

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



February 2021

Dear Parents,

On Saturday, 6th February, this year's Leman Concert was premiered (available on our website and BCTV) with the theme **'the Show must go on'** and how it did.

Deservedly, it has been described as **"outstanding", "uplifting", "inspirational"**. Aside from being a showcase of the excellent musical and vocal talent in the College, it is an example of resilience and positivity, of our determination to keep going, to deliver in times of adversity. This is the Blackrock way, and it was a perfect finale to our [Wellbeing Week](#).

The pathway to wellbeing – mental, physical, emotional, spiritual – is through a commitment to something bigger than ourselves, a desire to make a difference in the lives of others and gratitude for what we have. Wellbeing stems from wanting what you have rather than having what you want.

Covid-19 has knocked us. There is much to concern us with the loss of too many lives, livelihoods disrupted, and schools closed. It has been a particularly tough time for Fr. O'Brolchain and the Community as eleven of their confrères, great men who gave service to God and Humanity, passed away during January. We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers on their devastating loss.

We require hope, optimism, vision and Faith, particularly Faith. Faith is presence. Presence is much more than a physical thing, than being there. Presence, in the words of the Spiritan motto is 'one heart and one mind' (Cor Unum et Anima Una). It is Fides et Robur. We urge your sons to connect the hope and resilience, proclaimed during Catholic Schools Week, with their day-by-day experiences.

This hope and resilience were evident in our online Past v. Present debate in which our students vigorously and [successfully opposed the motion 'that 2020-21 is the hardest year on record to be a 2nd level student'](#). It was palpable on Tuesday 2nd February, the feast day of our co-founder the Venerable Francis Libermann, as Fr. John Wambu celebrated mass in our sister school Holy Ghost School Makueni, (Machakos), for a congregation which may have been 7000km apart but with ['one heart and one mind'](#) fully engaged in a liturgy that celebrated our shared values. The Gospel message was ['Do not be afraid – just have Faith'](#). The Show must go on.

And it has. I have marvelled at the efforts, ingenuity, and commitment of my colleagues as classes have continued. Overwhelmingly, the response of our boys has been positive with exceptionally high attendance rates. There are those who struggle with these changed circumstances but be assured that the support and encouragement will continue to be there for them. We know it is not easy.

These are adverse times, no doubt, but we must teach our boys to adapt, to see things with fresh eyes. I have reminded the boys throughout the term that ["obstacles are only obstacles if you think they're obstacles. Otherwise, they are opportunities"](#) (Jeff Bezos).

Covid has undoubtedly challenged us but the school community has responded magnificently. Over the last five weeks we have had an excellent 5th Year Family Mass. We have maintained our Games, Debating, Green Schools, Guidance, Wellbeing and CADLC programmes. Our House Captains have met weekly with our Deans to build engagement, promote solidarity and support wellbeing.

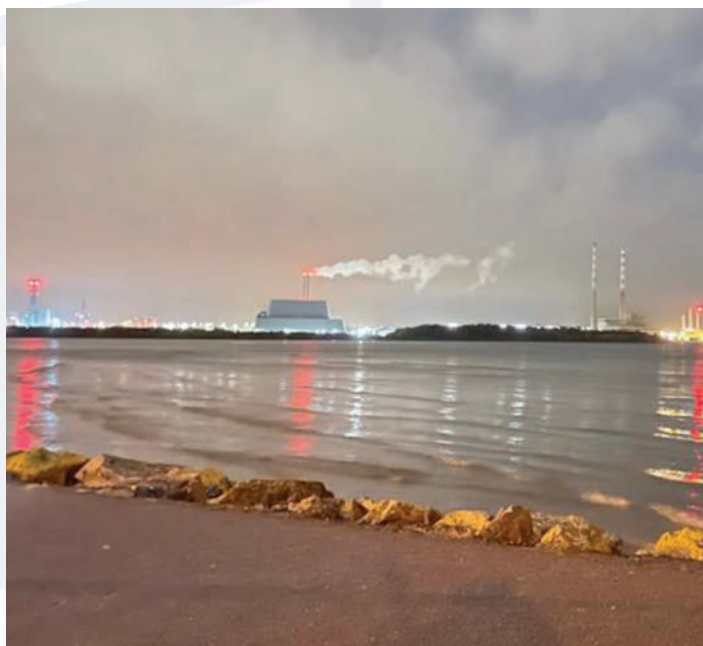
There has been great positivity around both our physical and virtual College. I am reminded of the aphorism – **"If you think you can or think you can't, you are probably right"**. The lesson of our Faith is that life does not come with guarantees, that we should not look for 'certainty' or 'fairness' because it does not exist. We should make the most of what we have with honest endeavour in the service of others.

Finally, Blackrock is a community built on Faith, on selflessness and on service. I thank our Spiritan Community, my colleagues, the boys, the College Union, and you the parents for keeping the show on the road.

Enjoy the mid-term.

God Bless

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal



Max Kilroy (Sixth Year) magnificently captures the Dublin night sky

Message from the Deans



There is an immense sense of satisfaction as we approach this mid-term break. In a period of such uncertainty, we are delighted that students in every year have embraced the virtual environment with positivity, displaying admirable levels of concentration and motivation.

Weekly Application Cards have demonstrated significant student ownership of and engagement with studies, and with learning moving to an at-home environment these characteristics are more important than ever. Setting short term academic goals that are realistic and attainable, in a workspace setup to minimize distractions, highlights the importance of the daily routine, feeds confidence and subsequent success.

Over 30 members of the Class of 2021 were involved in the 35th **Leman Festival Concert** on Saturday February 6th. In particular, we note the contribution of **6th Year Soloists** Alex Kelly, Sean Probert, Oscar Bourke Mullaney, Daniel Welch & John Daly; our 6th Year Bands 'Boarderline', 'Tabasco' & 'Paradox' and John Cawley & Michael Lucey for their polished voiceovers. A musical evening to remember.

It was wonderful to see such great involvement from our **Second Years in the Leman Concert**. Well done to all involved in the Corless Choir, 'Ceoltóirí Carraige', 'Boarderline' and congratulations to our soloist, Conor McCarron, for his wonderful performance on piano. A truly uplifting and joyous event which brightened our first weekend in February.

Be There and staying involved.

In a further example of how our school community has adapted and embraced new ways of doing things, comprehensive Parent-Teacher Reports have been successfully delivered to all Sixth, Third and Fifth Years in the last few weeks.

The importance of looking after yourself whilst accepting and managing change was reinforced by the College's Wellbeing Week, coordinated by the Student Wellbeing Committee under the Chair student Shane Redahan (Sixth Year). This fulfilling week offered an opportunity to take notice of surroundings with new eyes, to reach out and to give to others in the simplest of ways whilst being open to learning something new and staying active.

Over the course of the last few weeks the community spirit of the individual year groups has been on full show. This year's Catholic Schools' Week projected the theme of Community. Assemblies, Student Council Meetings, Weekly House Captain Meetings and House Meetings have helped all to stay connected and together whilst being apart. All these gatherings have affirmed the belief in and support of our *Be Grateful* value with an enthusiastic acknowledgment of the opportunities our changed environment present. Virtual House Events are up and running in all year groups and students are taking part in commendable numbers, working together, being active and setting goals to achieve. House Captains are demonstrating impressive leadership and service, meeting and communicating regularly to promote

TY was well represented in what was a very special and unique **Leman concert**. Few things could trump a Manchester United match on Sky Sports but the Leman was one of them! Congratulations to all TY students involved across the Choirs, Jazz Band, Brass Band and Gavin Bowen O'Connor, our soloist representative on the night.

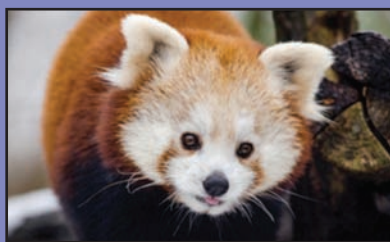
Message from the Deans Cont'd



Sergeant Ivan Howlin from Dundrum Community Policing spoke to the boys in January about choices and consequences in their lives. Susan Hayes Culleton gave an excellent talk on envisioning your career, developing your communication skills and harnessing your confidence and Tanya Ward (CEO Children's Rights Alliance) gave an impactful talk around digital footprint, how online data is used and users are subsequently targeted for advertising. She gave tips on how to stay responsible online both now and in the long term. Thanks to the **TY Parents' Committee** for their fantastic work putting this programme of **Guest Speakers** together.

3rd Years are literally up and running as each house competes to log the most weekly kilometres in **the Inter House Competitions**.

I thank the House Captains for their energy and enthusiasm as we progress with the Inter House Rocket League and Chess Competition.



Babatunde - The Red Panda in Dublin Zoo adopted by the Class of 2022

As **Fifth Years** live through history in the making, they are enthusiastically engaged in their **Time Capsule Project** to capture these times, their daily lives, their dreams, hopes and aspirations for the future as each House fills and seals a twenty-year time capsule. Contribution ideas are many and varied and the final product holds great promise of insight, intrigue, and excitement for the Class of 2042!!



