

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



February 2022

Dear Parents,

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools' Week was 'Living Life to the Full'. As the Covid restrictions diminish, there is the opportunity to do so, to socialise with friends, attend sporting and cultural events, meet colleagues face-to-face, visit the College. However, 'living life to the full' runs deeper than this as we encourage the boys to consider their inner self, their values, beliefs, spirituality, and purpose.

In this context, it is appropriate to reflect on what it means to be a Catholic School and how this identity enriches our lives. Blackrock is a community of Faith, of Learning, of Love, of Hope, of Resilience. We encourage the boys to make choices based on Christian values. Our core belief is that each of us has a responsibility to lead our life in a way that bears witness to the message of Christ – to Be Caring, Be There, Be Truthful, Be Grateful and to Be Respectful. Service to others is at the heart of this.

For a community of faith to flourish, we must assemble from time to time, in solidarity and in thanksgiving. It was very special to have a full chapel and a choir in full voice, for the first time in two years, for the recent 5th Year Family Mass. The 2nd and 3rd Year Parent-Teacher Meetings and cake sale for Machakos were also a throwback to former times, occasions that we may have once taken for granted.

At the 5th Year Family Mass, Fr. Nash reminded us of the importance of taking time for one another. Evan Lyons (5th Year) posed these questions: 'What have I done for someone else? What has someone else done for me? How can I be kind to myself?' The liturgy provided a neat segue onto Wellbeing Week which urged our boys to: 'Connect – Keep Learning – Be Active - Give – Take Notice'.

Our Student Wellbeing Committee, in their introduction to the ground-breaking Wellbeing Week booklet, a copy of which was given to your son, wrote: "sometimes people think that wellbeing is about being happy all the time, but it is so much more than that. It is about realising abilities, taking care of our physical health, coping with the normal stresses of life, having a sense of purpose, and belonging to a wider community". In other words, Wellbeing Week was also about Faith, Learning, Love, Hope and Resilience.

This newsletter records the many opportunities to connect, to be active, to give service, to have a sense of purpose, to belong. Our Past v Present and Inter-school debates; our Badminton and Basketball finals; the senior Soccer squad's trip to Millfield; the Leinster cross-country Championships; Rowing; the collaborative mass with Machakos; Feature Weeks and Days; Cake Sale; Thursday Tunes; Student Congress; Dragons' Den; Corporate Duck Race; the Rock MUN; Science, Arts and Public Speaking Clubs; Student Wellbeing, Global and Green Schools' Committees have provided the opportunity to 'live life to the full'.

Yet there are some, understandably, who may feel that they find themselves on the outside looking in. Please contact me if your son, for whatever reason, believes he is in this situation. He will receive a sympathetic and supportive ear.

Last Sunday, (13th February) a packed Donnybrook enjoyed a pulsating cup-match with St. Michael's. It was a superb occasion, a tough uncompromising encounter replete with skill, spirit and sportsmanship in equal measure across both teams. It was an example of all that is good about Spiritan Education with a mutual respect and pride in performance on display. St. Michael's and Blackrock are partners in driving standards and seeking excellence in all that we do. We were the victors this time, but it could have gone either way. We commiserate with our fellow Spiritans.

Finally, I acknowledge the many unsung heroes of Blackrock, who teach classes, clean classrooms, make and serve food, join committees, live in community, tend our pitches, maintain our buildings, care for our unwell and injured, mind our Boarders, welcome you at reception, provide our administration, maintain our I.T., coach teams and promote the arts, advise on careers and lead the Union all of whom encourage us to 'live life to the full' with Jesus as our mentor.

God Bless,

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal



Ben Kieran-Glennon (Fifth Year) was awarded Best Speaker at the Past V Present Pupils' Debate

Message from the Deans



February 2022

Term two is marked by the arrival of Spring and this one brings a certain air of hope and joy with the gradual return to the familiar. We encourage all students to maintain their momentum in relation to academic progress. As reinforced for many by the Parent-Teacher Reports and ongoing meetings the value of the weekly Application Cards and monthly Progress Cards cannot be underestimated. They provide clear indicators of the levels of overall effort and academic progress. Students are continually urged to be both proud and accountable and to share and discuss their cards at home. Setting short term academic goals that are realistic and attainable in a workspace that is setup to minimize distractions, serve to highlight the relevance of the daily routine, feed confidence and subsequent success.

We are thrilled that the pitches, courts, pool, and corridors are once again a hive of activity and competition on a daily basis; an almost full restoration of the on-campus camaraderie and *esprit de corps* that defines and supports our College Ethos in so many ways. We support all students pursuing extra-curricular activities, the benefits of which are infinite.

The importance of wellness of self and the whole College community was promoted by our recent Wellbeing Week, coordinated by the Student Wellbeing Committee. This fulfilling week offered an opportunity for all to build resilience by taking notice of surroundings, connecting and giving to others in the simplest of ways whilst being open to learning something new and staying active. Many availed of the opportunity to discover the Cubbie Sensory Hub while all took time to log a daily Gratitude Journal and enjoy the much-anticipated return of Thursday Tunes.

Once again, the highlight of Libermann Day (2nd February) this year was undoubtedly the online mass celebrated in the College Chapel by Fr. Cormac O'Brolchain and joined live online by Fr. John Wambu and students from Holy Ghost School, Sultan Hamud in Kenya, with whom Blackrock has such a strong and rich connection. It was a powerful reinforcement of the strength of our shared Spiritan values and ethos.

We are thankful this half-term, as always for the support and appreciation of the parent body represented so conscientiously and adeptly by the various Year Group Parents' Committees whose commitment behind the scenes organising coffee mornings, social evenings and the recent cake sale in aid of Machakos is much lauded. We are also thankful for the enthusiasm and positive engagement of the students this half-term and we look forward to the next half-term, encouraging all to stay connected and committed to all aspects of school life remembering as Churchill said, "success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."

24 members of the **Class of 2022** marked **Libermann Day** on February 2nd by celebrating Mass in the College chapel with our sister school in Machakos in Kenya. Fr O'Brolchain (Blackrock) & Fr Mwambu (Machakos) were joint celebrants for this special Eucharist and many thanks to Ms McGuire for setting up this opportunity for our boys.

Fifth Years are grateful to the **Career Guidance Department** for their ongoing support of student queries and for organising opportunities for students to explore career options both here and abroad.

Community service continues throughout the year in **TY** as part of Gaisce and more. Undoubtedly one of the highlights has been the St. Joseph's Glashule partnership where each Tuesday and Wednesday TY students visit the community centre to help elderly residents of the community with various IT related matters.

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

Message from the Deans Cont'd



We congratulate our **Second Year Scifest** winners who received their prizes at the first Assembly in January. Well done to **Jack Droney** who won the Best Project Award for his project 'The effect of temperature on phones'. Well done to **Kian O'Brien** who was runner up with his project 'Does the force acting on a train increase when its mass is increased?'. Congratulations also to **Louis Innes** who was awarded the AbbVie Innovator Award for his project 'An analysis of Internet technology infrastructure'. Amazing work!



Overall Scifest Winner Jack Droney receives his prize from Mr Alan MacGinty (Principal)



Blackrock College J3rds V Wilson's Hospital

It is great to see our **Third Years** back in competitive action on the **rugby** pitches. Four teams are now underway in their respective competitions with the JCT preparing for the first round of the Cup. The 5ths recorded an impressive win against Belvedere recently, our 4ths beat St Michael's away whilst playing an impressive running rugby and the 3rds travelled to Pres Bray and secured a hard-fought win. What has been particularly impressive has been the level of support on the side-lines for each of our teams. I hope this esprit de corps continues!

On Wednesday 9th February, 63 members of the **Class of 2022** availed of the PPU run **Career Mock Interviews**. Interviews were conducted on campus and many thanks to Ms Natasha Drew (Head of Careers) and Mr Maurice Tunney (PPU) who ensured that this most important and valued annual event in the 6th Year calendar was able to return to 'normal' this year.

Series 2 of the **Transition Year Podcast**, 'Rockcast' begins after midterm. Episodes will continue on a weekly basis and are available to listen to on Spotify.com ; search 'Rockcast 2022'. This is the first time we have been able to do the work of the podcast in person and there have been many meetings of the three core teams in the areas of Arts and Entertainment, News and Current Affairs and Sports. Our first episodes had a discussion with members of the public on the lifting of Covid restrictions, a report on NFT's, a Six Nations discussion and more.

