

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Summer 2022

Dear Parents,

I write on the weekend of the celebrations for the platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Her reign has seen great social and economic upheaval yet despite this, her leadership, marked by Christian values, has risen above controversy and contention and is a tribute to her sense of duty, humility and self-sacrifice. On the occasion of her historic visit to Ireland in 2011, Queen Elizabeth captured the hearts of many on this side of the Irish Sea through her decency, dignity and empathy.

In the service of thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3rd June, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, remarked: **"For me the best leaders are those who know how to be led. People who lead for others not themselves. People whose heart's desire is to serve the common good and build up the common life, who don't try to do it all themselves, or act in their own strength alone; people who take a longer view; and who seek out places of replenishing, even places where they might learn the mind of Christ".**

I acknowledge and thank, the many people of Blackrock - our Spiritan Community, my colleagues, you the parents, the Union and our boys - who have led the way during the Covid crisis, who have served the common good.

We have emerged more attuned to the demands of the curriculum, aware of our Christian duty and more appreciative of one another. As the masks came off the change in atmosphere in the school was palpable. Education is about teachers putting a smile on the face of the boys. This past month we have had much to smile about, to celebrate.

The open-air Leman Concert was an uplifting celebration. Sports and Family Day, the Graduation Mass, Gold Medal Debates and Prize Day reminded us of the importance of community coming together.

The many sporting achievements – the Leinster Senior and Junior Tennis double, Dublin Metropolitan League in Soccer (first since 1982), All-Ireland College of Science Cup in Athletics (first since 1986), finalists in the Leinster Senior Cricket and All-Ireland Senior Table-Tennis Cups - the endeavour in the soccer leagues, Paul Stanley Trophy, Fr Joe Fullen Cup, the Swimming Galas, Regattas and 100 Mile Cycle have reinforced this message.

'Waiting for Godot', our Days of Reflection, Dragons' Den, Master Chef and the Camino provided further opportunity for self-expression and community connectivity.

As another academic year closes, we say goodbye to the class of 2022 who refused to allow Covid define them. Their spirit and unity are a legacy for future generations, and we wish them well.

In a special way, we bid farewell to two valued and much-loved colleagues, both of whom joined Blackrock in 1993. Marie Kelly as a teacher, Department Head and colleague was a powerful influence for good. Thoughtful, approachable, passionate and enthusiastic, Marie was always willing to go the extra mile. Niall MacDermott, our Director of Boarding, has fulfilled many roles at Blackrock, each marked by his integrity, attention to detail and steadfast support for the College ethos. In particular his leadership of the Hall of Residence through Covid was outstanding. We wish both Marie and her husband Rowan, Niall and his wife Jan much happiness, good health and fulfilment in the years ahead.

As we look with great anticipation to next year, the introduction of a 5th imperative, 'Be Respectful', and our plan to tackle the pervasive nature of social media and its impact on the lives of our youngsters will be key components of our 2022 – 27 Strategic Plan. This will bring renewed focus, expression, hope and direction.

Finally, I return to the Archbishop of York: **"Faith in Jesus Christ is a fountain, and it is a well. It is the well from which we draw deeply and replenish ourselves through all the challenges, joys and vicissitudes of life. And it is a fountain, overflowing with immense joy. Joy, that we can live in the assurance that we are loved; joy that God has a purpose for our lives; and joy that through Christ's dying and rising, we have the promise of eternal life".**

Enjoy the summer.  
God Bless,

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal



Will Fitzgerald, winner of the General Excellence Award for the Class of 2022, with Mr R. Brophy (President of the PPU, Class of 1982), his parents and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)

# Message from the Deans



## Summer Newsletter Message from the Deans

If ever evidence was needed that we have turned a corner regarding living with Covid-19, it is in the manner in which we have completed the final term of this 2021/22 academic year. So many events that were last celebrated in April and May 2019, have made a most welcome return.

On the inter-schools' sports front, there was much to celebrate – Junior and Senior League victories in rugby, a first Dublin Metropolitan League victory in soccer since 1982, a first Leinster Schools Athletics Overall Shield since 1997, our first 'home' interschools' Swimming Gala in three years and students from a wide range of year groups also competed in Leinster Tennis finals, all-Ireland Table Tennis finals and the Leinster Schools' Senior Cricket Final. A wonderful range of sports reflecting the amazing array of talent within the College and as Deans we would like to say a special thank you to our Gamesmaster, Mr Evan O'Brien, for keeping our extra-curricular programme moving along seamlessly from week to week. Over the pages of this Summer 2022 newsletter, you will find reports and photographs from these events as they were celebrated within each individual year group.

Of course, it is not only inter-schools' activity that marks our final term in Blackrock, there is plenty of on-campus activity too. Our end of year Parents' Conferences were held in person, the Gold Medal Debates returned and for the last number of weeks, each afternoon has seen our pitches dotted with boys from every year group representing DeValera, Duff, Ebenrecht, Leman, McQuaid and Shanahan houses in the Term 3 Soccer leagues. On the faith formation and ethos side of school life there was also the welcome return of the TY Camino, the 2nd Year Days of Reflection and of course Fr Cormac O'Brolchain led the boys and parents of the Class of 2022 in the celebration of their Graduation Mass in the Jubilee Hall on Sunday 22nd of May.

For many years, the final three weekends in May have been celebrated as valued Blackrock College family gatherings. Sports Day weekend is followed by 6th Year Graduation and Prize Day traditionally marks the final weekend of the academic year. The huge turnout of boys, parents, and teachers at these three events this term demonstrates just how eager we have been to return to living life in the public domain. As many attendees over these three weekends have noted 'it was great to be back'.

Our 3rd and 6th Year students are now making final preparations for the public examinations in June. As a year group, the Class of 2022 have made a most significant contribution to the College, displaying enthusiasm, good humour, commitment and a caring disposition in their time with us. Even in the most challenging of recent circumstances they have been 'there together' and have upheld the traditions of 'Fides et Robur' in style. Having left their own positive 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 Fr Cormac noted in his homily on Graduation Day, 'ships are not meant for harbours'.

Finally, we thank the boys of each year group most sincerely for their positive engagement with school life throughout the year. We wish them and every member of the school community a safe and enjoyable summer break as we bring our 162nd school year to a close.

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 )

During Term 3, **6th Year** students completed their briefs in Construction Studies and Art, and submitted Leaving Certificate projects in Economics, Agricultural Science, History, Geography, RE and Physical Education.

The **variety of talents** in this **TY** year group never ceases to amaze. The House Soccer League were extremely competitive with McQuaid showing great character to recover from a 5-0 loss in the group stage to eventually win 1st place! Congratulations to MacDara Cosgrave on reaching the Leinster Final with the Senior Cricket Team and Daniel Cheung who, as part of the Senior Soccer Team, claimed a Dublin Metropolitan League Medal. Patrick Hayden was incredible in the One Act Play 'Waiting for Godot' on Tuesday 10th May. Congratulations to Aron Moore who in the Dublin Fleadh (a trad music competition) took 1st place in both the accordion and melodeon and to the TY Tag Rugby Team came second in the Dublin Tag Rugby Cup up in UCD .

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Well done to our **Athletes** who represented **Second Year** so well in the Leinster Schools' Championships recently. Our congratulations to **Geoffrey Wall** and **Bernard White** who obtained first and second place in the hammer. Congratulations also to **Matthew Wyse, Ben Guerin, Luke Coffey, David Mannix, Jack Mulsow** and **Gavin Laing** who all achieved a great number of team points.

The **Third Years'** talents are certainly not limited to sporting endeavours as proven by the recent **Leman Concert**. An uplifting evening's entertainment. It was great to see so many of the year involved in both the choir and orchestra.

**The Graduation Mass for the Class of 2022** was celebrated in the Jubilee Hall on Sunday May 22th. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain was the main celebrant, and he assured all the boys present that they would always be welcome in Blackrock College. We thank Mr Flor Madden and all the RE/Pastoral team who helped prepare this wonderful liturgy and the 5th Year Parents' Committee for the reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall.



*Fifth Years in Philadelphia*

The Camino, Philadelphia, Seville, History Tours and Computer Science workshops are just some of the co-curricular activities that **Fifth Year** students have taken the opportunity to enjoy this term. We are grateful to all the teaching staff for their time organising these many opportunities.

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.

Excellent numbers of **Second Year** boys achieved a place on the **Honours List this year** and congratulations to all on their terrific application and participation throughout the school year. We particularly commend the winners of the **Honours List Award: Jamie Browne Lynch, Gearóid Nutley, Conor Sheehan, Kian Toralde, Charlie White** and **Matthew Wyse**.

In cricket, Patrick Morris, Richard Ainsworth and Davitt Gilvarry were the **6th Year** members of our other 'SCT' (**Senior Cricket Team!**) who reached the Leinster Schools Senior Cricket Cup final on Wednesday 25th May. Unfortunately, CUS proved to be too strong in the final.

A glorious evening of stunning **Fifth Year** talent was on display at this year's **Leman Concert** in the Quadrangle. A perfect blend of entertainment enjoyed by all. **Waiting for Godot** with all its intensity and intrigue was masterfully presented by a small group of Fifth Years wrapping up a terrific year of music and drama in Fifth Year and the College as a whole.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



On Friday 29th April 25 **TY's** departed for Northern Spain on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The group was accompanied Mr O' Neill , Ms.Nolan, Mr.Mealiffe and Fr. Marc Whelan as the group's Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims before them, the group took the *Camino Francés* starting in Triacastela and covered 155km before arriving in Santiago. The group of students were superb throughout; extremely cooperative, positive, and great company along with engaging fully with the spiritual aspects of the trip.