Second Years continue to make excellent contributions to debating and Green Schools, attending weekly meetings and entering competitions, inspiring us with their activity and enthusiasm.

The **Class of 2022** is supporting the many worthwhile conservation projects in Dublin Zoo by adopting a Red Panda, classified as an endangered species with rapidly depleting numbers. **Fifth Years** are proud to welcome Babatunde as honorary member of the Class of 2022.

100% credit to **TY House Captains** for driving Inter-House Activities ranging from Friday 'Fortnite', Online Chess, FIFA, Rocket League (what ever that is !), CGSO (ditto) and others. So far 143 students have taken part and the number is climbing .

Many of the **Transition Year evening courses** in Sound Engineering, Legal Studies, Drivers' Education and Fitness Classes have continued online to the great credit and determination of the students . I'm sure parents are grateful to Ms.Skehan for putting together Cookery Club on Thursday evening. Or maybe annoyed after sampling their sons cooking!



Theo Claffey TY, baking brown bread at Cookery Club

On Thursday 28th January, Mr Robert Connolly of Amicus Recruitment joined the **Class of 2021** on MS Teams and outlined to the boys how to prepare an impactful CV and how to make as positive an impression as possible at an interview. 73 sixth year students signed up to avail of the PPU run **Career Mock Interviews** held online on February 10th. Past students provided final year students with 'internship type' interviews across a broad spectrum of disciplines . Students were most appreciative of the insightful feedback supplied by the PPU Interviewers.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



This half-term we also celebrated Liberman Day on February 2nd. Francis Libermann was one of the co-founders of the Spiritans and a teacher of Père Leman who travelled from Paris soon after Libermann's death and founded Blackrock College. The highlight

of Liberman Day was undoubtedly the ground-breaking online mass celebrated by Fr. John Mwambu live from Holy Ghost School, Sultan Hamud in Kenya, with whom Blackrock has such a strong and rich connection. As the students celebrated mass in their school chapel in Kenya, Blackrock students participated in the readings and music via Zoom. It was a powerful reinforcement of the lesson that though we may be separated physically by distance and circumstance, our connection to each other as a school community can never be broken such is the strength of our shared Spiritan values and ethos.

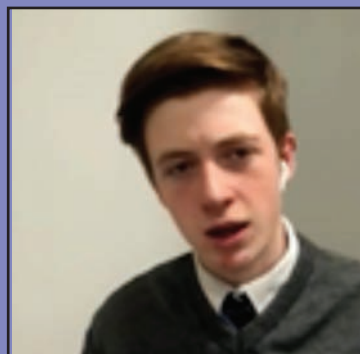
With presence in the Jazz and Brass bands, 'Ceoltóirí Carraig', the Choirs, solo and band performances, production and recording **Fifth Years** have made an outstanding contribution to this year's Leman concert.

It was great to see the wonderful talent in the year on show during the **Leman Concert** on Saturday 6th February. The **3rd Year** group were represented in the Orchestra, the Corless Choir, the Jazz Band and the Brass Band. Well done to all involved in what was a most entertaining evening.

We are learning today in a way that was beyond unimaginable for Libermann and Leman. However, we know that eventually this pandemic will be over, face-to-face classes will start again, and this time will be but a memory. Nevertheless, we are confident that the good habits built, and the strategies being followed now to manage to learn and work independently will bear rich dividends in the future.

We are thankful for the enthusiasm and positive engagement of the students and for the support and appreciation of the parent body represented so conscientiously and adeptly by the various Year Group Parents' Committees.

We look forward to our return to the check-in desks and the recreation areas and in the meantime, we encourage all students to stay connected and committed remembering that *success, however you measure it, is the sum of small efforts repeated, day in and day out.*



Daniel Flannery
(Third Year) singing in the
Corless Choir at the Leman
Concert

Despite lockdown, our **Sixth-Year House Captains** ensured that the Class of 2021 remain connected ('Together while Apart') in the Spiritan motto of 'One Mind and One Heart' by organising a range of unique 6th Year House events from a KM distance challenge to an online Rocket League Tournament.

No doubt the **3rd Year Parent Teacher Reports** provided food for thought. I hope they offered clarity and guidance to the students on areas they can work on. The challenge now is to build on their Christmas exams as we work towards the mocks. I remind the boys that all we want is for them to reach their full potential; To be the best they can be.



Many thanks to the 6th Year parent who shared the thought above with the class of 2021

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Also happening in TY : a new interactive online introduction to Law Course called Law Ed, Modules, 'A Brothers War' (choose your own path interactive game) developed by Fionn Graham, available on the Hosted Games App, and many fantastic Gaisce activities undertaken by the boys! Special mention must go to Ben Kieran-Glennon (TY) winner of the 'Best Speaker of the Night' award in the Past v Present Debate!

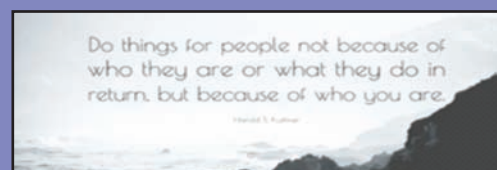
The highlight of January for us in **Second Year** was the launch of our **Auxilium Programme**. It is terrific to see that by now we have nearly everyone achieving 'Auxilium in Progress' on their recent Progress card. The Programme of service invites the boys to reach out to others, help at home, offer their time and talents in a spirit of giving.

Our hardworking and dedicated **House Captains** continue to organise events to help **Second Years** stay connected. We have just completed a FIFA online competition and have begun an online Minecraft event as well as a Six Nations fantasy rugby competition. Outdoor exercise events using apps to track distance are also being arranged. The boys get regular updates on their Teams House pages and it is great to see lots of participation across all houses.

A number of **Fifth Year** students were delighted to reconnect with students in the Holy Ghost School in Sultan Hammond, Kenya that they visited last year. As part of this **Global Citizenship Project** students attended the online intercultural mass with our sister school contributing to the readings and the music; a cherished opportunity many may never forget.

Transition Year Students have launched the first ever Transition Year Podcast this term entitled '**Rockcast**'. Podcasts cover areas of News and Current Affairs, Sports, along with Music and the Arts. Its first episode from the News Team featured an interview with Professor Luke O'Neill. To listen to this and all subsequent episodes of 'Rockcast' go to [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/search/rockcast) and search 'Rockcast'.

A Message for **2nd Years** as they embark on **their Auxilium Programme**:



The work of **6th Year Parents' Committee** under the leadership of Dee Kelly is ongoing. Alongside the valued support of the online teaching and learning programme being offered by the College, 6th Year parent sub-committees are planning a Class of 2021 Yearbook, a Pentecost Sunday Graduation in May and fundraising events to support the Holy Ghost school in Machakos, Kenya.

On Thursday 5th February **Matthew Keely, Michael Lucey and Pearse Woods of the Class of 2021** were joined by Ben Kiernan-Glennon of TY to take part in our first online **Past V Present Debate**. The Present team was successful in opposing the motion that 'This House Believes that 2020-2021 is the Hardest Year on Record for the Second-Level Student'. We congratulate Joey Houghton, Alex Kirrane, Daniel Welch, Stephen Corr, Liam Prior, Hugh MacNeill, Oscar Bourke Mullaney & Colm Kelly on their progression through a range of Irish, English and French School's Online Debating Competitions this term. We wish all ongoing success.

The celebration of Catholic Schools' Week culminated with the **Fifth Year Family Mass**. We were privileged and honoured to have the cocooning Spiritan Community of the College led by Fr. McDonald present in the Chapel and the use of the precious Père Leman Chalice marked the significance of the occasion. Connected by video link, the Fifth Years and their families were encouraged by the positive and stilling liturgy to live each day with a selfless dedication to reaching out to others.



The Père Leman Chalice used at the Fifth Year Family Mass



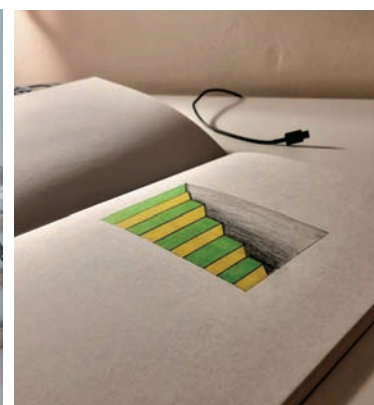
Hogan, Matthew Canacott and Ben Harvey at the National Art Gallery



Inigo Cruise O'Brien (Fifth Year)



Fionn Graham TY (Self Portrait)



Harry King (Third Year) Optical Illusion



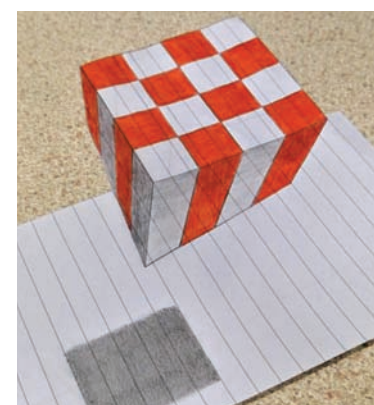
Matthew Gammell (Fifth Year)



Ruben Moloney (Fifth Year)



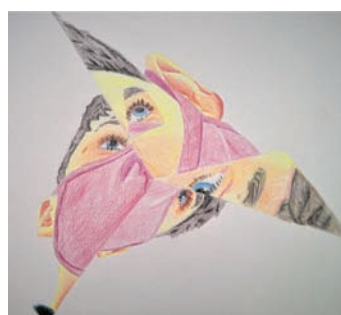
Bua ag Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh!



