

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Easter 2019

Dear Parents,

### What do you expect of Blackrock?

I am certain that you have an expectation of care, of a supportive environment which will work with you to grow your son into a man of conscience, empathy and integrity. As Catholic educators, our tradition is underpinned by Gospel values. We strive for the formation of the whole person setting high standards – a spiritual, intellectual, moral and physical excellence - inspired by the example and message of **Jesus Christ**.

Youngsters clamour for roots and wings. They need to be rooted in a tradition that provides love, appreciation, understanding, forgiveness and then wings; the confidence to fly, to take themselves on life's journey, determined to make a difference in the world, to add value, give service, be zealous for the wellbeing of others.

I write on Mother's Day, a celebration of selfless service. Marco Pierre White in an interview with Niamh Horan in today's Sunday Independent spoke eloquently about his Mum whom he lost at an early age: **"Mothers are the blueprint to a man's life"**. Co-incidentally the Gospel of the day is that of the prodigal son, a story of conversion, forgiveness, envy and hope. God knows our failings but it is never too late to recover. His mercy goes way beyond our expectation.

Easter is a time of promise, a declaration that new life is not only possible but on offer. It confirms that God's love and mercy bridge that gap between our failings and the excellence for which we strive. We must accept the shadow with the light. Sometimes, all we feel is shadow, weak, under-appreciated, even marginalised. It is the nature of life that blessings and hardship are inevitably entwined.

For an Easter People, the resurrection gives life meaning, lifting us out of loneliness, weakness and despair. Faith underpins all of our experiences providing purpose in our lives.

Our faith urges us to reach out to the homeless in Dublin, to take time for our retreats, to run the 5K for Kenya, to meet the Maasai or to walk the Camino, to visit our fellow Spiritans in Philadelphia, to embrace the culture of Beijing, to accept the sacrament of reconciliation, to empathise with our cup teams, admire the harmony of our singers and musicians, the rhetoric and articulation at the MUN; celebrate with our badminton and table-tennis teams, endorse our Student Council, Wellbeing and Green Schools Committees; support our Art, Debating, Chess and Science Clubs; acknowledge our rowers and runners, swimmers and sailors. We are an Easter people.

Willow Wheelers is a special manifestation of our faith community. Now 30 years in the saddle, the legendary **Christy McDaid** and his club members celebrated his extraordinary contribution to the wellbeing and spirit of so many in our extended family. Christy provides an opportunity and a focal point for their relationship with Blackrock and the Spiritan missions. He has inspired generations of 'Rock men and women to make a difference in his inimitable way. Top man.

As another term closes, we pause for breath but not before we have our 5K for Kenya and our junior musical. At the time of reading, these too will be in the past, further enhancing our flourishing Blackrock community. Parents, Spiritans, colleagues and students, I thank you for your commitment and solidarity. May the presence of the Risen Lord provide meaning in our lives.

Enjoy the Easter break.

Yours sincerely

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) Eoin O' Sullivan and Shane Redahan (TY) help to coordinate Rock 5K
- b) Harvey Lavelle (TY) working with students in Sultan Hamud
- c) Ethan Laing (3rd Year) JCTV Newbridge College



# Second Year



## Application Cards & Easter Exams

The weeks since mid-term have been active and eventful in Second Year. The application cards are a reminder of how well each boy is applying himself to his studies and parents are encouraged to continue to check their son's card each Monday as encouragement is a vital part of each boy's progress. Equally, the review of the Easter exams offers an opportunity to reward good work and offer direction where necessary.

## Parents' Events

The Second Year Parents' Committee organised a seminar for parents by **Wayne Denner**, entitled '**Growing up in a Digital World**'. It was a very worthwhile talk with some valuable advice on developing healthy digital habits. The follow up talk for the boys themselves will no doubt be equally worthwhile. This talk, in tandem with the survey on 'Technology & Wellbeing Matters' encourages the boys to reflect on the great benefits and potential dangers of technology. Sincere thanks to the 2nd Year Parents' Committee for their organisation of this seminar.

The **House Competitions** continue with the recent commencement of the **Soccer League**. A **Tennis Ladder** has also been drawn up and the boys have enthusiastically committed themselves to both activities. The Soccer League and tennis will conclude in May and the final term will see points awarded for these events as well as the Gold Medal Debate and Sports & Family Day. The Inter-house Shield will be presented to the overall winning House at the final assembly of the year.

## Extra-curricular

Fifty of our Second Years enjoyed a perfect day for Golf in the Castle Golf Club for the Fr Fullen Cup. Congratulations to **Eoin Maher** who won the thirteen-hole competition with 26 points and to **Jake Foley**, who had the best gross on 22 points playing off 6.



**Eoin Maher receives his prize from Andrea Fitzgerald.**



**Jake Foley receives his prize from Andrea Fitzgerald**



Jack McGlone pictured at Clongowes, Co. Kildare.

Congratulations to all our Second Years who took to the field in the **Cross Country** All Ireland Final in Clongowes. Well done especially to **Jack McGlone** who came 19th in the junior race and to **Finn O'Neill** who finished 38th, also in the junior.

In **Rugby**, we congratulate our Second Years who were part of an exceptional **JCT squad** this season, **Gregg Barron**, **Tom Brigg**, **Maxime Le Bail**, **Sean McKechnie** and **James O'Sullivan**. We watched each match in great admiration and with great pride. Well done boys. To all our rugby players - well done on a great season.



Gregg Barron (JCTV St Michael's)

In **Debating**, congratulations must go to **Alec Linklater**, **Daniel Keeley**, **Jamie Starr Bourke** and **Jack Dempsey-Salley** for participating in the Alexandra MACE in March in Alexandra College. **Jamie Starr Bourke** and **Daniel Keeley** made it through to the finals. Well done to Ben Kieran-Glennon and Daniel Keeley who qualified to represent Leinster in the Nationals in Coláiste na hInse in April.



Maitiú Heckman receiving the prestigious Colum Slevin Award for the Player of the Championships

In **Table Tennis**, congratulations to all our Table Tennis players and, especially, our Junior 2A team of **Callum Dunne**, **Samuel Finnegan**, **Daniel Kelly**, captain **Ben Kieran-Glennon** and **Ciaran Patchell** who finished

out their league campaign, with a 6-0 win over Gonzaga, and have won Leinster Junior Division 2. Very well done to **Maitiú Heckmann**, who was part of the Leinster Cadet Boys' team that won gold at the Interprovincial Championships. In addition, Maitiú won the prestigious **Colum Slevin Award** for the **Player of the Championships**, chosen from among 100 participants.

In **Rowing** the competitive season got underway recently with the Neptune and Commercial Regattas and well done to all Second Years involved Max McGurk, Aaron Murtagh, Jackson Murphy, James Heavy, Guy Mangan, Oisín Teirnan, Ethan Swan and Ted Power, some of whom are pictured below.



Max McGurk, Aaron Murtagh, Jackson Murphy and James Heavy (Neptune Regatta)

In **Chess**, congratulations to our junior A team, including Second Years Conor Hughes and Liam Norton, who defeated CUS (5-0) enabling them to qualify for the Leinster final.

In **swimming**, congratulations to **Finn O'Neill** and **Ronan Fahey** who have had outstanding achievements at both interprovincial and national level this term. Well done to all the Second Years, **Tom O'Riordan**, **Jed O'Malley**, **Ben LeBolloch**, **Ronan Fahey** and **Finn O'Neill** who are part of the Blackrock Swimming Team.



Ronan Fahey



Finn O'Neill

The **Regional** final of the **Scifest** Competition took place in April and well done to the Second Years involved. Congratulations in particular to **Ethan Leon-Ryan** and **Max Mullen** who won overall runner up in the competition and are therefore through to the national competition and to **Will Donnelly** who won a TUD Special Commendation award.

Finn O'Neill & Ronan Fahey at the McCullagh International in Bangor where Finn won gold in the 200m Freestyle and Ronan took bronze in the 200m Fly.



Tom Brigg (JCTV Newbridge)

The **Second Year Days of Reflection** took place over four days this term and offered each boy an opportunity to take time out and reflect. As part of the retreat programme they also received the sacrament of reconciliation and the boys report that they very much enjoyed the day. Well done to Frazer McGinn and Jamie Starr Bourke who represented Second Year at the **Spiritan Development Education** showcase in Rockwell. By now all Second Years are progressing with their service for the Auxilium Programme. The boys are demonstrating great enthusiasm and willingness to serve in the school community, in their parishes, in the wider community and hopefully at home also! A reminder to all boys that completion of the ten hours of service must be accompanied by a 'Reflection on the Process' by Friday 3 May. It is worthwhile remembering that "We do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience" (John Dewey).

