

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Easter 2023

Dear Parents,

Recently, I came across an article in the 1965 College Annual written by the late John Coyle. Celebrated Artist, renowned Art Teacher (1951-91), and first lay Vice-Principal (1972-91) at Blackrock, he wrote that he was pleased that, at last, Art had **“ceased to be an ‘extra’ and holds its place as an essential element in some form or other in any proper formal education.”** He quoted the French painter Eugene Carrière- **“A student’s own talent, if one can help him to find it and experience it, is the best gift that one can make him.”** Both John Coyle and Eugene Carrière were well ahead of their time as what they promulgated is the currency of education today.

Professor William Damon, Stanford University, has written extensively on the importance of a sense of purpose in life. He defined this purpose as what you are interested in, what matters to you and what takes you beyond yourself. He highlights the importance of listening for a ‘youngster’s spark of interest.’ In other words, it is not so much that he may hear us but that we may hear him.



Matthew Wyse (Captain of the JCT) presents the Leinster Junior Rugby Cup to Father O’ Briolcháin (Spiritual Director) with Mr. J.O’ Doherty (President of the PPU, Class of 1986) and Jamie Rogan (Sixth Year, Cheerleading Team Leader)

In **‘Looking to the future’**, our strategic plan 2022 – 27, I wrote that we prepare young men for life not as passive recipients of what society has to offer but to be a voice of reason, to confidently espouse Christian values, to have the integrity, the inspiration and ingenuity to make a difference. We must build self-esteem and give each boy the confidence to keep going in the face of setback. There will always be setback. This is where resilience is important, the ability to keep going when stepping away may appear the better option. Key to this are feelings of self-worth, belonging and gratitude.

Easter is our season of resilience, of hope, and renewal. It is a reminder that God loves us and is with us always. Can we hear Him?

Our curriculum offers your sons an array of academic subjects and a range of activities that enhance the artistic, intellectual, and physical aspects of character, that encourage civic responsibility and service to others, that cultivate strong moral fibre and a Christian ethic that fosters spiritual growth.

Over the past 6 weeks, our Machakos immersion programme, the visit of boys from and to Holy Ghost Prep, Philadelphia, the Wesley Music Festival and M.U.N. conference; the concert in Christ Church Cathedral, Environmental Awareness Week and Addiction Awareness Day, the 5K RockRun, debates and Dungeons and Dragons, state orals and practicals have revealed character, prompted purpose, sparked interest. And of course, day-by-day classroom engagement is at the heart of this.

The schools’ cup finals left us with contrasting emotions. Oliver Coffey’s Senior, and Matthew Wyse’s Junior squads had very different experiences, yet both were received back in the College afterwards in the same fashion by family, staff and friends. We are very proud of both groups as we are of all our teams across rowing, soccer, rugby, gaelic games, badminton, basketball, table-tennis, swimming, cross-country and chess.

Education is about acknowledging that everyone has a talent and the search for that talent. I thank my Colleagues, the Parents’ Association, Community and Union who fuel that spark and encourage your sons to lead a purposeful life.

And so, to a well-deserved break;

May the risen Lord spark in each one of us hope, optimism, acceptance and understanding.

God Bless,

Alan MacGinty

Message from the Deans



The weeks since mid-term have been busy and eventful, as always, and it is great to see such enthusiasm and high levels of participation across all year groups. As Deans, we are delighted to have an opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the many achievements.

In academic life, we wish to acknowledge the great work being done and we draw attention to the importance of the Application Cards. We commend the efforts of all in establishing and maintaining good work practices and setting short-term, achievable targets. We see the benefits of providing regular feedback each week and we encourage making the Cards a weekly discussion point to assist in making progress. Equally, the review of the Easter exams offers an opportunity to reward good work and provide direction where necessary.

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

Some of the highlights of this half term must include the Rock Run in TY, the completion of Auxilium in Second Year, the Philadelphia exchange, superb SCT and JCT campaigns, the Easter Egg drive for Spirasi in Fifth and Second Year, preparation for a Junior Cycle in Third Year, as well as project work and Orals in Sixth Year. All great milestones achieved. We wish to acknowledge the importance of our feature days and weeks this term, most notably, Environmental Awareness Week and Addiction Awareness Day.

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

Finally, we wish you all a peaceful and joyous Easter, remembering that, for people of faith, Easter is not just some date, but the meeting with Jesus that restores our lives, and rekindles the hope every person needs.

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)



Fifth Year Willow Wheelers on tour in Kenya

We are immensely proud of the **Fifth-Year** students who travelled to **Kenya** with the Willow Wheelers recently on such an eye-opening and enriching tour. We admire their commitment and determination to drive forward their fundraising efforts.

We thank the **2023 Cheerleading team**, under the leadership of Jamie Rogan, David Crowley, Oscar Dougan, James Mason & Conor Yaxley for their unselfish giving of time, energy and voices on behalf of both Cup teams this season. The support in the stand at our Cup matches has been a testament to the creativity and commitment that all the cheerleaders have given to this student leadership project throughout the season. Many thanks to all.

The JLT captained by David Byrne (**Third Year**) are preparing for their league final in Donnybrook against Terenure – we wish them well. The J3rds bowed out at the semi-finals stage away to Newbridge College. The conditions and heavy pitch did not suit our fast paced game, but they fought valiantly right to the final whistle. Commiserations to the J4ths captained by Aidan Wherley who finished what has been a great season against a very strong Wilson's Hospital team.

Finally, under the stewardship of Matthew Wyse, the JCT faced St. Michael's in the final and in an exciting albeit nail biting match brought home the Leinster Junior Cup for the 53rd time, which they presented to Father O' Briolchain. Congratulations and well done to Matthew and his team!

Message from the Deans Cont'd



The **Leaving Certificate projects** in Music, Computer Science and Physical Education reached a conclusion before the Easter break and many thanks to Mr Orrock, Mr O'Connell and Mr Barry for their guidance and support in these fields of study. Leaving Cert projects in History, Geography, Religious Education, Art and Construction Studies will be submitted in Term 3. We wish all students well as they complete their examination booklets.

As you read this workshops are taking place in preparation for the 2nd & 4th Year Musical in the Final Term. It is always a highlight of the last term so make sure not to miss out! **TY IT Skills Assistance Programme** has continued to go from strength to strength as students aim to help retired members of local communities with their IT needs whatever the device. The success of the programme has seen it now expand to three parishes; Mount Merrion, Kilmacud, and Glasthule, with more than 70 TY students involved.

Between February 27th and March 3rd, a week of **mock oral examinations in Irish and the Modern Languages** took place in **6th Year**. These mocks presented our Leaving Cert students with a most valuable opportunity to prepare for their State Orals at Easter. Many thanks to Ms. Payne for her organisation of this timetable.

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

Well done to Jamie Brown Lynch who made it to the semi-finals in the **Junior Schools Debating Competition** hosted by the UCD Law Society. I commend the **Third Year** team of Jamie, Brian Carroll, Tom Hayden and Josh Murphy who took part. Elsewhere Jamie and Josh have qualified to compete in the International Competition for Young Debaters in Cambridge University in April. We wish them well.

Auxilium

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

On **Ash Wednesday, 1st March**, the **Class of 2023** were given the opportunity to receive blessed ash in a ceremony in the College chapel. All were reminded of the Lenten challenge to remain 'faithful to the Gospel'. The Pastoral Team hopes that many Sixth Years will respond to the invite that will be extended to all, to actively participate in the Graduation Eucharist in May.

Over mid-term, Ian Duane (**Third Year**) was one of 31 scouts in Ireland to selected to take part in the **Crean Challenge**, an expedition to Iceland. A fantastic challenge both physically and mentally to have completed. Great work Ian.



Ian Duane receiving his medal and certificate for completing the Crean Challenge

Even with such little time the **TY Rockcast** Management Team managed to produce two highly interesting episodes, Conor McFarland, Henry Brown and Fionn Whelan had a discussion panel with Mr. Sheil discussing our place in the universe and Darragh O'Neill, Declan Cadden and Rory Donohue discussed the Kenya Immersion Trip. All episodes are available on [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/search/Rockcast+2023) by searching 'Rockcast 2023'.

Unfortunately our **Irish Debating Team** including Jack Burke, Oisín Tiernan and Ben Kieran-Gelinnon (**Sixth Years**) exited the Gael-Linn Comórtas Díospóireachta and Phiarsaigh, losing out to Alexandra College and Loreto Dalkey in a very close second round debate.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



There was tremendous **Fifth Year** participation at the **Wesley Music** festival and several accolades to boot! Congratulations and well done to all involved.

