

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Halloween 2022

Dear Parents,

**'One of life's most persistent and urgent questions is: What are you doing for others?'**

Martin Luther King

Fr John Wambu C.S.Sp., President of Holy Ghost School Makueni, Machakos, with his confreres Kenyan Provincial Fr Dominic Gathurithu and Bursar Fr Steve Mukami, visited Blackrock last week to thank the many parents and past students who, over the last 12 years, have played a pivotal role in the construction and development of the thriving boarding school, a chapel and medical centre. The next phase, the construction of a Technical College which will provide courses in I.T., woodwork, metalwork, welding, dressmaking, and hairdressing, is underway. The class of 2023 will continue this project next Summer.

In his homily, on Sunday October 22nd, Fr Wambu told us that: **'Our mission in life is to discover who we are.'** Missionaries – and we are all missionaries – are people of vision, of determination, of resilience. Be it Leman at Blackrock, Wambu in Machakos or Luther King in the U.S., it starts with a dream and an acceptance that this will take time. We may not see it realised but our task is to keep the dream alive, to inspire others to continue on the journey, a journey that is boundless. There is always more to do. The deep faith of Fr Wambu, his confreres and colleagues has been the catalyst for the Machakos journey. Fr Wambu expressed it so eloquently in his homily:

**'God is Good – All of the time. All of the time – God is Good.'**

Say it – repeat it: the Boarders and friends of Machakos at the mass willingly did so without inhibition – **'God is Good – All of the time. All of the time – God is Good.'**

**At the 6th Year Family Mass, Fr Kelan Scott (class of 2011) reminded the congregation that God's command is to love: 'This is not easy for love demands sacrifice, requires courage.'** Our boys see examples of this on a daily basis in their own homes for sacrifice and courage is at the heart of parenting.

Our curriculum also demands sacrifice, requires courage by my colleagues and the boys. We urge the boys to back themselves, to encourage one another, to support each other. The House 10s, Retreats, Year Masses, RockEd, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Literacy and Maths weeks, Pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Auxilium programme, Science, MUN, Chess, Debating, Art and Computer clubs as well as the myriad of sporting opportunities would not happen without inspirational leadership, courage and sacrifice.

Our recent Environmental Awareness Week highlighted the **'triple A'** approach of our Green Schools Committee - **Awareness, Appreciation, Action** - in its call for solidarity. The same challenge was put before us on our Anti-Bullying Day by the Student Wellbeing Committee who look for better ways to care for those who may be, at different times, disappointed or disillusioned or in despair.

There are so many ways that we can make the lives of our family, friends, the sick and the poor better. Jesus does not leave us free to compromise on the essential matter of loving service to others.

Ask your son, does his social media upset others? When he is asked for help, how does he respond? Does he stand up for others when they suffer injustice? Encourage him to speak out. Explain to him that silence is consent.

In November, we look forward inter alia, to the 3rd Year Family Mass, Mental Health Awareness Day, BCR, our Musical 'Sweeney Todd', our Carol Service and St. Vincent de Paul appeal. I ask you to **'Be There'** for each of these occasions.

To the longer view, I hope that you read our **new Strategic Plan, 'Looking to the Future' 2022-27**, which invites you to be part of our journey of care, concern and compassion.

An early impact has been the addition of **'Be Respectful'** to our list of College imperatives. This, alongside, the introduction of the Yondr pouch and our vaping detectors has contributed to a healthier, more open, more communicative, and empathic space for all.

Finally, Blackrock is a dynamic, hard-working, faithful, relentless Christian community. For this, I am grateful to our Spiritan Community, my colleagues, the Parents' Council and Year Committees, the Union and Past Parents' Association, and of course, to our student leadership and general body for their courage and service.

**'God is Good – All of the time. All of the time – God is Good.'**

Enjoy the break.

God Bless,

ALAN MacGINTY  
Principal



# Message from the Deans



## Halloween Newsletter Message from the Deans

This first half term has in so many ways felt like a new beginning. Of course, any new school year arrives full of hope, possibilities, and expectations for what may lie ahead. Joy, energy and vibrancy permeate the corridors of the school as we reconnect as a school community and the activities of the term begin in earnest. This half term was a 'new beginning' like no other – for the first time since 2019 we began the new school year without masks and were able to welcome back our students with a smile that could be seen!

We are truly blessed with our facilities here in the College and the new pitches are a most welcome addition. These facilities have seen many wonderful events as part of the extra-curricular programme this term. The Karl Ashe Memorial Trophy, a very special event in our calendar, was a highlight of September. It took place on a beautiful sunny day, either side of the House 10s tournaments for 2nd – 6th Year. The new pitches were also officially blessed and opened on that day. There has been huge interest as always in the Social Soccer Leagues. Our Swimming Gala returned to all year groups as part of the one event, again for the first time since 2019. The positive atmosphere on the night was phenomenal!

This year's Senior Musical is *Sweeny Todd* and rehearsals have been taking place since very early on in the year. Environmental Awareness Week took place with an extensive programme of events which included a highly successful Climate Café. The wider programme as always gave plenty of food for thought as to what we can all individually and collectively do to protect our environment. The importance of reading was the theme of this year's Literacy Week as we were reminded of Stephen King's words "*Books are a uniquely portable magic*". Our Student Wellbeing Committee put together excellent, thought-provoking and indeed challenging resources for students of 2nd-6th Year as part of Anti-Bullying Day. We have had two Progress weeks which along with the Weekly Application Cards are essential in giving the students positive feedback on a job well done but also to identify areas for improvement going forward. As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, there is much more happening across the different year groups and we would like to thank our fellow teachers for their patience and support of the various activities in and out of the classroom.

The middle of September saw the arrival of Yondr, after training and discussion groups the previous week. The student engagement with this initiative has been most impressive. As with any new initiative/policy there will always be things that have to be worked out that will only come up once it is operational, but the feedback has been hugely positive. The effect on daily interactions can be seen in the corridors, recreation areas and classrooms each day and the students deserve huge credit for their openness to and cooperation with Yondr. Certainly, the table tennis matches at lunchtime have at times been like a cup game in Donnybrook!

This year also saw the introduction of a fifth core value – 'Be Respectful'. You could not wish for a better lived embodiment of this value than at the first Whole School Assembly on 3rd October. The level of respect shown by the student body throughout was top class and the observation of the guided meditation from Fr. Ó'Brolchain was stunning. This is not something that we as Deans ever take for granted and well done to each student.

Finally, we acknowledge and commend the resilience and patience the Junior Cert class of 2022 have shown in the face of challenges and frustrations. We wish them the best of luck on November 23rd when their Junior Certificate results will be issued.

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 )

46 members of the **Class of 2023** participated in the **College Swimming Gala** on October 11th. Jed O'Malley won the 6th Year Open 50m race and Duff House enjoyed a clean sweep of 6th Year events to be crowned winning 6th Year house at this event.

More than 120 TY students signed up and took part in the Tag Rugby Blitz run by Tag Rugby Ireland. The level of engagement of **TY students** has been outstanding across the **extra-curricular programme**, details of which you will find elsewhere in the newsletter. We encourage Transition Year students to continue to avail of the wide ranging extra-curricular opportunities on offer Monday – Friday in the school. There really is something for everyone across a wide variety of sports and the arts

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Second Years** were introduced to the **Biodiversity nature walks** on campus during their SPHE classes as part of Environmental Awareness Week and they made an immense contribution with their great participation in **litter patrols** throughout the week.

We wish **Fifth Year** students courage and determination as they fulfil their **Senior Cycle Community Service Programme Auxilium** requirements over the coming weeks.

The 14th Annual **Dragons' Den** competition began in earnest this term. Since the launch on Thursday 22nd September we have had an idea generation workshop, a business plan workshop, a financial planning workshop, a guest speaker, two mentoring sessions with the Dragons and the submission of the final Business Plan just before the midterm. We look forward to the grand final on Friday November 11th and we thank the Past Pupils' Union and of course Mr. Fitzsimons, Head of the Business Department, for their fantastic support of the boys through the process.

**Over the summer**, a number of **6th Year** students impressed in sporting arenas. On the golf course Jake Foley won the European Junior International tournament in Germany and James Heavey's Carton House team won the All-Ireland Fred Daly Championship. In chess, Evan McCourt won his category in the British Chess Championships in August. Well done all.

The **Second Year Family Mass** took place on Sunday 16th October in the College Chapel with large numbers in attendance. Wonderful to be back in person.

The **6th Year Parents' Committee** for 2022/23 chaired by Cliona Sherwin is up and running. Having already organised a very well received 6th Year Study Skills morning, this committee is already in the planning stage for the Graduation lunch next May and the Machakos Trip to Kenya in July.

**Blackrock College Radio ( BCR )** will be broadcasting live on 94.3fm and via the school website from 8am-5.30pm , 21st – 25th November and we hope you will all tune in ! Our BCR team is busy writing scripts and interview questions, and recording shows. Our Studio Managers and **TY** Students have done huge work to date for the wide variety of shows we will air: from news and current affairs, a wide variety of sports, language shows, wellbeing, guest schools, amongst many others. Each day's programming will be available to download on Spotify, the details of which will come after midterm.



(L to R) James Grant, Padraig Matthews, and Liam Walls during the Environmental Awareness Week Kahoot Quiz

Nine **6th Year** squads (81 players) have entered the **Friday Social Soccer League** this term. We wish the groups well and thank Mr Evan O'Brien for his organisation of this wonderful Super League Tournament among the 3 senior year groups.

Best of luck to **Third Years** Jamie Brown Lynch, Brian Carroll, Tom Hayden and Josh Murphy who are competing in the **Junior Schools' Debating Competition** hosted by the UCD Law Society. In the opening round Jamie and Josh proposed the motion of banning sweets for children. Brian and Tom opposed. There are two rounds remaining in the competition. We wish them well.



R Kenneally, E Robles and A Garcia Vecino at the Second Year Family Mass



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Fifth Year** students have been encouraged to set **SMART short-term goals** for academic progress and personal development. Reminded that *a goal without a plan is just a wish*, the daily use of the College Student Journal and a consistent approach is essential in assisting students to maximise their potential.