At the all-Ireland **Table Tennis Championships**, Adam Tunney, Matthew Lorusso and Sean Patterson were the **6th Year** members of the senior squad who defeated Munster champions, Kinsale, in the semi-final but who narrowly lost 4-5 to Bangor GS in the all-Ireland final. A tough defeat after a wonderful run to the final.

A very strong field took part in the recent Junior Gold Medal debate. Well done to Zack Egan-Ruane, Shane Hamilton, Matthew Leahy, Darragh O'Neill, Ishaan Pandey and Edward Wilson who, I'm told, made it very difficult for the judges – Congratulations to Darragh, our **Third-Year gold medal** winner.

Charlie O'Brien (Hammer) was the sole **6th Year** member of the **Senior Athletics** squad who won the Leinster Shield for the first time since 1997. A PB with his final throw means that Charlie will now complete in the All-Ireland Final in Tullamore in June. We wish him well.

On Tuesday 3rd May, there was a very large attendance as we welcomed 6th Year parents back to the Campus. On this evening, both arrangements for the end of the academic year and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations in June were discussed. Ms. Crimmins, our **6th Year** Chaplain, then led all present in a concluding Ceremony of Light.



Jamie O Nuallain in action in the Junior Tennis Final

Well done to all our Second Year Tennis players this term and congratulations to the Junior I Team, led by **Freddie Bracken** won the Leinster Schools' Junior Division I title against a strong Gonzaga side. The team also includes Second Years, **Jamie O'Nuallain, Charlie Martin, Christian O'Flynn and Max Sheridan.**

The **50th Paul Stanley soccer final** was played on Wednesday 25th May in Stradbrook. The final featured the Castle Boarders (who defeated the Castle Dayboys in the semi-final) and the House Dayboys. Victory on the day went to the House squad and it was wonderful to have Paul's father, brother and brother-in-law in attendance at the game.



Castle Boarders Team – Paul Stanley Final 2022



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



The **6th Year Gold Medal Debate** on Monday May 16th was a lively affair and the motion that *'This House believes that, in modern times, Cancel Culture is a necessary evil'* was keenly contested by eight speakers. Victory went to Michael White who thus became the Valedictorian for the Class of 2022.

Our junior squads were preparing for their finals as the Easter Newsletter was published. A belated congratulations to Tom Yaxley and the Junior 4ths who beat St Michael's in the league final. Commiserations to David Mattimoe and his Junior 3rd side who were beaten by a very strong Newbridge team but played valiantly throughout. Niall McCarthy and the Junior 2nds capped off a great season of **rugby** as they beat St Michael's in their final. The level of support at each of the matches was fantastic to witness – well done to all **Third Years** involved.



Dragons' Den finalists and Dragons

On Friday 6th May, over 30 members of the **Class of 2022** performed in the **36th Leman Concert** which was held in the College Quadrangle. Individual performers included John Duffy & Kai Murtagh and the 6th Year bands Electric Ski & Rebound also featured. Many thanks to the 6th Year members of the Choir and Orchestra for their service throughout this year and their time in Blackrock.

**TY MasterChef** heats took place on the 9th and 12th May. The final took place on Tuesday 24th May and was judged by Graham Neville (Best Chef in Ireland 2016 & 2019), Ms. Marren and Mr. Toolan. Congratulations to all finalists: Philip Guinan, Daniel Flannery, Luca Kenny, AJ Adoghe, Andrew Duggan, Eoin Healy, Antonio Forte-O'Hanlon, and Donnacha O'Riordan. The quality of the food produced was phenomenal. Congratulations to the winner Luca Kenny and all finalists on a fantastic Masterchef 2022. Particular thanks to Ms. Marren for all the work and organization.

The **Fifth-Year** group of 2021-2022 deserves a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts and engagement 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.

The entire year group benefited from the Idea Generation Workshop that launched this year's Dragons' Den. The six finalists were: NFT Platform (Luke Murphy), Modifashion (Donal Robson and Patrick Hayden), Metaverse Service Provider (Antonio Forte-O'Hanlon), Exam Sorted (Oisín Daly and Harry Pierce), MCM Pressure Cleaners (Malachy McLoughlin, Sam McLoughlin and Fred Cheatle) and DROP (Patrick White and Conor Lambe). The finalists presented superbly in front of both the Dragons present and the entire of Transition Year. Congratulations to all of the finalists and in an extremely tough choice, the Dragons eventually went for NFT Platform as the Dragons' Den winner of 2022. Thanks to Mr. Jim Leyden Chairperson of the Dragons' Den initiative and Mr. Fitzsimons for their fantastic work on behalf of the boys.

On Sunday May 15th, there was a very large turnout of **6th Year** students and parents for the annual **Sports and Family Day**. Thankfully there was sunshine on the day and keen competition between the six houses was enjoyed by all. Gus McCarthy received the Sports Personality of the Year Award and victory in the House event went to DeValera House captained by David Duffy and Conor Reidy.



MasterChef Finalists : Philip Guinan, AJ Adoghe, Donnacha O'Riordan, Antonio Forte O'Hanlon, Luca Kenny, Graham Neville (Chef), Eoin Healy, Andrew Duggan, Daniel Flannery and Ms. Marren

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Athletics** continues to go from strength to strength. Well done to our junior team including **Third Years** Sami Bishti, Rory McNally, Robert Murphy, Johnny O'Sullivan, Harry Phelan, Joe Reddan, Cormac Sheahan Brian Walsh, Michael Walsh who finished 2nd as a team in the Leinster Schools' Athletics Championships. Great work lads!

We are delighted to congratulate our **Auxilium Gold Medal** Award winner, **Conor Sheehan**. Well done to Conor on his wonderful service with his Grandad helping with *Meals on Wheels* and most particularly we commend him on his superb reflection. We commend all the **Second Years** who gave generously of their time in the service of others.

Many thanks to George Francis and Luke Brophy (both **6th Year**) who organised a most novel Super Smash Bros Tournament as a **fundraiser for the College VDP** conference. At the end of lunchtime games throughout the school, the boys had raised €350 for the VDP. Many thanks guys.

All eyes are on the **Athletics Senior Team** as the All-Ireland Competition approach. As well as the many great individual performances, a fabulous team effort saw the squad winning the Leinster Schools Team Shield, a first since 1997. Huge congratulations to **Fifth Years** involved!

Our **rugby season** concluded at the start of Term 3 when Will Fitzgerald (**6th Year**) captained the Senior Seconds to a 34-21 victory over a very determined and well-drilled Clongowes side. We congratulate the senior rugby squad on completing their 'double' this season.

**Third Years** Conor Blackburn, Cuan Fallon and Oliver Lee were part of a junior swim team that competed in a gala in Clongowes recently. They narrowly lost by 2 points to the hosts, but a great experience none the less.

The vibrant and thrilling participation in this year's **Sports and Family Day** mirrored the intense Inter-House competition in the **Summer Soccer Leagues** culminating in the victory of Duff over DeValera and the **Fifth Year** Day Boys win of the **Paul Stanley Cup** Final. These activities together with the **Senior Tennis League**, the **Senior Cricket League**, the Inter-Schools **Swimming Gala**, the conclusion of Rugby Leagues and the continuation of Rowing, Table Tennis, and other training ensured that **Fifth Years** had an active and competitive end to the term.

Our final weeks included the election for new **House Captains** and the departure of our current captains. Our sincere thanks to these terrific young men who have been great leaders throughout the year, and we wish our incoming House Captains all the very best in their new role. Congratulations to Cillian Staunton who is a most deserving recipient of the **Leadership Award** this year in **Second Year**.

In the first week back after the Easter break **TY** students had a fantastic joint 3-day law programme with Sion Hill College where a Mock Trial and visit to the Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) took place. IT skills training for elderly members of the Glathule community continued to take place. Some TY students got up at 6am to help with a St. Michael's House fundraiser. Tag Rugby Ireland came in to do a Tag Rugby coaching programme during PE class for the boys as well.

**Sixth Year** Sean O'Connor's play 'Sidelines' was performed on the Peacock stage in the Abbey Theatre on Friday 22nd April. A great achievement. Congratulations Sean!

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



On Wednesday 18th May, Max Mooney (**6th Year**) led the **Senior Soccer** squad to victory in the Dublin Metropolitan League with a 4-0 victory over St. Aidan's of Whitehall in Tolka Park. Goals from Max in the first half and a second-half hat-trick from Fergal O'Sullivan ensured this cup returned to Blackrock for the first time since 1982. A wonderful achievement.



6th Year Winning Soccer Team 2022 – DeValera House

There were three wonderful guest speakers in the final term for the boys as part of the **Transition Year Lecture Series**; Alpana Delaney from the HOPE Foundation gave a wonderful insight into their amazing work in a very powerful talk for the Global Citizenship Committee and a number of other students. Ger Redmond, a professional athlete, and personal coach met a very lucky group of boys to tell his incredibly tough yet inspiring story and finally Carl Dargan (Class of 2011) and Will Rock (Class of 2012) gave a superb talk to the boys about the dangers of alcohol addiction.

Congratulations to the **Fifth-Year** members of this year's **Senior Soccer Squad**. After an incredibly long and committed season they were crowned champions of the Dublin Metropolitan League for the first time since 1982.



Fifth Year Medal Winning Senior Soccer Squad Members.