Congratulations to Iain McLoughlin (**Sixth Year**) and the Castle rugby squad on an excellent victory away in Newbridge in the semi-final of the Senior 3rd League on March 15th. We wish the squad well for their final.

We congratulate captain Stephen Moloney and his squad on their recent performance over two days in the **Second Year Rugby Festival in Terenure College**. Playing in dreadful weather conditions on the Friday they beat Gonzaga and Parma but lost out to Castleknock. Day two culminated in a win over Methody but a defeat by Pres Cork resulting in a creditable 6th place. We commend the Second Years in the extended A/B and C/D squads for an excellent season of rugby.

Congratulations to **Philippe Le Roux (6th Year)** on his selection as captain of the Ireland **U'19 Cricket team** to tour South Africa between 22nd - 30th March. We wish Philippe and the College Senior Cricket Team well for the Leinster Schools' Cup in Term 3.

The Green Schools Committee encouraged all to embrace the Triple A Approach of Awareness, Appreciation and Action throughout our daily lives. **Fifth Year** students are strongly encouraged to be active leading members of the Committee.

Directly after February midterm **16 TY Blackrock students** hosted our **Holy Ghost Prep** friends from our sister school in Philadelphia USA. A fantastic week full of activities took place ranging from the Croke Park Skyline Tour to a day trip to the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren, a magician show, a cookery class making breakfast rolls and much more besides! As you read this the return trip to Philadelphia will be taking place during the first week of the Easter break. My thanks to Mr Toolan and Dr Maguire for their dedication to making this programme such a positive experience for both sets of students.

The **6th Year Parents' Committee** is continuing its excellent work with much focus this term being directed towards fund-raising for the trip to Kenya this Summer. So far there has been a Bake Sale, a Ladies and Men's Lunch and a Golf Outing is planned for Elm Park GC on Friday 5th May. The Graduation sub-Committee is also working hard on the planning and organisation of the Graduation Lunch on May 21st in the Pavilion in Leopardstown.

Fifth Year Macdara Cosgrave will spend Easter on tour in South Africa with the **UI9 Cricket Team**. This is a huge honour for Macdara. Safe travels.



Fifth Year Macdara Cosgrave as he prepares for South Africa Cricket Tour.

It was great that so many **3rd Years** took part in the annual **Rock 5k Run** held on March 4th. We have a very strong athletics squad in 3rd Year who were very competitive in the race. Congratulations to Calum Dunne who finished 2nd overall.

We commend co-captains **Peter Lee and Santiago Franza** and their team on a strong and competitive game in their recent **2nd Year Basketball plate semi-final** against Belvedere. Sadly, they lost out to Belvedere, 44-41 in the end. We especially highlight fine contributions from the co captains themselves and team members **Rocky Kenneally, Hugh Foley, Alvaro Garcia, Jose Carlos de la Cuesta, and Adrian Ho**. The team can look forward to future friendly games in the weeks ahead.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



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

Congratulations to Jack Casey of Duff House who was winner of the **3rd Year Fantasy Six Nations competition**, securing valuable house points for Duff House in the process. Jack topped the leader board of 44, closely followed in second by Donnacha Barry and Alex Swan in third.

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

Richie Sadlier addressed the **Class of 2023** on his own journey through addiction to wellbeing as part of **Addiction Awareness Day** on March 28th. Many thanks to Ms Jennifer McGuire and the Parents' Council for organising this most important event in the college calendar.

Fifth Years Jack Angulo, Charlie Molony and Tommy Butler have been selected to represent the IRFU's **UI8's Club Rugby Team** at the upcoming Easter camp. Well done all!

As the Sixth-Year students approach the final term, they should rest assured that they can continue to make significant academic progress in these final weeks. We strongly encourage students to continue to attend class and to fully avail of our wide range of advice and support systems in the run up to the Leaving Certificate. We wish the **Class of 2023** all the very best with these final preparations.

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

Cian O'Sullivan (Class of 2005) and Luke McCann (Class of 2016) launched the **TY 5k Rock Run** on Thursday 23rd February in the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre. Rory Donohue did a wonderful job as MC of the event alongside Declan Cadden and Darragh O'Neill who gave a powerful account of their time in Kenya over February midterm. Many thanks also to the students involved in the wider TY launch team for all their work in preparation of the launch. More than 250 race participants from the whole Blackrock College and Willow Park Community took part in the race on Sunday March 4th. We are getting ever closer to those pre-Covid numbers, and we look forward to building on that next year. An amazing €13,309 was raised for our charity partner Aidlink.



A Competitive start to the Rock Run!

Over February midterm a record **34 TY students travelled to Machakos, Kenya** with Aidlink and another 3 TY students travelled to Kenya as well with Willow Wheelers. The main focus of the Machakos Trip was an educational immersion programme where our boys went to school side by side with their Kenyan counterparts in the Holy Ghost school in Sultan Hamud. The boys travelling with Willow Wheelers, visited some of the incredible projects which have been supported by all the hard work around the fundraising which the group does. It is easy to see the second you speak to a member of either group how much the experience impacted them and the key for them all now is for the impact of the trip to continue beyond the dates of travel.



Fifth Year Willow Wheelers on their recent tour to Kenya.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



The **Wesley Inter-Schools Music Festival** returned in March, and we commend all of our **Second-Year** entrants on their wonderful participation. In particular, we congratulate **John Ding** who achieved second place in the piano solo under 16 competition and **Conor Byrne** who came second in the under 14 solo singing classical category. We congratulate **Matthew Leamy** who came second in the under 16 wind category. Finally, we commend the band with **John McCallig, Matthew Leamy, Max Rainigill, Andrew Kearney and John Ding** who achieved 4th place in the rock band competition.

Commiserations to Daniel Bennett (**Sixth Year**) and the **Senior Soccer** squad who were defeated 4-2 by Coláiste na hInse after a pulsating FAIS Leinster Senior Cup semi-final on Tuesday February 21st in Malahide. Goals by Eoin Maher and Callum Dunne were unfortunately not enough to ensure victory on the day.

We commiserate with Oliver Coffey and the **SCT** on their defeat in the final of the SCT to Gonzaga College on St. Patrick's Day. Nothing more could have been asked of the squad throughout the season and the reception in the Sports Hall on their return displayed the pride that the whole school community took in this team. We extend a sincere thanks to Mr Vanstone and his team of coaches for all their work invested in the squad throughout the season.

Following on the back of a roller coaster season so far, **Fifth Year Ronan Fahey** has been selected for the Leinster swim team to take part in the National Interprovincial Senior Schools' Competition. Good luck Ronan!



Fifth Year Ronan Fahey at a recent swim festival in Swansea, winning Bronze and Silver in the 800m freestyle and 200m butterfly respectively.

Congratulations to **Jack McGlone (6th Year)** the College's Senior representative in the **East Leinster Cross Country Championship** on his qualification for the Leinster Finals this term.

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

Callum Dee, Callum Downes Darragh McCarthy and Jamie Ó'Nualláin (**Third Year**) are **Leinster Champions in Badminton!** Well done to the team who finished off the season unbeaten to become U16 Leinster Junior Champions. Fantastic achievement!

Fifth Year Students have availed of the opportunity to submit applications for the highly coveted and limited places on the **Dublin Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** in September 2024. We thank them for their willingness to serve and wish them all well.

Dates for the TY Diary:

TBC: Masterchef Heats and Finals

28th April: Junior Cycle Whole School Training Day
(Class Suspended)

28th Apr – 05th May: Transition Pilgrimage to Santiago

1st – 05th May: Music, Art and Drama Week

9th – 12th May: 2nd & 4th Year Musical

14th May: Sports and Family Day

15th - 19th May: TY Work Experience II

23rd May: TY Day of Refection

29th and 30th May – Portfolio Assessment and Interview

Congratulations to **Louis Dignam and Harry Whelan, 6th Year co-captains of the Senior 2nds XV** who have qualified for their Leinster final following an excellent victory over St. Michael's College on March 22nd. We wish the squad well for their final.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



We congratulate our Second Years, on their immense contribution to the **JCT squad** this season. Congratulations to **Paddy Agnew, George Eggers, Rhys Keogh, Donnacha Murray, Harry Forde and Paddy Scally.** Outstanding!

