

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Summer 2021

Dear Parents,

"When ordinary people do extraordinary things.
Let your heart beat a little faster
knowing that you are ordinary too"

Wayne Visser

This academic year in so many ways has been our finest. Although constrained in what we could do, we found other ways to deliver on our promise. Ordinary people did extraordinary things. I congratulate our Spiritan community, my colleagues, your sons, our Union and of course, you the parents on the shared endeavour, energy, expertise, resilience, and inspiration.

"Be an optimist
Not because the Night is over
But because we all carry the light of values
And remember the promise of dawn"

Wayne Visser

Covid has reminded us that there is always a way, provided we stay true to our values and act with Fides et Robur.

Presence, 'being there', was a particular challenge this year. Boston Rabbi, Harold Kushner, in his book "When bad things happen to good people" (an excellent summer read), tells the story of a man who visited his wife, an Alzheimer's sufferer, daily. A friend of his asked him one day – "Why do you bother? – she has no clue who you are, nor does she remember the visit ten minutes after you have left". The man replied – "yes that is true – but I know who I am".

Presence – 'being there' – is knowing who you are and what you stand for. It is about showing up no matter what the circumstances. In this term alone, there were numerous occasions when the boys and staff showed up, causing our hearts to beat a little faster. The Gold Medal Debates, 2nd and Transition Year Retreats, Soccer Leagues and Sports Days, Dragons' Den and Master Chef competitions, the Rock5K, Green and Global Schools activities, Rock-Ed and MUN exemplified the Blackrock spirit. The 'Farewell Mass' for the class of 2021, concelebrated in the Quadrangle by Fr. O'Brolchain and Fr. Nash, was particularly memorable. It was a celebration of a time spent together, of shared optimism and integrity, of compassion and composure, of inclusivity and generosity and it was a fitting send off for a marvellous group of young men.

At our end of year Assemblies, Mr Madden urged the boys to "take time for prayer over the summer". This is sound advice. Prayer is about Presence. It is time with self; time for self; time with God. Prayer is also about being there for others and on a regular basis. It is in giving without an expectation of return. Prayer fosters resilience, empathy, and gratitude. Take time for prayer.

As always, the summer will pass quickly. The 2021/22 academic year beckons and there is much to look forward to including the trialling of the 1-hour period, the introduction of the student owned /school managed devices in 2nd, 4th and 5th Year, the opening of our new prayer space, the addition of Leaving Certificate Computer Science to our curriculum in 5th Year and to our first sitting of the Leaving Certificate P.E. exam. It will bring a return to normality, an opportunity for your son to reconnect with the school and his friends. We plan to hold in September, on the advice of the Student Council, a "Freshers Day" at which the clubs and societies will present on what they have to offer. Encourage your son to sign up and then, to show up.

Finally, the response of the extended school community to the challenge presented by Covid has been magnificent. I thank Dr David Brophy who steps down as chair of the Parents' Council having completed his two-year term in office. He has led with insight and understanding and has been a rock of common sense. Stephen Mullin has also served, unusually, two years as President of the Union. His encouragement, easy manner and generosity of spirit have been deeply appreciated.

Frank Hurl, after 26 years of exceptional service as a Teacher, Dean, Head of Department, Director of Pastoral Care and as Assistant Principal retires this summer. Frank has been an outstanding role model for the boys and for his colleagues. He will be sorely missed in both the classroom and the staffroom. We wish Frank and his wife Eleanor many more years of joy and fulfilment.

Parents, I wish you well for the summer. May your sons, our boys, carry the light of our values wherever they go and to whomever they encounter.

God Bless,

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal



Freddie Noonan (Sixth Year) Winner of the Gold Medal Debate
and Valedictorian for the Class of 2021

Message from the Deans



It has been an academic year like no other, but while school life in Term 3 has continued to be marked by facemasks, social distancing, and hand sanitising in classrooms and on corridors, there have been a few encouraging signs from life on the campus that maybe, just maybe, we have turned a corner regarding living with Covid-19.

Kingspan Racing – FI in Schools .And they're off to Singapore!

Congratulations to the innovative **5th Year FI in Schools Team** who placed third in the National Finals and progress to compete on the world stage in September. An inspiring effort and commitment.

Our final term in Blackrock College is one that always sees lots of outdoor activity as longer evenings (sometimes marked by warm sunshine!!!) are enjoyed by all. Athletics, tennis, and cricket usually make up the main inter-school sports, while in each year group inter-house soccer leagues hold pride of place as each afternoon through late April and May, our pitches are dotted with boys from every year group wearing red (DeValera), yellow (Duff), purple (Ebenrecht), black (Leman), green (McQuaid) or grey (Shanahan) t-shirts as teams battle for House Soccer bragging rights on their respective corridors. In Term 3, our weekends in May are also associated with three very important Blackrock College events as firstly, Sports & Family Sunday is followed by 6th Year Graduation Sunday and on the final weekend of Term 3, Prize Day for all year groups is celebrated.

While inter-school sports and many of our key events named above did not take place as planned, we are delighted to say that many 'adapted' events within Blackrock did in fact take place. Over the pages of this newsletter, you will find reports and photographs from a wide range of events that were able to take place this term. A full set of socially distanced House exams took place in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Year and while keeping Covid-19 protocols to the forefront, we also managed to conduct our end of year TY interviews and the 6th Year Gold Medal Debate and Class of 2021 Prize and Farewell Days. Thanks to the work of our Gamesmaster Mr Evan O'Brien and his team, competitive soccer leagues were concluded within each year group; individual Sports Days were run, and the annual Paul Stanley soccer tournament was played. Even events held over from lockdown in Term 1 like the 2nd Year House 10s and the Karl Ashe GAA final were concluded. Yes, we continued to live through a pandemic but the green shoots of recovery towards a more 'normal' school experience were certainly in evidence much to the delight of all.

The **6th Year** students are now preparing for the final lap on their journey towards the Leaving Certificate written papers. As a group they have made a most significant contribution to the College and have always displayed enthusiasm, good humour, commitment and a caring disposition. Even in the most challenging of circumstances they have upheld the traditions of 'Fides et Robur' in style and have left their own imprint on the history of Blackrock. We wish them every happiness and fulfilment in their future lives as we say **'Farewell and Bon Voyage' to the Class of 2021.**

Since last August, all sectors of the College community have demonstrated an amazing ability to adapt to circumstances being presented alongside an equally impressive resilience even when faced with the most challenging of circumstances. This ability to respond to challenges and persevere through the storms of life are life skills that will no doubt stand to all in the days, months, and years to come. They will form a most valuable dimension of the 'all round education' that we strive to provide for our students each day.

The level of interest in **TY MasterChef 2021** necessitated three separate heats for the almost 40 entrants who signed up. The fantastic standard was impacted no doubt the Cookery Module and indeed Cookery Club. Congratulations to all 11 finalists: Conor Hughes, Charlie Quinn, Aaron Murtagh, Gregg Barron, Oscar O'Brien, James Heavey, Frazer McGinn, Joseph Gibney, Lorcan Little, Evan Lyons, and Finlay Mackay. Congratulations to the winner Conor Hughes, TY MasterChef 2021. Thanks to Ms. Skeehan for all the work and organization of the competition and to Ms. Marren and Mr. Toolan for their assistance with the judging.



A sample of the delicious meals prepared by TY Master Chefs

Message from the Deans Cont'd



It was great to see so many **Third Years** involved in the bi-annual **debating** event with Willow Park. The motion: **"This House Believes that the Pandemic has Illustrated the Best Qualities in People"** was opposed by AJ Adoghe, Oisín Daly, Patrick Hayden, Harry Pierce, and Gregory Quinn. The proposition including Patrick Hayden, Luce Kenny and Greg Quinn successfully carried the motion. It was a fiery **Third Year Gold Medal** debate with plenty of well-structured arguments and rebuttals. In opposition we had AJ Adoghe, Simon Considine, Harry Pierce and Oisín Daly who was best speaker and thus awarded the Third Year Gold medal.



Oisín Daly (3rd Year)
Gold Medal Winner

The **Second Year Soccer Leagues** ended in a closely fought final between Leman and de Valera, with **Leman** winning the A League. In the B League, the runners up were **Ebenrecht**, who lost out to **de Valera** in the final. We commend the superb levels of participation from all Houses.

The TY **Music Art and Drama** festival on the 6th and 7th May even in its adapted form was one of the highlights of the final term of TY. The activities included: a drumming workshop, a dance workshop, and a fantastic magic show with Jack Wise. My thanks to Mr. Grumley Traynor for his huge efforts in putting a great couple of days together for the students.



A O'Halloran, C Murphy, S Curley, M McLean,
D Walsh, G McGilton, J O'Sullivan and R
Donohoe at Sports Day

On the academic front, alongside their final preparations for **Accredited Grades and examinations** in June, **6th Year Students** completed their briefs in Construction Studies and Art, and submitted Leaving Certificate projects in Economics, Agricultural Science, History, Geography and Religious Education.

Since January **Transition Year** students attended multiple workshops with the Dragons. Congratulations to the six finalists selected by the Business Department in conjunction with the Dragons: Ripple – a wellbeing app (Ben Kieron Glennon, Conor Hughes, Tom Walsh and Daniel Kelly), Sizzle – a recipe/shopping app (Will Donnelly), MIDL – a web-based tutoring business (Ethan Leon Ryan and Sam O'Donovan), Green Genes – a genealogy service (Jack Burke and Liam Norton), Evinco – a digital marketing agency (Oliver Coffey) and Apé Café – a mobile café service (Jake Power). In an extremely tough choice, the Dragons selected Ripple as the winners of Dragons Den 2021. My thanks to Mr. Paul McGowan Chairperson of the **Dragons' Den** initiative, all the Dragons involved and Mr. Fitzsimons for their fantastic work on behalf of the boys.