Finally, rehearsals for the Second and Fourth Year Musical, '**The Blues Brothers in Ballyhooly**' are in full swing and well done to all involved both on and off stage! We await the show with great anticipation.

## Dates for your Diary

Auxilium Completion Date: Friday 3 May  
Progress Cards: Friday 10 May  
Summer Tests for 2nd Year: 29 May – 31 May



# Third Year



Although of course the mocks were the main focus for the students since the February midterm there has been a lot on outside of the classroom to keep them busy. The students responded very well to the earlier scheduling of the exams and it has been a positive as by the Easter holidays they should have a lot of their tests back. They should use the break to review these papers to see how they could improve their grade. The mocks have certainly helped focus the minds of the students and although there is still loads of time before the exams, they now hopefully appreciate these weeks will fly by!

On March the 4th the entire year travelled to the Mill Theatre in Dundrum to see *Romeo & Juliet*. It was great to hear very positive feedback from the English department. The year group proved to a fantastic audience and no doubt they were inspired for their mock paper.



To mark Addiction Awareness Day in the College Third Years attended two talks: one by psychotherapist Mr Richard Hogan who spoke to the boys on gaming addiction and its dangers, what is considered excessive use, whilst giving them tips on how to regulate screen time. The second talk given was by a member of the Cuan Mhuire staff. He spoke about alcohol and drugs and his own experience of addiction; a very powerful and eye opening story. We began our Lenten journey with distribution of Ashes on Wednesday 6th of March. Mr Madden who lead the prayer service encouraged the Third Years to "seize the moment" this Lent. This was followed by reconciliation services for the year group on the week of the 1st of April. There was a very positive response to the sacrament.

In extracurricular, success has been achieved on the playing fields, courts, the rivers and the sea! The incredible rugby talent in the year group ensured all 5 teams were still involved as they went into the knock out stages of their respective competitions. There was heartbreak for Captain Gus McCarthy and the JCT losing narrowly to St Michael's in the final in what was an epic match. It was an incredible campaign and we are grateful to the squad for the quality of rugby they played. While the defeat was hard to take, there is no doubt in my mind this squad will bounce back and be only stronger for it.

Commiserations also to Captain Max Holmes and the junior 3rd side, who were defeated in their quarter final by Newpark JCT. It is a testament to the character of this squad, that despite being 21 nil down, in horrendous conditions and with fifteen minutes left to play, they continued to battle, in the end running out of time, as they fought back to finish the game 17-21. It was great to see so many turn out to support the J4th and J5th sides go head to head in the Division 3 semi-final. Everyone on the side line was treated to an epic match. The J4th team surged



Captain Gus McCarthy (JCTV St Michael's)



Liam Molony (JCTV Newbridge College)



Zach Quirke (Blackrock V Terenure)

into a 19-0 lead, but the J5th remained calm and played their way back into the match emerging victorious. I commend Captain Mark Phelan and the 4th for their part in what has been a fantastic season. The entire squad can be proud of themselves and the rugby they played. As we go to print the junior seconds captained by Charlie O' Brien, following their impressive victory over St Mary's, look forward to meeting St Michael's in the final. Sean de Burca and his J5th side play Clongowes. Both games will be played in Donnybrook – best of luck to both teams!

In chess our Junior B team including Jamie Blackburn, John Duffy and Mark McCabe were unlucky to be drawn against the current Leinster and All Ireland league holders Gonzaga College. It was to be a tough series of matches, but the team gave it their all. The Junior A team, including Matthew Collins, Patrick Curley and Sean O' Conno,r has made it to the Leinster final following impressive wins over Benildus and CUS. Well done lads.

Congratulations to Tom King who was a member of the U16 badminton team who finished runner up in All Ireland finals played in Gormanstown College on March 20th. The team performed brilliantly on the day defeating both the Ulster and Connacht champions before a narrow defeat to Coláiste Treasa of Munster.

In sailing Conor Gorman and Hugh O' Connor were part of the school sailing team that finished in 3rd place in the recent Leinster Schools' Team racing event held in Royal Saint George on the 23rd March. The team now prepares for the All Ireland Schools' Team competition to be held in May. A week later Conor and Hugh competed in the Dun Laoghaire Frostbite Series. Conor finished first and Hugh 3rd overall in the Laser 4.7 class. A tremendous achievement!

Our rowing teams continue to train hard in this unseasonably cold weather. Well done to Cormac Holohan, Henry Kelly, Robert McNabb and Michael Redmond on the J16 4x+ who finished second at the recent Erne Head of the River competition. Also from Third Year competing were Alex Brophy, Colm Fagan, Eoin McGrath and Oran Smith along with Sean O' Connor and Matthew O' Connell in two J16 8x+ teams who continue to improve in what are reformulated teams.



Conor Gorman and Hugh O' Connor after the Dun Laoghaire Frostbite Series

In table tennis our Junior A team including James Hamilton, Sean Patterson and Adam Tunney have successfully defended their Leinster Schools' League Division 1 title, which now means the school has won this competition for 9 consecutive years! Great work lads. They prepare to play Castleknock in a playoff to qualify for the All Irelands.

More success for the year group, this time in debating. James Carroll, George Francis and Michal White all competed in Alexandra College MACE. Michael and George made it to the finals with James going one step further and qualifying for the Nationals. We wish him well.

Finally compliments to Harry McLaughlin whose photo was short listed from over two thousand entries into the annual All Ireland Mental Health Art and Photography competition.

Please note on Wednesday 8th of May there will be a conference for Third Year parents relating to Transition Year 2019-20. The focus of the talk will be subject choice for TY, which of course will have a bearing on Leaving Certificate.

## Dates for your Diary

- 8th May – 3rd Year Parents' Conference
- 10th May – Progress Cards
- 12th May – Sports and Family Day
- 25th May – Academic Prize Giving

# Transition Year



Though we have had two weeks of Easter exams since the February midterm the Transition Years have managed to pack in a lot of activity. 27 boys assisted with the Lollipop Day Collection in aid of Oesophageal Cancer Fund (OCF) on Friday 1st March and more than 40 assisted with the collection the following Friday 8th March in aid of the Alzheimer's Society led by Freddie Noonan which raised €2,065.71. TY students assisted with the Machakos Cake Sale, Machakos Ladies' Lunch and Machakos Church Collections. 30 students travelled to Cloughjordan Cookery School on Tuesday 2nd April. The Past Pupils' Reunion TY Committee helped out at the 30 year reunion on Friday 5th April meeting and greeting past pupils, checking them in and providing tours of the College.

## Dragons' Den 2019

The 11th annual Dragons' Den was launched on Tuesday 26th February in front of a full TY assembly. Paul McGowan, Chairperson of Rock Dragons' Den and a large number of Dragons were present to give valuable insight to the boys on their own entrepreneurial journey and lessons learned. The key message for students was that this is a competition open to all TY students, not just those studying one or more of the Business subjects. This was followed by an Idea Generation workshop for all of TY again the following week with the initial submission of business ideas to Mr Fitzsimons before the Easter exams. The Concept Development Session with Dragons happened on Thursday 28th March with additional workshops planned around financial planning, writing a business plan before the submission of business plans on Friday April 12th. The finalists will be shortlisted from here, with further mentoring sessions with Dragons before the final on the 17th May.

## Faith Friends

We were delighted to welcome the Willow Park confirmation class up to the College on Tuesday 26th February where they continued their preparation for confirmation with the assistance of 22 of our TY students. The Lecture Hall was a wonderful hive of activity for the morning and Faith Friends is a superb opportunity for our TY boys to take a truly significant role in the spiritual development of their younger peers in Willow. Well done to Mr O'Reilly and all involved for a fantastic morning.



TY students with Willow Park Confirmation Class.

## AIB Build a Bank and Microsoft Hacknation Competitions

Congratulations to our Build a Bank team of John Cawley, Mark Kelly, Cian Lynch, Matthew Doyle, Alex Cronnelly, Oscar Bourke Mullaney and David Hale who put a huge amount of work into their preparation for the Build a Bank National Finals which took place on Wednesday 13th March in the RDS. Unfortunately we weren't successful on the day but the team put huge effort into the running of the branch itself and their presentation on the day and no doubt will have acquired many transferrable skills as a result.

