

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Easter 2022

Dear Parents,

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same."

If— by Rudyard Kipling

It has been an extraordinary couple of weeks at Blackrock. A highlight was the S.C.T's stellar performance against a gallant Gonzaga. The quality of play has been well documented, but it was matched by the superb welcome they received on their return to the College, rapturous celebrations that one associates with victory, and it was well deserved. The previous Monday our J.C.T made the same journey back to the College. A different result but a similar reception in appreciation of the effort they made, the courage and heart they displayed. Kipling's message is that both success and setback are fleeting. It is the journey that counts, the challenges confronted, the burdens shared, the lessons learnt, the spirit engendered.

On both occasions the squad members spoke of their gratitude to family, coaches, teammates and friends for their support and encouragement. At the Junior celebration, the audience may have been smaller and the singing less ecstatic but nonetheless, as much as any other occasion, it defined us.

That week had other encounters with "those two impostors". We are equally proud of our U'16 Gaelic team that was beaten by Gaelcholáiste Reachrann in their Dublin Championship final on the Thursday, of our Senior Soccer team that recorded a 4-3 win after extra-time over Coláiste Pobail Setanta, in the Dublin Metropolitan league on the Friday, of our junior debating team that lost to Holy Child Killiney that evening, and on the Saturday morning, of the 160 plus entrants who went the distance in aid of Aidlink and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland in the Rock 5K. On the Sunday, while most of us were in the RDS, our rowers competed with pride and success at the Commercial Regatta and our MUN team won the 'Outstanding Delegation Award' at the St. Andrew's International Conference.

Also, that week 4th and 5th Year families welcomed 18 boys from Holy Ghost Prep. Philadelphia into the homes, 19 5th Years were on the Camino, we celebrated 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' and rehearsals continued apace for the Junior musical. And what a show that turned out to be with 'craic agus ceol' in 'Irish College Uncovered'!

Our Addiction Awareness Day and the sacrament of reconciliation liturgies added significant value to the wellbeing of our boys as we completed the term.

The range of activity is quite simply extraordinary, and I haven't referenced the mock orals, the classes and games that happen each day nor the buzz created by the return of our bees to active service. Blackrock is a hive of activity.

We have much to celebrate but at the same time we are acutely aware of the awful tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, the scale of the brutality and the desolation. It is uplifting to see and read about so many rallying around the Ukrainian people. Indifference is not an option.

Easter is a season of hope. We pray that the risen Christ will inspire all peoples to put aside destructive ways to make room for a better self and a better world. We are an Easter people and Jesus died on the cross not for all of us but for each one of us. His death and resurrection are a personal invitation to have a living, vibrant, albeit at times demanding, relationship with our Saviour, shaped by the Holy Spirit. Fulfilment and happiness will follow.

I recently came across the following definition of happiness:

"It is to thank God every morning for the miracle of life. It is the maturity to be able to say that I made a mistake; it is to have the courage to say I am sorry, the confidence to say I need you, the awareness to say thank you." (Anon.)

This is the Easter message. Be happy. Live in the spirit. Be Grateful. God loves us.

Enjoy the break.

God Bless

**ALAN MacGINTY**  
Principal



Gus McCarthy ( Captain of the SCT ) with his Mum Tara McCarthy and members of the SCT at the Leinster Senior Cup Final,  
Blackrock College -50 Gonzaga College SJ -21

# Message from the Deans



**February 2022**

The weeks since Mid-term have been filled with immense activity, enthusiasm, and participation across all year groups. In this short time so much has happened for which we are grateful. We continue to be overjoyed to see our classrooms, corridors, recreation areas and pitches across campus full of life. Our young men have engaged positively both in and outside the classroom and we are pleased to have an opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate their many achievements.

This is a busy and demanding time of the year for all, with Orals and Easter Exams, CBAs, Parent-Teacher meetings and ongoing projects and assignments required. We wish to highlight the great work being done in the academic sphere, as evidenced on the Application Cards. We commend the efforts of all in establishing and maintaining good work practices and setting short-term, achievable targets. We see the significant benefits of providing regular feedback each week and we encourage making the Cards a weekly focal point to assist in making progress.

In other areas of learning, we highlight the great participation and achievements in sports on the rugby pitches, football fields, basketball courts, in rowing, table tennis, sailing, skiing, Gaelic football and golf, all of which will be detailed elsewhere. We commend the superb participation in such varied arenas as Chess, Debating, Green Schools, Science Club, D & D, Art Club, Public Speaking, Music, MUN, Global Citizenship, Orchestra, Drama and the Junior Musical.

Some of the highlights of this half term must include the Rock Run in TY, the completion of Auxilium in Second Year, The Easter Egg drive for Spirasi in Fifth and Second Year, the Camino Trips in TY and Fifth Year, as well as the Philadelphia exchange, a superb JCT campaign and preparation for a Junior Cycle (that will go ahead!) in Third Year, a magnificent performance from our Senior Soccer squad, an outstanding SCT campaign alongside project work and Orals in Sixth Year. All great milestones achieved. As always, we saw the benefits of our invaluable feature days and weeks this term, with huge input from all, most notably, Environmental Awareness Week and Addiction Awareness Day. The half term finished in style with a super Second and TY Production, 'Irish College Uncovered'.

We congratulate the Year Groups for their excellent participation in the House events this term and we thank the House Captains for their encouragement to 'Be There'. As the rugby season draws to a close, we look forward in great anticipation to the ever-popular House Soccer Leagues which will begin after the Easter break. A reminder that many summer sports will be on offer and this presents an opportunity to join in another activity during the final term.

Finally, we note how good it was to return to the Chapel for our Lenten Reconciliation Services and to hear in person the Lenten message. With this in mind, we wish you all a peaceful and joyous Easter, inspired by the words of Pope Francis: 'goodness, together with love, justice, and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day.'

*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 )*

As the **Sixth-Year** students approach the final term, they should rest assured that they can continue to make significant academic progress in these final weeks. We strongly encourage students to continue to attend class and to fully avail of our wide range of advice and support systems in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the **Class of 2022** all the very best with these final preparations.

There is **still much to come in the final term as TY students** complete the Gaisce Bronze Award requirements and the Adventure Journey requirement. We still have the Mock Trials and Court visits, Masterchef Heats, Masterchef Finals, Dragons Den, Music Art and Drama Week, TY Work Experience II, TY Day of Reflection, Guest Speakers, TY Portfolio Interviews and even more besides!

## **Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Fifth Year Students have submitted applications for the highly coveted and limited places on the **Dublin Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage in September 2022**. We thank them for their willingness to serve and wish them all well.

# 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 returned 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.

Thanks to **Fifth Years** Evan Lyons and David Mooney 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



J. O'Connell, R. Pattison, D. Patterson, C. Sheehan  
(Second Years) winners of Leinster Schools Junior  
League Table Tennis

Well done to the **Second Year Table Tennis players** who have had a great season so far. Blackrock's Junior A's won 4 - 2 over High School in the Leinster Schools Junior League.

The **Leaving Certificate projects** in Art and Physical Education reached a conclusion before the Easter break and many thanks to Mr Wyer and Mr Vanstone for their guidance and support in these fields of study. Leaving Cert projects in History, Geography, Religious Education, Agricultural Science and Construction Studies will be submitted on Thursday 28th April. We wish all students well as they complete their examination booklets.

## St. Joseph's Glashule

One of the undoubted highpoints of the TY programme has been our partnership with St. Joseph's Glashule. TY students assisted residents of the community with learning various IT skills. I received the following feedback from one of the participants – *"Greg Quinn helped me with Instagram & he was terrific. Very patient & a great help"*. Greg and the 43 other TY students volunteering can be very proud of their efforts.



