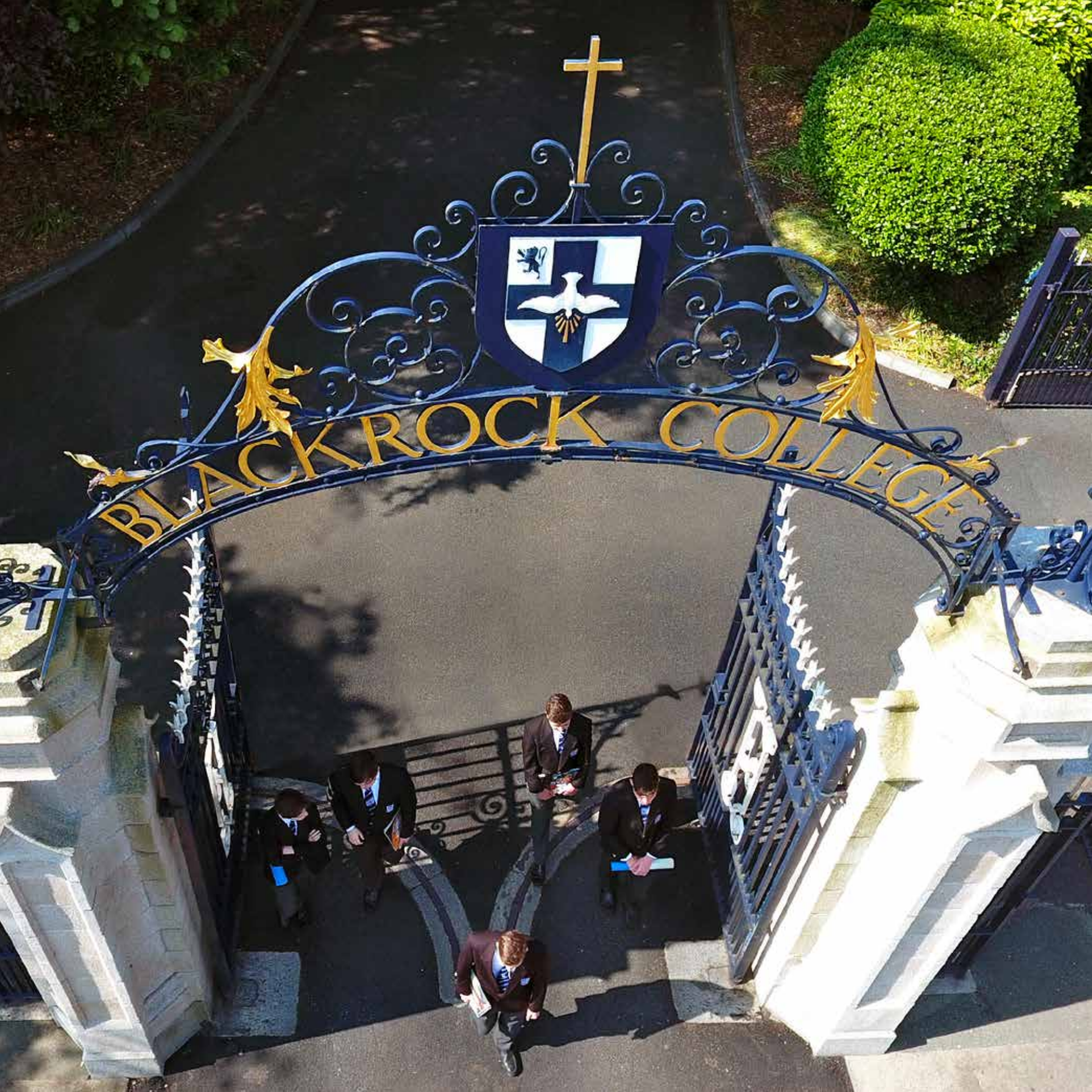




**BLACKROCK
COLLEGE**



Fides et Robur

Faith and Strength are the key components that underpin a Blackrock College education. They were the guiding principles of our founding fathers, have served generations of Rock boys ever since and continue to do so today.