The Class of 2023 completed their **final set of in-house examinations** between March 7th and 24th. While reports will not be finalised until after April 1st, class teachers have been providing results and advice on both the quality and quantity of study that needs to be done by 6th Year students over the remaining weeks of term.

Dates for your Diary 6th Year

Tuesday 2nd May	6th Year Parents Conference
Thursday 4th May	Summer Concert
Friday 5th May	Extra-Curricular Photographs
Sunday 14th May	Sports & Family Day
Sunday 21st May	6th Year Graduation Mass
Saturday 27th May	Academic Prize Giving
Wednesday 31st May	Class ends for 6th Year students
Wednesday 7th June	Public Examinations begin

In **hurling Third Year** have been ably represented by Finn Hamilton and Rory Kilroy as the Junior Team booked their place in the Championship Semi Final with a solid victory over Oatlands College.

There is still much to come in the **final term as TY students** complete the Gaisce Bronze Award requirements and the Adventure Journey Trip taking place right after the Easter break to Eclipse Adventure in Kerry. We still have the Mock Trials and Court visits, The One Act Play, Masterchef Heats, Masterchef Finals, Music Art and Drama Week, TY Work Experience II, Computer Science Module, TY Social Soccer, TY Day of Reflection, Guest Speakers, TY Portfolio Interviews and more alongside that!



John Ding at the Inter-Schools Music Festival

As the Leman concert highlighted the immense musical talent in **Third Year**, it was great to see Jamie Brown Lynch and James Donohoe perform individually in the recent **Wesley Interschools Music Festival**. Jamie was awarded second prize in classical acoustic guitar U15 category with James also second in the U16 solo singing category. Well done lads!

Fresh from hosting the wonderfully successful RockMun, the **Fifth Year MUN** delegates took a prominent role in the Wesley Conference sitting as chairs of the Security Council, Disarmament and Technology, and Special Political and Decolonisation Committees. English and Irish Debating Societies continue to meet and compete, and we wish them all well.

Second Years in EAW

Well done to our Second Years who volunteered their time during Environmental Awareness Week to do **Litter Patrol** on lunchtimes during the week and to participate in the **Climate Café**. Great contributions in particular from Matthew Leamy, Thomas Murray, Binghong Wang, Cian O Flannagain, Clyde Corbantes, Collie Breslin, Rian Purcell, Marc Hooper, Padraig Matthews and Ethan Doyle.

Fiachra Greany (McQuaid) emerged the winner of the 6 Nations Fantasy League for 2023. We thank Harry Whelan for his organisation of this year's event. Leman House lead the way in the **6th Year Inter-House** overall competition. As we head to the final term with a 6th Year Soccer League and Sports Day yet to take place, there are still many House points to be played for.

The **Senior Basketball** season concluded with a mini-tournament where victories over Wesley (47 to 39) and St. Columba's (42-26) ensured that Jamie Ahern O'Connell (Sixth Year) and his squad were able to conclude an excellent season on a high.

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Even though we have had two weeks of Easter Exams since February midterm, it has been a busy few weeks of activity in **TY**. The Transition Year Tours saw the entire year group go to either Jumpzone, Goquest or Footgolf. More than 80 TY students were involved in the second TY Tag Rugby Blitz of the year. We are very proud of the involvement in a thrilling SCT season by Sami Bishti, Paddy Clancy and Albert Lindner. Barista, Cookery, Legal Studies and First Aid evening courses continued along with 13 Transition Year modules. Congratulations to all the TY students (Patrick Cody, Peter O'Connor, Edward Wilson, Mark Sheerin, Mike Brady, Jack Drumm, Tom O'Sullivan, Fiachra Coakley, Darren Stephens, Shane Hamilton, Ben McElligott, Harrison Carr and Darragh O'Neill) who put on a superb show with Rathdown school in the production of 'High School Musical'.



Lovely Irish weather on the Cliffs of Moher!

There was a very strong **6th Year** representation in this year's **Wesley Inter-Schools Music Festival** on the weekend of 3rd/4th March. We congratulate the 6th Year band 'You Tell Me' comprising Dan Barry, Jan Eric Brandt, Joseph Gibney & Daniel Keeley, who alongside the Jazz Band were awarded 1st Prize in their respective competitions.

On the back of the excellent SCT campaign, we congratulate Alex Mullan and Mikey Yarr (**Sixth Year**) on their selection for the **IRFU U18's** camp in preparation for international fixtures over the Easter break. We wish them well.

A reminder to all **Fifth-Year** parents that students continue to receive their returned **Application Cards** every Monday. These cards offer an invaluable opportunity to offer praise and encouragement where needed and serve to keep students focused and motivated as we work through the final term of Fifth Year.



Fifth Year Sean ÓNualláin whose commitment to Tennis is unrelenting.



Blackrock and Holy Ghost Prep students making Breakfast Rolls!



Fifth Years working hard for their Easter Exams.



Boarders at the Rock Run



Published Artists Fifth Years Matthew Buckley, Darragh Kilbride, Daniel Flannery, Oscar Mannion and Ricky Shin

Message from the Deans Cont'd



Darragh O'Neill and Declan Cadden (both TY) speaking at the Rock Run Launch



Luke McCann and Cian O'Sullivan with the TY students at the Rock Run Launch



TY students in Kenya

Science



On Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 1st March, 145 projects were judged for our SciFest @ School fair. We were very grateful for our judges, Hugo Rowsome (Scifest), Rory Geoghegan, Brian Smyth, Marie Kelly and Katie Buckley for taking time to judge our projects. It was incredible to see the senior science corridor decorated with wonderful project ideas which gave such insight into the scientific minds of our Second-Year students. The judges commented and commended the boys on their confidence while presenting their projects and their enthusiasm. They also mentioned that the boys really knew their variables and hypothesis' which is a huge part of a scientific investigation.

The awards are as follows:

Blackrock College Awards:

Most unique idea:

Investigating the relationship between walking cadence and leg length by **Rory Staunton**

Best Poster Display:

A comparison study on the insulation rate of 3 types of wool by **Ryan Duffy**

Researching the percentage of the volume of fruit taken up by liquid by **Matthew Leamy, William Lynch. And John Ding**

SciFest Awards:

EirGrid Climate:

What amount of electrical current is needed to produce enough hydrogen to power every car in Ireland? by **Andrew Kearney and Padraig Matthews**

Highly Commended:

How much bacteria is on the food we consume by **Daniel Burn**

Does playing sport make you stronger by **Cian McCarron**

The effects of different shoes/boots on the accuracy and conversion of penalties by **James McLoughlin**

Which surface causes different balls to bounce the highest by **Hugo Bourke**

2nd Place:

Asch Conformity Experiment by **Louis Waldron**

Joint 1st Place:

Does the wood that an acoustic guitar is made of affect the sound of the guitar by **Calum Burke and John McCallig**

Why so many winglets by **Cian O' Flannagain**

All of our students have entered SciFest @ College fair



'Why so many winglets' by Cian O' Flannagain (Joint 1st)

which will take place in the TUD Dublin Grangegorman sometime in May. We wish they all the best of luck as they compete nationally.



'Does the wood that an acoustic guitar is made of affect the sound of the guitar' by Calum Burke and John McCallig (Joint 1st)



'Asch Conformity Experiment' by Louis Waldron (2nd Place)



'What amount of electrical current is needed to produce enough hydrogen to power every car in Ireland?' by Andrew Kearney and Padraig Matthews (EirGrid Climate Award)



Rory Staunton (Most Unique Idea)



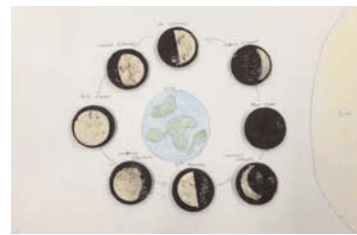
Cian McCarron, Hugo Bourke, Daniel Burn, James McLoughlin (absent) (Highly Commended Award)



3rd Year Science

Third Year Science have had a busy term preparing for their mock exams. Students were learning about neutralisation reactions between acids and bases. Some everyday examples are heartburn and bee/wasp stings. Did you know that bee stings are acidic while wasp stings are basic? Therefore you need to apply a base to a bee sting and an acid to a wasp sting in order to neutralise the reaction. Some Third Year students in Ms. Wyse's class carried out a titration experiment.