Under the captaincy of **Sixth Year, Maitiu Heckman** the senior basketball team has completed a very busy and successful half-term. Competing at Senior 'A' level, the highlight has been a Schools' Cup run that has seen victories over St Mel's Lonford; Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlington and St Brendan's Killarney. We wish them well in their quarter final.

**Second Years** enjoyed an excellent talk by Dave Rudden during **English classes** for **Literacy Day**.

On the pitches, on the courts, in the pool, in the sea and on the stages of MUN, RockEd, Public Speaking, Debating and the Musical, in Art Club, Chess Club and the CADLC and in the domains of Environmental Awareness, Wellbeing, Commerce and Economics the **involvement of Fifth Years in College life** is outstanding, welcomed and encouraged.

## Dates for the Diary for TY

8th November – Transition Year Tours  
11th November – Dragons Den Final  
21st – 25th November – Blackrock College Radio  
1st December – 4th Year Parent Teacher Meeting  
2nd – 3rd December – St Vincent De Paul Soccer marathon  
3rd December – TY Family Mass (6.30pm)  
10th December – Mince Pie Morning for SVP  
13th December – Christmas Exams  
17th December – Hamper Delivery for Saint Vincent De Paul

We applaud the impressive effort of our **Junior Athletics** team who recently braced thunder and lightning to participate in the Marley Park cross country competition. Despite being up against 4th Years our junior team of **Third Years** Donnacha Barry, Jamie Browne Lynch, Callum Downes, Tom Hayden, Adam Kenned, Lorcan Lawless, Daniel Sheridan, Jack Spain, Cillian Staunton, and Charlie White won the team competition.

We welcome the return of the **Fifth Year Parents' Career Seminars**, organised again by the PPU and the Career Guidance Department. Over the course of the two evenings Dr. Daire Burke, President of DCU, Principal Mr. Alan MacGinty and a number of past pupils addressed many aspects of future educational and career opportunities as well as the supportive role of parents in their sons' career choices.

This term the **table tennis** tables made a welcome return to the **Third-Year** rec area after a few years absence. The noise levels in the rec room have increased alongside the incessant sound of ping pong balls! But it is great to have them back breathing new life into the rec area both before and after school. Students' talent and ability will be put to the test as the inter house table tennis tournament got underway on centre court before midterm.

There was a very good turnout for the **6th Year Inter-House 10s Rugby** Tournament. With both group winners being eliminated at the semi-final stage, Leman captained by Louis Dignam defeated Ebenrecht in the final. David Crowley (Ebenrecht) was named Player of the Tournament.



6th Year House 10s Winners Leman



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



It has been a very busy start on the 6th Year Career front. On Wed 21st September the Class of 2023 returned to the RDS for the first time since 2019 to attend the **Higher Options Conference** and since then, Ms Natasha Drew has co-ordinated our HPAT programme, the early UCAS Application deadlines and has presented an introduction to the CAO Process to each of the RE classes.



TY Students at the HOPE Foundation collection in St. Stephen's Green

Following a scaled back **swimming gala** due to Covid last year, the **Third Years** got to experience the noisy atmosphere of a full school gala on the 11th of November. Such is the Third Years determination to earn points for their house, they were willing to miss a half of night study to compete. Great work by all who took part and particular congratulations to Ebenrecht on their victory on the night. The gala also included the Junior Championship race which was won by Charley Collenette. Well done Charley!

We commend all Second Year participants in the recent **Swimming Gala**. Congratulations to **Daniel English** who came second in the Junior Championship Race and also to **Eoghan Rowlands** who won the Second Year 50M Freestyle race. Finally, well done to **De Valera** House who won the team events on the evening in Second Year.

**Rock-Ed** was a professional production matched by the talent, confidence and inspiration of the students who spoke on the night. Well done to Jamie Brown Lynch (**Third Year**) who delivered an excellent talk on the role of culture in society. Fantastic!

There is a huge variety of **other activities TY**. In the first week back all **TY students** completed their Careers Aptitude Test (CAT). 14 different Modules have been undertaken by the boys. Students have signed up for Senior Musical (cast, crew and band), the Rathdown Musical, The Cluny Musical, House of the Oireachtas Work Experience, Peter McVerry Trust Programme, RCSI Mini-Med Programme, Walk in my shoes Mental Health Placement, collections with the HOPE Foundation, Tallaght University Hospital Webinar Series, St. Joseph's Glasthule and Mount Merrion community service programme, Sion Hill and Blackrock College Talent show, BCTV, work experience with the Together Academy and much more. Many TY students are highly active on the Green Schools, Wellbeing and Global Citizenship Committees also.

Congratulations to **6th Year** rugby players Tom Brigg, Oliver Coffey, Michael Colreavy, Luke Kritzinger, Andrew Quinn and Conor Tonge (UI9s); Mikey Yarr and Alex Mullen (UI8s) who represented Leinster in the **Interprovincial Series** at the start of this academic term. We wish Oliver, Luke, Mikey and Alex well at the IRFU rugby camps over mid-term.

Huge thanks to the Career Guidance Department and the Past Pupils' Union for organising **Career Talks for Fifth Years** providing a forum for students to hear about the daily activities in various career areas from industry professionals.

On Monday 3rd October, to mark the Feast Day of Claude Poullart Des Places, the College **community held the first** Whole School Assembly of the year. At this event, Frazer McGinn and Jack McGlone shared their experiences on Retreat and in Lourdes respectively. This morning also saw the commissioning of the **6th Year House Representatives**.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



In the second week of term **TY Students** attended a workshop with Mr. Denis Hevey on **Leadership and Self-Motivation**. This workshop is always well received by the students and is a great way to start the year. Alpana Delaney also spoke to the boys about the incredible work done by the HOPE Foundation. Mercy Musomi (CEO of Girl Child Network in Kenya) and Anne Cleary (CEO of Aidlink – our long-standing partner for the TY Immersion Trip in Kenya) also gave a massively impactful talk to the boys.

## Dates for your Diary for Fifth Year

Mental Health Awareness Day	Thursday 10 November
Career Plan Submission Date:	Friday 11 November
Career Talks for Students (2)	Saturday 19th November
College Musical:	Tuesday 22 – Friday 25 November
Irish Christmas Aural:	Monday 28 November
Mod. Lang. Christmas Aural:	Tuesday 29 November
Progress Cards:	Friday 02 December

10 **Transition Year** students along with 10 Transition Year students from St. Michael's have become **Spirasi ambassadors** and have had training mornings, meetings with Spirasi and planning meetings for events to promote and support the cause of Spirasi who support victims of torture and asylum seekers.



TY Students getting stuck in at 'Hell and Back'!

On Wednesday 14th September for the first time all of **Transition Year** went on a **Tuesday Tour** to the one location 'Alive Outside' where Ireland's Fittest Family is filmed to complete a 'Hell and Back' obstacle course. It was a great way for the group to bond at the beginning of the school year.

We thank the following members of the **Class of 2023**, Luke Carroll, David Crowley, Louis Dignam, Oscar Dougan, James Heavy, Jack Larkin, Evan Lyons, Louis McDermott, Frazer McGinn, Diarmuid Monaghan, Christopher Nolan, Jamie Rogan, Rocco Terrinoni, Eoghan Walsh and Mikey Yarr who completed training with Ms Crimmins and Mr Madden and will serve the college Community as **Ministers of the Eucharist** for the academic year ahead.

In September the **Second Year Rugby 10s Inter-House Competition** took place. In the 'A' division, **Leman (captain Max Assaf)** was victorious coming from behind to beat **De Valera (captain Charlie Kelly)** 4-3 with a try last play of the game. **Shanahan** and **Ebenrecht** were beaten in the semi-final. In the 5th /6th play off, **McQuaid** pipped **Duff** 4-3. **Patrick Agnew (De Valera)** was player of the tournament. In the 'B' division, **De Valera (captain Finn McGovern)** beat **Duff (captain Ben Ryan)** in the final with **Euan Groarke (Shanahan)** the recipient of the player of the tournament award. Congratulations to all our participants. A great morning for Second Year.



Donnacha Murray, 2nd Year Inter House 10s

The elected **Fifth Year** House Captains have been superb in their leadership to date, and it was wonderful for all to attend their recent Commissioning Ceremony in the College Chapel. We congratulate Shanahan on their Rugby 10s victory with James Clancy named player of the tournament. Duff were victors at both the Swimming Gala and the Gala Day Door Décor competition. Congratulations to Ronan Fahey on his victory in the Principal's Trophy adding to his building collection of awards and accolades.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Under the captaincy of Charlie Quinn, the **6th Year** Dayboy Team emerged victorious over a Boarders side captained by Oscar Dougan in a most competitive final of the **Karl Ashe GAA Tournament** on a score line of 2-8 to 1-4. Congrats to all.

It is great to see so many **3rd Years** taking part in **Model United Nations** this year. Mark Ahearne, Jack Deegan McGovern, Theo Galligan, Tom Hayden, Seb MacManus and Luc O'hAonghusa were part of the 25-man delegation who, suited and booted, put their diplomatic and debating skills to the test at the recent Terenure MUN.

The **Second Year House Captains** for the year, chosen at the end of First Year, were commissioned in September in the College Chapel. The captains are **Harry Clancy** and **Ariston Xourafas** for De Valera House; **Max Raingill** and **Ben Ryan** for Duff; **Daniel Burns** and **Conor Mahony** for Ebenrecht; **Max Assaf** and **Lughan O'Riagain** for Leman; **Matthew Leamy** and **Sean Traynor** for McQuaid; and **Hugo Bourke** and **Collie Breslin** for Shanahan.

These boys play a key leadership role in the College. We thank them for their excellent work so far this term and wish them well in the months ahead.

Students welcomed the opportunity to pause and reflect during the recent **Fifth Year Retreats**. The occasion to leave campus and spend some relaxing time away from their studies was exceptionally worthwhile and rewarding and we thank Mr. Flor Madden for his coordination of the retreats. We also thank the students for their exceptional conduct and their accompanying teachers.

**On the academic front, 6th Year** students have completed their LC Geography Field Trips this half term; are adding the final touches to their LC Home Economics Journals at present and are participating in the first set of practice orals with members of the Irish and Modern Language Departments.

