagues on the Camino Mr O. Brennan, Ms S. Nolan and Fr. Marc Whelan for the excellent care provided to the boys on Camino.



Darragh Kelly and Conor Hughes on the Camino

## M.A.D. Week

Music Art and Drama week 8th – 11th May kicked off with a hilarious magic show performed by Mr. Jack Wise. The students took part in a number of different workshops including: Samba drumming, song school, animation and hip hop dancing. Other highlights of the week included a trip to the cinema to see *The Greatest Showman* and the fabulous Summer Concert. The week overall gives the students the opportunity not only to showcase, but explore their artistic abilities and is one of the highlights of the final term in Transition Year. It would not be possible without the organization of Ms U. O' Kane, Mr K. Grumley Traynor, Mr S. Orrock and Mr J.Prendergast assisted this year by a very hard working MAD week committee.

## Master Chef

You would think at this stage of the year I would have the boys figured out but they still manage to surprise me. The culinary skills on display in the Masterchef Heats were absolutely top class. There was an unprecedented variety of dishes on display; from monkfish to steak to a tofu dish, it was all there. 10 finalists qualified from a field of 40. I attended both heats to sample as many and as much of the dishes on display as possible. Ms. Marren was very complimentary of the standard.



Oliver Bosworth, Patrick O' Connor and Peter Sharpe finalists in Master Chef

If the standards of the heats were anything to go by the final taking place on Monday 28th May will be incredible and I do not envy the task in front of the judging panel lead by Michelin Star Chef Mr. Derry Clarke. Congratulations to all finalists: Callum Byrne, Mark Landers, Oliver Bosworth, Josh Baker, Fionn McArdle, Jack Slattery, Colm Hogan, Liam Blackburn, Lorcan Patchell and Hugo O'Reilly. Particular thanks to Ms. Marren for all the work and organization.

## Extra-Curricular

On the 18th and 19th of April the award winning one act play 'Man Altogether' was performed in the Digital Learning Centre. We congratulate Michael Cagney on an excellent performance and Mr. Maher on another top class show. On the 24th April the Fr. Fullen Cup was held in Woodbrook Golf Club and we congratulate Rory Reid on achieving the best gross score in the tournament. More golfing success came with victory in the Leinster League Matchplay tournament and we commend Ronan Cowhey, Rory Reid and Jack Moriarty on their success. 40 TY students took part in the first ever Leinster Schools' Tag Rugby Cup on Thursday 26th April. Blackrock found themselves in the Championship, Bowl and Plate finals and congratulations to Sean Raleigh (Captain) and his team of Miguel Gutierrez, Adam Harvey, Spencer O'Hara, Elliot McNamara, Leon Bruns, Gerald Boylan, Joe Byrne and Luke Curtis on winning the first ever Leinster Schools' Tag Cup. My thanks to Mr G. Pickering for his organization of the opportunity. Special mention must go to Conor Hughes, Captain of the Blackrock Junior Team who completed their All-Ireland Leinster League and Leinster Cup Treble. Incredible achievement! Finally congratulations to Charles Cullen who having entered the Volvo Youth pathway National Sailing Championships, has been selected to represent Ireland at the Laser World Championships in Poland in July!

## Days of Reflection

On Tuesday and Thursday 22nd and 24th of May Fourth Years had the opportunity for reflection and meditation at the end of a very busy year. The venue was the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. The opportunity to look back on Transition Year and take stock prior to their end of year interviews was broadly welcomed by the students and the feedback was very positive. My thanks to Mr F. Hurl for his organization of the retreats.

## Conclusion

I would like to thank my colleagues in Transition Year: Brian Savage and Garry Sullivan and Frank Hurl, Director of Pastoral Care who have worked tirelessly to run a very busy TY programme. I am also very grateful for all the work of the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Don Harrington. Their support has been invaluable. I thank the students for all the energy, commitment and good humour they brought to all of the Transition Year projects over the course of the year. They have been a pleasure to deal with and I wish them the very best in 5th Year. Have a great summer!



## Summer 2018

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

## Sports and Family Day

A truly fantastic day was had by all at this year's Sports and Family Day. As expected, Fifth Years and their families attended in high numbers to enjoy the fine weather and of course to witness the high calibre and at times intense competition as the Houses aimed for first place. DeValera emerged as victors overall but the day was won by all who participated enthusiastically in the many events.

## Career Guidance - Centigrade Testing

We are grateful to the Careers and SEN Departments for the administration of Cognitive Ability Tests and Centigrade Tests to all Fifth Years this term. The results of these tests and the accompanying insights into future career options will be available for students on their return from the summer break.

## Music and Drama

Best Play, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor and a Certificate of excellence; the one act play *Man Altogether* was truly an extraordinary production. Tom Dwan, Harry Keyes and Robert Kinsley were simply outstanding in this gripping drama. Congratulations to them all.

Fifth Year members of the College Choirs, Boarders' Choir and Orchestra performed wonderfully at this year's Summer Concert. A beautiful selection of solo, group and band performances ensured a thoroughly entertaining evening.

## Tip Rugby Festival

Late night boarding school conversations led to this wonderful fundraising initiative from Aaron O'Sullivan and Cianán Quinn who with the help of their peers Cianán and Aaron organised a fabulous, good humoured day of Tip Rugby on the pitches, where over one hundred and sixty Fifth Years and some Fourths Years battled not only to play a teachers team but to raise €1,750 for Pieta House and its invaluable work. A brilliant, *healthy body, healthy mind* initiative and a great day's sport for all involved.



Mr J. O'Shea, Ms C. Dobbyn (Dean of Fifth Year), Mr B. McEvoy (Pieta House), Cianán Quinn, Aaron O'Sullivan and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)



Aaron O'Sullivan and Cianán Quinn organisers of the Tip Rugby Festival

## Wellbeing Amber Flag /Addiction Awareness

The College has been awarded its first Amber Flag Promoting Positive Mental Health and this is in no small way thanks to Shore Oloborode and Ben W Brown and their student Wellbeing Committee. Both have worked relentlessly all year to achieve this goal and we congratulate and thank them also for their contribution to the organisation of Addiction Awareness Day. Students were addressed by speakers highlighting both the dangers of negative thinking and the influences of social media as well as the psychology behind addiction.

## Debating / Public Speaking / MUN

Michael Ryan represented the Debating Society in the All-Ireland final of the inter-Schools' Debating competition. Michael and his team mate Oisín Ryan (6th Year) were runners-up opposing the motion that *"this house would never have children."* A fabulous achievement.

