

# BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Summer 2023

What makes a good life?

**Robert Waldinger** is the Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, a comprehensive longitudinal piece of research that has tracked individuals and their families since 1938. I recommend that you join the 45 million others who have watched his TED Talk, 'What Makes a Good Life, lessons from the longest study on happiness.'

What this study has proven, scientifically, is that those who have the strongest connections to others be it family, friends or community fare best in terms of longevity, health and happiness. This is probably no surprise to you, certainly not to us, but it may be a surprise to our teenagers.

At Blackrock, we focus on the education of both the heart and the mind. In the words of Fr. O'Brolchain we [Reach Out with Care and Kindness](#). We encourage the boys to take time for each other, for their families and for those in society who need a helping hand. We remind them that no gesture of good will is too small whether it is a greeting, a thank you, a smile.

We build connections in our classrooms, in our co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes in the belief that the boys want to be part of something worthwhile, something bigger than themselves, something with which they can identify. That something, more often than not, is 'someone', someone who cares, who appreciates them, makes them feel welcome.

We are mindful that there are boys at Blackrock who find it difficult to connect. We must work harder at this, find different ways to reach out to those who feel that they are on the outside looking in.

Viktor Franklin author of 'Man's Search for Meaning' wrote: - **"what man actually needs is not a tensionless state but rather the striving and struggling for a worthwhile goal, a freely chosen task."**

'Striving and struggling' is the Blackrock way – a realisation that things don't always go as we would like, but we keep going. We applaud the success of our tennis, table-tennis, soccer, athletics, rowing and badminton teams but we also appreciate those who show up, who strive and struggle without tangible reward.

Is there some secret to this? What makes us the way we are? It is no secret; our Christian values shape our community, encourage us to shy away from the easy option, to trust in God. We strive and struggle with our faith. We find frustration at times but also comfort. It shapes our search for meaning.

As another academic year comes to a close, I thank my colleagues for keeping Blackrock 'striving and struggling'. I particularly thank Anne Payne, Donal O'Nuallain, John Sheil, Brian Herlihy, Donal Brennan and Albert Beatty all of whom retire after tremendous service to the boys and the College.

I thank also Sarah McLoughlin who steps away after two years of stellar leadership as chair of the Parents' Council. Sarah leaves it in great shape and we wish Shea Clancy well as he picks up the baton.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve as Principal of Blackrock. I am indebted to so many, our Spiritan Community, my colleagues, you the parents, the union, my wife Vivienne and of course, the boys.

God bless.

*Alan MacGinty*



Ben Kieran-Glennon Valedictorian for the Class of 2023 and winner of the General Excellence Award with his brother Joshua (Class of 2015) and his parents on Prize Day .

# Message from the Deans



Term 3 is a wonderful time in Blackrock College especially when the sun is shining, as it has been thankfully for the final few weeks of this term. Athletics, tennis, and cricket make up the main inter-school sports, while in each year group inter-house soccer leagues hold pride of place as each afternoon through April and May, our pitches are dotted with boys from every year group representing DeValera, Duff, Ebenrecht, Leman, McQuaid or Shanahan houses as they battle for football bragging rights that they will carry with them till next year's soccer tournament. Sports and Family Day in this term is also a wonderful array of colour and competitive action as boys clad in red, yellow, green, purple, black and grey t-shirts from 2nd to 6th Year compete for house points in track and field; by scoring penalties on the soccer pitch; by shooting baskets on the basketball court and by rowing further or by cycling slower than others!

As Deans we would like to say a special thank you to our Gamesmaster, Mr Evan O'Brien, and all the teachers and past pupils who give of their time refereeing matches, running end of year debates and co-ordinating a wide range of events as our extra-curricular programme moves along seamlessly from week to week throughout the year. Over the pages of this Summer 2023 newsletter, you will find reports and photographs from this wonderful array of extra-curricular events as they were celebrated within each year group this term.

This term also saw many 'bonding' events take place within each of the year groups as we continue to help students in the College return to a pre-Covid school life. In 2nd Year there was the wonderful production of the 2023 Junior Musical 'The House Party' and house retreats organised by Mr Madden. In the midst of completing final preparations for Junior Certificate exams, over 150 third year students travelled to 'Hell and Back'! Alongside the Junior Musical, TY students travelled on Camino and completed another week's Work Experience, while our 5th Year students organised a tip rugby tournament on the campus, in aid of irrigation projects in Tangelbei, Kenya.

In 6th Year, we said 'Farewell' to the Class of 2023 on Graduation Day, Sunday May 21st. As a year group they have made a most significant contribution to the College and in their final year they displayed enthusiasm, good humour, commitment and were outstanding leaders of the student community. They have upheld the traditions of 'Fides et Robur' in style, always being there for others and they have left their own imprint on the history of Blackrock. As our Spiritual Director, Fr Cormac O'Brolchain noted in his homily during the graduation mass, 'ships are not meant for harbours' and as Deans who have worked with these young men over the years, we wish the Class of 2023 every happiness and fulfilment in their future lives as the College says 'Farewell and Bon Voyage' to them.

Finally, we thank the boys of each year group most sincerely for their positive engagement with school life throughout the year. We wish them and every member of the school community a safe and enjoyable summer break as we bring our 163rd school year to a close. We also extend our congratulations to our Principal, Mr Alan MacGinty, our Deputy Principal, Mr Brian Herlihy and our colleagues Mr John Sheil, Mr Donal O'Nuallain and Ms Anne Payne on their retirement from Blackrock and we wish them many happy and fulfilling years ahead.

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 )

On Sunday May 14th, there was a very large turnout of **6th Year students and parents** for the annual **Sports and Family Day**.

Thankfully there was sunshine on the day and keen competition between the six houses was enjoyed by all.

Philippe Le Roux received the Sports Personality of the Year Award and victory in the House event went to Duff House captained by Jack McGlone and Harry Whelan.

12 of our **Fifth-Year** students completed over 320km in two separate events during April: Oisín Daly, Oscar Egan, Oisín Fine, Hugh Galligan, Cathal Kavanagh, Jack Leyden, Cian McAdam, Gavin McNabb, Gordon O'Hara, Conor O'Leary, Liam Poulsen and Hugo Redmond. They completed the annual **Willow Wheelers Legends 100 Miles** (161km) cycle in Northern Spain on 5th April, to mark their final year cycling with the club as pupils of the College. Some of the students also organised a Fifth Year Tip Rugby Tournament fundraiser to raise much needed funds for irrigation projects in Tangelbei, Kenya.



Fifth Year Willow Wheelers

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Well done to **Third Years** Conn Andrews, Jack Droney and Lorcan Golden who placed a commendable 5th out of 32 teams in the **Junior Science ISTA Quiz** held in Belvedere College in May

On Wednesday 26th April our **Senior Golf** team including Conor Ryan and James Heavey of **6th Year** defeated Portmarnock Junior Golfers 4-2 on their home course. An excellent conclusion to the golfing season for the boys.

**'The House Party' Musical** was four nights of non-stop entertainment in the Jubilee Hall from 9th – 12th May. The energy of the cast on stage, the singing, the dancing, was phenomenal. It was clear to see just how much all involved were enjoying the process. Well done to the crew and front of house for an excellent set design as well. The mind of Mr. Savage is an interesting place, but the **2nd & 4th musical** is without doubt a reflection of his creativity and genius!

An outstanding performance from our **Junior Tennis team** as they retained the Junior Division Cup with victory over Gonzaga at Templeogue Tennis Club on the 23rd of May. The team included **Third Years:** Freddie Bracken, Max Kane, Christian O' Flynn, Jamie O'Nualláin, and Nicholas Sheridan.



McQuaid - Winners of the 3rd Year Soccer Leagues

After completing Term 2 with Leinster League double of victories over Clongowes (Senior 2) and Gonzaga (Castle 3), we congratulate **Sixth Years** Tom Brigg, Oliver Coffey, Michael Colreavy, Luke Kritzingner and Tom O'Riordan (**Ireland U19**) and Alex Mullan and Mikey Yarr (**Ireland U18 Schools**) on their selection for international honours.

In **Table Tennis** we congratulate all **Second Year** participants. In particular, we commend the Junior A Team who have qualified for the All-Ireland Finals following their Leinster League title and subsequent playoff win against Castleknock College. We especially commend the Second Years on the squad; **Collie Breslin, James Grant, John Healy, Shane Maxwell and Tom Woods.**

Our final weeks in **Second Year** included the election for new **House Captains** and the departure of our current captains. Our sincere thanks to these excellent young men who have shown great leadership throughout the year, and we wish our incoming House Captains all the very best in their new role.

In other **6th Year inter-House** events this term, Eli O'Reilly (Ebenrecht) was crowned **Class of 2023 Pool champion** and Duff House were victorious in the 6th Year Soccer League, defeating first time finalists Shanahan 1-0 in a very close final. This victory confirmed Duff House as overall winners in 6th Year for 2022/2023. Congratulations to all members of the House.

What a final! Ebenrecht, captained by Jamie Shanley took on McQuaid led out by Conor Barrett. The **soccer league** semifinals had shown this would be a game of contrasting styles. Ebenrecht's rock solid defence had ensured their passage through to the final with little get beyond Ben Guerin, Jared Dinn, Louis Magee or Charlie O'Connor in defence with the pace of Niall Mulvihill and Max Sheridan always a treat on the counterattack. As a result, McQuaid saw lots of the ball, with Man of Match Charlie Martin dictating play from a deep lying midfield position. Ebenrecht were happy to sit deep and soak up the pressure and sure enough it was they who took the lead late in the second half and that looked to be that. But McQuaid kept composed and continued to press and eventually scored an equaliser. And so, to penalties, always a tough way to lose a game, but the quality of spot kicks was superb, with McQuaid holding their nerve to secure victory. This league win also ensured McQuaid won the overall house competition in **3rd Year**.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



In **Athletics** news, we commend the outstanding performances from our **2nd Year** athletes at the recent Leinster Schools' Athletics Championships. Well done to **Rhys Keogh** who broke the Leinster Schools' record. Congratulations to Rhys who, alongside **Hugo Bourke, Alex Savage and Dan Noonan** achieved gold when they broke the 4x100 metre relay record. Congratulations to **Cian McCarron** who achieved gold in discus and silver in hammer, while **Cillian Hainbach** added a bronze medal after a strong performance in the sprint hurdles. The entire team performance was rewarded with the overall junior title for the championships.

