

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Easter 2021

Dear Parents,

**Ralph Waldo Emerson pondered: "What would we do if the stars only came out once every 1000 years?"** He hypothesized: **"no one would sleep that night; the world would become religious overnight. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead, the stars come out every night and we watch television".**

We are probably watching a lot of television at the moment, but the context is different. To paraphrase W.B. Yeats as he reflected upon a previous very different Easter, our lives have been changed, changed utterly. Maybe we are thinking about ourselves a little differently. Understandably, many are overwhelmed by an anxiety fuelled by dismal news bulletins and newspaper headlines. There can be a rawness in daily life that inevitably leads to despair as confidence falters. Do not despair.

Easter reminds us that there is hope in every and any circumstance and this hope is far more than wishful thinking. The Easter story is one of suffering and pain, doubt and confusion but ultimately hope and joy. It is a personal message, of sacrifice carried out for each one of us and through this sacrifice comes salvation, forgiveness and redemption.

Amanda Gorman's poem **'The Hill We Climb'**, recited at President Biden's inauguration, asked the question: **"where can we find light in this never-ending shade?"** She concluded: **"When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it".**

Easter is this day. Easter shines this light.

Our boys are certainly brave enough to be it. Despite very trying circumstances, they have kept going in the classroom and beyond. The Environment Awareness Week and Addiction Awareness Day, debates and inter-house competitions, podcasts and thoughts for the Day, liturgies and reflections were indicative of their spirit. The welcome return of 6th Years, followed by the 5th Years, with characteristic zest for life has rejuvenated our campus.

Our bees, 20,000 of them, have also added a buzz to our campus as well as being a strong statement in support of our campus ecosystem.

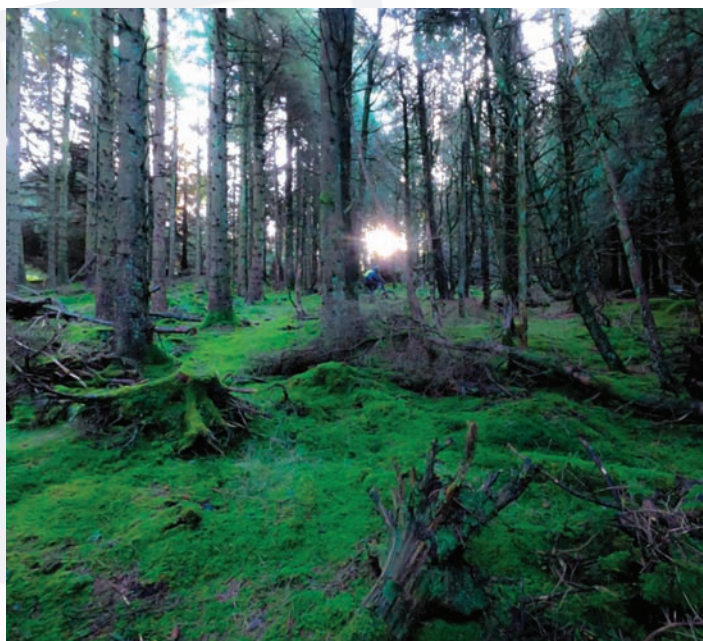
We look forward to the new term, conscious of the health and safety issues that still prevail but determined to keep going. I am delighted to report that our Spiritan Community has been fully vaccinated and that Fr. Nash is on the mend after a non-Covid related illness. We cannot wait for the return of the 2nd, 3rd, and Transition Years. Having everyone back on campus will make a huge difference to us all.

We have come through a difficult term, but we have been sustained and fortified by the prayers of our Community, the dedication and craft of our Teachers, the commitment of our Parents' Association and Year Committees, the service of our Student Council, House Captains and Student Committees, the endeavour of our support staff and the prompting of our Union and of course, your encouragement and affirmation. For your steadfast support we are most grateful.

In 2017, I quoted Father Ross Jones S.J. the then Rector at Riverview, Sydney Australia and it is worth doing so again: **"May the Easter Christ cast out all our timidities, our inclination to nail things down, too safely, too securely, too predictably. Let us rest and be content with mystery and let God's Risen Word be a liberating call to us all".**

God Bless.

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal



**"where can we find light in this never-ending shade?"**

**Amanda Gorman**

Photograph submitted by Oscar Glavin (Third Year) for the 'Be Grateful' Photography Competition

# Message from the Deans



With the Easter break approaching there is a great sense of achievement as we record several positive milestones reached these past few weeks. We highly commend the students in each year group for their positive engagement, excellent participation, ongoing enthusiasm, and tenacity both online and in person. The resilience in evidence is remarkable and testifies to the character of our young men.

We continue to see the benefits of the weekly Application Cards which consistently provide strategic short-term, achievable targets and have encouraged a structure and routine which is more important than ever. They continue to supply valuable feedback and evidence of the significant academic progress that is happening.

The first week back, our Virtual Assemblies, held in each Year Group, presented an important opportunity to offer guidance, encouragement, and direction. The plan for the weeks ahead was presented, while acknowledging the potential for change and emphasising, as always, that we are here to help. The term ahead was to be a busy one, academically, with Orals and Easter exams in Sixth Year, Progress Cards in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Year, CBAs and Parent-Teacher Reports in Second Year and ongoing projects and assignments throughout.

There was a real sense of positive energy, joy and enthusiasm when the Sixth Years returned to the campus at the beginning of week two and this was matched by the delight we all experienced when they were joined two weeks later by the Fifth Years. This return to in-person teaching and learning has given a great boost and encouragement to everyone and it was marvellous to see so many smiling eyes on the corridors. We very much look forward to welcoming Second, Third and Fourth Years back after the break and in the interim we congratulate them on their tremendous effort and work online.

## Important Dates for Transition Year Term 3

15th/20th/22nd/27th/29th April and 4th May – Leadership Course Part 2

Saturday 24th April - 5k Rock Run 'Rock While You Can'

5th May – Submission of Dragons Den Business Plans

6th May – Summer Concert

5th – 7th May – TY Music, Art and Drama (MAD) Festival

16th May – Sports and Family Day

21st May – Dragons Den Final

25th May – TY Day of Reflection

TBC exact dates in May – TY Portfolio Assessment and Interview

TBC Exact Dates in May – Masterchef Heats and Finals

Dates for the submission of **LC Projects** have been finalised.

Projects in Home Economics, DCG and Economics concluded before the Easter break. Music Practicals will take place over the Easter holidays while, History, Geography, Religious Education and Agricultural Science booklets are to be submitted on Friday 23rd April. Finally, Art Portfolios & Construction Studies Projects will conclude in May. Busy times ahead for many!

While the **TY Parents' Committee** got such fantastic speakers in for the boys, I decided to organise a **magician!** Jack Wyse met the boys on Monday 22nd March delivering a fantastic workshop on communication and presentation skills, while also taking the boys through how to do a few magic tricks as well.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



## Important Dates for Term 3 for Sixth Years

Wednesday 5th May - 6th Year Parents Conference  
Sunday 23rd May - 6th Year Graduation Day  
Friday 28th May - Class ends for 6th Year Students.  
Wednesday 9th June -Public Examinations begin @ 9.30am

The **6th Year Parents' Committee** continues to meet online. While not travelling to Kenya this summer, two fundraisers, a Machakos Candle and a Machakos Plaque initiative are being planned to help construct a place of safety/training centre for young girls on the site of the Spiritan school in Kenya. **The Class of 2021** Yearbook sub-committee continues to welcome photos of the boys which parents might like to submit for inclusion and the Graduation Committee continues to liaise with Mr Flor Madden on the planning of **Graduation Day for May 23rd**.



Mr T. Ryan (Dean of Sixth Year) welcomes Sixth Years back on Campus March 1st, 2020

Well done to our **Second Years** led by Fionn Whelan, Conor McFarland and Zack Egan-Ruane who have constructed a very impressive **Blackrock College World in Minecraft** and the inter-house mini-games have commenced.