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

As part of Wellbeing week, **Thursday Tunes** made a welcome return to the CADLC and we thank instrumental duet Eoin Dunne & Matthew Kane and soloists Mark Phelan & Colm Corless, all of **6th Year** for their contribution to this well-received event.

Fifth Years Evan Lyons and David Mooney are thanked for their contribution to the success of **Wellbeing Week**. Thoughtful, meaningful, and practical the week's activities armed students with the essential tools and guidance to take care and be aware of their own well-being and that of others.



Fifth Year Students Evan Lyons, David Mooney and Hugo Griffin celebrating their work for Wellbeing Week 2022

Message from the Deans Cont'd



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Fifth Year Parent-Teacher Meeting –
Tuesday 01 March

This term saw the return of the **TY Corporate Duck Race** after its absence last year due to Covid. This year's event was in aid of Solèy Haiti (www.soleyhaiti.org) with 100% of the proceeds going towards the payment of the salaries of the staff of Bigue Community School in Northern Haiti for an entire academic year. The team did a fantastic job of putting together the promotional material and letters for the companies. A fantastic total of €8,750 was raised which exceeded our target with the excess funds now going towards the provision of daily school meals to the 346 children attending the school. Our sincere thanks to our kind and generous sponsors: QRE Real Estate Advisers, Blackrock Builder Providers, Willow Park 1st Year, UChoose Vending, Nolan Coaches, Living Language, The Old Punchbowl, Tony Doyle Coaches, Coady Architects, Rock Photography, Sodexo, BTW Sandyford, Goshawk, Ardale Property Group, Vertical Markets, Eversheds Sutherland, Dublin Barista School, Paceprint, TJ O'Connor, Sports Care Medical and Johnston Print.

Our **Senior Basketball Cup** odyssey came to an end in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght on Wed 19th January when a very strong St Munchin's of Limerick defeated us by 59 to 41 in the U19B All-Ireland Final. We congratulate **Sixth Years** Ronin O'Halloran and Murray Baker (Joint Captains) and the senior squad on a brilliant season that has achieved Senior A standard for Blackrock College in Basketball next year.

Our dedicated House Captains continue to organise **Inter-House events** and they currently have a Six Nations fantasy rugby competition and well as a singles Tennis Ladder up and running. The **Second Years** get regular updates on their House Teams, and we thank the House Captains for their enthusiasm and encouragement.

Our **6th Year Debaters**, Colm Fagan, Matthew O'Donnell, James Carroll & Michael White continue to make progress through the Qualifying Rounds of the Leinster Schools' Debating competition. We wish them continued success in the Quarter-Finals.

On the weekend of 11th and 12th February, **Max Mooney (Sixth Year) led the Senior Soccer Team on a UK trip to Millfield School** where matches were played at 1st (2-1 Victory) and 2nd level (3-3 Draw). Many thanks to Mr Evan O'Brien for organising what may hopefully become an annual event between both schools.

Best of luck to **Third Years** Darragh O'Neill and Ishaan Pandey who have qualified to compete in the final round of the **Junior Schools' Debating Competition** which will be held in person in UCD. Darragh and Ishaan have qualified as one of 32 teams for the final. We wish them well.

Well done to our **Second Year Junior and Intermediate Cross Country** athletes **Hugh Barry, Jamie Browne-Lynch, Callum Downes, Tom Hayden, Adam Kennedy** and **Lorcan Lawless** and **Charlie White** for their qualification in the East Leinster Cross Country competition. Congratulations to Charlie who qualified individually for the Leinster Championship race and we wish him all the best.

As the **Easter Exams** approach, **Fifth Years** look forward to the publication of a student researched and designed study guide by this volunteer group of their peers.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Our U19A badminton team including Vincent Pang, Thomas King and Mark O'Reilly from 6th Year completed an outstanding season by being placed third on the Leinster Finals Day in Baldoye on Feb 3rd.

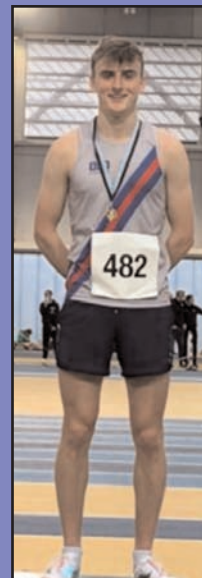


Ernie O'Brien and Alex Kenny
(TY Community Service)

TY Evening Courses have continued this term. Another Sound Engineering group has begun with a view to providing tech support to the podcast team. The ever-popular Barista and Cookery classes continue along with First Aid. For the first time two groups are doing their Coding Module during the school day with another group doing a module in Information and Media Literacy. My thanks to Mr. O'Connell and Ms A. Dillon respectively for facilitating these two modules.

Success in Sport for Fifth Years: World Cup Finalist and Player of the Match against Canada, Philippe Le Roux has enjoyed remarkable success as part of the **Ireland U19 World Cup Cricket Squad**. A fantastic commitment from Philippe and we welcome him home with great pride. Ronan Fahey's swimming success continues as he has won Silver in the Breaststroke, setting a new personal best at **Leinster Swimming Championships**. Well done, Ronan. Jake Foley was thrilled with his tied first place finish in the Toro Tour Spain Golf Tournament. Jack McGlone won Gold in the 800m and Silver in the 400m at the U19 *Dublin Indoor Athletics Championships*. This success was on the back of the College's Senior Team success at the **East Leinster Schools' Cross Country** event. We wish Jack and all our athletes continued success.

On Thursday 13th January, our **6th Year Parent Teacher** meeting was held. Due to Covid restrictions this afternoon saw close to 1400 individual comments distributed by 6th Year teachers to each student's parents/guardians. While face to face meetings were greatly missed, benefits noted included the reception of information from every teacher and the ability to discuss this information with the student at home.



Jack McGlone

In the **Leinster Swimming Championships** on Feb 6th, Patrick Curley (**6th Year**) won gold in the 17-19 years olds 100m Breaststroke and our Senior relay including Patrick and David MacHale won silver in the Senior Freestyle relay. Well done to all.

Fifth Year Digital Champions Frazer McGinn, Jamie Ahern O'Connell and Aaron Murtagh were instrumental in the launch of the College's first **Safer Internet Day**. Presenting a range of practical, informative and thought-provoking prompts, our ambassadors have initiated many worthwhile and much needed conversations. For that we are grateful.



Fifth Years Jamie Ahern O'Connell, Aaron Murtagh and Frazer McGinn, Digital Champions and Safer Internet Ambassadors

Third Year rowers were back in action in January with the Shandon Head of the River. Highlights included our Junior 16 Coxed Quad of Louis Kelly, Jason Marrow, Lucas Perez and Ciarán Murphy finishing 6th and our Junior 15 of Louis Kelly, Ben McElligott, Matthew Neary and Elliott Tomkin Beddy finishing 3rd.

Second Years continue to make excellent contributions to debating and we commend Alex Browne, Jamie Brown-Lynch, Conall Byrne, Brian Carroll, Tom Hayden, Josh Murphy, and Cillian Staunton for their participation in the recent ICYD qualifiers. We congratulate Jamie and Josh who have secured a place in the ICYD Finals in Oxford in April. We wish them all the very best in this prestigious competition.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



TY Dates for the Diary

Monday 28th Feb – Class Suspended
Transition Year Tours – Tuesday 1st March
Environmental Awareness Activities – 2nd – 4th March
TY Class Week – 7th – 11th March
Easter Exams – 15th – 25th March
Friday 18th March – Free day, class suspended
Holy Ghost Prep Visit – 27th March – 3rd April
Seachtain na Gaeilge – 28th March – 1st April
5k Rock Run – 2nd April
Junior Musical – 5th – 8th April
Lenten Reconciliation Services – 4th – 8th April

On Tuesday 1st February **Colm Fagan, Matthew O'Donnell and Michael White of the Class of 2022** were joined by Ben Kiernan-Glennon (5th Year) in successfully opposing the motion that 'Ireland's best days are behind her'. We thank the Past Pupil Team for the generous giving of their time to this event.



Michael White (Sixth Year) at the Past V Present Pupils' Debate

To mark the 2022 6 Nations Rugby Championship, each House has entered the Class of 2022 fantasy league competition. Many thanks to Kevin Jackson for setting this event up with Ethan Laing of Leman House leading the way after Round 1 of matches.