A Blackrock College education is synonymous with moral strength. Our mission is to facilitate your son's spiritual, academic, social, sporting, and pastoral development by encouraging him to be the best he can be.

We offer your son his unique space, on a 57 acre campus, guided by a network of Deans, Counsellors, teachers and support staff.

Each Year group has its own assigned area. The Dean, supported by the Year Counsellor, manages the learning and social environment, with particular attention to the needs of each boy. Career Guidance is an integral part of the Senior Cycle. Deans are also available to you, the parents, on a daily basis.

Working in tandem with the Deans are House Captains elected by their peers to represent the boys' interests and help the Deans manage the House system. Within this system, each Year is divided into six Houses which, as well as organising interhouse competitions, promote charitable ventures and ensure that all boys are involved and connected.

The encouragement of the student voice and the development of leadership skills are an integral part of Blackrock. Training is provided: opportunities abound.

Each Year group also has its own parents' committee, which meets regularly with the Dean, contributes to the College's strategic vision, supports parenting and organises social occasions. The Parents' Council works closely with the College's management.

The Board of Management, appointed by the Trustees, includes nominees from both the parent and teaching bodies and ensures the good governance of the College. Uniquely, there is a separate Board for First Year, based as it is in Willow Park.

A Blackrock education promotes human dignity and genuine human relationship with Jesus, as always, as our model, our mentor and inspiration. It is a call to excellence. Long may we produce young men of compassion, drive, wisdom and faith.

Faith

Welcome to Blackrock College, where we believe that in partnership with you, we provide the milieu in which your son will flourish academically, culturally, physically and spiritually.

We invite you to accompany your son on a transformative journey, one in which he will grow into a young man: reflective, kind, tolerant, wise and aware; informed by the Christian message which is rooted in the College's history and in its day to day routines.

Blackrock College overlooks Dublin bay. Its beautiful campus inspires in us all a positive, optimistic, pro-active understanding of the greater world which we all share and must nurture. A seat in the quadrangle; a walk in the grounds; a moment in the chapel; all are sources for personal growth.

We believe in partnership and shared celebration. The boys, staff and parents regularly gather in the community to give

thanks and praise for God's blessings; Year Masses, Carol Services, Retreats and various charitable ventures highlight our commitment to the Gospel of Christ, who remains our life model.

We will strive to guide and nurture your son, regardless of his denomination. Faith should not be understood as something exclusive but an invitation to be inclusive. We see in all our boys the potential for kindness, honesty and goodness. Your son will receive an education based on positive moral values which will determine his development.

We want Rock boys to provide an example of those virtues and be a force for good in the world.





Inspiration

Everybody has within him the need to dream, to imagine the unimaginable, to create that which is beautiful and inspiring. In Blackrock we will give your son every opportunity possible to develop his aesthetic faculties. We will help him to develop his artistic eye and his hand-eye co-ordination in Art; train him to use his voice and soul in song, as well as in public speaking and debate; direct him to represent alternative realities on stage; instruct him individually and collectively to realise his musical potential. We will also urge him to express himself through woodwork, blending the practical with the beautiful.

It is important also, and rewarding, to be a spectator and enjoy the brilliance and vision of others. Here in Rock we want your son to discover the utter joy of being a performer, a creator. Everybody deserves a standing ovation once in a lifetime! In the Senior and Junior Shows; the Leman Concert; on school occasions and across an abundance of activities, your son will have his chance to participate and shine.

In our Art and Woodwork departments; our three main choirs Leman, Corless and

Libermann; our school Orchestra and our Drama department; our Debating Teams and Model United Nations, hundreds of boys every year receive public notice and acclaim.

But the performing Arts in Blackrock are not elitist. Everybody is welcome to participate and contribute. We believe there is a role for everyone who shows genuine interest and commitment. Let us share our passion with you!