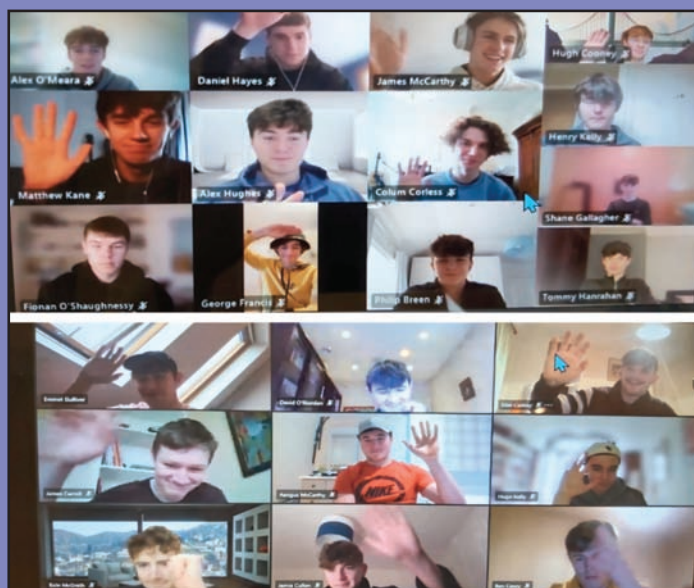


The Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre in the Blackrock College Minecraft World



St Patrick's Corridor in the Blackrock College Minecraft World

In a wonderful act of Being Grateful and Caring **Fifth Years** have donated a total of **400 Easter Eggs** for some of Ireland's most vulnerable children. The Eggs will be donated to Spirasi, the Spiritan organisation working with torture victims, asylum seekers and refugees living in Ireland. We thank and commend students for such generosity and global awareness.



Fifth Years waving goodbye to online learning!



Fifth Years have donated 400 eggs to Spirasi



**6th Year House Captains** co-ordinated a series of **online inter-house events** during lockdown. Congratulations to David Walsh (DeValera House) on being crowned Class of 2021 Poker champion at a keenly contested final run under the watchful eye of dealer Matthew O'Meara and Duff House whose 291 km secured victory in the mid-term walk/run House KM challenge .Marcus Dodd (McQuaid House) leads the 6 Nations Fantasy League field heading into the final series of matches. We thank Charlie Mullin for his organisation of what will no doubt become an annual 6th Year event. Finally, we hope the final of our Chess Championship will take place on site after Easter. We are down to our final 6 players, each hoping to be crowned Class of 2021 champion - may the best player win! As we head to Term 3, Ebenrecht House still lead the way in the 6th Year Inter-House overall competition. However, this lead has narrowed during Term 2 and with hopefully a 6th Year Soccer League and Sports Day to take place on Campus next term, there are still many House points to be played for.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



The great 'Be Caring' spirit of the Year Groups is evident in the ongoing organisation of House events to ensure all can stay connected. Across all Year Groups there is great collaboration to provide something for everyone and it is wonderful to see such excellent participation. We would particularly like to thank the House Captains for their outstanding encouragement to 'Be There' and we thank the boys for responding in such great numbers. Equally inspirational is the energy and enthusiasm for events like Environmental Awareness Week which saw excellent numbers participate in the Walk for Water and the Carbon Calculator during week two. In an example of how versatile we have all become, our annual Lenten Reconciliation Services relocated to the virtual RE classrooms, as did the exceptionally valuable Addiction Awareness Day talks which were very well received.

In these short five weeks so much has happened for which we are grateful, and we look forward in great anticipation and hope to the term ahead when we will see all the corridors, recreation areas and pitches across campus return to vibrant life. In the interim, we wish you all a blessed, peaceful, and joyous Easter, safe in God's care.

The focus will be on the **Third Year** final six nations match between Scotland and France, with two houses Leman and McQuaid still in the running for a night off homework.

Unfortunately Duff house, who drew Italy in the draw were never really in contention!!

**Transition Year's** Corporate Sponsorship Team and Promotion team are busy organising the flagship event of term 3, the **5K Rock Run**. We are calling on Rock Families wherever they are in the world to walk/jog/run/cycle 5km on Saturday 24th April in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA) and Aidlink. Go to [www.idonate.ie](http://www.idonate.ie) and search 'Rock While You Can'. Please share the details of the event with family and friends and let's make it a fantastic day for the entire 'Rock community'!

The Class of 2021 has been given the option of receiving an **Accredited Grade** in each subject and of sitting the Leaving Cert exams in June. By March 16th, all **6th Year** students had made their entries for LC2021 keeping in mind the advice of Mr MacGinty and class teachers that students should sign up for both options in all subjects.

Students continue to log their runs for the **Inter House Distance Challenge**. Well done to DeValera who have been victorious for two weeks in a row. I encourage **Third Years** to continue to get miles into their legs as we target a huge turnout from the year group for the Rock 5km Run coming up at the end of April.

## Fifth Year

Connor Hayes has received great support from his peers as he bids to walk 12,000 steps a day in March to raise much needed funds for the **Irish Cancer Society**, a cause close to Connor's heart and the hearts of so many.

A fantastic commitment!



Connor Hayes (2nd Year) as he walks for the Irish Cancer Society.

The **Green Schools Committee** led by **Fifth Years**, Robert McNabb and Matthew O'Donnell brought the themes of biodiversity, energy, water, waste and travel to the attention of the year group. The Walk for Water challenge was very effective in highlighting the plight of so many in accessing such a basic necessity.

A big thank you to Robert MacHale and Oisín Daly for their organisation of the **Third Year Inter House Chess and Rocket League** which are in their final stages. The winner of the Chess competition will go on to represent their house in the inter-year competition. 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.

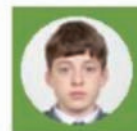


# Message from the Deans Cont'd



As the **Sixth-Year students** approach the final term we strongly encourage them to continue to attend class and to fully avail of our wide range of advice and support systems in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the Class of 2021 all the very best with these final preparations. To further assist these preparations, Mr Herlihy hopes to organise supervised study for Week 2 of the Easter break. Details will follow.

Congratulations to our **Second Year Green Schools** members, Darragh O'Neill, Philip Duffy, Alex Parsons and Zack Egan-Ruane who were among five finalists in the Saffron Science Travel Competition for their video entry, which aims to get more of us cycling and walking to school and makes a terrific contribution to our Travel Flag application.



The **Transition Year Podcast**, 'Rockcast' released a dozen episodes since February midterm. The excellent, completely student-led, panel discussion included topics such as; Covid-19, Myanmar, the use of music in video games, Six Nations, League of Ireland. Guests for interview since the midterm included Minister of State for Special Education Josepha Madigan, Senator Barry Ward, Councillor Séafra Ó Faoláin, Dr. Bobby Smyth, Ms Carrie Benn of Spirasi, UN Youth Delegate for Ireland Conn McCarrick (Class of 2014), UCD Marian Superleague Player Barry Drumm and former Sligo Rovers Chairman Dermot Kelly.



**RockCast**  
Weekly Episodes  
On Spotify.com

Tuesday 9/03 12pm	Wednesday 10/03 12pm
<b>Bobby Smyth -</b> A fascinating interview with Dr Bobby Smyth PhD, who is a Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at the Adolescent Addiction Service.	<b>Carrie Benn-</b> Interview with Carrie Benn, Fundraising and Development Officer for Spirasi

Determination and commitment resulted in a wonderfully collated display of **Trick Shots** done at home. From successfully throwing four slices of bread into a toaster, to some very creative golf ball tricks, to some toilet roll gymnastics, the **Fifth-Year** talents know no bounds!



With over 50 **TY students** involved in the participation and engagement has been superb. We have had multiple mentoring sessions with the Dragons since the midterm along with a Business Plan workshop from Mr. Fitzsimons. The final term will see a flurry of activity as we build towards the Dragons Den Final in May.

**The Strava Distance House Event, Fantasy Rugby League and the Chess Competition** are all ongoing so well done and thank you to our **Second Year** House Captains for organising these.

Between March 3rd and 9th, Leaving Cert mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages took place. **Sixth Year** students have completed a set of written Easter examinations. Reports will be finalised by early April and on resuming class, teachers will advise on the quality and quantity of study that students should do for Term 3.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Special mention must go to Frazer McGinn as the **TY Representative on the Green Schools Committee**, who contributed to a wonderful and engaging Environmental Awareness Week. Congratulations to our **Young Environmentalist Award** winners. Ronan Fahey and Daniel Kenny took 1st place closely followed by John Glynn, Josh Byrne and Maitiú Heckman in 2nd place in the Senior Cycle competition. Gaisce activities have continued as the boys work towards completing their hours. TY students have enjoyed the Tallaght University Hospital Webinar Series, and much more besides but if I write any more Ms.Kelleher will give out to me about my word count!

On the 4th of March, Addiction Awareness Day, **Third Years** had a talk on cannabis by Dr Maria Corrigan and Ms Siobhan Trainor. The talk looked at the effects and potential consequences of taking cannabis and most importantly the role of good decision making. It was very informative and well received by the group.

Sean O'Connor (Shanahan) was the victor of the **Lockdown Virtual Chess League in Fifth Year** beating Callum O'Brien(also Shanahan) in the final. All Houses were represented and over a quarter of the year group took part. Well done and thank you to the House Captains for organising. **The Fantasy Six Nations League** continues.