**Fifth Year** students are encouraged to explore Qualifax.ie and CareersPortal.ie and submit a **Career Plan** as per the brief distributed to Mr. O'Nualláin by 11th November 2022.

## Dates for your Diary for Second Year

School Musical: Tuesday 22 November  
– Friday 25 November

2nd Year Saint Vincent de Paul  
Fundraiser Student Quiz: December  
(Date TBC)

Progress Cards: Friday 2 December  
Christmas Exams: (Regulation Exams)  
begin Tuesday 13 December.

The **study skills** workshops have been well attended by the **Third Years**. I have no doubt those in attendance found them beneficial and took something from the morning. The challenge now is to put what they learnt into practice, particularly as we approach the Christmas exams.

Well done to the great numbers of Second Years who participated in the College **Sailing Regatta**.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (SIXTH YEAR)

November 22nd/25th:	Sweeney Todd (College Musical)
November 28th:	6th Yr Irish Christmas Aurals
November 29th:	6th Yr Modern Language Christmas Aurals
November 29th:	CAO Talk for 6th Year Parents (7.30pm)
November 30th:	Mass of Remembrance (7.30pm)
December 1st/2nd:	6th Year 24-Hour VDP Fast
December 13th:	6th Year Regulation Exams begin
December 21st:	End of Christmas Term

Congratulations to Freddie Bracken (**Third Year**) who, alongside **Second Year** Zac Naughton were members of the Leinster **UI4s tennis team** that won the National UI4 Interprovincial Championship.



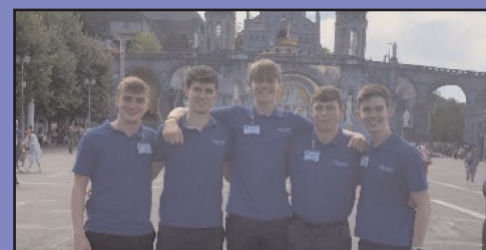
# Message from the Deans Cont'd



This first half term has seen the very welcome return of **TY students** going out on their **Matthew 25 placement** for the first time since the 2019/2020 academic year. While not all previous locations are open as yet as they continue to manage the challenge Covid represents, this term represents a significant step forward towards the end goal of being able to place full groups out on placement. I thank Mr. Madden for his work in this regard.

The **6th Year Retreat Programme** took place between Sunday 18th and Tuesday 20th of September at seven different venues around Ireland. The retreats began on the Saturday evening when a very large attendance welcomed Fr Kellan Scott OP back to the College to lead a celebration of the Eucharist for Families of Sixth Year. We thank Mr Flor Madden for his organisation of this most valuable 6th Year programme.

Five members of the **Class of 2023** participated in the **Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** between the 7th and 12th of September. Jamie Ahern O'Connell, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, David Doyle, Evan Lyons and Jack McGlone accompanied by Ms Lorraine Crimmins spent a busy but most rewarding few days assisting pilgrims. We thank them for undertaking this ministry and for being such fine ambassadors for the College during their time away.



*Sixth Year Lourdes Pilgrims - Jack McGlone, David Doyle, Evan Lyons, Jamie Ahern-O'Connell, Gavin Bowen O'Connor*

## SELECTED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIRD YEAR

Saturday 12th November – Third Year Family Mass  
28th November – Irish Christmas Aural  
29th November – Modern Language Christmas Aural  
13th December – Regulation exams begin

**TY** students can avail of a fantastic numbers for **evening courses** ranging from Self-Defence, Cookery, Barista, Sound Engineering, Drivers Education, Conversational Spanish and more. Legal Studies will begin after midterm. We hope to offer the same courses again in the New Year subject to demand.

## The Class of 2023 House

**Representatives** are Louis McDermott & Sam O'Donovan (DeValera); Jack McGlone & Harry Whelan (Duff); Jonathan Hoffman & James O'Sullivan (Ebenrecht); Louis Dignam & Philippe Le Roux (Leman); Ethan Leon-Ryan & Jamie Rogan (McQuaid) and David Doyle & Charles Quinn (Shanahan). We wish these 12 young men, elected by their peers, well for the year ahead.

Weekly **Application Cards** are affirming steady and consistent application in **Fifth Year**, whilst the two Progress Weeks this half-term have served to highlight the academic drive of the year. The cards are an invaluable measure of how the students are managing and organising their time and activities. It is strongly recommended that parents view their son's card on a weekly basis to both affirm good practice and offer direction where needed.

An **interhouse rugby competition** played at a level befitting the fantastic new pitches on a beautiful Saturday really marked the return of the rugby season. There was a great turn out from the year. Shanahan ran out victors, beating McQuaid in a thrilling final. Bernard White (**Third Year**) won player of the tournament.

Gaisce is the President's Award that challenges students to conquer new personal skills and to serve in their communities. More than 180 TY students have signed up to the programme. It isn't too late either for those who haven't! The boys have been engaged in many wonderful community service activities including Willow Park Yard Supervision, Seapoint Dragons Rugby Coaching, Tivoli Tigers Special Olympics Gymnastics Club, coaching of younger age groups and many more.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Lourdes 2023 - Evan Lyons, Jamie Ahern-O'Connell, Jack McGlone, David Doyle, Gavin Bowen O'Connor (6th Year)



Winning Team from the TY Tag Rugby Blitz



Class of 2023 House 10s



TY Students at the House 10s Competition



Euan Groarke, 2nd Year Inter House 10s



Paddy Scally, 2nd Year Inter House 10s



Peter Byrne and his Dad at the Second Year Family Mass.



Cuan Skerrett-Garry and his Mum, Bronagh, at the Second Year Family Mass



John Donnelly and his parents at the Second Year Family Mass.



Mark Cummins (Class of 2001) Career Talks 5th Years



Sam McCarthy, 2nd Year Inter House 10s



Third Years from the inter house 10s competition



The victorious Third Year Shanahan Team



# Guidance and Counselling



## CAO

This September we gave the 6th Years an online link to their Interest Assessment. The assessment is most helpful for boys who are unsure of the career area they are interested in. I encourage all the boys to complete the assessment. The assessment comprises a specially designed questionnaire where the responses are analysed and matched with all the courses available, and the results compiled into a personalised workbook. The use of an interest test can significantly improve the quality of your son's decision-making and thus reduce the risk of selecting the wrong course. The CAO online application opens on November 4th. All 6th Years have received a CAO talk and Handbook. Parents will receive the same talk on November 29th 2022.



Students who register for the CAO between 4th November and 20th January will pay a reduced fee of €30. The regular fee of €45 applies to applications made between 20th of January and the 1st of February.



If any student has a learning disability or a medical condition it is important to tick the appropriate box on the CAO application form. The DARE tick box is for students with disabilities and the HEAR tick box is for students applying through disadvantage. Students can find out more regarding the DARE/HEAR scheme on

[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie). Students with Irish and Third Language exemptions must also take necessary action to notify the relevant Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) of their exemption(s) and to submit any supporting documentation the HEIs require. Please refer to the relevant individual HEI websites for further information. PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM THE NUI OF YOUR CAO NUMBER.



Any student applying for a government grant must tick the SUSI Grant box. There is an "Eligibility Reckoner" on their website at [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie), where you can check if you qualify for a full grant (Fees & Maintenance) or part grant (Fees only). It is worth checking; if you are entitled to fees only,

you will not have to pay the registration fees. The SUSI tick box must be ticked if a student is applying for a government grant next summer. Any student with a strong interest in TCD and taking Religion or Geography may be interested in the Biblical and/or the Geology exam organised by TCD at Easter. Exam results can be used for point's purposes in TCD.

## UCAS

A number of students are applying to UCAS this year to a variety of colleges including Cambridge and Oxford. These students will sit Cambridge entrance tests here at Blackrock where we have a registered centre, run by Ms. Drew. We also have a select few applying to Europe and the USA. Students considering these areas need to begin their research early as there is a lot of preparation involved.



## CAO opens 4th November 2022

All Students attended the Higher Options event on September 1st. November will bring the start of the College/University Pen Days.



## COLLEGE OPEN DAYS

TCD 5/11/22.

UCD 12/11/22.

TU Dublin 12/11/22.

IADT 19/11/22

UCD, TUD & IADT have confirmed school visits for November, where they will come to the school for a personalised talk for 6th Years.

# FI Paddock Club



The FI Paddock club is a club that runs at lunchtime on Mondays in the DLC.

We watch race highlights of each race weekend and on alternative weeks we have a range of activities such as, Topic talks by the students, Poster designs or Quizzes



If you would like to join this fun group, come to the DLC on Mondays at lunchtime 1.15pm.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms. Drew at [ndrew@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com)



FI in Schools™ is a global competition where students of teams between 3 and 6 deploy CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressed air powered cars made from FI model block. The cars are then raced down a 20m long straight propelled by gas canisters. There are three rounds of the competition, Regionals,

Nationals and Worlds.

Each team is made up of multiple roles.

**Team Manager:** they are responsible for managing the team, project management of all key deliverables and ensuring that all race cars are ready for the competition. The team manager works closely with all members of the team.

### Finance Manager

This person organises budgets and resources needed for designing and making the car(s) and team project work. They keep track of all expenses and income generated, allocating certain funds to certain areas of the project.

### Manufacturing Engineer

This person is responsible for advising team members on the manufacture of the car and the constraints of the machining process. Manufacturing engineers will need to liaise with the design engineers to report and help solve any problems with the construction of the car.

### Design Engineer

This role is responsible for the styling and aerodynamic performance of the car design. Design engineers will need to liaise with the manufacturing engineers to ensure their ideas can be realised.

### Graphic Designer

This person could be responsible for producing the colour schemes applied to the

vehicle, together with the final graphic renderings and any additional team marketing materials. The graphic designer will need to liaise with the design engineer to ensure any schemes will fit the shape of the vehicle and the resources manager for additional marketing development.

### Sponsorship & Marketing Manager

This person could be responsible for generating sponsorship proposals for potential sponsors, contacting firms and marketing the team through different medias. They may be tasked with creating and managing the team's social media accounts as well as thinking up ways to generate interest and income for the team through marketing events.

[www.flinschools.com](http://www.flinschools.com)

This year two teams are competing on behalf of Blackrock College. Vulcan Racing & Orbit Racing.

