

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Summer 2019

Dear Parents,

Niki Lauda, the Formula One racing legend, three times world champion, passed away on 20th May last. He had an extraordinary career which almost ended tragically when his Ferrari ploughed into the side of the track and burst into flames at the German Grand Prix in August 1976.

Guy Edwards, a competitor in the race witnessed the car in flames behind him, stopped, ran back and pulled Niki from the burning car with the assistance of two other drivers who had followed his example. His actions saved Niki's life. Niki Lauda despite the severity of the burns on his head along with several fractures and serious internal injuries, severe damage to his lungs and mucous membrane from the fibreglass fumes, was back behind the wheel within eight weeks and World Champion the following year. That is a remarkable story, but who was Guy Edwards?

Guy Edwards raced in 17 Formula One Grand Prix. He was never on the podium (top 3); he never scored a point (top 6). However, he certainly made a huge impact on the sport... by stopping his car for a fellow driver.

I recount this story in the aftermath of our wonderful Prize Day, when we recognised those who have excelled in academia and the Arts, who have given great service, who have shown leadership. Over 130 boys received awards, but how many 'Guy Edwards' are there in Blackrock who never make the podium, shake the hand of the Union President or receive the acknowledgement they deserve?

I acknowledge and commend the many who make an enormous contribution to Blackrock, who make things happen, who pause to help another, whose presence in our community confirms that Blackrock is about service and love, the sharing of self, the giving of self. We have many "Guy Edwards" who have made a difference.

Small things make a difference, those which too often may be taken for granted. These "small" day-by-day contributions of the many have made our Sports and Family Day, Graduation Mass, Soccer Leagues, Music, Arts and Drama week, Gold Medal Debates, 100 Mile Cycle, Summer Concert and Camino, Green Schools and Days of Reflections significant, powerful expressions of community, connectivity and ethos. Tell your son that he makes a difference and that his everyday actions do not go unnoticed.

A Blackrock education focuses on the three elements of humanity – the **Mind**, the **Body** and the **Soul**. We recognise the importance of exercising the mind and the body but we must not forget, in our headlong daily rush, the soul. If we tend to our spirit, our soul, then all else falls into place.

As we complete another school year Blackrock is in good shape. We have a thriving school inspired by our Spiritan community, steered by our insightful Board, led by an excellent staff, encouraged by a supportive parental body, assisted by a faithful Union and of course, invigorated by our enthusiastic boys. I thank all of you.

I wish to thank, in a special way, my three colleagues – Hugon Simm, Cathal Copeland, Andrew Carroll - who retire after a combined 113 years' service to Blackrock. Each has generously shared his talents with the boys, instilled an appetite for learning, a concern for others and a curiosity about life. Each has delivered much more than the subject he has taught. We are most grateful.

Finally, enjoy the summer and thank you for sending your sons to Blackrock. We eagerly look forward to their safe return in August.

God Bless.

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) Tom Dwan, Winner of the General Excellence Award and Valedictorian Class of 2019 on Prize Day
- b) Ethan Laing (Third Year) participates in the Long Jump on Sports Day
- c) Conor Bleakley (Fourth Year) Finalist in MasterChef



Second Year



The short final term in 2nd Year has been full of activity.

It began with the **Summer Concert** and well done to all Second Years who participated in this wonderful event, notably the members of the choir, the orchestra, the jazz band and to Finn O' Hara who treated us to a wonderful solo.

The **House Competitions** concluded with the last contributory events being the Gold Medal Debate, the Tennis Ladder, the Soccer Leagues and Sports & Family Day. Duff House beat de Valera House in a closely fought **Soccer League final** with Duff maintaining a 3-2 lead to win the cup. Well done to captain Theo Claffey and his team. Equally well done to all who participated in the House Competitions throughout the year. In the final analysis, the winner of the House Competitions 2019 is Shanahan House.



Duff House V de Valera House in the Final of the Soccer League

At **Prize-giving**, Jack McGlone received the Student Leadership Award for Second Year, **Joseph Carroll** was awarded the Brother Thaddeus Judge Medal for **Religion**, the recipients of the Auxilium Medals were **Michael Colreavy** and **Cameron Holland**, while the Gold Medal for **Second Year Debating** was won by **Ben Kieran-Glennon**. Well done to each of our winners.



Second Years from Ms Pierce's History Class at the Little Museum of Dublin

The **Academic Excellence Awards** for Second Year went to Ben Kieran-Glennon, Jamie Ahern-O'Connell and Sean Treacy. **Book prizes** for individual subjects were awarded to Jamie Ahern-O'Connell, Jack Burke, David Crowley, Samuel Finnegan, James Heavy, Conor Hughes, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Liam Madden Santos, Aaron Murtagh, Jack McGlone, Liam Norton, Ciaran Patchell, Sean Treacy and Harry Whelan.



Mr. John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989) and David Crowley on Prize Day



John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989), Ms S. Nolan (Deputy Principal) and Jack McGlone on Prize Day

Six Second Year students who each demonstrated an excellent contribution to the life of the College received **Honours List Awards**: they were Oliver Coffey, Louis Dignam, David Doyle, Conor Ennis, Frazer McGinn and James O'Sullivan. Iain McLaughlin was awarded the Second Year **Honours List for the Halls of Residence**. **Special Awards** for Sports were presented by the Principal to Maitiú Heckmann, Finn O'Neill, Ronan Fahey, Eric Brandt and John Glynn at the final Assembly of the year.

After a vote amongst their peers and in consultation with staff, the following have been nominated as **House Captains for Third Year**: Conor Ennis and Eoghan Walsh for de Valera; Tom Brigg and Jack McGlone for Duff; James O'Sullivan and Mikey Yarr for Ebenrecht; Louis Dignam and Philippe Le Roux for Leman; Ethan Leon-Ryan and Jamie Rogan for McQuaid; and Oliver Coffey and David Doyle for Shanahan.



Samuel Finnegan at the Table Tennis Final in UCD



Ciaran Patchell at the Table Tennis Final in UCD

Many of these House Captains are continuing in this role and bring experience to the job. We thank the outgoing House Captains for their excellent service and wish the incoming captains well in their forthcoming responsibilities.

The final term saw an impressive array of **extra-curricular achievements**. In **Table Tennis**, congratulations to our two Second Year captains, **Maitiú Heckmann** and **Ben Kieran-Glennon** on another successful season. In Tennis, the Junior I Tennis Team, which included **John Glynn**, won the Leinster Junior trophy again this year. The Junior II Tennis Team, comprising **Mathew Dowley, James Sheridan, Theo Claffey & Joey Kennedy**, brought back the junior trophy to the College for the first time since 1995. A terrific achievement and well done to all involved.

Well done to the Second Years on the **Junior Cricket Team: Tom Brigg, James Sheridan, Eddie Croswaithe & Conall Hodges**. Congratulations also to **Philippe Le Roux** who played on the **Senior Cricket Team** to reach the final - a first for Blackrock since 1967!

Well done to our Second Year **Athletes** who participated in the **Leinster Championships** this month: **Jack McGlone, Eddie Crosthwaite, Eric Brandt, Iain McLaughlin, Oliver Coffey** and **Daniel Bennett**. Many personal bests were achieved, and we wish our qualifiers well in the **All-Ireland's** in June.

Well done to all our Second Years on completion of their **Auxilium Programme**. Fifty-nine boys achieved a 'Distinction' for their work. This is an outstanding number and indicates the sincerity and commitment the boys dedicated to their service. It particularly illustrates their capacity for reflection, and this must be highly commended. Congratulations boys on this great work.



Luke O' Regan and his team (Cherry Orchard Premier U14) are **All Ireland Soccer Champions** having won the SFAI National Cup in Dublin in May.



National Senior Schools' Medley and Freestyle Relay Champions: Jed O Malley, Michael Curley (1st Year), Ronan Fahey and Finn O'Neill.



Daniel Keeley, Ruairi McIntosh on Sports Day



Conn Lucey, Luke Brophy and Marc O'Aonghusa on Sports Day

So, after a busy term of sporting activity and CBAs, Auxilium Service and House Competitions, the Summer Concert and exam preparation, the Second-Year boys can enjoy a well-earned summer break, preparing themselves for Third Year and the Junior Certificate.