In a lively debate for the much coveted Fifth Year Gold Medal for Debating, ten students confidently, eloquently and passionately debated the motion that *"this house would ban Holocaust denial"* before an audience of their peers. We congratulate Michael Ryan who was the deserving winner of the award.

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

Congratulations to Mr Mark Smyth and the College MUN Libya delegation on winning a Highly Commended award at the St. Andrew's International Model United Nations Conference. This is one of the most prestigious conferences in Europe and the boys are commended for their hard work and dedication to MUN.

## Commerce and Economics Society

The society was treated to a tour of London recently. The group got an insight into the workings of the financial sector and also garnered some key tips on improving success rates when job hunting. A fabulous opportunity, a fabulous tour.

## Cricket

JJ Garth, Sean Lardner, Drummond McGinn and Conor Austin were the Fifth Year members of this year's Senior Cricket team that competed in the Leinster A Cricket League. Following on from victory against King's Hospital, the team was disappointed not to progress beyond the quarter-finals. We wish them well next year as cricket continues to grow in popularity.

## Water Polo / Swimming

The Fifth Year members of the swim and water polo teams, enjoyed a whistle stop yet excellent tour to Harrow to participate in the Gala and were delighted to finish second. They look forward to continuing this fabulous relationship with Harrow.

The swimmers enjoyed a great day at the Irish Senior Schools' Relay Championships in the National Aquatic Centre in early May where they competed in the Senior Medley Relay and the Senior Freestyle Relay.

Max Connolly was selected as part of the Irish Men's Water Polo Team who went to Prague this term to compete in the EU Nations Water Polo Championship. After an exhilarating five days Max was happy with his performance and looks forward to future events.

## Golf

The Fifth Year golfers, Shane Bresnan, Cathal French and Robert O'Callaghan enjoyed a number of outings this term. They were thrilled to win the Leinster Inter Schools' Match Play in Kileen and are already setting their sights on next year's All Ireland Match Play and we wish them well.

## Rugby

Well done to the Fifth Year members of the SCT on securing the double in a fabulously played final against worthy opponents Belvedere. Thank you all for the excitement and the memories.

Congratulations to Edward Brennan, Sean O'Brien, on their selection for the IRFU U18 and U19 Teams.

We acknowledge all House Rugby teams. Training and commitment has been exceptional and we wish them the best for next year.

## Table Tennis and Tennis

The Senior Table Tennis Team including Fifth Year students Robert Kelly and Romain Gaspar were victorious in yet another Leinster Championship this year and were happy with their third place finish in the All Ireland finals. We congratulate them for their commitment and results.



Cathal Ryan and Max Mulcahy (Tip Rugby Festival)

# Fifth Year Cont'd



The Senior Tennis teams enjoyed a number of outings this term in fine weather and we wish them well as their individual training continues.

## Athletics

Fifth Year representation and participation in this year's Athletics Championships was highly commendable as were the many successful results. The Senior Relay teams including Peter Murphy, Andrew Hendrickx, Ben White and William Spain won their 4 x 100m event in the East Leinster Competition. There were also notable achievements in the hurdles; Cathal Ryan placed 2nd in the 110m, Edward Brennan came 3rd in the triple jump and Tadhg Egan is also to be commended for his achievements in the javelin and the 100m and 800m finals. We congratulate all on a great season of participation and wish them well for the autumn season.

## Football

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

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

After a frustrating end to their season against Lucan Community College the soccer players are planning pre-season training over the summer and have high hopes and ambitions for next year's Leinster and All-Ireland Leagues. We wish them well.



Fifth year Latin students in Rome

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



Winning Team in Tip Rugby Festival – All Black and Teachers' Team

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

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

Finally and certainly not least of all, the Fifth Year group of 2017-2018 deserves a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts both inside and outside the classroom this past year. They have displayed a wealth of enthusiasm and talents and have conducted themselves in a caring and responsible manner. We wish them a happy and safe summer and every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.

# The Arts

## Music & Drama

The Blackrock College Music and Drama programme continued to thrive throughout the final term. The start of May saw the staging of this year's Junior Musical, ***The Girl Who Joined Blackrock***. The show which was hugely successful, featured the music of Queen, together with a humorous and istling narrative written by Mr Brian Savage. The boys from 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year were joined by their counterparts from Loreto Abbey, Dalkey, and together they provided four nights of entertainment of the highest calibre. Well done to all students and staff involved in bringing the show to fruition.



Mark Landers and Sean O' Connor (4th Year) in *The Girl who joined Blackrock*

**Music, Art and Drama (MAD) Week** took place during the second week of May. As always, this week was action-packed – from a magic show to a cinema trip, workshops in song-writing, film-making, animation and dance as well as a staff-student debate, the Transition Year students were treated to a great week of creativity and culture. The week also featured three open-mic lunchtime concerts – *Tuesday*, *Throwback Thursday* and *Funky Friday*, where students from across the year groups had an opportunity to take to the stage. The week culminated in the Summer Concert, where the wide spectrum of musical talent of the College was celebrated once again. The various College ensembles, as well as a selection of soloists performed to a very high standard, with the programme featuring a selection of pieces from *The Greatest Showman*, *Queen* and many others. Well done to the First Year boys who joined us for the event – we look forward to welcoming them to the College in September.

**The Sixth-Year Graduation Mass** took place on 20th May and was a great Liturgical Celebration which reflected the journey the boys have made throughout their time in the College. The celebration was enhanced with liturgical music provided by the Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble. It was a deeply meaningful and moving occasion, appreciated by staff, students and families alike. Congratulations to the Class of 2018 – we wish them every success in their future endeavours.



The Sixth Year Choir perform at the Graduation Mass

This year's entry 'Man Altogether' swept the boards at the St Andrew's National One-Act Drama Competition winning 'Best Actor', 'Best Supporting Actor', 'Certificate of Excellence', 'Best Play' and 'Best Direction'. Realised at the highest possible theatrical standards, Michael Cagney (4th Year), Tom Dwan, Harry Keyes and Robert Kinsley (5th Year) wowed audiences in St Andrew's College and over a triumphant two-night sold out run in Blackrock. The work-ethic displayed by the boys during their time developing the project with writer and director Mr Maher was nothing short of exemplary as they braced every sort of weather warning for rehearsal to ensure excellence was achieved.