The vibrant and thrilling participation in the **Fifth Year Sports Day** mirrored the intense inter-House competition in the Summer Soccer Leagues culminating in the victory of McQuaid over Duff and the **Paul Stanley Cup Final** that, despite the defeat of the Fifth-Year squad, was ferociously competitive. These activities together with the virtual **Harrow Swimming Gala**, the **Senior Tennis League** and the continuation of **Athletics, Rugby, Rowing**, and other training ensured that Fifth Years had an active and competitive end to the term.



William Donnelly presenting remotely to the Dragons



Dragons' Den Finalists: William Donnelly, Ethan Leon-Ryan, Sam O'Donovan, Oliver Coffey, Jake Power, Liam Norton, Daniel Kelly, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Conor Hughes, Tom Walsh.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



On Tuesday May 25th we said 'Farewell' to the Class of 2021. As a year group they have made a most significant contribution to the College and in their final year they displayed enthusiasm, good humour, commitment and were outstanding leaders of the student community. They have upheld the traditions of 'Fides et Robur' in style and have left their own imprint on the history of Blackrock. We wish them every happiness and fulfilment in their future lives as we say, 'Farewell and Bon Voyage'.

As we exit the gates of the Blackrock for summer, we hope that the academic world we will return to next August will bring us yet even closer to what we consider as 'normal'. With that hope in mind, it is planned to celebrated Prize Day for our present 2nd to 5th Year students on their return to the campus for the 2021/2022 academic year. Who knows, we may even be able to celebrate it in the presence of family members once again? We live in hope... Finally, we thank the boys of each year group most sincerely for their co-operation with the emergency regulations imposed this year. The student community has been outstanding in ensuring that Blackrock College has been a safe and healthy yet also a vibrant and rewarding place to work in for all during this academic year. We wish every member of the school community a safe, enjoyable, and hopefully a sun-filled summer break. Enjoy!!!

Mr. T. Ryan (6th Year Dean), Ms C. Dobbryn (5th Year Dean), Mr P. O' Neill (4th Year Dean), Mr O. Brennan (3rd Year Dean), Ms R. Harlowe (2nd Year Dean)

Also noteworthy is the **Auxilium Gold Medal** award.

This year we have two immensely deserving recipients: **Ben O Connell** and **Cian Sheehy**.

We congratulate these young men on their outstanding reflections, and we commend all the **Second Years** who gave generously of their time in the service of others.

Congratulations to the **College MUN** team on their performance in the recent St Andrew's International MUN.

Aran O'Flaherty(**Third Year**) (Security Council) was awarded Distinguished Delegate – a fantastic achievement.

As with so much of this year, our **end of year Conference for the Class of 2021** took place online on Wednesday 5th May. The presentation outlined both arrangements for the end of the academic year and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations in June. Ms. Crimmins, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all present in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

Tremendous effort and months of planning and organising went into the **Fifth Year Time Capsules** which have been sealed and mounted to watch the next twenty-one years go by! Well done and thank you Fifth Years for embracing the project and seeing it through.



5th Year Time Capsule



5th Year Time Capsule Committee

The first ever **Transition Year Podcast** was one of the highlights of the second half of the year. After more than 25 episodes season 1 came to an end in the middle of May. It is a fantastic legacy project for this Transition Year group and is certainly something that will be continued going forward.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



On Thursday 20th May, we celebrated **6th Year Prize Day**. Congratulations to all prize-winners and their families, but we mention, Alexander Kelly, winner of the General Excellence Award, Mark O'Brien who was the top Academic based on Christmas and Easter in house examinations and Oscar Bourke Mullaney, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2021.



Joey Naughton at 6th Year Prize Day

A unique event as Blackrock College took on Harrow in a **virtual swimming gala** on Wednesday 25th May. **Third Year** was ably represented by Cian McAdam and Macdara Cosgrave swimming in the 50m breaststroke, Thomas Carroll, Macdara Cosgrave and Patrick Collins in the 50m backstroke and Michael Curley, Thomas Carroll, Robert MacHale and Patrick Collins in the 50m freestyle. There was a fantastic atmosphere pool-side – well done to all involved.



Patrick Collins (Third Year) swimming in the Blackrock College V Harrow Gala.

Dedicated, dependable and embracing of opportunities best describes the twelve fine young men who led the **Fifth-Year** group as **House Captains** this year. Their passion, leadership and organisation were outstanding in the strangest of times. We congratulate Leman, the winning House of Fifth Year 2020-21. Thank you all.

Our **Second Years** began their final week with a period of **Reflection**, always an integral part of the Blackrock Educational Programme. This was facilitated by Mr. Mike Dunne and his **Retreat** Team from An Tobar Nua. During their session, the boys were invited to participate in educational games and to hear personal testimony on the importance of **recognising God's action in our lives**. The feedback was very positive, and a great start to the final week of Second Year.

Thankfully, we were able to complete several in-house sporting events on campus this term. The **6th Year** Dayboy squad under the captaincy of Robert Kenny completed a hat-trick of victories in the **Karl Ashe GAA** tournament defeating the TY Dayboys in the final. Having been victorious in TY & 5th Year this was a particularly notable achievement for the group. Success in the **Paul Stanley soccer tournament** also came the way of the 6th Year Dayboys as the team, captained by Riley Smith, defeated the 5th Year Dayboys 3-1 in an excellent final.

Fortunately, **Third Years** were blessed with the weather on **Sports Day**. It was great to see so many students don their house colours and take part. I have never seen such an intense and hotly contested sack race! Shanahan were the eventual winners, narrowly beating Duff, with victories in the cross country and 800m proving crucial.



McQuaid winners of Third Year Soccer League

I would like to **thank my colleagues in Transition Year**: Brian Grant, Brian Savage and Garry Sullivan and Flor Madden, Director of Pastoral Care, who have worked tirelessly to run a very busy TY programme. I am also very grateful to the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Des O'Connor for their patience, support and engagement with the TY programme. I thank the students for their energy, commitment, and good humour. This year will live long in the memory but so too will this year group for the best possible reasons.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Second Year had a thoroughly enjoyable **Sports Day** programme on Wednesday of our last week with 17 different events ranging from slow bike race to penalty shootout, track events to sack race and rugby relay to x-country run. In the end **De Valera** won the Inter-House competition, with **Leman** second and **Duff** in third place. The afternoon's **Inter-house 10s** (tip rugby) competition was very competitive and well supported. **Leman** beat **Shanahan** in the 'A' final with the 'B' title going to **De Valera**, beating **Duff** in the final.



C Murphy and Luke Beale
at Sports Day

There are many examples I can give that point to what an extraordinary year group this bunch of **Transition Year** students were. Given the year that it was, between lockdown and constant restrictions, it is a phenomenal reflection on the year group that more than 150 pupils completed and received their **Bronze Award for Gaisce**.

Thank you to Mr. Donal O'Nualláin and Ms. Lorraine Crimmins in the **Careers and Counselling** department for providing such discrete and effective support for **Fifth Year** students throughout the year.

On Tuesday 11th and Friday 14th of May TY students had the opportunity for reflection and meditation at the end of an extraordinary year. The opportunity to look back on **Transition Year** is such an important one given the transformative and challenging nature of the programme. This was broadly welcomed by the students and the feedback was very positive. My thanks to Mr. Madden for his organization of the **Days of Reflection**.

Thank you to the hardworking and committed **Fifth Year Parents' Committee** chaired so efficiently by Mr. Paul McGowan for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year.

Well done to Robert MacHale who was winner of the **Third-Year chess competition**. After a long season Harry Pierce topped the table in the Fantasy Football, closely followed by Evan Walsh in second place. Leman captained by Osin Daly won the B Soccer Blitz with Philip Guinan picking up Player of the Tournament. In the A league, McQuaid captained by Charlie Molony won a pulsating final, in tough conditions, beating Shanahan on penalties!

On Tuesday May 25th a **Farewell Mass for the class of 2021** was celebrated in the quadrangle by our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain. In his homily, Fr. Cormac assured all present that they would forever be welcome in Blackrock College. This was an emotional occasion for all, and a particular thank you to Mr. Flor Madden and the RE/Pastoral team who helped prepare this safe, socially distanced yet wonderful liturgy. Lunch followed by Freddie Noonan's valedictorian speech was enjoyed by all and the farewell to the Class of 2021 concluded with a **6th Year Sports Day** on the front lawn where Jamie McMahon was presented with the **Sports Personality of the Year Award**.

We also held our annual **Leadership** vote and this year the very deserving recipient is **James Neary**. Congratulations to James. In addition, we posted the **Honours List** and great credit to the Class of 2025 as it included half of the **Second Years**. The winners of the Honours List Award are **Paul Baviera, Sami Bishti, Jeremy Carroll, Mark Collins, Ben O'Halloran** and **Edward Wilson**. Congratulations to all on a great year of excellent application and participation.

Joshua Scallan ably represented **Fifth Year** in the **Gael Linn Debating** competition and delightfully progressed to the Leinster semi-finals. Maith-thú Joshua.