Science Cont'd



Science Club

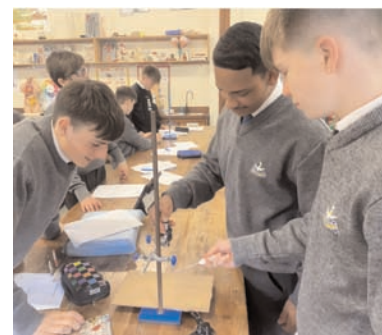
Students in Science Club have been busy extracting DNA from strawberries and investigating the effect of direct light on temperature.



Third Year students were also learning about the phases of the moon. They used Oreos to recreate the phases of the moon cycle. This activity is popular as biscuits can be eaten at the end!



James O'Brien and Sean Mullane isolating DNA from strawberries



Jack Spain, Owen Coetzee and Jamie Shanley investigating the effect of direct light on temperature.

Pastoral Care Programme



MORNING MASS

Join us for Morning Mass in the College Chapel any school day morning at 8.15am.

You are welcome either in person or online. If you have any special intention or anniversary you would like remembered, please email

fmadden@blackrockcollege.com or phone 01 – 275 2125.

All are welcome.

We often refer in Blackrock to the "Blackrock Family", our extended family – a place where lifelong friendships are formed with amazing people both for students and staff. But there always comes a time when we all move on from Blackrock; but we never leave Blackrock – Blackrock will always be a special place where there is always a welcome back awaiting us. At the end of this term, Ms Irene Dunne, our College Sacristan and kind supporter of our resident Spiritan Community will retire from the College. Irene has been a central part of the Pastoral Department and for her kindness, professionalism, attention to detail and for her good humour, we will be forever grateful. A lady of great reverence and of great respect – an inspiration to all of us in our faith journey, we thank Irene and acknowledge the great influence she has had on generations of boys and staff.



As we journey through the season of Lent and approach Easter, we have much to celebrate and be grateful for. On Ash Wednesday, ashes were distributed in all classes and hundreds of boys took ashes home for families, grandparents and neighbours – faith is alive in Blackrock.

In the final week of term, as part of our preparation for Easter, "Holy Week" liturgies were celebrated in the College Chapel and in the College Prayer Room. These "Holy Week" liturgies were celebrated a week early as the school is on Easter Holidays during Holy Week. Although on school holidays, Blackrock never closes as the Past Pupils' Union Retreat will take place on Holy Thursday and Good Friday when in

excess of 100 past pupils attend the Annual Union Retreat.



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

Blackrock Boys always strive to "be caring". Just two examples are the Auxilium Programme in 2nd and 5th Years and the Easter Egg Appeal for people living in Direct Provision and clients of Spirasi, the Spiritan led national centre for the rehabilitation of victims of torture now living in Ireland. This year's Easter Egg Appeal has seen the most generous donations ever by the boys – hundreds of children all over Ireland will receive the gift of an Easter Egg. Thank you to the boys for donating Easter Eggs and their parents for delivering them.

As we conclude this term, the process of selecting a new Principal continues – we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fides et Robur.

Sacrament of Confirmation

For students wishing to be Confirmed in the Third Term, please register before the end of February with fmadden@blackrockcollege.com

Blackrock College Prayer eBook

Download from Google, search ... "Blackrock College Prayer eBook"

<https://www.blackrockcollege.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Blackrock-College-Prayer-Book.pdf>

Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2023



2023 Cheerleaders who showed tremendous leadership throughout the Cup Campaign



James Browne (Third Year)
JCTV St Gerard's V Blackrock JCT



JCTV St Gerard's



Gavin Laing and Bernard White JCTV St Gerard's



Oisín Daly , Geoff Wall and Matthew Wyse
(Third Year) JCTV St Gerard's



Donnacha Murray (2nd Year) and Jared Dinn (Third Year)JLT V Clongowes



JLT V Clongowes Jamie Shanley , Oliver Plunkett , Harry O' Neill , Gavin Patrick McGrath and Lorcan Golden (All Third Year)



Louis Magee(Third Year) , Rhys Keogh(2nd Year) , Thomas Keaveney and Conal Power (Third Year) JCTV Terenure



Jack Mulrow and Vincent Barrett(Third Year)
Blackrock V Clongowes



Winners of the Supernode Book Competition with Mr A. MacGinty (Principal) and Ms C.Wyse (Green Schools)

Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2023



Oisín Daly and Luke Coffey (Third Year) JCT V Terenure



S 2nds V St Michael's



Charlie Martin (Third Year) JCT V Terenure



James Browne (Third Year) JCT V Terenure



S2nds V St Michael's



S 2nds V St Michael's



Donnacha Maguire (Fifth Year) S2nds V St Michael's



Louis Dignam and Derry Maloney (Sixth Year) S2nds V St Michael's



Jack Larkin (Sixth Year), Nicholas Cronnelly (Fifth Year)
Greg Barron and Ciarán Patchell (Sixth Year) S2nds V St Michael's



Paddy Moore (5th Year), Jack Larkin (Sixth Year), Jack O'Neill (5th Year), Greg Barron (Sixth Year) and Brian O'Flaherty (5th Year) S2nds V St Michael's



SCTV Roscrea

Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2023



James O'Sullivan (Sixth Year) and Conor O'Shaughnessy (5th Year) SCTV Roscrea



Mark Walsh (5th Year) SCTV Roscrea



SCTV Roscrea



James O'Sullivan (Sixth Year) ,Conor O'Shaughnessy (5th Year) ,Alex Mullan and Tom O'Riordan (Sixth Year) SCTV Roscrea



Conor O'Shaughnessy (Fifth Year) SCTV St Michael's



SCTV St Michael's



SCTV St Michael's



Alex Mullan (Sixth Year), Conor O'Shaughnessy (5th Year) and Michael Colreavy (Sixth Year) SCTV St Michael's



Alex Mullan (Sixth Year) SCTV Gonzaga



Charlie Molony (Fifth Year) SCTV Gonzaga



SCTV Gonzaga



Luke Kritzing (Sixth Year) , Charlie Molony (Fifth Year) and Tom Briggs (Sixth Year) SCTV Gonzaga



Oliver Coffey (Captain of the SCT) SCTV Gonzaga



Mr E. O'Brien, Mr D. Lester, Mr J Vanstone and Mr K. Barry at the Rugby International Sevens Festival



Captain Derry Moloney and his team of TY and Fifth Year Players at the Rugby International Sevens Festival which this year celebrated the bicentenary of rugby in Rugby School

Snapshot 2nd Half Term 2023



Mr.E.O' Brien (Games master) at the Rugby International Sevens Festival



Players Relaxing at the Rugby International Sevens Festival



Oliver Coffey (Captain) SCT V Roscrea



Bobby Smyth talking to Third Years on Addiction Awareness Day



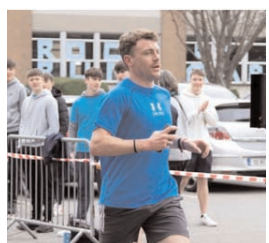
Richie Sadlier answering questions posed by Max Vidal and Nicholas Cronnelly(Fifth Year) on Addiction Awareness Day



TY Students training for the Camino in Glendalough .



Snapshot of TY RockRun



Snapshot of the Leinster Junior Cup Final



Blackrock : 17 St Michael's : 15



Green Schools



Environmental Awareness Week 2023 Monday 27th February - Friday 3rd March

Our second annual **Environmental Awareness Week** ran from Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March. Each day had an individual theme. Monday's theme was 'Energy Efficiency', Tuesday's 'Water Conservation', Wednesday's 'Biodiversity', Thursday's 'Sustainable Transport' and Friday's 'Waste Management'.

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.

On Monday we launched our **Green Schools Strategic Plan** and invited staff and students for feedback. Since it was **World Sustainable Energy Day** on Monday, we held a digital detox as part of the hobby showcase in the CADLC.

Activities throughout the week included, a beach clean-up, water conservation signs, a travel survey, classroom activities, lunchtime Kahoot quiz, as well as lunchtime litter patrols and an art display in St. the Patrick's corridor during the week.

On Wednesday we ran **Biodiversity Walks** around our beautiful campus for certain classes led by Cathal Copeland. Cathal is a wealth of knowledge in all areas of biodiversity. He shared some great insight into biodiversity around the campus.

We held our popular **Climate Café** on Friday, serving hot chocolate to students and staff and highlighting our 'Triple A Approach'. We also presented our prizes to our winners of two competitions. The first competition was an art competition where students made a piece out of items they found in the recycling bin. Congratulations to Daniel Francis (1st), Dylan Drum (2nd) and Harry Lowes (3rd).