During the Easter holidays our **Senior Golf** team of Rory O'Shea, Sean Harty, Ross Halpin, Ben Bracken, and Matthew O'Brien finished 3rd behind Terenure College in the Leinster Schools Final. An excellent performance from a **Sixth-Year** group who represented the College with distinction.

The term began with an exciting new **Second Year House Competition: The Basketball Blitz** and it was great to see so many participate in what is sure to become an annual event in our calendar. In a closely fought final, **McQuaid** put the pressure on to draw level, but **Leman's Callum Dee** hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to put the game out of their reach, with a final score of 13-8.

A domestic double for DeValera as winners of the A **soccer league** and B tournament. In the B final Charlie McKenna set DeValera on their way with an incredible strike to the top corner. The team captained by Cian O'Donoghue (**Third Year**) played some great football on the day.

Finally, a particular thank you to Cristina Mei (Chair), Aisling Buckley (Secretary) and all the **6th Year Parents' Committee** who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of 2022, to bring events such as the Graduation lunch, the Class of 2022 Yearbook and the Immersion Project in Kenya, to fruition this year. We send our very best wishes to Brian O'Sullivan and Susan Phelan and their team as they make final preparations for this summer's outreach to Kenya.

Thank you to the hardworking and committed **Fifth Year** parent body led by the Parents' Committee, chaired so efficiently by Ms. Niamh Marshall for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year as well as hosting the tremendous 6th Year Graduation reception.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Transition Year's Music Art and Drama** week 3rd – 6th May kicked off with a hilarious magic show performed by Mr. Jack Wise. The students took part in a number of different workshops including: Samba drumming, a dance workshop and a cinema trip. Uniquely MAD Week was capped off with the amazing Leman Concert in the Quadrangle and my congratulations to all involved in a breathtaking show. MAD Week, one of the highlights of the final term in TY, would not be possible without the organization of Mr. Grumley Traynor and the Music Department. Thanks also to Mr. Grant and Mr Savage who looked after everything in my absence on Camino.

In the **Third Year** Soccer League A final goals from Con Mason, Benjamin Crowley and Sam Mooney saw DeValera beat Ebenrecht in their final. Congratulations to captain Sam Mooney. It was great to see so many involved in the football leagues, a real highlight of the final term.

The eagerly awaited **Second Year Soccer Leagues** also got the term off to an exciting start, culminating in two closely fought finals. In the **A League de Valera** beat a valiant **Shanahan** side and in the **B League**, the runners up were again **Shanahan** who lost out to **Duff** in the final. We commend the superb levels of participation from all Houses.



Winners A League Final: Shanahan V De Valera (Second Year)

In other **6th Year inter-House events** this term, Matthew Collins (Duff) was crowned Class of 2022 Chess champion and DeValera House were victorious in the 6th Year Soccer League, defeating Duff 1-0 in a very close final. This victory confirmed DeValera House as overall winners in 6th Year for 2021/2022. Congratulations to all.

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

Our annual **Prize Day** was celebrated on Saturday May 28th. Congratulations to all **Sixth Year** prize-winners and their families but we mention in particular, Will Fitzgerald, our top 6th Year Academic based on Christmas and Easter in house examinations and our General Excellence winner too, and Mark McCabe, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2022.

Best of luck to **Third Year** Oliver Lee who has been selected for the Irish U18s Baseball team which will compete in the European championship in the Czech Republic in August. A fantastic achievement!

**Thank you to the Transition Year team** : 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. Thank you also to a fantastic group of House Captains. We are also grateful for all the work of the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Miriam Ryan. Their support and engagement with the TY programme have been incredible throughout the year. Thank you to the students for all the energy, commitment, and good humour they brought to all the Transition Year projects over the course of the year. We wish them the very best going into 5th Year and beyond.

Our **Second Years** had a valuable opportunity to consider the importance of recognising God's action in our lives during a morning of reflection. This was facilitated by Mr. Mike Dunne and his **Retreat** Team from *An Tobar Nua*. Feedback from the boys indicates that they very much enjoyed the experience and welcomed the change in routine and the time to pause and reflect.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



More silverware for the Trophy Cabinet, this time the **Leinster Schools' Junior Division I Tennis title.**

Congratulations to **Third Years** Joey Connolly and Richard Kinsella who part members of the team that beat Gonzaga 3-1 in the final.

More than 160 **Transition Year** students have completed their **Gaisce** Bronze Award in this final term and the variety of sporting activities, skills developed and community service on the application forms was fantastic to see. Earlier in the term Gaisce hikes took place with a group also going to Carlingford Adventure Centre on the 26th & 27th May.

Our congratulations to **Second Year Jamie Browne Lynch** who won the **Junior Gold Medal for Debating.** He was a member of the proposition for the motion: **'This house believes that the traditional classroom addresses the needs of contemporary society'**.

On Thursday 28th April the College welcomed Terenure and Clongowes to our first inter-school gala in three years. Our **6th Year** students Patrick Curley, Jamie Blackburn and David MacHale all featured on the podium during the gala.

Dedicated, dependable and embracing of opportunities best describes the twelve fine young men who led the **Fifth-Year** group as **House Captains**, representing them at Student Congress and Student Council. Their passion, leadership and organisation were outstanding, and we look forward to learning who will be crowned winning House of the year. Thank you all.



6th Year Members of the Senior Tennis Team:  
Callum O'Brien, James Brophy & Will Fitzgerald

Our **Senior Tennis Team** captained by James Brophy (**6th Year**) and featuring fellow 6th Years Callum O'Brien and Will Fitzgerald, competed in the Senior Tennis Final vs St. Michael's in Fitzwilliam LTC on Thursday May 26th. Some very high-quality tennis was played in very breezy conditions, and we emerged victorious, winning this Cup for the first time since 2010.



Fifth Year Rowers in Seville



Winning B League Finalists: Duff House (Second Year)



Fifth Year Day Boys – winners of the Paul Stanley Trophy 2022



(L to R) Second Year Rowers, M Quinlan, J Tuite, J Barron, C Downes, J Casey



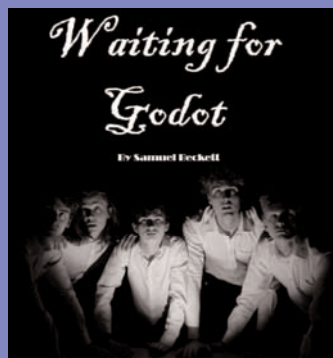
Fifth Year Matthew Burke-Kennedy Kite Surfing off Achill Island



Thomas Brigg, Oliver Coffey and Luke Kritzinger (Fifth Year) representing Ireland U18 Rugby Tournament



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Jack Burke, Conor Casey, Patrick Hayden, Joseph Gibney, Matthew Gadaloff



Fifth Years ben Kieran-Glennon, Sean Aherne and Joshua Stafford on tour in Philadelphia.



Fifth Year Evan McCourt – 3rd place in U19 Irish Chess Competition



Runners Up B League Final: Shanahan House



Ronan Fahey, 3rd in the 1500m swim at the Irish Open Championships



Chris Kilroy and Matthew Burke Kennedy enjoying their final days in Fifth Year



Fifth Year History Students on a walking tour of Dublin



Winning Senior Seconds Squad



Fifth Years James Sheridan, John Glynn, Theo Claffey, Matthew Dowley – Leinster Senior Schools Tennis Champions



R Duncan and D O Driscoll Second Year Basketball



S Adelantado and C Dee Second Year Basketball Blitz



C Wang Second Year Basketball Blitz

## Guidance and Counselling



Well done to all our 6th Year students.

All students have received an email "Statement of Application" from the CAO to confirm that their details on their CAO account are correct. Please double check that all is in order, especially your exam number and make sure any language exemptions are recorded there. Please contact the NUI 01 4392424 if the NUI language exemption is not listed.



700 students did not get offers in the first-round last year, due to not checking this email as it sat in their junk mailbox.

The CAO remains open until 1st of July. Please do not panic and edit your CAO after your Leaving Certificate. You made this list with calm, and logic do not go editing it with emotions and presumptions.

PLC – PLC Colleges have an ongoing application process; it is not too late to sign up. Register on their respective websites for their one-year courses with a view to progressing to university.



DARE applicants will be informed of their DARE status mid-June. This does not guarantee a seat, it just means DARE acknowledge your disability and you will be added to the DARE list of each course. When the course offers come out for everyone, it is then that you will know if you were offered the course through DARE.

Please contact me if you are unsure about making a decision, be it with your leaving cert results or your CAO offers. I will be available to meet on those days. Please contact me [ndrew@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com)

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



# Snapshot Final Term 2022



Coming Together Mass of the Class of 2020



Coming Together Mass of the Class of 2020



Coming Together Mass of the Class of 2020



Ben Kieron-Glennon (Fifth Year) with Mr A MacGinty (Principal) at the end of Year Table Tennis Award Ceremony



Artur Smykovskiy and Connor Nel (Third Year) at the Boarders' barbeque with House Master Mr R. Kearney.



Parents at the Boarders' Barbeque



Parents at the Boarders' Barbeque



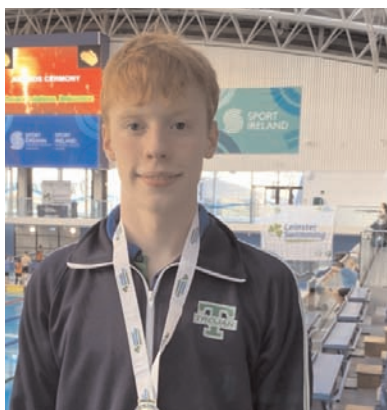
Ms Pierce's 5th Year History Class on a 1916 Walking Tour



Daniel Patterson (Second Year) receiving his award from Mr A MacGinty at the End of Year Table Tennis Awards Ceremony .