Daniel Flannery, Patrick Hayden and Luke O'Sullivan  
assisting in Glashule

Commiserations to **Max Mooney (Sixth Year) and the Senior Soccer squad** who were defeated 4-3 on penalties by Moyle Park Clondalkin after a pulsating Dublin Metropolitan South League final played in driving wind and rain on Tuesday March 7th in Stella Maris FC. Two goals by Fergal O'Sullivan contributed to a 3-3 draw but unfortunately the shoot-out did not go our way. We wish the squad well in the Dublin North v South league playoffs.

In rugby commiserations to our **Third Year JCT** players who despite a valiant effort narrowly lost to St. Michael's in their semi-final. It was an incredible performance by the team. As we go to print our J2s, J3s and J4/5s are preparing for their respective finals. The J3s, aided by superb support on the side-lines, overcame a very well drilled St Michael's side to book their place in the final. This atmosphere pitch side was surpassed a few days later with an epic semi-final between the J4s and 5s. The J4s emerged victorious.

Organisation, self-management, time-management and persistence are just some of the skills learned from the recent **Fifth Year exam period**. We hope that the exam experience has helped students to build confidence and to better understand what is working and what's not with their study and exam techniques.

Relaunching the MUN conference circuit, Fifth Years were front and centre hosting over 170 delegates from 15 different schools exploring and debating areas such as Global Inflation and Judicial Integrity. The Wesley MUN saw a high number of Commended Delegate Awards for the Blackrock Afghanistan and Russian delegations. It is great to see MUN back!



It was great to see three **Third Years** form part of our **intermediate swimming freestyle and medley relay teams** at the school's relay competition held recently at the National Aquatic Centre. Well done to Cuan Fallon, Oliver Lee and Ciaran Murphy who competed.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



On **Ash Wednesday**, 2nd March, the **Class of 2022** were given the opportunity to receive blessed ash from Mr Madden and Ms Crimmins. All were reminded of the Lenten challenge to remain 'faithful to the Gospel'. The Pastoral Team hopes that many **Sixth Years** will respond to the invite that will be extended to all, to actively participate in the Graduation Eucharist in May.

Thank you to the **Fifth Year Parents' Committee** for organising the **Fifth Year Parents' Social**, a wonderful evening of great food and great company enjoyed by all.

The **Class of 2022** completed their final set of **in-house examinations between March 8th and 25th**. While reports will not be finalised until April 9th, class teachers have been providing results and advice on both the quality and quantity of study that needs to be done by Leaving Cert students over the remaining weeks of term.

We commend all **Second Years** who have made such **fine contributions** to their families and wider communities through their **Auxilium** service. We know this service to others has the power to transform and we look forward to reading the boys' reflections on their time.



Willow Park and TY Students with Ronnie Delany at the Rock Run Launch

The **5k Rock Run Launch** took place on Tuesday 22nd March in the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre here in the College. It was launched Olympic Gold Medallist from Melbourne 1956, Ronnie Delany, who was also our official race starter on the day of the run itself, Saturday April 2nd. Jack Gormley did a fantastic job as MC of the event along with Patrick Moore and Tom O'Connor who spoke about the work of our charity partners for Rock Run 2022, CF Ireland and Aidlink respectively. Many thanks also to the students involved in the wider TY launch team for all their work in preparation of the launch.

The **2nd/4th Year Musical** 'Irish College uncovered' ran from the 5th – 7th April in the Jubilee Hall to packed but most importantly hugely entertained audiences. The Junior Musical is always a highlight of the TY calendar!

Congratulations to our **Second Year swimmers** who competed so well in the Irish Senior School Relays in the National Aquatic Centre on Sunday, 20th March. We commend, Ted Taylor, Alex Browne, Charlie Collenette and Josh Murphy who achieved 3rd place in the 200 Freestyle Relay and 5th place in the 200 Medley Relay.

Congratulations to **Third Years Patrick Cody and Joey Conolly** who have qualified for the **Leinster Golf Finals** by finishing second in the recent qualifiers held in Belcarrick Golf Course in Donabate. We look forward to the Leinster Finals after Easter.



6th Year Band Electric Ski

**Wesley Music Festival** took place on the weekend of 4th/5th March. We congratulate the **6th Year** band 'Electric Ski' comprising Harry Ballard, Colm Fagan, Nicholas Kelly, James McCarthy & Mark Phelan, who alongside the Libermann Choir, the Jazz Band and Rockapella were all awarded 1st Class Honours in their respective competitions.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Well done to all **Fifth Year Senior and House Rugby players** on their commitment and drive throughout their extended seasons. We commend the teams and players across all sports for their good humour, cooperation, and sportsmanship all winter and we look forward to the summer season.



Mark Phelan & Alex Hughes 6th Year

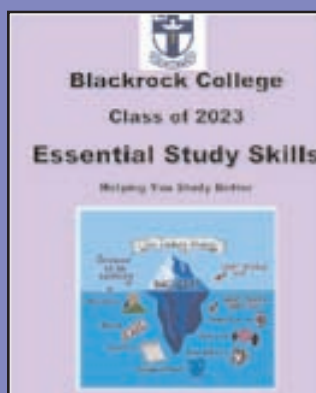
Fresh from their work experience week just before February midterm **TY students** returned and though we have had two weeks of Easter Exams since the February midterm the Transition Years have managed to pack in a lot of activities. The first day back after midterm saw all of Transition Year go out on tours for the morning to Jumpzone, GoQuest Games and Ranforest Golf. We are very proud of the part played by Jack Angulo, Charlie Moloney and Conor O'Shaughnessy in what was a thrilling SCT campaign. Barista, Cookery and Sound Engineering evening courses continued along with 13 Transition Year modules. I want to congratulate all of the TY students involved in the fantastic production of 'Grease' with Rathdown School. Commiserations to our TY GAA team on their recent loss in the Dublin final. Congratulations to Mr Grant and the entire squad on a fantastic season.

Between March 28th and April 1st, a week of **mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages** took place. These mocks presented the **6th Year** students with a most valuable opportunity to prepare for their State Orals at Easter. Many thanks to Mr. Savage for his organisation of this timetable.

We commend **Basketball** captain **David Hopkins**, vice-captain **Gearóid Nutley (Second Year)** and the squad on their league performance. They won two out of three matches in the pool stages, and were drawn against Castleknock Community College for the Quarter-Final, losing narrowly to them in the final minutes.

Congratulations to **Jamie Shanley** and his squad on their performance in the inaugural **Rugby Festival for 2nd Year teams**, finishing 3rd of 12 schools, organised by, and held in, Terenure College over two days in March.

The **Fifth Year Study Skills Focus Group** were proud to share their publication with the year group in advance of the Easter Exams. With key tips and guidance, it is hoped all will reference the study guide regularly over the next year and beyond



On the back of the wonderful SCT campaign, we congratulate **Sixth Years** Hugh Cooney, Gus McCarthy, Paddy McCarthy and Liam Moloney (UI9 v France) and Inigo Cruise O'Brien and Ruben Moloney (UI8 Six Nations) who **have been selected for international fixtures over the Easter break**. We wish them well.

Congratulations to Ryan Holmes and Tommy Hanrahan (both **6th Year**) who were members of the Mount Merrion FC team that won the Leinster League with victory over Cabinteely Boys FC.



Ryan Holmes & Leinster League Cup

We congratulate our **Second Years, Matthew Wyse, Geoffrey Wall, Luka Kelly and Luke Coffey** on their immense contribution to the **JCT squad** this season. Outstanding!