**Music Art and Drama week**, the week of the May bank holiday, was as always an action packed week and a huge thank you must go to Mr. Grumley Traynor and the music department for all the effort that went into its organization. To start with the entire **TY Year** group was treated to a hilarious magic show performed by Mr. Jack Wise. The students took part in a number of different workshops including Samba drumming, a dance workshop and a cinema trip where they went to see 'Air' the Michael Jordan film. The Summer Concert was an undoubted highlight of the week on the Thursday night. My thanks also to Mr. Grant and Miss Reilly who looked after everything in my absence on Camino.

**Fifth Year** students were delighted to support the '**In my Shoes Appeal**' drive, donating shoes for transport to townships in South Africa allowing children and young people access to sports.

At the final **MUN** event of the year held in The High School, Rathgar on 28th/29th April, Jamie Starr-Bourke (**Sixth Year**) received an award in the Environment Committee. We congratulate him and all members of the Class of 2023 who have contributed to the success of our MUN programme over the years.

Members of the **Class of 2023** gathered in Foxrock Parish Church on Thursday 4th May to offer support to Sebastian Buch-Andersen (6th Year), his mother Jan and sisters Charlotte and Alexandra on the loss of their father, Michel. May Michel Rest in Peace. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

We are delighted to congratulate our **Auxilium Gold Medal Award winner, Thomas Murray**. Well done to Thomas on his wonderful service in a local charity shop and most particularly we commend him on his superb reflection. We commend all the **Second Years** who gave generously of their time in the service of others.



Harrison Carr (TY) and Patrick Hayden (5th Year) in 'Zoo Story'

In the second week back after the Easter break the One Act play '**Zoo Story**' made its return to the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre (CADLC). **TY's** Harrison Carr put in an incredible performance; to deliver that quantity of dialogue in a two person cast is a major achievement and especially to do it so skillfully. Congratulations to Mr. Maher on another excellent production.

Congratulations to **Sixth Years** Philippe Le Roux (Javelin) and Tom Brigg (Discus) who enjoyed victory at the **Leinster Senior Athletics Champions** in Tullamore this term. In being placed 3rd in the hammer event, Tom O'Riordan will also join Philippe and Tom at the All-Ireland Finals in Tullamore in June. We wish them well.

In the final **MUN** event of year, **Third Year** Tom Hayden received Commended in the Historical Committee held at High School. Tom was a member of one of two delegations that travelled from the College – great work Tom.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



## Miscellaneous TY Activities

Congratulations to Mark McClean and Alex Connaughton who completed the Willow Wheelers 100-mile cycle over the May Bank holiday. In the second week back after the Easter break we had a fantastic joint 3 day law programme with Sion Hill College where a Mock Trial and visit to the Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) took place. IT skills training for retired members of the Glashule, Mount Merrion and Kilmacud communities continued to take place and our weekly Soup Run continued on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with the Legion of Mary. A number of students assisted at the Cabinteely Darkness into Light Fundraiser in aid of Pieta House. We also had our second **Transition Year Work Experience** week and it was great to hear of the many varied work experiences which had been sourced. Our Transition Year Podcast, 'Rockcast', finished its second series and all episodes can be found on [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/).

The **6th Year Gold Medal Debate** on Monday May 15th was a closely fought affair with the motion that *'This House has deep misgivings about a united Ireland in our lifetime'* keenly contested by eight speakers. Victory went to Ben Kieran-Glenon who thus became the Valedictorian for the Class of 2023.

Another standout event in the final term of **Transition Year** is the **Masterchef** competition. After two intensely competitive heats in early May eight finalists were selected from a group of 26. The final took place on Wednesday 24th May and was judged by Graham Neville (Best Chef in Ireland 2016 & 2019) and Ms. Marren. Congratulations to all finalists: Darragh O'Neill, Oliver Lee, Daniel Norton, James Forde, Kian Villarta, Rory McNally, Edward Wilson and Cillian O'Leary. The standard in the final was incredible and it was wonderful to see such focus, dedication and talent. Congratulations to the winner Rory McNally and all finalists on a fantastic Masterchef 2023 and as always to Ms. Marren for her support and encouragement of the boys.



3 Judging of the dishes during the Masterchef Heats!

Thank you to the hardworking and committed parent body led by the **5th Year Parents' Committee**, chaired so effectively by Mr. Shay Clancy for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year as well as hosting the tremendous **6th Year Graduation** reception.

On Wednesday 3rd May, Daniel Bennett (**6th Year**) led the **Senior Soccer squad** to victory in the Joe McGrath Memorial Trophy with a 4-0 victory over St. Mark's of Tallaght in Belfield. Two goals from Callum Dunne, another from Christian Buckley and some outstanding saves by Sean Aherne ensured a fantastic end to the season for our Senior Soccer squad

The eagerly awaited **Soccer Leagues** got the term off to an exciting start, culminating in two closely fought finals.

In the **A League Shanahan** beat a courageous **Ebenrecht** side with 'man of the match' going to **Jose Carlos de la Cuesta**. In the **B League**, the runners up were Shanahan who lost out to **McQuaid** in the final with **Alfie O Gorman** nominated as 'man of the match'. We commend the superb levels of participation from all **Second Year Houses**.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Third Year** was ably represented by Jamie Browne Lynch, Conall Byrne, Brian Carroll, Tom Hayden, Josh Murphy, and Cillian Staunton at the recent **MACE debate** hosted by Holy Child Killiney. Congratulations to Brian Carroll who was awarded Best Speaker.

Congratulations to Finlay Mackay and Dixon Chongo (**6th Year**), prize winners in the **Supernode Illustration Art** competition whose designs featured in a new book Supergrid – Super Solution launched by Dr Eddie O'Connor.

In Gaelic news, we congratulate **Sean Traynor (Second Year)** who has been selected for the Wicklow U15 Football and Hurling squads. A great achievement.

In April, **Third Years** Jamie Brown Lynch and Josh Murphy represented Ireland in the **International Competition for Young Debaters** held in Cambridge University, a fantastic experience and one in which they represented the College with distinction.

We congratulate our **Second Years'** magnificent participation in the recent Musical, *The House Party*. Well done to Second Years, both on and off stage; **Marc Hooper, Calum Burke, Matthew Leamy, James Smyth, Daniel Burns, Chris Duffy, Michael Kennedy, John McCallig, Cian McCarron, Cian ó Flannagain, Kevin Roche and James O'Brien**.

The **House Soccer Leagues** had a dramatic finale with Ebenrecht beating DeValera on penalties. The penalties however were 1-1 after ten penalties and it was won on sudden death! Congratulations to our **TY's** involved in the Senior Soccer Squad on a super season culminating with a win in the final of the Fr. Joe McGrath cup.

Dependable and embracing of opportunities best describes the twelve fine young men who led the **Fifth-Year group as House Captains**, representing them at Student Congress and Student Council. Their passion leadership and organisation were excellent, and we look forward to learning who will be crowned winning House of the year. Thank you all.

Congratulations to Luke O'Regan (**6th Year**) who made his first start for the **UCD 1st Team** in the Airtricity Premier Division against Shamrock Rovers in Tallaght on April 10th. Luke also played in UCD's first win of the season v St Patrick's Athletic. We wish Luke well for the rest of the season as he combines his football with his exams.

Congratulations to Rory Staunton who competed in the Leinster Gala in May achieving Bronze for the 1500m event and qualifying for the Nationals. We wish Rory well.



Rory Staunton at the Leinster Gala

A particular thank you to Cliona Sherwin (Chair), Sinead O'Connell (Secretary) and all the **6th Year Parents' Committee** who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the Class of 2023, to bring events such as the Graduation lunch, the Class of 2023 Yearbook and the Immersion Project in Kenya, to fruition this year. We send our very best wishes to Rocky O'Carroll, Jane Horkan and their team as they make final preparations for this summer's outreach to Kenya.

**The Fifth-Year** group of 2022-2023 deserves a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts and engagement this past year. They have displayed a wealth of enthusiasm, innovation, and talents, conducting themselves in a caring, cooperative, and responsible manner. We wish them a happy and safe summer and every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



We commend all our Prize winners who were acknowledged on Prize Day. We also commend all **Second Years** who achieved a place on the **Honours List** and congratulate them on their terrific application and participation throughout the school year.

Our **Senior Tennis Team** featuring **6th Years** Matthew Dowley, and James Sheridan, competed in the Senior Tennis Final vs Belvedere College in Fitzwilliam LTC on Thursday May 25th. Some very high-quality tennis was played in glorious conditions, and we emerged victorious 3-2. Congrats to all.

Our annual **Prize Day** was celebrated on Saturday May 27th. Congratulations to all sixth year prize-winners and their families but we mention in particular, our valedictorian Ben Kieran-Glennon who was also our top **6th Year** Academic based on Christmas and Easter examinations and our General Excellence winner; and Jamie Rogan, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2023.

More than 90 **Transition Year** students have completed their **Gaisce Bronze Award** in this Final Term and it is incredibly impressive to see the breadth of activities the students have been involved in over the course of the year. Earlier in the term there was the Gaisce adventure journey along the Waterford Greenway where the group cycled over 90km in two days. My thanks to Mr. Fitzsimons for accompanying the group on the walk and to Miss Reilly for the coordination of the Gaisce programme over the course of the year.

Thank you to Mr. Donal O'Nualláin and Ms. Lorraine Crimmins for providing such discrete and effective support for the **Fifth Year** students in **Careers and Counselling** throughout the year with a wealth and depth of wisdom second to none. We wish our friend and colleague Mr Donal O'Nualláin the very best of health and happiness as he retires from the College after a committed and tremendously varied career. He will be missed.

All Ireland Champions! A fantastic achievement by our **Junior Table Tennis Team** captained by Daniel Patterson and including Alex Browne, Josh Murphy, Jack O'Connell, Richard Pattison and Conor Sheehan. The team beat Munster Champions Kinsale 5-2 in the final. A week later they went on to complete the Treble in the Leinster Cup Finals. An amazing season.

We congratulate **Alejandro de Pablo** who has been selected to play water polo in the Leinster team U15. We wish him well.