Callum Downes (Second Year) receiving his prize from Robert Brophy (President of the Union, Class of 1982)



Ronan Fahey (Fifth Year) Two Gold Medals and One Bronze at the Leinster Long Course Championships.



The Carroll brothers Joseph (Fifth Year), James (Sixth Year) and Jeremy (Third Year) on James's last day in the College.



# Snapshot Final Term 2022



SCT Seconds V Clongowes Jack Angelou (TY) and Andreas Anderson (Sixth Year)



Jamie McLoughlin and Ruben Maloney ( Sixth Year) SCT Seconds V Clongowes



Conor O' Shaughnessy (TY) SCT 2nds V Clongowes



Fifth Years John Glynn, Charlie O'Sullivan, Sean Treacy



Fifth Year RockShop, Ethan Leon-Ryan, Jonathan Hoffman, Will Woods



Fifth Years Arnould Binder and Mikhail Rawatt



Fifth Years enjoying the final days of term.



Fifth Year boarders enjoying the final days of term.



SCT Seconds V Clongowes



Donncha Mc Guire and Conor O' Shaughnessy (TY) Senior Second V Clongowes



# Snapshot Final Term 2022



Second Year Basketball Blitz



Second Year Basketball Blitz



Second Year Basketball Blitz



Second Year Basketball Blitz



Second Year Basketball Blitz



Robert McNabb at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Charlie O'Brien at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Class of 2022 at their Graduation Mass



Benjamin Mc Fadden at the Class of 2022 Graduation Mass



Jazz band at the Graduation Class of 2022



G Nutley Second Year Basketball Blitz



J O Connell Second Year Basketball Blitz



Ms Fitzsimons presents Callum Dee with a prize Second Year Basketball Blitz



A Gormley Second Year Basketball Blitz



S Le Bolloch Second Year Basketball Blitz



Transition Years on the Camino Trip



Transition Years on the Camino Trip



# Snapshot Final Term 2022



Transition Years on the Camino Trip



Transition Years on the Camino Trip



J4ths V St Michael's



Harrison Carr, Cillian O' Leary, Tom Yaxley and Jeremy Carroll J4ths V St Michael's



Dylan O' Connor, PJ Tehan and Patrick Brennan J4th V St Michael's



SCT 2nds Final V Clongowes



Daniel Bennet (Fifth Year) Senior Soccer V St Aidan's



Senior Soccer V St Aidan's



J4ths V St Michael's



Tommy Hanrahan (Sixth Year) Senior Soccer V St Aidan's



Sixth Year musicians who achieved awards for their contribution to music in the College with Fr O' Brolchain and Mr Grumley Traynor on Prize Day



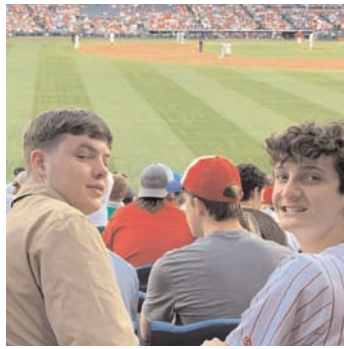
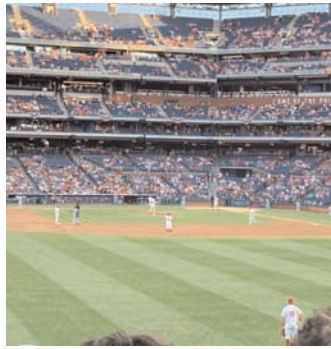
Mark McCabe winner of the Student Leadership award with Mr R. Brophy (President of the PPU, Class of 1982) and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)



Abdullah Mukhtar (Fifth Year) receiving his award on Prize Day from the President of the Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982)



# Snapshot Of Fifth Year Trip to Philadelphia



# Snapshot of the Leman Concert





# Snapshot of the Leman Concert



# Snapshot of Sports and Family Day May 2022





# The Arts



## A Selection of Students' Artwork



Jack Drumm (Third Year)



Henry Brown (Third Year)



Ruben Maloney (Sixth Year)



Fiachra Coakley (Third Year)



Matthew Harvey (Sixth Year)



Conor Alken (Sixth Year)



Alex Brophy (Sixth Year)



Conor Casey (Fifth Year)



Liam Lowes (Fifth Year)



Matthew Curran (6th Year)



Adam James (Sixth Year)



Lorcan Little (Fifth Year)

## Junior Debating

Blackrock College junior debaters have been busy this last term with our weekly lunchtime debates along with The Gold Medal Debate & The International

Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD) 2022 which was hosted this year by the Oxford Union. With over 300 competitors competing from across three continents, Blackrock College's Josh Murphy and Jamie Browne-Lynch (both 2nd Year) successfully qualified to compete in this year's Finals Day, April 23rd 2022, along with 47 other teams. The best performing teams in the competition compete in Finals Day, held at the historic Oxford Union. The Union is one of the most prestigious debating societies in the world, with an unparalleled reputation for hosting renowned speakers from around the globe. Established over 195 years, the society has a long tradition of challenging thought and aiming to promote debate and discussion not just in Oxford University, but around the world.

## Motions for Finals Day 2022:

- 1: In Opening Opposition - This House Would ban religious schools.
- 2: In Closing Government – This House Would legalise the buying and selling of human organs.
- 3: In Opening Government - This House Supports the illegal property destruction of major polluters (e.g. pipelines, factories, oil rigs).
- 4: In Closing Opposition - This House Would nationalise the pharmaceutical industry.

Supported in Oxford by their parents: Nikki and Niall, Tara and Colm, and brothers: Toby, Gavin and David, Josh and Jamie represented Blackrock College with flair and optimism, focus and determination. With each round they improved on their delivery, content, impact and conviction, coming first in their debate in the 4th round.

We congratulate the finalists on their victory – The International Competition for Young Debaters. ICYD (The International Competition for Young Debaters) winners of 2022 were ISDSDC.

## Grand Final Motion was:

*This house believes that Western liberal democracies should not trade with countries with known human rights abuses.*

Oxford Schools is the largest British Parliamentary school-level debate competition in the world, and the largest debating competition in the UK, aimed at students aged 14-18. Its aim is to make debating accessible to as many schools as possible whilst maintaining the prestige and competitiveness of the title; it is an aim they have pursued for over 20 years offering students an excellent chance to develop their skills and confidence in public speaking, thoughtful argumentation and analytical problem solving.

Josh and Jamie represented Blackrock College in this year's hybrid competition with unwavering confidence and ability, a sense of team and a phenomenal engagement maintained throughout.

The 2nd & 3rd Year Gold Medal Debate was held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2022. Those competing were:

Proposition: Tom Hayden, Jamie Browne-Lynch, Josh Murphy (All 2nd Year) Zack Egan-Ruane, Darragh O'Neill, Shane Hamilton (All 3rd Year)

Opposition: Brian Carroll, Conall Byrne (both 2nd Year) Matthew Leahy, Edward Wilson, Ishaan Pandey (All 3rd Year)

Motion: This House Believes That the traditional classroom addresses the contemporary needs of society

Judging Panel: John Sheil, Simon Orrock & Caoimhe Galvin

The winning team proposed the motion with Jamie Browne-Lynch (2nd Year) and Darragh O'Neill (3rd Year) voted the best 2nd and 3rd Year Debaters of 2022.



2nd & 3rd Year Gold Medal Debaters 2022



Darragh O'Neill (3rd Year) Gold Medal winner



# The Arts Cont'd



Darragh O'Neill (3rd Year) Gold Medal winner



Jamie Browne-Lynch & Josh Murphy (both 2nd Year) ICYD Debating Finalists Oxford 2022



Josh Murphy & Jamie Browne-Lynch (both 2nd Year) in Oxford Union at the ICYD Final, April 2022



Jamie Browne-Lynch & Josh Murphy (both 2nd Year) preparing for a debate at the ICYD in Oxford Union, April 2022

## Senior English Debating

It has been another busy term for the Senior Debating Society, with the focus being on the conclusion of the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition and the in-house Gold Medal Debates.

The term started with the final of LSDC Competition, which took place in the Fitzgerald Debating Chamber at UCD. Well done to Ben Kieran-Glennon who represented the College excellently, opposing the motion that we should stop the development of virtual reality technologies until governments can investigate its effects. Although Ben didn't win on this occasion, it was a great achievement for Ben to reach the final of this prestigious competition, and we commend him for his hard work and commitment to the debating programme in the College.

The Sixth Year Centenary Medal Debate took place on Monday, 9th May 2022. The motion being debated was: "This House Believes that, in Modern Times, Cancel Culture is a Necessary Evil". It was felt that this motion was very topical given recent media discourse. The proposition speakers were John McDermott, James Carroll, Michael White, and Mark McCabe, whilst Charlie O'Brien, Rory Luff, Conn O'Byrne, and Michael Redmond opposed. All speakers presented very interesting and well-researched speeches. Hearty congratulations to Michael White who won the debate and was invited to speak at both Graduation and Prize Day.

Well done to Ben Kieran-Glennon who was the winner of the Fifth Year Gold Medal Debate on Monday, 23rd May. Ben successfully proposed the motion that rap and hip-hop music should be censored. There was a high standard of debate, and we commend the other speakers, Jonathan Hoffman, Denis Kelleher, Jamie Starr Bourke, Jack Burke, Aaron Murtagh and Frazer McGinn.