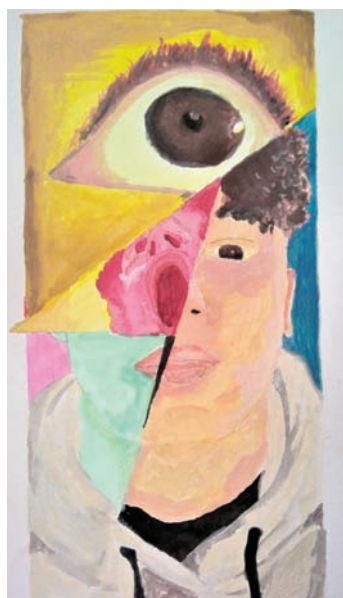
Javier Lopez (Third Year) Optical Illusion



Conor Alken (Fifth Year)



Matthew Curran (Fifth Year)



Matthew Harvey (Fifth Year)



Daniel Hayes (Fifth Year)

Díospóireacht

We are delighted to report the achievements of our Irish debating teams, in round one of *Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh*. This national public speaking competition aims to provide second-level students with experience in crafting and delivering speeches, in the Irish language. The Junior speakers spoke on various motions: **'Tá na rudaí is luachmara sa saol seo in aisce.'** ('The best things in this life are free.') - Dominic Kilbride (Second Year, opposition) and Patrick Hayden (Third Year, opposition), **'Aoibhinn Beatha an Scoláire'** ('The student's life is a fine one.') - Conor McCarron (Second Year opposition) and **'Tá Rialtas na hÉireann ag déileáil mar is ceart le Covid-19'** (The Irish Government is correctly dealing with Covid-19) - Peter O'Connor (Second Year, proposition).

The College's senior speakers discussed the motion **'Tá Rialtas na hÉireann ag déileáil mar is ceart le Covid-19'** featuring Jack Burke (T.Y.), Joey Haughton (Sixth Year), Matthew Keeley (Sixth Year) and Joshua Scallan (Fifth Year). This year the competition facilitates individual speaker submissions, rather than teams, and each speech is submitted in video format. We especially congratulate **Jack Burke, Joey Haughton, Matthew Keeley** and **Joshua Scallan** who proceed to round two at senior level, and **Conor McCarron** and **Peter O'Connor** who now proceed to round two at junior level.



BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp.
MUSIC & DRAMA

The February mid-term marks the end of this year's *Lemanuary*. While we cannot wait to return to live performance, the first virtual Leman Concert was very special and we are delighted that we could share it with so many people – it currently has 7,482 views on YouTube. If you missed it or would like to watch it again, the same link still works: <https://youtu.be/cTo59tF6S4U>. For this newsletter, I have decided to include my programme note from the concert. I hope this gives you a sense of what went on in preparing this video and if you have not done so, I would like to encourage you to check it out on YouTube. Over 160 students, parents and staff members worked together on this, all in different locations. Congratulations to everyone involved!

The Arts Cont'd



PROGRAMME NOTE

Leman Festival Concert XXXV

Keep Singing

Three, two, one, press record. Four, three, two, one, clap. Four, three (breathe in...), two, one, SING/PLAY/GO..."

I'm sure some students are having nightmares of me counting down on Teams, asking them to record again, upload audio files, name audio files, upload videos, reupload videos, name files correctly... and then after all that, late on a Friday night: "sorry your file is corrupt, can you please send it again?" As I write this, I haven't done a final count, however I am estimating that we have seen well over one thousand videos submitted and thousands of audio recordings which have been pieced together to make what you see and hear. Jody Trehy, our magnificent sound engineer, aptly renamed *Go Ye Afraid* to *Go Ye Afraid*, after listening to the hundred-and-thirty second recording, lining it up with the rest of the choir recordings in Logic Pro X (music editing software) and blending it in so you hear all voices together. We hope you enjoy the finished product - it was definitely worth it!

This is certainly a *Leman like no other* and the first of its kind. While I cannot wait to return to live performance, this has been an exhilarating ride and is testament to the spirit of the students, staff, and extended College community to ensure that "The Show Must Go On" and that we must "Keep Singing". We have gone from having a small team on sound and lights to having each and every performer act as entertainer, cameraman, and audio technician - while also roping in anyone they could to help in their own households! I wonder if Fr. Cormac, Una, Toirleac or Garry, all who have produced many more Leman Concerts than me, ever thought that we'd be doing it virtually one day? What a tradition - we carry on no matter what, we keep going. In the words of Fr. Cormac, we "never give up".

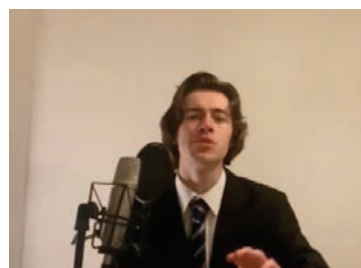
A school is a *place* where teaching and learning happens. At its essence are students and teachers. This Leman and indeed this period of time has prompted me to think about the definition of *place*. The familiar phrase "home is where the heart is" comes to mind. Perhaps what is happening now can be described as "school is where the spirit is"? Location can be part of it but I think there is a lot more to defining place than just the physical world. In the opening to the show, you will hear our students' thoughts on "What is Blackrock College?" They agree it's more than a physical place:

"It's community. It's a family. It's the people. It's safe. It's a set of values. It's the friends I've made. It's the blue and white. It's wonderful. It's more than a school. It's home. It's caring. It's a journey. It's never giving up. It's where lifelong friendships are formed. It's fun. It's distinct. It's helpful. It's a school of solidarity. It's being caring, being there, being truthful, being grateful..."

TEAM. Together Everyone Achieves More. To make this possible, we have a top-class team. You'll read the extensive list of performers in this programme and I'd like to say thank you to each and every one of you for being part of our team. OUR team. Music and Drama is built upon collaborating as a team, and as teachers, it is one of the joys that we experience with our students as we perform and rehearse alongside them. I always remember Fr. John Flavin (dare I mention I went to Blackrock's sister school St. Mary's?) saying to me that music will be for life and he's absolutely right. When some younger students say to Mr. Chris O'Sullivan that they "used to play guitar", he corrects them, reminding them they "haven't played in a while". Our Adult Choir epitomises this team spirit, sending our audio and video recordings through WhatsApp and meeting to rehearse religiously on Tuesday evenings.

I feel I must mention two students; Daniel Welch has recorded, arranged and notated all parts for our Finale: Keep Singing. This is a phenomenal feat - congratulations Daniel. Séamus Ennis has recorded, coordinated, and led our boarders in a fantastic performance of *Pursuit of Happiness*, complete with a full music video shot around the Castle during lockdown. Keep an eye out for this stunning footage. Bravo Séamus and Boarderline.

To Jody, Cormac, Chris, André, Una, Simon O, Cathal, Simon M, Ciarán, Garry, Flor, John, Johnny, Annraoi, Yvonne, Sinéad, Brian, Alan and the founder of this concert, Fr. Cormac. Thank you for your incredible work, enthusiasm, support and patience. Thank you for always pushing the boundaries and most importantly, thank you for your friendship.



Daniel Welch (Sixth Year)



Seamus Ennis (Sixth Year)
with his fellow boarders

This Leman Festival Concert comes at the end of our inaugural *Wellbeing Week*. Let every week be *Wellbeing Week* and let us always "Keep Singing".

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

Plenty of virtual activity has taken place with the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre such as virtual workshops, research skills classes and reading activities.

CADLC Committee

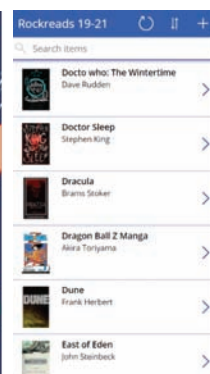
The CADLC Committee continued its duties online and meetings were held as usual on Teams. DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) took place during the last class of progress week. Students were asked to take a break from the stresses of online classes and read instead. A list of book recommendations from students was sent out to all years. From now until Easter students and staff are invited to enter a book review competition. Students can earn House Points by submitting a book review and as an extra incentive prizes will be awarded to entrants in both the Junior and Senior Cycle years. (John Duffy, Chair of CADLC Committee)

Reading Promotion

As part of DEAR students were encouraged to join Dun Laoghaire library to get access to its vast collection of eBooks and Audiobooks. Thanks to the fantastic response from students about what book they would like to read, more books have been added to the Rockreads app and we have started to share recommended reading lists on our social media. Students can access the Rockreads App via Microsoft Powerapps.