### ORBIT RACING TEAM:

Darragh O'Neill - Team Principal (Manager)

Conor Blackburn - Manufacturing Engineer

Oliver Lee - Design Engineer

Fiachra Coakley - Social Media & Marketing Director

Philip Duffy - Finance Director,

Jack Drumm - Resource & Logistics Director

Media: [https://instagram.com/racing\\_orbit?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/racing_orbit?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)

### VULCAN RACING TEAM:

Edward Wilson - Team Principal (Manager)

Henry Brown - Vice-Principal, Graphic designer, Social media

Cheng Zheng - Design Engineer

Alex Parson - Manufacturing Engineer

Finlay Threadgold-Ball - Finance and Sponsorship

Ben McElligott - Engineering and Finance assistance

Media: <https://instagram.com/vulcanracingofficial?r=nametag>

If you are interested in creating a team, please contact Ms. Drew at [ndrew@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com)



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



Noah Vidal (J 2nds V St Michael's)



J 2nds V St Michael's



David McHugh (6th Year)  
Senior Soccer Team V Campbell



Conor Vaughan (6th Year)  
Senior Soccer Team V Campbell



Charlie Hardy (TY)  
Senior Soccer Team V Campbell



J 2nds V St Michael's



Sixth Years on Retreat



Ms Natasha Drew (Head of Career Guidance), John Hogan, Mr A. MacGinty (Principal), Adrienne Brophy, Mark Cummins, Maurice Tunney, John Sheridan, Eimear Cahalin, Simon Curran, and David Sheehan at 5th Year student career talks on last Saturday 22nd October.



Michael Colreavy, James O' Sullivan and Matthew Sorenson at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Joseph Carroll (Sixth Year)  
at the Rugby House 10s



Third Years at the House 10s Competition



Denis Kelleher with his family at the Sixth Year Family Mass



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



Sixth Boarders at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Junyu Shen ( Third Year ) at the Swimming Gala



Daniel Keeley with his family at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Killian McKenna with his Mum at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Mr A. MacGinty presents the President's Trophy to Ronan Fahey (Fifth Year)



Eamonn Bradley ( 5th Year ) 2nd place in the Principal's Trophy



Mr Brian Herlihy ( Deputy Principal ) and Ms M Ni Shíocháin officiating at the Blackrock College Swimming



2nd Year 10s Tournament



2nd Year 10s Tournament



2nd Year 10s Tournament



2nd Year 10s Tournament



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



2nd Year 10s Tournament



2nd Year 10s Tournament



6th Year Rugby 10s Leman captained by Louis Dignam defeated Ebenrecht in the final.



David Crowley( 6th Year ) (Ebenrecht)  
Player of the Tournament in the 6th Year  
rugby 10s with Mr. J. Vanstone



Shanahan Team winners of the  
Fifth Year Rugby 10s Tournament



TY Rugby 10s Competition



( TY ) Rugby 10s Competition



Owen Coetzee (Third Year) JCTV Pres Bray



Luke Kritzing, Oliver Coffey and  
Tom Briggs ( 6th Year ) SCTV Gonzaga



JCTV Tereure



Rhys Keogh( 2nd Year ) JCTV Castleknock



Patrick Burke , ( Third Year ) J3rds V Castleknock



Patrick Burek , Don Banks , Conor Barrett and Daniel  
McDaid ( Third Year ) J3rds V Castleknock



Blackrock V Castleknock



Blackrock 2nd Year A team V Castleknock



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



James O' Sullivan and Harry Whelan ( Sixth Year )  
SCT V Gonzaga



Conor Nell (TY ) and Tom O' Riordan ( 6th )  
SCT V Gonzaga



Castle V St Michael's



Ernie O' Brien (5th Yr) , Albert Linder (TY) And Harry  
McCabe (5th Yr) House 3rds V Campbell



House 3rds V Campbell



Drew Donnelly, Alec Swan and Harry O' Neill ( Third  
Year ) J 2nds V St Michael's



Spectators at the Karle Ashe Final



Participants in Blackrock College Sailing Regatta



Charlie O'Neill (2nd Year) Blackrock College  
Sailing Regatta



Blackrock College Sailing Regatta



Karle Ashe Final Louis McDermott , Aaron Golden,  
Jed O' Malley and James Mason ( 6th Years)



Karle Ashe Final



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



TYs at the Whole School Assembly



Blackrock V RBAI



Blackrock V RBAI



John Sheridan (Class of 1990) talking to Fifth Years about Career Options



The Choir at the Whole School Assembly



Blackrock V RBAI



Daniel Kenny's family at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Jon-Luc Elias and his family at the Second Year Family Mass



Adam O Connor and his parents at the Second Year Family Mass



Cian Manning and Seamus O'Loughlin with their families at the Second Year Family Mass



Spectators at Blackrock V Sedbergh



Blackrock V Sedbergh



Daniel Callaghan ( 5th Year)  
SCT 2nds 'Rock V Sedbergh



Blackrock V Sedbergh



# Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2022



Blackrock V Sedbergh  
Luke Coffey ( Third Year )



Third Years at the House 10s Competition



Blackrock College Swimming Team in Dublin Airport en route to a Swimming Gala in Fordham Prep , New York

## Snapshot of Whole School Assembly



John Ding (2nd Year)



Third Years



Cormac Morris (5th Year) playing the Double Base



Brian McGlone speaking about his experience in Lourdes



Cian Toralde and Jack Deegan McGovern (2nd Year)



Members of the Orchestra



Mr A. MacGinty ( Principal ) presents the Libermann Cup to Jack McGlone and Harry Whelan ( Duff House Captains )



Mr Brian Herlihy addresses the students at The Whole School Assembly



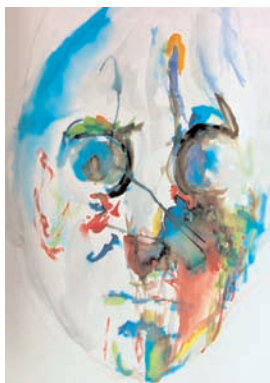
Second Years



## A Selection of Students' Artwork



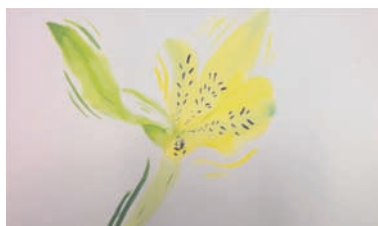
Ricky Shin (Fifth Year)



Sascha Gibney (Fifth Year)



Patrick Ryan (Fifth Year)



Tim O' Sullivan (Fifth Year)



Darragh Kilbride (Fifth Year)



Daragh Bowler (Fifth Year)



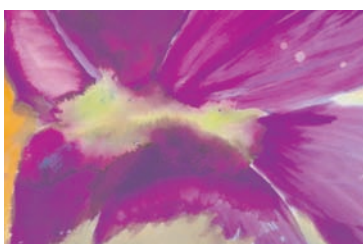
Dylan Drumm (Fifth Year)



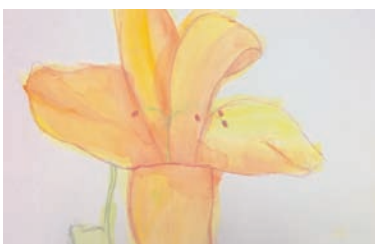
Andrew Keogh (Third Year)



Oscar Mannion (Fifth Year)



Eamon Bradley (Fifth Year)



Brian Jones (Fifth Year)



Ricky Shin and Sascha Gibney (Fifth Year) viewing their work at the Visual Literacy Exhibition



Andrew Keogh with his drawing and Vincent Barrett (Third Year) viewing the Visual Literacy Exhibition



Art Club visiting the College Archives

## LITERACY DAY

The following are some of the events that took place around Literacy Day, on 6th October to promote reading and literacy in the school.

### Author Visits

One of the school's favourite authors Dave Rudden, author of *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* once again gave a very engaging talk to 2nd Years students in the library. Dave spoke about his own story of becoming a writer and gave some encouraging tips about writing. Dave also joined Graham Tugwell to give a masterclass on how to write an RPG to Dungeons and Dragons Club.



Dave Rudden talking to 2nd Years for Literacy Day



Author Dave Rudden

Author Jane Mitchell spoke to 3rd Year students about her books *Chalkline*, which was about a child soldier in India and *A Dangerous Crossing*, which told the story of a family escaping Syria. While Jane's books are fiction, her stories are based on real human struggles. Jane spoke about travelling through India and her experience in the refugee camp in Calais, where she went to research for her book *A Dangerous Crossing*.



Jane Mitchell talking to 3rd Years for Literacy Day.



Author Jane Mitchell

### Literacy Day Competition.

This year students had to establish whether Ms Drew, Ms Markey, Mr O'Neill or Mr Herlihy stole Mr MacGinty's Man United scarf. Students were given various clues including a Wordle puzzle, a book cover and a logic puzzle. 162 students took part altogether and congratulations to 3rd year student Daniel McDaid who won the prize.



# The Arts Cont'd



## EXHIBITIONS

### Visual Literacy

As part of Literacy Week, the Art Club displayed an exhibition on visual literacy where students observed the work of Louis le Brocqy from the IMMA collection and additional resources given and make new work based on the images they studied.

## WORKSHOPS

Transition year classes attended creative writing classes organised by Fighting Words. Students were given a scenario and collectively wrote a story, starting with dialogue, character creation and then setting the scene. Students' imaginations were allowed run wild as they wrote about trips to Mars, hearing strange noises and getting separated on a school tour. Any budding writers can attend Fighting Words online workshops on Wednesdays.

## LIBRARY CLASSES

Ms A Dillon gave a number of research classes to show students how to locate and evaluate resources. These included

- 2nd Year CBA History who are preparing for their project "The Past is my Place"
- Mr O'Donnell's TY Economics who were researching Greenwashing for a BCR project
- Ms Pierce's and Mr Halpin's TY History who are working on a project about unsung heroes.

## CADLC COMMITTEE

The CADLC Committee is doing great work to promote literacy and the use of the CADLC in the school. Thank you to chairperson Patrick Hayden (5th Year), Secretary, Cian McAdam (5th Year) and student members: Eoin Fitzpatrick (2nd Year), Marc Hooper (2nd Year), Matthew Maguire (2nd Year), Conall Byrne (3rd Year), Cillian Staunton (3rd Year) Ajay Mullaney (3rd Year), Zach Egan-Ruane (4th Year), Fionn Whelan (4th Year), for their contribution to the library.