Scott Barron at the
Sixth Year Farewell
Mass

Message from the Deans Cont'd



The annual **TY fundraiser 5k Rock Run** 'Rock While You Can' took place on the 24th of April in aid of Aidlink and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA). Following a busy two weeks of promotion in the College and in Willow including zoom meetings between House Captains of all year groups a record €34,655 was raised for two incredibly worthy causes!

The **6th Year Sports Day** was the final inter-house event of the year and on the day Duff House emerged victorious. In the other major Term 3 inter-house event Shanahan House captained by Charlie Mullin, were victorious in the **6th Year Soccer League**, defeating Ebenrecht in the final. However, as a result of consistently high scoring in the eight events (a mix of in-person and online) held during the Year, Ebenrecht House captained by Oscar Bourke Mullaney and Sam Bruton emerged as overall winners in 6th Year for 2020/2021. Congratulations and many thanks to all.



Sixth Year Spectators at the final of Karl Ashe Cup

The Fifth-Year group of 2020-21 deserve a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts both on and off campus this past year. They have displayed a wealth of enthusiasm, innovation, and talents, conducting themselves in a caring, cooperative, and responsible manner. We wish them a happy and safe summer and every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.

Our final weeks included the election for new **House Captains** and the departure of our outgoing captains. Our sincere thanks to these wonderful young men who showed such great leadership throughout **Second Year**, and we wish our incoming House Captains all the very best in their new role.

Well done to our **Second Year Athletes**. In the first event of the season, **Jeremy Carroll** claimed victory in the 400m race for Second Year and **Conor Grennan** won the 100m race. In the Hammer **Michael Walsh** took first place with a throw of (34.50m), **Brian Walsh** was 2nd (31.85m) and **Sami Bishti** was 3rd (21.8m). Each of them would be competitive at national level. **Michael Walsh** followed up his Hammer result with a top throw of 34.61m in the Discus.



T Macland, H Phelan, J Connolly, A Manion, C O Connell, B Crowley (Second Years)

The **6th Year Gold Medal Debate** took place in the Sports Hall on Monday May 17th and the motion that 'This House believes that despite the adversity of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Class of 2021 will emerge unscathed' was keenly contested by eight speakers. Victory went to Freddie Noonan who thus became the Valedictorian for the Class of 2021. Many thanks to Mr. Orrock and Ms Ni Shuairc for their organisation and chairing of this important 6th Year event and to our adjudicators Mr Sheil, Ms Kelleher, Ms. Pierce and Stephen Ryan (Class of 2018).

Participation by **Fifth Years in MUN, Rock-Ed, Music and Drama** activities including the outstanding **One Act play**, indicate that there is a exciting year of performances ahead for the class of 2022 and we can't wait!

Three **Transition Year** groups completed a Computer Science **Module** with Mr. O'Connell this term. Activities ranged from doing a blog to taking apart and rebuilding an old PLC and app development. Ms.A.Dillon very kindly facilitated a brand new module with a number of students looking at Information and Media Literacy. Part 2 of the Leadership and Self-Motivation Course with Mr.Denis Hevey, the Barista course and the practical sessions for the Drivers Education course also took place.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Finally, a particular thank you to Dee Kelly (Chair), Helen Keeley (Secretary) and all the **6th Year Parents' Committee** who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of 2021 this year. The 2021 Yearbook proved to be an outstanding success and we thank Karen Flannery and Denise Gallagher for their work on this. The Graduation sub-committee did a wonderful job transforming the Quadrangle for Farewell Day and despite Covid-19 preventing the Immersion Trip to Kenya this summer, the fundraising efforts of this year's committee ensures that education for girls can now be planned for on the campus in Machakos.

Our congratulations to Ishaan Pandey who won the **Second Year Junior Gold Medal for Debating**. He was a member of the proposition for the motion: **"This House Believes that the Pandemic has Illustrated the Best Qualities in People"**. Equally, congratulations to **Conor Wall** of Duff house who took the title of **Junior House Champion**.

Fifth Year Adam Tunney placed third in the Dun Laoghaire **Rathdown Student Enterprise** County Final with his project PODZI, an e-learning site for Junior Cycle Students.

Participation by **Fifth Years in MUN, Rock-Ed, Music and Drama** activities including the outstanding **One Act play**, indicate that there is a gripping year of performances ahead for the class of 2022 and we can't wait!



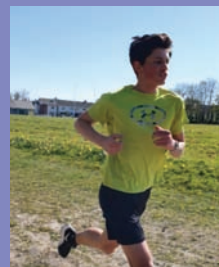
Jack Lynch and Darragh O'Neill at the Soccer League



C Harty and A Connolly (Second Year



AJ Adoghe Third Year Debater



Liam Norton Rock 5 KM Rock Run in Ireland



TP Hogan and Billy McCarthy getting ready for the Slow Bike Race



A Victorious Leman celebrate victory in the Soccer League



B Evers, W Browne, - L Fowler, J Hudson, C Sheehy, L Lysaght Walsh, E Wilson (Second Years) at Sports Day



J McKinney, M Carolan, L Lysaght-Walsh, Tom Yaxley taking a break during the Second Year Rugby 10s.



Daniel Bennett, Theo Byrnes, Aaron Golden and Patrick Keane (TY) Rock 5 KM Run in France



Andrew McCarthy receives his medal from Mr O'Brien.



C Greany, D Kilbride, I Moss, C Wall, H Hayes, J Lynch(2nd Year)



J Lynch, P Clancy, S Saul-Rotne, M Heavey and P Walshe competing in the Soccer League.



C Sheahan and R O'Reilly in action during the Leman vs McQuaid League game



The winning Leman A Team in the Soccer League, Back Row, L to R J Courtney, T Bennett, C Sheahan, P Clancy, N MacNamara, Z Hally-Doody and P Walshe. Front Row, L to R H Hayes, L O'Brien, E Wilson, J Neary



Back Row L to R S Mooney, A McConnell Walsh, B Gaju, H Fenelon, R Murphy, R Ffrench, C Mason, B Crowley, R Taylor, M Collins. Front Row, L to R P Brennan, M Breslin, N McCarthy, J Carroll, P Fitzpatrick.

Pastoral Care Programme



As the curtain comes down on what has possibly been the most amazing year experienced in Blackrock College since the 1860's, we believe that we have all received [St Paul wrote], "different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit". As a Spiritan School, we are especially blessed to be aware of the Spirit in our midst. We have just celebrated Pentecost Sunday – 50 days after Easter – the day of Pentecost is when in 1703 Claude Poullart des Places founded an amazing Order that continue to serve in Blackrock College.



Last August at the beginning of our school year and our year journeying through a global pandemic, we took comfort and encouragement from the scriptures describing Pentecost. When Jesus appeared to his frightened disciples, he said, "Peace be with you" and because of the importance of Peace in all our lives, He repeated "Peace be with you". He then went on to say "Receive the Holy Spirit" – this past year, the academic year of 2020 – 2021 is a year when we were blessed in so many ways with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a new, challenging and maybe more meaningful reality – perhaps we need to take time to be aware of the gifts of the past year with which we have been blessed.

It has been pure Joy to be here in the College this final term. It was a term when we completed all the outstanding liturgies in the College Calendar, and this was only possible due to the determination of the Senior Leadership Team and the supported of the entire College Staff from all Departments – it was a term



Alex Cronnelly (Sixth Year) reading at the Farewell Mass.

where being a community was very evident and at the core of our community are the boys. Retreats were held in-house for all Transition Year and 2nd Year boys. Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation were availed of by many students in person. The "Farewell to the Class of 2021" celebrations were a highlight of the term. Commencing with the sacrament of Reconciliation for the 6th Years . Pentecost Sunday is one of the most important Feast Days celebrated by the Spiritans and in preparation for Pentecost, we undertook a 9-day Novena in thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for a fantastic year – thank you to the many thousands who joined us over the Novena which was livestreamed from the College Chapel each day. Recordings of the Novena will remain online for the next few weeks.



Ms N. Drew and Leaving Cert students at the Class of 2021 Farewell Mass .



Father C. O' Brolchain celebrating the Farewell Mass for the Class of 2021

The Academic Year 20 -21 is almost over. To summarise, it has surpassed all hopes of what could be achieved! Thank God – we cannot wait until August / September 2021 to welcome new boys to the College, to see "older" boys returning having grown during their summer holidays and for "old" boys to return and visit their alma mater. We are Community – Peace be with you – Receive the Holy Spirit – be grateful for our lives and the blessings that surround us.

Science



All the Second-Year students completed their **CBA I – Extended Experimental Investigation**, where the students had to propose and test a hypothesis and use the Scientific Method to complete their investigation. They will then be awarded one of four descriptors - Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations or Yet to Meet Expectations.



Normally a SciFest@College regional fair consists of a competition and exhibition of projects, a prize-giving ceremony, and may also include a selection of science talks, science demonstrations in the College laboratories and advice on careers in STEM and courses available in the college. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 SciFest@College fairs will take place online. Our students have entered TU Dublin Grange Gorman fair. Students were asked to upload, to the SciFest website: (1) their project report book; (2) a short video (maximum 2 minutes); (3) any further supplementary material they wished to include. A panel of judges will judge the projects based on the uploaded materials.

This year, we have four entrants from Second Year representing Blackrock College. The following projects were entered;

Effects of Social Media on Teenage Behaviour - Ishaan Pandey

Which Hot Beverage Cools the Fastest - Conor McCarron

The Colour of Memory - Jason Marrow

Testing the Effect of Preservatives on Chips – Hamid Azad and George Mc Gilton

We wish all the participants the very best of luck. We will find out in September 2021 if they were successful.