Theo Byrnes working at the Columban Centre, Store Street in Dublin, as part of his Auxilium Programme.



Mr O' Sullivan's Second Year Latin class at the UCD Classics' Day

L to R Edward Spain (who achieved a runner-up prize), Daniel Kelly, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Alec Linklater, Aaron Murtagh, Jamie Ahern-O'Connell, Joseph Gibney, Sam O'Donovan & Conor Ennis.

Third Year



It is a credit to the year group that they have maintained a sense of calm, focus and good humour as we come to the end of term. With exams looming large on the horizon, the summer sports programme has proven to be a welcome distraction from schoolwork. Although the warm weather can sometimes distract from study it has been great to see the students making the most of it through sport.



James Carroll competing in the Sack Race on Sports Day

There was a great turn out for Sports and Family day on Sunday 12th May. All in attendance were treated to some incredible athletic displays including the intermediate 100m championship race, run by the narrowest of margins and the ultra-competitive 4x100m relay. A big thank you to the 3rd Year house captains: Conor Reidy, Eoin Dunne, Colm Fagan, Federico Mei, James Boland, Ryan Holmes, Charlie O' Brien, Will Fitzgerald, Patrick Van Zuydam, Andrew McCarthy, Joe Broderick and Michael White. They did brilliantly to get so many involved and have been fantastic to work with all year showing great commitment and leadership.

Congratulations to Michael White who was winner of the Junior Gold Medal debate. James Carroll and George Francis also participated in the debate. The standard was very high and the motion debated was *This House believes that every individual should act in order to mitigate the dangerous effects of climate change.*

In Gaelic football commiserations to our U16s team who were narrowly defeated in the Championship Final. Blackrock had been leading by two points right up until the last minute. The team included Hugh Cooney, Charlie O' Brien, Johnnie Quirke, Cian Ryan, Patrick Van Zuydam and Sean Purcell (injury prevented him playing the final) Yet more sporting talent, this time on the seas as Conor Gorman and Hugh O' Connor capped a very successful year for sailing in the College. Conor and Hugh were part of the team representing Blackrock in the 2019 Schools' Team Racing championships which was held at the Fastnet Marine Centre, Schull in West Cork recently. The sailing club continues to go from strength to strength and no doubt is looking forward to competing in waters closer to home. Next year's competition will be held in Royal Saint George Yacht Club.



Jack Rogan receives the Dr. John T Murphy medal from his father Mr. John Rogan President PPU (Class of 1989) on Prize Day

The soccer leagues concluded with Duff, marshalled by Federico Mei taking their form from the semi-final to dispatch a

determined McQuaid side in the final. Spectators were privileged to see an absolute gem from Danny Clarke as Duff won the game 3-1. The standard of football has been impressive throughout the tournament.

The future is bright for cricket as there were six Third Years representing the senior cricket team in the Leinster Schools' Cricket Cup. Congratulations to Richard Ainsworth, Alex Cowdrey, Jack Davy, Emmett Gulliver, Jack Gunn and Patrick Morris who were all part of the team that got Rock to its first senior cricket final in 52 years. Unfortunately, they met a very strong CUS side in the final in Merrion Cricket Club, but no doubt we will be back stronger next year.



Stephen Wong, Joe Broderick, Robert Fitzgerald and Alex O' Meara with Mr E. Daly on Sports Day

Well done to our Junior 1 and Junior 2 tennis teams who were both victorious in the Junior Tennis finals held in Templeogue Tennis Club. Callum O' Brien captained our J1s which included James Brophy and Will Fitzgerald who beat Monkstown in the final. Our J2s also had 3rd Year representatives with James Harvey, Mark McCabe, Andrew McCarthy and Rory O' Shea part of the team that won against Clongowes in their final. Fantastic effort by both teams.



Sean Mc Cormack at the Table Tennis finals in UCD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the course of the year, in particular the 3rd year parents' committee chaired by Bernard Carroll. I wish the students all the best in their exams and hope they have a great summer. A new and very exciting challenge awaits in Transition Year. Judging by the character of this year group I have no doubt they will have a fantastic time and make the most of the wonderful opportunities that await them.



Michael Redmond competing in the Long Jump on Sports Day

Transition Year



Though this summer term has been shorter than normal at five weeks, Transition Years have managed to pack a lot into it; especially considering there was a week of work experience added into it as well! As well as what you will read below we have had a First Aid Course, another Conversational French evening course and the Parents' Coffee morning on 3rd May hosted by the expertly trained TY Baristas!



TY Baristas host the Coffee Morning

Dragons' Den

Having been launched in early March, all of Transition Year attended a workshop on Idea Generation with some of the Dragons and subsequent multiple additional mentoring sessions as they developed their Dragons' Den Business Plans for submission in early May. There was fantastic interest in the competition with some excellent business plans submitted however a shortlist of six finalists was drawn up by the Business Department in conjunction with the Dragons. The six finalists were: LBM Fitness (Oscar Bourke Mullaney and Sam Loscher), LocalHelp (Conor Slattery), Racket Stringing (Stephen O'Nuallain), Sharemyhome.ie (Robert Harvey) and Tap Tabs (Robbie Gallagher). On Tuesday 28th May the entrepreneurs of TY had start up

projects and businesses scrutinized by Blackrock College's dragons led by Mr. Paul McGowan in the final of the competition. The finalists presented superbly in front of both the Dragons present and the entire of Transition Year. Congratulations to all the finalists and in an extremely tough choice, the Dragons eventually went for LBM Fitness as the winners of Dragons Den 2019. Congratulations to Oscar and Sam. My thanks to Mr. Paul McGowan Chairperson of the Dragons' Den initiative and Mr. Fitzsimons for their fantastic work on behalf of the boys.



Sam Loscher and Oscar Bourke Mullaney winners of Dragons' Den 2019

Transition Year Lecture Series

We had three more talks in the final term that received very positive feedback from the boys. Marian Brennan from Aware was in on April 30th to deliver their 'Beat the Blues' workshop to the boys. A hugely important and valuable workshop focusing on how to manage those everyday stressors along with knowing how and where to seek help if needed. Nigel McKelvey, Lecturer in Letterkenny IT was in on 7th May speaking to the boys about Digital Citizenship and their digital footprint. Lastly on 15th May John O'Shea gave a hugely inspiring talk on Social Entrepreneurship and spoke with

Transition Year



incredible passion about his work, past and present, and the capacity of each of the boys to make a positive difference to those in need. Hopefully the boys have discovered this over the course of the various projects they have been involved in in Transition Year and that John's words will galvanize them going forward into 5th Year and beyond. Thank you to the parents' committee for their assistance with arranging the Lecture Series.

Coding Module

This year marked the completion of the first year of the Coding Module in Transition Year. It was very well received by the students with activities ranging from doing a blog, taking apart and rebuilding an old PLC to app development. John Kennedy, one of our TY students wrote "I would like to thank Mr O'Connell, Aine Ni Neachtain and Julie Power for taking the time to organise the classes, giving us this brilliant opportunity and teaching us so much about computers. I am interested in the IT industry and would like to pursue something like computer science later on in life, and it's great to see that coding is being implemented into the school."

Camino de Santiago de Compostela

On Saturday the 4th of May 25 TYs departed for Northern Spain on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The group was accompanied by me, Ms. Nolan, Mr. O'Reilly and again was very fortunate to have Fr. Marc Whelan as the group's Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims before them, the group took the Camino Francés starting in Triacastela and covered 144km before arriving in Santiago. Congratulations to Fr. Marc who completed the entire Camino starting more than 800km back in France. I'm sure Fr. Marc would say the highlight was the week with the 25 lads! The students were absolutely superb throughout; extremely cooperative, positive and great company along with engaging fully with the spiritual aspects of the trip. A wonderful experience all round. The feedback from the students has been excellent. I thank my colleagues on the Camino Ms. Nolan, Mr. O'Reilly and Fr. Marc for their support throughout.



TYs on the Camino de Santiago Trip

M.A.D. Week

Music Art and Drama week 7th – 10th May kicked off with a hilarious magic show performed by Mr. Jack Wise. The week provided the students with the opportunity to take part in several different workshops including: Samba drumming, a dance workshop, cinema trip, a debate along with the presentation of the films made during their Drama Module to finish off the week. Not to mention the, as always, fabulous Summer Concert in the Jubilee Hall on Thursday 9th May. MAD Week is always one of the highlights of the final term in TY and it continues to be so. It would not be possible without the organization of Ms. O' Kane, Mr. Grumley Traynor, Mr. Orrock and Ms. Ryan. My thanks also to Mr. Grant who looked after everything in my absence on Camino.