Discovery

Since its foundation, Blackrock has been associated with academic excellence. The graduation rolls of all Irish Universities abound with Rock men. Beyond this, our boys have enrolled in outstanding overseas learning establishments including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Berkeley, Princeton, Stanford and the Sorbonne.

We want your son to be the best he can be, to look back without regrets, to move forward with purpose and confidence. We foster academic ambition. We wish for each boy to realise his talent and potential, to exceed his own expectation.

The College provides extensive subject choices for you to consider. Within this, we offer a wide range of subject combinations at both Junior and Senior level. Your son's subject choice will be monitored by our Careers and Counselling Department. Advice is provided by qualified Guidance Counsellors at each stage of your son's educational journey.

The Transition Year Programme provides each boy with the opportunity for personal growth and new experiences. Each is encouraged to work with and amongst the socially disadvantaged, the aged and the infirm. Guest lectures, field trips and modules in disciplines such as Home Economics, Car Maintenance, Computer Studies, Public Speaking, Home Maintenance and Drama are designed to broaden their horizons and to promote moral growth, understanding and social integration. Blackrock College Radio, Music, Art and Drama Week, the Junior Musical, Work Experience and Overseas Trips, the Retreats and the Camino are all part of a

multi-faceted programme that will extend your son and broaden his horizon.

We are determined to provide the best possible Teaching and Learning facilities. Since the millennium we have built a new Senior Wing for Fifth and Sixth Year students as well as state of the art Science Laboratories and Preparation rooms; the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre, which enhances student potential for research and collaborative study, and a new Sports Hall which provides top class facilities for curricular and co-curricular Physical Education.

The critical importance of IT is recognised in the provision of Wi-Fi throughout the College and data projectors in every classroom. Also our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) allows Teaching and Learning to occur collaboratively, as well as independently, beyond the classroom.

At the core of our approach to education is the value of learning for its own sake; the conviction that the young deserve access to all the great Scientific, Technological, Literary and Artistic achievements of our civilisation. With your support we will imbue your son with the desire to learn and to flourish.



E nergy

An aerial perspective of the campus on a typical afternoon would be witness to an inspirational sight. Hundreds of boys playing Rugby, Soccer and Tennis while others pace around the Cross Country track tell part of the story. In summer the same grounds will resound to the sound of ball on bat on the Cricket crease, hurlers and footballers enjoying the national games, and jumpers, throwers and runners on the Athletics fields. Indoor sports, Basketball, Squash, Badminton, Table Tennis, Swimming and Water Polo engage large numbers of eager participants.

We believe that a healthy body informs and assists a mind formed for strenuous activity. Your son will be invited and expected to view education as a holistic experience. The College does not expect the boys to be uniformly excellent. Victory, while sweet, is not the only measure. Participation is its own reward. Every student involved in one or more sports is part of a process that, regardless of outcome, will inspire growth.

Blackrock is famed for its achievements on the Rugby pitch and we proudly celebrate that history but Rugby does not define who

we are. Athletics, Soccer and Tennis also have long traditions of success. Off campus, Rowing, Cycling, Sailing and Golf provide further opportunity to experience the thrill of representing Blackrock and competing at the highest level.

We hope your son will find his niche in our sports activities. We promise that every boy will be encouraged to do so. We are confident that involvement in sports and all our extra-curricular activities will benefit him morally, socially, personally and physically.





S ervice

At the core of service is the College precept "BE THERE". The lucky few are lauded for being selected for teams and casts but equally valued are those who sit in the stand, watch from the audience and support or console as the moment demands. It is in caring for and about others that we would want a Rock boy to shine.

There are so many ways your son will be able to experience the satisfaction that giving service brings. The Student Council, which meets fortnightly with Senior Management, helps shape school strategies; House Captains liaise with the Deans on the day-to-day running of the year and facilitate many events; Eucharistic Ministers give of their time to enhance weekly Masses. Beyond this, there are cantors for the various liturgies, team captains who help coaches co-ordinate and boys who volunteer

to help at Sports and Family Day and the Swimming Gala. The Boarders and House Captains also assist at the Parent-Teacher meetings. The list is endless.