The RE department facilitated the online showing of two lectures recorded as part of the Addiction Awareness Programme for **Sixth Years**. Dr Colman Noctor addressed the issue of online Pornography and its impact on relationships while Professor Colin O'Gara of St John of God Hospital spoke on the topic of Gambling addiction.

The **TY Parents' Committee** organised wonderful guest speakers .On Tuesday 2nd March Ger Redmond, a fitness coach and motivational speaker shared the story of the challenges and difficulties life threw at him .His raw and honest delivery profoundly impacted the boys. On March 9th Aidan Corless (Class of 1979) delivered key messages to the boys.Two that stand out were: 1) There are people in life who watch things happen and people in life who make things happen, be the latter and 2) True Success is not measured by material things, but by happiness.

## Blackrock Young Environmentalist Awards

Congratulations to our **Second-Year** winners of the Junior Cycle YEA. In first place, James Neary for his project 'Smog and Air Pollution' and in second place Peter O'Connor for his project 'Climate Change'. Great work!

As our **Second Year** Programme of Service, **Auxilium**, nears completion we commend the boys for their truly excellent contributions. We know that this project has the power to transform, and we are delighted to see so many reaching out in caring and kindness to help at home and in the community, this year in particular . It is a great pleasure to share some photos of their 'service in action'.



Sean-Patrick White makes his family dessert for Auxilium.



David Mattimoe helping out at home for Auxilium



Charlie Clifton walking the dog for Auxilium



David Cormican helping out for Auxilium.



Ben O'Connell preparing to paint the windowsills for his Auxilium Service



Isaac Moss on his Sleep Out for Auxilium.



# Pastoral Care Programme



"Christ is alive, with joy we sing, we celebrate our Risen King", the words of this well-known hymn are in all our minds this half term as we continue our preparation for Easter. The five-week half term started with us all "online" with the corridors, the classrooms and the College Chapel were all lacking the



Father Paddy Dundon CSSp celebrates mass every morning in the College Chapel at 8.15

physical presence of our school community. However, the online congregation continues to grow with an average of over 300 "unique viewers" joining Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp in our Daily Mass at 8.15am each morning from the College Chapel – the missionary outreach of our Spiritan Community in the College continues.

Week two of this half term saw the return of our 6th Years and week four heralded the return of 5th Years – the joy of their returning filled all that engage with them with a taste of the Joy which is Easter.

The liturgical life of the College continued throughout this lockdown. At the beginning of our Lenten journey, Blessed Ashes were distributed in the College Carpark. We continued our journey through lent with a morning of Eucharistic Adoration live streamed from the College Chapel. Lenten Reconciliation Services were celebrated online for 2nd, 3rd and TY while 5th Years celebrated their Reconciliation Services in the College Chapel within their class groupings. Blackrock is a community of faith and large numbers of the staff from all departments joined together on the last morning of term to celebrate and to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, requiring three separate liturgies to comply with social distancing.



Preparation continues with a number of boys who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during the summer term. Should there be any other students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Mr Madden [fmadden@blackrockcollege.com].

As Holy Week approaches, plans for the Annual Past Pupils' Retreat are progressing well with Spiritan speakers from the four corners of the world delivering lectures. The Annual Retreat is traditionally fully subscribed but this year due to Covid, the Annual Retreat has now moved online and as a result there is no limit to how many can attend – to reserve your place, visit the Union Website [www.rockunion.ie](http://www.rockunion.ie) – the theme is "What are we doing on earth for Christ's sake?"



Teaching and learning, and living with online, has brought us many opportunities – technology is helping us communicate and reach out like never before with over 300 of an online congregation



each school morning celebrating Mass to online Reconciliation Services .to Eucharistic Adoration, to the online PPU Retreat. All are welcome – yes, you too are welcome – please, do join us. After the pandemic, hopefully many of these new opportunities will continue.

"Christ is alive, with joy we sing, we celebrate our Risen King". We truly are an Easter people.

## 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](mailto:fmadden@blackrockcollege.com)**

**Morning Mass is live streamed on the College Website.**

# Wellbeing



## BLACKROCK COLLEGE WELLBEING

This term we were heavily focused on improving our feature days and weeks. After Wellbeing Week we wanted to see what made the event so successful: we discussed this at length as a committee and we plan to send around a survey to every student to get their opinion on the week. This feedback will help us to better improve experiences such as Anti-Bullying Day, Mental Health Awareness Day, and the multitude of other events that we organise throughout the year.

During this term we also had an Addiction Awareness Day: each year-group had a different talk from specialists in the



addiction field, with every talk focused on a different form of addiction. There was also a fascinating interview with Dr Bobby Smyth, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at Adolescent Addiction Service – HSE. The interview was conducted by Frazer McGinn and Jamie Starr Bourke (both TY) and published on the Blackrock College podcast 'Rockcast'.

We are currently introducing a new program to promote more activity within the school by promoting HIIT workouts (high intensity interval training) and exercise in general.



# Science

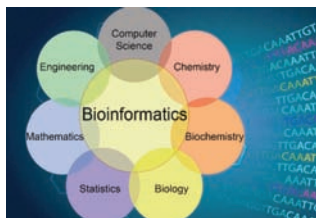


**Frazer McGinn (TY)** was awarded a certificate for participating in the **Amgen BIOTECH** experience in an **Introduction to Genomics and Bioinformatics**. This workshop was completed over Zoom during the February midterm with Ms Groves.

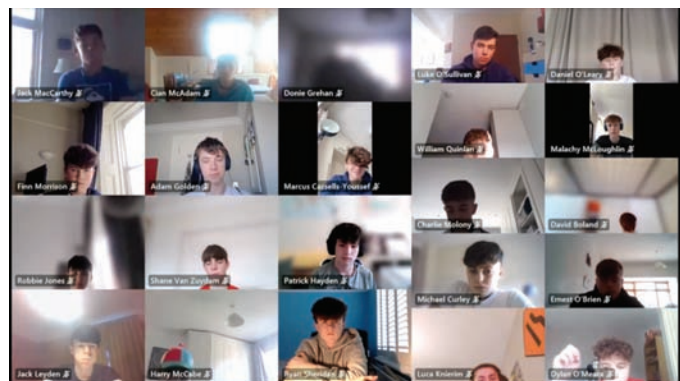


Frazer McGinn (TY)

Bioinformatics is the use of computers, statistics, and online software to analyse genetic information from different organisms. It is biological research done on computers instead of in a wet lab. The workshop contained lots of hands-on activities including a food detective scenario which used the online BLAST database to uncover how many different animals' DNA was in a supermarket sausage.



AMGEN



38C Science participating in a class discussion.

# Green Schools

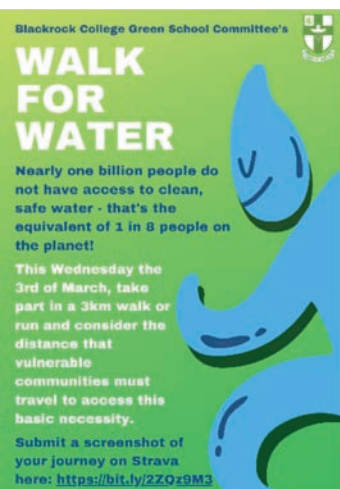


The second term marked Green Schools' busiest term so far. In January our application for **new bike racks** for the school was successful and we look forward to receiving them in the third term. Ms Wyse and four Second Year Committee members, **Darragh O'Neill**,

**Philip Duffy**, **Zack Egan-Ruane** and **Alex Parsons** created a video to enter the **Saffron Science Travel Competition**, highlighting the challenges faced when cycling to school. Their hard work paid off and we were one of the five shortlisted finalists. In early February, the inaugural **Blackrock College Young Environmentalist Awards** were launched with over 40 brilliant projects from Fourth and Second Year. Congratulations to **Ronan Fahey** and **Daniel Kelly (TY)** who won the senior prize with their project of "The declining population of bees and how we can prevent it" and to **James Neary (2nd Year)** who won the junior prize with his project "Smog and Air Pollution".

The first week of March saw our biannual **Environmental Awareness Week** with each day focusing on a different environmental theme: Biodiversity, Energy, Water, Waste and Travel. Environmental Awareness Week was the culmination of two months' work by the committee and was a resounding success. We adopted the **'Triple A' Approach: Awareness, Appreciation, Action** for each theme. Students were sent informational packets and activities to take part in each day. The highlight of the week was the **Walk for Water** held on Wednesday where over 100 students took part in a 3km run or walk to highlight the distance that vulnerable communities must travel to access water.