MasterChef

MasterChef heats took place on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May in the first week back after the Easter break. Serious practice must have been happening during the break because the standard was fantastic. Ms. Marren was very complimentary. There was a fantastic variety of dishes there to sample and I personally moved seamlessly between the Calamari, Cheesecake, Curry, Steak, Spaghetti and other dishes (in that order). 8 finalists qualified from a field of more than 30.



Matthew Gibney and Sam Horkan
(Finalists in MasterChef)

Michelin Star Chef Mr. Derry Clarke, Ms. Marren and Mr. David Murphy had quite a task in front of them to pick a winner on Monday May 27th in the final. Congratulations to all

finalists: Shane Redehan, Conor Bleakley, Matthew O'Meara, Sam Horkan, Darragh Harrison, Matthew Gibney, Oscar Bourke Mullaney and Ethan Slater. Having managed to create space in the day to sample all of the courses I can say firsthand that the quality of the food produced was phenomenal. Congratulations to the winner Shane Redehan and all finalists on a fantastic MasterChef 2019. Particular thanks to Ms. Marren for all the work and organization.



Ethan Slater
(Finalist in MasterChef)

Extra-Curricular

The variety of talent in the year group never ceases to amaze me and their achievements in the final term certainly didn't disappoint. The House Soccer League were extremely competitive – even if some of the score lines didn't suggest so! In the midst of accusations of referee bias against myself, Devalera won the final on an 11-4 scoreline versus Ebenrecht. Congratulations to Tony Rowe, Stephen O'Nuallain and Colm Kelly who were on the Junior I Tennis Leinster Championship winning side recently. Well done to Barry Whelan and the Senior Table Tennis Team who won their 11th Leinster Senior Cup in a row earlier in May. Congratulations also to Jamie McMahon who was part of the Blackrock College sailing team that finished as the top performing Leinster school in the 2019 Irish Schools' Team Racing Championship in Schull, Cork over the weekend of May 4th/5th and who himself became the European U-21 Laser Champion in Portugal during the week 18th – 25th May. Rory McGuire over the Easter break got two caps for the Irish U-18 Clubs and Schools Team – a superb achievement. Sam Loscher earlier in the term did excellently in the East-Leinsters coming 3rd in the Intermediate Shot Putt and 1st in discus. Finally, most recently, Michael Lucey competed in Feis Maitiú, a national Drama and Performance Arts Festival which attracts competitors from across the country. Congratulations to Michael on achieving 1st in the Lily Kavanagh Perpetual Cup for Comedy.



Fourth Years on Sports Day

Days of Reflection

On Tuesday and Thursday 14th and 16th of May TY students had the opportunity for reflection and meditation at the end of a very busy and intense year. The venue was the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. The opportunity to look back on Transition Year is such an important one given the transformative and challenging nature of the programme and this was broadly welcomed by the students and the feedback was very positive. My thanks to Mr. Madden for his organization of the retreats.

Conclusion

I would like to thank my colleagues in Transition Year: Brian Grant, Brian Savage and Garry Sullivan and Flor Madden, Director of Pastoral Care; who have worked tirelessly to run a very busy TY programme. I am also very grateful for all the work of the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Helen Durand. Their support and engagement with the TY programme have been incredible throughout. In particular the drive they put behind the raffle at the TY Parents' Social which raised €6,100 in aid of Solèy Haiti, the charity which I have been lucky enough to co-found in 2018 was far beyond the call of duty. I thank the students for all the energy, commitment and good humour they brought to all the Transition Year projects over the course of the year. I wish all the students the very best going into 5th Year and beyond.

Have a great summer!

Fifth Year



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

The 5th Year class of 2018-2019 has had a very successful year, due in no small part to their good nature, caring spirit and endeavour to 'be there'. They have made great steps in their journey to becoming Men. There is a wealth of enthusiasm and talent in

the year group and they have maintained the highest standard of conduct throughout the year. We wish them a happy and safe summer and every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.

Summer Concert

The final event on this year's musical calendar was the Summer Concert. Fifth Year was well represented, with performances from the Choir, Orchestra, Boarders' Choir and a solo from Michael Cagney who sang "Always Remember Us this Way" by Lady

Gaga. The concert was a thoroughly entertaining evening and we congratulate all involved.

Economics and Commerce Society

Seven Fifth Year students - Josh Baker, David Cosgrave, Mark Kenny, Conor Murphy Rogers, Tom O'Connor, Patrick O'Rafferty and Hugo O'Reilly - went on The Commerce and Economics Society's annual trip to London in April, led by Mr. Morris and Mr. Smyth. The group started in Dublin airport at 4 am and headed straight to Lloyds Insurance upon arrival. The next port-of-call was Google where the group spoke with employees about career prospects, technology and Brexit. The day concluded with a presentation by Peter O'Connell of O'Connell Resourcing who relayed valuable advice on job preparation. An early appointment in Morgan Stanley was at the top of the itinerary on the second day. Valuable insights were gained into the world of banking and finance, and the presentation finished up with a networking session with Morgan Stanley employees. The trip gave the students a great insight into working life in London. Many thanks to Mr. Morris and Mr. Smyth for their work in making the trip a great success.



Mr. John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989) and Luke Reynolds winner of the Book Prize for Business



Mr. John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989), Tom O'Connor, winner of the Archbishop Charles Heery Medal, and Ms Sinéad Nolan (Deputy Principal) on Prize Day



Peter O'Connell (O'Connell Resourcing UK) and Mark Kenny (5th Year)

East-Leinster (Athletics)

Well done to the senior 4x100m relay team on coming 1st with Jeff Kenny and Michael Lowey (5th Year) Andrew Hendrickx and William Spain (6th Year). Jeff Kenny also did well to get a bronze medal in a strong senior 200m race and Adam Harvey won gold in the 800m. Michael Lowey, Harry Cullen, Rory Ahern and Hugo O'Malley managed to qualify for Leinster in the field events.

Leinster (Athletics)

Congratulations to the senior relay team on finishing 3rd in the Leinster schools' 4x100m. Unfortunately, they were unable to qualify for the All Ireland's. In the throwing Harry Cullen and Rory Ahern finished 6th and 7th in discus and Hugo O'Malley gave his all in the hammer, but just came short for an all-Ireland qualification. Commiserations to the 4x400m who failed to qualify for the All Irelands. We would like to acknowledge the work put in by the boys involved, Peter Murphy, Andrew Hendrickx, Ben White (6th Year) and Jeff Kenny (5th Year).



Michael Lowey in full stride in the relay at the East Leinster's

Sports and Family Day

Sports Day is a significant event in the College calendar and it certainly didn't disappoint with a great 5th Year turnout. Congratulations to Shanahan for topping the 5th Year House points and to Michael Lowey for winning the championship race in a tightly contested contest with Jeff Kenny. We'd like to thank Mr. Barry and Mr. Creighton and all staff involved in making this a great occasion.

Career Guidance - Centigrade Testing

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

Football - House Leagues

This year's House Soccer Leagues were extremely well-contested with all 6 houses putting in a great effort in each game. It was Ebenrecht who came out on top in a very exciting final against Duff. Congratulations to Charlie O'Carroll and David Ryan as House Captains and to Man of The Match, Ben McCarthy. A massive thank you to all House members, House Captains and staff for helping the tournament run smoothly.

Cricket

Congratulations to the following 5th Years who took part in Blackrock's senior cricket campaign; Gavin Hoey, Cillian McDonnell, Aidan Quigley and David Cosgrave. Blackrock came 2nd in the group and won two very tough quarter and semi-finals. It was the first time Blackrock played in the final since 1967. After a hard fought battle, the team unfortunately lost to a very strong CUS side. Congratulations to Gavin Hoey and Cillian McDonnell who have been selected to play for a Southern Ireland Schools side in the coming weeks.



Fifth Years soaking up the atmosphere at Sports and Family Day

Rugby

Well done to Hugo O'Malley, Mark Morrissey and Matthew Cullen. Hugo was selected for the Ireland 18s clubs and schools and Leinster U19s squads. Mark Morrissey was selected for the Leinster U18s and Matthew was selected for the Leinster U19s.