## CLUBS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A number of clubs are now running in the library and all students are welcome to attend:

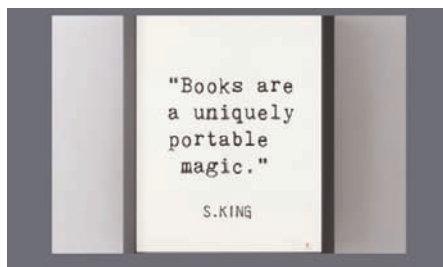
**FI Paddock Club:** Every Monday at Lunchtime in the Library. Students watch highlights and take part in various activities such as quizzes.

**Cinema Club:** Every Tuesday at 8am, students watch short movies, see how things work behind the scenes and have some toast.

**DnD Club:** Every Wednesday after school students enjoy the roll playing game, Dungeon's and Dragons organised by Ms Brunswick. A big welcome to Mr O'Brien our new DM.

**Friday Kahoots:** Friday Kahoots has become a very popular lunchtime event where students who enter could win a prize. Themes have varied from week to week and some examples have been Album Covers, Books Covers, Minecraft, Marvel and Wildlife diversity.

## READING PROMOTION



Reading for pleasure has many benefits including helping students do better at school, relax, unwind, improve their vocabulary and take time out from their devices. The following are some of the activities that have been done to promote reading:

**2nd Year Induction:** During Second Year induction, 2nd years had to find a book they'd recommend to a friend and talk a little about it. This was followed by a 20 minutes reading time.

**Rockreads App:** 188 students recommended a wide variety of books via the

Rockreads App that can be accessed via a tab under Library-CADLC notices. Students can continue to recommend books by clicking the + tab on the app.

**Drop Everything and Read:** DEAR took place from 3.20 to 3.45 on September 29th where the whole school community dropped what they were doing and read.

**Book Themes:** Each month a different book genre will be promoted in the library. For October it was Horror. Well done to the library committee who helped create a wonderful display on the book *The Shining* by Stephen King



All work and no play make Jack a dull boy



The Shining



## Junior Debating

### Blackrock College and Holy Child Killiney mini-MACE Debate

On Tuesday September 20th, five students: Daniel Burns (2nd Year) Brian Carroll, Rossa Clonan, Jamie Browne-Lynch and Tom Hayden (all 3rd Year) competed in the Holy Child Debating Competition.

The motion was: 'This House Believes that Funding for Political Parties Should Be Tied to Diversity.'

Tom Hayden was named the best speaker in Room 2.

Daniel Burns and Rossa Clonan were on the winning teams in their respective rooms.

We look forward to hosting the next round of this debate in Blackrock College on Thursday November 10th.



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

The first half term has been action packed and we are thrilled with the full return of all things Music and Drama within the College. The Sixth Year Family Mass was celebrated by Father Kellan Scott O.P. on Saturday 17th September where the Sixth-Year members of the Libermann Choir sang beautifully in a full chapel, accompanied by the Sixth-Year organ scholar Gavin Bowen-O'Connor and Mr. Orrock, and conducted by Mr. Grumley Traynor. On October 16th, the Second Year Family Mass took place once again in the College Chapel. The many new members of the Corless Choir, led by Ms. O'Kane, sang superbly throughout the liturgy, accompanied by some of our great second-year instrumentalists and Mr. Orrock. Our new organ scholar John Ding also played his first 'Go Ye Afar' on the College organ at the end of Mass.

On October 3rd, the Whole School Assembly returned for the first time since 2019. All choirs from Second to Sixth Year sang together in the Sports Hall, accompanied by the College Orchestra, who have returned rehearsing on Monday afternoons. It was great to have everyone performing together. If any students would like to join the College Orchestra, please contact Mr. Traynor and he will send you in the right direction.

The Adult Choir have been back singing in the Jubilee Hall on Tuesday evenings and we are delighted to have lots of members. Our tenor and bass sections have grown this year, but we are still looking for some more gentlemen to join so please contact Carmel Quinn ([carmelquinn105@gmail.com](mailto:carmelquinn105@gmail.com)) if you would like to take part. We are currently operating a waiting list for sopranos and altos.



# The Arts Cont'd



Auditions for the 37th annual Leman Festival Concert took place on October 13th and we were delighted to listen to a wide variety of performances across all year groups – bravo tutti! Preparations are well underway for our return to the National Concert Hall in 2023 and we will share more information about the concert with you shortly.

This year's senior musical is *Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Written by Stephen Sondheim who was one of the most important figures in twentieth-century musical theatre, it tells the tale of a Victorian-era barber who returns home to London after fifteen years of exile to take revenge on the corrupt judge who ruined his life. When revenge eludes him, Sweeney swears vengeance on the entire human race, murdering as many people as he can, while his business associate Mrs. Lovett bakes the bodies into meat pies and sells them to the unsuspecting public. The cast, crew and creative team have all been busy working on the show since the first week of term. **Sweeney Todd** runs from **Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th November** in the **Jubilee Hall** and **tickets will be available from reception** after the midterm. We hope to see you there and recommend you don't get a haircut from Sweeney Todd!



The Choir at The Whole School Assembly



Mr Killian Grumley Traynor at the Whole School Assembly



The Fifth Year Choir performing at the Whole School Assembly



Sixth Year Choir at the Sixth Year Family Mass



David Doyle (Sixth Year) performing at the Whole School Assembly



Choir at the Whole School Assembly

## Royal Russell International MUN Conference

On the 15-18th October, the Blackrock Model United Nations team travelled to Croydon, London to attend Royal Russell International MUN conference, competing against 75 delegations and over 500 delegates from all corners of the globe, making it the biggest MUN Conference in Britain and one of the largest in Europe,

Blackrock represented The United Arab Emirates – Aaron Murtagh, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Frazer McGinn, Conor Casey, Jamie Starr Bourke, James Lee (All 6th Year), and Aran O'Flaherty (5th Year).

Their level of debate was outstanding throughout committee and General Assembly from the delegation, with topics ranging from 'The Question of international cyber espionage' to 'The Question of Pandemic Preparedness'. There was tough competition in every committee, and we emerged successful with a number of the

delegates receiving awards from committee.

## The awards are as follows:

Special COVID-19 Committee - **Frazer McGinn** – Distinguished Delegate  
Social Humanitarian Committee- **Conor Casey** – Distinguished Delegate  
Crisis Committee - **Aaron Murtagh** – Chairing Award

## Senior Debating

The Senior Debating Society has had a promising start to the year. The Junior vs. Senior Debate took place on Tuesday, September 27th. "This House Believes Reality TV Represents Everything That Is Wretched About Ireland Today," was the motion chosen for debate. Both teams presented excellent cases; however, the senior team, comprised of Jamie Starr Bourke, Aaron Murtagh, Frazer McGinn, and Ben Kieran-Glennon (all 6th Year), emerged victorious. Congratulations to Ben Kieran-Glennon and Matthew Leamy (2nd Year), who were named Best Senior Speaker Senior and Best Junior Speaker, respectively.

Congratulations to Ben Kieran-Glennon (6th Year), who has been selected for the Irish Schools Debating Team. The selection process for this is extremely rigorous, with only five students from across the country offered a spot on the team each year. Ben and his four team members will represent Ireland in the World Schools' Debating Competition. This is an incredible accomplishment, and we wish Ben all the best in the coming year.



(L-R Aran O'Flaherty, Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Frazer McGinn, Aaron Murtagh, Conor Casey, Jamie Starr Bourke, James Lee)



The TY members of the Society are currently participating in the League Phase of the Concern Debates. Darragh O'Neill (Captain), Zach Egan-Ruane, Peter O'Connor, and Shane Hamilton took part in the first debate of the League on Wednesday 12th October, against Dunshaughlin Community College. They opposed the motion that GMOs are necessary in the fight to end world hunger. Both sides made compelling and well-researched arguments. We look forward to hearing the result of this round in due course.

As the midterm approaches, we commend all the Debating Society members for their commitment to the College debating programme, and we look forward to the return of the Teacher vs. Student Debate which will take place in November.



# Pastoral Care Programme



"You are a child of God; live as such", the words of Venerable Francis Libermann CSSp almost two centuries ago and the theme for all things Pastoral in Blackrock this year. We are children of God; we are so loved by God, loved more than we can fully comprehend or understand but because we are children of God, we need to try to live as such, living our lives in gratitude, with respect and care for those in need, to be there doing our best and to be truthful at all times.



Fr Cormac O' Brolchain commissioning the 6th Year House Captains at the Whole School Assembly

Blackrock is all about community and on the first Sunday morning of the new academic year, over 130 parents gathered together for the Annual Parents' Retreat.

Reconciliation, forgiveness and love are some characteristics of our God. The new school year began with everyone in the College, students and staff, being given the opportunity to avail of Reconciliation Services in the College Chapel with Fr Paddy Dundon CSSp and Fr Tom Nash CSSp. In addition to these liturgies, the opportunity for individual Confession is available each morning in the College Chapel after 8.15am Morning Mass.

Peer leadership and service are central to a Spiritan Education. The Commissioning of 66 House Captains in early September is a practical example of our community living out the commandment of Libermann to "live as such".

Taking time out to reflect and pray is an important part of a Blackrock education. The Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of Dublin returned this year after a three year break due to Covid, with five student places being allocated to our 6th Years. Special thanks



Rory O' Kane and his family at the Sixth Year Family Mass



Jack Sheeran and his parents at the Second Year Family Mass



James Heavey and his family at the Sixth Year Family Mass

to Ms Lorraine Crimmins, 6th Year Chaplain for accompanying the boys on their pilgrimage. As outlined by the Deans in their reports, Retreats for 3rd, 5th and 6th Years have been facilitated - the 6th Year Retreat is a three-day residential retreat.

Family Masses for 2nd Year and 6th Year were celebrated in the College Chapel, marking the beginning and the end of a generation of Blackrock students; the first Family Mass for 2nd Year, the Class of 2027 and the final Family Mass in the College Chapel for 6th Year, the Class of 2023, as their Graduation Mass will be celebrated in the Jubilee Hall next May. At the 6th Year Family Mass, 15 new Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned.