Eric Brandt and Callum Dunne (Transition Year)



Maitiú Heckmann and John Glynn (Transition Year)



Daniel Kenny and Robert Kinnear (Transition Year)

Green Schools



The Third term for Green Schools was focused on our ECO-UNESCO project and the application for the Green Schools Travel Flag, a culmination of two years' work. Our **Eco-Unesco Project, Awareness, Appreciation, Action - Building an Eco Community promotes sustainable travel in our local area.** After submitting our application, we were asked to present in front of a panel of judges to showcase our work over the past year. After the presentation there was a nervous two week wait to find out if our project had gained a place in the final, we were overjoyed to hear it had and **were thrilled to achieve a special award in the Final.**



L to R Frazer McGinn, Matthew O'Donnell, Robert McNabb, Edward Wilson, Darragh O'Neill



We then turned our focus to our Travel Flag application, meeting with representatives from Green Schools to finalise our work. We look forward to finding out over the summer if we were successful. For the final week of term, we held a 'walk to school week' encouraging students to take action and walk or cycle to school. As we look forward to the summer, we encourage all students and parents to walk or cycle if they can and take action, whether it be, not mowing your lawn, planting a small wild-flower patch in your garden to help the bees or picking up litter in your local community; a small action can make a big difference. We look forward to seeing you all in September.



The Kingspan Racing Team



The Kingspan Racing team formed in late November after an advert for the F1 In Schools competition on social media caught the attention of Team Principal, Eoin McGrath. Eoin instigated the team's formation and brought together the subsequent team members: Alex Maguire, Toby Loughrey, Jamie Blackburn and Kai Murtagh whose positions within the team are Sponsorship and Finance, Manufacturing Engineer, CAD Engineer, and Graphics Design and Marketing respectively.



The F1 In Schools competition is the largest STEM competition globally. It is a test of student's abilities in engineering and enterprise in which students must design, analyse, manufacture, test and then race miniature compressed air powered cars whilst building a business around their team.



The final car is assembled.

After months of brainstorming, 300 hours of 3D modelling and CFD analysis, extensive research and design testing the final car was manufactured using CNC and 3D Printing technologies. Two portfolios, each consisting of over 7500 words and both 10 pages in length, were sent for judging.



In-school promotion of the project in the lead-up to the TG4 broadcast of the National Finals was met with enthusiasm among other students.

60 teams partook in the National Finals which were livestreamed on YouTube and culminated in a documentary broadcast on TG4. The Kingspan Racing team came 1st Place pre-racing and 3rd Place post-racing. A huge achievement as a newcomer group. The team received nominations for Best Engineered Car, Best Newcomer and Best Verbal Presentation to boot.



The final car is assembled.



A podium position granted the Kingspan Racing team the opportunity to represent Team Ireland at the 2021 World Finals at the Singapore Grand Prix this September, along with the best of over 40 other countries. What an achievement and what an opportunity!



In-school promotion of the project in the lead-up to the TG4 broadcast of the National Finals was met with enthusiasm among other students.



Snapshot of Final Term 2021



Mr MacGinty presents the Stanley Trophy to Riley Smith (Captain of the 6th Year Dayboys)



Mr A Boyle's Third Year Woodwork Class with their Projects.



Darragh Kilbride , Daniel Flannery and Oscar Egan (Third Years) with their woodwork projects



Mr Stephen Mullin ,President of the PPU (Class of 1983), Mr T Ryan , (6th Year Dean) Oscar Bourke Mullaney, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2021 and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)



Mr Stephen Mullin ,President of the PPU (Class of 1983), Alexander Kelly, winner of the General Excellence Award and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)



Sam Bruton and Oscar Bourke Mullaney (Sixth Year) enjoying a break in the Quadangle .



Adam Patterson , Ben Harvey , John Cawley , Charlie Mullins , Seamus Ennis, and Geoffrey Lande (Sixth Year Boarders) with Mr N. MacDermott (Director of the Boarding School) on Prize Day



Donal De Buitléir receiving his award on Prize Day .



Patrick Cody , Louis Kelly , Jack Drumm , Jack Buckley , Ruairi Taylor and Philip Duffy (Second Year) with their trays .



Second Year Soccer 10s



Mr Madden addresses the Sixth Years on Prize Day



Ms A Mullins TY Class return in April after Lockdown.

Snapshot of Final Term 2021



Second Years return after Lockdown.



Second Year Soccer 10s



Paddy McGowan(Sixth Year) , David Duffy (Fifth Year) and Geoffrey Lande (Sixth Year) Stanley Cup Final



Rob Kenny (Sixth Year) Stanley Cup Final



Second Year Soccer Tens



Second Year Soccer Tens



Ciaran Mc Gowan (Sixth Year)
Blackrock College V Harrow Swimming Gala



Jack Tuite (TY) Timekeeper at
Harrow V Blackrock College Gala



Ronan Fahy (TY)
Harrow V Blackrock Swimming Gala



Dylan Stafford and Colm Kelly



Adam Patterson and Jamie Mc Mahon (Sixth Years)
at the Boarders' Barbeque



John Cawley (Sixth Year) John Quinn (First Year)
Niall Smyth (Third Year) and
Tom Henderson (Sixth Year)

Snapshot of Final Term 2021



Tony Rowe (Sixth Year) at the Boarders' BBQ



Sean Dempsey and Seamus Ennis (Sixth Years) at the Boarders' BBQ



Conor Bleakley Karl Ashe Cup Final



Sam Mc Connell being presented his medal at final of the Karle Ashe Cup by Mr MacGinty



James Gray , Naoise Golden at the Karle Ashe Cup Final



Ms Irene Dunne , Father Cormac O' Brolchain and Father Tom Nash at the Leaving Cert Farewell Mass



A Captivated Audience at the Sixth Year Gold Medal Debate



The sun shone for the Boarders Barbecue.

Snapshot of Final Term 2021



Mr A. MacGinty (Principal) , Ms S. Nolan , (Deputy Principal) , Mr Stephen Mullin (Class of 1983) President of the PPU, Fr. T. Nash , Fr . C. O' Brolchain, Mr B Herlihy and Ms Y Markey(Deputy Principals)) and the Leaving Cert Ministers of the Eucharist at the Farewell Mass for the Class of 2021 .



Magician, Jack Wise, entertains TY students during Mad Week



Sixth Years and Mr Stephen Mullin (Class of 1983) President of the PPU at the Class of 2021 Farewell Mass



Sixth Year Boarders at the Class of 2021 Farewell Mass



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



Ms K Marren presents the MasterChef trophy to the winner of TY MasterChef 2020, Alex Brophy (now 5th Year) . Alex did not receive his trophy last year because of the school closure due to the pandemic.



Finlay Mackay , Aaron Murtagh , Frazer McGinn , Gregg Barron , Oscar O'Brien , Lorcan Little , Conor Hughes, Charlie Quinn, James Heavy, Evan Lyons, Joseph Gibney . Finalists TY MasterChef



Conor Hughes , Winner of TY MasterChef 2021

Snapshot - Sports Days Summer 2021



SECOND YEAR



THIRD YEAR



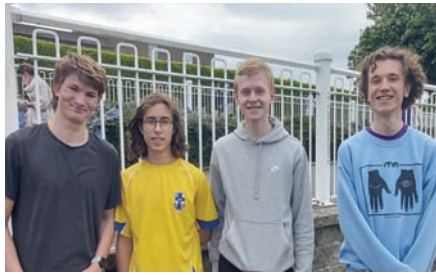
TRANSITION YEAR



Snapshot - Sports Days Summer 2021



FIFTH YEAR



LEAVING CERT SPORTS DAY



Wellbeing



BLACKROCK COLLEGE WELLBEING

Wellbeing for the Body, Soul and Mind

The Student Wellbeing Committee has gone from strength to strength this year. We were successful in retaining our Amber Flag, no mean feat in the midst of a pandemic. Every member of the Committee, student, and staff alike, has shown great commitment in promoting positive mental health in the College. When we return in September, our first Committee meeting will involve raising the Amber Flag in a prominent position for all students, staff, and parents

to see. Our work, in relation to our Feature Days and Week continues throughout the summer. Our focus next year will be on encouraging every member of the College Community to 'be respectful' of ourselves, each other, and our environment and to 'be inclusive'— in our language and our actions. We are always looking for new members; you can join at any time of the year.



Campus Development Programme Update



In March we commenced work on reconfiguring the upper block of playing pitches. This work will continue over the summer months and will be followed by a period of grass planting and growing with work expected to be completed on the project towards the end of 2022. The new playing area will include four pitches on the upper tier (three rugby pitches and one soccer pitch) with one rugby pitch and a training area on the lower tier.

The avenue linking the Willow Park side of the campus with Blackrock College will be widened by 1.5 metres during the summer to enable a more efficient flow of car and bicycle traffic between the two parts of the campus. Two new pedestrian crossing points will also be added.



New Configuration of Playing Pitches.

Guidance and Counselling



Well done to all students this year. What a difficult year it has been.

contact me at ndrew@blackrockcollege.com

The CAO remains open until 1 July. Please do not panic and edit your CAO after your Leaving Certificate.

Best of luck to all our Leaving Cert Students
The Guidance Department.

You may be issued with an email "Statement of Application" to confirm your details in your CAO account are correct. Double check all is in order. Name, DOB, address, phone number, course list and exemptions. You can still change the courses up to July 1st, 2021.