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



## Dates for TY Diary:

TBC: MasterChef Heats and Finals

29th Apr – 06th May: Transition Pilgrimage to Santiago

02nd – 06th May: Music, Art and Drama Week

06th May: Leman Concert

15th May: Sports and Family Day

16th - 20th May: TY Work Experience II

24th May: TY Days of Refection

27th May: Dragons' Den Final

30th and 31st May – Portfolio Assessment and Interview

## Important Dates for 6th Year Term 3

**Tuesday 3th May** 6th Year Parents' Conference

**Sunday 15th May** Sports & Family Day

**Sunday 22th May** 6th Year Graduation Mass

**Saturday 28th May** Academic Prize Giving

**Wednesday 1st June** Class ends for 6th Year Students

**Wednesday 8th June** Public Examinations begin

Even with exams the **TY** team has still managed to produce some excellent episodes. An interview with journalist Ian O'Doherty, Deputy Cormac Devlin and discussion panel with Councillor Séafra Ó Faoláin and Mr Byrne were among the highlights. All episodes are available on spotify.com by searching 'Rockcast 2022'.

We commend the **Second Years** for their superb engagement with the **Inter-House Easter Egg Drive in aid of Spirasi**. Our aim was to bring some **joy to the children** who are living in direct provision, seeking asylum from many different regions of the world, this Easter.

The **Green Schools Committee** led by **Fifth Years** Frazer McGinn and Ben Cantwell brought the themes of Litter and Waste to the attention of all in early March raising awareness around Fast Fashion and Battery Recycling. We thank all the Committee for their tremendous efforts.

We congratulate Gus McCarthy and his squad on bringing the **SCT Cup back to the College** for the 70th time following their victory over Gonzaga in the RDS on April 3rd. The huge turnout in the College to welcome the squad home is a testament to the 'Joy' that this group of young men have brought to school life throughout Term 2. We also congratulate and thank Mr Vanstone and his team of coaches for all their work invested in the squad throughout the season.



Just after the Easter exams 18 'Rock students made up of **TY's** and 5th Years hosted 18 of their peers from our fellow Spiritan school **Holy Ghost Prep from Philadelphia, USA**. A fantastic week full of activities took place ranging from the Croke Park Skyline Tour to Ireland v Lithuania in the Aviva, to a day trip to the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. There was even a Magician thrown in at one stage for good measure along with much more besides! The return trip to Philadelphia will be taking place during the first week of the Easter break. My thanks to Mr Maher and Dr Maguire for their incredible work in making all of this possible!

The Gaelic football team were convincing winners in an impressive display against Old Bawn Community School in the **semi-final**. However, our fantastic run came to an end against a very good side from Gaelcholáiste Reachrann. Well done Jay Courtney, Rory Donohoe, Michael Duncan, Ronan Ffench and James Neary ( **Third Years** ) on their run to the Dublin Schools Junior Final.



Blackrock and Holy Ghost Prep Students visiting Glendalough



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



19 **Fifth Year** students are finishing off the term tackling the **Camino de Santiago**, walking up to 30km a day to earn their passport stamps and certificate of completion. We wish the group and their accompanying teachers the very best on this often life changing adventure.



The **6th Year Parents' Committee** is continuing its excellent work with much focus this term being directed towards fund-raising for the trip to Kenya this Summer. So far there has been a Bake Sale, a Ladies and Men's Lunch and a Golf Outing in Elm Park. The Graduation sub-Committee is also working hard on the planning and organisation of the Graduation Lunch on May 22nd in the Pavilion in Leopardstown.

It was great to see so many **Third Years** competing in the recent **Rock 5k** charity run. In particular - congratulations to Declan Cadden who was first home in Third Year with an impressive time of 20:19.

The **TY Dragons' Den 2022** process continued in earnest straight after the February midterm with a large number of individuals and groups registering the entry into the competition. There has been an Idea Generation Workshop along with a mentoring session with the Dragons. There will be further workshops in the summer term in advance of the Dragons' Den final in late May.

We congratulate our **Second Years** for their fine performances in the Second and Fourth Year Musical, *Irish College Uncovered*. Well done to **Jack Deegan-McGovern, James Donohoe, David Healy, Luc O hAonghusa and Daniel Patterson**.

Well done to our **Second Years** who volunteered their time during **Environmental Awareness Week** to do Litter Patrol on lunchtimes during the week. A great contribution from **Brian Carroll** (Green Schools Committee), **Daniel Courtney, Jack Deegan-McGovern, Kieran Flowers, Owen Flowers, Hugh Landy, Luc O hAonghusa, Conor Sheehan and Kian Toralde**.

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



Andrew McCarthy (McQuaid) emerged the winner of the **6 Nations Fantasy League for 2022**. We thank Kevin Jackson for his organisation of this year's event and this victory means McQuaid House lead the way in the 6th Year Inter-House overall competition. As we head to the final term with a **6th Year Soccer League** and Sports Day yet to take place, there are still many House points to be played for.

As part of Addiction Awareness Day on April 7th, the **6th Year** students watched the powerful film 'Michael Inside' by Frank Breen. Many thanks to Ms Jennifer McGuire and the Parents' Council for organising this most important event in the college calendar.

The day of the **5k Rock Run** run itself was a fantastic day where the entire Blackrock College and Willow Park community came together to support two wonderful causes. The sound of the crowd in the Sports Hall was absolutely fantastic. All parts of the Blackrock College Community were represented; students, staff, past pupils, families, the Spiritan Community, and many more friends of the College. Sincere thanks to our main sponsor KPMG for their continued support of the event along with our official suppliers on the day of the event itself; General Mills and Yoplait Ireland, Applegreen, Brendan Kavanagh and CKS. Roll on Rock Run 2023!

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Well done to Shane Hamilton, Darragh O' Neil and Ishaan Pandey who ably represented **Third Year** in the recent MACE **debate** with Holy Child Killiney. Ishaan was voted best speaker.

The **Wesley Music Festival** returned in March. We congratulate **2nd Years** Jamie Browne Lynch who won 2nd place in Classical Acoustic Guitar Under 15 competition and well done to James Donohue who was awarded 1st Class Honours in the Solo Singing competition.

Congratulations to Rory O'Shea, Ross Halpin and Ben Bracken, the **6th Year members of the Senior Golf team** that qualified for the Leinster Finals in Woodenbridge GC on March 7th. We wish them continued success in this competition.



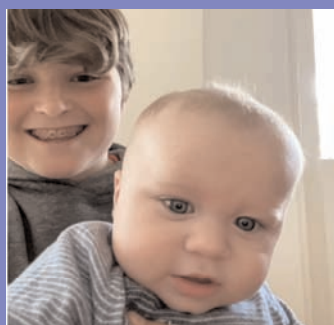
Fifth members of the SCT - Winners of the Leinster Senior Rugby Cup 2022



Cormac Egan, Conor Ryan and Conal Hodges (Fifth Year) Graduates of Youth Leadership and Community Action from NUI Galway.



Andrew Keyes (Second Year) Auxilium Service in Action



Jack Deegan McGovern (Second Year) Auxilium Service in Action



Jack Spain (Second Year) Auxilium Service in Action



Finn Hamilton (Second Year) Auxilium Service in Action



Second Years during Seachtain na Gaeilge



Charlie White (Second Year) winner of the Rock 5k Run



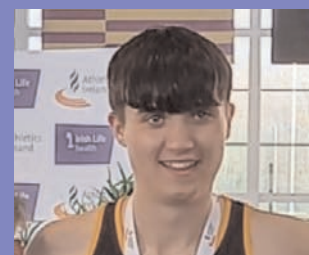
2nd Year Jack Deegan McGovern performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



2nd Year D Healy performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



(L) D Flannery (4th Year) and (r) P Hayden (4th Year) performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



Conn Lucey (Fifth Year) U18 4x200m Gold Medal at the National Indoor Championships



# Green Schools



The focus of Green Schools this term was awareness raising about Litter, Waste and Recycling in the College. On our return from Midterm, we held the second **Environmental Awareness Week (EAW)** of the year which was a huge success. Our main theme for the week was **'Litter, Waste and Recycling'** and this is our focus for our next flag. On Tuesday the theme was 'Plastic Waste', Wednesday was 'Fast Fashion and Clothing Waste', Thursday was 'Electronic Waste' and on Friday the theme was 'Food Waste'.