The Fourth Year Gold Medal also took place on 23rd May, where the motion that humanity should fear the rise of artificial intelligence was debated. Aran O'Flaherty, Greg Quinn, and AJ Adoghe proposed, while Henry Grant, Luca Kenny and Patrick Hayden opposed. The event proved to be an excellent learning experience for all involved and to 28C English who were a very attentive and supportive audience. Congratulations to Aran O'Flaherty who was adjudged best speaker and was awarded the Gold Medal.



Michael White (6th Year) winner of the Gold Medal Debate and Valedictorian for the class of 2022

Overall, it has been a very productive year for Senior Debating in the College, and we look forward to building on this in the new academic year.

## Irish Debating

On Thursday, 28th April, we were delighted to welcome a group of debaters from Sion Hill to compete against our own Senior Irish Debating Team. The motion was: 'There is gender equality in Ireland in 2022'. Both teams presented very well-researched and interesting arguments.

We congratulate Matthew O'Donnell, Michael White, Emmet Gulliver (all 6th Year) and Jack Burke (5th Year) who successfully proposed the motion, and Kimli McDonald from Sion Hill received the award for Best Speaker.

Many thanks to Ms Ní Choncheanainn for adjudicating and to Joshua Scallan (6th Year) who acted as Timekeeper. We also thank Mr Gleeson, Irish teacher in Sion Hill, for working with us to organise the debate and for his help with the adjudication.

The event was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to further collaboration with Sion Hill next year.



L-R: Jack Burke (5th Year), Matthew O'Donnell, Emmet Gulliver, Michael White (6th Year) with the debaters from Sion Hill



Opposition Speakers: Jamie Starr Bourke, Jack Burke, Aaron Murtagh and Frazer McGinn  
5th Year Gold Medal Debate



Proposition Speakers: Ben Kieran-Glennon, Denis Kelleher and Jonathan Hoffman  
(5th Year Gold Medal Debate)



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

What a great last term this has been with all things Music and Drama truly back alive and pulsating throughout the campus. The Junior Musical 'Irish College Uncovered' took place just before Easter in the Jubilee Hall. As well as the evening shows, we were delighted to welcome all of Willow Park First Year and our Third Year students to attend a matinée performance so that they could see what they can get involved in next year. It was hard to believe that this was the first Junior Musical since 2019 as the cast, crew and band took to the stage like they always belonged there, and the audiences met them with great enthusiasm and applause.



James McCarthy (Sixth Year) performing at the Leman Concert



David Doyle, John Duffy, Patrick Cody and Matthew Kane playing at the Leman Concert



The Leman Concert May 2022



# The Arts Cont'd



At the end of the Easter break on Sunday April 24th, the Class of 2020 finally celebrated their Coming Together Mass in the Jubilee Hall, in person with their families. This was a special occasion with a great atmosphere led by the magnificent and inspiring Fr. Corman O'Brolchain. Members of the choir from 2020 met the week before the Mass and provided the music in support of the liturgy. A few minutes into the rehearsal and it was as if they were all back in the College and had never left!

In a season of firsts and reinventing things, the first ever outdoor Leman Festival Concert took place for the Thirty-Sixth Leman on Friday May 6th. This was at the heart of the College in the Quadrangle with the picturesque backdrop of the College Chapel – what a setting! The Community must have been very busy praying the week before as the sky cleared up just over an hour before the concert and the sun came out to the rehearsal of 'Beautiful Day' – you couldn't make it up. Over 160 performers came together to deliver a diverse and dynamic programme from Liszt to U2, with soloists, duets, bands, ensembles, and choirs delivering mighty performances giving us a real sense of togetherness. This is what we needed. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made this happen, our audience, parents, students, staff, production team. We already cannot wait for next year's Leman Concert – be there!



Mark McCabe, Kai Murtagh and Colm Fagan performing at the Leman concert 2022



Ethan Laing playing at the Graduation Mass 2022

The traditional Graduation Mass returned to the Jubilee Hall on Sunday May 22nd to bid farewell to the Class of 2022. The Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble were in full voice and spirit as they led the congregation in the many hymns and responses. We look forward to welcoming you back in years to come, as members of the Past Pupils' Choir, the College Orchestra or as audience members. We also look forward to attending the shows and concerts you go on to perform in. Luckily, the future is bright as we are excited to welcome Willow Park First Year students into the College next year. They have had a great year, with the highlight being the Father Dowling Festival Concert and we know that they will continue to flourish as they continue on up through the College.

Finally, the very best of luck to all students sitting the Junior Cycle & Leaving Certificate State Examinations. May all your hard work pay off. From all in the Music and Drama Department, we hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer. Now that they're all back open, go to plays, concerts, musicals, gigs, live events – see you there!

The Blackrock College production of Samuel Beckett's magnum opus, 'Waiting for Godot' was indeed an unforgettable experience for all who saw it. Devastating and comic, harrowing and absurd – Joseph Gibney (5th Year), Matthew Gadaloff (5th Year), Conor Casey (5th Year), Jack Burke (5th Year) and Patrick Hayden (4th year) wowed the Lecture Hall each night, bringing their audience on a vivid and visceral journey through the extreme terrains of the human psyche.



The cast took full ownership of their experience, editing the script, producing and directing – shaping every facet of the show alongside Mr Maher. Throughout the rehearsal period, the boys built their characters out of their own life experiences, refracting their lives through Beckett's words – and, in doing so, uncovered that, beneath the absurdities of Beckett's work, lies a stark world based on our shared humanity. What they achieved was, in short, profound.

The comprehensive TY Production Team behind the show, spearheaded by Daniel Flannery and Diarmaid Byrne, played an essential role in building the stage, advertising and promoting the show. The annual One Act truly is a place for all – thespians and business minds alike!



## Blackrock College

### Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

The Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre is the community hub of the school with plenty of activities taking place. Dungeons and Dragons club went to Willow Park Senior library and made an excellent presentation to the students. A new formula 1 club has just started and will continue next year.

#### Formula 1

Ms Drew is working alongside a group of students who are entering the Formula 1 in school's competition. They have been meeting each week in the library to work on the project where they must use everything they learn in STEM to design, analyse, make, test and race a miniature car. Best of luck to Fiachra Coakley, Philip Duffy, Louis Kelly, Conor Blackburn, Oliver Lee and Darragh O'Neill who are all working very hard on this project.

A new separate group of students who are interested in everything F1 have begun to meet in the library. Any students who are interested in F1 and would like to join this group can email [ndrew@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com) and [adillon@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:adillon@blackrockcollege.com).

#### Art Exhibition

Mr Weir's Art Club had an exhibition in the library that showcased a selection of their work including photography, print making and painting. Well done to all students involved. Families were able to view this exhibition on Sports and Family Day.



#### eBooks and Audio Books

Until April next year students have access to a pre-curated selection of Audio and eBooks via a Sora App. This collection includes thousands of books that should cover all reading levels and tastes. Students are welcome to share their ID and password with their family members. Students from 2nd to 5th year have all been issued with IDs and passwords. Any student who require log in details can email [adillon@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:adillon@blackrockcollege.com)

#### CADLC Committee

The CADLC committee have continued to make a great contribution to the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre. They compiled some slides that showcased the work and activities they promoted during the year. Thank you to chair Jamie Starr Bourke, Secretary Frazer McGinn

and committee members Conall Byrne (2nd Year), Cillian Staunton (2nd Year), Fionn Whelan (3rd Year), Cian McAdam (TY), Patrick Hayden (TY) and Sascha Gibney (TY) for all the work they did this year.



#### May Numeracy Challenge

As well as trying to solve a puzzle each week, students were given a numeracy challenge for the month of May. The puzzle was on display on the Literacy and Numeracy board and the first student to solve the puzzle won a bar of chocolate. Well done to 2nd year student Conor Sheehan who was the first to correctly solve the puzzle.

#### MAY NUMERACY CHALLENGE

Ali is arranging the books on his bookshelves. He puts half his books on the bottom shelf and two-thirds of what remains on the second shelf. Finally, he splits the rest of his books over the other two shelves so that the third shelf contains four more books than the top shelf. There are three books on the top shelf. How many books are on the bottom shelf?





# Pastoral Care Programme



As the academic year 2021 – 2022 comes to a close, we look back in thanksgiving for a unique year.

Last September the school year began with mask wearing and contact tracing with limited numbers attending liturgies. Navigating through a global pandemic, the broad “community” which makes up Blackrock all contributed to what is the Blackrock “family” – all united through the presence and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This final term of the school year offered many more opportunities for us to come together and to celebrate. After two-years of postponements, the Class of 2020 with their parents finally came together again in the Jubilee Hall to celebrate their time in the College with a “Coming Together Mass” – a morning filled with joy and for many their first time returning to the College since lockdown of March 2020. This term also allowed for our “traditional” Graduation Mass and celebrations for the Class of 2022 – another group of exceptional and inspirational young men and we acknowledge their great contribution to Blackrock.



Mr T. O' Reilly (Head of Religion) releasing the doves at the Graduation (Class Of 2022)

As we journey towards Pentecost Sunday, our Annual Novena to the Holy Spirit has just concluded [recordings of the seven days of the Novena are on the College Website] – this year the Novena focussed on the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety and Love of the Lord.



A selection of other highlights during the past two months include the Past Pupils' Union Holy Week Retreat, 2nd Year Days of Reflection, 3rd Year participation in a special Mass celebrated in the College Chapel and broadcast on RTE Television, Transition Year Day of Reflection, preparation of 5th Year Eucharistic Ministers for the next school year and a Reconciliation Service for 6th Year as they finish their studies in the College.