Well done to all our **Second Year Tennis players** this term and congratulations to the Junior 1st Team, captained by **Zac Naughton**, and including **Jack Dolan, Harry Forde and Adam O'Connor** who recently won the Leinster Schools Tennis Cup final.



TY's on the Gaisce Adventure Journey on the Waterford Greenway

The **Paul Stanley soccer final** was played on Wednesday 24th May with the **Sixth Year** Castle Dayboys defeating their House counterparts 6-3 in an excellent final. The fact that Killian McKenna, Castle goalkeeper, was named player of the match, shows what a competitive final this was. It was wonderful to have David Stanley, Paul's brother in attendance at the game to present the trophy and medals.



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



**Santiago de Compostela** walking the famous pilgrim journey towards the tomb of St. James in the cathedral in Santiago De Compostela. The group walked the Camino Francés starting in Triacastela and covered 133km before arriving in Santiago. It was a fantastic group, hugely cooperative, deeply respectful and engaged with the spiritual aspects of the trip and great fun as well. A huge thank you to my colleagues Ms. Nolan, Ms Ní Choncheanainn for their support throughout and of course to Fr. Marc Whelan our Chaplain who brought such powerful meaning to the pilgrimage for the students.



*Lovely Irish weather on the Cliffs of Moher!*

The **Graduation Mass for the Class of 2023** was celebrated in the Jubilee Hall on Sunday May 21st. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. O'Brolchain was the main celebrant, and he assured all the boys present that they would be forever welcome back in Blackrock College. We thank Mr Flor Madden and the RE/Pastoral team who helped prepare this liturgy and the 5th Year Parents' Committee for the wonderful reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall.

In **Gaelic Football news**, well done to Ben Carey, Donagh Clifford, Tuyen Fahy, Conor Kane and James Smyth (**Second Years**) who were part of a victorious Kilmacud Crokes team that beat Ballyboden St Enda's in a Feile Division 6 Dublin county final recently.

Our junior team concluded the **cricket** season with a loss to Terenure. However, the team, Captained by Raif Duncan can look back with pride on their campaign. The campaign opened with a 9-wicket victory over Clongowes in what was the first game played on the new crease in the College. A standout performance from Gavin McGrath (**Third Year**) with an unbeaten 70. Another assured victory followed over St Mary's with impressive bowling by Jack Casey and composed batting by Raif to secure victory. The weather was to play a role as the team narrowly missed out against Adamstown on a rain-soaked Wednesday afternoon. I wish the players well in their respective club seasons.

**The Junior Gold Medal debate** was held on the 16th of May in the College. From Third Year we saw Jamie Brown Lynch, Brian Carroll, Tom Hayden, Josh Murphy and Cillian Staunton debate the motion *This House Believes That Happiness Is More Important than Success*. Jamie Browne Lynch was declared the Winner in **3rd Year**.

At the **Leinster Table Tennis Championships**, Ben Kieran-Glennon (**Sixth Year**) captained our Senior A side to a 4-1 victory over Castleknock College. This marked our 12th consecutive Senior Cup victory, a remarkable achievement.

We congratulate **Second Years - Harry Clancy, Cillian Hall, Cian Manning, Rory Mellon and Paddy Scally** who were part of a victorious Kilmacud Crokes team that beat Clontarf in a Feile Division 1 Dublin County final recently. They will go on to represent Dublin in the National Feile competition on July 1 in Mayo and we wish them well.

In **swimming news**, we congratulate all **Second Year** participants in the recent swimming gala in Terenure College. We commend, Hugo Higgins who achieved silver in the Junior 50m freestyle, Louis Waldron who achieved gold in the Junior 50m freestyle and bronze in the Junior 50m breaststroke and Andrew Kearney who achieved gold in the Junior 50m breaststroke.



*Ebenrecht - Runners up in the 3rd Year Soccer Leagues*

# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Charley Collenette's **(Third Year)** silver medal in the intermediate 50m freestyle and silver medal in the intermediate breaststroke alongside Gerard Egan's bronze medal in the intermediate 50m breaststroke contributed to the swim teams' overall victory at the recent **Terenure College Swimming Gala**. Great work lads.

I would like to thank my colleagues in **Transition Year**: Brian Grant, Karen Reilly, Garry Sullivan and Flor Madden, Director of Pastoral Care, who have worked tirelessly to support the boys through their Transition Year programme. We were blessed with a great bunch of House Captains. The TY Parents' Committee, chaired by Fin Ruane, could not have been more supportive and encouraging and I am hugely appreciative of that. The many projects of Transition Year can only happen with a cooperative, positive, energetic, and engaged year group and the students were certainly this and more throughout. I wish them all the best in 5th Year and beyond.

Kudos to the **Third-Year rowers** who sacrificed study time over Easter to attend a six-day training camp in Spain. Certainly not a holiday! The squad put in some impressive training hours on the water. The benefit of this training was evidenced at the Trinity Regatta held in Islandbridge recently as our J16 8+ including James Barron, Dominic Clarkson, Rossa Clonan, Daniel Courtney and Lorenzo Elias as they powered ahead of Neptune for victory. Next up, Castleconnell Regatta.

On Tuesday 2nd May, there was a very large attendance for the End of **Year 6th Year Parent Conference**. On this evening, arrangements for the end of the academic year and support structures for the students in the build up to the examinations in June were discussed. Ms. Crimmins, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

The vibrant and thrilling participation in this year's **Sports and Family Day** mirrored the intense Inter-House competition in the **Summer Soccer Leagues** culminating in the victory of Duff over DeValera and the **Fifth Year Day Boys** making the final of the **Paul Stanley Cup**. These activities together with the **Senior Tennis League**, the **Senior Cricket League**, the **All-Ireland Senior Tennis**, the **Inter-Schools Swimming Gala**, the **Trinity Rowing Regatta**, the conclusion of Rugby Leagues and the continuation of athletics and other training ensured that **Fifth Years** had an active and competitive end to the term.



Fifth Years Charlie Adams, Calum McClean, Daire Burke, Ben Murray, James Kilroy, Harry O'Doherty.



Fifth Year Fundraiser organizers Oisín Daly, Hugo Redmond, Conor O'Leary, Gordon O'Hara



**Thomas Murray, Finn McGovern, Donnacha Walsh and Peter Byrne.** (2nd Years) winners of the Kilmacud Crokes Under 15 Hurling Feile Team Division 8



Masterchef Finalists 2023 with Chef Graham Neville



Soup Run Group: Nico Perez Rodriguez, Juan Pablo Paez Carillo, Artur Smykovskiy, Braydon Chau, Nick Fu, Aaron O'Halloran, Flachra Coakley, Jawad Imran, Joshua Gleeson-Halpin and Peter O'Connor with Mr P. O' Neill ( Dean of Fourth Year )



# Message from the Deans Cont'd



Kilmacud Crokes Hurling Team



Fr. Marc Whelan, Chaplain,  
and the Camino group



133km's later and the group arrives in Santiago De  
Compostella!

## **Sixth Years Kick Starting Graduation Weekend at the 40 ft on Friday 19th of May 2023 at 7.30 Am**





# Snapshot of Final Term 2023



Matthew Wyse (Third Year) receiving his award from Mr John O' Doherty, President of the PPU (Class of 1986) on Prize Day



TY Students at Dr Eddie O'Connor's (Class of 1965) talk on Sustainability



Jamie Rogan winner of the Fr. Jim Burke Cup for student Leadership with his parents John and Nikki, Mr A. MacGinty (Principal) Mr J. O' Doherty (Class of 1986) president of the PPU and Father C. O' Brolchain (Spiritual Leader)



Joseph Gibney, winner of the Father Coreless Gold Cup with Father C. O' Brolchain (Spiritual Leader) Mr J. O' Doherty (Class of 1986) President of the PPU and Mr A. MacGinty (Principal)



Edward Wilson (TY) representing the Green Schools at the Environmental Address by Dr Eddie O' Connor (Class of 1965)



Ms R. Harlowe (Dean of Second Year) Dr Eddie O' Connor (Class of 1965) and Mr J. O' Shea (Class of 1996), Head of Development, Blackrock College



Dr Eddie O' Connor with Darragh Kilbride, Daniel Flannery, Oscar Mannion, Ricky Shin, Sascha Gibney, Matthew Buckley, (all 5th Year), Dixon Chongo and Finlay Mackay (both 6th Year)- whose artwork features in his new book Supergrid – Super Solution.



Jamie O' Nuallain (Third Year)



James Sheridan (Sixth Year)



Zac Naughton (Second Year)



Harry Sheridan (5th Year)



Zac Naughton (Second Year)



Timothy O' Sullivan and Harry Booth (Second Years) House Soccer Leagues



# Snapshot of Final Term 2023



Iain McLaughlin (Sixth Year) at the Graduation Mass



Sixth Years on their Graduation Day



Tom Cherico (Sixth Year) Joe McGrath Cup Final



Mikhail Rawat At the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Cillian Rush and Arnault Binder at the Gold Medal Debate



Conor Casey addressing a packed Lecture Hall at the Gold Medal Debate



Tense moments at the Joe McGrath Cup Final



Victorious Blackrock team at the Joe McGrath Cup final V St Mark's



David McHugh ( 6th Year ) at the Joe McGrath Cup Final



Happy Days ! Winners of the Joe McGrath Cup Final



Ben Kieran-Glennan ( Sixth Year ) Captain of the Senior Table Tennis team ,Winners of the Leinster Senior Cup Final with Mr A .MacGinty ( Principal )



Daniel Patterson (Third Year) Captain of the Junior A Table Tennis team ,Winners of the Leinster Junior Cup with Mr MacGinty ( Principal )



Sixth Year Shanahan House Runners up Sixth Year Soccer Leagues



# Snapshot of Final Term 2023



Killian McKenna and Constantine Hartman (Sixth Year) House Soccer



Callum Dunne, Finn Tyrell and Conor Vaughan (Sixth Years) Senior Soccer House Leagues



Duff House winners of the 6th Year House Soccer Leagues



Richard Pattison (Third Year) accepting his award from Joe Hickey of Table Tennis Ireland



Josh Murphy (Third Year) accepting his award from Joe Hickey Of Table Tennis Ireland