Green Schools organised an event or activity for students each day. On Tuesday all students were asked to complete a Kahoot quiz centred around **plastic waste**. Senior (non-exam) RE and TY RE students watched a brilliant movie called **'The Great Green Wall'**. On Wednesday a short clip was shown to classes explaining **fast fashion and clothing waste**. We teamed up with **ClothesPod.ie** and provided collection points where students could bring in used/unwanted clothes. The funds raised from the clothing collection were donated to Spirasi.



On Thursday we planned a **Beach Clean-up** but the tide was in, so 4th Years did a **Blackrock Park clean-up** instead and we also launched our **battery recycling** initiative. The committee made a video that was shown to classes highlighting the locations of our battery recycling boxes. We encourage all students and staff to drop off their used batteries regularly.

We also sent out a poster to the Year Group Teams to provide students with **tips on how to conserve energy** when using their Surface Go's. We had a **Litter Patrol** each day at lunchtime and were delighted to see so many Second Years volunteering their time. Finally, we sent a **survey to all students and staff** asking for feedback on how we can improve our litter and waste collection in the College. We were very happy with the response rate and will use the data collected to create our Action Plan. Overall, it was a very successful week, and we raised a lot of awareness within our school community around our main focus which was litter and waste.



4th Years doing the Blackrock Park Clean-up.



4th Years helping load up the Clothes Pod van with clothing donations for recycling



Litter Patrol Volunteers (L to R) K Toralde, G Quinn, J Star-Bourke, F McGinn, R. Fahy, D. Courtney, K. Flowers, L. O hAonghusa, J. Deegan-McGovern

## Archives Update



Archivists and researchers all over the world appreciate the many benefits the digitisation of records brings. While many records made today are 'born digital' (i.e. produced and accessed in digital formats), digitised records are the scanned versions of records originally produced in hard copy, such as printed or hand-written documents, photographic negatives, glass plates or developed photographs. Other analogue records include cassette and VHS tapes. Most of the collection at Blackrock College Archives is in this format. Digitised and web-accessible records promote greater access to these records and reduces the physical handling of fragile records. The accessibility of digitised records was brought into greater focus in March 2020 when Covid-19 forced the closure of most archives. Scanning a hard-copy record produces a new digital object that requires preservation, as issues such as hardware and format obsolescence, the application of descriptive labels (metadata), security and storage must be built into their management.

Over the past ten years or so Blackrock College Archives has been digitising some of its frequently accessed records and plans for the digitisation of many more is envisioned for the period 2023-2025. Daily requests are received from past students and researchers for copies of the college annual, a publication that has been in production since 1930. The college's very old and fragile photographic albums, some of which date back as far as 1866, have had each of their photographs scanned so that reduced access to the originals is ensured, thus safeguarding their bindings and reducing exposure to harmful UV rays. Candidates for digitisation in the near future include old financial ledgers



Blackrock College Senior Cricket Team, from the 'Keawell Annual', 1907-08

listing enrolled students from 1862 and annuals produced in the period 1904-1909. The latter, known as the 'Keawell Annuals', were spearheaded by Fr James Keawell (1861-1942). These annuals served as combined prospectus, summary of prize winners, photographs of teams and societies, and the listing of students in the Civil Service College (Castle) or past students gone on to greater appointments. They are a valuable source of data for researchers. Their current state (as the illustrations show) is very fragile.



'Keawell Annual', 1908-09

The Archives welcomes any enquiries relating to our digitised resources – annuals and photographs. Please email: [archives@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:archives@blackrockcollege.com).

Jessica Cunningham, Archivist.



A group photograph from an album produced in 1887



# Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2022



President of the Blackrock Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982) with Ronnie Delany (Rock Run 2022)



Action from the Rock Run 2022



Runners examine the course (Rock Run 2022)



President of the Blackrock Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982) with Ronnie Delany (Rock Run 2022)



Action from the 2022 Rock Run



Action from the 2022 Rock Run



Callum Dee (left) winner of Poc Fada and Daniel Berry winner of Dúshlán Trasnáin (2nd Years) during Seachtain na Gaeilge



Second Years enjoying Céilí dancing during Seachtain na Gaeilge



Second Years enjoying Céilí dancing during Seachtain na Gaeilge



Second Years who participated in the Poc Fada and Dúshlán Trasnáin with Ms Ní Shíocháin during Seachtain na Gaeilge



Daniel Patterson (2nd Year) performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



D Healy, J Donohoe and L O hAonghusa (2nd Years) performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



# Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2022



Some of the Cast performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered'



Mr A Macginty, Ishaan Ppandey, Connor McCarron, Diarmaid Byrne, Simon Considine, James Donoghue and Ms Katie Buckley



JCTV St Michael's



Ben O' Halloran and Cormac Sheehan (Third Years)  
JCTV St Michael's



Joe Reddan, Ruairi Houlihan, Johnny O' Sullivan  
and Cian O' Connell (Third Years)  
JCTV St Michael's



Matthew Wyse (Second Year) and Michael Walsh (Third Year)  
JCTV St Michael's



JCTV St Michael's



Johnny O' Sullivan (Third Year) JCTV Pres Bray



Joe Redden (Third Year) JCTV Pres Bray



Cian O' Connell (Third Year) JCTV Pres Bray



JCTV Wesley



# Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2022



Fifth Years donate Easter Eggs for Children living in Direct Provision



Second Years donate Easter Eggs for Children living in Direct Provision



Second and Fifth Year students donate over 800 Easter Eggs to Spirasi



Cheerleaders doing a magnificent job coordinating College support of the SCT



Andrew McConn -Walsh , Patrick Clancy and Joe Redden ( Third Year ) JCTV Wesley



Sami Bishti , Joe Reddan , Cian O' Connell and Ruiari Houlihan ( Third Years ) JCTV Wesley



Ben Crowley and Ben O' Halloran JCTV Wesley



Hugh Cooney ( Sixth Year ) SCTV Terenure



SCTV Terenure Paddy Van Zuydam



Oliver Coffey 5th Year ( SCTV Terenure )



Eoghan Walsh ( 5th Year ) SCTV Terenure



Ruben Maloney ( 6th Year ) SCTV Terenure



Zach Quirke and Liam Moloney ( Sixth Year ) Tom Briggs ( 5th Year ) and Paddy Mc Carthy SCTV Terenure



Oran Smith (Sixth Year) Cheerleaders SCTV St Michael's



# Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2022



Jamie McGloughlin (Sixth Year) Charlie Malony (TY) and Cian Ryan (Sixth Year) ( SCT V St Michael's )



Daniel Bennet (Fifth Year) Senior Soccer Final Blackrock v Moyle Park



Fergal O' Sullivan (Sixth Year) Callum Dunne (5th Year) Senior Soccer v Coláiste Pobail Setant



Max Mooney ( Captain ) Blackrock College V Moyle Park



Fergal O' Sullivan (6th Year ) Blackrock College V Moyle Park



Tommy Hanrahan (6th Year) Blackrock College V Moyle Park

## Snapshot of Holy Ghost Prep Philadelphia Trip



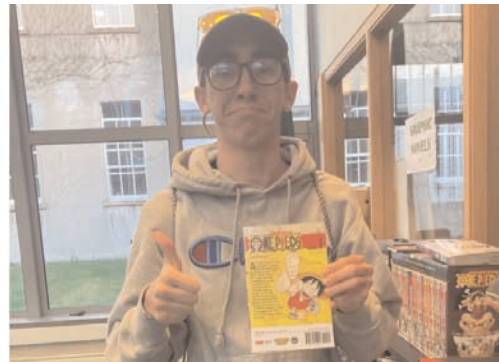
A **Fifth-Year** group have enjoyed the privilege of welcoming students from **Holy Ghost Prep Philadelphia** to the College and their homes. After an active and engaging week the Americans have returned home. We wish them a safe trip and look forward to the return trip to Philadelphia over the Easter Holidays.