The youngest participant in this year's **Past V Present Pupils'** debate, **Fifth Year** Ben Kieron Glennon was not only member of the winning team but was deservedly awarded best speaker on the night. The definition of cool, calm and collected Ben has a bright debating future ahead.

This year's **TY Rock Run** will take place in the grounds of the College on Saturday 2nd April after two years of virtual runs. The virtual run was not without its benefits as those connected to the College all around the world were able to take part and be connected to what is a major day in the College calendar. For those who can we will be delighted to welcome you back into the grounds of the college on April 2nd. For anybody else anywhere else in the world you can still take part and we still need your support. This year's event is in aid of Aidlink and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland with more details to come post midterm.

The celebration of this year's Catholic Schools' Week culminated with the **Fifth Year Family Mass**. We were fortunate to be able to return to Chapel where the choir were in full voice as this wonderful occasion was celebrated by Fr. Tom Nash who encouraged all to live life to the full and to take time for one another.

The Class of 2023 is supporting the many worthwhile conservation projects in Dublin Zoo by **adopting an Orangutan**, classified as critically endangered with rapidly depleting numbers. We are proud to welcome Seymour as honorary member of the Class of 2023.



Congratulations to **Sean Purcell (6th Year)** a member of the **Dublin South Colleges Minor Hurling Team** that played in the Leinster Final against Good Counsel of Wexford on February 12th. Unfortunately, Good Counsel proved to be just too strong on the day.

We thank our **senior cheerleader Matthew Harvey (Sixth Year)** and his wonderfully creative team for overcoming the challenges posed by Covid regulations and co-ordinating a series of year Cup rallies in the Sports Hall on Thursday 10th February in the lead up to our opening SCT game vs St. Michael's. A special mention goes to Harry McLaughlin for his work in producing the Lion Video, '70'!!!

Message from the Deans Cont'd



A fantastic array of opportunities has been sourced by the students for **TY Work Experience Week** ranging from the traditional in person placements, to online placements (e.g. with a start-up looking at lead generation and SWOT analysis) to completing courses in an area of interest. On behalf of the boys, I am hugely grateful to all who have facilitated such a valuable experience.

Cheerleaders, chants, bunting, the blue and white and a strong **Fifth Year** representation - the **Cup Season** is back! We wish all Fifth Years involved in the Senior Cup Campaign and indeed in all returning Leagues across all sports the very best of enjoyment and fulfilment.

On 27th January we had the launch of the 14th **TY Annual Dragons' Den** competition with a presentation given by Chairperson of the Initiative, Jim Leyden. This was followed by an Ideas Generation workshop for the boys before midterm. My thanks to Mr. Fitzsimons for his work on this initiative and the Past Pupils' Union for their support as always.

Congratulations to Gus McCarthy ((Sixth Year) and the SCT squad on their outstanding 25-20 victory in Donnybrook against St. Michael's College on Sunday 13th February in front of a huge attendance. We wish them well as they prepare for the quarter-final of the competition after mid-term.

Part 2 of the **TY Leadership Course** took place at the start of January with Mr. Denis Hevey. More than 20 TY Students will appear in the **Rathdown School production of 'Grease'** on March 8th and 9th and we wish them well with that. Rehearsals of our own **Junior Musical** have begun which will run from 5th – 9th April. John O'Shea gave a fantastic virtual talk to our TY students with more guest speakers (Ger Redmond, The Hope Foundation for example) arranged for after the half term. Well done to all **TY students** involved in the fantastic work of the **Global Citizenship Committee** during the half term.

After suffering the heartbreak of a last-minute penalty Cup loss to Clonkeen College, we congratulate Max Mooney and the **Senior Soccer Squad** on their qualification for the League semi-final after securing a gutsy 3-3 away draw against a talented Coláiste Eanna side.

Commiserations to Mark McCabe, Eoin Dunne, John Duffy, Michael Paran & Rory Luff (all **6th Year**) on their elimination at the quarter final stage of the **All-Ireland French debating competition**. In a very tight contest, St Leo's of Carlow successfully opposed the motion that 'Reality TV destroys our values'.

Fantastic efforts by the **Third-Year swimmers** in the recent Leinster Swimming Championships. Cuan Fallon, Oliver Lee and Ciarán Murphy were part of the Intermediate Medley Relay that won Bronze whilst also securing Gold in the Intermediate Free Relay. Well done lads!



Conor Tonge (Fifth Year) and Gus Mc Carthy (Sixth Year) SCT V Belvedere

Our **Senior Cross Country Team** including Eoin Dunne, Oscar Lubliner & James Carroll from **6th Year** qualified for the Leinster Finals after finishing second in the East Leinster Final in the Phoenix Park on January 26th. We wish them well in the next round.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



A significant highlight of this term in **Second Year** was the launch of our **Auxilium Programme**. The Programme invites all Second-Year boys to reach out to others, to help at home and in their wider communities, to **make a positive difference in the world**. The message to the boys is to ask others *How can I help?* And to offer their time and talents in service.



Scifest Winners, (L to R) J. Droney, K. O'Brien and L. Inne



Philippe Le Roux (Fifth Year)



Rock UI4Bs v St Mary's



Fifth Year Choir at the Libermann Day Collaboration Mass.



Diarmaid Monahan, Eoghan Walsh, Killian McKenna, David Crowley and Louis Dignam. Fifth Year Study Skills Focus Group.



SCT V Belvedere



Thomas Downey with his Mum and Dad , Dervilla and John Downey at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Ronan Fahey (Fifth Year)



Jack Angulo (Sixth Year)



L to R L. Kelly, D. Byrne, C. Power, H. Carroll (Second Year) U 14's



Colm Fagan (Sixth Year) at the Past V Present Pupils' Debate



Blackrock J 3rds V Wilson's Hospital

Pastoral Care Programme



Returning to school on the 6th of January, we celebrated the **Feast of the Epiphany** (the 12th Day of Christmas). It was a day filled with gratitude that we continue our academic year in person. With some restrictions still in place, Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp in the College Chapel celebrated Mass, which was livestreamed into each classroom so that the entire school community came together to pray for many blessings on the broad Blackrock family for 2022.

The last week in January was **Catholic Schools' Week** with a theme this year of "Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full". Here in Blackrock, we all have the opportunity to live life to the full from the academic to the extracurricular – we are indeed blessed with opportunity and choice. On the Friday of Catholic Schools Week, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament took place in the College Chapel with large numbers of staff and students coming to pray in silence during the morning. On Sunday 31st January, Fr Tom Nash CSSp and Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin CSSp celebrated the 5th Year Family Mass. For the first time in two years, we had a full congregation in the College Chapel – a joy-filled morning for all. Chief celebrant Fr. Tom Nash in an excellent homily talked about the sacrament of marriage as a commitment to a way of life and reminded us all of the importance of taking time for one another. Other events during Catholic Schools Week were an exhibition of Inspirational Catholics in the Digital Learning Centre as well as the introduction of a new Blackrock College Camino – a 30 to 40 minute walk of reflection around the College Campus.



Charlie Quinn at the Fifth Year Family Mass with his Mum.



Jack Larkin at the Fifth Year Family Mass with his parents



Andrew Welch at the Fifth Year Family Mass with his Mum.



Michael Colreavy at the Fifth Year Family Mass with his parents

February 2nd is a special day for the worldwide Spiritan Congregation when we celebrate **Venerable Francis Libermann**, the co-founder of the Spiritans. We remind ourselves that Blackrock is one part of the large Spiritan jigsaw and on this day we join with our sister school in Machakos in Kenya when, although thousands

of miles apart, we come together to celebrate a Mass. Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin was Chief Celebrant in our College Chapel and Fr John Wambu CSSp preached a homily from Kenya. We were joined in the College Chapel by the Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Michael Mubea. The Mass can be viewed on the College Website and also on www.ChurchServices.tv
<https://www.churchservices.tv/blackrockcollege/archive/uploads/VqQK9b668NbEvYn>

Grandparents Morning of Reflection / Retreat

In preparation for Holy Week & Easter
Wednesday 6th April 2022 – 9.00am to 12.00 Noon in the College Chapel.

Please email fmadden@blackrockcollege.com or phone 01 – 275 2125 to register [Places are limited].

[Optional attendance at Morning Mass in College Chapel at 8.15am]

MORNING MASS

Join us for Morning Mass in the College Chapel any school day morning at 8.15am.