Rowing

We congratulate MJ Power on finishing second at the Trinity Regatta in the J18 sculling race. On the same day MJ also placed third in the J18 quad race.

Sailing

We congratulate the Fifth-Year sailors who finished 4th in the All Ireland Schools' Team Racing Championships. Members on the team were Morgan Lyttle, Charles Cullen and Colm Hogan.



Morgan Lyttle and Colm Hogan looking composed and relaxed on the water

Golf

Congratulations to the three Fifth Year members of the 2019 Senior Golf team Ronan Cowhey (C), Robert Galligan and Rory Reid on winning the Leinster Senior Schools' Championship and their runners up finish at the All Ireland Schools' Finals, held in Portstewart Golf Club.

Debating

Four 5th Years took part in the Annual Gold Medal Debate on Monday, the 13th of May. Oliver Bosworth and Tom O'Connor spoke in favour of the motion; 'This House believes that the present generation has been overly indulged by excessive parenting'. John Huggard and Tom Dooley spoke on the other team. After a lengthy deliberation, the two adjudicators - Mr. Sheil and Ms. Pearse - awarded John Huggard the 5th Year Debating Gold Medal for his passionate, well-informed and anecdotal speech.



Fifth Years on Sports Day

Wellbeing



For your wellbeing this summer can we respectfully suggest less of



And more of



Whatever you're up to in the coming weeks and months, we hope that you will find time for yourself and your loved ones, to relax and reflect, and return to school reinvigorated, re-energised, and ready to take on the challenges of the academic year 2019-2020 .



The Arts



Music & Drama

It is hard to believe that summer has arrived so soon! The last term flew by, however we still managed to fit in lots of events; the Easter Services, MAD Week, the Summer Concert, Sport & Family Day, the Sixth Year Graduation Mass, the Academic Prizegiving and the First Year End of Year Mass.

The Union Retreat took place on Holy Thursday and Good Friday and we would like to thank the members of the Adult Choir and Past Pupils who took part in these liturgies and sang. We finished up with the Easter Vigil which is always very atmospheric as the chanting and singing begins at the Paschal flame in the Quad before processing to the Chapel.



Sixth Years singing 'Bridge over Troubled Water' at the Graduation Mass

Straight after the Easter break, we hit the ground running with Music, Art and Drama Week (MAD) for Transition Years. This included workshops in Magic, Dance and Samba Drumming and all boys were given the opportunity to try some 'MAD' activities that they may not have dared venture into before. On the Thursday of this week was the Summer Concert. This was a joyous and energetic occasion with a very varied programme ranging from 90's dance music from the Orchestra to 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' sung by the Libermann Choir. We now have established a tradition over the past number of years where the First-Year singers and band join us for this concert for their first experience of taking part in the College music and they all rose to the challenge. A special mention must go to Sean Hannon in Sixth Year who set up all the sound equipment for this and has done so for so many productions over the past few years. Well done to all our fabulous performers and in particular to our MC, Mark Kenny (Fifth Year), who did an excellent job.

The Sixth Year Graduation Mass was a great send off to the Class of 2019 and what a tremendous occasion to mark their time in the College. We were in full voice as the Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble lead the congregation in the many hymns and responses. We will miss you and hope to see you again as part of the Past Pupils' Choir.

The last main College event was the Academic Prizegiving. We are privileged that it is so hard to select prize-winners as there are so many talented and giving musicians in the College. A special mention must go to our Sixth-Year medal winners: Harry Keyes (who also sang the National Anthem at Sport & Family Day), Tom Dwan, Oisín Reid and Sean Hannon. The next day, the First Year End of Year Mass took place in Willow Park Senior School and this was really uplifting and enjoyable. We look forward to welcoming you all into Blackrock next year and urge you to take part in the many Music and Drama events there are on offer. Finally, break a leg to all students sitting Junior and Leaving Certificate exams!



Sean Hannon (6th Year) winner of the Father Cormac O'Brolcháin medal with Mr John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989) on Prize Day

Senior Debating

The focus of the summer term was the highly competitive Gold Medal finals. The Fifth and Transition Years contested a most entertaining debate on the topic of indulgent excessive parenting. The Gold Medal in Transition was awarded to Eoin Whooley, while John Huggard was deemed the best speaker in Fifth Year.

The Sixth Year Gold Medal debate is one of the highlights of the school year as it brings together the year group for one of the last times. This year eight brave speakers entered the highly charged Lecture Hall to debate the motion "This house has every confidence that the class of 2019 will change society for the better." It was a very entertaining debate and demonstrated that this year's group has highly effective and confident public speakers. Tom Dwan was awarded the Gold Medal. The adjudicators felt that he has the qualities demanded for a valedictorian.

The Arts Cont'd



Thank you to all those who participated in debating this year. I would particularly like to single out Dylan Hutchinson who as Secretary of Senior Debating was responsible for the smooth running of the year's programme. Thank you Dylan.

Junior Debating

There were three superb events in Junior Debating this term.

A MACE in Loreto on The Green attended by Jamie Starr Bourke, Alec Linklater and Jack Salley Dempsey (2nd Year students).

Blackrock College hosted a 1st / 2nd / 3rd Year Debate on Friday 10th May. Daniel Keeley (2nd Year) was the overall best speaker on the day.

The Junior Gold Medal Debate was held on Monday May 13th with this year's motion being:

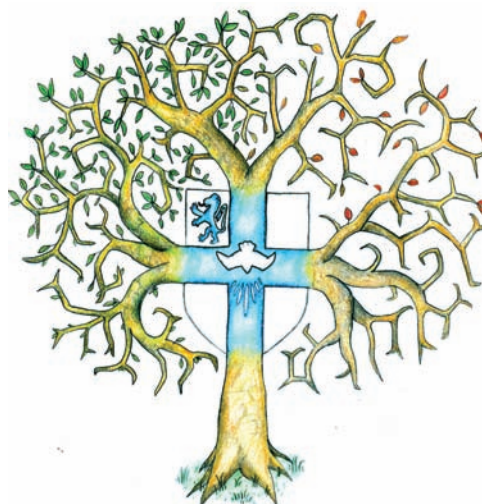
This House Believes That every individual should act in order to mitigate the dangerous effects of climate change.

Ben Kieran Glennon (2nd Year) and Michael White (3rd Year) are the 2019 Junior Gold Medal Finalists.

We look forward to another challenging year in the art of debating in 2019-2020.



Fergus Woods (Sixth Year) Art Club



Cameron Carton (Sixth Year)



Ben Kierran - Glennon
(Second Year)



Michael White (Third Year)



ART CLUB RESTARTS
FOURTH OF SEPTEMBER
ALL WELCOME



Giorgio Lunazzi
(Third Year) Printmaking



William Flannery (Sixth Year) Still Life



Joe Byron (Sixth Year) illustration

Snapshot of Final Term 2018/19



Second Years from Ms Pierce's History Class on The Viking Splash Tour



Michael Callaghan (Sixth Year) in the Stanley Cup Final



Killian McQuaid (Sixth Year) winner of the Student Leadership Award on Prize Day



J.J. Garth (Sixth Year)
Senior Cricket Team V CUS



Congratulations to Jack McGlone (2nd Year) on winning Gold in the Junior 800m at the All-Ireland Athletics Championships in Tullamore on Saturday, 1st June. In an outstanding run, he won in a new personal best time of 2.03.47.



Mathieu Demichel (Fifth Year) on Sports Day



Cillian Mc Donnell and Gavin Hoey (Fifth Year) SCT Cricket Team V CUS



JMasterChef Finalists: Matthew Gibney, Darragh Harrison, Matthew O'Meara, Sam Horkan, David Murphy, Shane Redehan (Winner), Derry Clarke, Conor Bleakley, Ethan Slater, Oscar Bourke Mullaney.