On Friday Green Schools released its episode of the **Blackrock College podcast** with Chairman **Robert McNabb (5th Year)** interviewing environmental lawyer **Eoin O'Cassidy** and **Matthew O'Donnell (5th Year)** interviewing **Green Party Councillor Séafra O'Faoláin**.



The third term is shaping up to be another busy term with our application for the Travel Flag and a new recruitment drive at the centre of our plans. **If anyone wishes to join the Green Schools Committee feel free to contact Robert McNabb at [rmcnabb17@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:rmcnabb17@blackrockcollege.com) for information.**





# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2021



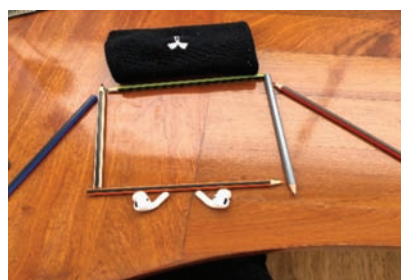
## A selection of Second Year Art Sculptures based on the theme : Made from Found Materials & 23 Gaeilge's Photography Assignment.



Charlie Clifton's Sculpture from found materials.



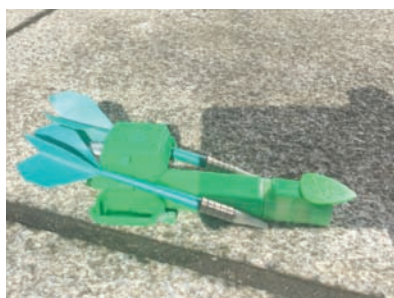
Matthew Leahy's sculpture from found materials.



Connor Nel's Sculpture from found materials.



Charlie Clifton's sculpture from found materials.



Seamus Saul-Rotne's sculpture from found materials.



Mark Cox's Sculpture from found materials.



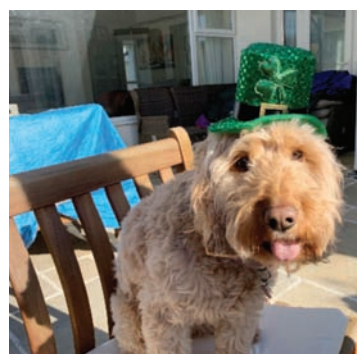
George McGilton's sculpture from found materials.



Seamróg sa ghriain le Conor Walsh



Iománaíocht le Tommy Horkan



St Poodle's Day le Charlie O Conaill: The Winning Entry in the 23 Gaeilge Competition



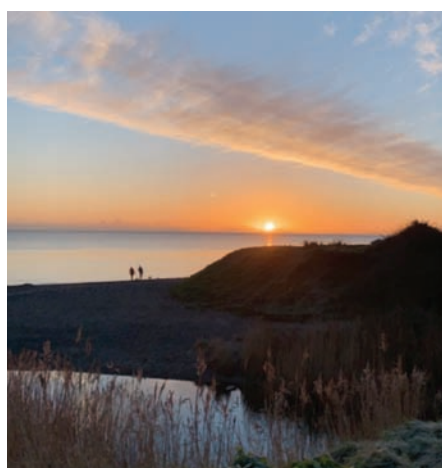
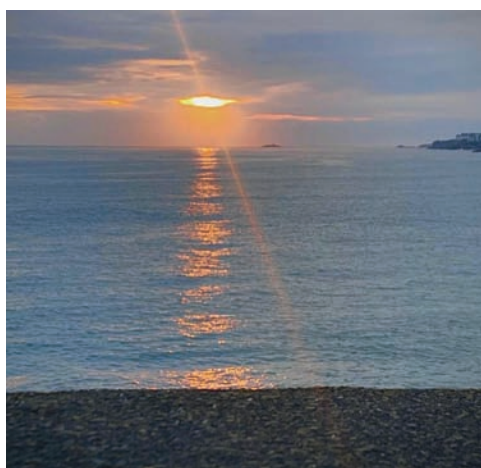
Tae agus Seamróg le Jack Lynch



Mo Fheirm Bheag Seamróga le Michael Walsh

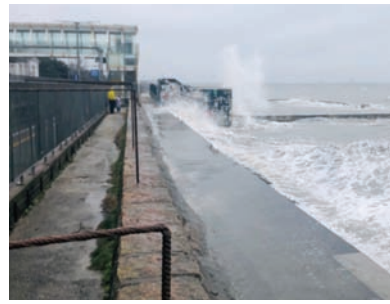
## Beauty within 5km

Photographs taken by students during lockdown highlighting the natural beauty within their 5km.





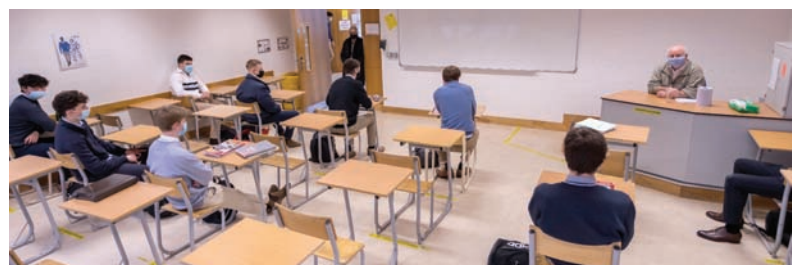
# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2021



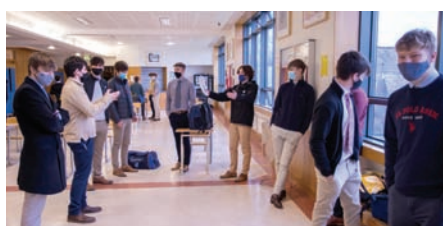
## Sixth Years Return to the College on March 1st .



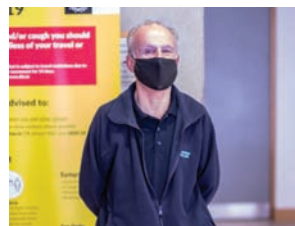
Sixth Years return to the College on March 1st



Mr N.Byrne welcome his 61 History Class back to the College.



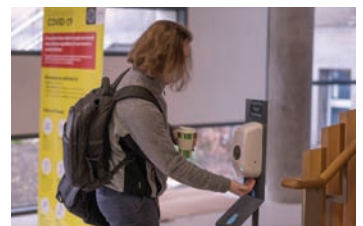
Sixth Years enjoying a Socially Distant Chat on return the College on March 1st .



Mr Michael Knight making sure we adhere to Covid guidelines



Dan Larkin ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st.



Lorcan Campbell ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st



# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2021



John Kennedy ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st.



Matthew Keeley and Alex Kirrane ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st.



John O' Connor keeps order in the Carpark



David Walsh ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st.



Fifth Year House Captains with the 400 eggs collected for Spirasi



Ms J. Groves Fifth Year Biology Class dissecting a heart .



Babatunde , the red panda adopted from Dublin Zoo by Fifth Years, guards their Time Capsule .



Connor Hayes and friends ( Fifth Year ) 12000 steps a day for Irish Cancer Society



Philip Breen and Hugh Cooney dissect a sheep's heart in Ms Gove's Science Class



Join in the Rock 5Km Run .All welcome .



Donal de Buitléir ( 6th Year ) returns to school on March 1st.



Conn O'Byrne and Alex O'Meara dissect a sheep's heart in Ms Grove's Science Class.



Some of the shows available on Fourth Years RockCast.



# Snapshot of 2nd Half Term 2021



## Fifth Years return to the College on March 15th



Fifth Years return to the College on March 15th



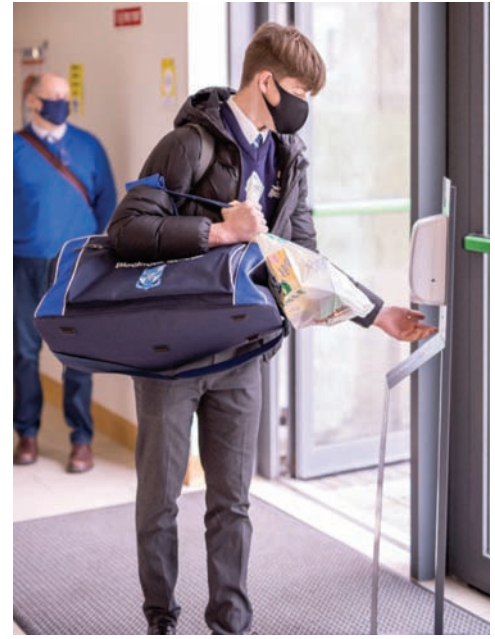
Ms J. Fitsimmons welcomes her Fifth-Year German class back to the College on March 15th



Tommy Hanrahan ( 5th Year ) returns to the College.