Once again, this year has been an action-packed one for the Music and Drama





# The Arts Cont'd



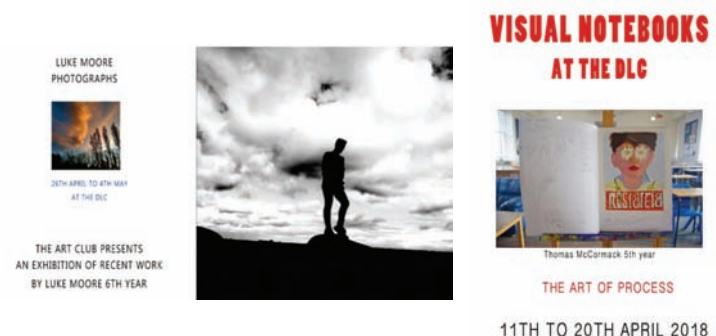
Department. Many thanks to the students and staff for their tireless efforts in bringing each event to life. We can look back on a highly successful year, and look forward to building upon this next year.

## Visual Art

Two exhibitions of visual art were held in the CADLC during term three. The first examined how Art students use visual notebooks to compile and develop ideas from primary source to finished art works. An exhibition of vibrant photographs by sixth year Luke Moore concluded the Exhibition Series for this academic year. Luke was awarded the 2018 Farragher medal for photography on Prize Day. 48 Willow Park First Years visited the College Art Room on the 26th April. They were made welcome by Third Year students and given a chance to see work in progress. We wish them well as they continue their creative journey with us in September.



Tom Dwan, Harry Keyes, (Fifth Year) Michael Cagney (Fourth Year) and Robert Kinsley (5th Year)



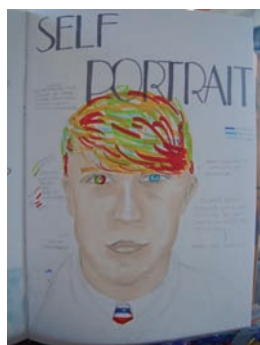
The annual selection of student art work was on display during Sports and Family Day



Ethan Murray (5th Year)



Theo Stephens Kehoe (5th Year)



Mark Fitzgibbon (5th Year)



Fergus Woods (5th Year)

## CADLC

### Book Clubs

Our staff book club ended their year with a dinner out to discuss the aptly named *The Dinner* by Herman Koch. Meetings will resume again in September. Our parents' book club will read Paul Auster's *4321* over the summer and meet back in September; new members are always welcome. You can email [learningcentre@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:learningcentre@blackrockcollege.com) to register your interest.

### Learning Centre Committee Trip

On 25th April our group took a trip to view the library at Maynooth University. The John Paul II library is a modern, purpose built library with a coffee shop and exhibition space in the foyer, and an open PC room where people can bring coffee and either chat or work alone.

Further inside the library we saw quieter working spaces (students were very quiet as it was exam time), the automatic shelving, self-issue machines, group meeting rooms, and two energy/sleep pods. The sleep pods were a student initiative, which allows a student to attach their mp3/phone to the pod and sleep for 20 minutes, which research shows is the ideal time to rejuvenate your energy levels.



We took a look at the special collections section which is a temperature controlled archive which researchers can book to consult older/rare works. And the highlight for most of the students, the Russell Library which predates the 18th Century where we looked at their displays and had a talk from the staff there.

We also say goodbye to our 6th Years on the committee, Oisín Ryan & Conor Williams – we wish them both the best of luck in the Leaving Cert & in their further studies.

## Senior Debating

The last term was a busy one for our Senior Debating team.

Michael Ryan (5th Year) and Oisín Ryan (6th Year) advanced to the All-Ireland Finals, an event hosted in U.C.D. This is the furthest that Blackrock has ever advanced in this long running schools competition. Alas, Michael and Oisín did not win, but we must celebrate their achievement this year. They had many wonderful successes on their way to the final. Michael Ryan won the 5th Year Gold Medal having participated in a lively and well-attended debate in the Lecture Room.



The 6th Year Gold Medal is one of the highlights of the school calendar. A packed (at times raucous) Lecture Room was won over by the wit, sharpness and fluency of Stephen Ryan's winning speech. He is this year's worthy valedictorian.

Thanks to all our debaters who participated this year.

Michael Lucey (Third Year) with the Joan Cuthbert Cup which he won at Feis Maitiu, performing sonnet 130 and a solo scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Michael White (winner of Second Year Gold Medal Debate)



Shore Oluborode, winner of the 5th Year Gold Medal Debate



# Snapshot of Final Term 2017/18



Cian Boland, Joey Nelson, Barry O' Keefe, Harry Kearns, Matthew O' Donnell, Shane McDonagh and Matthew Curran 800 Metres Race on Sports Day



Jeff Kenny and Adam Dixon (4th Year) on Sports Day



Dylan Connaughton (5th Year) on Sports Day



Mr S. Lambe on Sports Day



Liam McMahon at 6th Year Graduation Mass



Third Year Team, winners of the JLT Championship 2018



David Nagle, Reilly Smith and Cormac O'Brien (3rd Year) on Sports Day



Matthew Gibney, Robbie Gallagher, Eoin O' Sullivan, Matthew Kealy and Darragh Harrision (Third Years) winners at the Itsa Dublin Science Quiz



Oscar Murray, Joe Byrne and Max McKenna



John Mc Dermott (2nd Year) in 'The Girl who joined Blackrock



Mr A. Boyle, Mr M. Dunne and Father Gavin on Sports Day



Jamie Kearney, Dermot Foley, Ben Rigly and Scott Henderson (5th Years)



Matthew Lorusso member of our Junior Table Tennis Squad winners of the All-Ireland trophy



# Snapshot of Final Term 2017/18



Blackrock College Swim Team at the Irish Senior Swimming Championships National Aquatic Centre



Winners of the Stanley Cup 2018



Participants in the 5K run in aid of the Machakos Fundraising Campaign



Hugo Mangan , Ben Hardiman , Michael O' Sullivan and Oisín Fitzgerald (3rd Years ) on Sports Day



Matthew Flynn (5th Year) on Sports Day



Peter Coyle , Max Connolly , Robert Kinsley ,Theo Stephens Kehoe and David Mei members of the College Swimming Team at Harrow