Drop Everything and Read Poster



Rockreads App

Virtual Workshops

The National Library of Ireland continued to give very engaging virtual workshops on Seamus Heaney Poetry to 3rd and 6th Year English classes. Students interacted using the chat function on MS Teams. Ms Pierces's TY students watched a Masterclass by Anthony Horowitz, author of the Alex Rider series, via Authorfy. Mr Horowitz gave writing tips such as how to write suspense and choosing the first line of a story. Let's hope, the master class will not only help students to write better short stories but will encourage some to become budding authors in the future.



Video from Anthony Horowitz Masterclass

Research Skills Classes

Ms A Dillon gave research skills classes to 2nd Year English and Geography students to assist them with their CBAs. Both groups learned to be mindful of anonymous sources and consider tone of language that is used. English students were shown a wide variety of resources available such as online encyclopaedias, museums and libraries. Geography students learned how easy it is to manipulate images on the internet, how some media organisations may be more biased than others and where to access online news.



CBA: Geography in the News

The Arts Cont'd



TY Journal Club

Ms A Dillon has just started a journal club with Mr Lambe's TY geography class. Each week students read an article from a journal/magazine and discuss it during class on Friday. The purpose is to encourage reading and give students an opportunity to expand their knowledge on a variety of different topics. Some recent topics included Colonisation on Mars, Domestication of Wild Animals and mining on Sacred Native American land.

Junior Debating

Junior Debating is alive and well with weekly lunch time sessions where we debate a myriad of contentious topics. 2 teams are currently competing in the UCD Debates, organised by the Historical and Literary Society and the UCD Law Society: Darragh O'Neill and Ishaan Pandey, and Carl Ferdinand Hattendorf and Shane Hamilton. 2 teams also competed in the Cambridge Debates on January 24th: Darragh O'Neill and Ishaan Pandey, Darragh O'Kane and Zack Egan Ruane. On February 4th, our 2 Cambridge Teams will participate in a workshop organised by Cambridge University and will again have the opportunity to participate in a once off debate that same evening. We have two teams hoping to qualify to speak at the ICYD in Cambridge this year.



Past vs. Present Debate 2021

After a very competitive qualifier debate, Matthew Keeley, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Michael Lucey and Pearse Woods qualified to represent the present students at the Past vs. Present Debate, on Thursday 4th of February, 2021. Our past pupil speakers included Darragh Connell (Class of 2005), John Huggard (Valedictorian, Class of 2020), Michael MacGrath (Class of 2005) and Conn McCarrick (Class of 2014). The gentlemen debated a motion entitled 'This House Believes that the Year 2020-2021 Has Been the Worst Year on Record for the Second-level Student'.

This evenly contested debate took place as a live event, on Microsoft Teams, with the Present students being named the winning side. Ben Kieran-Glennon was named as best speaker. We wish to commend all the speakers on a most engaging evening. We

thank the adjudicators Mr J. Sheil, Ms C. Pierce, Ms C. Kelleher and Mr M. Ryan. Particular thanks to Mr S. Ryan for chairing the event and Mr S. Mullin (President of the Rock Union), Mr. S. Orrock, Ms. L. Ní Shuairc, Mr. J. O'Shea and Mr. K. Grumley Traynor for facilitating this flagship event, in the College calendar.

Cambridge Schools' Debating All-Ireland Championship

We commend Gavin Bowen-O'Connor & James Carroll (First Senior Team) and Ben Kieran-Glennon & Michael Whyte (Second Senior Team), who represented us very well at the Cambridge Schools' All-Ireland championship. This event, facilitated on Sunday the 24th of January, by UCD's Literary and Historical Society, covered a range of motions, prepared within fifteen minute intervals by the boys.

We are proud to announce that Ben Kieran-Glennon & Michael Whyte came in first place in this round and will proceed to the Cambridge Schools' online debates, in due course. Well done to all our speakers, on a day of lively and rigorous debate.

Concern Debates

The College currently hold the all-island first place, within the Concern Debates league table. We now progress to the Cup and Shield stages, on the 1st and 2nd of March, when sixteen schools from around the island of Ireland will compete for a place in the Quarter Finals. We commend Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, William Donnelly, Ben Kieran-Glennon and Jonathan Hoffman for their efforts.



Leinster Schools' Competition 2021

The Leinster Schools' Debating Competition has been a great achievement for the Blackrock Senior English Debating Society this year. All six teams in Round Two have progressed to Round Three, with two of these teams placing. We were very well represented in Round Three of this competition, which was held over three sessions on the 12th, 19th and 26th of January. The next round will be the quarter finals and teams will progress to that, based on cumulative scores across all the rounds so far. Overall, we are optimistic about our chances for further success in this competition and everyone is enthusiastic to progress at the standard we have set for ourselves, thus far.



Green Schools



Since our return in January, the Green Schools Committee has been meeting every Monday, with a strong turnout across all year groups. We have discussed several different projects and actions in these meetings. Our main goal is acquiring the Travel Flag for our campus. Although COVID-19 has interrupted our efforts to acquire this flag, we are well organised

and have several ongoing projects to help us achieve our goal. This includes compiling the results of a whole-campus Travel survey, walk-ability audits of the campus, and several options for cycling training in the school to ensure safety and to increase numbers of those cycling to school. This will be achieved through the Cycle Right Programme, which will provide cycle training for younger year groups. Our entry into the Saffron Bike

Competition could potentially win a number of bikes for the school, which would also coincide with our initiatives to promote walking and cycling to school.

Inspired by UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards, the Committee is setting up a Blackrock College Young Environmentalist Award. Participants will submit a project (as a video, powerpoint, or any other digital format) relating to a theme (list below) involving climate action. There will be two categories: 2nd - 3rd Year and 4th-5th Year. There will be Voucher prizes available for the winners and runners-up in each of these categories. This initiative seeks to increase whole-school engagement in Green Schools.

We have increased cooperation with Willow Park First Year and Junior School, meeting with representatives from each school to discuss whole campus initiatives. Our committee is also in the early stages of bringing together a proposal for Climate Neutrality in the College in the future, which would undoubtedly be a huge step for climate action in our school.



Biodiversity



Energy



Climate
Change



Eco-health &
well-being



Water



Eco-Art &
Design



ECO-
Innovation



Waste



ECO-
Community
Development

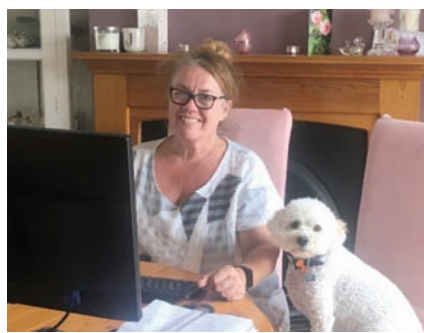


Local to Global
& SDG Award

Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2021



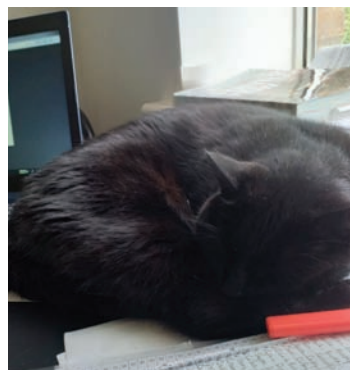
Blackrock College Staff Working from Home



Kenny Dog Leash keeps Ms J. Tongue company as she works from home !



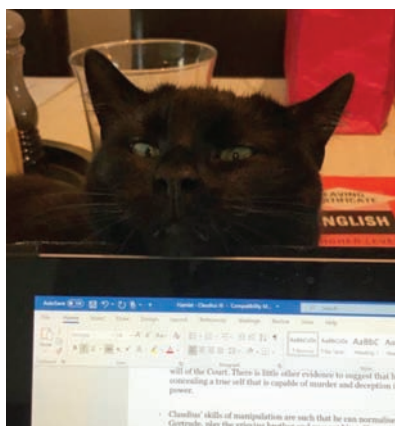
Mr Demichel Working from Home



'School is boring' – says Mr Eliot (Le chat de Monsieur Sheil)



Mr B. Grant ,Working from Home, Gaillimh Abú



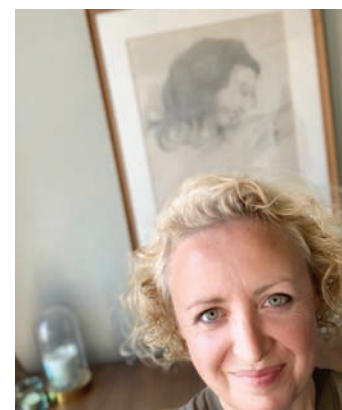
Mabel finds Mr Maher's class on Hamlet fascinating !!