Marc Hooper and his Mum at the Second Year Family Mass



Father John Wambu C.S.Sp. who celebrated mass in the College on Mission Sunday with some of the class of 2022 who travelled to Kenya last summer .

In recent years, a Friday morning of Eucharistic Adoration has been added during each half term with over 600 visiting the College Chapel on Friday 14th October. Eucharistic Adoration will be introduced this year during all Parent Teacher Meetings and parents will be invited to spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection in the College Chapel with "The Great Teacher".

Finally, the Matthew 25 Programme has recommenced, after a three-year absence due to Covid, with Transition Year Boys being involved in a two-week pastoral placement in a variety of schools, nursing homes and day-care centres. Feedback from Sr Therese of Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home in Dalkey, on one student summarises the benefits of the Matthew 25 Programme when she referred to one student ... "he was and is an amazing young man, always cheerful and always willing to help when needed on the floor. The residents really enjoyed being with him and he was so helpful to them as well as the staff. We will truly miss him and I wish him well" ... and an example of Libermann's commandment ... "You are a child of God, live as such".



Eli O' Reilly, Oscar Doogan and Theo Claffey at the Whole School Assembly



Father Kellan Scott O.P. celebrating the Sixth Year Family Mass



# Archives Update



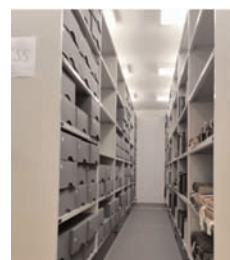
The past few months in the College Archives have been very busy and productive. Over the months of June and July, the entire collection was moved from its storage into the library. Here, with the invaluable assistance of two sixth year students, Aaron Murtagh and Frazer McGinn, we reorganised and re-enclosed the records into archival standard folders and boxes. Meanwhile, the College maintenance team worked to make the storage room thermally efficient with the installation of insulation and an air conditioning unit to ensure the room remains at the optimum temperature of 16 degrees Celsius at all times. Records of all media should be kept at this cool temperature to prolong their life, to prevent the onset of mould and the degradation of paper.



New mobile shelving unit in the storage room.

archival folders and acid-free tissue paper to provide protection to many fragile paper-based records.

Over the coming months and year, the archive collection will be moved to a more up-to-date content management system with a view to making the collection searchable online by users in the future. As ever, in the meantime, please contact me at [archives@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:archives@blackrockcollege.com) if you have any research queries.



Increased capacity and greater accessibility to the records with the new mobile shelving.



New drawer units for larger records.

The crew at Storage Systems installed a state-of-the-art mobile shelving unit in the storage room and three drawer units in the archive office for the storage of larger items such as maps, architectural drawings, larger photographs, and posters. For these, the college has also invested in larger

Thank you very much to Aaron and Frazer for their hard work over the summer. Thank you, too, to all the team in the Maintenance Department for their exceptional work.

## Dungeons and Dragons Club



The Dungeons and Dragons club has grown a great deal in its third year, now having three tables of players running their own campaigns. There has been a welcome influx of new Second Years after the successful promotional trip to Willow Park last May and spreading the word about the club on Clubs and Societies Day. This year we welcomed Mr. O'Brien who currently DMs for 2nd Years. He hopes to run a campaign in German, providing a new and fun way to learn German. Fionn Whelan (TY) the Clubs Executive Assistant, created our new club logo and assists in club promotion and general organization. The club had its, now annual, talk, by Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell on the intricacies of running a successful D&D campaign and how to improve the depth of a story, bringing the players closer to their characters. The Role-Playing Games have extended beyond Dungeons and Dragons now to include a trial run of Warhammer at DM Daire Casey's table. An extra dimension has been added to the campaigns this year using battle maps and individually painted miniature figures for



Kieran Flowers, Luc O'hAonghusa and Sebastian Flowers (3rd Yr) Henry Brown and DM Daire Casey (TY) pioneering the use of Battle Mats and Character based minifigures in their Campaign.



Mr O'Brien DMing his table with Sean Mullane, Sam McCann, Matthew Leamy, Cian O'Flanagan, Sam Kyrychenko, John Ding and James O'Brien (All 2nd Yrs)



Third Years Theo Galligan, Ian Duane and Mark Aherne (All 3rd Yrs) in thrall to DM Fionn Whelan.

characters. This deepens the interactivity between the players and their worlds. The Club successfully applied to the Warhammer Alliance who provided us with extra battle mats, a plentiful supply of miniatures, paints and new manuals. The club is looking forward to rounding off a superb term with the annual Halloween Party where DM Daire Casey is creating a novel Halloween finale to his current campaign.



Three Tables in Full Flow at Dungeons and Dragons Club every Wednesday



Artwork by Luc O'hAonghusa



## 2nd Year Science: Nature of Science and Digestion Experiments

Our Second Year Science students have been busy demonstrating how our digestive system works. Using equipment from the lab students learn about how our food is broken down and passed along the digestive tract. A fun but very messy experience!



Binghong Wang (2nd Year) with the 'stomach'



Cameron Hickey ( 2nd Year ) with the 'small intestine'

## 3rd Year Science: Ecology (night camera)/ Quadrat study/ evolution/ Charles Darwin Posters

Our Third Year students have been busy learning about Ecology, with a huge focus on the ecological biodiversity here in Blackrock. We set up night-camera again and caught foxes, squirrels and birds.



3rd Years using a quadrat for qualitative analysis



3rd Years carrying out quantitative analysis of plants on school grounds



## Science Photography Competition

The theme for this year's Science Photography competition is 'Sustainability'. All students and staff are encouraged to enter. Finalists' photographs will be displayed on the Senior Science Corridor during

### Science Week 2022 Photography Competition

**One4all**

Gift cards to be won

Scan QR code to enter

Theme: Sustainability  
Open to all Students and Staff  
Deadline: 14th November

Science Week November 14th to Friday 18th November. The winners will be announced on Friday 18th November.

## 5th Year Chemistry: Flames Tests

Images captured during 5th Year Chemistry practical 'Flame Tests'. Students identified the metals present in different samples of salts based on the unique colour that they emit.



Strontium burns with a red flame



Sodium burns with a yellow flame

## Senior Science Quiz

The Senior Science Quiz took place on Tuesday 11th October. There was a great turn out between 6th Year and 5th Year students. There were five rounds of ten questions, dingbats, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and general knowledge.

Congratulations to 6th Years Ben Kiernan Glennon who placed 1st, Gavin Bowen O' Connor who placed 2nd and Patrick Keane who came 3rd.

Well done to all who took part. Teams for the Regionals of the Irish Science Teachers' Association Science Quiz will be announced soon.



Senior Senior Science Quiz



Patrick Keane (3rd Place), Ben Kiernan Glennon (1st Place) and Gavin Bowen O'Connor (2nd Place)

## Science Club

Science club has had an exciting first term this year with a range of experiments including, dissections of livers and kidneys, egg drop competitions, dry ice explosions, making bath bombs, acids and base reactions, and vomiting pumpkins.

## BT Young Scientists

Best of luck to the following students who have submitted projects to this year's BT Young Scientist exhibition.

Simon Considine and Patrick Hayden ( Fifth Year ) : *Analysing methods of decreasing power consumption in computers*

Tom Hayden (Third Year): *What are the universal characteristics of inter languages during second language acquisition*

Daniel Spencer (TY): *Should we have a no shoe bedroom rule?*

Lochlan Gulliver: *Automatic self-watering plant*  
Dermot O Driscoll (Third Year) : *How blue light affects you long term*

Brian Carroll ( Third Year ) : *Investigating the levels of micro plastics in Dublin Bay*



James O'Brien and Sean Mullane ( 2nd Year ) making bath bombs



Sean Mullane ( Second Year ) - Egg drop experiment



Simon Considine, Luke O' Sullivan, Patrick Hayden, Dónal Robson, James O'Brien, and Sean Mullane (Fifth Year) dissecting kidneys



Christian Comerford (Third Year) with a 'foaming pumpkin'



## Athletics

The junior Rock Run between 2nd and 3rd Year students took place on 15th September. Being the first race of the year, 2nd and 3rd Year students from rugby, football, and cross country lined-up to participate in an almost 1-mile (1600m) run around the new pitches. This race tested the endurance of experienced runners and boys who were new to long distance running.

DSD South Dublin Schools Cross Country Competition took place on 19th October in Marlay Park. Despite rain, thunder and lightning our runners lined up to compete in the 2nd Year race and the 3rd/4th Year race. Originally both races were scheduled for 2000m however due to the bad weather, the organisers shortened the events to just over 1000m each. The resulting races around the muddy, winding track were at a much higher pace than typical longer cross-country races.

Tom O'Donovan was first home to score for the Second Years in 8th place. Cameron and Jose Carlos came home together in 10th and 22nd. Having competed in Cross Country in Spain, Jose Carlos did well on his first muddy cross-country course through Marlay Park. Calum Burke was last to score, coming home in 30th position.



The 2nd Year team representing Blackrock College pictured (L-R) Calum Burke, Jose Carlos De La Cuesta, Cameron Fallon, and Tom O'Donovan.

The 3rd and 4th Year race was filled by a young team of only 3rd Year students. Despite being young for the competition, the whole group Charlie White (2nd Year), Callum Downes (4th Year), Adam Kennedy (5th Year), Daniel Sheridan, Jack Spain, Cillian Staunton, Tom Hayden, Jamie Browne-Lynch, Donnacha Barry, and Lorcan Lawless (Third Years) performed well and scored individual and team prizes. The first 6 boys to finish also scored enough points to make Blackrock College first in the Cross-Country team competition.

## BADMINTON

There has been a huge increase in numbers in the badminton club this year with over 50 students taking part in training. We welcome a lot of beginners from all year groups and all members are showing spectacular enthusiasm turning up to practice, some for the social side and others a little more competitively. Everyone is learning new skills and developing in practice. We look forward to a very competitive season which will commence after the midterm. We wish the boys every success in the badminton league.



The boys take off from the start line.



The race continues up the slope past Willow.