TY students with Ms Nolan and Mr Brennan on the Camino Trip



Joey Nelson , Leo Downes, Josh Garvey and Cian Hasson at the Graduation Mass



The Choir and Orchestra at 6th Year Graduation Mass



From L to R back row :Sean O' Connor, Matthew Collins , Mark McCabe, Front row : John Duffy , Jamie Blackburn and Andrew McCarthy , at the All Ireland Chess League



Ewan McMahon (6th Year) Sports Personality of the Year, Mr E. O'Carroll (class of 1984), president of the PPU and Cian O'Sullivan (Class of 2006) Past Pupils Sports Personality Award



Owen Brennan accepts a cheque on behalf of Aware



Rory O' Reilly, Hugh O' Leary, Hugh Kelly, Mr A. MacGinty (Principal) , Neil Holohan and Art Lynch on Prize Day



## A hundred years ago

By 1918 the university in the Castle was closed and was a hostel for students attending UCD. During the summer vacation past students of Blackrock and St Mary's who were now studying for the priesthood (Senior Scholastics) came on their holidays to the Castle.



Having got a telephone installed in the College some twenty years earlier, it can be seen from the Accounts Ledger of 1918 that one way of helping to pay the phone bill was income from the Postmaster-General for wayleave over College lands.



These were the days when support for the ideal of Irish Ireland was coming to the forefront and the College supported the Foley Typewriter Company, paying a bill in May 1918, presumably for a new typewriter. Gleesons also supplied the College and were connected with Gleeson & O'Dea. The O'Dea boys (including the famous comedian, Jimmy) were past students as were the Gleeson brothers.



Besides the sadness of past students being killed at the front, the war meant that there were no soccer or rugby internationals involving Ireland in 1918 which must have been a disappointment for those on Schools' Cup Teams hoping to go on to higher achievements on the pitch.

After the many ailments - far more than usual - suffered by students during the spring, antecedent perhaps of the dreadful influenza epidemic about to arrive and kill thousands of people worldwide, our records show that they were receiving extra rations to build them up - chops, rashers etc. paid for by their parents - and that they were enjoying sea-bathing at Seapoint before returning home for their summer holidays.



## Fifty years ago

College Camera Club, as well as winning prizes nationally, began to master colour-photography thanks to a series of lectures by Mr Thomas Gunn of Agfa-Gevaert.

This was a major achievement for members processing film in the primitive Camera Club dark room in Clareville, a mid-eighteenth century house in the grounds, demolished in 1990 and replaced by the two modern houses on Cross Avenue. The work, study and a knowledge of physics required is

probably totally unappreciated by current students taking photos with their mobile phones and I-pads.

## Clareville

A tantalising item in the 1968 College *Annual* mentions an hour-long colour film on College life, enthusiastically acclaimed by all and made by Fr Alo Flood CSSp, at that time Editor of the *Annual*. No copy of this film seems to exist nowadays and staff in the College archives would be most appreciative of any knowledge relating to it or any similar material of which they know.



Camera Club meeting



Although Vatican II had changed many ceremonies, some were still celebrated in the College.



Corpus Christi procession 1968

Earlier in the year the very serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in England had prevented some teams travelling to some cross-country engagements there but at home the Under-16s won the Leinster Colleges' Intermediate trophy.



The May cover of the student magazine *Voice* was in colour for the first time 'with the aid of a six stencil Roneo print'. Vice-Captain Terry Sweeney and Paul Waldron, Captain, 1968 JCT.

The Pop Page by William Finn of 6th Year says that the "very talented" group Mannfred Mann doesn't get enough publicity. "What keeps them at the top?" he asks. "None of the group are particularly good-looking, they don't write their own singles and four of them are married". Donal O'Shea wrote "Pop Call" covering current hits and looked forward to an about-to-be launched Beatles LP, presumably *The White Album*.





# Sixth Year



The final term has been a busy and exciting one for the students of the Class of 2018. The journey through the halls of Blackrock College is coming to a conclusion and what a journey it has been!

Over the Easter break, on the back of our wonderful SCT success on the last day of Term 2, we heard that our captain Liam Turner was joined by Liam McMahon, James Tarrant, Sean Molony and Michael McGath as members of the 2018 Irish Independent Team of the Leinster SCT Tournament. We congratulate also, Thomas Clarkson and Donnacha Mescal who joined Liam and Michael as representatives on Irish Rugby Panels during the holidays. Oisín Ryan represented Blackrock in the All-Ireland Final of the inter-schools Debating and Conor Barry was an individual winner at the MUN conference held in High School. The Spiritan Community would also like to thank Oisín Ryan, Barry O'Keeffe, Conor Williams, Harry Kearns and Stephen Ryan who assisted with the Easter ceremonies in the College.

On Tuesday 8th May, there was a very good attendance at the final Parents' Conference for the Class of 2018. Arrangements for the end of the academic year were discussed and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations. Ms. Mc Mahon, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all present in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

The range and depth of musical talent within the Class of 2018 was witnessed for a final time by the College community in the Summer Concert on Thursday 10th May. Individual performers included Charlie Byrne, Neil Holohan, Fionn Byrne, Luke Demichel, Alex Quinlan and Stephen Ryan. Many thanks also to the 6th Year members of the Choir and Orchestra for their service throughout the year and to James Lunt who was an excellent MC.

On Sunday May 13th, there was a very large turnout of 6th Year students and parents for the annual Sports and Family Day. Thankfully there was sunshine on the day and keen competition between the six houses was enjoyed by all. Ewan McMahon received the Sports Personality of the Year Award and victory in the House event went to DeValera House captained by Barry O'Sullivan and Liam Turner. DeValera also won the other major House event this term, the 6th Year Soccer League, defeating Duff 3-2 in a most entertaining final.

After two qualifying events, the Gold Medal Debate on Tuesday May 15th was a humorous and lively affair and the motion that *'This House believes that the Class of 2018 is ill-equipped for the world beyond Blackrock College'* was keenly contested by all eight speakers. The judges were most complimentary of the extremely high quality of the debate before declaring Stephen Ryan the winner and the Valedictorian for the Class of 2018. Many thanks to Mr Sheil for his organisation of this important 6th Year event, to our Chair Joshua Kieran-Glennon (Class of 2015) and to our panel of adjudicators Ms Kelleher, Ms Wallace and Ms Pierce.