As a “faith community” we have so much to be grateful for – we acknowledge the support of our resident Spiritan Community who support all that the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Departments undertake.

This has been a fantastic school year – we thank God and we ask that we are kept safe in Love over the summer holidays.

## Green Schools



In the third and final term of school, we continued working for our **Global Citizenship Litter and Waste flag**. We began the term by organizing a plastic waste workshop with the Education for Sustainability Institute. This was attended by a large group of Second Years and various Committee members and was very informative and well received. We came away with some very helpful suggestions for how to

reduce our waste and this will help us in our Action Plan. The Global Citizenship Litter and Waste Flag aims to highlight our moral understanding of our responsibilities and our rights in a global context. Our second initiative was a competition, the **Young Environmentalist Awards**, in Transition Year to encourage awareness-raising and education on environmental topics. The outcome was very positive and a selection of PowerPoint presentations were reviewed and voted on by the Green Schools Committee. We were delighted to award first prize to the project on 'The importance of reusable bottles today' and our runner up examined 'The lifespan of a plastic bottle'. Great work.



Runners up in the Blackrock College YEA TY Project D Kilbride, D Moynihan & D McGuire.

Our final action this term was to set up a **Green Schools**

**Display** for Sports & Family Day, which highlighted work done by the Committee throughout the year, such the opening of the bike racks and the flags we currently hold, as well as our actions completed on our path towards our Global Citizenship Litter and Waste flag. Overall, a most productive final term and looking forward to the year ahead.



Winners of the Blackrock College YEA TY Project C Clinch, S Barry & D Francis.

**If anyone wishes to join the Green Schools Committee feel free to contact us.** You can get in touch with us by contacting our current Chairperson at [23\\_fmccginn@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:23_fmccginn@blackrockcollege.com). **We meet every THURSDAY in the Learning Centre at 1:10pm. All welcome.**



Green Schools Committee Members with Ms Susan Adams of Sustainability Institute Ireland

# Archives Update



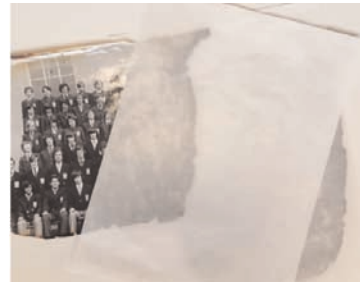
Blackrock College is investing in the preservation, conservation and accessibility of its archived records and historical materials. As we look ahead to the summer months, there is a great deal of change and progress to look forward to in the Archives. The preparatory work is already underway in the re-enclosing of old records in archival quality folders, their arrangement into reinforced and acid-free archival boxes and the transferring of fragile and damaged photographs into stable and protective transparent pockets. By the end of the summer months, the entire collection will be transferred to archival standard materials.



Archive boxes



Acid-free archive folders for enclosing records



Protective transparent pockets for fragile photographs. Following the college fire in 1984, many of the photographs in the archive collection were destroyed or badly damaged and require individual enclosure like this.

To protect old records and promote their longevity, a temperature of 16 – 18 degrees Celsius must be maintained. To that end, the maintenance team will be updating the archival storage room to make it thermally stable and efficient. A new storage system is also being installed to maximise capacity and improve accessibility.

By bringing the Blackrock College archive collection up to professional preservation standards we are safeguarding the records' continuing survival and we can look forward to making the collection more discoverable and accessible for students, researchers and visitors.

## Dungeons and Dragons Club



Following in the footsteps of our senior members, Fionn Whelan and Daniel Spencer (Third Year), the third and final term saw the rise of our Second Years to leadership roles within the club. Sebastian Mac Manus and Jack Deegan McGovern (Second Year) became the Dungeon Master and Assistant Dungeon Master for the most vocal and physically active sessions of the year. Ms. Dillon in the CADLC liaised with Willow Park librarian Ms. Kennedy, to organise a promotional talk for Willow Park Senior School students interested in joining our Dungeons and Dragons club next Year. Ms. Kennedy designed a beautiful poster to promote the Blackrock College students coming all the way across the campus to spread the word about our Dungeons and Dragons Club.



Club and our students look forward to welcoming new members in September!

Our second year of Dungeons and Dragons at Blackrock College came to a close, with a final party on the last day.



We reflected on a great year starting with our magnificent dozen of new members culminating in the super seven second years (and Fionn!) spreading the word campus wide. Looking forward to another great year making new friends in 2022-2023.

Jack Deegan McGovern and Sebastian MacManus (Second Year) and Fionn Whelan (Third Year) prepared a super introductory talk on the Blackrock College Dungeons and Dragons Club and presented it with great enthusiasm to an enraptured audience in Willow Park Senior School.

There were plenty of questions to be answered after the presentation and the First Years gathered in a lively manner around the table to view the books, maps and dice, essential pieces of equipment for any successful D&D club.



Journeying across campus on an Adventure to spread the word about D&D were Fionn Whelan (Third Year), Sebastian MacManus, Kieran Flowers, Jack Deegan McGovern, Luc O'hAonghusa, Ian Duane and Theo Galligan (all Second Years)



The First Years were sent away with instructions to spread the word about the Blackrock College D&D



End of Year Party: Sebastian MacManus (Second Year), Fionn Whelan (Third Year), Kieran Flowers, Theo Galligan, Mark Aherne, Jack Deegan McGovern, Ian Duane and Luc O'hAonghusa (all Second Year)





Irish Science Teachers' Association  
Eol Oidí na hÉireann



biopharmachem  
Ireland  
ibec

Congratulations to Frazer McGinn who received a commendation in the photography competition organised by the Irish Science Teachers' Association and sponsored by BioPharmaChemical.



Evolution in Power by Frazer McGinn



## AMGEN Biotech Experience

Scientific Discovery for the Classroom  
Ireland

The Amgen Biotech Experience programme features a series of hands-on molecular laboratory techniques that we have adapted for delivery in Irish classrooms to senior cycle pupils. All Transition Year Biology students got to experience Labs 1 and Labs 2 during their Biology lessons.

### Lab 1 MicroPipetting.

This lab highlights the extremely small volumes required in many laboratory techniques by getting students to deliver minute volumes accurately and consistently.



41 Biology MicroPipetting



Charlie Harvey and Oscar Canavan  
43 Biology



Andrew Duggan  
43 Biology



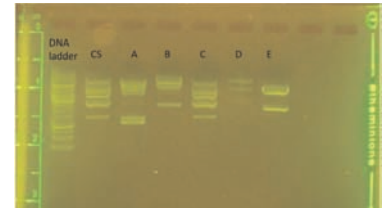
Eamon Bradley  
43 Biology



Darragh Bowler and Daniel Francis

### Lab 2 DNA Electrophoresis

This lab introduced DNA profiling whereby students had to solve a criminal case study using DNA separation by gel electrophoresis.



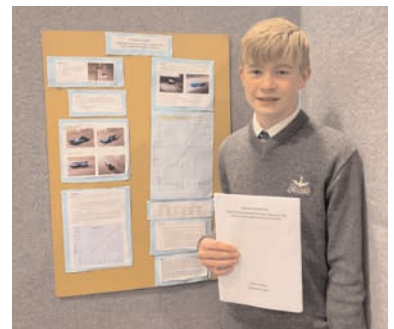
Jack Droney, Ben Guerin, Kian O'Brien, Will Collins and Paddy Rennick represented the College at TU Dublin Grangegorman in May. The students were accompanied by Ms Katie Buckley. The projects that were entered were;

The effect of temperature on phones - Jack Droney

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

Does Microplastics Affect a Worms Growth - Ben Guerin, Will Collins and Paddy Rennick

Well done to Kian O'Brien who won the Institute of Physics Awards.



Kian O'Brien - Institute of Physics Award



Jack Droney



Ben Guerin, Paddy Rennick and Will Collins.



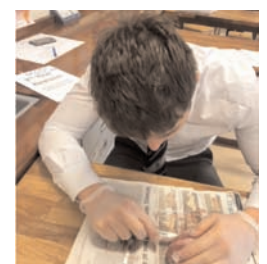
Students presenting at TU Grange  
Gorman Co. Dublin



Mr Alan MacGinty, Ben Guerin, Will Collins, Kian O'Brien, Paddy Rennick, Jack Droney and Ms Katie Buckley

### Heart Dissection

Some Third Year classes dissected sheep's hearts as part of their exam revision



Darragh Walsh dissecting a heart



## SENIOR TENNIS

The Senior I Tennis team won the Leinster Schools' Division I Cup at Fitzwilliam in what is the centenary year of the competition. Captained by **James Brophy** and featuring **Callum O'Brien**, **Will Fitzgerald** (all Sixth Year), **John Glynn**, **James Sheridan**, **Matthew Dowley**, **Theo Claffey** (all Fifth Year) and **Harry Sheridan** (Transition Year) the team overcame a talented St Michael's team on a 3-0 scoreline with two matches unfinished. The cup win is Blackrock's first since 2010 and it rounded off an unbeaten season for the team which included four wins out of four group matches before their victory in the final.



James Brophy( Sixth Year) (captain) presents the Leinster Schools' Division I Cup to Fr Tom Nash CSSp. Also pictured are Robert Brophy (President of PPU, Class of 1982) and Alan MacGinty, Principal.