You are welcome either in person or online. If you have any special intention or anniversary you would like remembered, please email

fmadden@blackrockcollege.com or phone 01 – 275 2125.

All are welcome.

Blackrock College Prayer eBook

Download from Google, search ... "Blackrock College Prayer eBook"

<https://www.blackrockcollege.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Blackrock-College-Prayer-Book.pdf>

Sacrament of Confirmation

For students wishing to be Confirmed in the Third Term, please register before the end of February with fmadden@blackrockcollege.com



Wellbeing

After a relaxing Christmas break, preparations for the upcoming Wellbeing Week were soon underway. This week was critically important for the committee as it would be the first 'in person' Wellbeing Week since we were not in lockdown, in contrast to last year. Numerous brainstorming sessions took place where we compiled our ideas. It was decided that along with a 'Wellbeing Booklet', which would act as a physical reminder for the students, there would be a theme for each day of the week with different activities taking place every day. After finalising our booklet and activities, the next step was raising awareness throughout the school. Posters were hung up, bringing a focus on wellbeing and what it meant. On Monday morning at check in, each student was given their booklet by a member of the Wellbeing Committee in that year. The eye-catching design of the booklet, courtesy of Ms. Markey was noted and praised by many. Inside the booklet was a timetable for the week, a gratitude journal, breathing techniques, information on the new Cubbie Sensory Hub and much more. The chart below summarises the many activities which took place during Wellbeing Week. Huge congratulations to the Wellbeing Committee for their organisation of this most beneficial and enjoyable week.

BE GRATEFUL				
TAKE NOTICE	CONNECT	GIVE	KEEP LEARNING	BE ACTIVE
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing Week booklet handed out. Gratitude page introduced during period 1. Breathing techniques for stress (page 4.) Kahoot – CADLC Gratitude page completed during period 6. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wear your Hse colours today. Points go to the House with the most members wearing their colours. Vertical link meeting 2nd years and 6th years. Connect Challenge Past versus Present Debate 	<p>Feast of Venerable Francis Libermann</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bring in any old, (but clean) hoodies, scarves, gloves and tracksuit bottoms, that you have for our Clothes Drive. Why not take our Give Pledge today 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday Tunes is back – CADLC, lunchtime Learn to sign 'Hello', 'How are you?' 'Thank you' and your name in Irish Sign Language Reading Pledge 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Watch the Hugo Keenan video and complete the activity in this booklet Try Chair – Aerobics today Start your 30-day fitness challenge

Green Schools



Green Schools February 2022

The second term has been packed with plans for Green Schools initiatives. Our focus is a **Global Citizenship Litter and Waste Flag**, and we are working our way through the steps we need to earn this, our next, flag. In January we divided our Committee into teams and we are all focussing on different elements.

On our return after Midterm, we will launch the second of our **Environmental Awareness Weeks** with each day focusing on a different **litter and waste theme**. The Global Citizenship Flag aims to highlight our moral understanding of our responsibilities and our rights in a global context. We wish to raise awareness around the idea that all people have equal rights while at the same time recognising diversity. We are currently in the middle of our **Litter and Waste** review, and we will be challenging you, our readers, and everyone in our school community to think about their habits regarding

littering, waste disposal and recycling. We will put this in a global context, thinking about where our waste goes to and where the food and products we buy come from. In tandem with this we will conduct a **Global Connection Survey** and develop an **Action Plan**. Stay in touch with us for more developments.

If anyone wishes to join the Green Schools Committee feel free to contact us. You can get in touch with us at 23_fmccinn@blackrockcollege.com. We meet every **THURSDAY** in the Learning Centre at 1:10pm. All welcome.



Global Citizenship



Libermann Day Mass

The Libermann day Mass was celebrated between Blackrock College and Holy Ghost School on Wednesday the 3rd of February 2022. Students from both schools attended via a video link set up in the college chapel to connect it to our sister school in Kenya.



Libermann Day Collaboration Mass with Fr. John Wambu and the students of Holy Ghost Secondary School

Collaboration Project



Students from Holy Ghost Secondary school take part in a zoom call with the TY GCE team.

The Collaboration Project aims to compare and analyze the effects of Covid-19 in Ireland and in Kenya. A select number of students in Blackrock College and Holy Ghost School meet via Zoom each week to talk, share information and bond over our teenage lives. We are currently going through Stage One of our research project, where we gather quantitative data on how the recent pandemic impacted our societies in areas such as

homelessness, school closures, domestic violence rates and inflation. Another of our aims is to identify similarities and differences between our separate experiences, and to educate others about both cultures, which might have been misrepresented in the past. Developing relationships with each other and sharing everyday experiences is highly enjoyable, and we are all incredibly grateful for this opportunity.

Bottle-cap Project

There has been a surge in plastic usage in recent times, an act that is incredibly dangerous to our environment. To raise awareness, the Global Citizenship Committee created the Bottle-cap Mural Project, where we collect and use bottle-caps to create different flags of countries all around the world.



The TY GCE Team create the Kenyan flag using bottlecaps.

This allowed the team to explore Sustainable Development Goals 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production* and Sustainable Development Goal 13 *Climate Action*. We also found this to be a great chance to represent the bond between Blackrock College and Holy Ghost School in Kenya.



Adam Deegan McGovern and Senan McCloskey creating the shield of the Kenyan flag

This project could not be completed without the help from Café shops in the Blackrock area, specifically Parlour, McDonalds, Kay's Kitchen, Café Nero, Shaka Poké, Sisi@Central Café, Butler's Café, Starbucks, Insomnia, The Wooden Spoon, Bear Market Coffee, The Vanilla Pod, Hatch Coffee, Lazy Days Café and On A Platter, who have all very kindly agreed to collect bottle-caps for us each week. When completed, these murals will be exhibited at the front of the school on large display boards.



Students from Holy Ghost school and Blackrock TY work on their project via zoom



Snapshot 1st Half Term 2022



Congratulations to Andrew Jones (6th Year) who has his first race in Nass last Saturday (12th Feb). Andrew and El Capitaine finished 5th of 11 and hopefully the first of many races to come.



Past V Present Basketball Match



Ben Brownlee, Rory McGuire, James Culhane, (Class of 2021) and Mark Morrissey, (Class of 2020) members of the 2022 Six Nations Under-20s team who secured a dramatic 17-16 win over hosts France at the Stade Maurice David



Ben Brownlee (Class Of 2021) whose late try helped Ireland secure a remarkable comeback in Aix-en-Provence Six Nations U20s 2022



Oran Smith (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Hugh Cooney (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Max Holmes and Gus McCarthy (Sixth Year) SCT V St Michael's



Zach Quirke, Liam Malony (Fifth Year) Tom Briggs (SCTV St Michael's)



Blackrock College V Summerhill



Jamie McLoughlin (Sixth Year), Charlie Molony (TY) and Cian Ryan (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Fifth Years Ben Cantwell and Joseph Carroll (Fifth Years) celebrating the adoption of Seymour the Orangutan in Dublin Zoo.



A riveted audience at the Past V Present Debate in the CADLC

Snapshot 1st Half Term 2022



Eric Brandt (Fifth Year) Blackrock College V Summerhill



Blackrock College V Summerhill



Blackrock College Castle 3rds V Roscrea



Blackrock College Castle 3rds V Roscrea



Philip Breen (6th Year)
Blackrock College Castle 3rds V Roscrea



Blackrock College J3rds V Wilson's Hospital



Coach Mr J. Halpin speaks to the team.
(Blackrock College J3rds V Wilson's Hospital)



Blackrock College J3rds V Wilson's Hospital



James Mason with his parents
at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Greg Barron with his Mum at the Fifth Year Family Mass



John Huggard (Class Of 2020)
Chairperson of the Past V Present Pupils' Debate



Matthew O' Donnell (Sixth Year)
Past V Present Pupils' Debate

Snapshot 1st Half Term 2022



Cheerleaders relaxing after a job well done post the first round of the Senior Cup 'Rock V St Michael's



Zach Quirke (6th SCT V Belvedere)



Zach Quirke, Eoghan Walsh SCT V Belvedere



SCTV St Mary's



SCTV St Michael's



Will Fitzgerald (6th Year) SCTV St Mary's



Senior 2nds V CBC Cork



Liam Molony (6th Year) , Andrew Quinn(5th Year) ,Hugh Cooney and Michael Creavy (SCTV CBC Cork)