Other extracurricular events of note this term include the Paul Stanley soccer final on May 14th that saw the Castle Dayboys, captained by Matthew Curran, defeat the House Boarders 2-1. Our Senior Golf Team, led by Robert Abernethy successfully defended the Leinster Senior Golf League Match Play title with victory over Avondale Community College in the final in Killeen GC. The Senior



Barry O' Keeffe, member of the Senior Table Tennis squad who won the Senior A Leinster title for the 9th year in a row.

Table Tennis squad captained by Joey Nelson and including Barry O'Keeffe won the Senior A Leinster title for the 9th year in a row, while after a long and most successful season, our Senior Soccer squad, captained by Aran Horgan unfortunately tasted defeat at the hand of a very strong Lucan Community College side in the Dublin Metropolitan League Final. Harry Kearns (2nd 5000m), Paul O'Callaghan (1st 4 x 400m) and Harry Donnelly (2nd 4 x 100m) enjoyed success at the East Leinster Athletic Championships while Sean Kirrane won his second race under Horse Racing rules when victorious on 16/1 shot 'Footstepsintime' at the Cork races on Saturday 5th May. Congratulations to all.



John Keenan reads at the Graduation Mass



Stephen Ryan (Valedictorian 2018)

The Graduation Mass for the Class of 2018 was celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain was the main celebrant and having established 'Yes We Will' as the theme of his homily, Fr. Cormac assured all the boys present that they would always be welcome in Blackrock College. It was a moving and emotional occasion for all and a particular thanks to Mr F. Hurl



James Burke on Sports Day

and all the RE team who helped prepare this wonderful liturgy. Celebrations in the Quadrangle followed and many thanks to the 5th Year Parents' Committee for the reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall. Later, a Graduation Lunch organised by the 6th Year Parents Committee and co-ordinated by Denise Gallagher was enjoyed by all in Leopardstown. It was a wonderful evening and a fitting way to end a memorable day and to celebrate a memorable year.

Our annual Prize Day was celebrated on Saturday May 26th. Congratulations to all Sixth Year prize-winners and their families but we mention in particular, Harry Kearns, winner of the General Excellence Award, Neil Holohan who was the top Academic based on Christmas and Easter in house examinations and Billy Doyle, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2018.

Finally, a particular thank you to Ursula Grogan (Chair), Orla Brady (Secretary) and all the 6th Year Parents' Committee who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of



Charlie Clinch on Sports Day



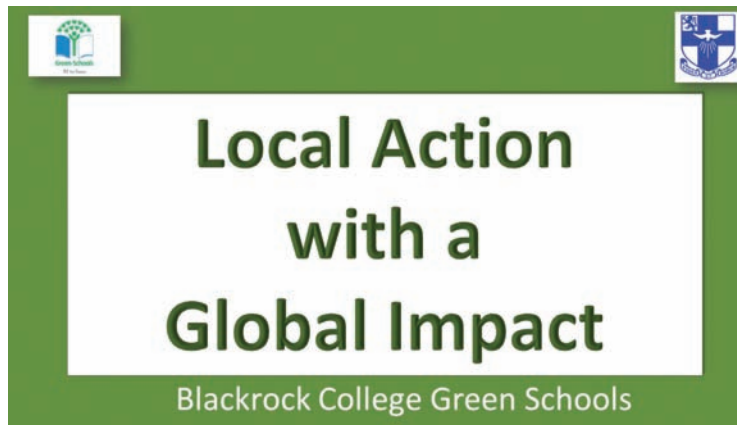
John Keenan, Luke O' Hara, James Kós, Rory Madigan and Jonty Byrne on Sports Day .

2018, to bring events such as the Graduation lunch, the end of year DVD, the Immersion Project in Kenya and the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle to fruition this year. We also congratulate Janet McMahon and her team who ran such a successful cake sale on May 9th in aid of the Spiritan School in Machakos and we send our very best wishes to Niall O'Sullivan and Donald Hickey as they make final preparations for this summer's journey to Kenya.

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



## Green Schools



### Rock Tackling Plastic Pollution

Are you concerned about the huge amount of single use plastic that is causing serious environmental damage? Blackrock College Green Schools committee are very keen to raise awareness about this issue and encourage us all to do something about it. Adam O'Sullivan (5th Year) has five suggestions:

1. **Leave** single use plastic at the supermarket
2. **Cut all** plastic straw use
3. **Recycle** your plastic correctly
4. **Cut out** single use non recyclable coffee cups
5. **Use** reusable water bottles

### Plastic on Our Beaches!

The Green Schools group also undertook a beach cleanup between Blackrock and Booterstown and were very shocked by the amount of plastic and the everyday nature of these items such as bottle tops and straws.



Aaron Ryan, Ruairí Moore and Michael McDonald

### Green Schools Beach Clean-up

Environmental Awareness Week Competition  
Congratulations to Max McKenna (5th Year), Joey Haughton and Conor Slattery (3rd Year) whose prize winning entries will be used to create awareness and action about plastic pollution.



Drummond McGinn, James Gibney, Dylan Hutchinson, Robert O'Callaghan, Michel Ryan, Aaron Ryan, Michael McDonald, Christian Young, Ruairí Moore, Adam O'Sullivan, Shore Oluborode, Mark Kenny and Conal Regan

### A Date for Your Diary Saturday 9th June

*March for the Oceans*

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in partnership with Flossie, the 11 year old Beach Cleaning Activist, is organising a *March for the Oceans* event at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th June (starting beside the Lexlcon). This is an International event and they hope the Dublin march will be one of the biggest and most fun!

We hope you'll save this date and join the march calling for a **'Plastic Free Irish Sea'**.



Green Schools Beach Clean-up



As the school year is drawing to a close, the Guidance and Counselling department continues to work hard to see the boys through what is an important period. Mr O.Brennan, Mr G.Sullivan, Mr M. Ryan, Mr D.O'Nualláin and Ms N.Drew continue to meet the boys from each year on an individual basis.



**The CAO re-opened its change of mind facility on the 5th of May and this will remain open until the 1st of July.** Students are strongly advised to have their final choices selected before the Leaving Certificate however, as mistakes can be made during the exams. A common mistake students make every year is

changing their CAO due to what they feel was a bad exam. It is more beneficial to put 'back up' courses down rather than changing everything on the basis of an exam, the result of which is not yet known. Look at your grades, work out the points from Christmas and from the mocks and be sure to have courses listed in that range and below that range. Ensure you put as many courses down as possible and do not neglect the level 7 list. Anything can happen in life so please ensure you have a back-up plan. Research PLC courses, Private courses and perhaps Apprenticeships.