Congratulations also to the thirteen Transition Year students who took part in the Microsoft HackNation 2019 competition in Microsoft's new European Headquarters on Friday 22nd March. The goal of the Microsoft HackNation PowerApps Competition was to inspire young people to pursue a career in tech and get them thinking about the problem solving possibilities of technology. The TY teams were each asked to come up with an idea and then construct an App and a detailed Business Plan. Blackrock College was represented by the LocalHelp team with its three members: Conor Slattery, Andrew McSweeney and John Daly. Thanks to Mr. O'Connell for arranging this great opportunity for the TY students.



TY Build a Bank Team at the Build a Bank National Finals

## Trips Abroad

Over February midterm 26 TY students travelled to Machakos, Kenya with Aidlink and another 8 TY students travelled to Brazil with Willow Wheelers. The main focus of the Machakos Trip was an educational immersion programme where our boys got to go to school side by side with their Kenyan counterparts in the Holy Ghost school in Sultan Hamud. The boys travelling with Willow Wheelers, visited some of the incredible projects which have been supported by all the hard work around the fundraising which the group does. It is easy to see the second you speak to a member of either group how much the experience impacted them and the key for them all



(From Right to Left) Alex Byrne, Zac Potter and Tom O'Connor engaging with kids outside an art centre in Villa Prudente Favella.

now is for the impact of the trip to continue beyond the dates of travel. Conor Crumlish, Conor Flannery, Eoin O'Sullivan and Shane Redehan gave a superb presentation on their Willow Wheelers' trip at our Monday morning assembly on 25th March and we will be looking for members of the Machakos group to do the same in advance of the Easter break.

Over the Easter break 49 boys will depart Dublin for trips abroad. 10 will be going to Holy Ghost Prep in Philadelphia for the return leg of the programme having hosted our American friends the first week back in January. 39 students will head to Beijing for their trip hosted by the UCD Confucius Institute with some of the highlights of the itinerary being a visit to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and an Acrobat show.

The Camino De Santiago will take place from 4th – 11th May but the physical and spiritual preparations have begun with three preparation hikes completed; the Bray to Greystones walk, Glendalough and Ticknock forest.

## 5k Rock Run

The 5k Rock Run Launch took place on Tuesday 19th March in the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre here in the College. It was launched by past pupils Leo Cullen (Class of 96), Garry Ringrose (Class of 2013) and also Olympic Gold Medallist Ronnie Delany. Ronnie was also our official race starter on the day of the run itself, Sunday April 7th. Eoin O'Sullivan did a fantastic job as MC of the event along with Rory Sheil who gave a wonderful personal account of his recent trip to Kenya over February midterm and spoke of the difference events like the 5k Rock Run makes to education in Kenya. Many thanks also to the students involved in the wider TY launch team for all their work in preparation of the launch.

The day of the run was a fantastic day where the entire Blackrock College and Willow Park community came together to support two wonderful causes, the Machakos Programme and GOAL. We had our largest ever crowd at the 5k Rock Run and the atmosphere was fantastic as a result; you could see all parts of the Blackrock College Community represented there; students, staff, past pupils, families, the Spiritan Community, and many more friends of the College.

My sincere thanks to our two main sponsors Bank of Ireland and KPMG for their continued support of the event along with our official suppliers on the day of the event itself; General Mills and Yoplait Ireland, Applegreen, Brendan Kavanagh and CKS, Coen Steel, The Content Partnership, O'Brien Lynam & Associates and GBW. Special thanks also must go to Fintain O'Connor, Marco Himpers and the entire maintenance team – their assistance and help was invaluable and much appreciated. Of course, a huge thank you to everybody who turned up on the day to support the event. Congratulations to the huge number of Transition Year students involved who have helped to ensure this event continues to grow into being one of the highlights of the school calendar. The ambition is for the event to continue to grow and for it to become an event for the entire community of Blackrock and beyond. Roll on 5k Rock Run 2020!



Gareth Stewart-Lord on the Kenya trip



David Arbuthnott on the Kenya Trip



Matthew Keeley on the Kenya Trip



TY Students in Glendalough in preparation for the Camino Trip



# Transition Year Cont'd



## 2nd/4th Year Musical

As you read this *The Blues Brothers of Ballyhooley* will have run from the 9th – 12th April in the Jubilee Hall to hopefully packed but most importantly hugely entertained audiences. The Junior Musical is one of my personal favourite events of the year and Mr Savage is, simply put, a genius!

## Extra-Curricular

There are a lot of talented students in Transition Year and this can be seen from some of the many achievements of the past number of weeks. Our U-16 Badminton team with TY students Darragh Harrison, Darragh Dempsey, Stephen Ó Nualláin and Tom King (3rd Year) won the Leinster Shield before narrowly missing out on All-Ireland success, losing narrowly in the All-Ireland Final to the Munster champions, Coláiste Treasa. A phenomenal achievement. In Golf congratulations to Alex Bolger who won the Fr. Fullen Cup and Thomas Harte who finished runner up. In sailing Nathan Van Steenberghe and his partner finished 1st Junior at the Harken 29er Grand Prix in the UK over the weekend of 23rd/24th March. We wish Nathan well in some very important upcoming races. In music, congratulations to Evan Walsh who was placed in the Gold Medal position in an International Music Competition, called the Golden Key Music Festival. Evan will give a recital of Andante in C by Mozart, and will receive his medal and certificate in Carnegie Hall, New York on April 27th. Congratulations also to Mr. Savage and our Colts team who secured the East-Coast League title with a 27-17 win over St. Gerards in Donnybrook on Friday 5th April.

## Still to come!

Though the final term is only a few weeks we still have the Masterchef Heats, Masterchef Finals, Dragons' Den, Music Art and Drama Week, TY Work Experience, TY Days of Reflection, Guest Speakers, TY Portfolio Interviews and even more besides!

### Dates for your Diary

2nd & 3rd May:	Masterchef Heats
3rd May:	TY Parents Coffee Morning hosted by TY Barista Course Graduates
4th – 11th May:	Transition Pilgrimage to Santiago
7th – 10th May:	Music, Art and Drama Week
9th May:	Summer Concert, Orchestra and Choir
12th May:	Sports and Family Day
14th – 16th May:	TY Days of Reflection
17th May:	Dragons' Den Final
20th - 24th May:	TY Work Experience II
27th May:	Masterchef Final
27/ 28th May:	Portfolio Assessment and Interview

# Fifth Year



## Family Mass

There was a wonderful atmosphere in the College Chapel for our annual 5th Year Family Mass. A large turnout saw a full church that chief celebrant, Fr. Paddy Dundon, addressed as he advised them "not to allow themselves to fall into temptation". There are so many momentary pleasures around. The season of Lent encourages us to practice self-control. It is a time when we can step out of our comfort zone maybe to PRAY, to FAST, to GIVE. It was pleasing to be among such a large congregation which included many grandparents. They add so much. Our choir, readers, servers, musicians and Eucharistic Ministers also played their part, they were excellent. Well done all!

## Addiction Awareness Day

An excellent poster campaign on the corridors and screens around the school proclaimed **Addiction Awareness Day** on Thursday 8th March. In Fifth Year, former heroin addict, Brian Pennie, spoke of his anxiety and how it led to his use of heroin. He told the boys of how he had turned his life around after a near death experience, which was a consequence of his drug abuse. He focused also on his current attitude to living and how he has changed the way he viewed himself and his life.

## Fifth Year Parents' Dinner

A wonderful evening was had by all at the parents' social evening held in Killiney Castle on 8th March. Many thanks to Committee Chairperson Mr Don Harrington and to the Fifth Year Parents' Committee and in particular the Social Committee for their organisation of this thoroughly enjoyable event.

## Wesley Interschools' Music Festival

The 5th Years were well represented in the festival that took place over the 1st-2nd March, a fantastic effort by all involved from individual pieces to the Liberman choir and Jazz band. A special mention to Ciaran Drohan who won first place in the Rock Guitar 015 category, and to Mark Landers and Aidan Canavan (2nd place) in the original music category (own performed song). Panda Propaganda members (Mark Landers, Cian Brennan, Aidan Canavan, John Huggard and Callum Byrne) were awarded first class honours in the Rock band category playing the classic 'Hooked on a feeling'.

## Commerce and Economics Society

Seven 5th Year students - Josh Baker, David Cosgrave, Mark Kenny, Conor Murphy Rogers, Tom O'Connor, Patrick O'Rafferty and Hugo O'Reilly – will



Mark Lander and the Libermann Choir at the Wesley Interschools' Music Festival



5th Years well represented at the Wesley Interschools' Music Festival

be going on the society's annual overnight trip to London over Easter. Led by Mr Morris and Mr Smyth the boys have appointments in Google and Morgan Stanley as well as a 4am start from Dublin airport!

## Development Education

Cian Brennan, Aidan Canavan, David Ennis, Mark McGrane, Tom O'Connor and Lorcan Patchell were among a delegation that represented the College at the Spiritan Development Education Showcase in Rockwell College on the 29th March. The day was educational, fun, and enjoyed by all.

## Green Schools

The 5th Year members of the committee - Cian Brennan, Aidan Canavan, Tom Dooley, John Huggard, Tom O'Connor and Lorcan Patchell - have been busy increasing environmental awareness and selling re-usable bottles and keep-cups at 5th Year check-in as part of the 'Single-Use Plastic Free' Campaign.

## Drama

Wow what a show! The Creative Arts and Digital Learning centre hosted our one act play, 'Neither Here nor There' over two nights, Wednesday-Thursday, 6th & 7th March. The two full houses experienced acting at its finest. The lead actors, Michael Cagney, Michael Gadaloff and Jack Tiernan delivered performances that belied their years portraying a range of complex human



Michael Cagney, Jack Tiernan and Michael Gadaloff in 'Neither Here Nor There'

# Fifth Year Cont'd



emotions. Callum Byrne and Michael Landers delivered the crucial finale to the play. Their insight, teamwork, energy and stage presence ensured that the audience was richly entertained.

## MUN

The Wesley College MUN conference took place on the 8th and 9th of March, with two teams of delegates and one chairperson (Mark Kenny) sent to represent the school. The two delegations (USA and Moldova), consisted of Lorcan Patchell, Mark McGrane, Aidan Canavan and David Ennis. The school won three awards for commended and highly commended delegates of various committees. Many thanks to Mr Smyth for all of his hard work.

## Sports

It has been a busy period with 5th Years involved in a number of sports over the closing winter weeks. In swimming Peter Harrington (freestyle) was involved in the team that won the interschool event between Blackrock, Belvedere and Clongowes. The Cross-country team qualified for the All-Ireland event held in Clongowes Wood College. 5th Year students racing in the event were Liam Blackburn, Adam Harvey, Cormac Fahy and Aaron Ryan with Liam coming a commendable 39th in the senior race. The house rugby season has come to an end with all three teams being knocked out of their respective leagues at various stages. The house 3rds were eliminated during pool play along with the House 5ths despite losing only one round robin game. The house 4ths progressed to a semi-final and were pipped at the post in the last minute in an exciting game vs. Clongowes. After the disappointment of the quarter final exit to St Michael's the 2nd XV were able to turn the tide against St Michael's in the final played at Donnybrook in what was an exciting encounter. The majority of this side was made up of Fifth Year students and we congratulate them on Blackrock's first win in this league in a number of years. The soccer season drew to a close with a semi-final loss in the Joe McGrath cup, and despite their being no silverware this season a strong 5th Year presence on the squad bodes well for next season. In golf news we congratulate Robert Galligan on his selection for the under

18 national side, and although losing 11-5 to Wales, Robert played well winning both his matches. He is back in action for Ireland in Lytham from the 3-5th May. We wish him every success.

Lorcan Patchell, Conor Hughes, Colm Hogan and Andrew Doyle continue to sweep all before them in the **table tennis** winning the Leinster League and have now also qualified for the Leinster Cup finals.

On the water Morgan Lyttle (Captain), Charlie Cullen, Colm Hogan and Colm Roche finished 3rd in the Leinster Schools' Team Racing event held in the Royal St. George on Saturday, March 23rd. This result qualifies the team for the All-Ireland Team Racing Competition which will be held in Schull, West Cork in May. With the badminton, basketball and other winter sports also at a close we look forward to the summer sport season

## Finally

The end of the year is fast upon us, we strongly encourage 5th Year students to continue to push themselves on the academic front and get the most out of the remaining weeks left in the academic year. In addition to the academics we encourage all 5th Year students to 'be there' in the final term in some aspect of the co-curricular life of the school.

### Dates for your Diary

9th May - Summer Concert, Orchestra and Choir  
10th May - Extra Curricular Photos  
12th May - Sports and Family Day  
25th May - Academic Prize Giving  
29th May - Summer Exams Begin

# The Arts



## Senior Debating

Between Leaving Cert Mocks, State Orals and Easter exams, our senior debaters still managed to compete in two prestigious competitions at a high level. It has been, unfortunately, a year of *might-have-beens*.

Two teams reached the semi-finals of Ireland's premier debating schools' competition (The L&H Leinsters) and, disappointingly, neither secured a place in the final. This should not detract from their wonderful achievement. We pass on our congratulations to both teams – Michael Ryan and Max McKenna; and John Huggard and Mark McGrane. As we know from the sports arena, conceding in a semi-final is agonising.

Blackrock fielded three strong teams in the Matheson Mace Debating Competition. This was held on Saturday the 24th March in U.C.D.. Two teams (made up of Max McKenna and Shore Olobourde; and Dylan Hutchinson and Niall Meagher) were eliminated after three rounds. John Huggard and Mark McGrane performed magnificently to reach the final. Once again success eluded us. CBS were the eventual winners.

In the final term we can look forward to the **Gold Medal Debates for TY, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years**. Sixth Year students, who are interested in participating, please be prepared for our preliminary series of debates which will decide on the eight students who will participate in the Gold Medal decider. This will be held in the Lecture Room in front of an audience of students and teachers. The winner will deliver the Valedictory Address.



## Junior Debating

Junior Debating has a wonderful 20 members who attend the group every Monday at lunch time. We welcome you to come along any week to show your support.

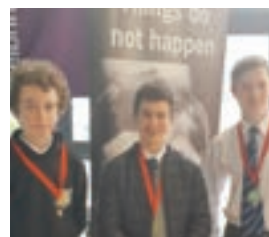
Congratulations to Alec Linklater, Michael White, James Carroll, George Francis, Daniel Keeley, Jamie Starr Bourke and Jack Dempsey-Salley for participating in the Alexandra MACE on Saturday, March 30th in Alexandra College.

Michael White and George Francis, and Jamie Starr Bourke and Daniel Keeley all made it through to the Finals but were beaten at the last hurdle by Belvedere College. This was the first MACE competition for George and Jamie and the first time these 4 boys made it through to a final, so well done all round.

The Alexandra TAB showed that the order of speakers on the day placed as follows:

Daniel Keeley (2nd Year) 8th  
Michael White (3rd Year) 9th  
James Carroll (3rd Year) 13th

Three students: James Carroll (3rd Year), Ben Kieran-Glennon (2nd Year) and Daniel Keeley (2nd Year) all qualified to represent Leinster in the Nationals on Saturday, April 6th in Colaiste na hInse, Bettystown. They competed against the top 96 Junior Debaters in the country and all received a medal for having achieved this position in Ireland.



3 finalists at The Nationals in Colaiste na hInse, Co. Meath  
Ben Kieran-Glennon, Daniel Keeley, (2nd Year) James Carroll (3rd Year)

We look forward to hosting 1st Year Willow Park students again in the second round of our Junior Debating on the 10th of May.

## RockMUN

On the 5th of April at 5:00 we began the official RockMUN conference for 2019. We kicked the night off with lobbying sessions in committee, where many different



# The Arts Cont'd



delegates from various schools proposed their resolutions to each other. Shortly after that, we had our opening assembly, with a stirring address from our Secretary General Shore Oluborode. We then went into the first session of committee, with delegates debating resolutions that we had printed in the media room during the opening address. While this was going on behind the scenes our media team was conducting interviews.

The committee meetings then resumed. While this was happening Shore was busy preparing for General Assembly and printing all the resolutions, while the media team compiled the second RockMag from what we had gathered. We then ended the day off by debating four resolutions at GA.

The closing ceremony started with a stunning performance of 'Zero' by the fourth year band 'Paradox'. We then presented awards to all schools involved, and had some emotional addresses from Shore and Drummond at what will most likely be their last MUN conference, and certainly their last RockMUN.

## Mental Health Ireland

On the evening of Thursday 28th March Third Year students Harry McLaughlin, Oscar Crowley and Harry Facer represented the College at the annual all Ireland Mental Health Art and Photography Exhibition in St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin.



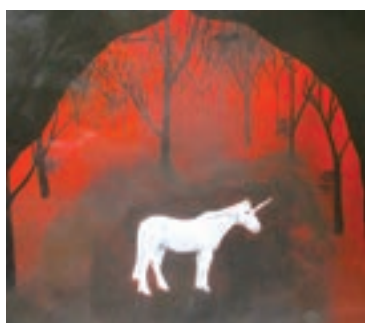
The panel of judges stressed the importance of how young student artists and photographers interpreted and made visual the five ways to wellbeing themes.

The exhibition and competition reflected the themes of connect -take notice – be active – keep learning – give. These are simple everyday actions you can do to feel good and function well.

Harry McLaughlin was short listed from over two thousand entries and highly commended for his work and interpretation of the theme 'Connect'. Oscar Crowley and Harry Facer are pictured in the work.



Eoin O' Sullivan (Oil Painting)



Michael Gadaloff (5th Year)



Peter Spellman (5th Year)



Joey McEntee (Transition Year)

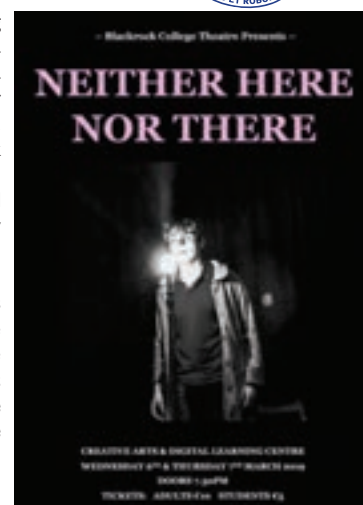
## Music & Drama

As we come to the Easter break, we are delighted to reflect on another great term, action packed with music and drama. We started with Wesley Interschools' Music Festival, where we had a wide variety of entries including choral, jazz, traditional, orchestral, bands, soloists and duets. We are very proud of all the boys who represented the College. Particular congratulations to the Libermann Choir, Jazz Band, Harry Keyes and Ciarán Drohan who all won 1st prizes in their respective competitions. Other highlights included Mark Landers and Aidan Canavan winning 2nd Place in the 'Own Performed Song' competition and Michael Lucey placing 2nd in 'Solo Singing Under 17'.

The Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre was transformed once again into a theatre to host the One Act Drama "Neither Here Nor There" written by our own Mr. Cathal Maher. Michael Cagney, Michael Gadaloff, Jack Tiernan, Mark Landers, Callum Byrne, Ms. Aoife Ryan and Mr. Cathal Maher formed the cast and creative team to produce a highly entertaining play.

We then had the 5th Year Family Mass which took place in a packed College Chapel. The 5th Year Choir and Ensemble ably enriched the liturgy with their music and a highlight was hearing Tallis' 'If Ye Love Me' sung after Communion by the choir.

Congratulations to Evan Walsh (4th Year) who was placed in the Gold Medal position in the International Music Competition 'The Golden Key', having performed Mozart's Andante in C. He will give a recital and receive his medal and certificate in Carnegie Hall, New York on April 27th and we wish him the best of luck.



The Libermann Choir perform at The Father Dowling Festival Concert

The Father Dowling Festival Concert took place on 21st March in the Willow Park Gym and the Libermann Choir teamed up with the First Year Singers and Band to perform in what was a wonderful night. This is always a special night in the calendar and the future is bright for the musicians and singers entering the College next year – we look forward to welcoming you all. Straight after the Easter Exams, we launched into the Leaving and Junior Certificate Music Practical Exams. The reports from the examiners were very positive. Well done to everyone who sat them.



Libermann Choir who won the "Frank Hughes Cup" at Wesley Interschools' Music Festival with Ms O' Kane and Mr Grumley-Traynor

Finally, the term wrapped up with the Junior Musical: 'The Blues Brothers in Ballyhooley'. At the time of writing this, we are still hoping that Act 2 will be written on time by Mr. Brian Savage but we anticipate that this will be a great show from what has been rehearsed so far! We are delighted to be joined by Loreto Abbey Dalkey for the show. Thanks to Brian Savage (Director/Writer), Aoife Ryan (Producer), Toirleac O'Brien (Production), Killian Grumley Traynor (Musical Director), Simon Orrock (Front of House), Sarah Dennis (Choreographer), Chris O'Sullivan (Band) and all the cast, crew, band, parents, management, audiences... (the list goes on) that make shows like this happen! Happy Easter!



# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2019



Second Year rowers head back to the slip at the end of the race (Neptune Regatta )



Elliot McNamara, Mark Landers ,Tom O' Connor ,  
Chris Byrne , Cian Brennan and Aidan Canavan ( front  
row) winners at Wesley Interschools' Music Festival



Aidan Kennedy (TY) takes notes in class in the Holy  
Ghost School in Sultan Hamud



JCTV Newbridge College



TY students with Madame Catherine (Principal of Holy  
Ghost School in Sultan Hamud)



JCTV St Michael's



The Cheerleaders and students support the JCT  
(JCTV St Michael's)



SCTV St Michael's



RockMUN 2019



Federico Mei and Ruben Moloney (JCTV St Michael's)



Robbie Gallagher (TY) at Wesley  
Inter-schools' Musical Festival



# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2019



TY Students with Fr Mark Whelan and Mr T O' Reilly on a walk in preparation for the Camino Trip



TY students at a dam in Tijuca National Park, Rio



Michael Cagney, Mr. Cathal Maher, Michael Gadaloff, Jack Tiernan, Mark Landers and Callum Byrne (5th Years) in the CADLC at the performance of Mr Maher's play 'Neither Here Nor There'



Scott Barron (TY) and Ed Brennan (6th Year) SCTV Michael's



Robert Byrne, John Daly, Jody O'Carroll and Adam Power at the dress rehearsal of *The Blues Brothers*



13 TY students took part in the Microsoft HackNation 2019 competition in Microsoft's new European Headquarters



Blackrock V Terenure



Members of the Blackrock Community participate in the 5K Rock Run in aid of the Machakos Project



LocalHelp TY Team: Conor Slattery, Andrew McSweeney and John Daly.



## Blackrock College Oral History Project:

Oral history is the process of recording an audio interview with people asking them about their life, or a specific historic event.

Allesandro Portelli said of oral history:

*"But what is really important is that memory is not a passive depository of facts, but an active process of creation of meanings".*

How we recollect our past is the key to how we make sense of our lives and our experiences.

I have always had an interest in oral history as a methodology, and I have been studying for the Lord Mayor's Certificate in Oral History at Dublin City Library and Archive for the last 7 months. Alongside the course, I have conducted interviews with a number of past students to record their stories and memories of Blackrock College.



Reading through the college annual, the student account ledgers, or written biographies of past students conveys a more formal account of life at the school. To hear stories directly from the men themselves is a different matter – you get a sense of what day-to-day student life was actually like for the boys.

Even reading a direct transcript of someone's story is not the same as hearing the story itself; the tone the speaker uses, the laughter, the pauses, the accent and the musicality of the voice all add to the recollection immensely. Listening back, we can feel as though we are in the room with the speaker, even many years after the recording.

What struck me was the similarities in the stories of Blackrock, and how many of the feelings and thoughts were almost timeless – memorable advice heard in class, games and pranks, annoying or inspiring teachers, a sense of awe at the campus, getting caught by the prefects, a real feeling of family – these stories are present in every decade. These memories of the real lived experience of the college add wonderful colour to somewhat drier historical accounts already in the archive.

The recordings are between 30-60 minutes, and include open questions about memories of the school and staff, first impressions, and thoughts on

the time spent at Blackrock. So far, interviews have been collected with a number past students, including a selection from the class of 1958.

Caroline Mullan and past students Jamie Conway and Kevin Cantrell previously completed other video interviews with past students in 2007, including some who attended in the early 1920s. These thoughts and insights into the daily life of the College almost a century ago are amazing to hear, and they offer a varied insight on Blackrock College from a number of unique perspectives - day boy, boarder, and scholastic.

Many of the interview candidates from the 2007 interviews are no longer with us, and it is hugely fortunate to have footage of these people speaking about their lives which staff and students can look back on.

The video interviews included an interview with Fr. Tim O'Driscoll, who attended Blackrock College as a boarder between 1924 and 1929, and returned to the role of President of the College from 1965 to 1971.

In total, there are 18 video interviews (2007 + 2018) and 5 audio recordings (2019), spanning over 30 years of Blackrock College history.

I am currently in the process of transcribing some of these interviews, but they will all be available to view in the archive shortly.

Would you like to get involved? I would be happy to interview any Blackrock student about memories of their time here. Feel free to get in touch at [archives@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:archives@blackrockcollege.com) if you'd like to know more about the project.



6th Year Dayboys 1958



Left: Fr. Sean Farragher CSSp interview  
Right: Travelling as a young man



Left: Fr. Tim O'Driscoll CSSp interview  
Right: In SVP Society, Blackrock College 1928 (back row, right)

## Sixth Year



Since we returned from the February mid-term break, fine tuning preparations for the Leaving Certificate examination has become a priority for the Class of 2019.

### LC Orals, Easter Exams & Projects

Between February 25th and March 1st, a week of mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages took place. These mocks presented the students with a most valuable opportunity to prepare for their State Orals which ran from March 25th to April 5th. Many thanks to Ms Markey for her organisation of the mocks and to Mr O'Reilly and Mr Herlihy for the extremely efficient and smooth running of the real thing!

Between these orals, Sixth Year students sat a full set of written Easter examinations. While reports will not be finalised until April 12th, students have been receiving results and advice on both the quality and quantity of study that needs to be done over the remaining weeks of term.

The Leaving Certificate projects in Art, Agricultural Science and Construction Studies have also reached a conclusion before the Easter break and many thanks to Mr Wyer, Mr Dunne and Ms Mullen for their guidance in these fields of study. Projects in History, Geography and Religious Education are to be submitted on Friday 3rd May and we wish all students well as they complete their examination booklets.

### Leaving Cert Payment

Individual letters and passwords have been given to each member of the Class of 2019 from the State Examinations Commission regarding online payment of the €116 entry fee for this year's examination. Parents are asked to forward confirmation of this payment (or a Medical Card exemption) to [6dean@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:6dean@blackrockcollege.com) before April 26th.

### Lent 2019

On 6th March, the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday was marked by a liturgy in the College Chapel where students were given the opportunity to receive



# Sixth Year



blessed ash from members of the RE department. The liturgy was led by Mr Madden, Head of the Pastoral Department and we thank him for his words of assurance to the Class of 2019 that 'All will be well'. Mr Madden also hopes that many Sixth Years will respond to the invite extended to all 6th Year students by the Pastoral and RE departments to actively participate in the Graduation Eucharist in May.

## Lectures

Sixth Year students attended two talks during the final week of term. On Tuesday April 9th David Gillett, membership secretary of the Blackrock College PPU addressed the group on the benefits of joining the College Union. There is no fee for lifetime membership and application forms were distributed to all. On the final day of term, Wayne Denner spoke to Senior Cycle students about the importance of protecting their online Digital Footprint and of always thinking of the implications before surfing and posting. Many thanks to Brigid in the Union Office and the Parents' Council for organising both of these most beneficial events.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

**Rugby:** We commiserate with Sean O'Brien and the SCT on their quarter final defeat to St. Michael's College, the eventual winners of the competition. Nothing more could have been asked of the squad throughout the season and the reception in the refectory on their return displayed the pride that the Class of 2019 took in this team. Unfortunately, both the Castle 3 and 4 teams also failed to reach the knockout stages of their competitions and it is left to the senior 2nds to keep the Blackrock senior rugby flag flying. We wish Killian McQuaid and his squad well in their forthcoming League final. As we end the rugby season, we extend a sincere thanks to Mr Vanstone, Mr Pickering, Mr Murray, Mr Lambe, Mr Grant and Mr Fitzsimons for all their work with the Class of 2019 this year.



SCT V St Michael's



Tim D'Arcy and Gavin Jones  
(SCT V St Michael's)

**Cheerleading-** We thank also the cheerleaders, under the leadership of Ross O'Reilly, David Gallagher, Scott Henderson, Evan McCool and Donal McKeon, who have given unselfishly of their time and energy on behalf of both Cup teams this season. The full turnout of sixth-year cheerleaders to support the JCT on their return to the Jubilee Hall, during 6th Year written exams, is testament to the complete commitment that these young men have given to this student leadership project since last December. Well done and many thanks to all.

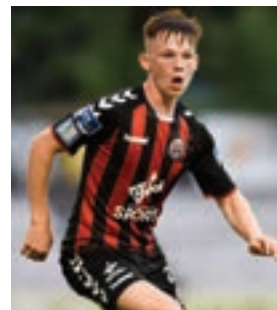
**Soccer:** Since mid-term our Senior Soccer squad experienced defeat in the Metropolitan League Final and the Joe McGrath Cup Final through 2-1 defeats to Coláiste Choilm and St Fintan's High School respectively. As Mr MacGinty noted it has been a season of 'almost there' for this squad captained by Peter Quinlan, with two penalty shoot-outs and an extra time defeat leading to elimination from competitions.

**Music:** There was a strong 6th Year representation in this year's Wesley Inter-Schools' Music Festival in early March and we congratulate both the Libermann Choir and the Jazz Band on winning the 3 or 4 Part Boys Choir and Orchestral Band competitions. Congrats also to Harry Keyes who was placed 1st in the Solo Singing O17 competition. The Libermann Choir also performed their Leman Concert feature 'Glory' in the Fr. Dowling Festival Concert in Willow Park on March 21st.



Tom Dwan and Tadhg Egan, winners at the Wesley Interschools' Music Festival

**Representative Honours:** A special congratulations to Andy Lyons who has played with both the Irish U21 and U19 squads this half term. Andy was a member of the FAI U19 squad who won the qualifying tournament in Russia in March to qualify for the European Championships in Armenia in July. We wish him and the squad continued success. In rugby, David Fitzgibbon and Sean O'Brien were selected for the Ireland U19 squad that defeated the Ireland U18s in Donnybrook on Sunday 7th April.



Andy Lyons

## 6th Year Parents' Association:

The Parents' Committee is continuing its excellent work with much creativity and effort being directed towards fund-raising for the trip to Kenya this Summer. Since February there has been a Bake Sale, the Ladies Lunch, a Golf Outing and a number of Church Gate collections. The DVD committee continue to welcome any material which parents might like to submit for inclusion on the Class of 2019 production. Finally, the Graduation Committee is working hard on the planning and organisation of the Graduation Lunch in the Pavilion in Leopardstown. Information about this event has been posted and emailed to all.

## Finally

As the Sixth Year students approach the final term, they should rest assured that they can continue to make significant academic progress in these final weeks. We strongly encourage students to continue to attend class and to fully avail of our wide range of advice and support systems in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the Class of 2019 all the very best with these final preparations.

Supervised Study

To assist with these preparations please note that there will be mid-term supervised study available for all 6th Year students from 9.30am and 12.30pm & 1.30pm and 4.30pm between Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th of April and between Tuesday 23rd and Friday 26th of April. There is no charge for this facility.

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th May  
Sunday 12th May  
Sunday 19th May  
Saturday 25th May  
Wednesday 29th May  
Wednesday 5th June

6th Year Parents Conference @ 7.30pm  
Sports & Family Day @ 2pm  
6th Year Graduation Mass @ 12noon  
Academic Prize Giving @ 10.30am  
Class ends for 6th Year students  
Public Examinations begin @ 9.30am

# Science



Two Second Year students Max Mullen and Ethan Leon Ryan qualified for the semi-final of the ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmental Awards Leinster ECO-DEN. They presented their project – 'Becoming Carbon Neutral' on Wednesday April the 3rd. The results of the semi-final will be known in a few weeks and the winners of the regional finals will participate in the awards ceremony in the Convention Centre Dublin on May 23rd. We congratulate the boys on their achievement with an excellent project. Fingers crossed that students make it to the finals.



Ethan Leon- Ryan and Max Mullins were awarded best project award -Runner Up so they will now qualify for the national SciFest final in November



Will Donnelly was awarded the TUD Special Commendation Award.

We congratulate all the boys for their enthusiasm, hard work and participation in the competition. A special congratulations to Will Donnelly on his award and we wish Ethan and Max the best of luck in the SciFest finals in November. Thank you to all the teachers involved in the Scifest school competition and to Ms E. O'Reilly for preparing and mentoring the boys for the regional Scifest competition.

The regional final of the SciFest 2019 took place on Friday 5th of April in TUD Kevin Street.

The following students participated in the competition:

NAME OF PROJECT	STUDENT NAME(S)
Becoming Carbon Neutral	Ethan Leon-Ryan Max Mullins
Sensory analysis test – Mars Bars vs Lidl Choco and Caramel Bars.	Luke Brophy
The affects shape has on drag	Liam Norton
Flight in a vacuum	Will Donnelly
Is it cost and time effective for the visually impaired people to use smart phones?	Rory Kelly
How fast is a quantum computer?	Aiden Corrigan
The impact sports have on an athlete's legs and upper body	Jamie Ahern-O'Connell
A study of pedestrian crossings in the greater Dublin area.	Jamie Starr Bourke, Frazer McGinn.



From left to right :Liam Norton, max Mullen, Ethan Leon-Ryan, Jamie Starr-Bourke, Frazer mc Ginn, Rory Kelly, Luke Brophy , Jamie Ahern-O'Connell, Aiden Corrigan and Will Donnelly.

# Green Schools








Are they worth protecting?  
Say Yes for Our Planet

BLACKROCK COLLEGE  
GREEN SCHOOLS

Photos courtesy of BirdWatch Ireland





# Guidance and Counselling



## CAO –

will reopen on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018,



HPAT - Many thanks to Mr Rory McCluskey for organising the HPAT course and for running the Saturday classes since October 2017. Rory will not be returning next year and we wish him well in his future career.

Leaving Cert Mocks: All 6th Years have their results. Each student should be able to work out their points from these results and use this as a guide point. Students need to reflect and see if their points match their ability and that these points are reflected in the courses listed on their CAO. Ensure you have covered every eventuality.

PLC – PLC Colleges have an ongoing application process, it is not too late to sign up. Register on their respective websites.

Mindfulness: The Irish Times recently reported that the day of the Leaving Certificate was the busiest day of 2017 for the Samaritans helpline. Remember you are not alone. It's ok not to be ok and it's always a good idea to ask for help.



**Date for your Diary**  
CAO – reopens 6th May 2019

# Seachtain na Gaeilge



Daltaí ón gcúigiú bliain ag damhsa



# Pastoral Care Programme



## Ash Wednesday – 6th March

Each year group attended a Liturgy in the College Chapel for distribution of Ashes with a brief reflection encouraging the students to take part in prayer for one minute a day, to fast and to give alms with emphasis on works of love – doing something good.

The Fifth Year Family Mass was celebrated by Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp in the College Chapel. The theme of this year's Family Mass was "Be not Afraid". Fr Paddy's homily highlighted the temptations put before Jesus in the wilderness and he encouraged us to be strong in the face of temptation in the same way as Jesus was two thousand years ago – take care of what we do – be careful, help and look out for each other to do the right thing and stay safe.



Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp with 5th Year Altar Servers

## Reconciliation Services - Lent – 1st - 5th April

During Lent, 3rd, 4th and 5th Year were offered the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During the course of this week, the celebration of the sacrament was led by members of the RE Department and Chaplaincy Team. Members of the Spiritan Community and visiting Priests of the Dublin Diocese were in attendance



to hear individual confession. We thank all who contributed their time, talent and ministry during the course of what is a very important and prayerful week in the life of the College. Reconciliation Services for 2nd Year took place during their days of reflection. Reconciliation services for 6th Year will take place after Easter as part of their preparation for graduation in May.

## Second Year Retreats - 1st, 2nd 8th & 9th April

The 2nd Year students participated in their Days of Reflection in the closing weeks of Lent. The eight Maths classes formed the groupings for the second year retreats. These were facilitated within the College over four school days by Mr Patrick Reynolds and his experienced Retreat Team. The feedback from the students was of a very positive experience with many highlighting the Sacrament of Reconciliation as being a time of peace for them.



## Camino Preparation

In Transition Year, preparations for Camino 2019 are gathering momentum. Practice walks are planned before the twenty five students with their leaders depart for Spain after Easter. Fr Marc Whelan CSSp is Spiritual Director for the pilgrimage and we wish Fr Marc well as he has already commenced his Camino walking over 800 KMs. The boys will join him for the last week and they will complete the pilgrimage together.

Join us for Morning Mass in the College Chapel any Mon - Fri at 8.15am.  
If you have any special intention or anniversary you would like remembered, please email [fmadden@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:fmadden@blackrockcollege.com) or phone 01 275 2125. All are welcome to attend this Morning Mass

**The wish of the College Community is that we all find Joy and Peace in the Risen Christ of Easter...be not afraid...peace be with you.**

# Wellbeing



## Amber Flag - Promoting Mental Health

Bully Report Tool. – The school's Bullying Report Tool is available on the school website. Instructions are on posters around the school. This tool gives the students the ability to report without giving their name or email. Please encourage your sons to report unacceptable behaviour. We all need support. Please contact Ms Drew if you require further information.

## Addiction Awareness Day

Most of us understand how diseases like alcoholism and drug addiction can cause pain and suffering. Craving a cigarette or a stiff drink on occasion is one thing, but addiction forces an individual to behave in unusual and often destructive ways in the service of finding the next fix. However, you can also become addicted to behaviours, like gambling and medical professionals are starting to realise that in the modern age, behavioural addictions can lead to



dangerous addiction problems with seemingly harmless things, like video games. In fact, the World Health Organization now classifies gaming disorder, an addiction to playing video games, as a real mental health condition.



## The speakers organised for the day were:

8.45 am – 3rd Year Cluan Mhuire (Alcohol) & Richard Hogan Psychotherapist (Gaming)  
9.30 am – 2nd Year Cluan Mhuire (Alcohol) & Richard Hogan Psychotherapist (Gaming)  
10.15 am – 5th Year Brian Penne, Personal Story (Heroin) & Research  
11.45 am – 4th Year- Oisín McConville, Personal Story (Gambling)

There was great feedback from the students, all speakers were highly informative and engaging. A successful event with a heartfelt message.



## Athletics

Congratulations to Harry Cullen on his second place at the National Juvenile Championships in Athlone I.T. Harry finished with a personal best of 11.27m in what was his first national final. A great reward for all his hard work since September.

There are large numbers turning out on a daily basis for athletics ahead of our home meeting on Wednesday 10th April which will see St. Michael's College and CBC Monkstown competing against our boys. This will provide everyone with great experience ahead of our East Leinster Zones in Santry that are due to take place after Easter break. Thank you to each student for all the hard work over the past few months and best of luck to everyone representing the college over the final term.

## Badminton

The Under 16s finished as runners up in the All Ireland Finals, Division 2. They beat the Ulster champions (Ballyclare) 5-1, the Connacht champions (St Nathys) 6-0 and lost to the Munster champions (Coláiste Treasa) 4-2 in a tight game. It was a great day out and the boys did themselves and the school proud.



From left to right; Darragh Dempsey, Stephen O'Nuallain, Darragh Harrison, and Tom King

## Basketball

The Second Year basketball team competed in the East Leinster League Quarter Final against a strong Donabate Community College side. A fast paced game with very strong rebounding from Donabate CC gave them the platform to get the victory in what was an extremely competitive game with Donabate running out winners 38 to 26.

Jack Dempsey-Salley, Jamie Ahern O'Connell, Eric Brandt and Conor Ryan were the standout performers for 'Rock. This is the first year playing competitive basketball for this group and to reach a quarter final is a very strong achievement.

## Chess

Congratulations to our Junior A side - Conor Hughes and Liam Norton (both 2nd Year), Sean O'Connor, Matthew Collins and Patrick Curley (3rd Year) which defeated CUS (5-0) on Wednesday 27th March. The win has put Blackrock in line to qualify for the Leinster Final.

## Cycling

Archie Ryan (5th Year) was selected for the Irish Junior Cycling Team to race in the Gent - Wevelgem Nations Cup in Belgium on March 31st. The race was 120km with 150 riders from 21 countries contesting. Only 80 riders finished with the Irish team acquitting themselves well with 3 riders, including Archie, racing hard at the front and finishing in very good times.



Archie Ryan in action in Belgium

## Cross Country

Our Cross Country teams took to the field on a cold and wintery day in Clongowes on Saturday 9th March. It was as you would expect at All Ireland level a fiercely competitive environment. Lead performers on the day included Jack McGlone (19th in Junior Race), Finn O'Neill (38th Junior), Eoin Kelly (42nd Intermediate) and Liam Blackburn (39th Senior). We congratulate all involved on a great achievement in making the All Ireland Finals. And a big Thank You to Mr. McDonagh and Mr. McGlynn for their preparation of their team. Squads for the event were as follows: Junior - Jack McGlone, Finn O'Neill, Daniel Bennet, Liam Norton (All 2nd Year) Intermediate - Eoin Kelly (TY) Killian McKenna (2nd Year) Matthew Keeley (TY) Senior - Adam Harvey, Cormac Fahy, Aaron Ryan and Liam Blackburn (5th Year).

## Golf - Father Fullen Cup

Congratulations to Alex Bolger (TY) on winning this years Fr. Fullen Cup. He shot one under par (gross), scoring 41 stableford points off a 4 handicap. Thomas Harte (TY) was second with 40 points playing off 6. Eoin Maher (2nd Year) won the 13 hole competition with 26 points (handicap: 21). The best gross for the 13

holes was Jake Foley's 22 points playing off 6. 58 boys participated on what was a perfect for golf.