The victorious Senior I tennis team: (l-r): Callum O'Brien(6th Year ) Matthew Dowley, John Glynn, Theo Claffey, James Brophy (captain), James Sheridan, (All 5th Year) Harry Sheridan TY and Will Fitzgerald (6th Year)

## JUNIOR TENNIS

The Junior I Tennis team, led by **Freddie Bracken** (Second Year), won the Leinster Schools' Junior Division I title at Templeogue LTC against a strong Gonzaga side. The team, which also includes **Jamie O'Nuallain**, **Charlie Martin**, **Christian O'Flynn**, **Max Sheridan** (all 2nd Year), **Joey Connolly** and **Richard Kinsella** (both Third Year) won the tie 3-1, with one match unfinished. The team finished the season unbeaten, and with the majority of the wider squad being current 2nd Year pupils and thus eligible for the competition next year, the future looks bright at this level for tennis in the College.



Junior Tennis Team Charlie Martin, Christian O'Flynn, Max Sheridan, Freddie Bracken (Captain), Jamie O'Nuallain, Richard Kinsella and Joey Connolly



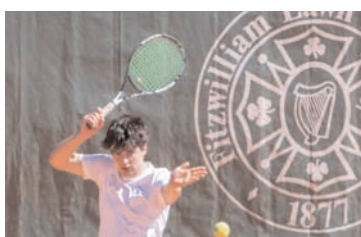
Charlie Martin (Second Year) hitting a forehand in his match



Jamie O'Nuallain in action during the Leinster Schools' Junior Cup Final



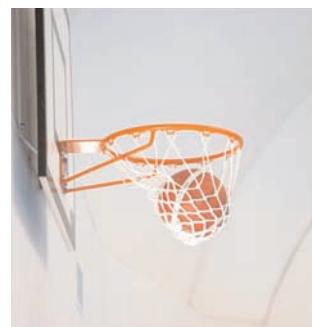
Freddie Bracken (Second Year) serving during the Leinster Schools' Junior Cup Final



John Glynn (5th Year) en route to victory in his match during the Senior Tennis Division I Final at Fitzwilliam

## Second Year Basketball Blitz

In the group stages the first matchups were McQuaid versus De Valera in group 1, and Leman versus Shanahan in group 2. McQuaid took the win in a close game. In group 2, Leman beat Shanahan, with Patrick Burke having a great game dropping 4 points. The next matchups were Ebenrecht versus McQuaid in group 1, and Duff versus Shanahan in group 2. In group 1, McQuaid took home the win with Don Banks hitting a buzzer beating 3-pointer to end the first half. Despite Cillian Staunton's great plays for Duff, Shanahan ultimately won in a close game.



After some exciting and close matches in the group stages, the competition progressed to the playoffs. Ebenrecht played Duff the fifth and sixth playoff and Ebenrecht took home the win in a close match with Kieran Byrne making impressive baskets. In the semi-finals McQuaid played Shanahan, Leman played De Valera. Leman and McQuaid both took home easy wins that saw them through to the final. It was a close match up and the players worked hard to keep the score even. In the final minute of the game, the score was 10-8 to Leman. McQuaid fought to draw the game, but Leman's Callum Dee hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to put the game out of reach. The final score of 13-8 saw Leman bring home Gold.



The Team for Ebenrecht House



J Donohoe Second Year Basketball Blitz



(L to R) M Ryan, D O'Driscoll, H Donohoe and T Boret Second Year Basketball Blitz



(L to R) C White, J Browne, JJ Hamilton, J Shanley Second Year Basketball Blitz



McQuaid Team Second Year Basketball Blitz



De Valera Team Second Year Basketball Blitz

Many thanks to Mr O'Brien, Ms Harlowe and Ms Fitzsimons for helping to organise the event and to our referees, Roberto Brusasca (Class of 2019) and Barry O'Sullivan (Class of 2019).



## Cricket

Congratulations to the Senior Cricket Team, led by Philippe Le Roux (5th Year) on reaching this year's Leinster Senior League Cup Final. Having reached the most recent one in 2019 as well, the team were determined to reverse the result from that occasion, with CUS again the opponents in Merrion CC.

Earlier group wins against Wesley, Clongowes and Belvedere, followed by a strong victory over Templecarrig in the semi-final gave the boys the opportunity they craved.

However, on this occasion, as with three years ago, CUS were the better team on the day and were able to restrict our batters to under 100. Macdara Cosgrave (TY) and Paddy Morris (6th Year) in particular, battled hard to help us to 96 all out, a below par figure for us and the potential we have with the bat. All credit however must go to the CUS attack, who bowled superbly with accuracy and intent.

Unfortunately for Philippe and the team, CUS were equally as ruthless in their run chase as they backed up their last victory with another at this level. Tom Johnston (5th Year) did manage to take two wickets, but CUS had plenty of players and overs in reserve ultimately and were deserved winners by 8 wickets. We congratulate them, but also our senior team on their hard work and determination over this busy final term.

Many thanks to Mr Halpin and Cillian McDonnell (Class of 2020) for their preparation of the team this year.

Our Junior Team, captained by 3rd Year, Finlay Threadgold-Ball, didn't contain players of the same level of experience as the seniors and their goals and expectations were very different coming into this term. Having been affected by lockdown perhaps more than some groups, a large number of players in the squad were playing their first ever cricket match when they travelled down to Clongowes. Whilst their performance was not at the level they might have hoped for that day, they put in a far more credible performance two weeks later against a quality CUS side, showing vast improvements in technique and resilience. They deserve much credit for that.

It's only the start in the sport for a number of these young players, and hopefully they will push on through the summer with clubs and we can keep building the sport throughout Blackrock and Willow until we win that elusive Senior Cup again!

## Senior Seconds Rugby

Congratulations to our Senior Seconds rugby squad on winning the Seconds League and hence, completing the senior 'double' for the squad this year - a tremendous achievement which is rarely seen.

Will Fitzgerald (6th Year) and his team put in an excellent all-round display to defeat Clongowes 34-21 in the final down in Kildare.

As expected it was a difficult match where a monumental defensive effort was required to keep our opponents at arms length. Although they troubled our line multiple times in the second half, we held firm without the ball, and showed real quality, creating and taking chances, when in possession.

It's been a long season, but a memorable and rewarding one. Thank you to all the boys who gave so much for the College and each other this



J4ths V St Michael's



Senior Seconds winners of the Second League V Clongowes

year, especially the 6th Years who led superbly throughout.

## Chess

This term has been a busy one for chess club. On Thursday 28th of April we travelled to St. Benildus College for a friendly tournament. We were very lucky to have our coach Hector present as well as St. Benildus' coach Frank Scott there too. We played two 30 minutes games across 10 boards. Blackrock played black in the first round with St. Benildus on white. We were victorious in both rounds scoring 6 - 3 points in the first round and 7 to 2 points in the second round.

On Wednesday 4th May St. Benildus travelled to Blackrock for another friendly tournament. This time we won 8-2 points in the first rounds and 7 -2 points in the second round. It was an incredible opportunity for the boys to practice against some new players and some excellent games were played, some even going right up to the clock.

On Thursday 19th of May some girls from Sion Hill joined us for chess club. The students played various games against one another. There was quite a big age difference, our students range from 2nd to 6th Year while the Sion Hill girls were 2nd Year students. Again, it was great practice for the boys.

Our chess coach Hector organised a tournament as part of his Blackrock Chess club (outside of school) and three of our chess club members took part.



Chess club members team photo after a tournament. (L-R) Conor Wall, Dominic Kilbride, Philip Duffy, Leon Coleman, Charlie Parsons, Ian Duane, Rory O'Kane, Matthew Collins, Theo Galligan, Evan McCourt



Leon Coleman and Rory O'Kane playing against some students from St. Benildus College



Matthew Collins and Evan McCourt playing against some students from St. Benildus' College



Charlie Parsons and Theo Galligan playing against some students from St. Benildus' College

A huge congratulations to Evan McCourt (5th Year) who placed first in the 'Master Chess Club Junior Open 2022'. Also a huge well done to Theo Galligan (2nd Year) who placed 3rd and to Charlie Parsons (5th Year) who placed 5th.

The last term has been very busy, and we look forward to a year full of tournaments in September.

## Golf

The inter-schools golf schedule was interrupted by the pandemic, but early in 2022 the season got underway. Blackrock finished 2nd in Leinster regional qualifying on the 8th of March. Torrential rain on the day meant that Woodenbridge GC was starting to flood in places, but





the course remained playable- just about! The best 4 scores counted on the day, and the 311 total was good enough for 2nd place on the day. The Leinster Schools finals took place over the Easter holidays. Castlewarden Golf Club hosted the event on Tuesday the 19th of April. The boys came up against some great scoring, ultimately finishing 9 shots behind Terenure College on the day. The date caused some availability issues for Blackrock, clashing with the Connacht Under-18 Boys Championship. As a result, James Heavey and Jake Foley (both 5th year) were and unavailable after travelling west to compete. Jacques De Patoul (6th year) was another casualty, after damaging his finger playing soccer. Even so, the team of five 6th year students played well on the day, Rory O'Shea, Sean Harty, Ross Halpin, Ben Bracken, and Matthew O'Brien. Rory had the lowest score on the team, birdieing the 18th hole for a total of 5 over par 77.

There is an abundance of quality coming through from 2nd Year to 5th Year, so with a bit more luck Blackrock College will contend for more Leinster titles over the coming years.

## Soccer

40 years in the making! It has truly been a fantastic final term for our senior soccer team, winning the Dublin Metropolitan League for the first time in 40 years. Tolka Park was the venue for the final, however, in typical fashion this team made it to the final the hard way!