Visit to Glendalough



The GPO, Easter Rising Walking Tour



Carmen loved our comic collection



An introduction to Irish chocolate



Keeping a close eye on the magician



The Cliffs of Moher



# Snapshot of 2022 Leinster Senior Cup Final.



**Our 70th Cup Win - Blackrock College 50 V Gonzaga College SJ 21**



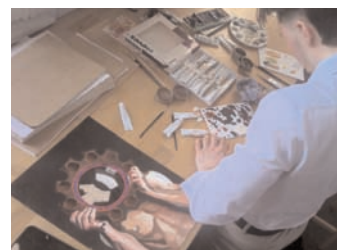
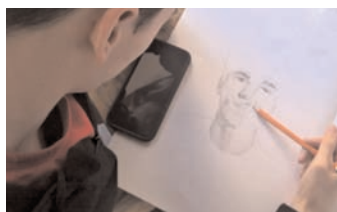


# Snapshot of 2022 Leinster Senior Cup Final





Art Club in progress. Open to all Wednesdays 1.00 to 3.00.



## Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

The Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre has continued to be vibrant space in the school. Lunchtime activities remain very popular and while exams took place, these activities were put on hold to give students a quieter space to study.

### Researching De Valera

Ms A. Dillon teamed up with Dr Jessica Cunningham from archives for a talk on researching De Valera to Mr Byrne's TY History Class. Ms A. Dillon spoke about indexes and highlighted websites that might help students in their research including [scoilnet.ie](http://scoilnet.ie), [Dictionary of Irish Biography](http://Dictionary of Irish Biography) and [Ask About Ireland](http://Ask About Ireland).

### Researching Information on the Russian-Ukraine conflict

Ms A. Dillon gave a talk to all 2nd and 3rd Year CSPE students on researching information on the Russian-Ukraine conflict. During the class students learned about propaganda, false flags, misinformation vs disinformation, deep fake technology and the differences between mainstream media and social media. There are a number of pre-existing videos on the internet that are erroneously being shared as events coming from the Ukraine, for instance a video game purporting to be an airstrike in Ukraine was shared 3.1 million times on TikTok. Students were shown techniques to verify images and videos such as reverse image search and geo location.



Image from Military Video Game Arma 3 shared on social media as an Airstrike in Ukraine

### Wordle

As most of us have gotten hooked on Wordle, students can now play it on the big screen in the library at lunch. Some are lucky and solve the Wordles quickly while others take a few attempts. Either way Wordle is a great way to improve spelling and widen vocabulary.

### Reading Promotion

To offer an opportunity for Parents to share recommended books with each other, a [new Parent \(Past and Present\) Recommendations](https://forms.office.com/r/0nahPRbkQt) page has been added to the library website. Parents (past and present) are welcome to recommend a book by completing a form that can be accessed by clicking on <https://forms.office.com/r/0nahPRbkQt> or scanning the following QR Code



Scan here to recommend a book

### Seachtain na Gaeilge Music Special

Taking the idea from Thursday Tunes a lunchtime music session took place in the Library on Friday 1st April to celebrate traditional music as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge.

### Senior Debating

This term has seen particular focus on the final stages of the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition. The quarter finals saw a return to in-person debating in UCD, with the motion being inspired by International Women's Day. Ben Kieran-Glennon (5th Year) and Patrick Hayden (4th Year) proposed that all states should create special economic zones in cities, where all economic activities are carried out by women. The standard of competition was very high, and the 'knock-out' format meant that getting a place in the final was difficult. Both Ben and Patrick spoke excellently, however the adjudicators selected Ben to proceed to the Semi-Final round. High praise is due to Patrick who participated in the senior section of the competition for the first time this year and did so with great commitment and enthusiasm.

The semi-final of the competition took place in the Graduate's Memorial Building, TCD, with the theme of social justice. Ben successfully proposed the motion which supported the illegal removal of statues of popular historical figures by social justice movements who consider them to be offensive. Again, this was a hotly contested debate, and we congratulate Ben for his superb participation. The final debate of the competition will take place in the Fitzgerald Chamber, UCD, in early April.

There is certainly lots to look forward to in the final term. Highlights will include the staging of the Teacher vs Student Debate, the Fourth/Fifth Year Gold Medal Debates, and the Sixth Year Centenary Medal Debate. We are also looking forward to a collaboration with Holy Child, Killiney for a friendly debate at the beginning of May.

### Junior Debating

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

Blackrock Team C 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 successfully broke to the Octo-Final round of the competition which took place on Thursday, February 17th in UCD. Ishaan and Darragh opposed the motion: This House Would Allow Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) at the Olympics.

Blackrock Junior Debaters hosted a friendly debate against Holy Child Killiney on Friday April 1st. The speakers were: Brian Carroll, Jamie Brown-Lynch, Cillian Staunton, Josh Murphy, Rossa Clonan (All 2nd Year students) and Shane Hamilton, Darragh O'Neill and Ishaan Pandey (All 3rd Year students).

Motion 1: *This House Believes that the Criminal Justice System Should Focus More on Punishment than on Rehabilitation.*

The top 8 speakers from Round 1 competed in the Final Round arguing either side of the motion: *This House Believes That Free Speech is an Absolute Right.*

Top 8 speakers were:

Laura Finucane, Grace Mongey, Penelope Tennyson-Smith & Orla Casey from Holy Child Killiney

Rossa Clonan ( 2nd Year ) , Darragh O'Neill, Cillian Staunton & Ishaan Pandey (All Third Year ) from Blackrock College.

The judges announced that Proposition: Laura, Rossa, Ishaan and Orla confidently won this Final Round with Ishaan Pandey (3rd Year) and Penelope Tennyson-Smith voted as the best speakers of the afternoon. We are especially grateful to our judging panel: Jack Burke and Liam Norton ( Fifth Year ) , Michael Redmond, Joshua Scallon, Matthew Kane ( Sixth Year ) and our guests: Ms. Galvin, Sheana-Ann Plaza, Darragh O'Kane, Leo Wright and Matthew Leahy.



Four teams who 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

Best speakers at Blackrock College V Holy Child Killiney friendly debate were Ishaan Pandey (3rd Year) and Penelope Tennyson-Smith (2nd Year).



# The Arts Cont'd



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 on April 23rd, 2022. Josh was also announced as joint 3rd Best Speaker. A special thanks to Alex Browne (2nd Year) who joined this competition with only hours to go!

We look forward to our last 2 debates of the year – against 1st Year Willow Park and the 2nd & 3rd Year Gold Medal Debate. Both events will be hosted in May, 2022.



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

Rockapella also performed for and alongside the First Year students, passing the baton on to them.

The Leaving Certificate Music Practical Exams are taking place over the first week of the Easter holidays while the Junior Cycle Practical Exams will take place at the start of May. Sixth and Third Year students have been busy preparing for these - break a leg to all involved!

Finally, the Leman Festival Concert will take place on Friday, May 6th in the Quadrangle, right at the centre of our campus. We hope to see you there!



Gavin Bowen-O'Connor (Fifth Year) who came first in the Wesley International Schools Music Festival piano competition



P Hayden (4th Year) performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered.'



Members of the cast of performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered.'



Students performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered.'

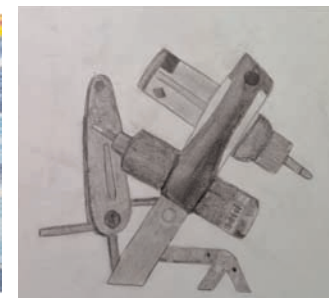


(2nd Years L to R) D Healy, J Donohoe and L O hAonghusa performing in the 2nd and 4th Year drama 'Irish College Uncovered.'