Your son will be offered the chance to be of service to others. With parental encouragement we are confident that in this, as in many other ways, the development of the whole person, awareness of his place and role in whatever community he comes into contact with, will ensue.

















Excellence

We will work with you to make your son be the best he can be in the academic arena, on the sports fields, in theatre or at the debating chamber. Coupled with this is a focus on character development, an ability to distinguish between right and wrong and the confidence and the self-belief to act upon it. To this end we acknowledge and affirm achievement, effort and sound judgement. Weekly Application Cards will chronicle your son's effort and application. Monthly Progress Cards record improvement.





The Year Dean monitors each boy's performance, engagement, interests and achievements.

The Annual Prize Giving in May is an important day in the College calendar. Individual subject awards and prizes for those whose Weekly Cards have been of the highest standard are cherished and rightly celebrated. Awards are also presented to those who excel in the Arts. Service to the College Community and to the less fortunate at home and abroad is commended. Leadership is recognised. The outstanding individual in 6th Year receives the coveted General Excellence Award. But excellence is not only academic and cultural. On Sports and Family Day, at the annual Swimming Gala, through inter-house events and across the sixteen sporting disciplines on offer, we acknowledge and ratify both participation and performance.

Blackrock is aware that not every boy can win a prize or a race. A culture of excellence is maintained in other ways. Service Awards, the Principal's Noticeboard and weekly Year Group Assemblies provide opportunities for boys to receive public commendation.

T radition

Blackrock, since its founding, has been a school with a difference. Established in 1860 by Père Jules Leman and his French confrères, it had a dual aim: to train personnel for missionary service in the Development World and to provide a first class education for Irish Catholic boys. For forty years Blackrock was also home to a University.

For over a hundred years the Spiritan Fathers ran the College and provided the majority of the teaching staff. They ensured that the College remained true to its characteristic spirit.

The world has changed. Blackrock is now managed by lay personnel. But while change has happened and will continue, the modern College remains steadfast to its original purpose.

However, the link with the Development World is as strong as ever. Blackrock alumni continue to work in the world's

poorest areas. Bob Geldof's spectacular contribution to the Band Aid phenomenon in the 1980s highlights that tradition.

When you walk through the College buildings echoes of the past surround you. In the very fibre of the building, the serenity and beauty of the Chapel, and the images of past Rockmen that festoon the walls lies an invitation to join that tradition and a challenge to foster and enhance it. We invite you and your son to become part of a living, growing and developing tradition that will enrich your lives.









R espect

We expect your son, while happy within himself and focused on availing of the opportunities that Blackrock will offer him, to be aware and appreciative of the blessings and benefits that others bring to his life.

Blackrock is committed to partnership, a synergy based on respect. Our boys are grateful for what others do for them — the household staff who provide a spotless environment; the catering staff who prepare and serve the food, our grounds and maintenance staff who ensure the environment offers the best opportunities, our medical, counselling and chaplaincy personnel who keep a watchful, caring eye over body and soul; administrative and academic staff who foster a commitment to excellence in Teaching and Learning,

Regular greetings, a quiet word of thanks, an acknowledgement of work done are actions and habits that are encouraged and expected. This respect extends to all.

Collaborative learning is now recognised as a vital part of academic advancement. Your son

will be encouraged to work with others not only for his own sake, but to give his peers a chance to learn from him.

Bullying is an unacceptable example of disrespect. Bullying Awareness Days are part of a commitment by the College to promote tolerance, understanding and acceptance.

Your son will come into contact with students from other schools at home and abroad. In showing respect for their endeavours and achievements he will bring honour not only to them, but also to himself and his school, be it a simple handshake at the end of a match or a dignified response at times of setbacks. Blackrock boys realise that life is not meant to be fair and that we must take the rough with the smooth.





Outreach

Blackrock will help your son and his peers to help others, to experience the joy of giving, the satisfaction of making a difference.