Holly and Paddy doing their homework while Ms G. Wallace teaches on Teams



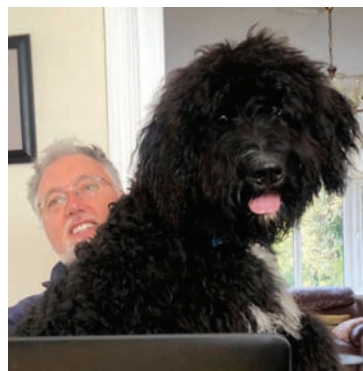
Here I am at my bureau with my Wise Owl keeping me company (& upon whom I rely heavily)!



Ms U. O'Kane WFH under the watchful eye of her mascot Jim Morrison (The Doors)



Ms D Byrne's puppy Bonnie helping her mark assignments on her laptop



Mr J. Morris with his puppy Alfie (seven months old !!) WFH



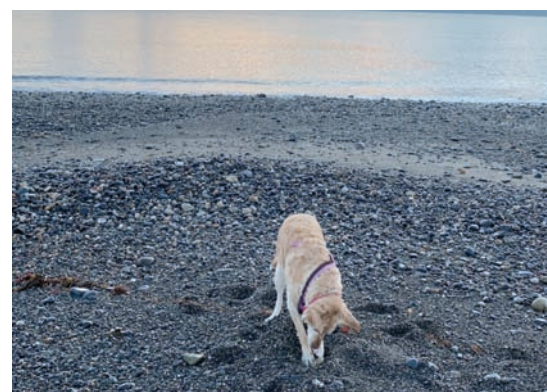
Mr A Wier's Surface Pro propped up on a randomly chosen (NOT !) game !



Mr D.J. Kelly Working from Home.

One Million Step Challenge

Photographs taken by Joey Haughton (6th Year) and Matthew Curran (5th Year) as they partook in Blackrock College's ' One Million Step Challenge ' .



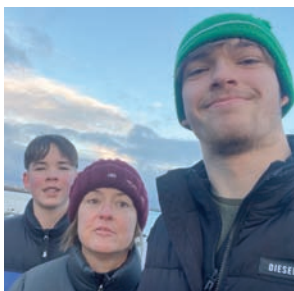
Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2021



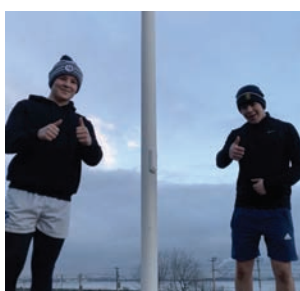
Students Work and Play from Home during Lockdown 3



Fifth Year Mark O'Reilly's cat Oscar under the couch!



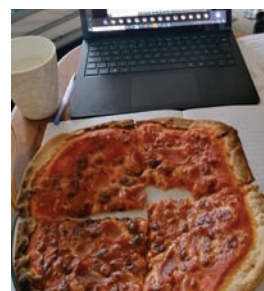
Max Caskey (Fifth Year) and Family enjoying a Lockdown Walk.



Max Holmes and Mark Mannion (Fifth Year)



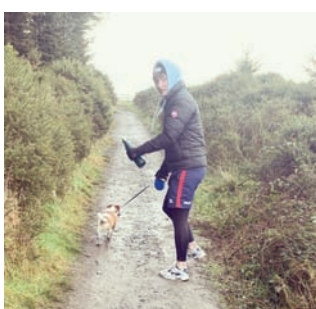
George Francis (5th Year)



Fifth Year James Carroll's Lockdown Snack.



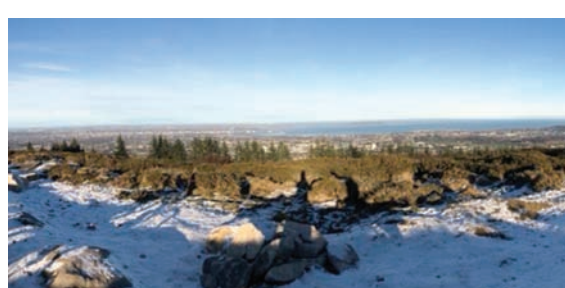
Michael White (Fifth Year) and Alfie



Emmett Gulliver (Fifth Year) and Buddy



Michael Parran (5th Year) enjoying snowy Ticknock



Daniel Hayes' Snowy Day! (Fifth Year)



Harry Flynn (TY) Cooking up a storm for the Family



Harry Flynn's (TY) Treats for the Family



Elliot Tomkin-Beddy (2nd Year) and his sister Emyrose playing tennis during lockdown



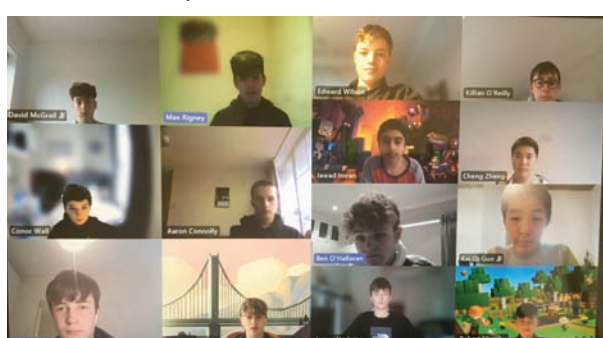
James Neary (Second Year)



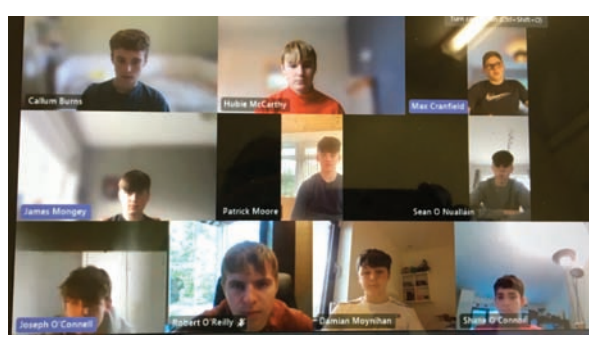
Zack Egan-Ruane (Second Year) with his dog Marley



Ben O'Connell (2 nd Year) out for his morning run



Maths 27 A Online



Maths 37 Online

Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2021



Conor Hughes (TY) baking brown bread at Cookery Club



Jake McCarthy's (6th Year) captures an excellent drone shot of Killiney Bay to Sandymount.



Evan Lyons (TY) "No one in the photo but I was out for a walk one day and the sea was the roughest I have ever seen it. There were loads of people taking photos"



Evan Walsh (6th Year) A shot of taken from Sandycove.



Louis Dignam (TY) captures sunrise when out for a run

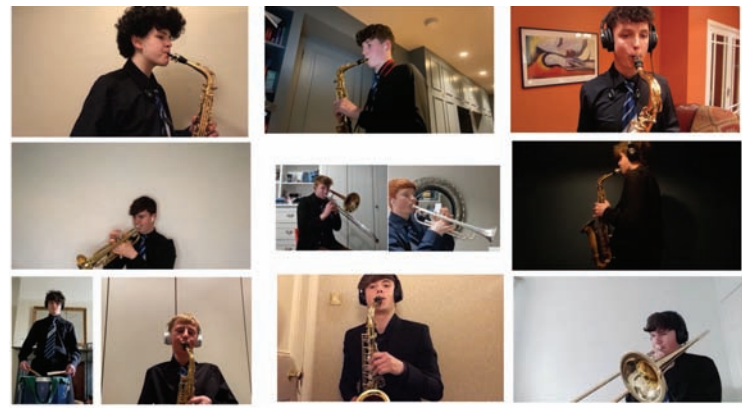


Jake McCarthy (6th Year) captures a most unusual shot of a Dalkey Island Light Show

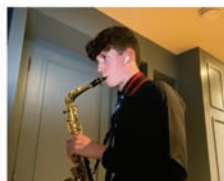
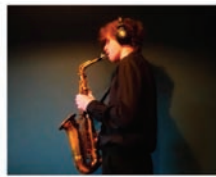
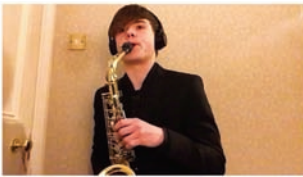
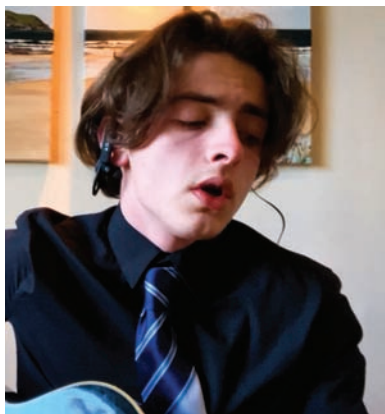
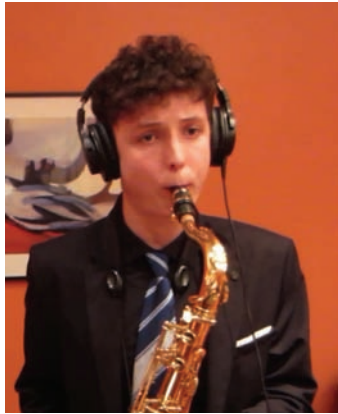


Pictures drawn by Eugen Scallan (TY)

LEMAN



Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2021



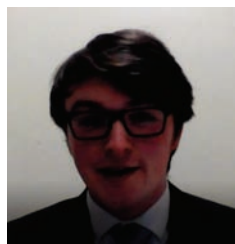
Snapshot of 3rd Half Term 2021



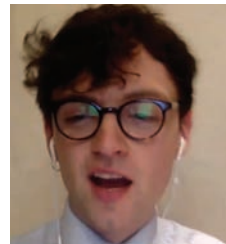
Past V Present Pupils' Debate



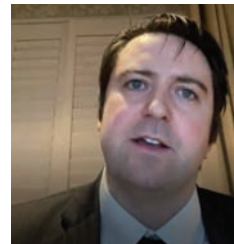
Matthew Keeley (Sixth Year), Mr S . Mullins (President of the PPU and class of 1983), Ms. L Ni Shuairc, Michael Lucey (Sixth Year) Mr A. MacGinty (Principal) , Mr S . Orrock and Pearse Woods(Sixth Year) , Past V Present Pupils' Debate.