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



DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) applicants will know their DARE status mid-June. This does not guarantee anything; it just means DARE acknowledges your disability and you will go on the list.

CAO OFFERS WHAT NEXT?



On receipt of your Leaving Cert results you may be unsure about your CAO offers. I will be available to meet on those days. Please



Senior Debating

Leinster Schools' Debating Competition

On 23rd March, Pearse Woods (6th Year), Colm Fagan (5th Year) and Ben Kieran-Glennon (4th Year) represented the College at the Semi-Final of the LSCDC. Ben, who competed as an Individual Speaker, proposed the motion that *Membership of the Eurasian Economic Union is in the Interests of Central Asian States*. Pearse and Colm, who competed as a Team, proposed the motion that *This House, as the United States, would Join the Trans-Pacific Partnership*. Both motions were challenging, and the competition was particularly strong on the evening. We commend Pearse, Colm and Ben for their hard work and commitment to the competition throughout the year, and we look forward to competing again next year.

On 15th April, Daniel Welch, and Stephen Corr (both 6th Year) participated in the Novice Final of the LDSC. This was a new initiative launched by the LDSC convenors this year to recognise the strongest newcomers to the competition. Daniel and Stephen competed as a team and opposed the motion that *This House would give An Garda Síochána Emergency Powers to Combat Anti-Lockdown Protests*. Both Daniel and Stephen spoke with great tenacity. We acknowledge the work the students did in preparation for the debate. Congratulations to Daniel who was awarded *Best Speaker*.

Concern Debating Competition

On 19th March, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Ethan Leon-Ryan, Gavin Bowen O'Connor, and Jonathan Hoffman (all 4th Year) competed in the Quarter Final of the Concern Debating Competition. They opposed the motion that *Except for Medical Reasons, Vaccines Should Be Made Compulsory*. Despite a valiant effort on behalf of each speaker, the team did not progress to the next round. Bronze medals were received from Concern and presented to each of the boys at their End-of-Year Assembly on Thursday, 27th May. We congratulate Ben, Ethan, Gavin, and Jonathan, who put in a great team-effort and worked hard in preparation for each round of the competition. We also acknowledge the work of Will Donnelly (4th Year) who participated in earlier rounds of the competition. No doubt the experience gained will stand to them as they move into 5th Year, and we look forward to their continued participation in the Senior English Debating Society.

Fourth vs Fifth Year Gold Medal Debate

The Fourth vs Fifth Year Gold Medal Debate took place on Thursday, 13th May in the Lecture Hall. Frazer McGinn, Gavin Bowen O'Connor and Ben Kieran-Glennon (all 4th Year) proposed the motion that *This House Condemns the Paparazzi*, while Colm Fagan, James Carroll, and Michael White (all 5th Year) opposed the motion. There was a high standard of debate overall, thanks to the meticulous preparations of each speaker. The Fourth Year Gold Medal was awarded to Ben Kieran-Glennon, and the Fifth Year Medal was awarded to Colm Fagan. Congratulations to Ben and Colm for presenting such fine speeches.

Sixth Year Gold Medal Debate



Conor Slattery
(Proposition)



James Turley (Sixth Year)
Timekeeper for the Gold Medal Debate



Sam Loscher
(Opposition)

The Sixth Year Gold Medal Debate took place on Monday, 17th May in the Sports Hall. The motion was that *This House Believes that, Despite the Adversity of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Class of 2021 will Emerge Unscathed*. Proposing the motion were Conor Slattery, Andrew Ryan, Pearse Woods and Daniel Welch. Opposing were Freddie Noonan, John Cawley, Michael Lucey, and Sam Loscher. Each speaker spoke with great



Daniel Welch (Proposition)



Michael Lucey (Opposition)



Pearse Woods
(Proposition)



John Cawley (Opposition)



Mr S. Orrock and Ms Ni L. Ni Shuairc, organisers of the Gold Medal Debate.



Andrew Ryan
(Proposition)

passion and conviction, something that was commended by Mr Sheil, when he spoke on behalf of the adjudicators. Hearty congratulations to Freddie Noonan, who was awarded the Sixth Year Gold Medal and title of Valedictorian for the Class of 2021. Freddie was a most deserving winner, but we also commend each of the participants who spoke so well and created such an interesting and entertaining debate for the audience.



Freddie Noonan

Overall, it has been an exciting year for the Senior English Debating Society. We are delighted to have so many students involved in the Society; the hard work and commitment they have displayed has created a very high standard of debating within the College community. We look forward to the new academic year and building on the experience and success of this year.

Éacht Stairiúil do Dhíospóireacht Ghaeilge an Choláiste

Comhghairdeachas ó chroí le gach scoláire, idir Shóisearach agus Shinsearach, a ghlac páirt inár gCumann Díospóireachta. Bíodh is nach raibh an oiread sin deiseanna againn buailadh le chéile i bhfoirgneamh na scoile i mbliana, leanamar lenár gcruinnithe seachtainiúla i rith na dianghlása, buíochas le MS Teams. Ghlac Jack Burke, Joseph Haughton, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Joshua Scallan páirt sa rannóg Shinsearach de Chomórtaí Óráide an Phiarsaigh, atá eagraithe ag Gael Linn. Is comórtaí náisiúnta óráide é seo do chainteoirí aonarach. Rinne na scoláirí seo obair na gcapall agus iad ag fáil faoi réir don chomórtaí le Máistreás Ní Shuairc agus an tUasal Orrock. Ghlac Dominic Kilbride, Patrick Hayden, Conor McCarron Peter McVeigh, agus Peter O'Connor sa rannóg shóisearach agus rinne said an-iarracht le Máistreás O'Connor ina n-óráidí.

Go hiondúil, bíonn comhrac an bhradáin sa chomórtaí seo, ó bhliain go bliain, agus níorbh aon eisceacht í an bhliain acadúil 2020-2021. Buíochas le Dia, léirigh ár mbuachaillí féith na cainte le linn an chomórtaí agus thug said aghaidh ar an dúshlán seo go paiteanta, i ngach uile bhabhta náisiúnta.

Is údar bróid dúinn é a fhógairt gur shroich Jack Burke, Ben Kieran-Glennon agus Joshua Scallan an Craobh Réigiúnach do Chúige Laighin agus as sin, shroich Jack Burke Craobh Náisiúnta na hÉireann, le seachtar eile, don chéad uair i stair an Choláiste. Tréaslaimid leo as a n-éacht iontach!



Tomás Ó Cadhla from Gael Linn presents National and Regional Debating Final Trophies to Ben Kieran-Glennon, Transition Year (left), Jack Burke, Transition Year (centre) and Joshua Scallan, Fifth Year (right).

Music & Drama

It is hard to believe that summer has arrived. The last term flew by and despite the current circumstances, we still managed to fit in lots of events between the Easter Services, the MAD (Music, Art & Drama) Festival, the Sixth Year Graduation Mass, the One Act Drama, and the completion of the Movie Musical. The Sixth Year music practical exams all took place and this year more than ever, we all relished the opportunity to perform, even with an examiner as our only audience!

The Adult Choir has continued to rehearse via Zoom every Tuesday evening this year, recording and rehearsing both for virtual performances/videos and just for fun, which is as important. A big thank you to them for recording the atmospheric music for Holy Thursday and Good Friday as part of the union retreat. This was played through the chapel sound system and broadcast on Church Services so that despite not being physically present in the College chapel, all the Adult Choir's voice were heard in the chapel.

The Arts Cont'd



The MAD festival took place for Transition Year students and they got to do workshops in samba drumming and dancing as well as attend a magic show by the fantastic Jack Wise. As this is being written, we are preparing for the viewing of 2 recorded pieces of drama. The One Act Drama has been recorded and been adapted for filming and the Senior Movie Musical. John McDermott, Fifth Year, wrote the following about this year's senior musical. When we started working on the musical movie, we thought it and Covid would be finished before Christmas. As is always the case, things did not go to plan. Lockdown's unwanted sequels 2 and 3 seemed to have killed our film before its time but after Easter, we regrouped and eventually filmed a version of the film. This year's musical certainly was one of a kind!



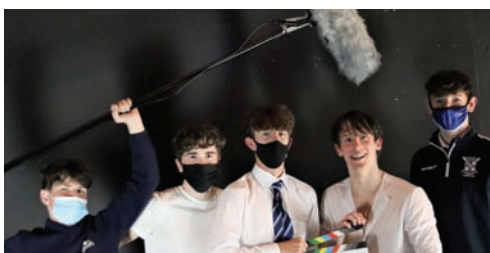
Evan Walsh (Sixth Year)

The Sixth Year Farewell Mass was a wonderful send off for the Class of 2021 and what a tremendous occasion to mark their time in the College. Many different cantors and instrumentalists led the music which really added to the special occasion. We will miss you and hope to see you again as part of the past pupils' choir and orchestra. As our Sixth-Year students move on, we are also looking forward to welcoming all the Willow Park First Year students into Blackrock next year, to take part in the many Music and Drama events there are on offer.

This year has provided so many opportunities for creativity and well done to all our students for embracing it and adapting all the time. We have all developed lots of recording skills and it is great to have videos and audio recordings to look and listen back to. That said, we cannot wait to return to live performance with a real audience and are very excited to see you at our next live performance as soon as possible!

One Act Drama – A CODA

A CODA is a meditation on joy and grief. It explores the nature in which we, as people, come together during both times of celebration and tragedy, and the sustaining presence of loved ones as our lives unfold.