**PLCs** are back route entry courses that allow students to progress onto degree level after either 1 year or 2 years of study. It is a popular option for students as both a back-up course and also as an option for those struggling to get the points for their dream course. PLC courses are not on the CAO and should be applied for through the individual websites now. It is important to be aware that places in level 7/8 courses have limited availability for students with PLC.

A number of students have also applied for courses outside of Ireland. In the last month some of our Sixth Years have been given conditional and unconditional offers in the UK. Students have also applied to France, Canada, the Netherlands and the United States.

**5th Years** have been busy accumulating different information to help with their college selection. With the tremendous work of Ms Gillman and Ms Ryan, the entire year group sat the **Cognitive Ability Tests (CATS)** in the computer room over the past few weeks. This test is important for discovering the Cognitive abilities of the boys.

The boys also sat the **Centigade Interest Questionnaire** with the assistance of Mr O'Nualláin and Ms Drew. They will receive the results of these at the beginning of 6th year. These interest tests will help the boys in their choice of college course and study interests which are essential for their 6th Year Guidance.

These assessments are a guide, a great way to initiate conversation and a good starting point to researching courses encouraging the boys to be open to an array of areas.

The Subject Choice Conference for parents took place in the College lecture hall. It was very well attended. Mr M. Dunne, Ms N. Drew, Mr A.MacGinty and Mr O.Brennan all addressed the parents of 3rd Year. Students are reminded that subjects should be selected on interest, strengths and openness to 3rd level opportunities.



During **Addiction Awareness Day**, which was rescheduled due to the snow, the boys attended a series of 20 minutes talks.

**Padraig Walsh, a behavioural psychologist from Actualise**, provided an introduction into the

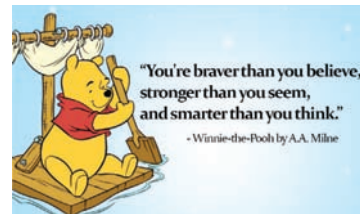
overall area of addiction by focusing on how habits are formed, their benefits to the self and how to end or replace bad habits.

**Michael Keane, a Neuroscientist and Director of the Actualise Clinic**, spoke about the psychology behind addiction to social media.

**Brian Pennie, lecturer at UCD**, PhD recipient of TCD, shared with the 5th and 4th Years the concept of being a compulsive thinker, a condition closely linked to depression and anxiety which led to him becoming a heroin addict. He has now recovered and is educating people on the science of addiction.

**Oisín McConville, a retired GAA player** and recovering gambling addict, talked about the particular dangers of gambling. He focused on his personal story of how he started gambling, recounted its development and the intense shame he felt while gambling. **Many thanks to our Student Wellbeing Committee, led by Ben Brown and Shore Oluborode, the Parents' Committee, Ms J.McGuire and Ms N. Drew for an excellent morning.**

As we enter exam time it is important that the students of Blackrock College appreciate the hard work and dedication they have put into their studies this year, particularly the Sixth Years who reach the final chapter of their time in the College. It is easy to feel like we have not done enough for the exams but a positive outlook on the attendance, participation and the work that we have done will always reap the rewards. Remember what Winnie-the-Pooh said:



## The Amber Flag

This year we received the **Amber Flag** award for all of our work in promoting Mental Health. We are very proud to have this and we need to work hard to keep it. We have so many activities and events ongoing in the

school but the Amber Flag requires us to add to this every year. We at the Student Wellbeing Committee are looking forward to generating new ideas around promoting positive mental health. We will be keeping you up to date with a section allocated in this newsletter for the Amber Flag and its progress. This term we had the Addiction Awareness Day which was a great success. We had speakers in from different areas of addiction to talk to the boys on the topic. We put up posters all over the school so the boys could observe and discuss the posters thus also raising awareness. Next September we will have our Bullying Awareness Day and many other events which will be mentioned here. Enjoy the summer and take a well-earned break. Look after that mental health. See you all rejuvenated in September.

The Wellbeing Committee.



# Pastoral Care Programme



## Staff Retreat

This During the final term, on a windy day in Donnybrook Saturday April 21st, two dozen members of the College staff travelled to the Avila Centre for our annual retreat. Our former colleague and Chaplain Mr Sean Goan guided us in a morning of reflection on Salvation History, not as study of things past but as an opportunity of things present to us now. We finished with Table Fellowship, all present being glad they had given their Saturday morning to attend.



Avila Carmelite Centre

## Matthew 25 Programme

This term saw the last of eight groups go on Pastoral Placement and the feedback from each of the centres was great. Each student wrote a reflective Journal during and after their placement and it has been so insightful to read of the boys' experiences, bringing their skills to assist the professionals in supporting the less fortunate, and returning to school with an enhanced attitude and understanding both of themselves and the world of disability. The school community is indebted to the many venues around the city that make themselves available to our students and provide them with this unique opportunity.

## Second Year Days of Reflection

Over four days during the term, each of the boys in Second Year attended one of the Days of Reflection, given by the Holy Family Mission Team from the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. The feedback from the students was very positive indeed, with many identifying the Reconciliation Service at the end of the day as a particular highpoint.



Holy Family Mission Team

## Transition Year Retreat

During the school year, many TY students participated in the Gaisce Award and undertook their Retreat as part of that in Craanbridge, Wexford with Mr John Forrest. The remaining students in TY travelled to the Dominican Retreat House in Tallaght for their Day of Reflection on May 22nd and 24th. The retreat team focused on the nature of challenges that the Senior Cycle years may hold for these boys, and some found the day so valuable that they were sorry the whole year group did not participate in it.



Dominican Retreat Gardens

## Camino 2018

During the fortnight leading up to departure, our Camino pilgrims completed a third practice walk in the Dublin Mountains, held an Information Evening and Prayer Service in the College, and walked with some parents from Blackrock to collect the pilgrim passports in the Church of St. James in Dublin. Our 20 student pilgrims then flew to Santiago de Compostela on Saturday May 5th in the company of our Spiritan Provincial Fr. Marc Whelan CSSp, Ms S. Nolan (Deputy Principal), and Mr O. Brennan (Group Leader and Dean of Third Year). While weather for the week was



difficult and some challenges were positively penitential, the sense of fellowship amongst the group remained strong and, since returning to Dublin, some have even pledged to return to complete all 700km of the Camino Frances at some stage in the future.