Michael Dineen ( 5th Year ) returns to the College.



Eoin Power ( 5th Year ) returns to the College.



Ronin O Hallorin ( 5th Year ) returns to the College.



Happy Days ! A return to school and goodbye to Online Learning for Ms Dobbyn's French Class !

*Photos courtesy of Sean Hannon (Class of 2019)*



# Global Citizenship



## Kenya project

## Collaboration

On the Global Citizenship Committee, we aim to have a global outlook, and strive to take an international approach to our work to have as much an impact as possible. This year, due to COVID-19, the annual immersion trip to Kenya could not take place.

Yet, it would not be right if we gave up. This year, we are conducting a virtual collaboration project with our sister school in Kenya, through a combination of group workshops, interviews, and video productions. To date, we have held our first workshop with our Kenyan counterparts, which was thoroughly enjoyable for all, and we have interviewed our 5th Years who travelled to Kenya last year about their experience. Going forward, we wish to strengthen the ties between our two schools, and to share our findings from this project with the broader community.



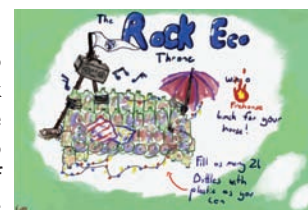
Gavin Bowen O'Connor and Jack Burke interview Anne Cleary CEO of Aidlink and Mercy Musomi CEO of Girl Child Network about what true development really means.



Jack Burke (4th year) interviewing Colom Fagan (5th year) about his experiences on the Kenya Immersion trip in 2020.

## Eco bricks

This term, we are taking new approaches to reach our goal of building an eco brick couch to be displayed in the College. The 2nd and 3rd Years will be bringing in eco bricks when they return in April as part of their CSPE classes, and there is an inter-house competition in TY as well. We also set up different eco brick teams within the committee. All eco bricks made will be used to build a standard size 3-seater couch.



Artwork created by committee member, Fionn Graham, encouraging students to build eco bricks.

## Greyhound Racing Campaign

The Greyhound Racing project is again a new initiative brought forward by the TY students. It is our goal to raise awareness of the terrible atrocities that take place in dog racing and to bring about change in the industry. We are spreading information through the Podcast interviews that will be airing on the new TY project 'Rockcast.' We also aim to raise awareness on social media through pieces of artwork.



Artwork created by Fionn Graham (TY) to raise awareness about the greyhound racing issues.

# Guidance and Counselling



CAO Application: Re-opens on 5th May 2021.



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



HPAT - Many thanks to Mr. Art Lynch for organising the HPAT course and for running the Saturday classes online since October 2020. Again, it was a great success and a wonderful resource for the boys.



**The 6th Years have just completed their Easter exams.**

Well done to all.  
May you all have a peaceful Easter !



## BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp. MUSIC & DRAMA

All our various music ensembles have been finding new and creative ways to rehearse and perform. All music lessons have also continued online, and some have returned in person as our Leaving Certificate music students make their final preparations for their practical exams which are taking place over the Easter break. While last newsletter, we talked about preparing for the Leman Concert with a focus on our choirs and the recording process they have undertaken to record remotely from home, this month we would like to share an update from some students, focusing more on the instrumental side.

### Music Lessons

"Challenging as the lockdown has been, music lessons have been one aspect of it that have worked quite well. For those of us interested in it, music is a crucial outlet when you're stuck at home, and it's an interest you can enjoy and develop regardless of restrictions. Doing guitar and singing lessons online from home have been the highlights of my week, and I've found it's surprisingly simple to conduct a proper music lesson online. My teachers have been working with me on plenty of new material in the last few months, and I've found that the added focus of having the lessons running every week has been hugely beneficial to me. It has been really uplifting to feel that I'm still developing as a musician, despite the lockdown. The Music Department has done a wonderful job at continually running the music lessons, but naturally I'm thrilled to be moving back to doing the lessons in person. If you are interested in taking music lessons, vocal and/or instrumental, in the College, please contact Mr. Traynor, [kgt@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:kgt@blackrockcollege.com)."

Colm Fagan, Fifth Year

### Guitar Ensemble

"The new Guitar Ensemble is up and running again after the Christmas break as of March 1st. Rehearsals have been taking place online, with the group planning on writing a song, similar to what Ceoltóirí Carraige created for the Leman Concert. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Mr. Ciarán Olohan, [colohan@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:colohan@blackrockcollege.com)."

Colum Corless, Fifth Year

### String Ensemble

"This year we haven't been able to gather in strength as a full orchestra. To keep up music in the school we have divided into smaller groups. The strings ensemble is made up of a range of strings instruments such as violins, violas, cellos, and double bass. We come together as a group once a week, usually for no longer than 45 minutes. We practice virtually by joining a Teams call and playing on mute. We record audio on our phones and send it in over teams. We have been practicing pieces such as Prelude in G minor by Rachmaninov, Adagio for strings and the ballad of Inis Mór. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Ms. Una O'Kane, [uokane@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:uokane@blackrockcollege.com)."

Alex Maguire, Fifth Year



### Brass Ensemble

"The Brass Ensemble has been searching for new material for future concerts. We have tried songs such as 'Move on Up' by Curtis Mayfield and 'Tequila' by The Champs. We have also done some ear training. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Mr. André Cavanagh, [acavanagh@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:acavanagh@blackrockcollege.com)."



Eoin Dunne, Fifth Year

### Ceoltóirí Carraige

"Ceoltóirí Carraige continued online from the start of January. The circumstances offered a unique opportunity for Ceoltóirí to write an original piece, Dóchas. We had started creating the piece before Christmas and finished it online. Everyone individually recorded their parts to a guide piano track and people were encouraged to send in multiple recordings. The final track included multiple guitar lines, tin whistles, piano, drums, cello, bouzouki, bass guitar and harmonica. Since then, we've been able to use what we learnt from this experience to work on new songs. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Mr. Chris O'Sullivan, [cosullivan@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:cosullivan@blackrockcollege.com)."

John Duffy, Fifth Year

### Jazz Band

"This year, Jazz has been a little different with the group being separated online. We meet every Monday at 4 pm for 45 minutes to play along together. After a successful Leman performance, we turned our sights to honing our improvisational skills. Under the watchful eye of Mr. André Cavanagh, we ventured into learning the ways of the 12-bar blues and bebop jazz. The group has really benefited from this time online, making the most out of the scenario we were in. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Mr. André Cavanagh, [acavanagh@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:acavanagh@blackrockcollege.com)."



contact Mr. André Cavanagh,

Matthew Kane, Fifth Year

### Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble has been rehearsing online and is currently playing 'Indiana Jones' and 'Game of Thrones'. They have also been working on some extended techniques on their instruments along with some improvisation. If you are interested in joining this ensemble, please contact Mr. Patrick Burke, [pburke@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:pburke@blackrockcollege.com).



The One Act Drama is up and running under the guidance and direction of Mr. Cathal Maher. This year presents a unique opportunity to be creative and explore difference possibilities, especially with regards to performance. We look forward to sharing this with you in the last term.

### 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 continues to meet every fortnight on MS Teams and has come up with lots of new initiatives. Our Chairperson, John Duffy showed his interview skills in a virtual chat with award winning Author Dave Rudden. Dave discussed his love of books, his career, video games, Dungeons and Dragons and what books he would take with him on a desert island. The interview is now available to watch on Blackrock College TV YouTube Channel.



John Duffy interviewing Dave Rudden

### Reading Promotion

Students are invited to submit book reviews and earn points for their house. Students have reviewed a wide variety of books such as *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, *Gone* by Michael Grant and *The Battle* by Paul O'Connell. Book reviews are shared each week on MS Teams. To link World Book Day (8th March) in with Environmental Awareness Week, students were encouraged to help the environment by taking a break from technology and picking up a book instead.

### Virtual Workshops

Katie Foley from the National Library of Ireland gave virtual workshops on the poetry of WB Yeats to 5th Years. Ms Foley referenced *September 1913* and *Easter 1916* and included details of Yeats Life, the Dublin Lockout 1913, the Easter Rising and the Hugh Lane controversy.



Poetry of WB Yeats from NLI

### Research Skills Classes

Ms A. Dillon gave research classes to 2nd Years to help them research a topic for their CBA 1 in Business and to 5th Years to help them research for their history project. When researching any topic or subject there are 4 important considerations to consider:

1. What is the purpose of the information? E.g., is it to inform or sell?
2. Who said it?
3. What is the evidence?
4. What are others saying?