Collie Breslin (Second Year) accepting his award from Mr.A. MacGinty



Willoughby Woods at the Summer Concert



Boarders Choir at the Summer Concert



Senan Mc Cluskey (5th Year) at the Summer Concert



Patrick Hayden (Fifth Year) performing in this year's One Act Play *The Z\$@ Story*



Daniel Flannery (Fifth Year) performing in this year's One Act Play *The Z\$@ Story*



Harrison Carr (TY) performing in this year's One Act Play *The Z\$@ Story*



Joseph Gibney (Sixth Year) at the Summer



Louis Mc Dermot (Fifth Year) at the Summer Concert



Eoin Maher, Captain of the Sixth Year Day Boys Team, Winners of the Stanley Cup Final with Mr David Stanley



Mr MacGinty, the Adult Choir, The School Choirs and the Orchestra at the Summer Concert



Stanley Cup Final Eoin Maher, Lachlann Maher and Jack Gormley (5th Year)



Louis Kennefick (6th Year) and Mark Dempsey (5th Year) Stanley Cup Final



Blackrock Cricket Team V Wesley



# Snapshot of Final Term 2023



Blackrock Cricket Team V Wesley



Blackrock Cricket Team V Wesley



Blackrock College Cricket Team V Wesley



Philippe Le Roux , Captain of the Blackrock College Cricket Team



Third Year House Soccer Leagues



Harry Booth , Callum Tate,Hugo Cullen ( Second Years ) House Soccer Leagues



Ryan Duffy ( Second Year ) House Soccer Leagues



Xavier Elizade (Second Year) House Soccer Leagues



Conor Mahony ( Second Year) House Soccer Leagues



Oscar Glavin and Harry Sheridan ( Fifth Year) House Soccer Leagues



Gavin Donohue and Donie Grehan ( 5th Year) House Soccer Leagues



Patrick Collins (5th Year ) House Soccer Leagues



Marc Hooper (2nd Year) Performing in House Party



Matthew Leamy (2nd Year) Darragh O'Neill, Isaac Moss (both 4th Year) and Callum Burke (2nd Year) performing in House Party



Second and TY Drama during MAD week House Party



Darragh O'Neill ( TY ) performing in House Party



# Snapshot Of Philadelphia Visit



James Forde and his American exchange



Conor Yaxley at Liberty Bell



TYs at The Irish Memorial Philadelphia



Dylan O Connor and Finlay Threadgold-Ball shopping in NY with their Philadelphia exchange students



Joe Reddan and James Neary at the Statue of Liberty



Liberty Island



Liberty Island



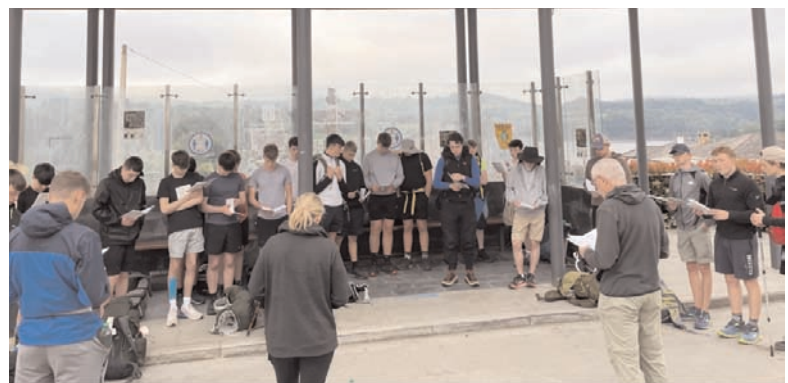
9/11 Memorial

# Snapshot of the Visit of the French Ambassador, Vincent Guérand and his wife Emanuelle Guérand





# Snapshot of the TY Camino







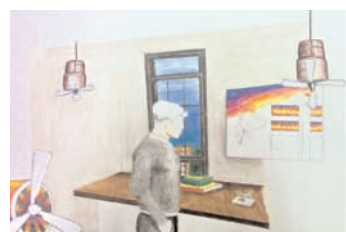
Jack O'Connell (Third Year)



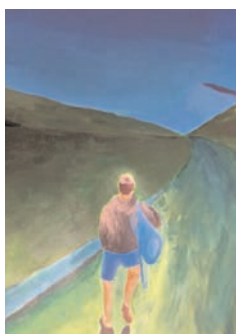
Finlay MacKay (Sixth Year)



Elliot Brophy (Art Club Third Year)



Conor Bradbury (Third Year)



Tom Walsh (Sixth Year)



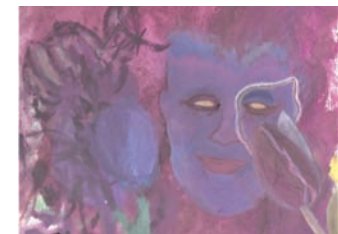
Dixon Chongo (Sixth Year)



Conn Andrews (Third Year)



Conor Casey (Sixth Year)



Christopher Nolan (Sixth Year)



## Blackrock College

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre

It was another busy term in the CADLC. French ambassador, Vincent Guérand and his wife Emmanuelle Guérand came to the CADLC as part of their school visit on April 27th and our second Karaoke took place just after the May Bank Holiday. Green schools also hosted a Climate Change café for the first time in the library and are now considering having it there from now on. A big thank you to Ms Coyle for providing some artwork that was displayed in the library for M.A.D week.

### Library Classes and Workshops

Ms A Dillon facilitated the following classes and workshops.

#### History RSR Research Class

Mr Byrne's, Ms Harlowe's and Mr Kearney's 5th Year history classes attended a class on how to do research for their RSR History project. Students learned the steps needed to do research including identifying the author, being aware of bias, tone, finding evidence and comparing their results with other resources.

#### Mock Trial

Mr Halpin's CSPE class took part in a mock trial. Students were given a brief outline of the various responsibilities in a court room and then the details of a mock trial. The library was set up like a court room and students had to prepare for and enact the trial, by developing their own list of questioning and following the format of a trial. The purpose of this exercise was to help students learn about how court trials work.

#### Seamus Heaney workshop with the National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland gave online workshops on Seamus Heaney poetry to 3rd Year English classes. The presenter encouraged students to participate by asking them questions, looking for comments etc. The purpose of the workshop was to help students have a greater understanding and appreciation of Seamus Heaney poetry.

#### Willow Readers

About 25 enthusiastic readers and club goers from Willow senior popped over to visit our library. Our library committee chair Cian McAdam (5th Year) welcomed the group and spoke about the various things that happened in the library. The students then got to explore the library and enjoy the various books and board games. I very much forward to welcoming all Willow senior students to the library next year.

#### CADLC Committee

A big thank you to all members of the CADLC committee for all their help this term in promoting the library, especially to the Chair, Patrick Hayden and Secretary, Cian McAdam, (Fifth Years)

#### School Library Conference

Ms A Dillon organised a conference and AGM on behalf of the School Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland. 25 librarians from across Ireland came to discuss the topic of libraries and censorship that involved a good lively debate. Guest speaker Peter Cunningham spoke about censorship in Ireland in the 20th Century and his book *Freedom is a Land I Cannot See*. Thank you to members of our library committee Patrick Hayden (Fifth Year) and Eoin Fitzpatrick (Second Year) for welcoming the guests.



Peter Cunningham speaking at the LAI SLG Conference

#### One Act Play

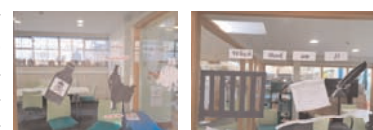
The library was packed with students coming to watch the this year's One Act Play *The Z#% Story*. Well done to actors Patrick Hayden (5th Year), Harrison Carr (TY) and Daniel Flannery (5th Year) for their amazing performance, to their mentors Matthew Gadloff and Joseph Gibney (6th Year) and to Mr Maher and Dr Maguire for directing and managing such a great production.



One Act Play

#### Book Display

The Book Display for the month of May related to an old Classic where students had to guess the title. Clues included a letter accusing someone of treason, a prison window, a bag of Money, a distinguished gentleman, and a bottle of poison. A couple of students correctly guessed it was *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas.



Count of Monte Cristo Book Display



## BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp.

### MUSIC & DRAMA

The final term has been packed full of Music and Drama, from the One Act Play to the Summer Concert and *The House Party* the musical to the Graduation Mass.

*The Z\$@ Story*, this year's **One Act Drama**, took place in the Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre. Over six performances between April 25th and 26th, Daniel Flannery, Patrick Hayden (Fifth Year) and Harrison Carr (Transition Year) performed excellently for students, teachers, friends and family members. Well done to everyone who made this happen; performers, production, backstage.

The following week (May 2nd – 5th) was **'MAD Week'**: Music, Art and Drama Week. For this, we hosted various workshops for our Transition Year students including magic, dancing and samba drumming. We thank all the experts who came in



# The Arts Cont'd



and made the workshops so engaging. The highlight of this week was the return of our **Summer Concert** in the Jubilee Hall on May 4th – the first time we have had this since 2019! We had a great night of music with performances from our choirs, orchestra, bands, ensembles and soloists. Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to our great audience for coming and supporting the evening!



Ceoltoiri Carraige Dhubha performing at the Summer Concert



Gregory Quinn ( 5th Year ) performing at the Summer Concert



Luca Kenny ( 5th Year ) performing at the Summer Concert



David Doyle ( Sixth Year ) performing at the Summer Concert

Next was a quick turn around of the Jubilee Hall from a concert hall into a theatre (or really into a house) to host **The House Party**. This upbeat family musical, written by Mr. Brian Savage, was a collaboration with Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey and was feel-good from start to end. For the first time in a long time, we had a full student band who were amazing. They greatly supported all the powerful singing and dancing on stage. We also were lucky to have a hard working crew under the brilliant Mr. Chris O'Sullivan who built a wonderful set/house, only to take it all down immediately after the show – always a sad sight! It takes a big team to pull all the elements of a musical together – thank you to everyone involved.

Finally, we said goodbye to our Sixth Year students with the **Graduation Mass** on May 21st. Our Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble ably supported their final liturgy as students in the College. We wish them well and hope that their future holds lots more music!