Charlie Molony (4th Year)
Senior Seconds V CBC Cork



SCTV Belvedere



Charlie O' Brien (6th Year), Max Caskey (6th Year) and Thomas Butler (4th Year) Senior Seconds V CBC Cork



Isaac Sierra (2nd Year) Rock U 14 Bs V St Mary's

Snapshot 1st Half Term 2022



'Rock U 14 Bs V St Mary's



'Rock U14s V St Andrew's



'Rock U 14s V St Andrew's



'Rock U 14s V St Andrew's



Zach Burke (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Blackrock Castle 3rds V Roscrea



Blackrock Castle 3rds V Roscrea



Senior 2nds V CBC Cork



U14s V St Andrews



U14s V St Andrews



Blackrock V Summerhill

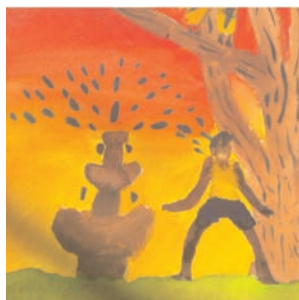


U 14s Bs V St Mary's

The selection of Artwork in the Arts section of the Newsletter showcases the tremendous artistic talent of our students. Well done to the artists and their teachers Ms V. Coyle and Mr A. Wyrer.



Peter Lawlor (Third Year)



Finlay Mackay (Fifth Year)



Richard McSweeney (Fifth Year)



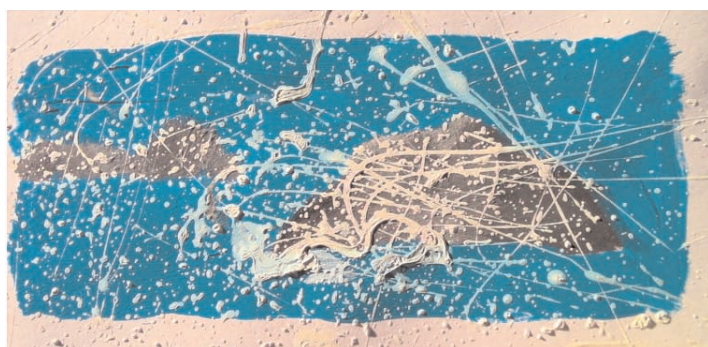
Oliver Lee (Third Year)



Elliot Brophy (Fifth Year)



Conor Blackburn (Third Year)



Jack Drumm (Third Year)



BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp. MUSIC & DRAMA

"Over my head, I hear music in the air." The Fifth Year Choir were in full voice at the Fifth Year Family Mass on Sunday, January 30th in the College Chapel. We all realised what we had been missing over the last two years and it is wonderful to be back. Following on from this, in celebration of Libermann Day on February 2nd, Fifth- and Sixth-Year students sang at a Collaboration Mass with Holy Ghost School, Kenya. This took place for us in the College Chapel and students and staff from our sister school in Kenya joined us from their school via Zoom. Readings and music were shared between us, and Father Tom Nash celebrated the Mass while Father John Wambu delivered the homily. Both Masses can be watched at this link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/blackrockcollege>.

The Junior Musical is up and running with our friends in Loreto Abbey Dalkey and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Jubilee Hall. Mr. Brian Savage is writing an original script with the story taking place in Irish College. It will take place April 5th – 8th and tickets will be available at reception closer to the show.

Wesley Interscholls Music Festival is back and will take place on March 4th and 5th. Our choirs, ensembles, soloists, duets and bands are practising away for this and we are excited for what is always a great weekend of music making. We wish them all the very best. Thursday Tunes also returned to the CADLC (Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre) for Wellbeing Week and students and staff shared some music over lunchtime in a relaxed, informal setting.

Finally, the Leman Festival Concert preparations are well underway as we plan to stage it at the heart of our campus in the Quad for the first time. Watch this space for full details to be announced very soon!

Senior English Debating

It has been a busy half-term for the Senior English Debating Society.

One of the highlights this month was the annual Past vs Present Students' Debate, which took place on Tuesday, 1st of February. The Present Pupils' Team of Colm Fagan, Matthew O'Donnell, Michael White (all 6th Year) and Ben Kieran-Glennon (5th Year) successfully opposed the motion that *Ireland's Best Days are Behind Her*. Ben Kieran – Glennon was also awarded Best Speaker. The Past Pupils' Team comprised last year's valedictorian, Freddie Noonan, Toirleac O'Brien (Class of 1975), Joshua Kieran-Glennon and James Brandon (Class of 2015). The debate proved highly entertaining, and each of the speakers made very insightful contributions. A word of thanks is extended to the chairman, John Huggard (Class of 2020) and adjudicators, Mr Sheil, Ms Kelleher and Stephen Ryan (Class of 2018). We also thank Robert Brophy, President of the Past Pupils' Union for his presence on the night.



Mr Alan MacGinty(Principal), Toirleac O'Brien (Class of 1975), James Brandon and Joshua Kieran-Glennon(Class of 2015) and Freddie Noonan (Class of 2021) and Robert Brophy (Class of 1982), President of the PPU



Adjudicator Mr John Sheil delivers the verdict at the Past V Present Debate

We continue to participate in the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition. The last round of qualifiers has concluded, and we now await confirmation of who will

The Arts Cont'd



proceed to the Quarter Final. We congratulate Colm Fagan and Matthew O'Donnell (both 6th Year) who were awarded First Place in their group, and Michael White and James Carroll (both 6th Year) who came in Second Place in their room. The world of Zoom debating is not without its drawbacks, and we commend the boys for the great effort and perseverance they have shown.

Our Transition Year Debating Team, made up of Patrick Hayden, Oisín Daly, Greg Quinn, AJ Adoghe and Senan McCloskey have finished the League Phase of the Concern Schools' Debating Competition. The National League Table was published in late January. Unfortunately, we did not place highly enough to proceed to the final stage of the competition this year, however each boy's contribution was commendable, and we look forward to building on this experience as we work towards next year's competition.

We look forward to the rest of the term which will see, among other things, the Teacher vs Student Debate and the conclusion of the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition.

Junior Debating

Last term, four Blackrock College teams competed in the Leinster Junior Schools' Debating Competition organised by the Law and the Literary and Historical Society in UCD.

Team A: Jamie Browne Lynch & Josh Murphy.

Team B: Tom Hayden & Cillian Staunton.

Team C: Ishaan Pandey & Darragh O'Neill.

Team D: Shane Hamilton & Zack Egan-Ruane.

Blackrock Team C have qualified to compete in the Octo-Final round of the Junior Schools' Debating Competition in UCD. They are one of the top 32 teams on the tab and have successfully broken to the Octo-Final round of the competition which will take place on Thursday February 17th in UCD. Ballots for the Octo-Final round have been sent out. Ishaan and Darragh will oppose the motion: *This House Would Allow Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) at the Olympics.*

Blackrock Junior Debaters are hosting a friendly debate against Holy Child Killiney at the end of March.

Four teams competed for a place in the ICYD Debating Competition being hosted this year by Oxford University. The qualifying round took place on Saturday February 5th on Zoom. Competing this year were: Ishaan Pandey (3rd Year), Tom Hayden, Brian Carroll, Jamie Brown-Lynch, Cillian Staunton, Alex Browne, Conall Byrne and Josh Murphy (All 2nd Year).

After completing this regional round – a competition of 44 debaters, the highest-performing teams are invited to compete in the finals in late April, hosted this year by the Oxford Union Debating Society.

Blackrock Team 2 – Jamie and Josh came 3rd in this qualifying round and have secured a place in the ICYD Finals in Oxford in April. Josh was also announced as today's joint 3rd Best Speaker. A special thanks to Alex Browne (2nd Year) who joined this competition with only hours to go!