The Choir and Orchestra at the 6th Year Graduation Mass



The Staff Choir at the Summer Concert

Snapshot of Final Term 2018/19



Sixth Years on Graduation Day



Gary Ringrose (Class of 2013) (Past Pupil Sports Personality of 2019), with his family and Mr. John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989)



James Gray and Conor Bleakley with Ronan McGowan and Sam Bruton (TY) on Sports Day



James Carroll, Sam Greene, Federico Mei, Liam Maloney and Matthew Berwick (Third Year) on Sports Day



Jack Holohan and Hugo Lavin (Second Years) Table Tennis finals in UCD



Robbie Gallagher (Finalist in TY Dragons' Den)



Conor Hughes (Fifth Year) at the Table Tennis National Finals in the National Arena



TY students on the Camino de Santiago



Second Years enjoying the Sack Race on Sports Day

Archive Update



Archive Update – Limited time giveaway on College Annuals and Paraclete Press books

The archive continues its mission in collecting and managing the records of the College history in order to make them accessible to researchers and the public. As part of our improvements, we have been making space for new items and research areas.

We have decided to reach out to past pupils and the wider 'Rock family to see if we can help each other to create a better and more accessible archive space, while celebrating the rich history of the College.

We have a selection of books and College Annuals that we would love to find good homes for – these are available for free on a first come first served basis for a limited time.

Some works are those written by Fr. Séan Farragher CSSp, such as the two excellent college histories *The French College Blackrock 1860-1895*, and *Blackrock College 1860-1995*. Fr. Farragher also wrote two fascinating books about famous Blackrock College figures and their involvement in the school: *Dev and His Alma Mater: Eamon de Valera's Lifelong Association with Blackrock College*, and *Pere Leman: Educator & Missionary 1826-1880*.

His other writings on Spiritan and missionary topics are also well worth reading, such as *Edward Barron 1801-1854: Unsung Hero of the Mission to Africa*, and *Spiritan People and Places*.



We also have some copies of the *Holy Ghost Hymnal Accompaniments* (for organ), edited by Fr. Joseph Corless CSSp, printed in the College in 1954.



Apart from the above titles, we have a selection of College Annuals from certain years with spare copies. The years on offer are 1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 and 2006.

There is a selection of other years with a small number of extra books, please feel free to get in touch if you are interested in a specific year not listed here.



Do you have a particular Leman Festival Concert, Prize Day, Musical or Sports Day flier that you would love to have a copy of? We also have a small number of extras from a variety of years – please get in touch for specific details.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact blackrockcollege.com. Please note that this is first come first served and for a limited time, so please contact ASAP.



Snapshot of Leaving Certificate Soccer Final



Leman House Team (Winners of the Sixth Year Soccer Final)



Shanahan House Runners-up



Mark Murphy and Ross O'Reilly



Mike Hayes, Harry Redmond, Ben Horkan and Charlie Reilly



Matthew Farrell



Michael Callaghan and Donal McKeon

Sixth Year



While short, the final term has been a busy and memorable one for the students of the Class of 2019. The journey through the halls of Blackrock College is concluding and what a journey it has been!

Over the Easter break, several notable sporting achievements occurred within the Class of 2019. We congratulate Sean O'Brien (U19) and Joseph McCarthy (U18) who were selected on Irish Rugby Panels and Max Connolly who was named Irish U21 Water Polo player of the year. While Cathal French's 50ft winning putt on the final green of his semi-final match qualified the senior Golf team for the All-Ireland Schools' Final in Portstewart GC over the Easter weekend. Unfortunately they lost out to an excellent RBAI team in the final.

On the academic front, 6th Year students completed their practical examinations in Construction Studies and Art, undertook the external investigation in Agricultural Science and submitted their Leaving Certificate projects in History, Geography and Religious Education.

On Tuesday 7th May, there was a very large attendance at the final Parents' Conference for the Class of 2019. The evening discussed both arrangements for the end of the academic year and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations in June. Ms. Crimmins, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all present in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

The range and depth of musical talent within the Class of 2019 was witnessed for a final time by the College community in the Summer Concert on Thursday 9th May. Individual performers included Tim D'Arcy, Tadhg Egan, Ben Rigney, Thomas McCormack, Gavin Jones, Harry Keyes, Tom Dwan and Oisín Reid. Many thanks also to the 6th Year members of the Choir and Orchestra for their service throughout this year and their time in Blackrock. The sustained applause, acknowledging what this group of young men has contributed to the Arts in Blackrock, was most fitting.

On Sunday May 12th, there was a very large turnout of 6th Year students and parents for the annual Sports and Family Day. Thankfully there was sunshine on the day and keen competition between the six houses was enjoyed by all. Andy Lyons received the Sports Personality of the Year Award and victory in the House event went to McQuaid House captained by Diarmuid Foley and Peter Murphy. In other inter-House events this term, Liam Fitter (DeValera) was crowned Class of 2019 Pool Champion and Leman House, captained by Chris Rolland, was victorious in the 6th Year Soccer League, defeating Shanahan 3-2 after extra time in a most entertaining final. This victory confirmed Leman House, under the captaincy of Donal McKeon & Ross O'Reilly, as overall winners in 6th Year for 2018/2019. Congratulations to all.

After three qualifying events, the Gold Medal Debate on Tuesday May 14th was a lively affair and the motion that *'This House has every confidence that the Class of 2019 will change society for the better'* was keenly contested by eight speakers. Victory went to Tom Dwan who thus became the Valedictorian for the Class of 2019. Many thanks to Mr. Sheil for his organisation of this important 6th Year event, to our Chair Mr Toolan and to our panel of adjudicators Ms Kelleher, Ms. Pierce and Stephen Ryan (Class of 2018).

Other extracurricular events of note this term included the Paul Stanley soccer final on May 13th that saw an all 6th Year final with an impressive second half showing ensuring victory for the Castle dayboys, captained by Scott Cullinane, over the Castle boarders. Peter Murphy (2nd 400m), Cathal Ryan (1st Javelin), William Spain & Andrew Hendrickx (1st 4 x 100m relay) and Peter Murphy &



Max Connolly – U21 Irish Water Polo player



Stanley Cup Winners- Castle Dayboys



6th Year Soccer Final (Leman House)

Ben White (1st 4 x 400m relay) enjoyed success at the East Leinster Athletic Championships, while in cricket, JJ Garth, Conor Austin and Sean Lardner all contributed as our other 'SCT' (Senior Cricket Team!) reached the Leinster Schools' Senior Cricket Cup final for the first time since 1967! Unfortunately, CUS proved to be too strong in the final.



Class of 2019 Participants in this year's Willow Wheelers 100 mile cycle.

Away from the sports fields, we congratulate Adam O'Sullivan and Drummond McGinn on their leadership in ensuring that Blackrock College earned its fifth Environmental Green Flag for Global Citizenship – Marine Environment as a result of the 'say NO to single use plastic' campaign that they spearheaded in the College. On Sunday 5th May, ten members of the Class of 2019 joined the Willow Wheelers on the final leg on the annual 100-mile cycle. We congratulate, Cian Dunne, Sean Hannon, Cian Healy, Fergal McCluskey, Ben W Brown, Mackenzie Moore, Sean Carney, Lochlann Gallagher, David Fitzsimons and Niall Meagher on their participation in every 100 mile during their Blackrock College years.

The Graduation Mass for the Class of 2019 was celebrated on Sunday May 19th, the 5th Sunday of Easter. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain was the main celebrant and having established 'WWW' as the theme of his homily, Fr. Cormac assured all the boys present that they would always be welcome in Blackrock College. It was a moving and emotional occasion for all, and it is important to extend a particular thanks to Mr Flor Madden and all the RE/Pastoral team who helped prepare this wonderful liturgy. Celebrations in the Quadrangle followed and many thanks to the 5th Year Parents' Committee for the reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall. Later, a Graduation Lunch organised by the 6th Year Parents' Committee and co-ordinated by Sharin Fitter was enjoyed by all in Leopardstown. It was a wonderful evening and a fitting way to end a memorable day and to celebrate a memorable year.



Robert Kelly reads at the Graduation Mass



Sports Personality of the Year - Andy Lyons on Sports Day



Charlie Reilly and Matthew Farrell – Stanley Cup Final



Mr. John Rogan, President of the PPU (Class of 1989) and Ethan Murry winner of the Book Prize for Construction Studies on Prize Day



Mr. John Rogan, President of the PPU (Class of 1989) and Scott Henderson who received the Lynn medal on Prize Day

Sixth Year Cont'd



Our annual Prize Day was celebrated on Saturday May 25th. Congratulations to all Sixth Year prize-winners and their families but we mention Tom Dwan, in particular, winner of the General Excellence Award, Robert Kelly who was the top Academic based on Christmas and Easter in house examinations and Killian McQuaid, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2019.