Our second competition was **SUPERGRID – SUPER SOLUTION ART COMPETITION**

Eddie O'Connor (Class of 1965) recently published a book, **Supergrid – Super Solution**, which sets out how electricity can get the world off fossil fuels and accelerate moves to a zero-carbon world. Eddie is a former CEO of Bord na Móna and is the founder of Airtricity, Mainstream Renewable Power and Supernode Ltd. He is regarded as one of the world's leading experts on renewable energy. Eddie has been very supportive of the work of our Green Schools Committee in recent years and he has since broadened his involvement with Blackrock by offering our senior art pupils the opportunity to have their artistic interpretation of the future of global energy consumption featured in his new book.

Eight pupils had their work included in the book – Matthew Buckley, Daniel Flannery, Sascha Gibney, Darragh Kilbride, Oscar Mannion, Ricky Shinn, (all Fifth Year), Dixon Chongo and Finlay Mackay (Sixth Year).



Edward and Darragh presenting at the Climate Café



Students taking part in the EAW Kahoot Quiz



Art displays on St. Patrick's corridor from both competitions



Daniel Francis and Dylan Drumm(Both Fifth Years) winners of the Environmental Awareness Art Competition and TY Edward Wilson (Green Schools) –

The boys received their prizes during the recent Environmental Awareness Week and their work is now on display on St Patrick's Corridor. Mr Annraoi Wyer, Head of the Art Department, project worked closely with the Green Schools Committee on this activity and we thank him for his expertise and guidance.

Overall, we in the Green Schools' Committee are very happy with how our first EAW went and we look forward to our next one in the next school year!

Green Schools are currently in the process of applying for our next flag 'Global Citizenship Litter and Waste'. We had a meeting with our environmental awareness officer and have been given the green light to apply based on all our hard work over the past two years.

Within the past 2 years one main event that has taken place in our school is designing a new waste management system. We hope to have a new waste management system commence during term 3. Our biggest focus will be the education programme that will be launched along the new waste management system. The students need guidance on how to dispose of their waste correctly.

Wellbeing



The Student Wellbeing Committee has had an active period from January to March of the 2022/23. The Wellbeing Committee planned for Wellbeing Week for a good portion of January to make sure pupils across the College would have an eventful, educational, and enjoyable week. The week was successful and the feedback from the student body was immensely positive. The involvement from staff and students was great, some of the highlights of the week being 'Connect Day', a day when all the students banded together and wore their house colours and took part in a karaoke event in the Digital Learning Centre during their lunch. Another highlight of the week being a talk from Mr. John Morris who spoke about the importance of having a good and positive mindset towards oneself. After the resounding success of the Senior Cuppa Club for the 5th and

6th Years and Wellbeing Week, the Wellbeing Committee has put their efforts to planning and organising the Junior Cuppa Club for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years for the week after the exams to help get students into the Easter spirit post exams. Remember the Wellbeing Anonymous Tool is always there for you – on your Year Teams of the links section of EduLink. Have an egg-cellent Easter Holiday.



The Arts



The work of Daniel Flannery , Matthew Buckley , Darragh Kilbride, Sascha Gibney ,Ricky Shinn , Oscar Mannion (*Fifth Year*) Finlay Mackay and Dixon Chongo (*Sixth Year*) are the prize winners in the recent Supernode illustration competition.

Their work will be published in Dr. Eddie O'Connor's new book;
SUPERNODE – SUPER SOLUTION : The key to solving the energy crisis and decarbonising Europe .

This book explains how to save the planet from the climate crisis and energy shortage by using renewable energy and Eddie's unique Supergrid to connect all of Europe's northern windfarms with Europe's southern solar parks.



Sascha Gibney (Fifth Year)



Sascha Gibney (Fifth Year)



Ricky Shin (Fifth Year)



Oscar Mannion (Fifth Year)



Matthew Buckley (Fifth Year)



Finlay MacKay (Sixth Year)



Dixon Chongo (Sixth Year)



Darragh Kilbride ((Fifth Year)



Daniel Flannery (Fifth Year)



Sascha Gibney (Fifth Year)



Rick Shin (Fifth Year)



Oscar Mannion (Fifth Year)



Oscar Egan (Fifth Year)



Dylan Drumm (Fifth Year)



Joseph O'Connell (Fifth Year)



Harry Lowes (Fifth Year)



Andrew Gillett (Fifth Year)



Charlie Harvey (Fifth Year)



Darragh Kilbride (Fifth Year)



Darragh Bowler (Fifth Year)

Junior Debating



The OCTO-FINALS of the Junior Schools Debating Competition, hosted by the UCD Law Society and the UCD Literary and Historical Society, took place in UCD on Thursday February 23rd. **Motion:**

This House Would have all 16-year-olds get a part-time job.

The following students competed in the OCTO-FINALS in UCD: Jamie Browne-Lynch & Josh Murphy (both 3rd Year), Tom Hayden & Brian Carroll (both 3rd Year), Thomas Murray & Daniel Burns (both 2nd Year)

Josh Byrne and Jamie Browne-Lynch qualified to speak as a team and Thomas Murray qualified as an individual to speak in the QUARTER FINALS on March 2nd. **Motion: This House supports the voluntourism industry.** The SEMI - FINALS of the Junior Schools Debating Competition took place in UCD on Thursday March 9th. **Motion: This House Proposes an Ireland where all primary schools are Gaelscoils.**

Jamie Browne-Lynch (3rd Year) competed in the Semi - Finals and delivered an outstanding speech; unfortunately, he did not qualify to speak in the Grand Final, but out of 300 students who competed in the initial stages of this competition, Jamie debated against the last remaining 24 students in a thrilling Semi-Final. Well done, Jamie.

We congratulate Jamie for his outstanding performance and thanks to Josh Murphy



Daniel Francis (Fifth Year)

The Arts Cont'd



Jamie Browne-Lynch & Josh Murphy at the Quarter Finals in the UCD Debate



Jamie Browne-Lynch UCD Semi Final Debate

for his continued support of his debating partner, and to all the Junior Debaters who competed in this UCD Competition: Josh Murphy and Jamie Browne- Lynch (both 3rd Year), Daniel Burns and Thomas Murray (both 2nd Year), Matthew Leamy and Michael Kennedy (both 2nd Year), Tom Hayden and Brian Carroll (both 3rd Year).

Our next competition will take place in Cambridge Union on April 30th, 2023: Jamie Browne-Lynch & Josh Murphy (both 3rd Year) have both qualified to compete in ICYD, Cambridge.

MUN

WCDMUN 2023 began on Friday the 10th of March, at Wesley College Dublin. We sent two delegations, France & Yemen. Nine students across the two delegations debated topics ranging from the Insurgency in the Maghreb Region of Africa to the development of sustainable international travel.

Three students, Aran O'Flaherty (Fifth Year), Aaron Murtagh and Conor Casey (both Sixth year) represented the College as chairs in the Security Council, Disarmament and Technology Committees, and Special Political & Decolonisation Committee, respectively.



Model UN members representing France and Yemen at WCDMUN 2023

Congratulations to our three students who won awards, Henry Brown (Fourth Year) who received Highly Commended in the DITECH committee, Edward Wilson (Fourth Year) who received Commended in the Environment Committee and Tom Hayden (Third Year) who received Commended in the Historical Committee.

Thank you to Ms. Fitzsimons for preparing the boys ahead of the conference. The next event for the MUN Society is the High School's conference which follows the Easter break.

Irish Debating

The Irish Debating Team, consisting of captain Jack Burke, Oisín Tiernan (both 6th Year) and Nicholas Cronnelly (5th Year), was successful in the first round of Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh when, back in November, they presented a convincing argument as to why the UK should rid themselves of their royal family, proposing the motion "Ba cheart don Bhreatain fáil réidh leis an Teaghlach Ríoga" ("Britain should get rid of the Royal Family").

Following this victory, they proposed the motion "Is aoibhinn beatha an phinsinéara in Éirinn" ("The life of a pensioner in Ireland is a blissful one"). Such an undertaking required multiple early-morning and after-school meetings. Many thanks for the great help given to the team by Mr. Orrock and Ms. O'Connor during this time. The team was also grateful for the addition of Ben Kieran-Glennon (6th Year), a seasoned veteran of the Blackrock College debating scene.