2nd Year winners: Cameron Fallon 2nd, Theo Burke-Kennedy 3rd, and Ariston Xourafas 1st with 3rd Year winner Hugh Barry.



(L-R) Adam Kennedy, Jack Spain, Callum Downes, and Charlie White can be seen fighting for position at start of the 3rd/4th Year race.

## BASKETBALL

The junior basketball team has had a difficult run in the league this year. They faced many strong and competitive teams over the last two months. The opening match against Coláiste Eanna was tough as they lost 76-20. The team worked hard in the face of difficult competition, losing to both Adamstown CC (73-37) and Templeogue (75-29). Despite the last two matches in the league ending in losses, the team showed great improvement in defense and offense and they worked well together to keep increasing their score each quarter.

## U-19 Basketball

By virtue of reaching the All-Ireland final in the season 2021-2022, we have been promoted to the 'A' division in schools basketball which, as Mr. MacGinty pointed out, is the first time in 45 years we have played Basketball in the top division.

Our first competitive game for the Senior Basketball squad was against St. Mel's College Longford in the All-Ireland Schools cup. After a back and forth battle we managed to secure a 58-40 victory. Next up was Coláiste Eanna in the East-Leinster League. Coláiste Eanna are the All-Ireland Champions. You may look at a scoreline of 75-15 and say it would be hard to find any positives, but this was far from the case. Though it was a tough match and result for the team, it was a fantastic learning curve and experience for what is required to compete at the top end of the A division.

We then played Coláiste Íosagáin Portlinton in the last 32 of the All-Ireland Schools cup. Having lost to Coláiste Eanna the previous week, this squad showed character and resilience to bounce back with an excellent win and with it qualification for the last 16 of the All-Ireland on a scoreline of 51-24. We then played Adamstown CC in the East-Leinster League. It was a tight game and indeed battle throughout and we did extremely well to win on a scoreline of 55-36.

Arguably our stand out win of the term came against St. Brendan's College, Killarney in the last 16 of the All-Ireland Schools cup on a scoreline of 58-45. St. Brendan's College Killarney is a hugely talented and experienced side in the A division and anytime you come up against a side from Kerry you know you'll be up against a top side and so it proved.

In the last game of the group stage in the league we played Templeogue College who have a phenomenal tradition of Basketball and boast four Irish Internationals. Though we lost to them 69-52, this didn't feel like a loss. In truth it represented just how much we have improved as a team this term as we find our way in this division. Templeogue beat Coláiste Eanna in the group. Considering Coláiste Eanna beat us by 60 only a few weeks ago, to push the team that defeated Coláiste Eanna so close is a real measure of the progress made by this team and of its potential. Coolmine CS are next up in the league playoffs followed by Knockbeg College in the All-Ireland Quarter final on Wednesday 9th November. We wish Maitiu Heckman (6th Year), (captain) and his team well in their forthcoming games.

## CHESS

Chess Club is back up and running with our coach Hector after the summer break. A few of our members still competed over the summer months with Hector with their local chess club. A huge congratulations to Evan McCourt (Sixth Year) who placed 1st in the British Championships. A fantastic achievement. As a result of this Evan now has an English rating of 1803, which is outstanding.

We recently signed up to take part in the Libermann Cup named after Francis Libermann who was co-founder of the Spiritans. This tournament is to take place between the Spiritan Schools based in South County Dublin over the next few weeks.

Chess Club also had a stand in the Club and Societies Day on September 13th. It was great to see so many people stop by the stand. We have some new faces and some returning faces at chess club this year.

Chess Club runs every Tuesday and Thursday 4-5pm in Junior Science 2, new members are always welcome! Please email [cwyse@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:cwyse@blackrockcollege.com)





Eddie Croswaite and Marc O hAonghusa ( Sixth Year) at the Karle Ashe Final



Cameron Hickey ( 2nd Year )

## GAA

### 2nd Year Gaelic Football

### Blackrock College 4-13 Coláiste Éanna 1-8

Congratulations to captain Cian Manning ( 2nd Year ) and his 2nd Year football team on an emphatic victory last Friday in the 1st round of the Dublin Schools' competition. The game was lot closer than the result may highlight as goalkeeper Michael Madden made several great saves, including a penalty at crucial times during the game. Although the opposition had their fair share of possession, Blackrock were a lot more clinical on front of goal with Dan Noonan scoring (3-3) Cian Manning (1-5) and Rhys Keogh (0-5). This was a great team display as it was the first time many of the boys played together. Blackrock will now play Oatlands College this coming Friday in the 2nd round.

Thanks to Pat Smyth, Rob Kenny (Class of 2021) and Mr. Rafferty for coaching the team.

## GOLF

### Summer Achievements

Blackrock College students had some fantastic golfing achievements in summer 2022:

Freddie Bracken (3rd Year) was the winner of the Leinster U-14 Boys Golf Championship, played at Balcarrick Golf Club, on the 4th of July. Freddie had six birdies and three bogies in a 3-under par round that was two shots clear of his nearest challenger Jack Conroy from Belvoir Park in Belfast.

Congratulations to James Heavey (6th Year) student and Junior Captain of Carton House Golf Club (2022) on winning the All-Ireland Fred Daly Championship with his team mates from Carton House Golf Club

Jake Foley (6th Year) won the European Juniors International tournament (June 6-9, 2022) at Golfpark Weiherhof, Germany.

Since achieving WAGR (World Amateur Golf Ranking) status, Jake has had 4 top 10 finishes in 9 counting events. Jake was runner-up at Leinster Boys Amateur Open Championship at Malahide. He made the cut for the South of Ireland Men's at Lahinch and finished tied 9th at St Andrews Boys Open at Eden Course, St Andrews, and the Irish Men's Amateur Close Championship at Headfort.

As of 30 Aug 2022, Jake is ranked 4th for Irish U18 Boys in WAGR and 2nd for Irish U18 Boys under European Golf Rankings.



Freddie Bracken (3rd Year)



James Heavey 6th Year - All-Ireland Champion Team Golf - Carton House



Jake Foley 6th Year European Junior Winner Golf in Germany

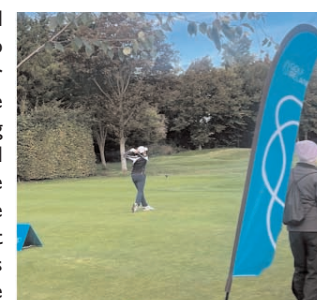
## Term 1 Golf News

On Monday the 3rd of October Freddie Bracken ( 3rd Year ) , David Hopkins ( 3rd Year ) and Thomas Walsh ( 2nd Year ) represented Blackrock College in the Leinster Schools Junior Championships at Delgany Golf Club. A difficult course and challenging conditions made scoring a real challenge on the day and unfortunately the team missed out on qualification for the Leinster finals by a few shots.



Thomas Walsh , David Hopkins and Freddie Bracken

The Blackrock College Senior Golf team had a successful outing in Woodbrook Golf Club in regional qualifying on Thursday October 6th. With 3 schools to qualify out of 21, the team finished second on the day, qualifying with 17 shots to spare. 9 schools will compete at the Leinster finals which will take place on the 28th of October in Forrest Little Golf Club. Blackrock will have to come out on top on the day to be Leinster Champions and progress to the All-Ireland finals. The team was as follows: Jake Foley, James Heavey, Conor Ryan, (Sixth Years) Joey Connolly (TY), and Sam Grennell (Fifth Year) . Jake tied the best score of the day with a superb round of 73.



Jake Foley in action on the first tee in Woodbrook



Seniors and Juniors in the national academy in Carton House

Outing to the Golf Ireland National Academy in Carton House

On October 12th 12 players from both the senior and junior panels attended a training day in the national academy. They received coaching for both long and short game and had access to the top practice facilities around. This outing will hopefully help the players hone their games over the winter and be ready for the upcoming season.

## JCT

The first term for any junior rugby panel is an opportunity to gain valuable fitness, to develop core skills, to put systems in place and look at players in a match environment. This term has been no different and the junior squad has made a very promising start, especially in terms of squad cohesion and skill development.



Notable victories in the first term against St. Gerard's, Gonzaga, Pres Bray and Castleknock were balanced out with defeats against Campbell, St Michael's and Sedbergh. Performances have been strong during injury ravaged periods and the squad has thrived on individual opportunities afforded.



J 2nds V Michael's

## SCT

It has been a busy first half-term for the senior rugby squad with a multitude of competitive matches and training sessions alike.



# Sport Cont'd



Ten players represented Leinster over the summer, with the under 19 group winning their interprovincial title. Well done to all involved across both squads.

Early season defeats to Gonzaga and Newbridge were followed with wins against Castleknock, Campbell and Terenure. All roads though led to a mid-October fixture with Sedbergh School, the UK's form rugby school the past decade. It was another classic encounter, highly-skilled and strongly contested. It was Sedbergh who once again came out on top in the final moments, 25-24, having been victorious in stoppage time (24-22) just three years earlier in Cumbria. We congratulate them and also our own team for a wonderful spectacle.



Rock V Sedbergh  
Tom O' Riordan



SCTV Castleknock



JCTV Pres Bray  
Conor White ( Third Year )

Similarly, we must acknowledge the excellent play of our Senior Seconds in defeating Sedbergh 27-14 on the same afternoon. They have been in strong form to date, with impressive wins against Castleknock, Campbell and Terenure.

Before a well-deserved break for midterm, we have matches with Pres Cork and RBAI here in the College. We wish the squad the best of luck with those and their continued preparations.



Ryan Sheridan (Fifth Year )  
House 3rds V Campbell

## SOCCER

Captain Daniel Bennett (6th Year) and his squad have had a busy few weeks. Competitive action, as always starts early and a 1st round win against Mac Dara's in the FAIS Leinster Cup may seem like a facile victory, but it wasn't. The 5-1 result does not reflect truly on the game. A quick fire start saw Christian Buckley (6th Year) get the opening goal, this was followed by Callum Dunne (6th Year) scoring twice with Cormac Sheahan (TY) also netting. Mac Dara's dominated the 2nd half and got a deserved goal before Jack Luff (TY) scored our 5th.

Our Defense of the Metropolitan league started in defeat to Tallaght CS. A last-minute penalty gave Tallaght CS the victory. This gives the squad an uphill battle to qualify from the group, two away games against St. Benildus and Templeogue await!



Liam Norton (6th Year) Blackrock Team  
Senior Soccer V Campbell



Daniel Bennet (Captain) Blackrock Senior  
Team Soccer V Campbell



Tom Cherico (Sixth Year) participating in  
the Swimming Gala



The Swimming Gala



Don Banks (Third Year)



Ciaran Kelly (Third Year)



Blackrock College Sailing Regatta



Blackrock College Swimming Gala



# Green Schools



We in **Green Schools** are delighted to be back in action, meeting weekly and in person and we are off to a very busy start for the year ahead. We had the first of our bi-annual **Environmental Awareness Weeks** with an exciting programme of events which ran from Monday 26 September – Thursday 29 September and was a great success.

Environmental Awareness Week 2022 Monday 26th - Thursday 29th September			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
OCEANS	FOOD	LAND	ENERGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LUNCHTIME LITTER PATROL</li> <li>BIODIVERSITY WALKS</li> <li>CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES PERIOD 6</li> <li>UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLIMATE CAFE (NO LECTURE HALL)</li> <li>CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES PERIOD 6</li> <li>VIDEO FROM PADDY SHANAHAN</li> <li>COMPETITION AND KWL</li> <li>LUNCHTIME LITTER PATROL</li> <li>BIODIVERSITY WALKS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES WALKING DEBATE</li> <li>BIN AUDIT</li> <li>BIODIVERSITY WALKS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES ENERGY FREE ZONE AND DISCUSSIONS</li> <li>LUNCHTIME KAHOOT QUIZ (CAULIS)</li> <li>TALK FROM EDDIE O'CONNOR TO COMMITTEE</li> </ul>

Each day had an individual theme. Monday's theme was 'Oceans', Tuesday's 'Food', Wednesday's 'Land' and Thursday's 'Energy'. We used our 'Triple A Approach' to promote each theme – **Awareness, Appreciation, Action** and each day had activities for students and staff to take part in to raise Awareness, encourage Appreciation and prompt Action.

Activities included a **Climate Café**, serving Hot Chocolate to students and staff and highlighting the journey of the drink from the Cocoa Bean to Cadburys to the Cup. We ran **Biodiversity Walks** around our beautiful campus for Junior Year Groups, on Thursday we had a **Kahoot Quiz** in the Learning Centre - open to all and throughout the week we invited students and teachers to participate in **classroom discussions** about the 'Climate Crisis' and possible solutions to the problems.

A key classroom activity of the week was a video from one of our newest Green Schools members, **Paddy Shanahan**, Second Year, who is currently living in **Green School Bali**. He sent a thought provoking and inspirational video of what school is like for him and challenging us to consider how we can live and work more sustainably.

We also had a **Litter Patrol** in Second Year which attracted a great number of volunteers each lunchtime throughout the week. The



Chair of our Committee, Edward Wilson, at the Kahoot Quiz for EAW



L to R) R Harlowe, D O'Neill, L. Perez, L. Beale, E. Wilson and S. Hamilton at the Climate Cafe

highlight of the week was the **Q&A with Eddie O' Connor (Class of 1965), founder of both Airtricity and MainStream Renewable Power**. Eddie held an incredible Q&A with the Committee on Thursday highlighting the future of Renewable Energy in Ireland and across the globe. It was a pleasure to have Eddie back in the College and the Green Schools' Committee are so grateful for the time he spent with us!

Overall, we in the Green Schools' Committee are very happy with how our first EAW went and we look forward to planning more events for the next one in late February! **We meet every Thursday in the Learning Centre at 1pm. All welcome.**



(L to R) Second Year Volunteers P. Byrne, A. Kearney, D. Rogan, L. O'Riagain, P. O'Reilly, E. Doyle doing Litter Patrol



Second Year Volunteers Cian O'Flannagain and E. Fitzpatrick on Litter Patrol



Tuesday Volunteers during Environmental Awareness Week



Green School Committee members with Mr Eddie O Connor

# Global Citizenship



The Global Citizenship Committee (GCC) has gained much interest this year; this was sparked by a very successful clubs and societies day, held in St Patrick's corridor.



'The Bottle Cap Mural 2022'

The GCC built upon an already growing committee and now have a committed group of students ranging from 2nd to 5th Year. This enthusiasm is evident through the students range of ideas and dedication to their tasks and projects.

This year 'The Spiritan Education Trust' has assigned all Spiritan Global Citizenship Committees (GCC) with a shared theme of 'Energy and Sustainability'. Students have

swiftly begun working on this theme and have decided they want to raise awareness on Direct Provision, specifically looking at how the energy crisis has and will impact these centres. Team members: Edward Wilson, Luke Beale, Ciaran Murphy and Conor McCormick have been busy researching direct provision and will host a Blackrock College Radio (BCR) show discussing why private industry trumps public amenities. BCR will also see the beginning of our very successful Kenya Collaboration Project. Team members: Cillian O'Leary and Luke Beale will interview students from our sister school 'Holy Ghost Machakos'. Luke and Cillian hope to find out what life is like in Kenya now, particularly with the horrific drought they are experiencing.

Similar to our previous projects, 'The Bottle Cap Mural' and 'The Eco-Brick Couch', we would like to create a physical project that represents Global Citizenship which will inspire and make people question social justice issues prominent in current society. This year, the GCC have commenced designing a mural that encompasses everything Global Citizenship is.

Finally, ensure to check out our Instagram, website, and permanent Global Citizenship Education board in the Digital Learning Centre to find out even more about Global Citizenship and what we are up to.

Website link: [Blackrock College GCC \(black-rock-college-gcc.com\)](https://blackrock-college-gcc.com)  
Instagram link: [blackrock\\_gcc\\_2k21](https://www.instagram.com/blackrock_gcc_2k21)



The Student Wellbeing Committee have had a very positive start to the year. In September we helped to organise the 'Clubs and Societies' Sign-up Day', loosely based on Freshers' Week in Colleges. The day provided students with an opportunity to see what was on offer in Blackrock in terms of extra-curricular activities.

Members of various committees and teams manned stations on St. Patrick's Corridor and the boys could sign-up for clubs that they might not have realised were available to them. It created a great buzz at lunchtime and lots of extra-curricular groups benefitted with an increase in their membership.

Anti-Bullying Day took place towards the end of September and on this day, we challenged everyone in our community to think about their actions, their words and the impact they have on our culture. Saying sorry to someone is a key step in acknowledging wrong-doing but wouldn't it be even better if we didn't engage in bullying actions in the first place. We must try to remember to always 'Be Caring' to ourselves and others.



Each pupil is entitled to an education free from fear and intimidation.  
Bullying is not tolerated in Blackrock College.

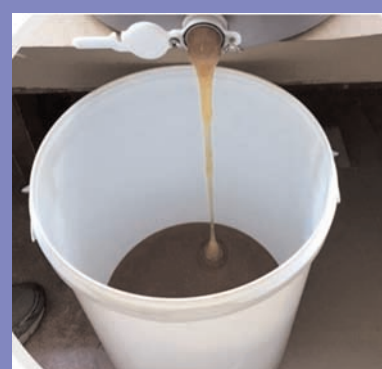
Our attention now turns to Mental Health Awareness Day which takes place on Thursday November 10th. We will be encouraging 6th Years and staff to wear Orange – in support of our Amber Flag, which illustrates our commitment to promoting positive mental health. On November 10th look out for the launch of our Cuppa Club, a place where staff and students are welcome to drop in and have a chat over a cup of hot chocolate and some cupcakes. Listen out for our BCR programme where Alan Quinlan and Brent Pope talk about their struggles with mental health and strategies that we can use to overcome difficulties that we may be experiencing at any point in our lives. Remember the Wellbeing Anonymous Tool is always there for you – on your Year Teams of the links section of EduLink. Have a safe and happy mid-term break.

Wellbeing  
Anonymous  
Tool

## Rock Bees are We!!



As part of our commitment to biodiversity and thanks to the tremendous generosity of Niall Ringrose (class of 79), the school acquired two beehives in March 2021 which are nestled in the shrubbery away from the path, sheltered from the winds and surrounded by mature tree growth. The hives have thrived, and on Saturday September 24th, 2022, we had our third harvest... 123 jars of honey. If you are interested in taking part in this fantastic project, please contact [ntoolan@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ntoolan@blackrockcollege.com).





# RockEd -Talks to challenge, inspire and entertain



RockEd 2022, was an evening that both celebrated the many talents of Blackrock College's student population and sought to inform all present of the interdependencies that make us *Global Citizens*.

Talks ranged from reflections on the wonderful potential of the growth of multiculturalism in contemporary Irish society to a witty musing on the many merits of veganism – and everything in between!

Aidlink's Anne Cleary was the evening's guest speaker and engaged the audience with a fascinating insight into her life working in Africa. It was a talk that undoubtedly highlighted what it is to be an active *Global Citizen*.

Our thanks to the school's management, the maintenance team, Jennifer McGuire, Anne Cleary, and the RockEd committee.



Senan McCloskey ( Fifth Year )



Donal Robson ( Fifth Year )

Frazer McGinn, Jamie Starr Bourke, Aaron Murtagh (6th Years) , Patrick Hayden and Senan McCloskey (5th Years) , Zach Egan Ruane(4th Year), and Jamie Browne Lynch ( 3rd Year ) all enthralled, entertained, and provoked thought with their passionate deliveries – and, like any good public speaking event, the night's proceedings were given great shape by the formidable 'MCing' of Donal Robson (5th Year) and Peter O'Connor (4th Year).



Patrick Hayden ( Fifth Year )



Ann Cleary CEO of AidLink



Frazer McGinn ( Sixth Year )



Jamie Bowe Lynch (Third Year)



Jamie Starr Bourke (Sixth Year)



Peter O'Connor ( Transition Year )



Aaron Murtagh ( Sixth Year )



Zack Egan Ruane ( TY )

## Reflection

THE HIGHEST SERVICE DEMANDS THE  
GREATEST SACRIFICE, BUT IT SECURES THE  
FULLEST BLESSING AND THE GREATEST  
FRUITFULNESS.

- JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR -

