



Message from the Director of Boarding

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."
- Pablo Picasso

At the time of writing, it has been 50 short days since August 28th, 2022, when we welcomed 88 excited, albeit nervous, young men into the Castle. Some returning to us for the 6th consecutive year – ready to face into the challenge of their Leaving Certificate, and some for the very first time. Both equally ready to embrace life in the Castle. Each new school year presents us with the opportunity to start afresh. New books, uniforms, friendships and for some, new surroundings. It can be an exciting and nerve wracking experience. Despite the whirlwind of emotions that can be present in the face of change we must always remember that it is a privilege to start anew and not a right. We are all duty bound to ourselves and to those who love us to embrace the opportunities given to us. To quote Saint Jerome - **“Begin now to be what you will be hereafter.”**

Since that day in August, we have had so much cause for celebration. It is truly remarkable to watch as a community begins to take shape. To watch friendships that will last a lifetime slowly develop. To witness boys fulfil their potential in the classrooms, embrace the College spirit at the House Tens and make memories at the swimming gala. It is a testament to the resilience of our boys. I admire their tenacity and ability to inconvenience themselves in the pursuit of self-improvement. To jump in at the deep end and navigate their new surroundings with great success. Education is a process of formation. It is about helping young people grow into themselves, fulfilling their potential and preparing for the next stage in their lives.

I open with a quote from the famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. He states the meaning of life can be found in the pursuit of one's gifts and talents, but the purpose of life is to share that gift with others. It is my hope that over the course of the first fifty days that each of our boys have had the opportunity to find their gift or explore an environment or activity that may lead them forward on their journey of discovery, hopefully surrounded by good friends!

Mr. Tiernan Mealiffe
Director of Boarding

Message from the Chairman of the Castle Council

It's my pleasure to welcome everyone to the new school year of 2022-23. I'm also honoured to serve as Chairman of the Castle Council this year after being elected by my peers and the Castle staff. I'm very thankful for the position I've been elected to and am looking forward to the year ahead with Mr. Mealiffe, Mr. Kearney, the other housemaster and most importantly the boarders. I hope to contribute to what makes the Castle an enjoyable and positive environment throughout my final year at the college.

Iain McLoughlin

Highlights from the Half Term

My highlight this term was when the Boarders team beat the 5th Year Day Boy's team in the Karl Ashe semi-finals. Heading out to the pitches together, we were all so excited and ready to play. We were big underdogs, but we didn't look at it like that, we were fully confident in ourselves. After the first 20 minutes, we were really starting to feel like this game was going to be a challenge. We were down by a good few points with only a few minutes to go and thanks to some questionable decisions by Rob Kenny, the referee, we managed to come back and bring it to a penalty shootout. We had full confidence in our five penalty takers and our man between the sticks, Niall Smyth. The adrenaline of the shootout was a great feeling. After the first five penalties had been taken, it was 3-3 and it went to sudden death. Thanks to a fine save from Niall, we won. The whole of 6th Year and all the boarders went crazy. I just remember running into the crowd and everyone was falling over each other with pure happiness. It really brought the whole castle together and it is a wonderful moment to remember.

Daniel Turley

My highlight from the half term was playing tip rugby with the 4th Year boarders at the start of the year on the Front Lawn, having tons of fun.

Declan Cadden

The tip rugby at the start of the year where everyone was together, having fun was the highlight event of this half term.

Arthur Smykovskiy

Chaplaincy in the Castle

Chaplaincy in the Castle takes many forms; it's about meeting the student where they currently are. Students can come to the Chaplain for spiritual or faith direction, or if they just need a chat. The Chaplain listens without judgement while providing emotional and spiritual support to our boarders.

Within the Castle Community, there are a variety of activities and events organized which assist our boarders on their journey to becoming responsible adults;

- Weekly Mass
- Prayer Services
- 1:1 Meetings
- Christian Meditation
- Group discussions on Scripture
- Saint of the Month, etc.

The Chaplain acts as part of the Castle Team; they communicate and co-operate with other personnel to meet all boarders' needs. The co-operation of the boys is also fundamental to the success of Chaplaincy within the Castle Community. A special thanks to the following;

- Liam Demann- Cantor and Reader.
- Hugh Gallen- Reader.
- Diarmuid Monaghan, Louis McDermott, Jamie Rogan, and Oscar Dougan- Ministers of the Eucharist.
- The Castle Choir.

Without the participation and co-operation of our boarders, Chaplaincy in the Castle would look very different. The boarders are the driving force behind our work, they are the heart of the school community. To summarize the work of the Chaplain, I draw on Diane Johnson; *'A chaplain's biggest gift is to be present and listen.'*

Mr. Joseph Keena



4th Year Boarders celebrate Artur Smykovskiy's birthday.



Senior Boarders send-off Housemaster Gabe Kettering with a signed Blackrock College jersey and rugby ball.



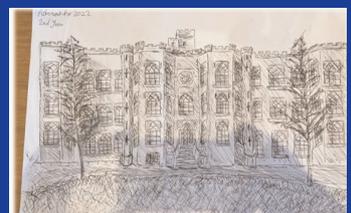
The Castle Karl Ashe team celebrate a semi-final win over the 5th Year Day Boys.



Junior Boarders on their Saturday trip to Trinity College.



4th Year Boarders enjoying a movie night in their recreation area.



A drawing of the Castle by 2nd Year Boarder Adrian Ho.



1st Year Boarders enjoying a chaplaincy meeting.



6th Year Boarders enjoy dinner time.