Regrettably, this year's odyssey of Irish Debating was cut short prematurely in the library of St. Michael's College, when, despite a valiant effort the team ultimately lost out to Loreto Abbey Dalkey and Alexandra College. While this is the last year in Blackrock College for most of the team, the intense debates, the laughing and the chatting have instilled a true love for the beautiful Irish language, and all the great things that come with it. *Ar aon nós, is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste. Ná déanaigí dearmad ar an seanfhocal seo.*



Ben Kieran-Glennon, Oisín Tiernan, Jack Burke (all 6th Year)



BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp. MUSIC & DRAMA

We have been performing at lots of different events since the February midterm. We started at the **Wesley Interschools Music Festival** on March 3rd and 4th. With 42 different performances and 20 awards won, our students were excellent and it was a great weekend, celebrating the various types of music in secondary schools around the country, from choirs to bands and soloists to traditional groups. Congratulations to everyone who took part and to all the supporters and audiences.

Following on from this, on March 10th we teamed up with a touring group from St. Francis High School, Minnesota, USA, for a joint concert in **Christ Church Cathedral**. The Libermann Choir, Rockapella, Ceoltóirí Carraige and the Jazz Band all took part and enjoyed the wonderful acoustics of this historic venue.

On March 15th, we were treated to **'Spring into Song'** with mighty performances from the First Year Willow Park musician and singers. It is always exciting to see the young performers and for them to get the chance to hear the Libermann Choir and Rockapella – something for them to aim for in the future!

Just after St. Patrick's Day, the **Rathdown TY Musical 'High School Musical'** took place – a collaboration between Transition Year students of both schools. This was a great success with feelgood songs from start to finish. For some of our transition year students, this was their third musical of the year, and they were already asking about the Blackrock Second and Fourth Year Musical when they realised their performances were almost completed! Speaking of which, this year's Summer Musical takes place in the Jubilee Hall from May 9th to 12th. Keep an eye out for tickets and the posters which will reveal all soon!

Our next performance is the **Summer Concert** on May 4th, which returns to the Jubilee Hall for the first time since 2019! We hope to see you there.

Finally, the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle practical examinations are due to take place either side of Easter and we wish all students involved the very best of luck!

Blackrock College Results from Wesley Interschools Music Festival 2023

FIRST PRIZE - 3 PRIZES			
Jazz Band		Mix	2nd Level Orchestral Band
You Tell Me	Dan Barry	6th	Rock Bands O15
	Jan Eric Brandt		
	Joseph Gibney		
	Daniel Keeley		
Conor Byrne		2nd	Solo Singing Classial U14

SECOND PRIZE - 8 PRIZES			
Rockapella		6th & 5th	Unaccompanied Vocal Ensemble
Gavin Bowen-O'Connor		6th	Wind O16
Sean Treacy		6th	Solo Singing Popular O17A
Charlie Harvey		5th	Rock Guitar O15
Jamie Browne Lynch		3rd	Classical Acousti Guitar U15
James Donohue		3rd	Solo Singing Popular U16C
John Ding		2nd	Piano Solo U16
Matthew Leamy		2nd	Wind U16

The Arts Cont'd



FIRST CLASS HONOURS - 5 PRIZES			
Dan Barry		6th	Rock Guitar O15
Joseph Gibney		6th	Solo Singing Popular O17A
Sean Treacy		6th	Woolfson Cup Final - Solo Singing Popular
Franz Ezquerro		4th	Piano Solo O16
John McCallig		2nd	Rock Guitar U15

HIGHLY COMMENDED - 4 PRIZES			
Libermann Choir		6th & 5th	3 or 4-Part Boys' Choir
JAM	John Ding	2nd	Rock Bands U15
	Andrew Kearney		
	Matthew Leamy		
	John McCallig		
Jack Dempsey-Salley		6th	Own Performed Song O15
Daniel Flannery		5th	Solo Singing Popular U17A

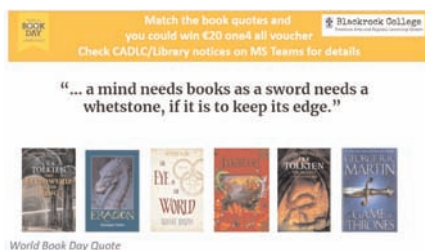


Blackrock College

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

World Book Day

For World Book Day, 87 students entered a guess the quote competition. Students had to match the correct quotes to six books to win a prize. Congratulations to James O'Brien, 2nd Year who won a One4all voucher.



Hobby Showcase Day.

As part of the wellbeing 30-day mindfulness challenge, Ms A. Dillon ran a hobby showcase day in the library with separate tables for chess, art, jigsaw and the rubix cube. The most popular table was with two Second Year students Cian O'Flannáin, and Cillian Hainbech, both Rubix cube champions, who demonstrated how they can solve the cube in less than 15 seconds.

CADLC Classes

Researching for Physics

Ms A. Dillon gave a research class to Mr Wards TY Physics class which focused on several areas including evaluating resources, conspiracy theories, pseudoscience and what to look for in a science article.

How to use a Third Level Library

Ms A. Dillon gave a workshop to 6th Years on how to use a third level library. Students were shown how to access library resources, where to access help material and how to create in text citations and references.

International Women's Day Exhibition

Caroline Pierce's 45 and 46 History classes prepared projects on Hidden women in History. These are women who have contributed but did not necessarily get the recognition they deserved. A selection of women were put on display in the library, along with facts associated with gender equality and International Women's day.



International Women's Day Slide

Staff Book Club

The book Free by Lea Ypi proved to be another very popular book at this terms staff book club. It's a coming-of-age novel about growing up in the last days of communist Albania.

Book Display

The CADLC committee chose a fantasy theme for February and March. A Lord of the Rings theme was put in display on front of the CADLC and students were invited to guess the Elvish writing. Congratulations to [name students] who each won an Easter Egg.



Cuppa Club

The Wellbeing and CADLC committee ran another very successful cuppa club On Tuesday 28th March, for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year students. Over 150 students attended. The idea of Cuppa Club is to encourage students to sit down and chat with each other.



Lord of the Rings display

Archives



The College archive is lucky to have a comprehensive collection of advertisements and prospectuses produced by the school since its foundation in 1860. These publications, containing both text and photographs, are an engaging and informative resource for charting the history of Blackrock College.

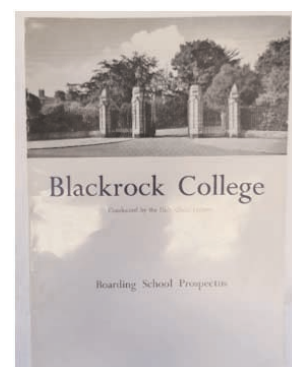
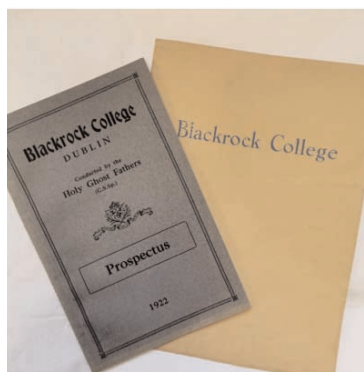


From the earliest advertisement in 1860 when the French College notified the general public that for 26 guineas per annum boarders would be provided with 'the same system of education' as the Holy Ghost Fathers' counterparts in France to the 1922 prospectus which states that the college 'gives a sound, thorough, and complete education - Primary, Intermediate, Commercial' for 14 guineas a term, these publications offer an intriguing view of the history of social and educational developments in Ireland.

It is notable that most of the prospectuses were produced to a high

standard, reflecting the considerable investment by the college authorities in advertising the facilities, campus buildings and learning resources on offer to boarders and day students. The large volume of high-quality photographs containing interior and exterior views, portraits of high-achieving students and group photographs of class and sports groups, are indicative of this.

To view these prospectuses or other records in the Archive, please get in touch: archives@blackrockcollege.com, Tel: 01 2752197



Global Citizenship



Libermann Mass

Every year the Libermann Mass is celebrated collaboratively with our sister school in Kenya, Holy Ghost School, Sultan Hamud. It was Holy Ghost School's turn to host the mass, Fr. John Wambu celebrated mass and Mr. MacGinty provided an insightful homily. Prior to the mass, the students worked hard to ensure each culture was represented equally. Through zoom, the GCE Committees prepared 'Prayers of the Faithful', the 'Our Father' and organised musicians for the day. It was decided that students from both schools would share their culture through prayers in Irish and Swahili. This was also heightened through the array of traditional music from both schools. As always, this was an immense success and is a highlight of the school calendar.