### A Selection of Students' Artwork



Darragh Bowler (4th Year)



Thomas Magee (Third Year)



Ethan Spain (Fourth Year)

The Junior Musical 'Irish College Uncovered', written and directed by the wonderful Brian Savage ran from April 5th – 7th in the Jubilee Hall and the cast was made up of Second and Fourth Year students in partnership with the great students of Loreto Abbey Dalkey. Third and Fifth Year students also played in the band alongside Ms. Una O'Kane, Mr. Chris O'Sullivan and the musical director, Mr. Killian Grumley Traynor. The energy from the cast, crew and band was phenomenal and the play was a resounding success, confirmed by the well-deserved standing ovations each night – we are all delighted to be back performing together, seeing as it has been 3 years since our last Junior Musical! The current Transition Year students had just begun rehearsing for their show in Second Year when Covid kicked in and had other plans.

We returned to Wesley Interschools Music Festival at the start of March. Congratulations to all 24 award winners between our soloists, duets, bands, choirs and ensembles. Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Seán Treacy, Joseph Gibney (all in Fifth Year) and Jamie Browne Lynch (Second Year) had outstanding performances, with Gavin receiving a First Prize and all others achieving Second Prizes in their respective competitions.

The Father Dowling Festival Concert took place on March 24th in Willow Park and the future is very bright! Huge congratulations to all performers and the production team. This was a great celebration of all things musical in First Year and senior students from



Rockapella at the Wesley Interschools Music Festival



Hugh Landy (Second Year)



George McGilton (Third Year)



Joseph O'Connell (5th Year)



# News from Past Pupils



Br Kellan Scott OP (Class of 2011) on the occasion of his Diaconate Ordination with his mother Ms Jackie Scott



Bro. Anthony Kavanagh OP, Archbishop Dermot Farrell and Bro. Kellan Scott OP (class of 2011) on the occasion of Brother Kellan's Diaconate Ordination



Principal Alan MacGinty addressing the lunch attendees at the 2022 Blackrock College Union London Lunch



President of the Blackrock Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982), presenting a gift to Francois Pienaar, Captain of the 1995 Rugby World Cup champions, South Africa



James Culhane (2021), Mark Morrissey (2020), Rory McGuire (2021), Ben Brownlee (2021), Michael Moloney (2021) all of whom helped Ireland win the 2022 U20 Six Nations Grand Slam

## Blackrock College Union London Lunch 2022

The annual Blackrock College Union London Lunch returned in March after a one-year absence. More than 100 guests gathered at Smith & Wollensky in Central London on the eve of the England v Ireland Six Nations match at Twickenham. Principal Alan MacGinty and President of the Blackrock College Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982) both spoke of the growing reach of the Blackrock family beyond our shores. The recipient of the UK Honouree award was Craig Doyle (Class of 1989), the sports broadcaster and producer. Craig conducted a post-lunch questions and answers session with special guest Francois Pienaar, the winning captain of the 1995 Rugby World Cup champions, South Africa.



Francois Pienaar in conversation with Craig Doyle (Class of 1989) at the Blackrock College Union London Lunch, 11th March 2022.



Guests at the 2022 Blackrock College Union London Lunch



Table plan for the Blackrock College Union London Dinner 2022



Craig Doyle with John Rogan (both Class of 1989) at the 2022 Blackrock College Union London Lunch

## Class of 2021

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for their outstanding achievements in the Leaving Certificate 2021. We congratulate them on their achievement which reflects well on them, their families, teachers, and the College.

## UCD Entrance Scholars Awards

Congratulations to Rory McGuire (Elite Sports), Alex Kelly (Performing Arts) and Jamie McMahon (Elite Sports) (all class of 2021) on their award of a UCD Ad Astra Scholarship.



President of the Blackrock Union, Robert Brophy (Class of 1982), presenting UK Honouree, Craig Doyle (Class of 1989), with his award at the 2022 Blackrock College Union London Lunch.

## Trinity College Dublin

Leaving Certificate 2021 The Entrance Exhibition Award is for the incoming student with the highest points in the Leaving Certificate from each school. This year's recipients are Matthew O'Meara, Alex Cronnelly, James Gray, Max Reid, Max Murphy and James Turley (ex aequo) (all class of 2021).

## UCD Scholarships

Congratulations to Jacob Antonio, Daniel Beatty, Conor Bleakly, Niall Brophy, Samuel Bruton, Maxwell Cosgrove, James Crowley, James Culhane, Hugh Cuniam, John Daly, Donal De Buiteir, Darragh Dempsey, John Dennison, Conor Duddy, Robert Gallagher, Matthew Gibney, Naoise Golden, Scott Graham, John Hall, Darragh Harrison, Shane Hutchinson, Mark Kelly, Alexander Kelly, Andrew Kinnear, Alexander Kirrane, Samuel Loscher, Aaron Lysaght Walsh, Cian Macken, Rory McGuire, James McMahon, Cian Moloney, Ivan Mooney, Daniel Mouatt, Adam Nealon (class of 2020), Mark O'Brien, Mark O'Connor, Dara O'Grady, Stephen O'Nuallain, Will O'Sullivan, Eoin O'Sullivan, Adam Patterson, Liam Prior, Shane Redahan, Jack Roche, Andrew Ryan, Gareth Stewart-Lord, and John Tarpey who have received a UCD Entrance Scholar Award. This is awarded to students who achieve 560 or more points in their Leaving Certificate.



# Pastoral Care Programme



## 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](mailto:fmadden@blackrockcollege.com) or phone 01 - 275 2125.

All are welcome.

What a difference a year makes! Thank God, the College is getting back to normal with all of our usual activities, celebrations, meetings, Camino and liturgies all taking place again. Blackrock is so much more than a school – it is wonderful that all that make up Blackrock can come together again to share in Blackrock ... on campus and in person.

As we journey through the season of Lent and approach Easter, we have much to celebrate and to be grateful for. Ash Wednesday was at the beginning of this half term – Ashes were distributed in all classes and hundreds of boys took Ashes home for families, grandparents and neighbours, a practical expression of our “be caring” value.

With the return of in person Parent Teacher Meetings it was suggested that the College Chapel would be open for parents to visit during each PTM and it was wonderful to see how many visited and spent some time in quiet prayer and contemplation – taking a few minutes “down-time” for themselves – this will be continued into the future.

As we journey towards Easter, practical and spiritual preparations are embraced in this half term. A week of Reconciliation Services in small groups for all Staff and Students is celebrated in the College Chapel with Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp. Spiritual Preparation by way of numerous Retreats for Parents, Grandparents, Students, Staff and Past Pupils are all part of this busy time of the Liturgical Calendar.



### Blackrock College Staff Retreat

We have learnt much from our living with the many changes which Covid has forced upon us – much good has come from these experiences, especially with the use of technology – each school day morning Mass is live streamed on the College Website at 8.15am and RTE TV have broadcast Mass from our beautiful College Chapel on an almost monthly basis this school year. Another benefit of technology will be that the Annual Past Pupils' Union Retreat on Holy Thursday and Good Friday will now be a hybrid Retreat and while our Past Pupils will be on campus for the Retreat, the broad Blackrock Family can join from home by registering on the PPU Website [www.rockunion.ie](http://www.rockunion.ie).

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

It was wonderful to welcome students and staff from Holy Ghost Prep School, Philadelphia which through a series of workshops highlighted our shared ethos and vision of education. The Holy Spirit is truly alive when we see what students of Spiritan Schools are doing, be it in Blackrock, Philadelphia or Machakos – we share a single ethos; over three centuries ago, our Co-founder Claude Poullart des Places wrote “ Lord, I will prepare missionaries for You, and then You can put them to work”. This work continues today as we all share in des Places' vision of and for education. What a difference a year makes – or maybe not – three centuries later, we strive together following des Places' vision. May the Spirit be with us all.