Luke O' Hara, Ollie Bruton and Alex Houlihan assist at the Graduation Mass

## Graduation 2018

Whilst it showered before the Liturgy, it was sunny and dry for the celebrations afterwards for students and staff, for parents and family members, for our Graduation Mass. Appropriately it was the Feast of Pentecost, and nearly 130 students in the year group performed a specific ministry during a memorable service that gave effect to our Table Fellowship and Eucharistic community. The gifts and talents of the Spiritan Congregation, the Religious Education & Chaplaincy and Pastoral Departments within the staff, the 5th and 6th Year Parents' Associations and the Class of 2018 were all in evidence throughout the day as the celebrations moved from the Jubilee Hall, to the College Quadrangle, to the Dining Hall and on to Leopardstown. At the latter we were treated to outstanding speeches from Dean of 6th Year Mr Tom Ryan, and Valedictorian for the Class of 2018, Stephen Ryan. We wish this Class every blessing for their examinations and for the future, remembering our Spiritual Director Fr. Cormac O'Brolchain's memorable reflection on *Fides et Robur* and on the College Rule, summarised in **Be Caring, Be There, Be Truthful, Be Grateful...**





# Science



The regional finals of the Scifest Competition took place in Kevin Street DIT on Friday April 13th. We had six projects in the competition and Matthew Collins won the overall Environmental Award for his project 'River Quality'. Ben Casey and Zach Burke were given a commendation award for their project entitled 'Investigating Plant Growth in Different Solutions.'

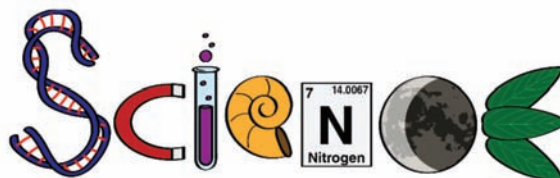


Ben Casey and Zach Burke (Second Year)

Matthew Collins (2nd Year)

We congratulate the award winners and all the boys and for their participation in the competition

The Annual ISTA Dublin Science Quiz took place in Belvedere College on Wednesday the 9th of May. Blackrock College entered two teams, team A: Matthew Gibney, Gregorio Vidalinc and Darragh Harrison and team B; Robbie Gallagher, Matthew Keely and Eoin O'Sullivan. Team A were the overall winners of the competition and team B came 5th. There was a record number of schools taking part, 50 schools from Dublin and north Wicklow. We congratulate all the boys on a fantastic achievement.



# Sport



## Athletics

**East Leinster** - Over 60 athletes competed at this year's East Leinster Schools Athletics in Morton Stadium. Our Junior 4x100m A team of Ethan Laing, Mathew Berwick, Sean Purcell and Cian Ryan finished in 3rd place. The Junior 4x100m B team of Ben Bracken, Ruben Moloney, Charlie Bastow (all 2nd Year) and Aidan O'Brien (1st Year) finished in 2nd place. Elsewhere Ruben Moloney came in 3rd in the long jump.

At Intermediate level Adam Harvey (TY) claimed the 2000m Steeplechase title and finished 3rd in the 800m, while Liam Blackburn (TY) was 3rd in the 3000m. Michael Lowey (TY) took home bronze in the 100m final. Harry Cullen (TY) performed well in both the discus and shot putt finishing 1st and 2nd respectively. The Inter 4x100m relay team of Michael Lowey, Luke Pierce (both TY), Harry Whelan and Tom Henderson (both 3rd Year) finished second while James Culhane (3rd Year) took 3rd place in the U16 200m. Our 4x300m U16 relay of James Gray, Michael Nealon, Alex Dinn and Oscar Burke Mullaney (all 3rd Year) finished in 3rd place.

Blackrock claimed the overall Senior East Leinster title. Cathal Ryan (5th Year), turned in an excellent performance to place 2nd in the 110m hurdles. Harry Kearns (6th Year) was second in the 5000m while Ed Brennan (5th Year) was 3rd in the triple jump. Luke Curtis took silver in the 400m hurdles. Both senior relay teams secured Leinster qualification. The 4x400m team (1st place) consisted of Paul O'Callaghan, Peter Murphy, Ben White, and Luke Curtis. While the Senior 4x100m (2nd place) team consisted of William Spain, Andrew Hendricksx, Harry Donnelly, and Peter Murphy.

**Leinster** - Following on from the East Leinsters was the Leinster meet, where we had 13 athletes participating. Harry Cullen qualified for his 3rd consecutive All Ireland in the shot putt. Our Intermediate 4x100 relay team of Tom Henderson, Harry Whelan, Luke Pierce and Jeff Kenny took silver and secured qualification in the All Ireland final. We look forward to the All Ireland in Tullamore on Saturday June 2nd.



Intermediate Relay Team at Leinsters  
Left to right - Jeff Kenny (standing) Tom Henderson, Harry Whelan, Luke Pierce (absent) Michael Lowey)

## Chess

Having come 2nd in the U16 Schools' Chess Leinster League, the team qualified for the All Irelands. This competition took place on Sunday 15th April in Gonzaga College. The team consisted of Sean O'Connor, Matthew Collins, Jamie Blackburn, Mark McCabe, John Duffy and Andrew McCarthy - all 2nd Years.

There were 5 schools in the U16 category; Gonzaga College, Rice College Ennis, Dunmore Galway, St. Bendilus and Colasite Eanna. Each school got to play against one another, with every game counted to the final. The team with the most points was declared the winner. Gonzaga College was victorious at the end of the competition and won the U16 category. The boys faced tough opposition and played to the best of their abilities and did Blackrock College very proud.



Junior Chess team in action warming up for All Irelands from left - Matthew Collins, Jamie Blackburn and Mark McCabe. From right - Andrew McCarthy, Sean O'Connor and John Duffy

## Cricket

For the second year in a row the Blackrock College Senior Cricket team advanced to the quarter final stages of the Leinster Schools' A Grade Cricket Competition.

In the first game of the season Blackrock faced perennial favourites St Andrew's College, Blackrock batting first made 86 runs, Conor Austin top scored with an impressive 27. St Andrews looked comfortable in their run chase securing victory in the 2nd to last over against a spirited bowling attack.

Next up saw Blackrock face King's Hospital. King's Hospital batting first made 53 with Gavin Hoey and Conor Austin being the pick of the bowlers. In the run chase Blackrock looked comfortable with Ben Brownlee scoring 22.