Blackrock, since its foundation, has had a Global vision, with over 900 past students serving as missionaries across the world. Development Education is the continuance of this tradition as the boys are informed about the unequal world in which we live. We engage the boys in analysis, reflection and action for local and global citizenship.

The boys are invited to support the Spiritan mission effort in Africa, South America or South East Asia. Specific projects are adapted and supported. Transition Year and post-Leaving Certificate trips to the Development World inculcate values and attitudes of solidarity, respect and empowerment. The Willow Wheelers Cycling Club has a history of supporting the mission areas; funding generated by the annual 100 Mile Cycle, the annual Mission Trip is a highlight of their programme.

Closer to home our 'Past and Present' St. Vincent de Paul Conference actively supports the underprivileged of the greater Dublin area, providing immediate short term relief as well as supporting 3rd level access for many who would not otherwise have this opportunity. Our weekly 'Soup Run' by staff and Transition Year students acquaints the

boys with the homeless of our city and informs their social conscience. The Matthew 25 Programme in Transition Year provides an opportunity for the boys to work on placement with the aged, or physically or mentally disadvantaged.

Our programmes focus on helping people, while at the same time developing our Christian consciousness so that, in the future, our boys will act to transform the social, cultural, political and economic structures on which inequality is predicated.

We believe that being there for others is fundamental to the Christian message but we also believe that those who give benefit as much as those who receive. The journey we invite your son to take will inculcate in him a real care for all.





B oarding

For over 100 years boarding has been an integral part of Blackrock. It has ensured that the College is a vital living and breathing organism, not just between 8.45 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. but for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Situated in the historic Castle building, the boarding school will offer your son a warm, personalised experience in a vibrant, thriving community. While the majority of our boys are Irish, we are enriched by the presence of boys from all over the world.

Boarders are, and always have been, unique members of the Blackrock Community. Their experience of the College is by its very nature a comprehensive one, and therefore traditionally the bond between the boarders and Blackrock has been particularly strong. The Hall of Residence (known as “The Castle”) provides a safe environment where boys aged 12-19 will have a caring, fulfilling experience which helps them to mature to their full potential.

The College’s multi-disciplinary curricular programme will engage and enthuse him and add colour to his daily routine. The Chapter system reinforces bonds between boys of different ages. Opportunities abound to be involved in sport, music, theatre, public speaking and social outreach. The Castle seeks to support each boy to fulfil his dreams. Your son’s individual talents and interests will be fostered with many links to the surrounding community. As a boarding school in a city suburb, there are lots of opportunities for recreational activities. However, the daily structured routine provides the foundation on which boys thrive and can reach for excellence.

In the Castle we stress the concept of community. Your son will be one of some 90 boys. It is vital that he feels cherished, protected and important. The College’s slogan “Be Caring, Be There, Be Truthful, Be Grateful” is particularly relevant. A happy boarding facility depends on all members acting in the best interests of each other. Faith formation is the bedrock of all College activities and your son will be challenged to commit to Christian ideals. He will experience a faith programme

organised by the Chaplain and built on the liturgical calendar. The Castle Oratory, richly illuminated through Evie Hone stained glass, provides an inner sanctum and place of reflection for the boarders. The boys learn to exercise good judgement and are prepared for a life of faith and commitment.

We include parents as a central hub of our community with weekly reporting and engagement in your son’s life. We become part of your extended family. Social events help parents to get to know each other and visits are always welcome. Excellent road, rail and bus links facilitate transport for parents and boys. A direct bus service to the airport is an advantage for international students.

The Castle is busy, vibrant and inclusive. Your son will flourish here. He will be happy, focused and committed, generous in spirit, giving of himself, conscious of the common good and the importance of Community. He will develop bonds which will support him throughout his life. Former resident of the tower room and later President of Ireland, Éamon de Valera often happily reminisced about his early years spent in the Castle.

Together we will watch over your son growing up, experiencing a full, interesting and richly varied life, guiding him always to being the best he can be, providing him with the skills and strength of character to participate fully in modern society.







