

# Castle Chronicle – Christmas 2022



## Message from the Director of Boarding

Christmas is that most cherished of holidays for so many of us across the world ; a time of celebration with family and friends; a season immersed with feelings of joy, friendship, charity and goodwill. We hold in our hearts warm memories of Christmases gone by and of time spent with loved ones.

Christmas, of course, starts with Christ. We keep in our thoughts those who are separated from their families during the holidays. We are grateful for those who serve their communities during the festive period. We offer prayers for those alone, struggling, or ill during this Christmas Season. Charles Dickenson aptly describes Christmas as the time that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fire-side and quiet home!

At Christmas time, we are encouraged to “be grateful”. As one of the core values here at Blackrock College and in the Castle, we believe that gratitude is part of our character. We have a lot to be grateful for. Personally, I am most grateful for the time, energy and effort I witness the boys dedicate to each other on a daily basis. This is what makes the Castle special. During the opening term we have seen our boys excel academically , in the sporting and musical arenas, partaking in new challenges and mastering old ones. In every adversity, we have managed to find opportunity. I think that hope speaks to the spirit of the season.

*“T’was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” – Clement Clarke Moore*

As we draw ever closer to the holidays, I can assure that the famous line from *The Night before Christmas* does not hold any truth in the Castle. Both students and staff busy preparing for the examination period and hopefully enjoying themselves along the way. Christmas is a time for family, food and fellowship. I wish you nothing but the very best of what the season has to offer. Happy Christmas.

Mr. Tiernan Mealiffe  
**Director of Boarding**  
Mr. Joseph Keena

### Upcoming Events:

**Date:**  
11th of December  
14th of December  
13th to the 21st of December

**Event:**  
Boarders’ Carol Service  
Boarders’ Christmas Dinner  
Christmas Examinations



The finished products



4th Years Boarders celebrating with pizza after Junior Cycle results day



4th Year Boarders at the SVDP 24 hour Football Marathon – Nico Perez Rodriguez, Declan Cadden, Samuel Perez Martin, Albert Lindners and Pepe Castilla Garcia



4th Year Boarders volunteering their time on the College Soup Run – Mr. Keena, Samuel Perez Martin, Eamonn Evans, Adam Dungan, Albert Lindners, Nico Perez Rodrigues and Juan Pablo Paez Carrillo



4th, 5th and 6th Year Boarders enjoying a meal out together – Dixon Chongo, Rick Shin, Nick Fu, Vlad Sukhodolov, Jonathon Liu, Antonio Forte-O’Hanlon



1st Year Boarders Christmas photo



Samuel Perez Martin – 4th Year Boarder and Zihan Qu – 3rd Year Boarder, celebrating their birthday



Castle Birthday Boys – Liam Demann, Leonid Kuzmin, Jody O’Carroll, James Mason, Jose Carlos De La Cuesta, Daniel McDermott



3rd Year Boarders Christmas photo



2nd Year Boarders Christmas photo



Eamon Bradley – 5th Year Boarder, celebrating his birthday



1st Year Boarders carving their pumpkins for Halloween- Shinki Yu, Scott Qi Guang, Garry Kingston, Kevan Corrigan, Lucas Roura, Daniel Morrissey, Kaden Dillon



4th Year Boarders Christmas photo



5th and 6th Year Boarders Christmas photo