We thank Ms. Fitzgerald, Conor Harte (class of 2015) and Conor Byrne (class of 2016) for their organisation of the boys and the competition. We are particularly indebted to the Castle G.C. for hosting the day. The senior squad remain in training for the All Ireland Schools' final to be held in Port Stewart during the Easter holidays.

## Rowing

Rowing Regatta Season is Upon Us! After a focused winter training programme in the gym and on the water in Blessington, Blackrock College rowers are all looking forward to the 2019 racing season, kicking off with the Neptune Regatta on Saturday, 6th of April, and the Commercial Regatta on Sunday 7th of April.



Guy Mangan, Oisín Tiernan, Ethan Swan and Ted Power (2nd Year) (Neptune Regatta)

These competitions can be an all-day event, depending on how many events your son is in and how many heats and finals he and his team get through. All those competing will need to wear their official Blackrock College one-piece. If you need to buy one, please speak to one of the rowing coaches. More information regarding race times and crews will be sent out following the completion of the entries and draw/timetable for the event (usually released the week of the event).

For those who are new to rowing, the exciting Regatta Season runs from April to mid-July, culminating in the huge Irish Rowing Championships, July 12th - 14th, at Farran Wood just outside Cork city. Regattas generate great competitive excitement as unlike the HOR time trials, regattas involve side-by-side racing where there can be up to six boats competing against each other in any one race. As Neptune and Commercial Regattas are run with the confines of the River Liffey, there will be two boats competing side-by-side over a 1200m course for J15, J16 and J18 rowers and a 1000m course for J14 rowers. Please see website for Calendar of Events (both Senior rowers and 2nd Year rowers).

We encourage all the students, staff and parents to come and support the rowers in their races in the coming weeks.

## Rugby Junior

We salute the character and whole-hearted endeavour that Gus McCarthy and his Junior Cup Rugby Squad showed in the Junior Cup Final. They gave their all, as they have done throughout the year. Great team spirit, courage, determination and tenacity were in evidence in all facets of the game and although the result did not go our way with St. Michael's running out winners (26-19), this Blackrock junior team lived up to the finest traditions of the College.



Charlie Leahy and Cian Ryan (JCTV Newbridge College)

## Senior

An outbreak of mumps unfortunately delayed the Senior Cup Quarter Final and it meant the rescheduled game was set for post midterm break. More unfortunate though was the result when it did finally take place. A 16-10 victory for St. Michael's (who subsequently went on to the Cup) ended what had been a very promising season to that point for Sean O'Brien's team. We acknowledge the way that they never gave up and ultimately showed great character in defeat.



Liam Molony and Patrick McCarthy (JCTV St Michael's)

The season did continue post-Senior Cup however for the remaining members of the squad, made up for the first time in recent history of boys from all three senior year groups. Captained by Killian McQuaid, the 'seconds' added two excellent group wins, against Clongowes and Belvedere, to confirm their place against St. Michael's in the final, having beaten Terenure already before midterm.



David Fitzgibbon, Ronan McGoldrick (6th Year) and Matthew Cullen (5th Year) (SCTV St Michael's)



Senior 2nds squad and coaching staff after the final in Donnybrook

A performance full of intensity and quality would be required to be successful against opponents who had beaten us well at this level earlier in the year. The required performance was duly delivered. The first half was a tough affair, dominated for large periods by St Michael's, but we managed to hold them out multiple times and clinically take the few chances on offer at the other end. We managed to get more of a foothold in the right areas and played some wonderful attacking rugby in the second half, final score line 34-17.

## Sailing

Congratulations to Conor Gorman and Hugh O'Connor (3rd Year) Morgan Lyttle (Captain), Charlie Cullen, Colm Hogan and Colm Roche (All 5th Year) on their 3rd place finish in the Leinster School Team racing event held in the Royal St George on Saturday 23rd March. This result qualifies the team for the All Ireland Team Racing Competition to be held in Schull, West Cork in May. We thank Mrs. Clodagh Lyttle (mother of Morgan) for her dedication and organization.



Sailing squad heading out to the water - Later with their 3rd place medals. Pictured on right, from left to right- Conor Gorman, Colm Roche, Colm Hogan, Charlie Cullen, Morgan Lyttle

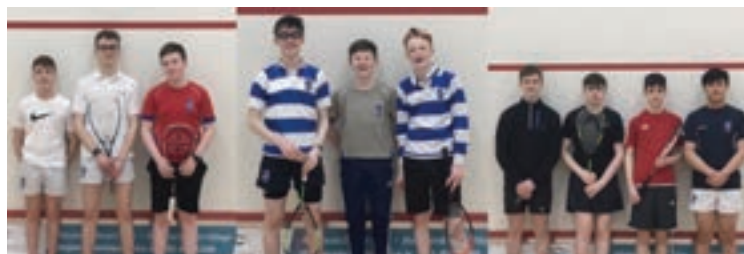


## Swimming

Well done to the Blackrock squad who were victorious in the inter-school swimming competition against Belvedere College and Clongowes Wood College. Many personal best times were swam despite having no diving blocks. The gala kicked off with a speedy swim from Adam O'Reilly (4th Year) to claim the gold in the 100m freestyle, shortly followed by Ciaran Conway (4th Year) in the 100m IM. Liam McLaughlin (4th Year) gave a phenomenal effort in the 50m freestyle, which put Blackrock in a comfortable lead, however as the competition went on, Belvedere College caught up and the scores were tied. A late entry was made in the final event by Blackrock. The race was particularly intense especially as Ronan Fahey (2nd Year) stepped up to swim against much older swimmers and put Blackrock in an early lead in the senior relay. Philip Breen (3rd Year) dived in to swim a solid 50m breast stroke. Going into the butterfly leg of the race Ben Bracken (3rd Year) put rock in second place. Finally Jamie Blackburn brought it home with a comfortable freestyle leg to finish in second. Blackrock won the event with Belvedere in second and Clongowes in third.

## Table Tennis Senior

Senior A, captained by Lorcan Patchell (5th Year) once again won the Kemp Shield for the Leinster Schools' League Division I title, for a 10th consecutive year, with a 6-0 win over Hartstown CS, completing a clean sweep of 6-0



Left: Under 15 team from left to right Oliver Lyne (2nd Year), Eugene Scallon (2nd Year), Tom Cosgrove (2nd Year)  
Middle: Under 15 team from left to right Patrick O'Donnell, Harry Casey and Finlay McKay (All 2nd Year)  
Right: Under 17 team from left to right Fred Hamilton, Ed Burke-Kennedy Eoin Whooley and Jacob Antonio (All 4th Year)  
Missing from photo: Thomas Demichel (2nd Year)  
Willow Park Students: Ken Scallon, Senan McCloskey, PJ Crotty (1st Year)

victories in the League this season. This is their 6th consecutive season of clean sweeps in the League; the season 2012-2013 was the last time Blackrock dropped points against another school in the Leinster Senior League! In the Cup Senior A are through to a 12th consecutive Cup Finals' Day, where they go in hunt of an 11th consecutive Leinster Schools' Senior Cup to complete their own Leinster double, while Junior A are also through to a 12th consecutive Finals' Day, in their case seeking a 9th consecutive title, and an 11th title in 12 years, with Junior 2A their semi-final opposition; Willow A are also through to Cup Finals' Day, seeking to retain the Leinster U13 Cup.

## Junior

Junior A, captained by Maitiú Heckmann (2nd Year), won the Mahony Cup for the Leinster Schools' League Division I title for a 9th consecutive year, with a 5-1 win over Presentation Carlow, in the process completing a 9th consecutive Leinster League Junior/Senior Division I Double. Junior 2A also finished out their league campaign, with a 6-0 win over Gonzaga, and have won Leinster Junior Division 2. Junior 2B also went unbeaten for the season and won Leinster Junior Division 4. Junior 2C lost only one match against High School, finishing in 2nd in Leinster Junior Division 5.



14 Blackrock College and Willow Park students travelled to Sutton Lawn and Tennis Club on Thursday 7th March for the Leinster School League Competitions. They competed against teams including St. Fintan's, Belvedere, Portmarnock Community School and De La Salle Churchtown.

Blackrock placed second after St. Fintan's in all groups. All students enjoyed their day of squash. Big thanks go to coaches Ronan Peyton and Eoin Ryan for organising the day.

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

## REFLECTION



In the midst of darkness, light persists.

— Mahatma Gandhi —