### Online Exhibitions

International Women's Day.

To promote our 'Be Grateful' ethos students were invited to submit a PowerPoint slide on a woman they are grateful to for International Women's Day. Approximately



# The Arts Cont'd



Name: Patrick Keane  
 Year: 4th Year

## Be Grateful Bí Buíoch

I am grateful to Wangari Maathai

International Women's Day

**She has made a positive impact by:**  
Working towards the planting of over 51 Million trees in Kenya, working for environmental conservation and for Women's rights. She has also inspired others to fight for what they believe in.

**We should follow her example by doing the following:**  
Caring for those around us as well as our natural environment. Try to support the growth of plants and trees or even plant them yourself. Fight for what you believe in.

International Women's Day



Kind words about Mums for Mother's Day

100 entries were submitted that included a wide variety of women from Ada Lovelace to Katie Taylor. The most popular women were Rosa Parks, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousefzai and Oprah Winfrey. Entries were selected and shared on MS Teams. Several students selected their mothers, and their kind words were also shared on Teams.

## Vaccine Presentation

Ms. Brunswick and her 42 Biology class have worked very hard over the last 3 months to prepare a visual and audio presentation on Vaccines. The purpose of the presentation is to educate and to inform the Blackrock College community about vaccines in general and the different COVID-19 vaccines, their development and distribution, vaccine inequality, promoting the importance of vaccination as well as dispelling any misconceptions about vaccines. Special thanks should go to TY students: Evan Lyons, Finlay Mackay, Jack Burke, Jack Holohan, Jack McGlone for the extra work they did in putting this worthwhile presentation together and to 2nd Year Darragh O'Neill for his technical support.

## Junior Debating

Junior Debating meets every Monday at lunchtime. In recent news, two teams from Blackrock College 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 two Cambridge Teams also participated in a workshop organised by Cambridge University again availing of the opportunity to participate in a once off debate that same evening against students from schools all over the United Kingdom. We look forward to our Debating afternoon against students from 1st Year Willow Park and our annual Gold Medal Debate in Term 3.



We commend all our Irish language debaters, at both levels. Well done to the Senior Irish Debaters; Jack Burke, Joseph Haughton, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Emmett Gulliver and Joshua Scallan for their great work and commitment with Mr. Orrock and Ms. Ní Shuairc. We commend too the Junior Debaters, Conor McCarron and Peter O'Connor, for their commitment and enthusiasm in their work with Ms. O'Connor.



Senior Irish debaters reach Semi-final of Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh!

At the senior level of this quarter final, Jack Burke, Joseph Haughton, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Joshua Scallan spoke very well at the national Gael Linn, **Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh**, debating against the motion **'Tá ardchaighdeán iriseoireachta in Éirinn.'** ('There's a high standard of journalism in Ireland.') and against the motion **"Tá deireadh le 'comhar na gcomharsan' in Éirinn."** ('Community spirit has ended in Ireland.').

At junior level, Conor McCarron and Peter O'Connor debated very well against the motion **'Tuigean tuismitheoirí an lae inniu fadhbanna na hóige.'** ('Parents today understand youth issues.').

Each boy personally recorded and submitted his prepared debate from home and to a very high standard. We commend each of you on your presentation within these recordings.

Congratulations to Jack Burke, Ben Kieran-Glennon and Joshua Scallan who will represent the College at the regional semi-final of 8 speakers, representing Leinster. Two of these Leinster speakers will proceed to the national final. *Go n-éirí go geal leo!*

## Senior Debating

Lockdown and restrictions, tough as they have been, have not put a stop to senior debating in the school. The Debating Society has been involved in three different competitions in recent times: the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition, the Cambridge Schools' Debating Competition, and the Concern Debates. Naturally, these competitions have been conducted online.

In the Leinster Schools' Debates, Pearse Woods (6th Year), Colm Fagan (5th year) and Ben Kieran-Glennon (TY) are proceeding to the semi-finals this coming week, and Daniel Welch and Stephen Corr have qualified for the Novice final, which will be held later in the year. The Quarterfinals, which concluded on March 2nd, saw some challenging motions, and among those competing were James Carroll (5th Year), Michael Lucey, Matthew Keeley, Alex Kirrane and Stephen Corr (all 6th Year), as well as those who qualified for the semi-finals.

Michael White (5th Year) and Ben Kieran-Glennon qualified for the final of the Cambridge Schools' Debates on Saturday, 6th March. They performed strongly in this highly competitive debate, but unfortunately, they did not place in the top three on the day. We look forward to competing in this competition again next year.

The Transition Year team made up of Ben Kieran-Glennon, Jonathan Hoffman, Ethan Leon-Ryan, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, and Will Donnelly has qualified for the All-Island Quarter Finals in the Concern Debates, which will take place in the coming weeks. We wish them the best of luck.

We look forward to upcoming competitions including the CBC Monkstown Annual Mace on Saturday April 17th. Three Blackrock teams will be entering the competition.

All members of the Senior Debating Society have been engaged and enthusiastic, and thanks to debates continuing to run online, we have been able to meet regularly to prepare for them.

## Art

Following a virtual tour of the Mondrian exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland a Sixth Year Art History Quiz was held. The team names were inspired by the work of the Dutch artist. The semi-finals were held online in early March. The winners from 61 Art were RED TEAM - Ed Burke Kennedy, Matthew Canacott, Donal De Buitléir, Brian Gilson and Lee Sheehan. The winners from 65 Art were TEAM BOOGIE - Eoin O'Sullivan, Jacob Antonio, John Daly, Ben Hogan. The final between RED TEAM AND TEAM BOOGIE will be held next term. Many thanks to the Education Department in the Gallery for making the tour available to our students.

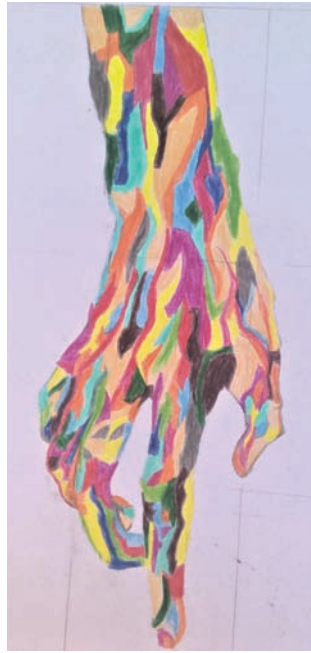
Our junior art students visited the Dali museum virtual tour which inspired them to create surrealist works. Transition Year painters continued to produce work on canvas at home. Our Fifth years acted as curators when tasked with transforming the CADLC into an exhibition venue.



# The Arts Cont'd



Sam Burke Kennedy (Sixth Year) Mixed Media Work



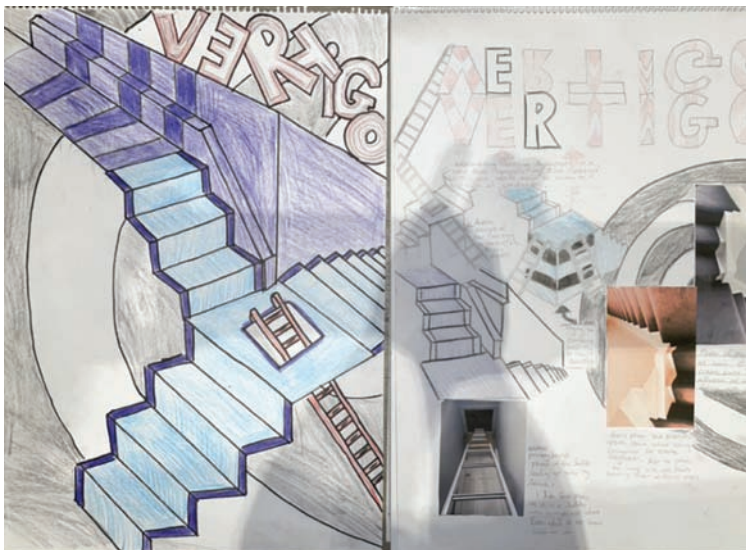
Net Fitter ( Sixth Year)



June Lee ( Sixth Year) Art Club



Sasha Gibney ( Third Year )