Union



The Blackrock experience does not end the day your son leaves the College. The vibrant Blackrock College Union ensures that he will remain part of a dynamic community dedicated to the ongoing welfare of past and present Rock boys.

The Union is an influential participant in the life of the College, providing vital advice and support to the College management and helping the boys through mock interviews, career planning and major support for sporting and extracurricular activities. Through its Mission Fund and its own St Vincent De Paul branch it plays a huge part in the College's outreach activities.

For past pupils the Union provides invaluable help and opportunities. Recent graduates at both Second and Third Level are helped with advice and information so crucial in taking first steps into the outside world.

The Blue and White Group Fund is a Union venture committed to helping past pupils who have fallen on hard times.

The Union has a truly global reach. The Union

Centre sits in the heart of the campus and liaises with international branches in London and the USA. As well as annual functions in Dublin, London and North America, regular events and gatherings are held in EU countries, Australasia, the Middle East and the Far East. These are crucially important events that help to connect, inform and engage the 14,000 strong Past Pupil population spread across 65 countries worldwide.

The College Development Office liaises with the Union, the Parents' and Past Parents' Associations, ensuring that all past pupils and past parents have a support system.

No matter what journey your son takes on graduating from Blackrock, the support and guidance of the Blackrock College Union will not be far away. Your son may leave Blackrock, but Blackrock will never leave him.





Resilience

Some flowers bloom late. Success is not always garnered quickly and easily. The educational project in Blackrock is determined to help every boy to realise his potential.

An essential part of this is a resilience in times of setback. Well-being is an integral part of our curriculum. Mental Health and Addiction Awareness Days inform the boys about the demands and pitfalls of modern society both from the behavioural and physiological perspectives.

Counsellors in each Year are available to meet, advise and help boys on their journey through the College.

Blackrock will help your son, through subject choice, through the Special Education

Needs Department, in the classroom, on the pitch and through the Arts to maximise his development. Regular contact through the weekly cards, through the Deans, through the Parent-Teacher meetings and through our activities on a daily basis instil that inner strength, a robustness to keep going.

The mantra is always to bounce back. Failure is not falling down, it is not getting back up.









Ardal O'Hanlon, Class of 1983



Éamon de Valera, Class of 1900



Paul Costello, Class of 1963



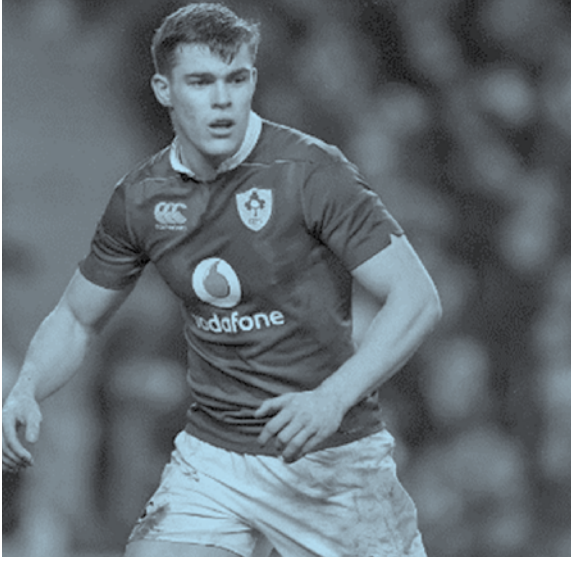
Brian O'Driscoll, Class of 1997



David McWilliams, Class of 1983



Garry Ringrose, Class of 2013



Philip Lane, Class of 1987



Robert Ballagh, Class of 1961



Ryan Tubridy, Class of 1991



Ronan Dunne, Class of 1981



Tim Pat Coogan, Class of 1953



Ruairi Quinn, Class of 1964



Bob Geldof, Class of 1969



Joseph O'Connor, Class of 1981



Fergus Slattery, Class of 1966



Paul Dunne, Class of 2011



Fr Tom Nash CSSp, Class of 1959



Cian O'Sullivan, Class of 2005



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