Finally, a particular thank you to Kay Treacy (Chair), Una Langford (Secretary) and all the 6th Year Parents' Committee who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of 2019, to bring events such as the Graduation Lunch, the end of year DVD, the

Mr. John Rogan President of the PPU (Class of 1989) and Stephen Dunne, winner of the Cardinal John D'Alton Medal on Prize Day.

Immersion Project in Kenya and the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle to fruition this year. We also congratulate Sandra Kealy and her team who ran such a successful cake sale in March in aid of the Spiritan School in Machakos and we send our very best wishes to Frank D'Arcy and his team as they make final preparations for this summer's outreach to Kenya.

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

Green Schools



Blackrock College Green Schools at DCU Global Citizenship Marine Flag for Blackrock

Say No to Single-Use Plastic



Mr C. Copeland, Tom O'Connor (5th Yr.), Robert McNabb (3rd Yr.) and Adam O'Sullivan (6th Yr.) at An Taisce Green Flag Ceremony



Adam, Tom and Robert receiving the Marine Flag on behalf of Blackrock College



Blackrock College Green Schools at DCU

Rock-Ed



Rock-Ed, a Blackrock College version of Ted Talks, will take place on October 10th, 2019. Rock-Ed will be a live 90-minute event with 5 student speakers and 5 guest speakers.

In preparation for this, a series of communication workshops and practice events were held this year which were open to all students but particularly to those who are interested in auditioning for a slot. Auditions will be held in September

Tickets for Rock-Ed will go on sale in September. Don't miss out on a great night!



Guidance and Counselling



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

CAO Advice

The CAO re-opened its change of mind facility on the 6th of May and this will remain open until the 1st of July. Students are strongly advised to have their final choices selected before the Leaving Certificate however, as

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

PLC COURSES

PLCs are an alternative route entry that allow students to progress onto degree level after either 1 year or 2 years of study. It is a popular option for students as both a back-up course and also as an option for those struggling to get the points for their dream course. PLC courses are not on the CAO and

should be applied to through the individual college websites now. It is important to be aware that places in level 7/8 courses have limited availability for students coming from PLC courses.

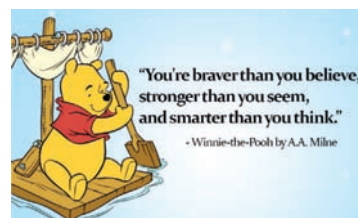
Several students have also applied for courses outside of Ireland. In the last month some of our Sixth Years have been given conditional and unconditional offer in the UK. Students have also applied to Italy, the Netherlands and the United States.

5th Years have been busy accumulating various information to help with their college selection. The entire year group sat Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT). This test is important for discovering the cognitive abilities of the boys.

CAT along with Eirquest are a guide and a great way to initiate conversation on possible career paths. They are a good starting point to researching courses and we encourage you to be open to the array of career areas your CAT results may suggest.

The Subject Choice Conference for parents which took place in the College Lecture Hall on May 8th was very well attended. Mr. M. Dunne, Ms. N. Drew, Mr. A. MacGinty and Mr. O. Brennan all addressed the parents of 3rd Year. Students are reminded that subjects should be selected on interest, strengths and openness to 3rd level opportunities.

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



Development Office Update



New bursary programme, Access Blackrock, to launch in September

In September 2019 the first intake of boys on the Access Blackrock bursary programme will enter First Year in Willow Park. This marks the commencement of a partnership with three local DEIS schools that will see up to three boys selected from those schools join the Access Blackrock programme from First Year through to Sixth Year. On graduation from Blackrock College the boys will join a mentor programme, operated by the Blackrock College Union, for their Third Level undergraduate years and on through their formative years in industry and employment.

This is an exciting project for all in Blackrock College. We are committed to ensuring that this social diversity initiative delivers a positive impact on the recipient boys, their families and their communities as well as their classmates in the College.

In order to fund this project, we are appealing to the corporate sector, through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding, to enable us to deliver the opportunities to the boys who enter the programme. The Development Office, along with the Patron of Access Blackrock, Lochlann Quinn (Class of 1959), is driving the fundraising campaign.

If your business/employer would like more details about how to support the programme please contact Johnny O'Shea, Head of Development, on (01) 275 2134 or at joshea@blackrockcollege.com

Phase 5 of Development Programme in full swing

The start of this calendar year heralded the introduction of the new all-weather, floodlit playing pitch on the site of the House pitch. Many of the boys have had the chance to play and train on the pitch and the initial feedback from the boys has been excellent.

The installation of the pitch also marks the commencement of **Phase 5 of the Campus Development Programme**, building on the enormous success of previous capital projects which has seen developments enhance the campus and modernise the environment for all pupils. Work continues on the extension to the Willow Park First Year building, with completion due in the coming months.

Subject to funding and planning permission, we will then move to the significant challenges of remodelling the upper block of playing pitches, implementing a new campus-wide traffic management plan and installing new changing facilities.

The generosity shown by parents going back to 2006, when Phase 1 of the Campus Development Programme was launched, enabled us to deliver the necessary changes and additions to our campus. We once again call on the current population of parents to assist us in supporting this programme of activity, a programme that we believe will provide lasting benefits to our current and future pupils.

Please contact the Development Office or visit www.blackrockcollege.com/development/make-donation to find out more.

Pastoral Care Programme



Matthew 25 – Be Caring

This term saw the last of eight groups go on Pastoral Placement and the feedback from each of the centres was uplifting. Each student wrote a reflective journal during and after their placement and the experience and benefit to the boys can best be summarised by a reflection written by one TY Student ... "I was very thankful to have the opportunity to complete my Pastoral Placement. I learned that I enjoy working with children and enjoy helping them to learn new skills. It also taught me to take some time out, sometimes to reflect on my life and how lucky I am. In terms of my faith, I was happy with the fact that I was able to follow in the footsteps of Claude Poullart des Places and Francis Libermann." Central to Matthew 25 is **Be Caring**.

Transition Year Retreats – Be Truthful

During the year, many Transition Year Students took part in the Gaisce Award Programme and undertook an overnight Retreat as part of that. Other Transition Year Students who took part in the Camino, used their weeklong experience as their Retreat. The remaining students in TY travelled to the Dominican Retreat House in Tallaght in two groups for their Day of Reflection where the retreat team focused on the nature of challenges that the Senior Cycle years may hold for these boys. The central theme with the Dominican Retreat Team was encouraging the students to **Be Truthful** to oneself.

Camino – Be There

The number of applicants from TY to take part in the 2019 Camino was the largest yet. Following an extensive selection process, a group of 25 students was selected earlier in the year and several practice walks were planned and completed. An Information Evening and Prayer Service for the pilgrims and their parents was held in the College. Fr Marc Whelan was Spiritual Director to the group and the students were accompanied by Mr O'Neill [TY Dean], Ms Nolan [Deputy Principal] and Mr O'Reilly [RE Dept. Head]. Fr Marc had walked the first 700 Kms on his own and was delighted to guide and support the Blackrock Group for the final



Father Marc Whelan with TY boys on the Camino

week. The group bonded very well, supporting and encouraging each other during sometimes wet weather ... to **Be There** for each other and themselves.



6th Year Graduation –
Be Grateful

The Class of 2019 graduated on Sunday 19th May. One of the Liturgical highlights in the school year, the Class of 2019 were hugely generous with their preparations and participation in the Liturgy with in excess of 130 students participating in the various Ministries. The celebration is a three-part celebration. Firstly, and most importantly, the Celebration of Mass, secondly in the College Quadrangle and the College Dining Hall and thirdly for luncheon in Leopardstown. The gifts and talents of the Spiritan Congregation, the Religious Education & Chaplaincy and Pastoral Departments within the staff, the 5th and 6th Year Parents' Associations and the Class of 2019 were all evident – the entire spectrum of the Blackrock Community coming together to celebrate. We wish the Class of 2019 every blessing for their examinations and for the future, remembering our Spiritual Director Fr. Cormac O'Brolchain's Homily that there will always be a Welcome in Blackrock for everyone, we have much to **Be Grateful** for...