The win against King's Hospital saw Blackrock face St Mary's College. In difficult conditions Blackrock batted first and scored a formidable 152 thanks to a well compiled 74 runs from JJ Garth. Unfortunately it wasn't Blackrock's day in the field, some superb batting from St Mary's saw them reach the target comfortably in the 15th over. With such a young squad the team can look forward to progressing even further next season.

The Junior Team was drawn in a tricky group with last year's winners Wesley, St Joseph's Rush, St Columbus, and High School. Some fine performances in pool play saw Blackrock unbeaten as they played Ardgillan in the quarter final. This game saw one of the best batting performances of the year - Captain Ben Brownlee in particular shining with the bat - and a fine victory. The semi-final against CUS was unfortunately just a step too far and we lost to the eventual cup winners by 58 runs. Congratulations to Ben and his team on reaching the semi-final stage for a second year in a row.

## Rowing

In the Neptune Regatta, on the 7th April, the Junior 15 coxed quad led by Alex Cronnelly and backed up by Oisín FitzGerald, Hugo Mangan, Jack Tarpey and Louis Crowe came home winners of the event. The Junior 16 8+ met Coláiste Iognáid in the final. They fought hard but the opposition moved away to gain a two length lead which they held until the finish.

More success came in the Commercial Regatta the following day. Matthew Gibney and Theo Boland won the Junior 16 double sculls event. Alex Cronnelly and Oisín FitzGerald won their Junior 15 double sculls event and Matthew Kane and Rory O'Shea (2nd Year) won their Junior 14 double sculls event. The Junior 16 coxed quad of MJ Power, Daniel Kyrchenko, Peter O'Grady, Jack Tiernan and Louis Crowe beat Commercial Rowing Club in the final of the Junior 16 quad. The Junior 16 8+ lost the final by a narrow margin.



Junior Coxed Quad at the Irish Schools' Regatta at O'Briens Bridge, Left to right – Louis Crowe, Toby Loughrey, Oisín Fitzgerald, Jack Tarpey and Hugo Mangan.



Oisín Fitzgerald In action at training on Islandbridge

The Schools' Regatta held at O'Brien's Bridge on the 24th of April, saw teams competing from all over the country. There were some very pleasing results on the day with the Men's Junior J15 quad coming in first, the Junior J15 8 coming in 2nd place, the Junior J16 8 in 2nd place and finally the Men's U23 8+ coming in 2nd place.

## Tennis

Congratulations to our Junior 1 tennis team who brought the Junior Trophy back to the College for the first time since 2008. The team's single players consisted of Stephen O'Nuallain and Colm Kelly (both 3rd Year) and James Brophy (2nd Year). The first doubles were Tony Rowe (3rd Year) and Will Fitzgerald (2nd Year). The second doubles were Séan Probert (3rd Year) and Callum O'Brien (2nd Year). Six of these players were part of the winning Minor team in 2016/2017. The team travelled to Templeogue LTC on Tuesday 23 May and won overall 4 - 1 against Gonzaga.



Winning junior tennis team left to right: Scott Barron, Sean Probert, Colm Kelly (Captain) Tony Rowe (all 3rd Year) Will Fitzgerald (2nd Year) Stephen O Nuallain (3rd Year) Callum O'Brien (2nd Year) and James Brophy (2nd year)

Two second year students James Harvey and Rory O'Shea joined forces with Willow Park students this term and made up the Minor 1 tennis team. They met a strong opposing Belvedere team in the final and lost 4 - 1 on the day.

## Table Tennis

Another successful end to the season as the squad finish off the year with the All Ireland Junior title, seven League titles, and a Leinster Cup treble. At the All Irelands, there were tough losses for Blackrock Minors and Blackrock

Seniors in the semi finals, losing to the eventual Champions in each event. Blackrock Juniors, who were appearing in their 9th final in 11 years, beat Coláiste Choilm from Ballincollig after last year's loss, taking a 5th All Ireland title in seven years.



Ciarán Patchell (First Year Willow Park)



Romain Gasper (5th Year)

Leinster Cup Final's day, saw six Blackrock teams taking part. In the Minor Cup, Willow A and Blackrock A were in separate semi finals, however it was Blackrock who came through against St. Ronan's, while Willow lost out to defending Champions Griffeen Valley; Blackrock A continued their strong performance with an excellent performance in the final, beating the defending Champions to take the Cooling Cup.

Blackrock made up three of the four semi final places in Juniors; Junior A and Junior 2A faced each other in one semi final, while Junior B faced off against Castleknock College, with Junior A completing their domestic treble with 4-1 victories over Blackrock 2A in the semi final, and again against Castleknock in the final, who had come past Blackrock B.

Blackrock Seniors didn't drop a match all year, completing their perfect provincial season with a 4-0 victory over Colaiste Eanna in the final, taking the Leinster Senior Cup for a record extending 10th consecutive season.

## Swimming

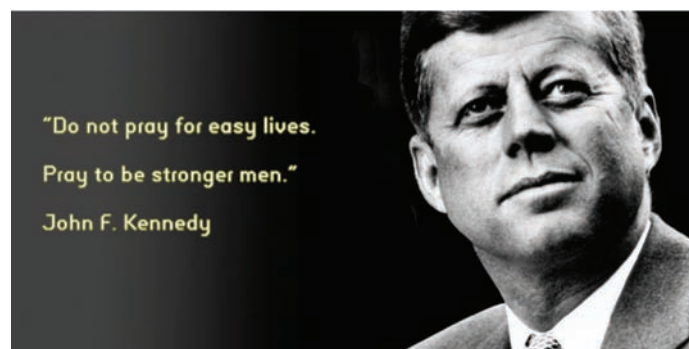
On Friday 27th April, 29 swimmers travelled to Harrow College to compete in the annual Gala event. Leading the positive performance was Max Connolly, team captain. The atmosphere in the gala was electric, with great competition and races by Blackrock College.

Both the junior and seniors started off well, with the senior boys finishing in second place behind Harrow and the juniors finishing third. A lot of new First Year students also joined us this year, gaining valuable experience and showing strong potential for next year.

The water polo team won against Harrow College, with the whole team overall having a very triumphant and successful weekend. It was a very exciting match, with Blackrock holding onto the lead after a nail biting last quarter to win 7-6.

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

## REFLECTION



"Do not pray for easy lives.

Pray to be stronger men."

John F. Kennedy