Stephen Ryan (Class of 2018) Chairperson of Past V Present Pupils' Debate .



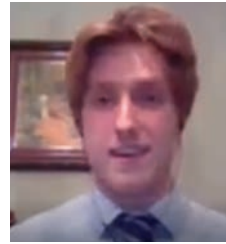
Conn McCarrick (Class of 2014). Past V Present Pupils' Debate .



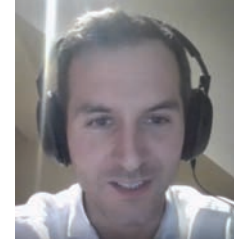
Darragh Connell (Class of 2005), Past V Present Pupils' Debate



Ben Kieron-Glennon (TY) , Best Speaker at the Past V Present Pupils' Debate



John Huggard (Valedictorian, Class of 2020), Past V Present Pupils' Debate .



Michael MacGrath (Class of 2005) Past V Present Pupils' Debate .

Guidance and Counselling



CAO

6th Year students have now made their CAO applications which were submitted by February 1st. 16 students submitted UCAS applications for the January 15th deadline. Some students have already received conditional offers from the UK. A high number of students have also applied to the USA and Europe this year.



HPAT – This year, due to Covid restrictions,

the exam is being held online via proctoring (monitored) on 20 & 21st February. Our students had the opportunity to participate in HPAT preparation classes hosted online since last October. They have also taken several practice tests and good progress has been made.



PLC - Open Days have commenced for Post Leaving

Certificate courses and several students have begun submitting applications for these courses. Further information is available from the career counsellors in the College, on the careers' noticeboard and from the websites of the PLC colleges themselves. Applications for these courses are on a first come first served basis. Please apply online now if you are considering this option. With greater confusion around how the Leaving Certificate exam will work this year it is a good idea to apply for a PLC back up if you are worried about your options.



CVs & Interviews – This year we held a CV workshop in advance of the

Mock interviews for 6th Years. Mr. Robert Connolly from AMICUS.ie - Search and Recruitment, presented the workshop online and it was open to all 6th Years. The students found it highly informative and asked many questions.

The Mock Interviews were held on the evening of the 10th February, online. The interviewers on the night, all past pupils approached the evening in a very professional manner while sharing their own wealth of experiences

with the Sixth-Year students. Approximately 65 students signed up to participate in the programme. Each submitted a Curriculum Vitae prior to their interview. Immediately following the formal interview each candidate received a feedback sheet on their performance at the interview. This has proved to be a very valuable learning experience in the past and we are hopeful for its continued success in the future. Many thanks to the commitment and vision of Ms Natasha Drew (Head of Careers) and Mr Maurice Tunney (PPU) who ensured that this most important and valued annual event in the 6th Year calendar took place this year.

Courses – Use www.careersportal.ie to compile a list of courses and use www.qualifax.ie to get specific details on a course.

Dates for your Diary

- DARE Section in the CAO – Answer yes to question 1 and complete questions and personal statement and submit -1st March 2021.
- DARE Section B (School Section) & Section C (Disability Report) submit by registered post to CAO before 1st March 2021.
- NUI Exemptions – Submit documentation to, NUI, 49 Merrion Square, D2. (Forms available online from NUI)
- TCD Language Waiver Form – Submit documentation to TCD. (Form available online)
- HPAT Test 20th & 21st February 2021
- CAO Statement of Application in May – ensure course codes are correct and that you meet matriculation for each course. Exemptions should also be visible on this statement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NONE OF THE ABOVE IS LINKED TO THE SCHOOL. WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR DARE, WAIVER FORMS OR CAO. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Please contact us for assistance. MS. Drew.

Archives Update



As part of the UCD Archives Management course I am attending this year (via Zoom), I am looking into conservation and preservation practices, and how they can be applied to the school archive.

But what is the difference between Preservation and Conservation?

The term **conservation** is usually in reference to active intervention or repair work on damaged materials, to stop any further deterioration. An example of conservation is the excellent work that conservator Lorna Barnes applied to the Daniel O'Connell statue in the DLC, and the John French ceramic (awaiting placement).

Conservation work is very specialized, so conservators are usually hired freelance to complete work within an archive. An archivist would not have the skill set needed to repair damaged items.

The term **preservation** applies to more passive changes that slow any damage to items or collections.

An example of this is making sure the Archive Room is kept free of excessive light or heat, and to keep the area dust-free and free from vermin (beetles, cockroaches, mice and bats can wreak havoc on priceless collections).

In most historical archives you can find signs of environmental damage to materials, and the College Archive is no exception.



Conservator Lorna Barnes gently cleaning the delicate ceramic sculpture by past student and renowned sculptor John French.



Reconstruction of damaged Daniel O'Connell plaster bust.

Here is an example of a chemical deterioration that happens to old leather – nicknamed “red rot”. This is very common in archives containing historical ledgers, made with a leather spine. Exposure to temperature or humidity over the years breaks down the leather, so when you pick up “red rot” items you’ll come away with a fine orange dust on your hands – careful of any white clothes!



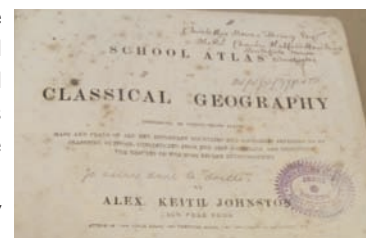
Example of “red rot” on school ledger from 1862.

Another common humidity issue is “foxing”, which appears as brown spots on old papers. Foxing is caused by tiny iron impurities in the paper from the creation process being exposed to humidity in the air.

Fire and water are an archivist’s worst nightmare – the damage done by these can be irreparable, as we know all too well from the many items barely salvaged from the 1984 fire.



By taking preservation steps today, we try to ensure that the artefacts and documents are kept as safe and secure as possible, for as long as possible. During the course, I will be tasked to write up a long-term preservation plan to ensure many generations can continue to access the materials held at the school.



Foxing visible on School Atlas, with stamp from French College Blackrock Prefects' Library.

If you have any preservation questions about your family history collections, feel free to make contact at archives@blackrockcollege.com.

Global Citizenship

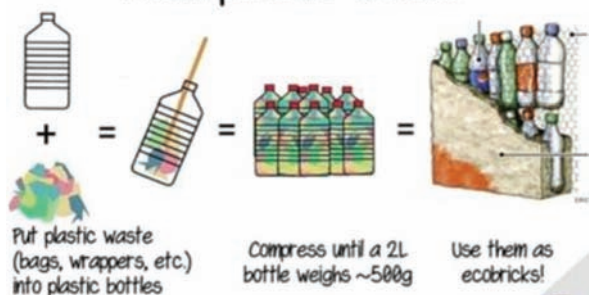


Global Citizenship Team – The work continues!

Whilst online learning has returned and become the norm of our daily schedule, the goals of the Global Citizenship Team have not changed. We continue to work on our projects for the year as we aim to create a more equal and just world.

Global Citizenship Committee
Tuesday meetings @ 8.30 on Teams

You can build eco bricks from plastic waste



Step by step guide of how to build an eco brick



The GC Team continue to meet online and work on making eco bricks



Students, teachers and friends of the Spiritan Community celebrate Liebermann Day with Fr. John Wambu

Global Citizenship Team marks Lieberman Day – 2nd February

For the past few weeks, the Global Citizenship Team has been working closely with our sister school in Kenya. Students from Blackrock and Holy Ghost school were reunited virtually via Zoom to plan readings and prepare for our celebration to come. This was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect. Students on both sides were reminded of the shared experiences which connect us, despite our cultural differences. Whilst land, sea and sports affiliation (Liverpool or Man Utd) may keep us apart, we are united in spirit and community. On the 2nd of February, Blackrock College and Holy Ghost School took part in a collaboration mass to celebrate our shared Spiritan ethos and our unique cultures. Students who travelled to Kenya on the immersion trip last February took part in readings and music. The mass was hosted by Fr. John Wambu in the Chapel on the site of Holy Ghost Secondary school and online. The mass was recorded and can be viewed on the College website.