Blackrock College Staff Retreat

## Sacrament of Confirmation

For students wishing to be Confirmed in the Third Term, please register with [fmadden@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:fmadden@blackrockcollege.com)

## 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>

## MUN



Model  
United  
Nations

The Model UN Society has had a very busy few months since the start of the new year. With the welcome easing of restrictions, we were able to host ROCKMUN 2022 on the 18th/19th of February, welcoming close to 200 guests from schools across Dublin and Wicklow. This was the first conference to take place on the island of Ireland since the

pandemic began and the enthusiasm was palpable throughout the conference, particularly as this was many people's first MUN conference. The standard of debate was exceptional, and the event was highly praised by all in attendance.

Just 3 weeks after ROCKMUN, we headed off to WCDMUN (Wesley College Dublin MUN) on the 11th/12th of March to represent the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, and Colombia. The standard here was also very high and we came up against very strong competition in all committees. Despite this, we were delighted to win a wide array of individual awards, going to Frazer McGinn (Best Delegate in SPECPOL), Aran O'Flaherty (Highly Commended Delegate in Security Council), Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Ben Kieran-Glennon, Aaron Murtagh, Conor Casey (Commended Delegate in ECOSOC, DITECH, E&E, and H&Y respectively) and Tom Hayden (Best Junior Delegate in Historical). However, the cherry on top was most definitely the

Russian Federation, of Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Aaron Murtagh, Aran O'Flaherty, Conor Casey, Frazer McGinn, Jamie Starr Bourke, and Tom Hayden, winning Highly Commended Delegation (Awarded to the second-best delegation overall) at the conference.

On the 1st-3rd of April, the Blackrock College MUN society took part in the St Andrew's International MUN conference (SAIMUN), debating against 45 different delegations and over 300 delegates. The delegations represented by Blackrock were France (Keith Lyons, Frazer McGinn, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Jamie Starr Bourke (All 5th year) and Aran O'Flaherty (4th Year)) and Saudi Arabia Christopher Nolan (5th Year), Sebastian MacManus and Mark Ahern (Both 2nd Year)).

After three days of lobbying, debating, and voting the Blackrock delegation were extremely successful passing 4 out of their 5 resolutions in committee and getting to debate the French Security Council resolution in General Assembly.

The French delegation were awarded the OUTSTANDING DELEGATION (awarded for the best overall team performance) for the entire conference as well as 4 individual committee awards. These awards are as follows:

Ecology and Environment - **Frazer McGinn** (5th Year) – Distinguished Delegate  
Security Council - **Aran O'Flaherty** (4th Year) - Distinguished Delegate  
Special Political - **Gavin Bowen-O'Connor** (5th Year) - Distinguished Delegate





Social and Humanitarian – **Jamie Starr Bourke (5th Year)** - Distinguished Delegate

Thanks to Ms Fitzsimons for all her help and organisation for SAIMUN 2022.



Mr A. MacGinty, Jamie Starr-Bourke (5th Year), Aran O'Flaherty (4th Year), Frazer McGinn (5th Year), Gavin Bowen-O'Connor (5th Year), Keith Lyons (5th Year), Ms J Fitzsimons



Russian Federation (l-r)  
Front Row: Tom Hayden, Aran O'Flaherty, Frazer McGinn, Jamie Starr Bourke  
Back Row: Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Aaron Murtagh



Afghanistan (l-r) Ben Kieran-Glennon, James Lee, Sebastian MacManus, Mark Ahearne, Christopher Nolan, Keith Lyons



Blackrock delegates at WCDMUN:  
Front Row: Christopher Nolan, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Conor Casey, Sebastian MacManus, Mark Ahearne, James Lee, Jamie Starr Bourke  
Back Row: Aran O'Flaherty, Frazer McGinn, Aaron Murtagh, Keith Lyons, Ben Kieran-Glennon



Gavin Bowen-O'Connor accepting "Highly Commended Delegation" on behalf of the Russian Federation (l-r) Jamie Starr Bourke, Aaron Murtagh, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Aran O'Flaherty, Conor Casey, Frazer McGinn

## Guidance and Counselling



CAO – The CAO will reopen soon on the 5th May 2022 and remain open until the 1st of July. Students will be able to log back in, edit their course choices, add or remove courses. (You cannot add restricted courses)



PLC Course Applications are open – PLC Colleges have an ongoing application process; it is not too late to sign up and have those courses on hold as a back-up option if you do not get what you want on the CAO. First come first served.

## ANONYMOUS REPORTING TOOL

I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of our Anonymous Tool. It is available to the students on their team's account. They can report in a safe confidential manner; each message goes to me, Ms. Drew. This tool gives the students the ability to report without giving their name or email. Please encourage your son to report unacceptable behaviour. We all need support. Please contact me, Ms. Drew if you require further information on any of the above

We wish all the students a restful break over the Easter mid-term.

**Diary Date: CAO - Reopen 5th May 2022**

## Sport



### Athletics

The cross-country team lined up for the Leinster Cross Country Final in Santry Demesne on 16th February. In what was a tough competition with harsh conditions on the day, our teams managed to put in brave performances in each of their races. Up first were the Juniors 3km in a field of over 100 athletes. Callum Downes was first home to score for a team that would eventually finish 8th in the overall team standing. He was followed by Tom Hayden, Jamie Browne Lynch, Adam Kennedy, Hugh Barry, and Lorcan Lawless. Our sole intermediate runner Charlie White ran well in the 4.5km intermediate field and despite being one of the younger runners still managed to finish 35th.

The final race of the day was the senior boys' race which got shortened from 6km to 4.5km due to the weather. First home to score for



Charlie White finishing the intermediate race.



Junior boys team (L-R) Callum Downes, James Foot (Willow Park), Lorcan Lawless, Tom Hayden, Adam Kennedy, Hugh Barry

the team in the competition was Jack McGlone in 17th place. The rest of the team composed of Eoin Dunne, Oscar Lubliner, Liam Norton, James Carroll, Ryan Downes, and Dan Barry crossed the finish line to produce a performance that got them 7th team overall.

Junior Boys (All Second Year) placed 8th team  
Callum Downes  
Tom Hayden  
Jamie Browne Lynch  
Adam Kennedy  
Hugh Barry  
Lorcan Lawless

Intermediate Boys  
Charlie White

Senior Boys 7th place team overall  
Jack McGlone (5th Year)  
Eoin Dunne (3rd Year)



Senior boys team (L-R) Eoin Dunne, Jack McGlone, Oscar Lubliner, Liam Norton, James Carroll, Ryan Downes, and Dan Barry.

Oscar Lubliner (6th Year)  
Liam Norton (5th Year)  
James Carroll (6th Year)  
Ryan Downes (5th Year)  
Dan Barry (5th Year)

## Basketball

The 2nd Year basketball team had an impressive run in the league. Their final match of the pool resulted in a 37-11 win over St. Conleth's. Their work in the pool matches of the league saw the team to the Quarter-Final against Castleknock Community College. Despite their hard work on the court, the team were unable to secure a place in the Semi-Final, losing to Castleknock CC by just 4 points. The team has continued to work hard in training on Mondays and Wednesdays after school. Captain David Hopkins, vice-captain Gearóid Nutley and the rest of the team can be proud of their impressive energy and efforts over the course of the league.

## Chess

We have our first friendly tournament on the cards for after Easter. We hope to compete against St. Benildus College in a friendly tournament. Hector our coach, coaches both teams so it will be an interesting event. A close encounter lies ahead as both teams are very strong. There is no news yet of tournaments being organised by the Leinster Schools' Chess Association. Usually, finals are held around this time of year. It would be great to attend one or two before the holidays.

New members are always welcome at Chess Club; Tuesdays, and Thursdays in JS2 at 4-5pm.

## GAA

### Dublin Junior Schools Gaelic Football Quarter Final

Blackrock College 5-17

Coláiste Cois Life 4-10

Congratulations to Mark Dempsey (captain) and the Junior Gaelic football on their victory in Silverpark, Stillorgan last Tuesday. This game was a lot tighter than the result illustrates, and Blackrock was relieved when the referee's final whistle blew.