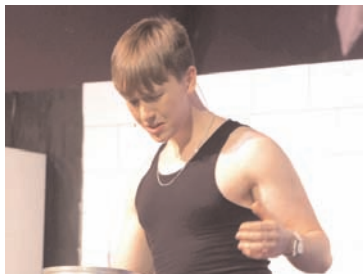
The Choir at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Eric Brandt and Gavin Bowen O'Connor at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Cast of House Party the Second Year and TY Musical



Cormac Kildea ( TY ) performing in House Party

## Junior Debating News



Blackrock College Junior Debaters competed against 150 students in the All-Ireland MACE on Saturday January 28th, 2023, in UCD. Hosted by the Literary and Historical Society, this is Ireland's premier junior debating competition and the only National event for those students in their Junior Cycle of secondary school. It is the qualifying event for the

**International Competition for Young Debaters** which was held in **Cambridge University** on April 30th, 2023. ICYD is a debating competition in the British Parliamentary Format that was set up to encourage younger students to take up debating and to give them a chance to debate against students of their own age. This is a unique opportunity for young debaters to compete on an international stage with other students of a similar age and skill-level.

With over 700 competitors competing from across the world (25 countries in total) in the regional rounds, Blackrock College's Josh Murphy and Jamie Browne-Lynch (3rd Year) successfully qualified to compete and debated along with 55 other teams on Finals Day, held at the historic Cambridge Union. The Union is one of the most prestigious debating societies in the world, with an unparalleled reputation for hosting renowned speakers from around the globe. Established over 195 years, the society has a long tradition of challenging thought and aiming to promote debate and discussion not just in Cambridge University, but around the world. Built in 1815, the Cambridge Union is the **oldest speaking Union in the world**, and has a rich history of controversial debates and influential speakers.

Supported in Cambridge by their families, Josh and Jamie represented Blackrock College with courage and optimism, focus and determination; with each round they improved on their delivery, content, impact, conviction and flair.

We congratulate the finalists on their victory – ICYD winners of 2023 were: NMS, India.

Josh and Jamie represented Blackrock College in this year's competition with unwavering confidence and ability, a sense of team and they maintained phenomenal engagement and poise throughout.



Blackrock College and Holy Child, Killiney Junior Debaters



Jamie Browne Lynch and Josh Murphy (3rd Year) at the International Competition for Young Debaters competing in Cambridge, April 2023



Jamie Browne Lynch and Josh Murphy (3rd Year) ICYD Finalists



Blackrock College Junior Gold Medal Debaters, 2023

On April 29th, Brian Carroll (3rd Year) competed in the Sion Hill Junior MACE. There were 22 teams from 9 different schools competing. Brian ranked 15th in the tab among 40 students.

Holy Child, Killiney hosted ten Blackrock College students on Monday May 15th in a friendly MACE debate.

Michael Kennedy, John McCallig, Daniel Burns and Matthew Leamy in 2nd Year

Brian Carroll, Jamie Browne Lynch, Cillian Staunton, Conal Byrne, Josh Murphy and Tom Hayden in 3rd Year.

# The Arts Cont'd



## Best speakers:

Daniel Burns (2nd Year) Brian Carroll (3rd Year)

## Winning Team:

Matthew Leamy and Michael Kennedy (both 2nd Year)

And finally, on Tuesday, May 16th the Junior Gold Medal Debate got underway with a thrilling and robust competition involving the following participants:

Eoin Fitzpatrick, Matthew Leamy, Daniel Burns, John McCallig, Thomas Murray (2nd Year)

Daniel Patterson, Brian Carroll, Jamie Browne Lynch, Cillian Staunton, Josh Murphy, Tom Hayden (3rd Year).

This year's motion was:

## This House Believes That happiness is more important than success.

This year's Gold Medal Winners are Matthew Leamy (2nd Year) and Jamie Browne Lynch (3rd Year)

Congratulations!

## Senior English Debating

This term saw the staging of the Gold Medal Debates in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year.

In Fourth Year, the motion was centred on emerging artificial intelligence and whether it is a threat to humanity. The Proposition, comprising Ishaan Pandey, Edward Wilson, Shane Hamilton and Darragh O'Kane, were vehement in their assertion that AI could only cause harm to the human race. However, the Opposition speakers – Darragh O'Neill, Henry Brown and Peter O'Connor – came out on top this time. Congratulations to Henry Brown who was selected as Best Speaker and awarded the Gold Medal. The Fifth Years debated motion that schools should allow students to use ChatGPT when writing essays and completing assignments. There is much discourse on this topic at present, so it was very interesting to see the pros and cons presented from a student perspective. Well done to Aran O'Flaherty who was selected as the Fifth Year medallist; we also commend Patrick Hayden, who came in second place, for his commitment to debating throughout the year.

The Sixth Year Centenary Medal Debate took place on Monday 15th May in the Lecture Hall. As always, there was a great atmosphere in the room as the boys

debated the motion that the Class of 2023 have deep misgivings about the prospect of united Ireland in their lifetime. The Proposition was made up of Charlie Quinn, Aaron Murtagh, Willoughby Woods and Ben Kieran-Glennon, whilst Gavin Bowen O'Connor, Frazer McGinn, Jonathan Hoffman, and Conor Casey spoke on the Opposition. Both sides are to be highly commended for the hard work they put into preparing their speeches – each speaker brought interesting and telling points to the debate. Hearty congratulations to Ben Kieran-Glennon who was selected by the panel as the winner of this year's Centenary Medal. Ben has shown extraordinary commitment to Debating within the College since his days in Willow Park Senior School. He has represented the College in many competitions, including the Concern Debates, the Leinster Schools' Debating Competition. This year, he was selected as a member of Team Ireland and has partaken in a rigorous training programme in preparation for the World Schools' Debating Championship taking place in Vietnam this summer. We wish Ben every success in this next chapter and thank him for being such a stellar member of the Senior Debating Society over the past three years.



Mr Simon Orroch and Ben Kieran- Glennon



R to L : Gavin Bowen O'Connor, Frazer McGinn, Jonathan Hoffman, and Conor Casey ( Opposition)



R to L: Charlie Quinn, Aaron Murtagh, Willoughby Woods and Ben Kieran-Glennon, (Proposition)

# Update from Blackrock College Archives



In early May the Archive completed Phase I of the conservation of photographs and photograph montages hanging in common spaces in the college. Current and past students will be familiar with the photomontages which hang on the walls of Our Lady's Corridor and St Patrick's Corridor. Since the mid-20th century these were compiled retrospectively, to provide a visual account of the day-to-day life of the college, its community, noteworthy events and important developments which occurred in either five or ten-year periods of time.

An assessment of the eleven photomontages representing the period 1900-1955 confirmed that they were a compilation of traditional silver-halide photographs, printed in a darkroom on photosensitive paper. The silver emulsion coating on the paper remains photosensitive after it has been printed and is structurally very delicate. As such it is subject to discolouration, fading and even blistering when exposed to UV light. Hanging on a wall in Our Lady's Corridor directly across from windows filtering light directly from the quadrangle brought inevitable deterioration to the photographs.

Photographer and conservator David Cleary worked meticulously on each of these photomontages. The work he carried out on each photograph ranged from digital adjusting to retouching with photoshop. In some instances, where the damage was beyond repair and the original print could not be found, we had to source a replacement similar photograph. When this was complete, he produced a replica digital mount (imitating the layout and bevelled pattern of the original hard-copy mount) and recreated in a font similar to the original the titles and captions for each photograph. This was then sent to a printer where they were reproduced as giclée prints: archival pigment print on fine art fibre-based paper. This is a sustainable and very long-lasting printing finish, protecting the images from UV damage and deterioration.

We are delighted with the finished results. We will now move on to Phase 2: the conservation of the SCT framed photographs.

## Before and After Photos:



From the 1930-1935 photomontage



From the 1925-1930 photomontage



From the 1925-1930 photomontage



# Green Schools



On Friday 21st of April the Green Schools committee along with the Global Citizenship committee visited the Rediscovery centre in Ballymun. Here the members of both committees learnt how to run a building sustainably as well as learning about a circular economy and reusing items. It was fascinating to learn about some simple and easy ways in which we can upcycle.



At the centre they have three main workshops where they upcycle old materials. They have a paint, bike, and clothes workshop. All these items can then be bought at the rediscovery centre. Everything at the centre is reused! Rather than seeing things as waste, the centre sees them as an opportunity.



Moss walls which are great for improving air quality



Insect Hotels



Flowerpot made from a recycled washing machine drum.



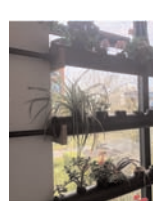
Lampshades made from old teabags



Moss walls which are great for improving air quality



28 things that can be made from a chair.



Liquid waste being used to feed the plants.



Committee Taking part in the workshops.

On Friday 19th May, Green schools hosted our last Climate Café. Our focus with these café's is to promote awareness about environmental issue. Students were invited into the CADLC where they received a cup of hot chocolate and watched a



Green Schools and Global Citizenship committees

presentation, presented by members of the Green Schools. This term's Climate Café talk was about managing food waste at home and the benefits of composting, and the steps needed to do it at home.

On Tuesday 23rd of May, the Green Schools committee travelled to DCU to receive our 7th flag 'Global Citizenship Litter and Waste', a goal that we have been working hard for over two years.

We achieved this flag through many hours of hard work and by focussing on how waste is disposed of in the College. After doing research it was decided that the waste management system currently used was not up to standard and did not provide clear instructions on what should go in them. We purchased new bins which we will implement along with an education program on how to use them at the beginning of next academic year.



Darragh O'Neill, Cian O'Flannagáin, and Edward Wilson receiving our flag at DCU

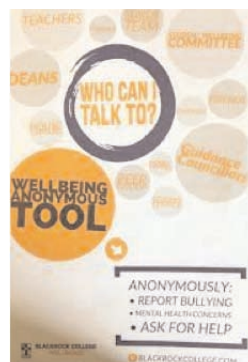


# Wellbeing



The Student Wellbeing Committee has had a reflective and future focused period for the final term of the 2022/23 Academic Year. The Student Wellbeing Committee has some new plans for the upcoming Academic Year of 2023/24. Our aim for the next Academic Year is to create more awareness for the Committee and press on with promoting better mental health and overall wellbeing for the student body.

Additionally, we are working on creating a partnership with the Mind Body and Soul Committee of Sion Hill, their own Student Wellbeing body. A highlight of this past year was the introduction of Cuppa Clubs, hot chocolate and cakes always go down well and help people to open up and chat to each other.