A message from our chairperson – Gavin Bowen O'Connor:

The world is an amazingly dynamic place, and we are experiencing rapid changes at an unprecedented rate globally. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the UN once said "This is our world, a common world.



Fr. John Wambu celebrating mass in the school Chapel in Kenya



Peter Sisu, a student from Holy Ghost School, leads the responsorial psalm in the collaboration mass.



Mr. Madden, Ms Byrne and Mr. Traynor attend the celebration. Will Fitzgerald, Jack Moloney, George Brady, and Charlie O'Brien represent the students who experienced immersion last year. Frazer McGinn whom attended is the secretary of the GC Team.

Everyone should feel a common responsibility." On the Global Citizenship Committee, we could not agree more. We are guided by the UN's SDG, looking at how we can implement changes in Blackrock College and the wider community



Mr. Cosmas, the music teacher of Holy Ghost School, leads the school choir.

society. One of our ongoing projects is the ecobricks project. This involves gathering around a thousand ecobricks to combine into a couch to raise awareness of plastic consumption. We are running many more projects, such as an anti-greyhound racing campaign, and a partnership project with our sister school in Kenya.



If you would like to join the action and become part of the movement for change, please contact either Ms. J McGuire or Ms. D Byrne.




For more information follow our Instagram page: @Blackrock_gcc_2k21

A close-up photograph of a rocky shoreline. The foreground shows several large, light-colored, smooth rocks. In the background, a cluster of barnacles and mussels is attached to a darker, more textured rock surface. The water is visible in the upper left corner, appearing calm and light blue.

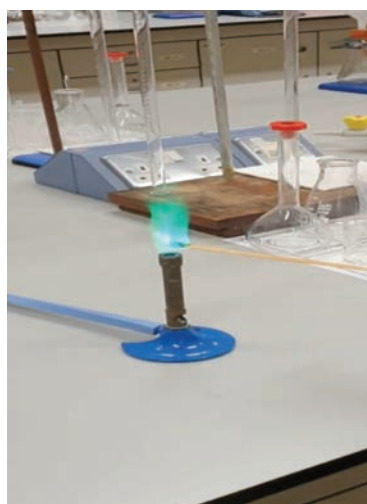
A large, dark, convex mushroom with a thick, light-colored stem growing in a grassy field. The mushroom has a smooth, slightly cracked surface and is surrounded by green grass and other vegetation.

Damir Elliot runner up student entry

A white horse stands prominently on a grassy, rocky hill. In the background, a small village with white buildings is visible, followed by a deep blue sea and distant mountains under a sky filled with white clouds.



Amgen Gel Electrophoresis




Flame Tests



Elephants' Toothpaste

number of practical activities including gel electrophoresis. Thanks to the Amgen Biotech Experience and University College Dublin for the loan of the equipment. The group also got hands on experience dissecting a sheep's heart, creating "Elephants' Toothpaste" and determining the colours produced by certain metal ions using flame tests.

CHROMOSOME



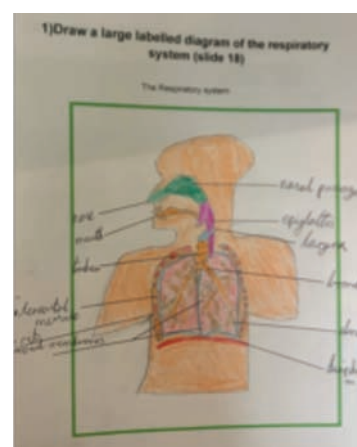
FACTS

- 1 Two copies of chromosome 4 are being inherited from each parent, one from one of the parents.
- 2 Chromosome 4 spans about 141 million DNA building blocks (base pairs) and represents more than 6 percent of the total DNA in cells.
- 3 Chromosome 4 likely contains 1,000 to 1,100 genes that provide instructions for making proteins.

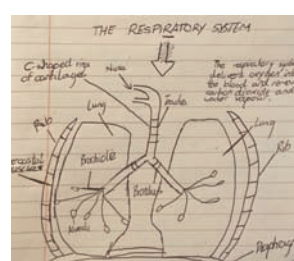
Chromosome 4 has been linked to genetic disorders and identified in several types of cancer.

Examples of the disorders are Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and neuroblastoma.

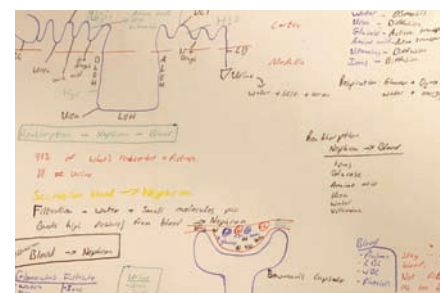
Harry Dixon (3rd Year)
- Chromosome Project



Luca Wiley, (2nd Year) –The Respiratory System.



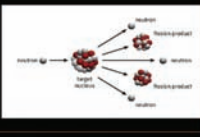
Zack Egan-Ruane (2nd Year)
– The Respiratory System.



James Boyle (Fifth Year) - Excretion Notes

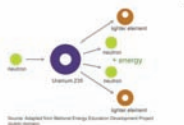
Nuclear Fission and Atomic Bombs

By Patrick Keane



What is Nuclear Fission?

- Nuclear Fission is the process of splitting atoms apart which causes the release of a large amount of energy.
- The energy produced in nuclear fission is in the core of the atom. A massive amount of energy is contained in the bonds that hold the nucleus together.



How do Humans perform Nuclear Fission?




Most nuclear power plants use uranium atoms to produce their energy. Specifically, a type of uranium atom called uranium-235.

The process involves a neutron colliding with the nucleus of the atom which causes it to split and release a large amount of energy in the form of heat.

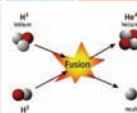
Controlling the Reaction and Waste

- When the first atom is split apart, it releases its own neutrons which collide with more atoms which means the reaction will continue. This is called a nuclear chain reaction and if it is not controlled it can result in a nuclear explosion.
- To control this, nuclear power plants have rods made of boron which can absorb the neutrons to control the reaction.
- The waste left behind from nuclear fission is radioactive - it must be stored away. Often it is put into large containers and then put deep in the ground or into the ocean.




Nuclear Fusion

- Nuclear Fusion is another type of nuclear reaction that produces large amounts of energy.
- It is different to nuclear fission as it involves two light nuclei joining together to form one. When this happens, a large amount of energy is released.



Atomic Bombs/Nuclear Weapons

- Modern atomic bombs and nuclear weapons work using chemical explosives, nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. There are many different ways atomic bombs can be produced.
- A fusion weapons is off a fusion reaction that creates the energy for fusion of hydrogen isotopes. The fusion releases large amounts of energy and causes the explosion.



'Fat Man' and 'Little Boy'



- 'Little Boy' was the first nuclear weapon used in a war. It was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
- 'Fat Man' was the second nuclear weapon used in a war. It was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

Sources

- https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/nuclear_fission.php
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55555555>
- <https://www.iaea.org/newsroom/news/2013/03/30/fission-fusion-what-is-the-difference>
- <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/energy/fusion/faq.html>
- <https://www.iaea.org/newsroom/news/2013/03/30/fission-fusion-what-is-the-difference>
- <https://www.iaea.org/newsroom/news/2013/03/30/fission-fusion-what-is-the-difference>
- <https://www.iaea.org/newsroom/news/2013/03/30/fission-fusion-what-is-the-difference>

Patrick Keane (4th Year) Physics Project

Pastoral Care Programme



Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week in January each year. Here in Blackrock, we celebrate being a Catholic School every week of the year. Our "normal" week includes the availability of Daily Mass, which is livestreamed on the College website at 8.15am each weekday morning, meditation / mindfulness classes, Chaplaincy support, social media reflections, Student Council reflections, students delivering homilies at family masses, faith friends, St Vincent de Paul Society, retreats for each year group ... staff ... parents / past parents / grandparents ... past students etc etc... so what makes Catholic Schools Week special? ... The international theme this year centred on "Community" ... Monday – resilience, Tuesday – faith, Wednesday – love & intergenerational solidarity, Thursday – challenges and Friday – hope and resilience. Our four values reflect this theme. **Being There, Being Truthful, Being Caring and Being Grateful** are values for which we all strive, and while often falling short, continue to strive for, because we are a people of faith, of hope and of love and the Holy Spirit is Love. As a Spiritan School, various year groups were involved with and availed of meditation on Monday, photographing nature which filled them with the joy of God's creation on Tuesday, phoning grandparents on Wednesday, a fun quiz on Thursday and attending online Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday during Catholic Schools Week ... special thanks to all who helped make everything possible.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Catholic Schools Week

The Matthew 25

Programme continued online for two Transition Year class groups since Christmas. This Pastoral Programme reflects on our call to be caring for those around us. We reflected on simple ways to make our time during lockdown more pleasant for those around us and for our families. Many boys

engaged in letter writing to their Grandparents and to our Spiritan Community both in Blackrock and in retirement homes.

Welcome to Matthew 25

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."

Messages from Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin CSSp to each year group, to past pupils, to parents [past and present] and to staff were recorded and shared through various channels. The ever inspirational and always positive Fr Cormac is an encouragement to us all and his mantra of "never give up" #NGU ... to fear and falter never.

The 5th Year Family Mass was concelebrated on Sunday 31st January 2021 by the College Spiritan Community. The theme was one of trusting in God's Love and continuing our daily lives being aware of God's Love. Unfortunately, we could not gather in the Chapel with the families of 5th Year or meet on St Patrick's Corridor for a chat over a cup of coffee but as Fr Cormac said in his homily, we will do so again, and every morning is one day closer to us gathering again.



Messages from Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin CSSp

Pastoral Care Programme Cont'd



... and all of this happened without a single boy attending class in the College – we are all online on Teams. Two available statistics are that the College Chapel was “visited” 2,458 times online during Catholic Schools Week, and in the 5 weeks to half term, 9,177 “visits” were made to the College Chapel. We are truly fortunate to be part of the community which we call “Blackrock”.

The Spirit, the Holy Spirit is truly alive.

Stop for a moment to appreciate all.



The 5th Year Family Mass

Morning Mass

Join us for Morning Mass online from 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
Morning Mass is live streamed on the College Website.

Ash Wednesday

Blessed Ashes can be collected from the College Car Park on Ash Wednesday, 17th February 2021
between 12.00 Noon and 1.00 PM
[Please respect the 5 Km Covid Restriction Guideline]

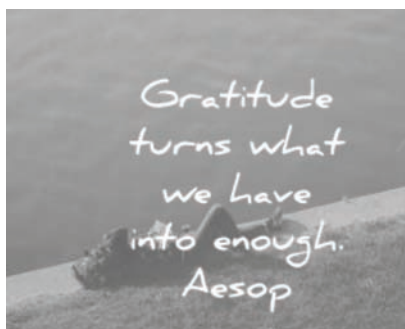
Wellbeing



BLACKROCK COLLEGE WELLBEING

The inaugural Wellbeing Week for the College took place this year from February 1st -5th :

The Wellbeing Day of the past was this year spread through an entire week. Although it was online, we amended the activities so that they could be carried out through the remote learning environment. We gathered opinions from the student body earlier in the year through focus groups so we could better tailor the week to the students. The week was based around the College's 'Six Ways to Wellbeing' which are: Take Notice, Connect, Give, Keep Learning, Be Active and Be Grateful. Each day of the week was assigned the theme of the first five of these, with an over-arching theme of **Be Grateful** throughout the entire week.



On Monday, with the theme of 'Take Notice', students were encouraged to take part in the 'Be Grateful' photo competition, to reach out to someone they know, to start a wellbeing journal, to look around their area, and to take notice of the things around them.



Tuesday, was 'Connect Day'. House meetings were held for students to connect with each other. Students were also encouraged to wear their house colours, Tuesday also happened to be Liberman Day, so students would have learnt about his life in religion class to better connect with the school's history and ethos.



On Wednesday we focused on the theme of 'Give'. We designed a

postcard template for students to reach out to loved ones who may be alone or unwell. Students were asked to Reach Out with Caring and Kindness (R.O.C.K.), and to go through their wardrobe and Give items they don't need to charity.



'Keep Learning' was Thursday's theme. Activities such as the Past vs Present Pupils' Debate and cookery demonstrations were held along with visits to a virtual library space and the opportunity to learn a few phrases in a different language.



Friday – Be Active. On Friday the One Million Step Challenge was held to see if, as an entire school, we could reach one million steps before 8:30. There was a Hit workout session provided by the PE department. DEAR or Drop Everything and Read was also held last class from 3:10 to the end of the day. Finally, to round off the week students were encouraged to give up their screens from the start of DEAR at 3.10pm on Friday until the start of the Leman concert at 8pm on Saturday.



The week was a huge success thanks to the help from the senior management and the staff as well as the engagement from the student body.

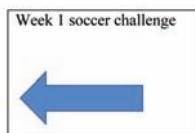
Senior Soccer in Lockdown

The senior soccer team has continued their training at home. Daily & weekly challenges have been set for the team to develop their skills and live S&C classes every Thursday with Mr. Lester are helping the team to keep their fitness up.

Ryan Holmes (5th Year), Rory Barry (6th Year) & Robert Kenny (6th year) have been top of our leader board and are looking forward to collecting their prizes when we return to school. A virtual challenge with St. Bede's, Manchester, has been arranged - we look forward to our annual match, in a different way!



SCAN ME



Rowing

The Rowing Club has been working hard in lockdown. The coaches have set the boys numerous challenges throughout the past number of weeks. Their biggest team challenge to date saw the boys split into different teams and work virtually to make their way 271km to the National Rowing Centre, Cork. Congratulations to team Fides who came in first place with an average speed of 20.79km/hr. In second place was Libermann at 13.71km/hr and in third place was Empacher at 13.39km/hr.

JCT

The JCT team have been busy carrying out daily challenges set by their coaches. To date, there have been 26 challenges so far. Derry Moloney, Johnny Gossan and Shane Van Zuydam, all 3rd Year, are

JCT 2021 Lockdown League

	Total
1 Derry Moloney	89
2 Johnny Gossan	88
3 Shane Van Zuydam	86
4 Cian Dennehy	83
5 Declan Cadden	82
6 Jack Angulo	82
7 Patrick Moore	81
8 Daniel Begley	79
9 James Clancy	78
10 Seb Shortt	78



SCAN ME

currently at the top of the leader board, but they will have to work hard to maintain their positions. This QR code will take you to videos of one of their challenges, the trick shot challenge. Enjoy!

SCT:

Kicking practice with the SCT kickers.

Oliver Coffey
Hugh Cooney
Will Fitzgerald
Cian Moloney
Michael Moloney
Ruben Moloney
Thomas Quinn
Zach Quirke
Patrick Van Zuydam



SCAN ME

Chess

Despite current restrictions, chess club has still been very active moving online. Each week on Monday and Thursday's, we hold an online chess tournament. The tournament is 45 minutes long and everyone has an opportunity to play against one another. Congratulations to the following students for winning a tournament: Tournament 1: Liam Norton (4th Year), Tournament 2: Evan McCourt (4th Year), Tournament 3: Robert MacHale (3rd Year) and Tournament 4: Evan McCourt (4th Year).

The enthusiasm from the boy's has been great and there has been a great turn out so far. New members are always welcome to join our club!

Some examples of the boy's online chess boards



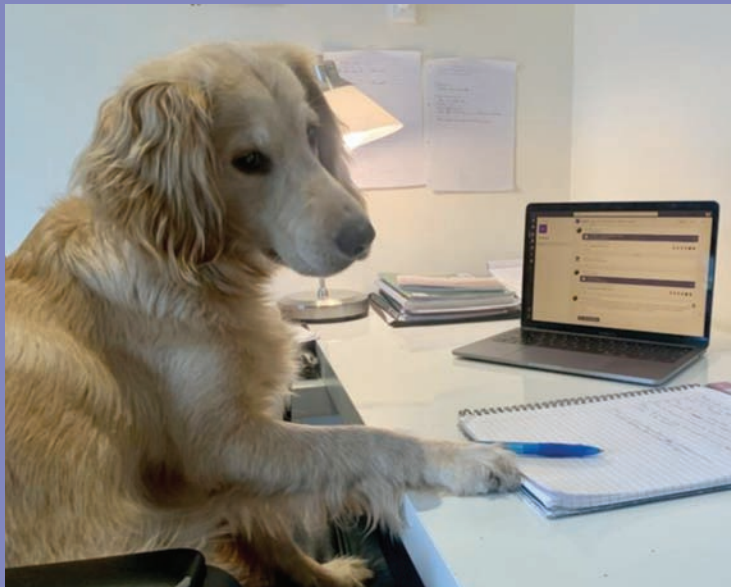
'BE GRATEFUL' - PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



1st Place Shane Redahan (Shanahan, 6th Year) - For his work capturing the importance of communication and safe contact.



2nd Place Ben Kieran Glennon (Leman, 4th Year) - Ben entitled his work BE GRATEFUL NATURE .A clear image showing the beginning of a new season .When winter turns to spring there is a sense of brighter days ahead.



3rd Place MARK O BRIEN (Shanahan, 6th Year) Well, we all need a little help from time to time!



Highly Commended, Carl Ferdinand Hattendorf (Second Year)

REFLECTION

“while we might feel small, separate, and all alone, our people have never been more tightly tethered. The question's not if we will weather this unknown, but how we will weather the unknown together.”

Amanda Gorman
“The Miracle of Morning”