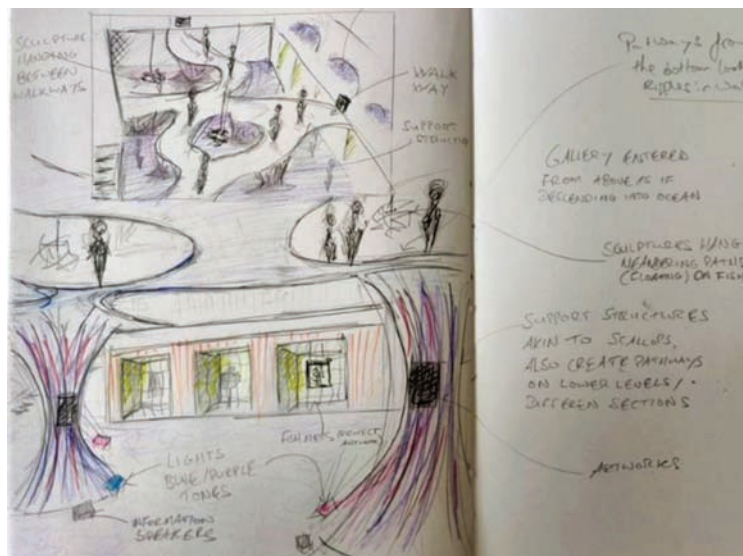
Ruben Moloney Poster Design ( Fifth Year )



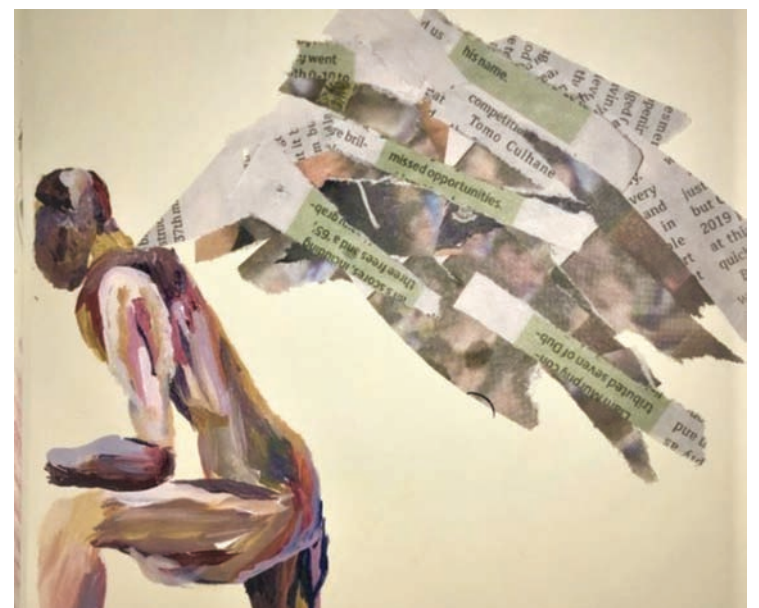
Harry McLaughlin ( Fifth Year )  
Photo Montage



Alex Brophy (Fifth Year) Curator Concept for DLC



Ruben Moloney Poster Design ( Fifth Year )



Antonio Jacob ( Sixth Year ) Collage



## Easter events and activities over the years

*Easter Sunday. Beautiful weather. Most given to the boys at 12. By Fr. Ebenrecht. High Mass at 7.30. At 8.30. Mass. B. to Kewell. S.D. for the children. Some of the ladies were in Dublin after High Mass. There was a fierce wind and flood of rain. It passed along the coast but was deep fall on the premises here.*

Fine weather recorded by Fr Ebenrecht, Easter Sunday 1889.

*Irish Rebellion 1916:  
April Sunday 24 1916.  
Monday 24. \*Glasnevin G.P.O. (about 12 o'clock)  
Stephen's Green  
Ride of Dublin Castle  
D. O. C. (about 11)  
Killey's General Shop  
Dublin's Paddy.  
All trains stopped. All trains, but  
begin plundering all shops except G.P.O.,  
about 1.30 P.M. Change of Kewell (about  
50 of them) killed, many wounded. Later  
retreated after 3 minutes in God's name.  
All police killed in. No escape.  
Dublin in complete disorder.*

Account of the 1916 Easter Rising found in the back of a textbook.



Blackrock boys on an Easter trip to Rome, 1934

Our next debate, held during the Easter term, was on the motion "That Kenya should be given her independence in the near future." Mr. F. Molloy, opening for the motion, compared Kenya with Ireland and stated that since Ireland rebelled and got what she wanted it was only reasonable to expect Kenya to do the same thing. Replying to Mr. Molloy, Mr. C. O'Sullivan said that it was highly slanderous to compare Kenya with Ireland.

Easter term Debate on Kenyan independence, 1954



Easter Vigil in the College chapel, 1988



Easter Bonnet Parade Willow Park, 2009



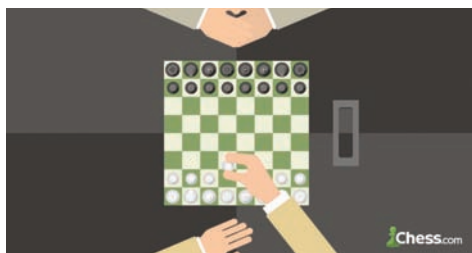
Easter Break 2018 - Launch of 5K Rock Run with Leo Cullen (1996) and Gary Ringrose (2013) from Leinster Rugby, and former Olympic Champion, Ronnie Delaney

## Sport



### Chess

Chess club has still been very active since we moved online. As before, there is online chess tournaments for 45 minutes on Monday's and Thursday's. The turnout has been great. Below are some students' experiences of playing chess online:



"Online chess has been a real success in my opinion. We have two tournaments a week where we play each other in a quick succession of games. It has really helped me improve my game as the short games allow me to practice quick decision making. They also let me learn new, tricky openings that my opponent might not be ready for and have enough time to think his moves through. The online chess has really benefited me."

Liam Norton (Fourth Year)

"I've really enjoyed playing chess during the pandemic. I've found I've had the time to study chess more and learn more openings and having the biweekly chess tournaments have been really helpful".

Conor Hughes (Fourth Year)

"Online chess has gone well so far. I like the competitive aspect and it gives me something to look forward to in lockdown. So far, I have won three of the tournaments and I would like to keep this up. However, it is not just about winning, it is a time to catch up with some of my friends as I can message them in the chat. I hope we continue chess online as it has helped me to improve my chess and it has made me realise that I can play great games, even against some of the more advanced players in the school. The timing has also been very interesting. We started playing tournaments with five minutes and no increments. This helped me to improve my quick decisions. Many players found no time increments difficult so we added a two second increment. Personally, I prefer the increment as it gives me more time to think and calculate a few moves. All in all, online chess has been a great idea and I look forward to continuing it for the next few weeks"

Evan McCourt (Fourth Year)

New members are always welcome! Please email [cwyse@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:cwyse@blackrockcollege.com) if interested.

The following are Sports Questionnaires completed by five Sixth Years.

**Name:** Riley Smith

**Sport:** Soccer

**Who are your coaches?** Mr O'Brien, Ms Mullen, Peter Quinlan and Ronan Cowhey

**What is your favourite sporting memory since you joined Blackrock in 2017?** Probably playing away to St. John's of Ballyfermot in 5th Year. It was an unforgettable game and we came out 3-1 winners. Although I've loads of good sporting memories throughout my time in the College.

**Who is your sporting hero?** I'd say Steven Gerrard. World class footballer who carried his local team for years. Unreal on and off the pitch. Underrated.

**How has lockdown and Covid 19 affected your training?** It's been really tough but to be fair the school have made the most out of a bad situation for sure. They've kept us going since September whether that's non-contact group training, one on one sessions, or training in isolation, they've made the process a lot easier.

**Describe your coaches in three words.** Brightest bunch going.

**Post Covid, if you could have a dinner party with 3 sportspeople, who would they be?** Conor McGregor, Jurgen Klopp, Stephen O'Neill.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name:** Rory McGuire

**Sport:** Rugby

**Who are your coaches?** Mr Vanstone, Mr. Mannion, Mr Murray and Dan Moore

**What is your favourite sporting memory since you joined Blackrock in 2017?** Winning the junior cup and being part of the parade back up to the school

# Sport Cont'd



on top of the cheerleaders cars.

**Who is your sporting hero?** Jimmy Butler

**How has lockdown and Covid 19 affected your training?** We have had to train by ourselves and we haven't gotten the comradery we normally have around good training and during training and we haven't been able to play matches.

**Describe your coaches in three words.** Energetic, fun, mad.

**Post Covid, if you could have a dinner party with 3 sportspeople, who would they be?** Tyson Fury, Rob Gronkowski and Jimmy Butler.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name:** Scott Graham

**Sport:** Cross Country and Athletics

**Who are your coaches?** Eddie McDonagh, Hiko Tonasa, Mr. Fagan.

**What is your favourite sporting memory since you joined Blackrock in 2017?** Winning East Leinsters

**Who is your sporting hero?** Eliud Kipchoge

**How has lockdown and Covid 19 affected your training?** Since lockdown/Covid, I've been largely training from home even when schools were opened.

**Describe your coaches in three words.** Dedicated, understanding and vaguely afraid of rain.

**Post Covid, if you could have a dinner party with 3 sportspeople, who would they be?** Hugo Keenan, Mo Farah, Antonio Dupont.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name:** Michael Moloney

**Sport:** Rugby

**Who are your coaches?** Justin Vanstone

**What is your favourite sporting memory since you joined Blackrock in 2017?** Winning the Junior Cup

**Who is your sporting hero?** Dan Carter

**How has lockdown and Covid 19 affected your training?** Much harder to stay motivated when there's no certainty around matches.

**Describe your coaches in three words.** Detailed, Smart, Enthusiastic

**Post Covid, if you could have a dinner party with 3 sportspeople, who would they be?** Cristiano Ronaldo, Richie Mouna and Usain Bolt.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name:** Alex Bolger

**Sport:** Golf

**Who are your coaches?** Mr. McGlynn

**What is your favourite sporting memory since you joined Blackrock in 2017?** Representing the school in Irish finals.

**Who is your sporting hero?** Shane Lowry

**How has lockdown and Covid 19 affected your training?** Haven't been able to play as golf courses are closed.

**Describe your coaches in three words.** Dedicated, Worships Liverpool.

**Post Covid, if you could have a dinner party with 3 sportspeople, who would they be?** Shane Lowry, John Daly, Tiger Woods.

## The Arrival of The Blackrock Bees

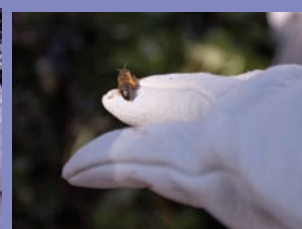


There was a buzz around the campus on Wednesday night, March 3rd not just because the 6th Years had made a welcome return but because of the **arrival of our 20,000 bees in 2 hives, courtesy of Niall Ringrose (class of 1979)**. This is a tremendous initiative, and we look forward to the organisation of a bee keeping course.

Mr. Toolan, ably assisted by Ms. Skehan and TY Home Economics will lead the project and we look forward, with some relish, to our first pots of honey. Please stay clear of the hives which are located at the Clareville end of the campus near the Sion Hill wall. The bees do not offer any threat unless you threaten the hive. **Best not to do so** when you consider that bees fly at a speed of 25km per hour, beating their wings 200 times per second.

On St Patrick's Day we had our first inspection of our beehives. One is thriving, the other is not so good. Honey bees — wild and domestic — perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing first-hand the huge number of bees in the hive and the intensity of activity, it is easy to appreciate the contribution the bees will make to our ecosystem.





# The Arrival of The Blackrock Bees



## The Origins of 7 Bee-Inspired Sayings

If you have a bee in your bonnet about having bee-stung lips, you might make a bee-line to the plastic surgeon. And if someone asked whether you had work done, you might well tell them that it's none of their darned beeswax. The insects that are so crucial to agriculture have also been muses to English speakers for centuries. Here are the origin stories behind nine bee-inspired sayings.

### Busy Bee

Bees are famous for being industrious, and the comparison of busy people to bees goes back to at least the 16th century. In 1715, English poet Isaac Watts used the phrase in a moral poem advising against idleness and mischief: "How doth the little busy bee / Improve each shining hour, / And gather honey all the day / From every opening flower!"



### Spelling Bee

A "bee" has referred to a meeting of people who work together to benefit their group since at least the 1700s. Colonial Americans would join forces in a "husking bee," for instance, stripping corn for people to eat. The meaning has expanded to include various purposeful gatherings, like the [Scripps National Spelling Bee](#), where brilliant children gather each year to humble American adults by spelling words like *stichomythia*. Lexicographers have debated whether the original sense is related to the social image of bees buzzing around their hives.



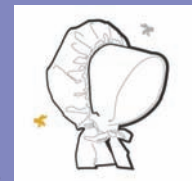
### The Birds and the Bees

There is no better-known euphemism for sex education than "the birds and the bees," which dates back to at least the late 1800s. In a 1928 ditty, Cole Porter helped immortalize the metaphor: "Birds do it, bees do it," he sang. "Even educated fleas do it. Let's do it, let's fall in love." In their 1962 dictionary of phrase origins, William and Mary Morris link this idiom to lines by Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge: "All nature seems at work ... The bees are stirring—birds are on wing ... I the while, the sole unbusy thing, nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor sing."



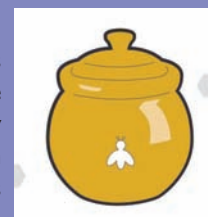
### Bee in One's Bonnet

A Scottish translation of Virgil's *Aeneid* from 1553 contains a precursor to this epic phrase: "hede full of beis." The idiom, meaning to be preoccupied with an eccentric idea, conjures the agitated, myopic state one would be in if one found a bee was buzzing around inside one's hat. Centuries ago, having "maggots in your braines" was used similarly.



### None of Your Beeswax

Like the "bee's knees," this euphemism for "it's none of your business" was go-to slang in the roaring '20s. English author and etymology expert Mark Forsyth points out that in the 19th century, beeswax was shorthand for "tedious bore" and suggests the adaptation may be akin to "stop prying, you dullard." On the other hand, he says, it may just be a "humorous alteration," given how similar business and beeswax sound. See also: Mind your own beeswax.



### The Bee's Knees

In the late 18th century, this slang term for something stylish and excellent actually referred to something small, weak or insignificant, such as the joint in a bee's little leg. Flappers likely repurposed the phrase in the 1920s, when animalistic phrases for groovy stuff—like the "cat's whiskers," the "snake's hips" and the "flea's eyebrows"—were all the rage.



### Make a Beeline

A beeline is a straight one between two points; making a bee-line typically means to zoom straight toward a place that one needs or desires—like a bathroom or cocktail bar—ignoring everything else along the way. The Oxford English Dictionary links this phrase to the focused line a bee is "supposed instinctively to take in returning to its hive."





# Reflection



***"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." -Albert Einstein-***

## Five Lessons We Can Learn from Bees

### 1. Teamwork

In the world of bees, you can never speak in singular form. Although each of them makes an individual contribution, their goal is the common good. Colonies are perfectly organized social structures in which everyone does a different task. Nevertheless, all tasks are synchronized with each other.

**In our human world, we all truly depend on each other.** However, we have created the illusion of individualism. Although all of the clothes we wear and the food we eat comes from others, sometimes we believe that we're self-sufficient.

### 2. Assume a role and carry it out fully.

Each bee has a specific role in the hive. There is no confusion over everyone's tasks since each one knows what it has to do and carries it out. That little insect society is surprisingly complex. In general, there is a queen, the drones, and the workers. However, the latter further divide into specific roles.

**Humans should learn from bees that everyone should play a role in the collective plane.** In our societies, this is really complicated since we can change jobs whenever we want to. Nevertheless, while performing a specific task, it is best to concentrate exclusively on it, as bees do.

### 3. Mutual care

When a bee collects nectar, it does not do it for itself. Namely, it does so because it is essential for the survival of the hive. For instance, the bees who collect nectar only live approximately 30 days. However, the time required to produce the honey is two months. In other words, they never get to see the fruit of their labour. Their level of generosity is astounding. **We should be generous like bees.**

### 4. An impressive memory.

Bees are small insects with amazing brains. Sometimes they must travel long distances and still find their way back to their hive. Accordingly, they identify reference points that allow them to remember their journey back home. Scientists have also discovered that bees even have basic mathematical skills.

**Humans should learn that no animal species is inferior.** It is possible that bees have better memories than most people since humans have to write everything down on paper to remember it. Thus, one of the lessons we can learn from bees is to admire life in all its forms.

### 5. Equality and a sense of justice.

The drones inside the hives have a special role. They're the males and their role is to fertilize the queen. They don't have to work like the worker bees, but that does not mean that their privileges does not have a price.

On the one hand, only the strongest of them manages to fecundate the queen. When it does so, it dies. The others are expelled from the hive and must wander until they are accepted into another. Also, if things get difficult in the winter, it is the drones who must leave which means they're basically condemned to die.

**This organization method is fair. Bees share privileges and duties equally.**

The squirrel hoards nuts and the bee gathers honey, without knowing what they do, and they are thus provided for without selfishness or disgrace.

Ralph Waldo Emerson