James Browne (Second Year)



Jack Tuite (Second Year)



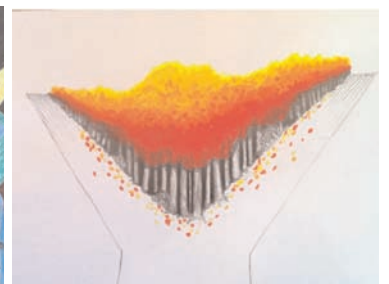
Hugh Murphy (Second Year)



Hugh Barry (Second Year)



David Healy (Second Year)



Conor Bradbury (Second Year)



Conn Andrews (Second Year)



Colm Heylin (Second Year)



Vincent Barrett (Second Year)



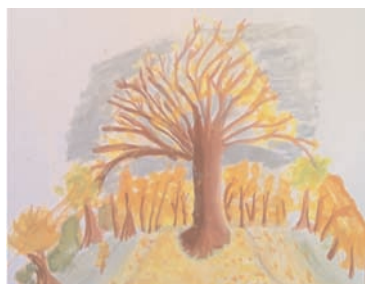
Finlay Mackay (Fifth Year)



Callum Dee (Second Year)



Adam Ahern O'Connell (Second Year)



Mossy O'Loughlin (Second Year)



Kieran Flowers (Second Year)



Adam Keogh (Second Year)



Adam Ahern O'Connell (Second Year)



Blackrock College

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

The Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre has continued to be a vibrant space in the school. Some new lunchtime activities have been introduced, classes have come to study and projects have been displayed on the exhibition stand.

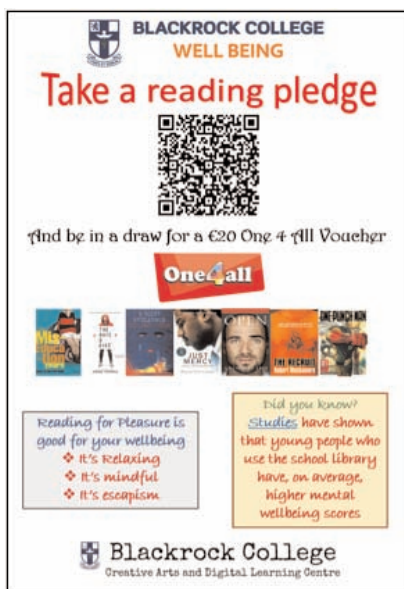
Exhibitions

Thank you to Mr O'Reilly, Mr Orrock, Ms Byrne, and Mr Daly who displayed student projects in the CADLC. Mr Orrock displayed second year English CBAs and Ms Byrne and Ms Daly displayed Geography CBAs. Mr O'Reilly's displayed inspirational Catholics, chosen by students under the theme "Living Life to the full".



Reading Promotion

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), continues to be a popular activity. The CADLC committee choose books of the week, which are displayed on the digital screens. For wellbeing week, students were invited to make a reading pledge. Students who make the pledge are in a draw to win a €20. Students who wish to make a reading pledge can find the QR code in their Homework Diary.



Lunchtime Activities

Students can come to the library to read, study, or take part in the following daily activities:

Monday Kahoots

Students can participate in a Kahoot quiz every Monday and potentially win a prize. Some past themes have included Capitals of the World, DC/ Marvel and Minecraft. Students just need to bring their surface pros, or they can access a laptop in the library.

Tuesday Jenga

To encourage connectivity, our first Tuesday Jenga was introduced during Wellbeing week. Students can enjoy giant Jenga, giant chess, giant connect 4 and other (more normal sized) board games.

Thursday Tunes

We were all delighted to welcome Thursday Tunes back for Wellbeing Week. Thank you to Matthew Kane, 6th Year and the music department for organising. Students and Teachers enjoyed some solo acts and performances from the jazz and trad bands and the senior choir.



Friday Chess

Students from various year groups come to the library every Friday to enjoy chess, some to battle one on one, others have played hand and brain chess which is a type of team chess. The "brain" highlights the piece to move, and the "hand" moves the piece accordingly.



Choir performing for Thursday Tunes



Students enjoying Jenga



Students enjoying chess



Students enjoying Connect 4

Seamus Heaney Workshop

Mr Sheil's, Ms Kelleher's, Mr Savage's, Mr Toolan's and Ms Byrne's classes, all attended online workshops on Seamus Heaney from the National Library of Ireland. Students discussed various poems, including *Digging*, *Early Purges* and *Mid-Term Break*.

Library Classes

Ms A. Dillon gave the following classes:

- To assist with their CBA Geography in the News, 2nd years were taught research skills including, where to source the news and how to identify misinformation or parody news sites by using research techniques such as image reverse search and fact checking websites.
- TY students attended an optional weeklong Information and Media Literacy module via checkology.org. This was an interactive online course where students learned how to identify the purpose of information, different types of misinformation, arguments and evidence and conspiracy theories.
- Mr O'Sullivan's 45 and 46 Geography classes attended a weekly class where they all read an article from a newspaper and magazine which they discuss. Students are also taught a research tip each week e.g., how to find an author, identifying bias etc.

Screen Writing

Film enthusiasts and budding screen writers from 4th, 5th and 6th Year attended a workshop hosted by the Irish Film Institute on different opportunities on developing a career in film.



Searching for Tartesso

Ferdia Durkin, gave a talk to Mr Byrne's TY history and Mr O'Sullivan's TY Geography students on a documentary he created called *Searching for Tartesso* which was about a semi mythical harbour city on the south coast of the Iberian Peninsula.



Congratulations to Diarmaid Byrne and Simon Considine, both Transition Year who received a special award at the BT Young Scientist from the Irish Science Teachers' Association for their project:



Diarmaid Byrne and Simon Considine presenting their project.

"Investigating the effect of concentration on temperature in an Exothermic Reaction which was entered in the chemical", Physical and Mathematical Science section.

We also congratulate Conor McCarron, Ishaan Pandey, both Third Years and James Donohoe from Second Year, whose projects qualified for the final round of the competition.



The winners of the SciFest competition were announced and presented with their prizes by Mr Alan MacGinty.

Best project Award ---- Jack Droney
The effect of temperature on phones

Runner Up Award ---- Kian O'Brien
Does the force acting on a train increase when its mass is increased?

AbbVie Innovator Award---- Louis Innes
An analysis of Internet technology infrastructure



Winner: Jack Droney



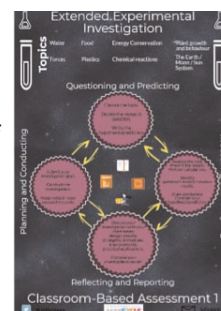
Runner Up: Kian O'Brien



AbbVie Innovator Award: Louis Innes

Classroom Based Assessment - Extended Experimental Investigation

All Second-Year students are in the process of completing 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.



Science Club

Lots has been going on in Science Club since the new year. Students have Immobilised yogurt, made Skittles chromatography, Gummy bear osmosis and made a toy car.



Simon Considine completing the Skittles Chromatography Experiment

Archives

One interesting aspect to the role of archivist here in Blackrock College is the exhibiting of archival material in the display cabinets in St Patrick's Corridor. Education and access are fundamental elements in the management of archives; it is one thing to acquire, catalogue and store records but this is pointless unless you provide access and information about these collected records.

Archive exhibitions are usually centered upon a theme and their connection to the College: sporting achievements, seasonal celebrations, historical events or noteworthy individuals. I like to include a combination of contextual information boards with images, artefacts and ephemera (e.g., programmes, tickets, menus) to enliven the displays. The most recent exhibition concerns past student published authors and there was a wealth of novelists, historians, biographers, politicians, economists, and academics to showcase.

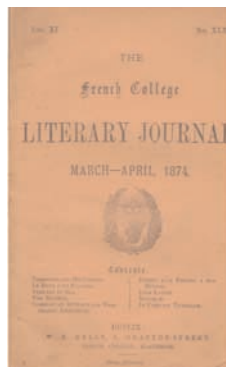
The exhibition also traces student writing and student publications from the foundation of the College in 1860. It is evident that there has always been recognition of students who excelled in essay writing and composition. *The French College Literary Journal* was published regularly from the late-1860s to the mid-1870s. Twelve volumes in total were produced. Students, writing in English and French, published essays, short stories and poetry. Today, the College annual continues to publish student essays, poems and short stories.

Blackrock College students have also intermittently produced student publications. The earliest of these was 'The Gleaner'. A handwritten publication, its student editor wrote in c.1877:

"...to know English is to be able to write it well and naturally... It invites the industry of those who would do something useful and entertaining besides the in-class work; it

gives an opportunity of turning to good account those odds and ends of time when heavy work becomes insipid, and idleness distasteful."