Libermann Mass Blackrock College



Holy Ghost School's Choir

Kenya Collaboration Project

During the Kenya Immersion Trip, the Global Citizenship Teams from Ireland and Kenya had the chance to meet in person. This was a very special meeting for all students and staff involved. Students had the opportunity to meet their friends from zoom, build upon their friendships further and most importantly discuss their collaboration project in more depth. Everyone involved reflected upon the positives and negatives over the past two years. Students brainstormed ideas on how to navigate our team going forward. After much debate, a theme for our project was agreed upon, Racism. Racism is a prominent issue in Kenyan and Irish society and we look forward to working on this project together.



The meeting of the Irish & Kenyan GCE Committees in Sultan Hamud, Kenya.



The GCC teachers: Ms. McGuire, Ms. Byrne & Mr. Cosmos.

Sport



Rowing

Blackrock College Rowing Club have had a busy few weeks preparing for upcoming Regatta season. They are competing in both Neptune and Commercial Regattas on 1st and 2nd April at Islandbridge, Dublin. Crews have been consistently on the water for early morning sessions to ensure they are fully prepared for racing. Supporters on the banks are welcome at both events. Following that, over the Easter break, 23 club members, along with club coaches and Parents will travel to Amposta in Spain for a Rowing Training Camp.



Junior Cup Rugby

As we go to print, we celebrate the JCT's win over St Michael's College. (Blackrock College 17 St Michaels 15) Congratulations to Matthew Wyse and his team as they produced a magnificent performance to beat, St. Michael's, in the Leinster Junior Cup last Monday. Our junior team played with excellent tempo, accuracy, and intent as they brought home our 53rd junior provincial title. A tremendous achievement by all involved.



Bernard White scores a try, JCT V St Gerard's



George Eggers (Second Year) JCT V Terenure

Athletics

The All-Ireland Cross-Country Final took place on March 11th, bringing an end to the cross country season. The Blackrock Intermediate (UI7) team finished the season on a high note in SETU, Waterford. The 5000m race the course provided plenty of hills and mud which challenged our athletes who bravely fought through to bring the team home in 5th place. A brilliant result in the All-Ireland and a credit to the student's dedication to training over the last few months. The team consisted of Charlie White (3rd Year), James Foot (2nd Year), Jack Spain (3rd Year), Callum Downes (3rd Year), and Cillian Staunton (3rd Year) running in a field of 100 athletes from around the country. With a score of 189 points, they were only narrowly beaten to 4th place by 4 points. This result is promising as James, Jack, Callum, and Cillian will be competing in Intermediate next year.

Well done to team for representing Blackrock. This was a long season for the boys some of whom had never qualified for the school's All-Ireland previously. Up next for our runners will be the East Leinster Track and Field competition on 2nd and 4th May. Best of luck to all athletes competing!



Intermediate XC team line-up before their 5000m race. (L-R) Charlie White, Callum Downes, Jack Spain, Cillian Staunton



James Foot(right) charges downhill going into the final 1500m lap of the race.

Basketball

Senior Basketball Tournament

Blackrock College 47

These recent games came as part of a new tournament established this year to ensure more competitive games for schools once the Basketball Ireland Senior Basketball season is over. Jamie Ahern O'Connell (6th Year – Captain) and his squad came up against a very strong Wesley College side with some excellent club players. It was a tight game throughout (20-20 at haltime) however a strong final quarter of 14-9 to 'Rock saw us run out winners. Aaron O'Halloran (TY) with 20 points was outstanding and Dixon Chongo (6th Year) under the boards on defence gave us a real platform in the game.

Wesley College 39

Blackrock College 42

The team is very much in the developmental stages however the benefit of the experience of playing together in the previous match was clear to see in the improved performance here. Leading 17-12 at half time, a strong third quarter (12-4) was key to the eventual win.

Michael Breslin (TY) with 10 points led the way on offence although Amlan Parida (5th Year) made the shot of the match with a 3-point shot from range. Lucas Menacho (TY) brought fantastic energy to the team and it was great to see Gearóid Nutley (3rd Year) along with Toby Facer, Nick Fu and Cuan Fallon (all TY) get more Senior Basketball experience under their belts.

2nd Year Basketball

The first round of the Plate Competition saw Blackrock head to Coláiste Eoin. The game started off close, with 'Rock clinching a slight lead of 7-4 against Coláiste Eoin by the end of the first quarter. 'Rock continued to lead the game but only slightly. The score going into the final quarter was 20-14. Co-Captains Peter Lee and Santiago Franza along with the rest of the squad worked well under pressure to win the game with a score of 28-14.

Blackrock advanced to the semi-final of the Plate Competition against Belvedere. Peter Lee opened the game with a quick 3-pointer, while Rocky Kenneally and Hugh Foley worked well on rebounds to convert missed shots into baskets. A strong offence and defence by Belvedere kept the game competitive. The score line going into the second quarter was 17-11 to Blackrock.

The team worked hard to maintain their lead throughout the second quarter. Alvaro Garcia did well on defence to intercept passes and cause turnovers. While Santiago Franza kept the score up with a few great baskets. The first half ended in a score of 23-18 to Blackrock.

'Rock kept their lead of 32-28 going into the final quarter. The team played strong to the end, but unfortunately it wasn't to be as Belvedere came back with an impressive final burst of energy. The final whistle blew with a score of 41-44 to Belvedere.

Co-captains Peter Lee and Santiago Franza can be proud of their and their teammates' work over the course of the league. The team has shown great commitment and improvement over the last few months of training.

Badminton

UI16 Leinster Badminton Final Winners

Congratulations to the following players who won the Division 3 Leinster Badminton Competition. The team of **Callum Downes, Jamie Ó'Nualláin, Callum Dee and Darragh McCarthy** (All Third Year) brought home their second trophy of the year. The Leinster schools' event was hosted by Baldoyle Badminton Centre on Thursday 2nd March 2023.



Callum Dee & Darragh McCarthy in their double's final (Third year)



Leinster President: David Murphy with Darragh McCarthy, Callum Downes, Callum Dee, Jamie O' Nualláin & Ms Ni Shíocháin

Blackrock opened the Leinster competition by successfully winning their quarter final against Killina Presentation College (Tullamore) 5-1. They met St Mary's Diocesan B team (Drogheda) in the semi-final winning 6-0. Blackrock College progressed from their group to play St Mary's Diocesan A team in the final.

Blackrock College proved too strong for their opponents, winning comfortably all 4 singles and both of their double games ending with a clean slate 6-0. A superb day, played in a wonderful spirit. Leinster Badminton President David Murphy presented the trophy and medals to Blackrock College.

Great resolve and enthusiasm were shown by the team in this unbeaten season. There was great support from other members of the Blackrock badminton club, and this lays the groundwork for more success in the future. We wish the team the best of luck next year as they step up to the UI9 Competition. I thank Peter McDermott (Class of 2021) for travelling with the supporters on the day. This now brings an end to our badminton season. Tremendous skill and spirit have been shown by all our players with up to 50 students playing both competitively and socially throughout the year. Well done all!

Senior Soccer

The senior soccer teams run in the Leinster Cup came to an end after a semi-final defeat to Coláiste na hInse in Malahide. It was an excellent game of football, the result, 4-2, does not give an accurate reflection of the game, the final goal was scored when we pushed all players up in the last play.

Since our loss in the Leinster Cup, the squad has bounced back with 2 wins in the Joe McGrath Trophy, beating St. Gerard's 4-0 and St. Michael's 3-1. We have qualified through to the ? finals against Templeogue College.

Senior Cup Rugby

Having beaten Pres Bray in round one prior to midterm, the senior team progressed to a quarter final encounter with another league side in Roscrea. An excellent attacking display saw us progress into the next stage to meet St Michael's for the right to make this year's final. It took a huge physical effort to win an abrasive semi-final contest with a scoreline of 17-14.

Oliver Coffey (6th Year) and his team had just eight days to recover fully to find another performance in the RDS on St Patrick's Day. League winners Gonzaga had a point to prove after last year's final and it was to be an exhilarating contest which swung back-and-forth between two talented sides. An early Tom Brigg (6th Year) try was soon nullified by a Gonzaga score. An Oliver Coffey penalty was bettered by another Gonzaga try and a further one before halftime.