The film serves as a testament to the diverse set of talents evident in the student body that make Blackrock College such a dynamic community. It is their vision, passion and work ethic that create our culture, and find avenues for expression that endeavour to represent a broad set of identities across sport, the arts, academia and beyond.



Directors and Adaptation of Project:

Colm Fagan – 5th Year
Matthew Kane – 5th Year
Robert McNabb – 5th Year
Mr Maher

Starring

Colm Fagan – 5th Year

Voices

Conor Casey – 4th Year
Michael Gadaloff – 4th Year
Mark McCabe – 5th Year
John McDermott – 5th Year
Kai Murtagh – 5th Year

Assistant Audio Supervisor

Jonathon Hoffman – 5th Year

Director of Photography/ Edited by
Robert McNabb – 5th Year

Assistant Video Supervisor
Alex Brophy – 5th Year

Director of Audio/ Original Score
Matthew Kane – 5th Year

Original Story
Mr Maher

Art Club

The following is a selection of work completed by students at Art Club.



John Daly (Sixth Year)



Matthew Aherne (Fifth Year)



Jacob Antonio (Sixth Year)



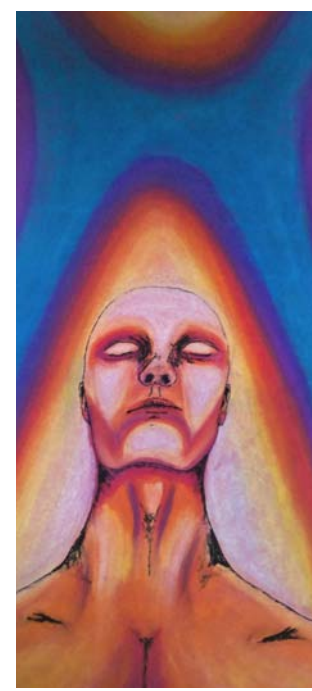
James Clancy (Third Year)



Daniel Hayes (Fifth Year)



Kai Murtagh (Fifth Year)



Sam Burke Kennedy (Sixth Year)

The Arts Cont'd



Conor Egan (Fifth Year)



Ben Harvey (Sixth Year) recipient of the 2021 Farragher Medal for Art



Patrick Ryan (Third Year) with his sculpture creation

Junior Debating

Term 3 has been busy with weekly lunchtime debating sessions and various in person and online events.

On April 30th, Blackrock College Junior Debating hosted Willow Park 1st Year students in a lively debate arguing the motion:

This House Believes That Political Assassination is a Legitimate Tool of Foreign Policy

Proposition: Tom Hayden, Conal Byrne, Jamie Brown Lynch, Cillian Staunton (All 1st Year), Darragh O'Neill and Zack Egan Ruane (Both 2nd Year)

Opposition: Patrick Hayden, Oisín Daly, Gregory Quinn, Harry Pierce and AJ Adoghe (All 3rd Year) and Rossa Clonan (1st Year).

Expert judges and former Blackrock College pupils Oisín Ryan (Class of 2018) and Michael Ryan (Class of 2019) awarded Proposition the final victory with Harry Pierce (3rd Year) and Jamie Brown Lynch (1st Year) presented with the awards for best overall speakers.

AJ Adoghe and Patrick Hayden (both 3rd Year students) competed in an online debate hosted by Holy Child Killiney on Sunday May 16th and broke to the Final Round. They were nominated joint 4th best speakers in the whole debate.

The Blackrock College Annual Gold Medal Debate was held on Thursday May 27th. The 2021 motion:

This House Believes That the Pandemic has Illustrated the Best Qualities in People.

Speakers included: Darragh O'Neill, Ishaan Pandey, Shane Hamilton and Zack Egan-Ruane (2nd Year) and AJ Adoghe, Patrick Hayden, Harry Pierce, Gregory Quinn, Oisín Daly, Luca Kenny and Simon Considine (3rd Year).

2nd Year Gold Medal winner 2021: Ishaan Pandey

3rd Year Gold Medal winner 2021: Oisín Daly



Gregory Quinn (Third Year)



Luca Kenny (Third Year)



Ben Kieran Glennon (Transition Year)

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

The CADLC continued to be a busy and vibrant place this term with plenty of classes, exhibitions and activities taking place.



Patrick Hayden (Third Year)



Ishaan Pandey (2nd Year) Gold Medal Winner

Global Citizenship Week Exhibition

The Global Citizenship committee, with the help of Ms Byrne and Ms McGuire, had an exhibition on display in the library for Global Citizenship Week. The exhibition showcased an EcoBrick couch that the students made from litter and plastic bottles. The couch remains on display in the main floor of the library and represents the amount of plastic 2.5 people use over a year.



Chromosomes Exhibition

Ms Brunswick's 42 Biology worked on a very interesting exhibition that looked at 3 or more genetic disorders association with each of the 22 chromosomes and the X and Y chromosome



Seachtain na Gaeilge

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, several classes came down to play Irish versions of traditional board games such as Cluedo and Scrabble. Some classes also took part in a "What's the Book Title quiz" where they had to translate the title of Irish language versions of popular books back to English.

Journal Club

We continued to have TY journal club meetings with Mr Lambe, 43 Geography and this term Ms Pierce's 48 English also had a weekly discussion. Each week the class reads an article from a magazine or newspaper and discusses the topic. Over the two classes we discussed a wide range of topics such as Bitcoin, Cancel Culture, Ransom Insurance, Why we Lie, Hiroo Denoda, life extensionists and escaping a North Korean prison.

Information and Media Literacy Module

Ms A Dillon ran a pilot Information and Media Literacy Module with some TY students. The module covered various items on information such as how to do a reverse image search, what is misinformation, conspiratorial thinking and identifying the purpose of information. The aim of the module is to help students critically evaluate information, develop lifelong research skills and be able to identify different types of false information.

CADLC Committee

The CADLC committee continued to meet fortnightly. Special thanks to Chairperson, John Duffy (5th Year), Frazer McGinn (TY) and Fionn Whelan (2nd Year) who made an excellent presentation to the Board of Management on the work the committee has done for the year. Well done also to secretary, Colum Corless (5th Year), Jamie Starr Bourke (TY) and Patrick Hayden (3rd Year), who along with John, Frazer and Fionn worked very hard to promote the various activities that took place in the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre this year.

The Arts Cont'd



Languages Connect Week

An MFL Department celebration of the twenty-five mother tongues spoken by members of the College students, teachers, catering, household and maintenance staff, Languages Connect Week was a vibrant week of activity, learning and international snacking!



Students enjoyed workshops in Arabic and Belly Dancing, Russian and Ballet, Portuguese, and Capoeira and Danish and Design. Flags and jerseys of the world were displayed, and students learned some of the perils of Google Translate working with commonly used idioms!

47 French Enjoying Languages Connect Week

Students were invited to enter 2 online competitions: The first, to write the English title of popular books that were translated into various foreign languages and the second, to guess an idiom that was translated. There were a total 150 entries between the two competitions. Congratulations to Liam McLaughlin (6th Year), James Harvey (5th Year), Aaron Murtagh (TY) and Patrick Cody (2nd Year) who each won a ?20 one4all voucher.



47 French Belly Dancing in the CADLC



Transition Year Students Practice Belly Dancing



Transition Years Learn Capoeira

Dungeons and Dragons Club



Not even a global pandemic can stop this club from meeting! Weekly meetings continued on TEAMS throughout the Lockdown, and we were very lucky to have Mr Natin join us as a DM and grateful for the additional depth that his experience brought to our sessions. Once back in College in person, the meetings continued, with the completion of a very long running campaign DM'd by Daire Casey (Second Year,) as well as the introduction of some One Shot Campaigns and shorter sessions. Patrick Hayden (Third Year) ran a very creative and meticulously planned campaign over two days and instigated the use of the whiteboard revealing the landscape as the campaign progressed.



Patrick Hayden (Third Year)



Patrick Hayden (Third Year) DMing his first session with going clockwise Fionn Whelan (Second Year), Mr Natin, Zach Egan-Ruane (D&D Cultural Ambassador) Simon Consadine (Third Year), Daniel Spencer (Second Year), Sean Barry (Third Year) and Daire Casey (Second Year)

This idea was continued by Mr Natin who used Blackrock College itself as the backdrop to the final Summer Party session to close out what was a fantastic inaugural year for the club. A really innovative session with puzzles to solve as the characters moved their way (imaginatively) around the College.

Thanks to Ms Dillon in the CADLC as the first set of Dungeons and Dragons manuals arrived and are ready to go on display and for loan to interested students.



Mr Natin, Daniel Spencer, Daire Casey and Alex Parsons (Second Year)

Our cultural Ambassador Zach Egan-Ruane (Second Year) dropped in each week after Art Club to share his fantastic artwork with the club. Here is a selection of his work.

Having started the year with two enthusiastic Second Years, we ended up with fourteen regular attendees from Second to Fifth Year! We are looking forward to gathering new members from the incoming Second Years and developing the DMing skills of experienced players to help grow and establish Dungeons and Dragons as a regular feature in Blackrock.



Archives Update



Recently the Archive took part in a short History walk with Ms. Harlowe's 4th Year History class in the local area, including Cross Avenue.

Our first stop was outside the front doors at the car park, to take look at the spot where the air raid shelter was located – built during WWII and only deconstructed in 1963. We discussed how in 1940, several bombs fell near Dun Laoghaire.