It really was a game of two halves and Blackrock looked to be in control and cruising in the first half. Goals from Sam Kilroy (4th Year) Shane Van Zaydum (4th Year) James Clancy (4th Year) Mark Dempsey (4th Year) strengthened their lead throughout. The score line at the interval reflected the dominance Blackrock had leading 4-9 to 1-2.

While Luke Murphy (4th Year) finished a team made effort to the net at the commencement of the 2nd half, this ironically signified the end of our dominance. Cois Life took the reins for the duration of the game. The Gaelscoil really showed their resilience and character gaining confidence and momentum on every score and capitalising on every mistake Blackrock made. If it wasn't for some great last gasp defending by Ernie O'Brien (4th Year) and Gavin Donohue (4th Year) as well several spectacular saves from goalkeeper Ronan Ffrench (3rd Year) this game may have slipped away from us.

We now move on to the semi-final against Old Bawn CS in Tallaght this Thursday, March 10th. With many Blackrock players absent due to injury and alternative commitments, other players firmly grabbed the opportunity to put their hands up for selection. This game once again really illustrated the pool of Gaelic football depth Blackrock possesses at this age group.

Thanks to Mr. O'Brien and Robert Kenny (class of 2021) and Pat Smith for organising and coaching the team.

### Dublin Junior Schools Semi-Final

Blackrock College 10-

Old Bawn Community School 2-3

Congratulations to captain Mark Dempsey (4th Year) and the squad on this comprehensive victory in Tallaght on Thursday, March 10th. Right from the throw in Blackrock dominated proceedings. Sam Kilroy (4th Year) consistently broke the defensive line and scored a hat-trick within the first twenty minutes. Two goals from James Clancy (4th Year) and another from Mark Dempsey soon followed. The score line at half-time reflected the control Blackrock had leading 6-8 to 0-1.

Unlike the quarter final the previous week, the team never let the standards slip in the second half. Sam Kilroy scored another brace as well Shane Van Zuydam (4th Year) and Jay Courtney (3rd Year) adding to our goal scoring tally. Old Bawn showed great character in the last few minutes of the game and their efforts were rewarded scoring two consolatory goals of their own.

All players who toggled for this match received game time, with several players ceasing the opportunity to put their hands up for selection for the final. We now await the

winners of Skerries Community College and Gaelcholáiste Reachrann. We won this competition two years ago and we are determined to retain the cup to qualify for the Leinster competition. We have unfinished business being deprived of the opportunity to compete in Leinster on account of lockdown restrictions in 2020.

Thanks to Mr. O'Brien, Robert Kenny (class of 2021) and Mr. Pat Smith for organising and coaching the team.

## Golf

The senior team finished 2nd in the 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.

### Scores:

75 Rory O'Shea

77 Jake Foley

79 Ross Halpin

80 Ben Bracken

81 James Heavey

### Reserves:

Sean Harty

Matthew O'Brien

Jacques De Patoul

The seniors have advanced to the provincial which is due to take place on the 13th of April at the Heritage Golf Club.

The junior team also finished 2nd in regional qualifying, and advance to their provincial finals. The team performed admirably on a difficult windy day in Balcarrick GC on March 14th. The next stage is on April 11th in Kilcock GC.

### Scores: (stableford points)

David Hopkins 38 points (8 hcp)

Patrick Cody 34 points (15 hcp)

Joey Connelly 28 points (8 hcp)

In both senior and junior provincial finals, 9 schools will compete for the Leinster title, and the winner of each category will advance to the all-Ireland finals on the 25th of April in Milltown GC.

## JCT



JCTV St Michael's

We salute the gargantuan efforts of Michael Walsh (3rd Year) and his Junior Cup Rugby Squad who lost to St. Michael's in the Junior Cup Semi Final of the Leinster Schools Cup. They gave their all, as they have done throughout the year. Great team spirit, courage, determination and tenacity were in evidence in all facets of the game and although the result did not go our way this Blackrock junior team lived up to the finest traditions of the College

## SCT

The delay to the start of this year's Senior Cup competition led to a knock-on later in the campaign, meaning only the second round was played before the usual culmination date of St Patrick's Day. A full three weeks after our first game, an excellent 48-0 victory was produced over a gallant Terenure College in round two.



Gus McCarthy and his team put together a powerful performance that day, with seven of the eight tries coming from different individuals.

A repeat performance was to be needed against a talented Newbridge side just over a fortnight later if we were to contest the delayed final with Gonzaga in the RDS on the 3rd April. Thankfully the squad reset, stayed focused and prepared well for Newbridge during the exam period. Although a 41-5 scoreline does not reflect the contest as a whole, huge credit must go to the team on the way they accumulated some excellent scores which ultimately put the result beyond their tenacious, well-prepared opponents. The senior team have been built upon a strong defensive foundation, and it was no different this day without the ball also. Keeping Newbridge to a single try, when under pressure for long periods, was testimony to their attitude and the work they have put in all year and was just as pleasing as the wonderful tries scored that day.

Victory against Newbridge set up an even greater challenge in the final ten days later against Gonzaga College. Our opponents, crowned Leinster League winners earlier in the season, and in their second senior final in the past four years, came into the contest full of confidence. An early try would have added further to that belief, but once again our Gus McCarthy led senior team showed their quality and character to produce their finest performance to date, winning 50-21, and bringing home the Cup for the 70th time in the College's proud history.

Once again, the score line does not tell the whole story. Gonzaga showed incredible quality on attack, matched with their determination and organisation on defence. The game was touch-and-go for large periods, but a few late scores opened the gap as our team pushed on in relentless fashion. The quality on display from both



SCTV Terenure



SCTV St Michael's



SCTV Newbridge



SCTV St Michael's



SCTV Gonzaga

sides made it as an impressive a spectacle as we have seen in recent finals history and both groups of players should be wholeheartedly commended for playing an equal part in that. Well done everyone involved in the RDS and all those who have made such a day possible.

## Soccer



Ryan Holmes and Fergal O' Sullivan (Sixth Years) Senior Soccer Final, v Moyle Park

After successful outings against Millfield & St. Benildus, the senior soccer team, unfortunately, lost to Moyle Park on penalties in the South Dublin Metropolitan league. It was a fantastic effort by the team, playing against a very strong Moyle Park side. Goals from Fergal O'Sullivan x2 (6th Year) and Louis Kenefick (5th Year) in normal time saw the game go to extra time. It took an incredible save from the Moyle Park goalkeeper to deny Callum Dunne (5th Year) in extra time to bring the game to penalties. As always, penalties are a lottery and unfortunately for the soccer team, it was not our day. The boys will regroup and face Coláiste Pobail Setanta in the knockout stages of the Dublin Metropolitan league.

## Swimming

Congratulations to our Relay teams who competed at intermediate and junior level last Sunday, 20th March  
Irish Senior School Relays – National Aquatic Centre – March 20, 2022

### Intermediate Relays

#### 200 Freestyle Relay: 7th Place

Michael Curley (4th Year)	25.59
Oliver Lee (3rd Year)	28.27
Cuan Fallon (3rd Year)	29.05
Ciaran Murphy (3rd Year)	29.76

#### 200 Medley Relay: 6th Place

Michael Curley (4th Year)	32.63
Oliver Lee (3rd Year)	36.37
Cuan Fallon (3rd Year)	34.09
Ciaran Murphy (3rd Year)	29.37

Photos courtesy Rock Photography  
[www.rockphotography.ie](http://www.rockphotography.ie)



# Reflection

At Easter, a time of hope and light , we pray for the people of Ukraine.

## **In this time of crisis**

Jesus, light of the world  
you promised to be always with us.

Be with our sisters and brothers now,  
dispelling the darkness of this crisis.

Compel us to be with them too  
in thought, prayer, and solidarity,  
responding to their suffering  
with the same compassion you have  
shown us.

We make this prayer in the firm faith  
that your light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

(Anon)