Other student-produced publications have included: *The Rock Express* and *Rock Review* (both in the 1930s), *The Castle Echo* (1950s), *The Voice* (c.1960s-1980s). *The Voice* was re-invigorated in 2010 as *The Student Voice* to mark the College's sesquicentenary celebrations. The archive always welcomes additional copies of these publications as they are part of the College's richly varied history. They provide interesting and often amusing insight into school life. If you want to learn more about these publications (or wish to donate copies) please get in touch: archives@blackrockcollege.com.



The French College Literary Journal, March-April 1874



Voice student magazine, 1968



Voice student magazine, 1970

Guidance and Counselling



CAO

6th Year students have now made their CAO applications which were submitted by February 1st. 15 students submitted UCAS applications for UK Universities. Some students have already received conditional offers from the UK. A selection of students are applying to the USA and Europe this year.



HPAT – The exam is being held in February this year. Our students had the opportunity to participate in HPAT preparation classes run by the school since last October. They have also taken several practice tests and good progress has been made. I would like to thank Art Lynch for all his work facilitating these classes and we are sad to see him go. Next year we will have a new teacher of HPAT, Robert Gallagher.



PLC – Open days have commenced for Post Leaving Certificate courses and several students have begun submitting applications for these courses. Further information is available from the career counsellors in the College, on the careers' noticeboard and from the websites of the PLC colleges themselves and more recently they are available to view on CAO. Applications for these courses are on a first come first served basis. Please apply online ASAP if you are considering this option. With greater confusion around points this year is a good idea to apply for a PLC back up if you are worried about your options.

CVs & Interviews – This year we held an online CV workshop in advance of the Mock interviews for 6th Years. Mr. Robert Connolly from AMICUS.ie - Search and Recruitment, presented the workshop online and it was open to all 6th Years. The students found it highly informative with plenty of questions being asked.



The Mock interviews were held last on the evening of the 8th February. There were 26 venues for 65 students and 48 interviewers. Each student had to submit a Curriculum Vitae prior to their interview. It was a great night, with great energy. Each student was given great encouragement and positive written feedback. This event is organised with the assistance of the Past Pupils' Union & Mr. Maurice Tunney. The interviewers on the night were mostly past pupils but this year several females interviewed, providing a more realistic view of the world of work and we are very appreciative of their support. This event has proved to be a very valuable learning experience in the past and we are hopeful for its continued success in the future.

Course search:
www.careersportal.ie
www.cao.ie
www.qualifax.ie

Diary Dates

- DARE Section A: In the CAO account - Answer yes to question 1 and complete questions and personal statement and submit - 1st March 2022
- DARE Section B (School Section) & Section C (Disability Report) submit by registered post to CAO before 15th March 2022
- NUI Exemptions – Ensure your CAO number is on your NUI forms. Submit documentation to, NUI, 49 Merrion Square, D2. (Forms available online from NUI)
- If you submitted the NUI before you registered your CAO, please contact NUI, Merrion Sq. to add your CAO number to it.
- TCD Language Waiver Form – Submit documentation to TCD. (Form available online)
- HPAT Test February 18-21st, 2022.
- CAO Statement of Application in May – ensure course codes are correct and that you meet matriculation for each course. NUI Exemptions should also be visible on this statement.

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

Please contact us for assistance. MS. Drew.

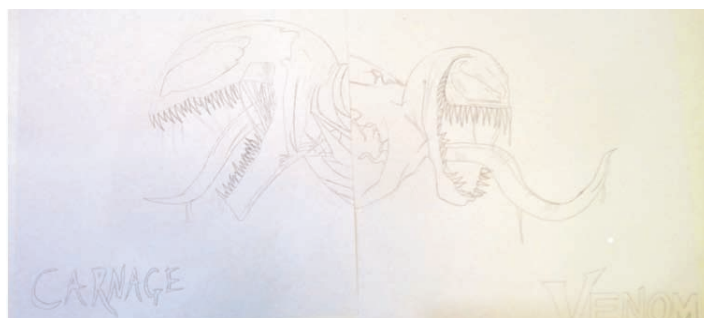
Dungeons and Dragons Club



Authors Graham Tugwell (on screen) and Dave Rudden during their 'How to become a Dungeon Master' Workshop for the D&D Club



Godzilla (1998) by Zach Egan Ruane (Third Year)



Venom vs Carnage by Zach Egan Ruane (Third Year)



Spiderman by Zach Egan Ruane (Third Year)

Chess

Chess club is still very active with the boys practicing every Tuesday and Thursday. There has been a great turn out. The boys enjoy analysing different scenarios and learning new moves from our coach Hector. Unfortunately, there is still no sign of any tournaments organised by the Leinster School Chess Association (LSCA) yet due to the current restrictions. Hopefully there will be some good news after February 28th. In the meantime, we hope to take part in some friendly tournaments which we have been busy practicing for.



Conor Wall (3rd Year) and Philip Duffy (3rd Year) playing giant chess in CADLC



Evan McCourt (5th Year) and Dominic Kilbride (3rd Year) playing giant chess in CADLC

Badminton

Dublin Badminton Competition

Both our UI9 B and E badminton teams travelled to Whitehall Badminton Centre on Thursday 27th January and were runners up in their divisions. Congratulations to Castleknock College and Woodbrook College who were winners of these groups on the day. Well done to Blackrock College students for their impressive play on the day.

Division 3 players: Josh Scallan, Michael Paran, Tim Jordan and Matthew Kane (All 6th Year)

Division 5 players: Hugh Gallen (5th) Jamie Star Bourke (5th), Vlad Sukhodolov (5th) and Shaun Loh (6th)

Leinster Badminton Competition

Our UI9A team travelled to Baldoyle Leinster Badminton Centre on Thursday 3rd February for what promised to be an excitingly competitive day playing in the Leinster Stage after successfully winning the Dublin Division 2 Schools Final. They dominated their first game, winning 4-2 against Sutton Park. In their second and third matches they came up against some of the strongest opposition we've ever seen, and despite great effort they came up just short. We finished off the day 3rd in Leinster after a very successful season winning the Dublin schools' competition. We wish Kilkenny College the best of luck in the All-Ireland.



Team

Division 2 players: Vincent Pang (6th) Scott Downes (4th) Thomas King (6th) Mark O'Reilly (6th) Subs: Joshua Scallan & Michael Paran (6th)
Many thanks to Robert Byrne (Class of 2020) for helping throughout the term.

Soccer

Senior Soccer Trip to Millfield School

The Senior soccer squad travelled over to Millfield School on Friday, February 11th.

Senior Soccer 1st XI V. Millfield 1st XI:

A fantastic first 20 minutes from our first XI allowed us to dominate possession and territory. Millfield defended frustrating our attack. Harry Mellon (5th Year)

and Ryan Holmes (6th Year) dominated the midfield area allowing Max Mooney, Tommy Hanrahan (both 6th Year) and Callum Dunne (5th Year) to link up with Fergal O'Sullivan (6th Year) effectively to create the Millfield defence problems. In the 25th minute a well worked move starting with Daniel Bennett (5th Year) at left back, through Harry Mellon, to Thomas Downey (5th Year) on the right hand side, who played a fantastic ball into Fergal O'Sullivan to slot home to put the first XI 1-0 up.

In the second half, Millfield dominated the opening 10 minutes. However, as Millfield pressed for an equaliser, Daniel Chueng (TY) won possession back playing the ball out to Daniel Bennett who found Max Mooney who finished well to put us 2-0 up. Again, Millfield put on pressure and deservedly got a goal in the 78th minute. A battling last 12 minutes saw us take victory 2-1 in what was an entertaining game.

Senior Soccer 2nd XI V. Weston Super Academy

Unfortunately, due to a Covid outbreak, Millfield were unable to field a 2nd XI, however, the local academy side, were happy to play our 2nd XI. A frantic start to the game saw Weston take a 1-0 lead however after some good defending from both Andrew Harvey and Christian Gribben (6th Year) and an excellent pass from Louis Kenefick (5th Year), Eoin Maher (5th Year) levelled the game after 10 minutes. Soon after, Eoin made it 2-1 from the penalty spot. Federico Mei and Harvey Jerman (6th Year) worked tirelessly in midfield which allowed Davitt Gilvarry (6th Year) to link well with Ramon Sierra (5th Year). Daniel Mac Dermott (6th Year) marshalled the right-hand side of defence and made some excellent runs forward causing the Weston left back a lot of trouble. In the dying moments of the second half Tom Cherico (5th Year) played a ball through to Ramon Sierra, who was denied by a brilliant save from the Weston goalkeeper. In the 2nd half, Davitt Gilvarry scored a wonderful goal from the edge of the box to put the 2nd XI 3-1 up. Weston then started to dominate. Conn Lucey, Luca Cross and Conor Vaughan (all 5th Year) were excellent in defending the relentless pressure. Unfortunately, the pressure told and two late goals for Weston saw them snatch a 3-3 draw.