We look forward, next year, to strengthening our Feature Days, improving 'Sign-up Day' and working on collaborating with other groups and societies in the College to improve our community's overall wellbeing. Remember the Wellbeing Anonymous Tool is always there for you – on your Year Teams of the links section of EduLink. Enjoy this summer, safe travels and best of luck to our 6th Years. See you all next year.







## SciFest @College

On Friday 5th May, 8 teams of Second Years went to TU Dublin Grangegorman with Ms. Buckley to represent the school at the SciFest@College regional competition. We are delighted to have

received 4 awards on the day. Congratulations to:

Cian MacCarron who received the 'Regeneration Life Science Award' for his project, 'Does playing sport make you stronger?'

Cian O' Flannagain who received the 'Discover Space Award' for his project on 'Why so many winglets?'

Louis Waldron who received the 'Maths in Science Award' for his project, 'Asch Conformity Experiment'



All our project entrants pictured with Ms. Buckley



John Ding, Matthew Leamy and William Lynch at SciFest

Andrew Kearney and Padraig Matthews who received the 'Intel Ireland Technology Award' for their project, 'What amount of electrical current is needed to produce enough hydrogen to power every car in Ireland'



Mr. MacGinty and Ms. Buckley with our SciFest Award winners



Rory Staunton (Most Unique Idea)



Rory Staunton at SciFest



Cian O' Flannagain at SciFest



Daniel Burns at SciFest



Cian McCarron at SciFest



Andrew Kearney and Padraig Matthews at SciFest



Louis Waldron at SciFest

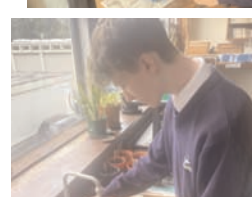
Well done to everyone that entered. A fantastic achievement to have been selected to represent the school and to have put together some amazing projects.

## ISTA Junior Science Quiz

Three 3rd Year students travelled to Belvedere College on Wednesday 3rd May to take part in the Junior Science ISTA Quiz. Our Team consisted of Lorcan Golden, Conn Andrews and Jack Droney. The team placed 5th out of 32 schools. The questions were based on the Junior Cycle Science course and general knowledge. Well done to the boys in taking part and placing 5th. Congratulations to St. Andrew's who placed 1st and 2nd and to Rathdown who placed 3rd.



Lorcan, Jack and Conn at the ISTA Junior Science Quiz



## 5th Year Biology-Ecology

5th year biology are spending a lot of this term studying ecology which involves a habitat study. We are fortunate enough to have such a large campus so we can investigate the flora and fauna on our doorstep.

## 4th Year Biology

Dr. Brunswick's 42 Biology class spent a few classes talking about importance of learning the basic skills to grow your own food. They planted garlic bulbs, peas, carrots and chili peppers from seeds! Learning to saving money during the cost of living crisis and the importance of replanting plants and trees to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce global warming.

## 3rd Year Science

3rd Year science have finished their science course. During this they looked into some technological application of physics. Below is some examples of students work from Mr. Kelly's class.



## Science Club

Science Club have been busy in the last term carrying out some very cool experiments. Students were shown how to use dry ice and how to immobilise enzymes.



Dan Moran and Sean Mullane (Second Year) with dry ice



Sean Mullane (Second Year) performing an immobilisation experiment

# Guidance and Counselling Cont'd



Well done to all our 6th Year students.

All students have received an email "Statement of Application" from the CAO to confirm that their details on their CAO account are correct. Double check all is in order, especially your exam number and any **LANGUAGE EXEMPTIONS ARE RECORDED THERE**. Please contact the NUI 01 4392424 if the NUI language exemption is not listed.

700 students did not get offers in the first-round, due to not checking this email,

it sat in their junk mailbox.



The CAO remains open until 1st of July. Please do not panic and edit your CAO after your Leaving Certificate. You made this list while you were calm and thinking logically; do not go editing it with emotions and presumptions.



# Guidance and Counselling Cont'd



PLC – PLC Colleges have an ongoing application process; it is not too late to sign up. It is no harm to register and have that back up ready. You can register on their respective websites for a one-year courses with a view to progressing to university.



DARE applicants will be informed of their DARE status mid-June. This does not guarantee a seat, it just means DARE acknowledge your disability and you will be added to the DARE list of each course. You will know if you were offered the course through DARE only when the course offers come out for everyone.

If you are not successful with DARE you have a window of time to appeal it and send them stronger documentation.

If you are unsure about making a decision, be it with your leaving cert results or your CAO offers. I will be available to meet on those days. Please contact me [ndrew@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:ndrew@blackrockcollege.com)

Best of luck to all our Leaving Cert Students, we will still be here to support you. The Guidance Department.

NUI Ph: 01 4392424

DARE: [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

CAO queries: [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) – log into your account and contact them from there.

## Pastoral Care Programme



### MORNING MASS

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

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

**[fmadden@blackrockcollege.com](mailto:fmadden@blackrockcollege.com) or phone 01 – 275 2125.**

**All are welcome. We look forward to welcoming you in September each morning.**

What a wonderful “normal” academic year we have experienced. What we used to take for granted as being normal and usual, we now have gratitude like never before – we appreciate all the opportunities as gifts which we all embrace. The Matthew 25 Pastoral Programme resumed with in person two-week placements this year and while not ever Transition Year boy received a placement, 8 groups were accommodated – we look forward to many more placements next year. Boys complete a journal during their placement and their comments make powerful reading, eg “I believe I have developed many skills while on placement, patience regards to helping and speaking with stroke residents – I have now got closer to my grandad who is a stroke survivor who cannot speak anymore and I see him as a person with whom I like to spend time with”.

The final term is also a time when the Second Years take time out in their Houses for a Retreat. It is also the term when the Transition Years complete their Gaisce Award Programme and take part in the Camino. Retreats are not confined to the boys, the entire staff, across all departments were also afforded the opportunity on Wednesday 17th May to pause and reflect under the direction of Mr Frank Brown, Spiritan Ethos Officer with a theme “We are an Easter people, journeying towards Pentecost”. All of us, boys, staff and all stakeholders need time to stop, reflect and pray – Blackrock provides an oasis of peace for all stakeholders.

The liturgical highlight is of course the Graduation for our 6th Years which was celebrated in glorious sunshine on Sunday 21st May. The entire day is a celebration,

firstly with Mass in the Jubilee Hall, secondly a reception in the Quadrangle and Dining Room hosted by the 5th Year Parents and finally a celebratory luncheon in the Leopardstown Pavilion where almost 600 were seated. The end of the 2022-2023 academic year is upon us, the Class of 2023 are leaving the comfort of the harbour which is Blackrock College, but as Fr Cormac said on their Graduation Day, they are always welcome back to Blackrock no matter what. The impact of the Class of 2023 will be felt in person until the end of the current century and possibly by their deeds for many decades and centuries to come. “Go ye afar, go teach all nations”.



Louis McDermott at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Jonathan Hoffman at the Sixth Graduation Mass



Father Cormac O' Brolchain and Father Tom Nash celebrate mass on Graduation Day



Sixth Years at the Graduation Mass

## FI Paddock Club



### FI FINALS

FI in Schools Team, Orbit Racing: Darragh O'Neill, Fiachra Coakley, Philip Duffy, Jack Drumm, Oliver Lee and Conor Blackburn took part in the all Ireland Finals of FI in Galway won an award for best team identity.

We wish them well and congratulate them on all the hard work they have done to date to get this far. Best of Luck Lads! Follow the team [www.orbitracing.ie](http://www.orbitracing.ie)



Design Engineer Oliver Lee on a tour of Trinity's Engineering Department

### Our Team

#### >> The Team

##### Darragh O'Neill



**Role:** Team Manager

**Skills:** Adobe Design Suite, Blender, Canva, Meta Business Suite, Microsoft Planner.

**Knowledge:** Advertisement, Agile Project Management Methodology, Image Composition, Marketing.

##### Conor Blackburn



**Role:** Manufacturing Engineer

**Skills:** Canva, Fusion 360, Simscale, Solidworks.

**Knowledge:** Aerodynamics, Computer Aided Design, Computational Fluid Dynamics.

##### Oliver Lee



**Role:** Design Engineer

**Skills:** Canva, Fusion 360, Solidworks.

**Knowledge:** Aerodynamics, Computer Aided Design.

##### Fiachra Coakley



**Role:** Marketing and Social Media Director

**Skills:** Canva, Meta Business Suite, TikTok.

**Knowledge:** Advertisement, Image Composition, Marketing.

##### Jack Drumm



**Role:** Resource and Logistics Director

**Skills:** Canva, Excel, Microsoft Planner.

**Knowledge:** Canva, Financial Planning Sponsorship Acquisition.

# Dungeons and Dragons Club



This term has been an eventful one. Following in the footsteps of our Senior TY members, Luc O'hAonghusa (Third Year) and Sam McCann and Sam Kyrychenko (both Second Years) stepped up as Dungeon masters running several successful campaigns. The whole club took a trip to Stillorgan to see the new Dungeons and Dragons Movie which was well received by all.



John Ding, Sam McCann, Ruzgar Buyukol and Sam Kyrychenko (Second Year) led on their session by DM Luc O'hAonghusa (Third Year)



Foreground: James O'Brien, Sean Mullane, Sam McCann, Chris Duffy and John Ding enjoying the session led by DM Sam Kyrychenko (All Second Years).

Background: DM Henry Brown (TY) leading his table with Cian O'Flannagain (Second Year), Ian Duane (Third Year) and Mr O'Brien.



James O'Brien, Sean Mullane and Matthew Leamy (Second Years), Luc O'hAonghusa (Third Year) Binghong Wang (Second Year), Theo Galligan and Kieran Flowers (Third Year) Mr.O'Brien and DM Sam McCann (Second Year)

This was followed by a trip into town to visit the Dungeons and Dragons club in Loreto on the Green. Over 30 students gathered to listen to a pre-session talk by Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell. After a plentiful supply of pizza the



Club Trip to the cinema to see the Dungeons and Dragons Movie



Pre-Session talk by Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell during visit to Loreto on the Green



Mr. MacGinty visiting Dungeons and Dragons Club



Very noisy Dungeons and Dragons sessions in Loreto in the Green

afternoon sessions began. Many thanks to both our own librarian Ms. Dillon and Ms. Ivory in Loreto on the Green for organising a wonderfully engaging afternoon. Plans are already underway to hosting the ladies from Loreto here in the CADLC next September. Executive Assistant Fionn Whelan (TY) visited Willow Park this year after Christmas to help the First Years establish their own Dungeons and Dragons club. For our last session this year we headed across campus to Willow Park Senior School for the annual Promotional talk for students interested in joining our Dungeons and Dragons club next Year. A fantastic turn out of enthusiastic new players. We look forward to welcoming those of the Class of 2028 into our Dungeons and Dragons Club in September 2023!

## Sport



### Tennis

It has been an excellent month for tennis in Blackrock College. More than 40 players represented the school in the Leinster Schools Junior and Senior Cup competitions which were completed at the end of May. The Junior 1st team, captained by **Zac Naughton** (Second Year) won the Division I Cup for the fourth time in a row. They beat Gonzaga in the Final at Templeogue LTC. The Senior 1st team, captained by **Sean O'Nuallain** (Fifth Year), retained their Division I Cup by beating a strong Belvedere team in a thriller at Fitzwilliam LTC, coming through on a 3-2 scoreline.

Junior 1st squad – Leinster Junior Division I winners: Zac Naughton (captain), Harry Forde, Jack Dolan, Adam O'Connor (all Second Year), Freddie Bracken, Jamie O'Nuallain, Christian O'Flynn, Nicholas Sheridan, Max Kane (all Third Year).

Senior 1st squad – Leinster Senior Division I winners: Sean O'Nuallain (captain), Jack MacCarthy, David Ortiz, Harry Sheridan, Max Vidal (all Fifth Year), Matthew Dowley, James Sheridan (both Sixth Year), Joey Connolly, Richard Kinsella (both Transition Year).



Harry Forde, Adam O'Connor, Nicholas Sheridan, Jamie O'Nuallain, Zac Naughton (captain), Freddie Bracken, Jack Dolan, Christian O'Flynn, Max Kane



Max Vidal, David Ortiz, Matthew Dowley, Harry Sheridan, Sean O'Nuallain (captain), Jack MacCarthy, James Sheridan, Richard Kinsella, Joey Connolly

### Cricket

Well done to the senior cricket team, captained by Philippe Le Roux (6th Year) who reached this year's semi-final. With victories in the group stage over Mount Temple and Gonzaga (along with a walkover against St Andrews) they topped their section. The quarter-final was a tough encounter with Wesley College. Some excellent bowling from Will Connellan (6th Year) with figures of 3 for 24 was important in restricting Wesley to 103-8 in their 20 overs. An unbroken second wicket partnership from Philippe (44 n.o) and Will (40 n.o) ensured we reached our target with more than 6 overs and 9 wickets remaining. Unfortunately, our campaign ended at the semi-final stage with the tightest of defeats to St Columbus, who scored the winning runs with the final ball of the contest. It will definitely be considered a missed opportunity for this talented team, but credit must be given to St Columbus who took the opportunity to force the result.



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

The junior team started their campaign well with a strong victory against Clongowes. Chasing 111 runs, an unbeaten 70 by Gavin Patrick McGrath (3rd Year) saw the team through to a 9 wicket win. A second victory followed against St Marys, with Jack Casey's bowling figures of 3 for 7 making the biggest impact as St Marys were restricted to 61 runs. Although we struggled early on with the loss of early wickets, it was captain, Raif Duncan (3rd Year) who showed the quality and composure to see his team over the line with 31 not out.

A rain-affected third group game went the way of our opponents. It took an excellent Adamstown effort, chasing 65 to win off a reduced 10-overs, to see them record a 7-wicket victory with just a single ball remaining. Some good



batting in very challenging conditions by Eoghan O'Neill (2nd Year) and Raif Duncan of 17 and 22 runs respectively looked like it might be enough, but great credit goes to Adamstown for finding a way to get a positive result. The final match of the group resulted in another tight defeat, this time to Terenure, but with over twenty players having represented the college at junior level this year, cricket continues to build well for the future.

## Basketball

### 2nd Year Basketball

Back in September, the Second-Year squad had a home match against St. Mary's College. This week, the squad headed to Rathmines for a match to finish the season. The first quarter started off close, as captain Peter Lee worked well on offence to secure baskets. The scoreline going into the second quarter was 13-10 to St. Mary's.

The tide of the game turned in the second quarter, as a very strong St. Mary's side applied pressure on defence and ran a strong and effective offence. A 3-pointer by Jose Carlos de la Cuesta wasn't enough to catch up with a leading St. Mary's, as the first half ended in a score of 27-14.

Despite the score, the team came back, ready to close the gap. Rocky Kenneally worked well under the boards to secure rebounds and Co-captain, Santiago Franza was effective on defense. Despite scoring more baskets in the third quarter, the team hadn't done enough to catch up on the St. Mary's lead.

The final quarter began with a score of 40-28. The squad worked hard to even the score, but unfortunately, their efforts weren't enough this time as an energetic and aggressive St. Mary's side found their stride in the final quarter, finishing with a strong lead of 59-37.?

Co-captains Peter Lee and Santiago Franza can be proud of their and their teammates' efforts over the course of the season. Leading the offensive charge was Peter Lee (26 points). Jose Carlos, Carlos Bellon and Collie Breslin worked well on defense to maintain pressure on St. Mary's. The team have shown great commitment coming to training each week. They have improved a lot as a team both offensively and defensively.

## Golf

Congratulations to the Blackrock College Golf Team on beating Portmarnock Juniors on their home patch. The 6 singles matches resulted in a 4-2 victory for the college, and the quality of golf on show was excellent. The weather co-operated on the day, so the famous links course was a treat for the visiting players. All matches were contested in the right competitive spirit, and wins from Conor Ryan and James Heavey (6th Year), Sam Grennell (5th Year), and Freddie Bracken (3rd Year) meant that the visitors came out on top for the second year running. Among the Portmarnock ranks, there was a notable performance from Blackrock student Jeremy Carroll (4th Year), where he won a point for the home team.



Blackrock College Golf Team:

Jake Foley, Conor Ryan, James Heavey, Sam Grennell, Ethan Tracey, Freddie Bracken

## Athletics

The College was represented by 86 students at the East Leinster Athletics Championships in UCD on the 2nd and 4th of May. Excellent performances occurred across the various running, sprinting, jumping, and throwing events with a total of 45 medals and plenty of personal bests being achieved over the course of the two days.

A real standout performance was a school record of 55 meters in the senior boy's javelin by Phillippe Le Roux (6th Year). This was followed up with wins by Tom Brigg and Tom O'Riordan (6th Year) in the senior discus and hammer. The

senior age group was aided by some particularly strong sprinting results, well done to Ryan Sheridan (5th Year) claiming a silver in the 200 metres.

The intermediate category had their fair share of great performances. Gavin Laing and Bernard White (3rd Year) took gold in the triple jump and hammer, while Rory McNally (4th year) won the shot putt. Geoffrey Wall (3rd Year) had an unusual medal combination of 2nd in the hammer and 3rd in the 400 meters. Charlie White (3rd Year) had an impressive performance to claim silver over 3000 meters.

The junior boys had some exceptional results across track and field events. The school went 1-2 in the 100 and 200 meters. Rhys Keogh (2nd Year) winning both with Alex Savage and Hugo Bourke (2nd Year) taking silver over the two distances. Alex followed this up with a silver medal performance in the long jump, joining Stephen Wall (2nd Year) in the Leinster Championships after a bronze in triple jump. The throwers had a great day, claiming gold in each event. Well done to Donnacha Walsh, Jack Sheeran, John Pierce, and Cian McCarron (all 2nd year) for their performances across the four events.

The championships were concluded with fine performances in the relay events. The senior boys claimed a silver in the 4x100 meters and a gold in the 4x400 meters. The intermediate relay also took silver, while the junior team claimed a gold medal.

Well done to each boy for their fantastic effort over the two days. Rewarded by winning the junior, intermediate and senior team trophies.

## Leinster Schools Athletics Championships

The College enjoyed a successful trip to Tullamore on May 17th and 20th to compete at the 99th edition of the Leinster Schools' Athletics Championships. There were some brilliant performances from our second-year athletes with Rhys Keogh having a role in three record-breaking performances. Rhys' 11.26 over 100 meters and 22.92 over 200 meters was enough to break the Leinster school's record. Rhys alongside Hugo Bourke, Alexander Savage and Daniel Noonan then made it three golds for the college when they broke the 4x100 meter relay record. Cian McCarron then assisted the team in claiming gold in Discus and silver in hammer, while Cillian Hainbach added a bronze medal after a strong performance in the sprint hurdles. The entire team performance was rewarded with the overall junior title for the championships.

On Saturday, the impressive performances continued. 6th Years Tom Brigg and Phillippe Le Roux took gold in the discus and javelin while Tom O'Riordan qualified for the All Irelands with a bronze in the hammer. A particular highlight was the College being represented in Pole Vault, with Jack O'Neill (5th Year) taking a bronze medal in his first competition in the event. Other notable performances included a silver and bronze in the intermediate hammer for Bernard White and Geoff Wall (3rd Year), while Charlie White (3rd Year) ran a 17 second personal best to claim a bronze over 3000 meters. The day finished in exciting fashion with our sprint relays. A photo finish in the intermediate event showed us narrowly placing fourth overall in a new personal best. The boys closed out the championships in style with wins in the senior boys 4x100 meters and 4x400 meters.

The effort and competitiveness on offer from our athletes throughout the two days was brilliant to see. Well done to all students for their commitment in training in the build up to the provincial championships. The All Irelands will see a strong Blackrock contingent represented in Tullamore on June 2nd and 3rd.

## GAA

UI17 Football Dublin Schools' Shield Semi Final  
Blackrock College 8-10 Clonkeen College 4-5

Congratulations to captain Louis O'Brien (TY) and the under 17 Gaelic football team on a convincing win v Clonkeen College in the Dublin Schools' shield semi-final. Although he only started playing GAA this year, Cormac Sheahan (TY) looked to be a natural footballer scoring 3-3 in the first half. Other goal scorers were Charlie Keogh (TY) scoring two, vice-captain Alex Kenny (5th Year), Joe Reddan (TY) and Isaac Moss (TY). We now play St. Paul's Raheny in the shield final this coming Wednesday.