Alex O'Meara & Max Mooney (both 6th Year)

In a repeat of the final 40 years previous, we travelled to Chanel College for our final. In a high scoring game, we battled through to win 6-5. The game was end to end and we found ourselves behind having to battle back to win, thanks to goals from Fergal O'Sullivan (2), Federico Mei, Tommy Hanrahan (all 6th Year) and two Callum Dunne (5th Year) goals.



Roy Barrett ( Chairman of the FAI) presented jerseys to the Senior Soccer Squad



Stephen Kenny (Republic of Ireland Manager ) presented jerseys to the Senior Soccer Squad



Eoin Maher (5th Year)



Tommy Hanrahan (6th Year) & Daniel Bennett (5th Year)



Squad Photo



Stephen Kenny talking to the squad

In the semi-finals another away game saw us travel to Tallaght CS. Again, the team had to battle to victory. The score line of 5-2 may suggest a comfortable victory, this was not the case. Trailing 1-0 with 15 minutes to go, a late resurgence saw us score 5 goals to secure our qualification to the Dublin Metropolitan League final.

It was truly a fantastic day, which started off with Roy Barrett, chairman of the FAI and the last winning captain of the Dublin Metropolitan League, alongside Stephen Kenny, Republic of Ireland manager, present the squad with their jerseys. Arriving in Tolka Park, greeted by parents and fellow students the squad were determined to succeed. In truth, it was a fantastic performance, which showed all the characteristics this squad have shown all year. Under pressure the team was resilient, hardworking and committed and when the opportunities arrived, we were clinical. Max Mooney (6th Year) scored our opening goal with Fergal O'Sullivan (6th Year) collecting the match ball, scoring a hat-trick. Our fourth goal, Fergal's final goal was a fantastic team goal. The ball starting on the right-hand side of the pitch with Federico Mei who passed the ball to Tommy Hanrahan who moved the ball onto Daniel Bennett who played the ball into Fergal O'Sullivan who finished off what was a fantastic day!

## Athletics

A highly anticipated Leinster Schools' Athletics Championships took place on Wednesday 18th and Saturday 21st of May in Santry's, Morton Stadium. Blackrock were set to be represented across 42 events after a strong effort at East Leinster's.

Our junior boys took to the stage on the Wednesday with Geoffrey Wall and Bernard White (2nd Year) starting us off with a brilliant first and second place in the hammer. This spurred on the other competitors with Matthew Wyse and Ben Guerin (2nd Year) achieving personal bests in the shot put while Luke Coffey (2nd Year) scored team points in the triple jump. The junior boys relay took to the stage again in a highly competitive final that saw David Mannix, Jack Mulsow, Luke Coffey and Gavin Laing (2nd Year) line up for the college. The boys lowered their personal best significantly to take 3rd place and a large amount of team points.

Wednesday saw the start of some senior events with Eoghan Walsh, Louis Dignam and David Crowley (5th Year) starting us off. Eoghan and Louis brought home silver in the 110m hurdles and walk while David added to the points total with a 4th place finish in the walk. This put the team in a strong position going into the Saturday events.



Brian Walsh and Sami Bishti (3rd Year) after the intermediate boys' hammer.



The Senior athletics team presented with the trophy for best overall team. Sitting: Jack McGlone, Oliver Coffey, Maxim Aschenbrenner. Standing: Mr Barry, James O'Sullivan, Eoghan Walsh, David Doyle.



The Senior athletics team presented with the trophy for best overall team. Sitting: Jack McGlone, Oliver Coffey, Maxim Aschenbrenner. Standing: Mr Barry, James O'Sullivan, Eoghan Walsh, David Doyle.



David Doyle, Maxim Aschenbrenner, Conn Lucey and Eoghan Walsh (5th Year) claim gold in the 4x100m relay!



The message going into day two was every point matters, something the boys followed through on with some exceptional results. The day began again with our hammer throwers. Sami Bishti and Brian Walsh (3rd Year) produced strong performances to take gold and silver in the inter age group. Their teammate Michael Walsh (3rd Year) followed this up with a massive eleven-meter pb, throwing 41m for silver in the inter discus. More points arrived in the discus with Robert Murphy (3rd Year) producing a personal best performance with fourth place. Additional intermediate points came from Joe Reddan (3rd Year) in the long jump and the relay team that consisted of Rory McNally, Harry Phelan, Johnny O'Sullivan and Cormac Sheahan (3rd Year). These performances led to a second place finish as a team, a great result for an intermediate team that has another year at the age group next year.

Our senior team knew a big performance was required to beat a Belvedere College side that has held the team title since 2000. Both colleges are steeped in athletics history with us both having the most team titles and medals at Irish schools level.

Our day started with Thomas Brigg (5th Year) taking bronze in the discus while Tom O'Riordan (5th Year) scored a valuable point. Phillipe Le Roux (5th Year) showed his versatility in the Javelin, where the Irish u19 cricket international furthered his personal best by four meters and claimed bronze. The senior boys hammer followed with Tom O'Riordan (5th Year) and Charlie O'Brien (6th Year) taking 2nd and 3rd with some brilliant performances. Ciaran Patchell (5th Year) rounded off a great day for the throws with a silver medal in the shot putt.

The team were in a strong position heading into the final even and knew a strong relay performance would be needed to secure a first Leinster team title since 1997. Our 4x100 relay team consisted of Maxim Aschenbrenner, David Doyle, Conn Lucey and Eoghan Walsh (5th Year). The boys took second at East Leinsters two weeks prior and were therefore given the tough task of lane one for the Leinsters. The work put in by Dan Moore and the boys showed on the day with the teams shattering their personal best and claiming the coveted gold senior relay medals. The buzz of such a performance followed through with the 4x400m where a team of Maxim Aschenbrenner, Oliver Coffey, David Doyle and Jack McGlone (5th Year) competed for the final event of the day. Strong legs by Maxim and Oliver allowed



Geoffrey Wall and Bernard White (2nd Year) take to the podium in the Junior Boys Hammer.



Maxim Aschenbrenner, Jack McGlone, Oliver Coffey and David Doyle (5th Year) presented with their silver medals for the 4x400m relay



Sports and Family Day May 2022



Sports and Family Day May 2022



Sports and Family Day May 2022

for David to put the team in medal contention before handing to Jack who left it all on the track and only missed 1st place by the smallest of margins. A second-place finish and a chance to battle for an Irish schools title in Tullamore at the end of the school year.

As the results came through so did the team standings with Blackrock being named the winners of the Senior Boys team title just ahead of a very competitive Belvedere side. A brilliant achievement by a group of boys who put a huge effort into their personal performance while always showing a team first mentality.



President of the Union, Mr Robert Brophy (class of 1982), presented this year's Past Pupils Sports Personality Award to Luke McCann (Class of 2016)

Congratulations to all the competitors over East Leinster and Leinster championships. Attention now shifts to one of the great days in the sporting calendar, the Irish Schools Athletics Championships in Tullamore on June 4th.

The Senior athletics team presented with the trophy for best overall team. Sitting: Jack McGlone, Oliver Coffey, Maxim Aschenbrenner. Standing: Mr Barry, James O'Sullivan, Eoghan Walsh, David Doyle.



Blackrock College Rowing Club in Seville April 2022



## Wellbeing for the Body, Soul and Mind

The Student Wellbeing Committee has worked tirelessly this year to enhance the wellbeing of every student in the College. We successfully retained our Amber Flag again, with the awarding committee commenting on the immense work being done to promote positive mental health in Blackrock. Throughout the year, the Committee dedicates itself to finding ways to improve the wellbeing of our students, whether it be through days like Anti-Bullying Day and Mental Health Awareness Day, organising key weeks like Wellbeing Week or submitting ideas for the wellbeing elements of the Student Journal. It is a task that is endless and a challenge that we strive to meet. If you have any ideas on how to improve Student Wellbeing in the College, we are always looking for new members. Look out for our table and the Clubs and Societies Event at the start of the next school year.

**“What we know matters, but who we are matters more.”**

—BRENE BROWN

## A Year with the Bees



Thanks to their location, our bees have thrived during their time on the school campus. In August 2021 harvested honey. This was made available to parents on December 4th which with the launch of the Christmas trees, in aid of St Vincent de Paul. Parents had the opportunity to donate and receive a jar of honey. Thanks to the generosity of our parents, we contributed close to a thousand euro extra to the campaign.

Winter proved to be generally warm and, as a result, our bees could forage on numerous occasions. Many plants put out flowers in winter to capitalise on these conditions. It meant that when we reopened the hives in March, our hives were in robust health. Throughout March and April, the hives continued to expand. This led us to the decision to split one of the hives as the queen was laying new queen eggs in preparation for a natural division of the hives.

Alas, victims of their own success, both hives became overcrowded, and nature took its course. Our resident queen bees, leaving new queen eggs behind, took to the air with half the colony to go in search of a new home. It's bad news for honey production but it is good news long term. Patience is now required to allow new queens establish their colonies.

While we don't expect to harvest honey in June, we are confident that new

colonies will be established in time for a September harvest. The hives continue to be tremendously active, and we look forward to a summer of rebuilding. Our policy is one of least interference and, so, we simply wait for Mother Nature to work her Magic.

*“Isolate her, and however abundant the food or favourable the temperature, she will expire in a few days not of hunger or cold, but of loneliness.”*

Maurice Maeterlinck, *The Life of the Bee*





# Snapshot of House Soccer Leagues



## Reflection

“I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration to work together.”

Queen Elizabeth II is the first British monarch to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee — 70 years as queen. The 95-year-old is one of only four documented monarchs, worldwide — Louis XIV of France; Johann II of Liechtenstein, and, most recently, Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand — to mark this extraordinary anniversary.