Conall Walsh (6th Year) reading at the Graduation Mass

Join us for Morning Mass in the College Chapel any Mon - Fri at 8.15am during term.

If you have any special intention or anniversary you would like remembered, please email fmadden@blackrockcollege.com or phone 01 275 2125. All are welcome to attend this Morning Mass.

Sport



Athletics

The athletics season kicked off in earnest at the East Leinsters in Santry. This event brought great success for the College, where we brought home the senior and junior overall title. The junior boys had some standout performances with Jack McGlone taking home gold in the 100m, 800m and 4x100m relay. Eddie Crosthwaite took silver in the 100m and gold in the 200m with teammate James O'Sullivan claiming silver. Eric Brandt and Iain McGloughlin finished 1st and 2nd in the junior boys' discus, Iain also had a 2nd place finish in the hammer. The 4x100m relay ended the day with a convincing win, a team that included Jack McGlone, Eddie Crosthwaite, James O'Sullivan and Daniel Bennett.

Our intermediate boys had some promising performances with plenty more qualifiers to Leinsters. The qualifiers included Sam Loscher and Tom Brigg who took home gold and silver in the discus, respectively. Sam also took bronze in the shot putt with his final putt of the day. Tom O'Riordan (Second Year) had a good performance to place third, competing well against several Fourth Years on the day. Hugh Cooney who snatched gold in the triple jump was perhaps the biggest surprise of the championships with little preparation time after a long Rugby season, while his

teammate Ethan Laing had a strong performance to take silver in the long jump. Our senior boys showed great leadership and competitiveness over the two days and this resulted in taking home a well-deserved team title. Peter Murphy and Adam Harvey claimed qualification spots for Leinsters on the track before helping the 4x400m to gold later in the day with Luke Curtis and Ben White. The 4x100m of Jeff Kenny, Will Spain, Andrew Hendrickx and Michael Lowey put on a fine display in taking the gold in what was an extremely successful day for the relays. Michael Lowey also competed in the triple jump and took home silver. Our throwers had a positive start when Rory Ahearne and Harry Cullen took gold and silver in the boys' discus. Rory then went on to win silver in the hammer and Harry took silver in the shot putt. Hugo O'Malley and Cathal Ryan provided further points with wins in the hammer and javelin. This meant Blackrock College would be represented in an impressive 25 events at the Leinster Championships.

The College had a number of boys qualify on to All Irelands from the provincial championships. Jack McGlone won bronze in the 100m before throwing on his middle distance spikes to take gold in the 800m in what was an impressive display of tactical running. Eddie Crosthwaite took out his frustration of a 5th place in 100m when

running sub 24 seconds in the 200m for silver with a super performance. The relay team of Jack McGlone Eddie Crosthwaite, Daniel Bennett and Oliver Coffey provided further points for the College with a second place finish. The junior team will be represented in Tullamore by the field events also with a great performance from Eric Brandt to take home a silver medal in discus. It was a very tight race for the junior title, with Belvedere College just edging it despite Blackrock having more qualifiers for the All Irelands. This will make for a tense and exciting battle on June 1st in the Midlands!

Well done to all the performers on the day with many achieving personal bests and winning plenty of points for the College. A special mention also goes to our Sixth Years for their dedication throughout the season and their leadership both on and off the track. We wish Peter Murphy, Ben White, Will Spain and Andrew Hendrickx well.

Cricket Junior

The short final term was a very busy one for Patrick Morris and the junior cricket team he captained. As well as a good number of them representing Gavin Hoey's senior side, they also had their own campaign to compete in, which they did admirably. Placed in a difficult group with St Mary's, Ardgillan, Castleknock and perennial favourites CUS, it was always a tough ask to qualify for the final with only one side to progress from the group. It was made even harder when we were defeated by CUS in game one, but the 50-run defeat showed much promise for going forward, especially in the field. Some excellent bowling from Jack Davy and Captain Patrick Morris (both 3rd Year) restricted CUS to 128. The chase contained some positive moments too, especially from top scorer Cormac Morris (1st Year), but the target eventually proved too much.

A rain-affected second game with Castleknock was a lively affair with wickets tumbling all around, and although a score of 67 was way below what we would have liked to set Castleknock, disciplined bowling by Jack Davy, Alex Cowdrey, Patrick Morris (all 3rd Year) and Maccara Cosgrave (1st Year) led to an exciting 24 run victory which didn't seem possible when batting an hour or so earlier.

With the exams approaching, Ardgillan decided to pull out of the junior league, leaving us one final game to complete against St Mary's. The top position was already tied up by CUS so both sides enjoyed a high-quality game in a more relaxed atmosphere. We set a decent target of 95, with explosive batting by Jack Gunn (3rd Year) leading the way with 40 runs, and although Jack, Patrick Morris and Alex Cowdrey followed up admirably with ball in hand, ably assisted by some good fielding, St Mary's showed no little skill in expertly chasing down the 96 required to win with 10 balls remaining.

Although we didn't get the result we hoped for in the game, nor the campaign, the foundations of Blackrock cricket remain very secure down the school. Well done again to Patrick and all the boys who represented the junior team this year.

Senior

The senior cricket team had a very successful season winning two out of our three group games vs Belvedere and Ardgillan, and losing narrowly to a very strong CUS team in our first game.

In the first game vs CUS, Blackrock scored a very competitive 112 with Gavin Hoey (5th Year) and David Cosgrave (5th Year) scoring 42 and 35 respectively but lost narrowly to the reigning champions as they chased the total. Alex Cowdrey (3rd Year) was the pick of the bowlers taking 2-17. Our second fixture was against Belvedere. After posting a very good score of 171, we managed to defend the total without too much threat. Gavin Hoey scored 104 with the bat and all the bowlers contributed to the result with the ball. The last pool game saw another good win vs Ardgillan, Blackrock bowled first, bowling Ardgillan out for just 86 and chasing the total to win the game only 3 wickets down. Cillian McDonnell (5th Year) took 2-9 and David Cosgrave scored 29 runs.

Qualifying for the finals, Blackrock played Sandford Park in the quarter final. It was a

very close game which came down to the last ball, in which Patrick Morris (3rd Year) held his nerve well and bowled a dot ball to secure a win. David Cosgrave scored a brilliant 83 not out and JJ Garth (6th Year) contributed well with 36. The semi-final was against King's Hospital. Blackrock bowled King's Hospital out for 88 with Conor Austin (6th Year) only going for 6 runs off his four overs and Cillian McDonnell claiming 3-18. We chased the small total down only 4 down with Gavin Hoey scoring 40 not out and David Cosgrave 24.

Having reached the Senior Cup Final for the first time since 1967, Blackrock played a strong CUS at the picturesque Merrion Cricket Club. Blackrock bowled first restricting CUS to 157 in the 40 over final, with JJ Garth and Cillian McDonnell the pick of the bowlers. However, the pressure seemed to get to Blackrock in the second innings and we disappointingly collapsed to 52 all out. Although we had a disappointing finish, it was a very good season for the school and we thank Mr. Pickering, our coach, for all of his help throughout the year.

Golf

The senior golf team had mixed success in their All-Irelands finals. The team set off on their way to Portstewart Golf club two days early, to prepare for what was to be a very tough golf course.

Our team were up against the winners of Munster in the Semi Final early on Tuesday morning. The team of Cathal French, Robert Galligan, Ronan Cowhey (Captain), Alex Bolger and Matthew O'Brien were triumphant in the morning, winning the match 3 1/2 - 1 1/2.

Next up was an impressive Ulster team containing two Irish Internationals. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day and RBAI were crowned All Ireland champions 2019, edging out Blackrock 4-1. We would like to thank Mrs. Fitzgerald and Conor Harte for their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to mention Mr. O'Brien and all parents for travelling and supporting the team all week.

Rowing

As school and sports wind down ahead of the Summer break our rowers are kept busy, occupied with training and competing almost every weekend. Regatta season is in full flow and the crews will continue to train when the term ends to ensure they are as prepared as possible for the Irish Rowing Championships in Iniscarra, Cork from 12-14th July.