I would like to thank Mr. Rafferty and Robert Kenny (class of 2021) for organising and preparing the team.



Daniel Bennet ( Sixth Year) Joe McGrath  
Cup Final



Joe McGrath Cup

## ROWING

### Sports and Family Day

A fun and thrilling 500 metre rowing races on erg machines was enjoyed by all (including the spectators) at the recent Sports and Family Day. Students competed in their colours to represent their house.

### Training Camp - Amposta, Spain

Twenty-three students across 3rd, 4th and 5th Year travelled to Amposta, South of Barcelona, Spain to engage in a six-day all weather training camp over the Easter holiday period. The club with great excitement and enthusiasm, departed as a group on the morning of Thursday 13th April from Dublin Airport.

The rowing centre in Amposta is a new instrument to take high performance sport up another notch, and particularly to help young people who are training in a sport as demanding as rowing to move forward in their preparation.

A typical day started with an early morning breakfast, quickly followed by a long 20km paddle on the River Ebro



Senior Cup Soccer Final



Transition Year students competing for their House at Sports and Family Day



Rowing group at the airport ready for their Training Camp in Amposta, Spain



Erg session in Amposta, Spain



Pre-training in Amposta, Spain on the banks of River Ebro



Rowing Group at PortAventura Theme Park

positioned next to the Centre of Excellence. This was followed by lunch and a further two training sessions in the afternoon focussing on technique and speed. Various crews were given the opportunity to race each other to end each day. During the six-day period, the rowers, accompanied by their coaches, also enjoyed a trip to Port Aventura Theme Park.



Transition Year Rowing students in Amposta



Rowing Group and coaches in Amposta, Spain



3rd Year Rowers in Amposta, Spain



Iban Connolly, 5th Year, Amposta Training Camp

This afternoon out was well-deserved and offered an opportunity for recovery between the training sessions.

The camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all rowers and certainly proved beneficial in the recent Regatta events.

A special mention to the rowers for their hard work and determination at all training sessions over the course of the camp. An unforgettable experience!

### Rowing Regatta

Regatta season has well and truly kicked off. We are delighted to report that all those winter miles are turning into summer smiles. Early Saturday and Sunday morning drives to various locations around the country have brought great success to our club in recent weeks.

Some key highlights from these recent events include:

### Neptune Regatta:

J16 8+ beat the Enniskillen J18 8+ giving the squad their first medals of the year. The crew demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

### Commerical Regatta:

Blackrock saw similar success with our Junior 14 B and Junior 15 quads getting medals. The junior 15 quad beating out Coláiste Iognáid in a great demonstration of willpower and determination.

### Limerick Regatta:

Blackrock saw some success with the J14 4x+ A (Daniel Moran, Oliver Hammersly, James Smyth, Bill Buckley, Max Raingill (All 2nd Year)) quad claiming victory over Enniskillen, Athlone, and Coláiste Iognáid at Limerick Regatta. This was the quads second victory in two regattas this year. The regatta was attended by various rowing clubs from around the country who showed great sportsmanship and determination throughout the day.

### Portadown Regatta:

Blackrock saw great success at this Regatta, claiming medals in the J18 1X (1st place: Harry Pierce (5th Year) and 2nd place James Hodgins (4th Year)). The J15 4X+ A crew also won overcoming Bann Rowing Club. To round out the day the J14 4X+ A crew defeated Coleraine Grammar School.

### Lough Rynn Regatta:

Although we did not have any wins, we are still pleased with the overall performance of all our rowers. Harry Pierce ( 5th Year), our J18 sculler, finished second in his heat, demonstrating impressive skill and determination.

### Trinity Regatta:

This Regatta brought more success, starting with medals in the J14 4x+ category, where our two crews beat Enniskillen. Following these a thrilling battle took place in the single sculls event between Harry Pierce (5th Year) and a



# Sport Cont'd



Commercial sculler, captivating the crowd along the 1700m course. Harry narrowly missed out on victory by less than half a meter. Finally, our J16 8+ once again achieved glory on the upper Liffey, overpowering a Neptune crew by several lengths. Stroked by Lorenzo Elias (3rd Year), the team fought hard throughout the race, earning their second set of medals this year. Trinity Regatta has been our most successful event this year, and all the boys should feel very proud of their achievements. It is very inspiring to see Blackrock have three victorious crews at this stage of Regatta season. It is evident that the training sessions are paying their dividend.

## Castleconnell Regatta:

Notably, our rowers achieved two wins in the J18 1x category, with Harry Pierce (5th Year) emerging victorious in his final, and James Hodgins (4th Year) securing his first win of the year in a thrilling tie. The J15 8x+ crew, consisting of our second-year rowers, also had an impressive race, finishing in 3rd place in their first-ever eight race.

Our rowers thoroughly enjoyed this exciting and short-distance regatta, and all the boys should take pride in their accomplishments.

Upcoming Regattas for the club include:

3rd June Galway

17th June Athlone

The final event for the Rowing Club this academic year will be National Rowing Championships taking place in The National Rowing Centre, Cork. All rowers are particularly looking forward to this event. We are hopeful that all the hard-work and dedication throughout the year will pay off.



J16 8+ Crew, Trinity Regatta



J14 4x+ A and B Crews at Trinity Regatta



2nd and 3rd Year Rowing Members



Lough Rynn Regatta, Leitrim



James Hodgins, 4th Year and Harry Pierce, 5th Year



J15 8x+ Crew, Castleconnell Regatta



Rowing Club Members at Trinity Regatta



Successful crew at Commerical Regatta



Successful Rowers at Commerical Regatta

## Blackrock College Rowing Club

On 24th May, Rowers, family and friends of the Blackrock College Rowing Club gathered at the Royal Irish Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire for a delightful BBQ Social event. There was a great atmosphere among the group.

Mr Gus Kelly, Chairperson of the Club, Mr Alan MacGinty, Principal and Mr Pat Gannon, Senior Coach spoke about recent successes of the club and the bright future that it holds going forward. Harry Pierce, a 5th Year rowing member delivered an insightful speech to the group about his experience of being a club member.

Our Transition Year rowers presented some Golden Spanner Awards to club rowers and presented gifts to the coaches.

It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. Thank you to Lisa Cody and Alison Fearon, along with other members of the Rowing Club Parents' Committee for their flawless organisation of this successful event.



Golden Spanner Awards



Patrick Cody and Lucas Perez, 4th Year



Mr Alan MacGinty, Principal



Harry Pierce, 5th Year, Rowing Social



Conor McCourt, 3rd Year, Best Dressed Award at the Rowing Social Event

## GAA

### U17 GAA

Our season started in Ballyboden in the Cup group stage where we played Coláiste Eanna Rathfarnham. Despite little training under our belt, the whole team put up a fight and we didn't let it go easily. At half time we were down by 3 points and we knew we were still in it. As the second half progressed it slowly started to slip away from us but we continued battling. When the final whistle blew we lost by 8 points but we knew we weren't out of the competition.

Our next game was away in Oatlands College. We showed up on the day with plenty of confidence. We started strong scoring 4 points in quick succession, but Oatlands clawed their way back into the game. With 3 free kicks back-to-back, they were only 2 scores down. The game continued with us only being 4 points up at most. The conditions were rough with one half of the pitch frozen over and the other half as a mud bath. We slowly pulled away with goals from Alex Kenny and Ronan French. The final whistle sounded but we weren't through just yet. We had a must win game against St. Kevin's Finglas upcoming.

Our Cup Campaign was cut short due to the lack of available players and we were forced to give St. Kevin's the win. Our season wasn't over as we were put into the Shield semi-final against Clonkeen College in Shanganagh Park. We started strong with 3 quick paced points from Joe Reddan. In the first 10 minutes, Cormac Sheahan (TY) scored a brace finishing both in the bottom right corner. Our whole defence was solid and didn't let Clonkeen get any shots off. With Conor O'Shaughnessy (5th Year) playing the ball out from center back to James Neary (TY) setting up the full-forward line to score, we were unstoppable. As time went on Clonkeen started to give us problems. With 3 goals and 5 points in 20 minutes, we knew we had to score. Another goal from Cormac Sheahan gave us the steppingstone we needed to hold out for the rest of the game and his hatrick. As the referee blew the whistle, we were through to the final in Silver Park against St. Paul's Raheny.

For some of the team, it was our first home game.. St. Paul's started strong with a point straight from throw-in. We responded quickly with another point from Joe Reddan (TY). Jay Courtney (TY) scored a brilliant goal putting it into the top corner. As the half time whistle blew, we were up by 3 points but knew we had to more to give. The St. Paul's attack was cut short with great defending from Patrick Clancy (TY) at full-back. Several huge scores from Brian O'Flaherty (5th Year) from outside the 'D' put us well ahead. At the final whistle, we had won the Shield Final.



Jubilance!!  
Blackrock College V St Paul's



# Sport Cont'd



Although it wasn't the final we had planned in our heads, the entire squad showed huge amounts of character to bounce back from our first loss. On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr. Grant, Mr. Rafferty and Rob Kenny (Class of 2021). We couldn't have got this far without the hard work of Mr. Grant throughout the entire year. The team played extremely well and showed great spirit all season and we were privileged to be a part of it and represent the school.



Blackrock College V St Paul's



Blackrock College V St Paul's



## Snapshot of Sports Day



Mr John O' Doherty ( President of the PPU, Class of 1986 ) presents past pupil Sports Star of the Year award to Caelan Dorris ( Class of 2016 )



Philippe Le Roux ( 6th Year ) Sports Star of the Year with Caelan Dorris ( Class Of 2016 ) Mr John O' Doherty ( President of the PPU ) and Mr Alan MacGinty ( Principal)





This season has proved an active one for our beehives. Having enjoyed a relatively warm winter, the hives were very healthy coming into the Spring. We first opened the colonies once the hour had gone forward. What we found were healthy hives ready for springtime. It was clear that one of the hives was more advanced than the others and this continues to be the most productive hive.

At the beginning of May we noticed that queens were preparing to swarm. Through the careful management of Niall Ringrose (class of 79), we were able to negotiate a busy swarm season and now can boast four hives on our campus.

Honey production continues and we hope to make this season's first harvest in late June. Here's hoping that it's bountiful.



## Reflection