Basketball

At the time of writing of the Christmas Newsletter the U-19 Basketball Team had reached the All-Irelands' Schools Cup semi-final. A great performance saw us qualify for the All-Ireland Final by beating St. Brendan's Belmullet 50-12. Coming into the New Year we had qualified for the All-Ireland League Playoffs last 16 by virtue of reaching the East-Leinster Final before Christmas. Our first game of



Blackrock College V Summerhill

the new year was a tough, physical contest v Summerhill College Sligo. In a tight back and forth contest we eventually ran out 50-37 winners to reach the All-Ireland quarter final of the League. However first up was the All-Ireland final of the cup v St.Munchin's College, who boasted three Irish internationals in their ranks. The final score line of 59-41 in favour of St.Munchin's doesn't do justice to how tight a contest this was throughout and it was a super performance against a top class side. The following week was the All-Ireland quarter final and semi-final of the league, all played in the one day. First up was Pres DLS from Carlow, winners of the South-East region. An excellent performance saw us run out 60-41 winners. Next up were Gortnor Abbey from Mayo. Gortnor Abbey led for much of the game however with fantastic character we fought back to lead by a point with under a minute to go. Gortnor Abbey, to their great credit, managed to come back and secure the win. An All-Ireland Final, All-Ireland Semi-final, an East-Leinster Final, five matches in the National Basketball Arena and most importantly promotion to the A division of schools Basketball in Ireland for next season represents an incredible season for Captains Ronin O'Hallorin, Murray Baker and their squad. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. Just before midterm we also had a highly entertaining past v present match with the 'past' team running out 57-50 winners in a fantastic game in the sports hall



Paddy Morris and Ronin O'Hallorin
Blackrock College V Summerhill



Paddy Morris
Blackrock College V Summerhill

UNDER 16s

The 2nd Year basketball team started back training in January with many new members. It wasn't long before they got started with the league games. The opening match against St. Michael's was tough for the team as they lost 41-18. However, they worked hard over the next few training sessions to beat St. Benildus at home 25-18. There is one more league match to come. The Second Years have shown great potential and commitment during training sessions and can expect more competitive games over the next term.

Athletics

The East Leinster Cross Country competition was held in Phoenix Park on Wednesday, 26th January. First up were the Junior Boys' team; Hugh Barry, Jamie Browne Lynch, Lorcan Lawless, Adam Kennedy, Callum Downes, and Tom Hayden. In a field of almost 70 athletes, Tom (11th) managed to qualify individually, followed closely by Callum (15th). Thanks to the strong performances of all the boys on the team, the Junior team scored a close 2nd place, bringing home silver medals for the whole team and a place in the next round of the competition. In the next age group, three intermediate runners represented Blackrock College, Charlie White, Isaac Moss, and Cillian Staunton ran bravely in their race.

A massive field of 86 athletes lined up for what was the biggest race of the day. While all in their first year of the intermediate racing age, the boys ran well. Charlie White (11th) qualified individually having a great run. Cillian and Isaac followed up in 30th and 40th places respectively. Having competed well in this event, it will be interesting to see how they can perform in the same age group next year!

Finally, the Senior, 5th and 6th Year boys team ran in one of the most competitive races of the day. First home was Jack McGlone (6th), followed by Eoin Dunne (13th) who had an excellent race. Oscar Lubliner (17th) put in a strong performance followed shortly by James Carroll (22nd) who was 4th to score for the team. Newcomer Ryan Downes finished just one place behind his teammate in 23rd, with Liam Norton and Dan Barry also finishing closely behind. Thanks to their great performances the Senior boys team also received silver medals and will be progressing to the Leinster final.

Of the 16 boys who ran, 14 will go to the next round of the competition. The next competition will be in Santry, Wednesday 16th February.

Swimming

The Blackrock Swim Team got off to a great start at the Leinster Senior Schools Championships on Sunday February 6th at the National Aquatic Centre. There were many personal best performances and numerous medals won reflecting countless hours of hard work and training in the pool. There were 27 overall entries including 7 team relay events. One of the highlights of the morning session was a Gold Medal win in 100 Breaststroke going to Patrick Curley (6th Year). He secured the win with a personal best time of 1.07.00. Following this, Ronan Fahey (5th Year) secured a Silver Medal in the 400 Freestyle, also winning silver in the 200 IM. The relay races were the next highlight at the gala as the Blackrock team dominated practically every race we entered. The stands of parents and supporters were all on their feet as there were a few very close finishes (all of which we won!)



Patrick Curley (6th Year)

Gold Medals

Patrick Curley (6th Year)
Josh Murphy (2nd Year)
Alex Browne (2nd Year 2 medals)



The Blackrock Swim Team with Head Coach Cindy Hurley and Assistant Coach Davide Mei

Charles Collenette (2nd Year 2 medals)
 Louis Waldron (1st Year 2 medals)
 Ted Taylor (2nd Year)
 Eamonn Bradley (4th Year)
 Oliver Lee (3rd Year)
 Cuan Fallon (3rd Year)
 Michael Curley (4th Year)

Silver Medals

Ronan Fahey (5th Year 3 medals)
 David MacHale (6th Year Team Captain)
 Michael Curley (5th Year)
 Patrick Curley (6th Year)

Bronze Medals

Eamonn Bradley (4th Year)
 Cuan Fallon (3rd Year)
 Oliver Lee (3rd Year)
 Ciaran Murphy (3rd Year)

A huge thanks to Head Coach Cindy Hurley for all her hard work to get the team ready on the run up to the gala. Thanks also to Assistant Coach, Davide Mei, who did a fantastic job motivating all the swimmers and to Max Connolly and Rory Sheil for their help with coaching sessions. Michelle Cassidy (Ciaran Murphy's Mum) also played a major role in organising the team as well as communicating with all the parents. Thanks too to both Team Captains, David Mac Hale and Jamie Blackburn from 6th Year for creating the best team atmosphere at the gala. It was great to see the last 2 years of hard training really pay off for the team. It was a great day of swimming and a great day for Blackrock College.



L-R: Patrick Curley, Jamie Blackburn (Captain), David Mac Hale (Captain), Philip Breen, Ben Bracken, Hugh O'Connor (6th Year Members of the Swim Team)

RUGBY

SCT

The senior rugby squad had a busy and productive Christmas and January period leading into this year's cup campaign. With Covid leading to a two-week delay, more friendly games than usual were possible in the build up to St Michael's. Some strong performances from Gus McCarthy's team helped produce victories against CBC



Oliver Coffey (Fifth Year), Liam Molony and Zach Burke (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's

Cork, Methody, St Mary's and Castleknock, whilst tough training sessions involving all 45 of the squad built the foundations around each win.

The first round of the cup itself was a classic school's rugby contest between two talented sides which had everything. The intensity and tension of the contest reminded us of what we've been missing the past two years. In cup rugby there must of course be a winner and this time we came out on the right side, 25-20. Whilst St Michael's on the other hand exit at this early stage, their quality and fight to the end was recognised and appreciated by all who witnessed the match, and they must be congratulated for their performance. We move forward with renewed focus and hard work.

JCT

The Junior squad continued to work hard over the Christmas period, with plenty of training and challenging matches in preparation for the cup campaign. Tough wins over Pres Cork, Newbridge, and Gonzaga have put them in a good position for the physical encounter that awaits them in the first round of the Junior Cup in the form of Pres Bray.



Kevin Jackson (Sixth Year) Luke Kritzinger (Fifth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Gus McCarthy (Sixth Year) and Andrew Quinn (5th Year) SCTV St Michael's



Blackrock College Castle 3rds V Roscrea



SCTV St Mary's

Sport Cont'd



Blackrock College Castle 3rds V Roscrea.



SCTV St Mary's



ROWING



Rowers on Blessington Lake



UI4Bs v St Marys



Sport Cont'd



UI4s v St Andrews



Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie

Reflection

Live life to the fullest. You have to color outside the lines once in a while if you want to make your life a masterpiece. Laugh some every day. Keep growing, keep dreaming, keep following your heart. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Albert Einstein