The regatta season kicked off in April with a full weekend of racing in Islandbridge. Neptune Regatta took place on Saturday, 6th April, the highlight of the day being the J16 8+ race against Coláiste Iognáid, Galway where our rowers who raced side-by-side narrowly missed out by a canvass (2feet) to the Jes. Commercial Regatta. Sunday 7th April, saw Matthew Kane bring home a gold medal in the J15 single sculls event. Weather conditions affected the smooth running of some of the regattas especially the School Championships in Lough Rhynn, 12th April and Lough Rhynn Regatta 13th April. Thankfully conditions were good during the Easter break allowing the rowing team a successful Easter training camp.

The Trinity Regatta, 10th and 11th May, marked an improvement in performance following the increased training over the Easter break and May Bank Holiday. A few highlights from the weekends racing included the J16 4x+ led by Cormac Holohan who beat Commercial RC in the heat on Friday afternoon making it into the semi-final on Saturday when they came up against a stronger crew from Galway RC. The J15 4x+ led by Henry Kelly had a fantastic heat beating Galway RC but lost to Commercial RC in the final. Ben Casey gave some very strong performances in the J16 1x. All scullers competed in a time trial which saw Ben in the top four J16 single scullers. Ben won his semi-final comfortably but had to 'pull like a dog' in the final where he raced side-by-side up until the final bend where his competition took the lead to the final line. Trinity Regatta hosted the Filippi Challenge where the top eight J18 single scullers raced against each other in two quads. Sam Horkan and MJ Power qualified for the event. They subsequently went on to win the event and some very nice rowing kit.

The Rowing Tent proved a hit as always during Sports Day with intense competition between the houses with both rowers and non-rowers going all out for 3 long minutes on the ergs. A big thank you to Áine Ni Neachtain for her seamless organisation and smooth running of the race schedule on the day and to Gerry Murphy for his pre testing work on the system set up. Thank you to all the parent volunteers on the day. At least there was no parents' race...this year!



The Rowing Tent proved a hit as always during Sports Day



Cillian McDonnell (Fifth Year)
and Alex Cowdrey (Third Year)



Philippe Le Roux (Second Year)
Blackrock V CUS

Our 2nd Year rowers thoroughly enjoyed their trip to O'Brien's Bridge in Limerick for the Castleconnell Sprint Regatta on the 18th May.

The Rowing team breaks for a week and training for the Championships recommences on the 10th June. Our Junior Cert crew members will take an extended break from training to sit their exams. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to them re-joining the rest of the team for training camp ahead of Champs on the 12th July.

GAA

Commiserations to the Blackrock College Boys' U16 Gaelic Football team who lost the Dublin schools' Junior Championship Final against Coláiste Cois Life of Lucan.

The game started brightly for our boys with Michael Nealon and Patrick Van Zaydum scoring two quick goals in succession. However, as the first half continued, Coi Life grew in strength, dominating possession from the kick outs and narrowed the deficit to the tightest of margins. This Blackrock team displayed their strength of character once again just before half time when full back Conor Bleakley dispossessed his man creating a counterattack resulting in a goal for Rock finished by Darragh Dempsey. Blackrock went into the dressing room at half-time leading on a score line of 3-5 to 1-7.

The second half commenced with Cois Life gaining momentum from the throw in and once again chased our lead scoring 3 points in a row. Rock responded to this with Mark Kelly and Michael Nealon scoring a point each. This lead was then doubled with 12 minutes to go when Mark Murphy finished to the back of the net after a superb team goal. Unfortunately, Blackrock could not maintain this lead for the remainder of the game as the Lucan sides bench gave them the upper hand in the remaining stages of the game opening up our defence and scoring two goals. The Lucan side ran out winners on a score line of 4-12 to 4-10.

This is the first time a Blackrock College team competed in a final for a Dublin Gaelic Football championship title for several decades. Hopefully it will be not too long before we are back at this stage again and go one step further to engrave the College's name on the Cup that goes back as far as 1971.

I would like to thank Robert Kenny and all the team members for their efforts throughout the year.

Tennis



JUNIOR 1 TEAM

From Left to Right: Stephen O'Nuallain (4th Year), Tony Rowe (4th Year), Will Fitzgerald (3rd Year), Captain Callum O'Brien (3rd Year), John Glynn (2nd Year), Colm Kelly (4th Year) & James Brophy (3rd Year).

JUNIOR 2 TEAM

From Left to Right: Rory O'Shea (3rd Year), James Harvey (3rd Year), Andrew McCarthy (3rd Year), Mark McCabe (3rd Year), Matt Dowley (2nd Year), Theo Claffey (2nd Year), Captain James Sheridan (2nd Year) & Joey Kennedy (2nd Year).

Templeogue Tennis Club hosted the junior tennis finals on Tuesday 21st May. Both junior teams were incredibly strong, comprising of committed and passionate tennis players across 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years.

Junior 1 team beat CBC Monkstown 5-0 and Junior 2 team beat Clongowes 4-1. All ten courts saw excellent games of tennis from both schools. This sees the Junior 1 trophy returning to the College again after last year's 2018 stay in the trophy cabinet. The Junior 2 trophy is welcomed back to the College for the first time since 1995. At the prize giving, both captains Callum O'Brien (Junior 1) and James Sheridan (Junior 2) thanked all at Templeogue Tennis Club for hosting the event, their respective opponents for the great games, Blackrock College staff, and the committee of the Leinster Schools' Tennis Union who work tirelessly to organise the competition, without whom, none of it would be possible. The Junior 1 team consisted of – James Brophy, Stephen O'Nuallain, Colm Kelly, Will Fitzgerald, John Glynn, Callum O'Brien, Tony Rowe.

The Junior 2 team consisted of – Matt Dowley, James Sheridan, Theo Claffey, James Harvey, Andrew McCarthy, Rory O'Shea, Mark McCabe, Joey Kennedy

Minor Tennis: 2019 saw all minor teams consisting of Willow Park 1st Years. They

competed in the Leinster Tennis Minor Finals in the Division 1 and Division 2 categories on Monday 20th May. Both teams were triumphant against competitive Gonzaga and Kilkenny College sides, with Minor 1 team winning 5-0 and Minor 2 team winning 3-2. Congratulations 1st Years!

Sailing

The All Ireland Sailing event held in Schull, Cork, saw Blackrock enter a team consisting of Morgan Lyttle, Charles Cullen, Colm Hogan (all 5th Year) along with Jamie McMahon (4th Year) and Hugh O'Connor and Conor Gorman (3rd Year). With over 120 races over two intense days of racing Blackrock finished fourth in the competition. We congratulate the team on a great two days of racing.

Table Tennis

A busy summer term for table tennis saw the teams finish out their Leinster Cup and All Ireland campaigns. At the All Irelands, the senior team lost out in the semi-finals, once again losing a close match against St. Louis (Connacht) on a 3-5 score line. Blackrock juniors were defending their title and were on track with a 5-0 win over Kinsale CS in the semi-finals, however the final just slipped away from the juniors, as they lost out 4-5 to Bangor Grammar.

At the Leinster Cup Finals, Blackrock seniors were hunting a record extending 11th consecutive Leinster Senior Cup title, and with 4-1 wins against CBC Monkstown in the semi-finals, followed by 4-0 against Gonzaga in the final, the seniors took their Cup title, completing a 10th consecutive Leinster Cup/League double.



Andrew Doyle (Fifth Year) Table Tennis final in the National Arena



Adam Tunney and James Hamilton (Third Years) at the Table Tennis Final in UCD



Daniel Kelly and Ben Kieran-Glennon (2nd Years) at the Table Tennis finals in UCD

Junior A were also defending their title and seeking to extend their record, in this case looking for a 9th consecutive Cup/League double, and an 11th double in 12 years, which they duly accomplished with a 4-0 win over Blackrock 2A in the semi-finals, followed by a 4-0 win over Castleknock in the final. Earlier, Blackrock 2B had lost to Castleknock in the other junior semi-final. Blackrock minors were also looking to defend their title, but unfortunately came up short against All Ireland Minor Champions Castleknock, losing out 1-4 in the semi-finals.

In the School Championships, Maitiú Heckmann (2nd Year) took his first School title, beating James Hamilton (3rd Year) in the final. Heckmann was also on duty for the Irish team over the Easter break, travelling to the Belgian Open, and has also been selected for Ireland Schools for the Six Nations Championships, taking place in June in Guernsey.

Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie

REFLECTION



'We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.'

Marian Wright Edelman