A response was needed after the break, and it came. Tom O'Riordan (6th Year) scored from close range, however a set piece try returned the deficit to the eleven points. Alex Mullan (6th Year) scored back-to-back tries to put us ahead 31-28, but credit must be given to Gonzaga in their response to going behind. A try with 4 minutes remaining was ultimately the difference between the two sides in a wonderful contest. We congratulate Gonzaga on their first Senior Cup victory (35-31). We also strongly celebrate Oliver and his team on their outstanding season in which they have shown tremendous skill, determination, and character throughout. We are very proud of them.

Alongside our senior team of course stands our senior seconds. Following up from the disappointment of defeat on Friday, the squad reassembled to prepare for their own semi-final with St Michael's. An excellent display (41-10) on both sides of the ball means that Harry Whelan and Louis Dignam (6th Year Co-captains) will lead their side out against Clongowes in a repeat of last year's senior seconds final before midterm. We wish them well.



Miei Yarr and Tom O' Riordan
SCTV Roscrea.

Rugby School International Sevens Festival

To celebrate the bicentenary of the game of rugby in its birthplace Rugby School, Blackrock were one of twenty schools invited to play in this prestigious event. It was a privilege for captain Derry Moloney and his team of TY and 5th Year players to run out on The Close, where William Webb Ellis 'ran with the ball in his arms' for the first time 200 years ago. It was also an experience of a lifetime for the boys to meet and compete with young men from the four corners of the world in a game somewhat alien to us as a school.

We were fortunate to call upon the coaching expertise of past-pupil and current Ireland 7's international Bryan Mollen (Class of 2014) as we took on Uppingham from England (41-0), Llandovery from Wales (14-7), Waseda High School from Japan (46-0) and Michaelhouse from South Africa (24-12) on day one. It was a brutally demanding day, but one that the boys embraced and adapted to incredibly well.

Having topped our group on the first day, we qualified for the Cup on day two. We were placed in a small group of three with Monmouth School from Wales (36-0) and Mount St Mary's of England (24-7) which we overcame impressively to progress into the knockout phase and a quarter-final against the hugely talented Grange School from Chile who we defeated 17-7.

A semi-final with Scottish schools' champions Merchiston Castle awaited 40 minutes later, such is the demanding nature of these tournaments. It looked like it could be a bridge too far as they scored early and took a lead into halftime, but such was the resilience of the group, Derry and the team turned the scoreline on its head with an impressive 33-14 victory.

With schools from New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Canada amongst others watching on from the sideline, it was our South African opponents who stood between us and tournament victory, but it just wasn't to be. The power game of Michaelhouse proved just too much in the end for our twelve young men to overcome for a second time in 24 hours. Having been down 14-0 early in the first half, we fought back to take an incredible lead 19-14, but a converted try with a few minutes remaining was too much for us to overcome.

It was an experience of a lifetime for these players and the way they played sevens for the first time at this level was quite remarkable. Well done everyone.



Eoghan Walsh and Mikey Yarr
SCTV St Michael's



SCTV Gonzaga



SCTV St Michael's



Message from the Director of Boarding
"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."
 — Mark Twain

Much like the weather in Ireland at Springtime, we too have experienced lots of change! Plenty of highs and lows! Through all the season has had to offer, we have been ever grateful to belong to a community that offers so much support and care, embodying the very best of Blackrock. As the boys turn their attention to the Easter exams, we recall the importance of community. Our Leaving Certificates navigate their orals, projects and mocks not as individuals but as a collective. Sharing the load of the work as they swap exam papers, test each other and study in groups, modelling behaviours and attitudes that will shape and influence the younger years. We are reminded that the boys are truly each other's most valuable support mechanism.

Alongside boys in the classrooms and on the pitches, boys have represented the Castle and College as far away as Spain, Kenya and China. All have represented themselves and the College with dignity and pride. On Saturday March 4th, 86 boarders took part in the Rock 5km run in support of Aidlink. The boys were ably led out by Sixth Year Castle veteran, Sean McKechnie. After a very promising start, no one is quite sure what position Sean finished in!

A special word of thanks to Oliver Coffey, Alex Mullan, Conor Tonge, Maxim Aschenbrenner, Niall Smyth and Albert Lindner for their dedication and remarkable bravery throughout a wonderful senior cup campaign. While we may have been unsuccessful in the final the entire squad displayed excellent sportsmanship and humility beyond their years. I have no doubt each of them has a bright future ahead. I must also offer very high praise to our Castle Cheerleaders, Jamie Rogan, Cillian Rush, Iain McLaughlin, Jody O'Carroll, Oscar Dougan, Louis McDermott, Rocco Terrinoni, Thomas Cherico, James Mason and Eddie Crosthwaite who provided excellent leadership in the stands of Donnybrook and the RDS, supporting both the Junior Cup Team and the Senior Cup Team in their matches.

As the Lenten season draws to a close we look forward to the Easter Holidays where the boys will have a well-deserved break and be reunited with family. There is still so much to look forward to in the remaining weeks of the school year! Not losing site of the state examinations, we have Seachtain na Gaeilge, Athletics, Tennis, Social Football leagues, the summer concert and musicals, Sports and Family day, Graduation and the end of year parents BBQ to list but a few!

Finally, on behalf of the staff and I, I would like to offer a word of thanks to you, the parents and guardians, family and friends who make all this possible for the boys. I look forward to seeing you all in the very near future.

Mr Tiernan Mealiffe



Sean McKechnie leads out the Castle on the Rock Run



James Mason, Jamie Rogan and Jody O'Carroll are ready for the Rock Run



6th Year Boarders and Day Boys before the Rock Run



Castle runners in the Rock Run



Jed O'Malley, Benji Coll, William Connellan and Daniel Turley start the Rock Run



Iain McLaughlin, Liam Demann and Hugh Gallen head off in the Rock Run



Aidan Ho, Jonathan Liu, Junyu Shen, Adrian Ho and Mateo Navarro Planelles head off in the Rock Run



Scott Zhu, Jonathan Liu, Aidan Ho and Junyu Shen at the start of the Rock Run



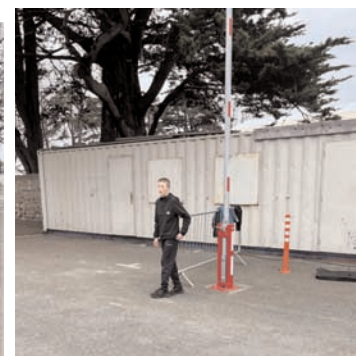
Illia Ishchenko and Grigori Korobov at the start of the Rock Run



Mark Sukhodolov, Vlad Sukhodolov, Sergii Ishchenko, Antonio Forte-O'Hanlon, Lenny Kuzmin and Rick Shin at the Rock Run



Mr. Kelly coming home 3rd in the Rock Run



Enrique Robles at the finish of the Rock Run



Santiago Franza Enriquez, Carlos Bellon Gonzalez and Alvari Garcia Vecino finishing the Rock Run



Jose Carlos De La Cuesta Figueiral, Sergii Ishchenko and Lucas Roura hanging out in one of the escape rooms.



Thomas Cherico finishing strong in the Rock Run



Alvaro Fernandez was the first boarder home at this year's Rock Run



Fiachra Coakley finishing this year's Rock Run



Diarmaid Monahan and William Connellan racing to the line in this year's Rock Run



A strong finish from Jamie Rogan in the Rock Run



Benji Coll finishing this year's Rock Run



A strong finish from Iain McLaughlin in this year's Rock Run

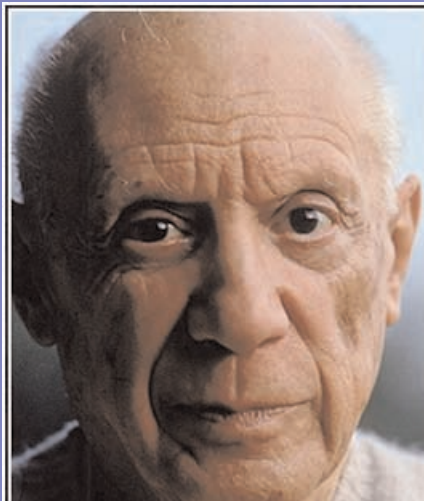


Rocky Kenneally after a hard fought win for the Under 14's



Jody O'Carroll, James Mason, and Jamie Rogan after the Castle's semi-final win against St. Michael's

Reflection



The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.

— Pablo Picasso —