Two students watch the deconstruction of the air raid shelter, 1963

May 31 At 3 o'clock this morning we had an unexpected visit from a large party of soldiers who searched the whole place, without, of course, finding anything incriminating. A body of the Auxiliary police force searched Clareville at the same time, with an equally satisfactory result. They left about 6 o'clock.

June 4 & 5 Boys' private sports held. (Sat & Sun)

Note in the College Journal from 1921 mentioning the raid

We then walked up to Clareville and talked about the raid of the College and Clareville by a party of the Auxiliary Division on 31st May 1921, during a search for a Volunteer Unit that they knew to be operating in the Blackrock Area.



Glenvar entrance, 2021



Glenvar building c. 1930

Unbeknownst to the College and the search party, two of Michael Collins' men were hiding in an outhouse at Clareville - Eoin MacNeill's two sons, Niall and Brian. They were not caught that day.



Bellevue with plaque on wall

However, the search party made a surprise return the next day to Cross Avenue and discovered Eamon de Valera's hideout at Glenvar on Cross Avenue, where they made his arrest.

Another stop on the tour was Bellevue, the house Eamon de Valera had moved to in 1933. This was where he was based when he was drafting the 1937 Constitution, discussing elements with President of the College Dr John Charles McQuaid.



Bellevue entrance on Cross Avenue

A letter from Dr McQuaid apologising for a heated debate regarding the recognition given to the Catholic Church in the proposed Constitution draft was sent to de Valera at Bellevue. A plaque to de Valera is still visible at the house.

Another fascinating stop on Cross Avenue was the location of the assassination of Cumann na nGaedheal TD and Minister for Justice Kevin O'Higgins in July 1927 at the junction of Cross Avenue and Booterstown Avenue. O'Higgins was walking to mid-day mass alone when he was shot by three IRA gunmen - he died shortly afterwards.



We also looked at a particularly telling political cartoon, published in May 1927, just two months before O'Higgins was gunned down.

We were blessed with some good weather for the walking tour.



Thanks to Ms. Harlowe and the 4th Years for some great discussion and interesting questions raised.

Crowds gather at Booterstown Avenue after the assassination of Kevin O'Higgins, 10th July 1927



Political cartoon published May 1927

Sports Personality Of The Year Interview- Jamie McMahon Sixth Year

By Connor Hayes Fifth Year

Jamie McMahon (6th Year) has been following in the school's deep-rooted history of sailing and is this year's Blackrock College Sports Star. A member of the 2018 Junior Cup-winning rugby panel, Jamie will rejoin the Irish Sailing Squad after his Leaving Certificate examinations and prepare for the [2021 ILCA \(International Class Laser Association\) Under-21 World Championships](#) in Dorset in August, where he aims to "hopefully get a podium", and he also plans to compete in the [2021 ILCA Standard Men's World Championships](#) in Barcelona in September of this year. It has been a difficult year for the sport. Jamie says himself that he has been more or less "cut off from sailing completely" during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is impossible to practice the mental part of a race at the moment, which Jamie believes is the most difficult aspect of the sport: "Your ability to deal with stress and emotions that you experience during a race that lasts forty-five to fifty minutes is very difficult". As Jamie has been forced away from getting out on the water, gym and cycling sessions have taken precedence over the last few months to make up for the loss of time on the water. "I could be out on the bike for three or four hours a day, so I suppose that shows you just how important fitness is in sailing." Jamie's older brother Ewan, a former Sports Star of the Year himself, was the one who first got him interested in sailing, and Jamie hopes that the two will be teammates for the 2024 Olympics. His younger sister Eve is also aiming to be on Team Ireland at the Paris Games in three years' time. The two brothers are the first siblings to both win this award in the College history. Jamie's long-term goal? "to represent Ireland at the Olympics". He will go to UCD next year as part of the Ad Astra Programme, an Elite Athletes Scholarship, encouraging students with exceptional talents to develop their abilities to their full potential.

The programme is something his brother is a part of, and Jamie hopes that it can help him pursue a career in Engineering while also allowing him to sail full time. The future looks very bright for 2021's Blackrock College Sports Personality of the Year. Keep an eye out for Jamie over the next few years.



Jamie Mc Mahon , Sports Star of the Year 2021 , with Mr Stephen Mullin President of The PPU, (Class of 1983) .

Athletics

The Blackrock Athletics programme got off to a great start when 80 enthusiastic Second- and Third-Year athletes signed up for the first Covid friendly meet of the year. Due to the pandemic interrupting last year's athletics season, this was many of the boys first competitive Athletics experience.

Thankfully, the sun broke through just in time for the first event of the day when we were treated to top performances in the 800 metres. Seb Shortt (Third Year) and George McGilton (Second Year) were neck and neck on the home straight, with Seb snatching victory right at the death. Mark Walsh (Third Year) and Jeremy Carroll (Second Year) claimed victories in the 400 metres for their year groups. The 100 metres showed great competitive spirit with Jack Angulo (Third Year) winning the Third-Year race and Conor Grennan taking the Second-Year race.

The throwers got to show off some of their hard work over the winter months. Three second years were over the 30-metre mark in the Hammer. Michael Walsh (Second Year) took first with a throw of 34.50 metres, Brian

Walsh and Sami Bishti (Second Year) were second and third in what came down to centimetres. Brian finished with 31.85 metres and Sami with 31.80 metres. These marks would make the boys very competitive at national level. A special mention also goes to Tom O'Riordan (TY) who broke 40 metres for the first time. Tom has bounced back from the lockdown strongly and is looking forward to a great summer of competing.

Michael Walsh (Second Year) followed up his hammer result with a top throw of 34.60 metres in the Discus and Eric Brandt (TY) got a personal best with the 1.5kg throwing 32.05 meters.

Well done to all athletes for taking part and a thank you to all staff and student coaches who helped in running the event.

Chess

Since Easter, chess club has been running every Monday and Thursday in person. There have been great numbers on both days, giving the boys a great opportunity to compete against one another. Three members took part in 'Comhar Linn Online Chess Tournament' and achieved great results. Huge congratulations to Evan McCourt (4th Year) who placed 1st out of 160 participants. Robert MacHale (3rd Year) placed 5th and Leon Coleman (4th Year) placed 29th. This was a great achievement in such a largescale tournament. Well done to everyone involved.

On Monday 24th of May, we held an Inter House Chess Championships whereby the winners from the Inter House Chess tournaments competed for Senior Chess Champion and Junior Chess Champion. Congratulations to Liam Norton (4th Year) of Shanahan house, who took title of Senior Chess House Champion with a clean win of 3 games. Also, congratulations to Conor Wall (2nd Year) of Duff house who took title of Junior Chess House Champion, winning 2 out of 3 games.

It was a great end to such a fantastic year at chess club with a total of 32 signed up members. We look forward to welcoming back our current members and new members in September 2021. Please email cwyse@blackrockcollege.com if interested in joining.

Stanley Cup Final 2021

Castle Day Boys 3-1 House Day Boys

The 2021 Stanley Cup final was played in excellent spirits during the final week of term. Captain Riley Smith guided his team to a hard-fought 3-1 win. The House Day Boys started the brighter, Ryan Holmes controlled the midfield area whilst Max Mooney caused the Castle Day Boys defence huge problems. In the 15th minute, the House Day Boys pressure paid off, an individual piece of brilliance from Max Mooney gave the House a 1-0 lead.



Stanley Cup winners 2021 (back l-r) Matthew McCarthy, Geoff Larkin, Ben Brownlee, Rory Barry, Paddy McGowan, Cormac O'Brien, David Hale, Daniel Mouatt (front l-r) Cian Molony, Robert Kenny, Riley Smith (c), Stephen O'Neill, Paul White, David Nagle

Just before half time a Stephen O'Nualláin free kick levelled the score at 1-1.

In the 2nd half, the Castle started to dominate, however, a David Duffy header was well saved by Robert Kenny. A few moments later Cormac O'Brien played a beautiful ball into the box for Stephen O'Nualláin to get his second. This was quickly followed up by a Ben Brownlee header to guarantee the victory for the Castle Day Boys.

Karl Ashe Memorial Trophy

6th Year Day boys 6:11 Transition Year 3:6

Congratulations to captain Robert Kenny and his 6th Year Dayboys squad on their victory over the Transition Year team captained by Conall Hodges. The score line did not do justice to the efforts of the TY team in what was a very competitive and skilful final.



Three in-a-row winners. Back row, (left to right) Mr. Tom Ryan, Naoise Golden, Gareth Stewart Lord, Alex Bolger, David Walsh, Mark Murphy, Michael Nealon, James Gray, Sam McConnell, Matthew McCarthy, Conor Bleakley, Darragh Dempsey, James Donohoe.

Front row (left to right) Matthew Curneen, Peter Mac Dermott, Robert Kenny, Mark Kelly, Mr. Brian Grant, Joseph Neary

With the two teams qualifying from their respective semi-finals in September 2020, it was a great joy and success to get the final played out in the one academic year before the class of 2021 graduated. The game was worth waiting for as the bright and blistering day allowed the boys on both teams display the best of their Gaelic football talent on the SCT pitch. From the throw in, the TY boys managed by Mr. O'Neill showed no intention of giving the previous two in-a-row winners, now the 6th Year Day Boys, too much respect.



4th Year Day Boys Back Row (left to right) Mr. Patrick O' Neill, Tom Walsh, Michael Colreavy, Cormac Egan, Conall Hodges, Seán Ahearne, David Crowley, Sam O'Donovan, Oscar Dougan, Charles Quinn, Conor Ryan, Jack Tuite, David Doyle, Mr. Brian Grant, Jack McGlone.

Front Row (left to right) Diarmuid Monahan, Marc Ó hAonghusa, Jamie Rogan, Oliver Coffey, Thomas Downey, Thomas Eggers, Joey Quirke, Ethan Leon- Ryan,



Jack McGlone (TY) attempting to block Louis Maguire's (TY) kick



TY Goalkeeper Thomas Eggers trying to find one of his men from a kickout.

The passion, determination, and competitive spirit with which the boys played emphasised the importance of this competition amongst the boys. For the most part, Mr Grant refereed a free-flowing game that permitted the players to exhibit the high level of skills on show. Several players on both sides are members of Dublin underage panels. Mr. MacGinty acknowledged in his presentation speech after the game it is first time in the history of the Karl Ashe competition, that the same year group led by captain Robert Kenny, have been triumphant for three years in a row. I would like to thank Mr O'Brien for organising the competition and giving the boys the platform to showcase that GAA talent is alive and well in Blackrock College.



Mr. MacGinty presenting 6th Year Day Boys' captain Robert Kenny with the Karl Ashe Trophy

House Soccer Leagues

2021 House Leagues were keenly contested this year. As always, the leagues were played in great spirits & great enjoyment was had in all leagues.

2nd Year

In the B league de Valera was victorious in the soccer league blitz. Beating all before them they saw off Ebenrecht in the final 3-0. Goals from Jeremy Carroll, Richard Kineslla and Conor McFarland sealed victory for de Valera. In the A league an excellent final between Leman & de Valera saw an excellent standard of football. Unfortunately, de Valera was unable to claim the double as Leman secured a 1-0 victory.

3rd Year

In Third Year B League McQuaid was victorious in the B blitz. A competitive competition was won by Oisín Daly's Leman squad. They played some excellent football from the first match through to the Final.

In the A league the final was settled on penalties. After going a goal down McQuaid came back to get a late equaliser. Shanahan started the brighter but unfortunately lost out in the penalty shoot-out.

Transition Year

After scraping through their tough semi-final, de Valera saw off the challenge of Shanahan in a tight final. Shanahan nearly snatched a last-minute draw only for a fantastic Daniel Leahy goal-line clearance. De Valera's 2-1 victory was well deserved.



Colm Kelly (6th Year) in possession for Ebenrecht



Stephen O'Nualláin (6th Year) being put under pressure by Riley Smith.

Fifth Year

Fergal O'Sullivan played a starring role as McQuaid saw off a strong Duff side 3-1 in the final of a competitive competition. Duff had not conceded a goal in the competition until this final. Unfortunately for them, Fergal O'Sullivan had goals on his mind. Tommy Hanrahan and Harvey Jerman tried their best to drag Duff back into the game. However, at 3-0 down they had a mountain to climb. A consolation goal by Tommy Hanrahan, could not spark a comeback and after losing the final in 2nd Year and 3rd Year, finally, McQuaid got their hands on the winner's trophy!



Louie Maguire during 6th year soccer final

Sixth Year

Man of the Match, Daniel Mouatt, was the difference as Shanahan saw off a very strong Ebenrecht side. Shanahan flew out of the blocks scoring the decisive goal after 2 minutes. Ebenrecht pushed right to the end but was unable to break Shanahan down. Riley Smith, Cian Molony & Matthew McCarthy tried to unlock the Shanahan defense but were unable to. Daniel Mouatt and Stephen



Alex O'Meara (5th Year) defending well against Paul White (6th Year)



Patrick Clancy in full flight during the 2nd Year House 10s competition



Second Year Soccer 10s

O'Nualláin kept Ebenrecht honest on the counterattack making Robert Kenny pull off 2 fine second half saves.

Harrow Swimming Gala

Our first ever virtual Swimming Gala took place on May 25th. Although there were problems "live-streaming" Harrow into our pool we had a great competition over Google docs. Due to Covid restrictions it was the first time that the team saw each other this year. It was a fantastic event, run brilliantly by Cindy Hurley and her assistant coach Max Connolly (class of 2019). Robbie Condon (class of 2017) who has been coaching in the College since he left will be stepping away from coaching as he has finished his college course; we thank him for all his hard work. Also, the Swimming Club say goodbye to our fantastic 6th Years that have led by example over the past few years, Rory Shiel & Ciarán Conway – we wish you all the best in your exams and look forward to seeing you back coaching in the coming years.

Swimming Gala Harrow V Blackrock College.



The Blackrock Bees

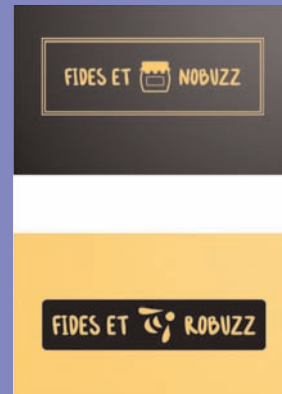
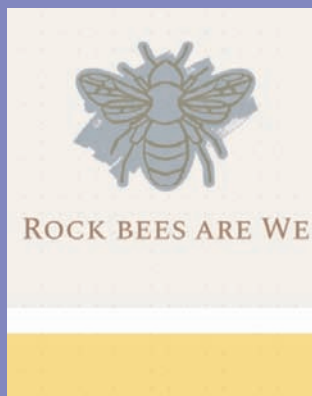


The hives thrive . We have installed two overflow hives in anticipation of new queens and should have honey in abundance later in the summer. A particular thank you to Niall Ringrose (Class Of 1979) for his generosity in overseeing this project and his mentorship of staff members, who will hopefully take over at some point and to Mr N Toolan for his commitment to this project.

These photos of the latest Bee Inspection on Saturday June 5th, 2021, confirm the healthy status of our hives.

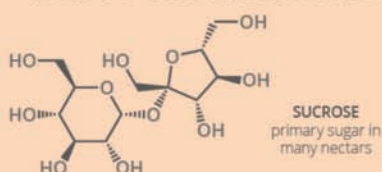


The following are some suggestions for naming the Blackrock College honey .



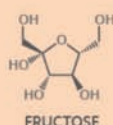
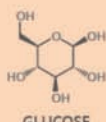
THE CHEMISTRY OF HONEY

HOW DO BEES MAKE HONEY?



When bees harvest nectar, it is stored in their honey stomachs, separate from their normal stomach. The nectar is mixed with enzymes which break down the larger sugars in the nectar, such as sucrose, into the smaller sugars glucose and fructose.

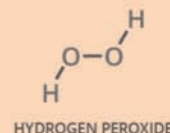
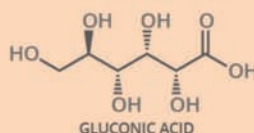
The forager bee then passes it on to a house bee, who regurgitates and re-drinks the nectar over a 20 minute period, breaking down the larger sugars further.



The nectar is deposited in the honeycomb, and the bees fan it to hasten water evaporation, until the water concentration falls to around 17%.



WHY DOESN'T HONEY GO OFF?



Honey has such a low water content, it draws water from its surrounding environment, meaning it can dehydrate bacteria, thus preventing spoilage.

Gluconic acid is the dominant acid in honey, produced by the action of bee secretions on glucose. It, and other acids, give honey a low pH of between 3 and 4; this, along with the fact it also contains small amounts of hydrogen peroxide, makes it too hostile for bacterial growth.



FUEL ADDITIVE NANOPARTICLES AFFECT SUMMER BEES

Cerium oxide nanoparticles are widely used as fuel additives. New research has found they disrupt enzymes in honeybees associated with learning and toxin removal. The bees collected in summer months during the study were more affected than those in autumn months.



PLANTS LACE NECTAR WITH CAFFEINE TO TRICK BEES

New research suggests bees choose nectar containing caffeine over non-caffeinated nectar. It's thought that this ultimately benefits the plant more than the bees, as it tricks the bees into acting as if the nectar quality is higher than it actually is.

Reflection

Be An Optimist **by Wayne Visser**

Be an optimist

Not because the future is bright
But because bright people are working
To make the future better

Be an optimist

Not because the news is good
But because good people are showing
That change is always possible

Be an optimist

Not because the world is fair
But because fair people are fighting
For justice wherever it is needed.

When ordinary people do extraordinary things

Let your heart beat a little faster

Knowing that you are ordinary too

When inspiring leaders rise to our biggest challenges

Let your sights be set a little higher

Knowing that you too can inspire

When young voices join in the call to action

Let your efforts go a little further

Knowing that you can always do more

Be an optimist

Not because the night is over

But because we all carry the light of values

And remember the promise of dawn

Be an optimist

Not because victory is certain

But because we have the opportunity

To still make a positive difference

Be an optimist

Not because the earth is a haven
But because we have a growing desire
To be guardians for all life

When the clouds of gloom are gathering
Let your knowledge of the sun and skies above

Be a vision that brings perspective

When the drums of war are beating

Let your refusal to cast others as villains

Be a declaration of our common humanity

When the tides of bigotry are rising

Let your belief that we all have equal worth

Be a boat that will never capsize

Be an optimist

Not because you ignore the facts

But because the wider landscape of facts

Tell a story of remarkable progress

Be an optimist

Not because the glass is half full

But because we always have the chance

To tap a greater source of power

Be an optimist

Not because you are blind and deaf and dumb

But because you see and hear and speak

More clearly what is possible

Wayne Visser © 2019



Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie