

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Easter Newsletter 2024

As is often the case in Blackrock, Term 2 has been a busy one. We had the Leman Concert, RockMUN, Wellbeing Week, Past v Present Debate, Safer Internet Day, Environmental Action Week, Addiction Awareness Day, the TY Immersion trip to Kenya, a multitude of sporting events and of course, our SCT win on St. Patrick's Day.

Running alongside all of that we have had the Spiritan Education Trust's consultation process regarding the proposal to amalgamate Willow Park Senior School with Blackrock College. This process has taken quite a bit of time and while that may have been frustrating, the whole task has afforded us the opportunity to look at what we do, how we do it and why we do it and that element of reflection within this whole event can only be seen as a positive. Our current set-up with Blackrock offering 2nd – 6th year and 1st year in a separate institution is an outlier in the Irish Education system but being different, being an anomaly is not necessarily a negative, especially when we keep the boys at the heart of everything we do. We are confident that our boys benefit in every aspect of their development from having first year in Willow Park Senior School.

It is key to a Blackrock education that the boys realise that the development of their talents is not for selfish reasons. We hope that they will use their God-given strengths for others and in the service of others. Sir Bob Geldof was honoured recently at our Past Pupils' Lunch in London and at that event he spoke eloquently on the reasons he became an activist. He talked about our world being broken and that it struck him as "morally repulsive and intellectually absurd that people die of want in a world of surplus." With the development of the Geldof Centre in the College, we have the opportunity to not only honour our greatest lay missionary but to also remind the boys that global citizenship, social justice and social change are not new ideas. Rather, in today's world they are concepts and actions that are more relevant and pressing in their everyday lives than ever before. We are fortunate to have strong connections with our past pupils, who have changed and are continuing to change the world for the better. It is imperative that we continue to do so. Creating leaders who listen to their conscience, who act with values, and who believe in service for others is the key to continuing the work for which Bob Geldof is known.

As we head into the Easter holidays, we wish our 6th year students all the best in their upcoming Leaving Certificate oral and practical exams. To everyone in our community, I hope the break brings you the rejuvenating qualities associated with spring as we look forward to more opportunities in Term 3 for the boys to thrive and flourish.

Yvonne Markey

Yvonne Markey, Principal



Blackrock College SCT, Winners of the Leinster Senior Cup Final on St. Patrick's Day in the RDS.

Message from the Deans....



With Easter early this year, the second term was even busier than usual in the College. The boys have certainly risen to the challenge. Sixth Years have been managing their projects and exam schedules with diligence and much effort. Having reviewed their Christmas results, there was a renewed energy in the Fifth-Year cohort. While our Transition Year students are embracing their many opportunities for the social and intellectual development, our junior cycle students continue to grow (literally!) and thrive before our eyes.

In academic life, we wish to acknowledge the hard work in our classrooms. The weekly application cards are a great way to affirm your sons' efforts in academic life. If your son's application card is not on target, it can provide a useful opportunity for reflection on how he can improve. We encourage the boys to set short term, achievable targets. The return of the Easter exam scripts will provide further evidence of progress achieved or work to be done. The Parent-Teacher meetings held in January and February proved to be a most useful opportunity for teachers and parents to meet to reflect on the boys' progress.

Internet safety took place on Tuesday 6th February. This proved a valuable day for the boys to learn about protecting their online presence. Environmental Action Week in February saw a flurry of activity from our excellent green schools committee. There has been a noticeable improvement in our recycling effort this year. The week was capped off by a visit from Minister for the Environment, Mr. Eamon Ryan. The boys asked him questions on Ireland's carbon goals and what he thinks the country will look like in 2050. Earlier in February, Wellbeing Week took centre stage. A number of activities were organised such as nature walks, quizzes and Karaoke shows.

One of the key elements to wellbeing is social connections. The boys make these social connections through our clubs, societies, and sports teams. As Deans, we see the everyday benefits for the boys who engage in our extra-curricular programme. The second term is a time the boys get to show the fruits of the labour, through representing the College at competitive level. Win, lose or draw the boys are seeing the benefits of hard work and practice. By working hard together they are also forming lifelong friendships. As deans, teachers, and parents, we encourage the boys to "be there" and to continue to persevere when things may not be going as well as the boys would like. This positive work ethic was evident throughout the second term in the performance of our various teams; debating, Model UN, Swimming, Rowing, Table Tennis, Soccer, GAA, and Rugby.

The final term will see a flurry of new extra-curricular activities – House Soccer Leagues, athletics, cricket, and tennis. We encourage the boys to continue enjoying all that the College has to offer. Inside the classroom, the boys will be expected work hard until June so they can truly earn and enjoy summer break.

Finally, we wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Easter with your families and look forward to welcoming back the boys for a productive third term.

Mr J. Fitzsimons (Dean of Second Year), Mr O. Brennan (Dean of Third Year) , Dr J. Brunswick (Dean of Transition Year), Ms C. Dobbryn (Dean of Fifth Year) and Mr P. O'Neill (Dean of Sixth Year)

Between the 22nd and 28th February **Sixth Years** had **Mock Oral** examinations in Irish the modern languages providing our students with a valuable opportunity to enhance their preparations for the State Orals taking place over the Easter Break. My thanks to Mr. Ryan for his organisation of the timetable.

Message from the Deans....



Congratulations to the **Second Year Gaelic Football team** who won the Leinster Schools' Section C title for the first time. Captain Charles Coffey lifted the cup after the boys defeated St. Paul's Raheny 4-10 to 4-4. Strong performances from Hugo Glynn, David Ffrench, Jack O'Neil and Jack O'Connor were supported by super sub-Archie Quinn who scored a few goals to ensure victory. The boys will play in the Leinster Schools final next against St. Mary's of Drogheda on the 19th of March.



The Victorious Second Year Gaelic Football Team

From 12th – 14th January 20 members of the **class of 2024** travelled to **London on the annual Economics and Commerce Society** trip. Visits to financial institutions along with attending a Millwall home match in the league were the highlights of a great trip. Many thanks to Mr. Murphy, Mr. Smyth and Ms. Ball for all their work on this trip.

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

Wellbeing Week took place from Monday 29th January – Friday 1st February. Congratulations to the **6th Year** representatives on the committee Nicholas Cronnelly and Kedaar Mathur for their work on what was a hugely beneficial week for the school community.

It is a testimony to the character and talent of this **Third Year** group that we had five teams each competing in the knock out stages of their respective **rugby** competitions. Better teams have let their heads drop in similar circumstances but not this group. Our J5s bowed out at the quarter final stage against a very strong St Gerard's side. The J4s lost by a solitary point in challenging conditions away to Pres Bray. J2s v St Michael's narrowly missing out and our JCT who showed such character and skill in the semifinal of the cup. As we go to print the Junior 3s head to Newbridge for their semi-final. A fantastic effort from all involved – the future is bright for rugby in the College!

The **Class of 2024** completed their final set of in-house examinations on the 15th March. I would urge our 6th Years to analyse their papers to identify the areas where they performed positively and equally to identify areas where there is scope for improvement. They can be assured that there remains much scope for academic progress in the final term. At the time of sitting their Easter Exams there was approximately three months until the Leaving Cert. Nobody, be they an athlete or an academic, peaks with their performance 12 weeks out from the match/exam! 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 2024 all the very best with these final preparations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Masterchef Heats and Finals, Gaisce Adventure Journey, TY Social Soccer and the Computer Science Module all still to come.

21st March: TY Tag Rugby Blitz

8th April: Speaker from St. Joseph's Shankill on the topic of Dementia

8th -12th April: Bike Maintenance Workshop

18th -19th April: Collections for Special Olympics

23rd-26th April: 2nd & 4th Year Musical

3rd-10th May: Transition Pilgrimage to Santiago

7th -10th May: Music, Art and Drama Week

13th - 17th May: TY Work Experience II

21st May: TY Day of Refection

27th- 29th May: Portfolio Assessment and Interview

Message from the Deans....



TYs at Croke Park Tour

On Monday 22nd January we were treated to another phenomenal **Leman Festival Concert** with excellent 6th Year representation across the board. In particular we congratulate the **6th Year Bands** 'Kill Lane' and 'Placeholder'; Soloists: Charlie Harvey, Patrick Hayden, Senan McCloskey, Luca Kenny, Daniel Flannery, Luke McDermott, Alex James; and our fantastic MC's for the evening Ethan Tracey and Oisín Daly.

TY students returned from their work experience week before February midterm and have managed to pack in a **lot of activity** since, including the second Leadership Course with Mr Denis Hevey, the Tuck Shop, Modules and Evening Courses which are ongoing, TY Tours to Jumpzone, GoQuest and Rainforest Golf and a trip to support TY Students Alex Browne and Jack O'Connell at the BT Young Scientists Exhibition. TY students are assisting in the community; be it with assisting the Heart Check program, being Leo the Lion for the 5th form Rugby Blitz in Willow Park, collecting on Lollipop Day for Oesophageal Cancer, or going on the weekly Soup Run, Pastoral Placements, assisting our elders with their IT Skills, the Class of 2026 are there. The Dragons' Den competition is well underway with mentoring session by the Dragons ongoing.

The **Third Year** Junior 5ths bowed out at the quarter final stage with a valiant effort against a very strong St Gerard's side. They never gave up and scored the final score of the game.

Congratulations to Simon Considine (**Sixth Year**) on his qualification for Round 2 of the **Chemistry Olympiad** organised by Trinity College. Only 10% of all students participating qualify so it is a wonderful achievement.

Well done to our **Second Year Debaters**. Ms. Pierce is very happy with their effort and development. Ross Murphy, Simon Quinn, Tate Tomkin Beddy, Dan Hayden and Daniel Goss (2nd Year) were all involved in the UCD Octo-finals of the junior schools debating competition. Congratulations to Tate and Ross on qualifying for the quarter finals. Meanwhile, Arlo Liddy and Paddy English are competing in the Sion Hill Mace this Saturday. We wish them well.

We congratulate the **Fifth Years** who put themselves forward for the five coveted places on the **Dublin Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** in September 2025. We thank them for their willingness to serve and wish those selected the very best with their preparations.

On Tuesday 23rd January Peter Cosgrove gave a superb talk to the group about the ever-changing world of work which was very well received. This led in nicely to the **Career Mock Interviews** ran by the PPU where interviews in many disciplines were conducted on campus. Just over a third of the Class of 2024 availed of the opportunity. Many thanks to all who gave so generously of their time to interview the students along with Ms. Drew (Head of Careers) and Maurice Tunney (PPU) for the organisation of this excellent event in the **6th Year** calendar.

Message from the Deans....



Friday 2nd February saw the annual **TY Corporate Duck Race** in aid of Solèy Haiti (www.soleyhaiti.org) all proceeds going towards the payment of the salaries of the staff of Bigue Community School in Northern Haiti for a year. The team did a fantastic job of putting together the promotional material and letters for the companies. A wonderful total of 25 ducks were sponsored!



*TY Corporate Sponsored Duck Race
Organisers Cian Cooper, Charlie O'Connor, Daniel Moore (Back Row)
Conall Byrne, Cian McDonagh and Eoin O'Loughlin (Front Row)*

Commiserations to Daniel Cheung (**Sixth Year**) and the **senior soccer squad** who were defeated 4-1 by Marian College in the FAIS Leinster Senior Cup semi-final on Monday 4th March. The scoreline doesn't reflect what was a very even match. Victories in the preceding rounds against Terenure (3-1) and Naas CBS (4-1) were on the back of excellent performances. The squad can be very proud of a wonderful cup campaign.

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 **MacDara Cosgrave (6th Year)** on his selection for the Ireland U-19 Cricket World Cup Squad which took place in South Africa in January.

Well done to the **Second Years** involved in the JCT campaign. Paul Hartnett, Lucas Hill, Peter Le Roux and Paddy Whelan have all contributed meaningfully to a very hard working and entertaining cup squad.

The 2024 RockMUN conference took place on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th January with over 240 delegates in attendance. Well done to the **6th Year** members of the organising committee of Aran O'Flaherty, Patrick Hayden, Luke O'Sullivan and Greg Quinn on a superbly ran conference.

Well done to the **3rd Year** members of the **Green Schools' Committee** on what was a very positive Environmental Action Week held in college. A lot of work went into producing a week that engaged and inspired the school community.

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 is not with their study and exam techniques.

Congratulations to Senior Cheerleader Aongus Óg Curran and his leadership team of Alex Kenny, Harry McCabe, Aran O'Flaherty, Ethan Tracey and Marcus Youssef (**Sixth Years**) for a wonderfully run **cheerleading project**. The commitment, energy and time given to this student leadership project by the students mentioned above and the 36 additional cheerleaders in the wider squad has been outstanding. It began with our Whole School Assembly in the Sports Hall on Monday 29th January to mark the start of the SCT and JCT Campaigns and the size of the crowds at the matches along with the energy in the stands throughout both campaigns is testament to a job extremely well done by our cheerleaders.

Message from the Deans....



Third Years Daniel Burns and Thomas Murray are through to the final of the **Junior Schools' Debating Competition** hosted by the UCD Law Society and Literary and Historical Society. Well done lads – richly deserved.

The **Second Year Rugby** teams had a fine second half of the season. The A's and B's had good wins over Belvedere, St. Michael's and Crescent College, Limerick. We wish captain Donnacha Sheehy and his team well in the Terenure College U15 International competition in the last week of March. U14 Cs remain undefeated with wins over St. Michael's, Terenure and Belvedere, while the U14D's bounced back from defeat against Castleknock with a strong win against Belvedere.

Directly after February midterm 16 **Blackrock TY 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 National Heritage Park in Wexford and the Burren, movies and theatre 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 Ms Ryan and Mr Orrock for their dedication to making this programme such a positive experience for both sets of students.

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

As part of **Addiction Awareness** Day on 21st March 6th Year received an excellent talk from Chris Luke about the consequences of disinhibition when under the influence of substances. My thanks to Ms. McGuire for her organisation of this talk.

We look forward to celebrating the Fifth Year Mass on **Wednesday 17th April at 6pm** and hope as many students and their families as possible can join us in the College Chapel



Mr Terry O'Reilly, Ms Karen Reilly, Anne Cleary (Aidlink) and Mr Killian Barry with the 4th Year group

There was a strong **6th Year presence** in this year's Wesley Inter-Schools' Music Festival on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd March. We congratulate Daniel Flannery on achieving First Prize in the 'Own Performed Song' category; Jazz Band Members Harry Brady, Robert Byrne, Anthony King and Robert MacHale on receiving First Class Honours and Charlie Harvey on achieving Highly Commended in the 'Rock Guitar' category.

Over February midterm our **TY students** travelled to **Machakos, Kenya with Aidlink**. The focus of the Machakos Trip was an educational immersion programme students going to school side by side with their Kenyan counterparts in the Holy Ghost school in Sultan Hamud. Equally important to the trip itself has been the preparatory workshops so kindly facilitated by Anne Cleary of Aidlink in advance of the trip. The immersion trip also took the students to Kaijado County, home of the Masaai tribe where they visited some Aidlink projects, part funded by previous fourth year charity collections. It is easy to see the second you speak to a member of either group how much the experience impacted them. We hope all students will get behind this team of student leaders as they organise the Rock Run to fundraise for Aidlink

Message from the Deans....



Congratulations to Zach Bunce (**Second Year**) who won bronze in shot put for his club, Dundrum South Dublin, in the **Dublin Indoor Athletics** Championships. Well done Zach on all your hard training paying off.

Hosting over 200 people, the **RockMUN** was a resounding success due in no small part to the **Fifth-Year** team who have since been part of the victorious *Best Delegation in General Assembly* at the WCDMUN. Congratulations to these and all the MUN students for such tremendous commitment.



Zach Bunce (Second Year) on the Dublin Schools' Athletics podium for his bronze medal in shot put.

Congratulations to all **TYs** who rehearsed intensely for the Cluny production of '**High School Musical**', for the **Leman Concert**, the **Drama production of 'Lovers'** and in the **Jazz Band at the Wesley Musical Festival**. As we head into March, TY band, Serotonin, will be participating in the Sion Hill & Blackrock College Talent show. Finally, even more TY talent on view in the Rathdown Musical 'The Wiz'. Looking forward to our own 2nd and 4th Year Junior Musical to come.

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.

Another amazing **Leman concert** where the audience were treated to the breadth of musical talent in the school. It was great to see so many **3rd Years** to the fore in the Corless Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Ceoltóirí Carraige and soloists. Congratulations also to Conor Byrne and Matthew Leamy on their recent success at the **Wesley Music Festival**.

On Tuesday 30th January Aran O'Flaherty was the **6th Year** representative on the 'Present' Team for the annual **Past V Present Debate**. The 'Present' Team successfully opposed the motion that 'This House would follow their dreams instead of taking a safe job'. Many thanks to the past pupils (also a past teacher with the returning Mr Sheil!) for their time and to Mr. Orrock for his organisation of the event.

This year's **TY** organised **Rock Run will be on Saturday 20th April** at 11am. The Sports Hall will be open from 10.15am to register for the race. €10 per student, €20 for an adult and a family (2 adults, 2 children) will be €40. **Please bring cash on the day to pay for your registration.** This year's event is in aid of Aidlink, who do phenomenal work with some of the most vulnerable groups in Africa and you can read more about their work on www.aidlink.ie.

The Green Schools' Committee continue to encourage all to embrace the Triple A Approach of Awareness, Appreciation and Action throughout our daily lives. They were delighted to host Minister Eamon Ryan in the College recently. **Fifth Year** students are strongly encouraged to be active leading members of the Committee.

Message from the Deans....



We are very proud of all our **TY students** participating in **extra-curricular activities** for the College. We mention especially Freddie Bracken on winning the U16 National Indoor Tennis Championship and highlight the part played by Luke Coffee, Geoffrey Wall, Louis Magee, Ben Guerin, Luka Kelly and Bernard White in this year's SCT campaign.

We commend and thank the **Fifth Years** members of the **Student Wellbeing Committee** for the success of Wellbeing Week. Thoughtful, meaningful, and practical, the week's activities armed students with the essential tools and guidance to take care and be aware of their own well-being and that of others.

Congratulations to **(Third Year)** Javier Elizalde who was part of the **U16 Badminton Team** who beat Gonzaga College in the Dublin Schools Final.

Another amazing **Leman** concert where the audience were treated to the breadth of musical talent in the school. It was great to see so many **3rd Years** to the fore in the Corless Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Ceoltóirí Carraige and soloists. Congratulations also to Conor Byrne and Matthew Leamy on their recent success at the **Wesley Music Festival**.



Leo the Lion (Harry Harvey) and Tom Boret (TY) at the Launch of the Willow Park 5th Form Rugby Blitz

DATES FOR THE DIARY TERM 3 SIXTH YEAR:

Friday 3rd May	Extra-Curricular Photographs
Tuesday 7th May	6th Year Parents' Conference
Thursday 9th May	Summer Concert
Sunday 12th May	Sports & Family Day
Sunday 19th May	6th Year Graduation Mass
Saturday 25th May	Academic Prize Giving
Wednesday 29th May	Class ends for 6th Year students
Wednesday 5th June	Public Examinations begin.

Well done to those **Second Years** who have begun their volunteer work through their **Auxilium** service. We know this service to others has the power to transform and we look forward to the boys completing their service. In April the boys will write a report reflecting on their time volunteering.

Cheerleaders, chants, bunting, the blue and white and a strong **Fifth Year** representation - the **Sports Season** is in full swing! Well done to all Senior and House Rugby and Soccer players on their commitment and drive throughout the season so far and as the final stages approach. 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 activities of the summer season.

Message from the Deans....



TY and HGP Students Practicing their GAA skills

The Class of 2025 is supporting the many worthwhile conservation projects in Dublin Zoo by **adopting a Gorilla**, classified as critically endangered with rapidly depleting numbers. We are delighted and proud to welcome **DAYSHAWN** as honorary member of the Class of 2025.

Our **Second Year Basketball team** have shown great resilience and persistence in Division 1 of Dublin Schools. After an opening round defeat to Pres. Bray, Captain Peter Gilligan and key player Daniel Chambers led their boys to victory against St. Michael's. In their most recent fixture, they lost narrowly to Coláiste Ciarán.



A huge congratulations to our Senior Cup Team who won the SCT final on St. Patrick's Day. We are thrilled for the leadership team of Jack Angulo (Captain), Derry Moloney, Mark Walsh and Charlie Molony, (**Sixth Year**) and their team that their hard work and dedication has achieved this result. From the kick-off this team signalled their intent, to stick to their gameplan, to use both narrow and wide channels in attack and to commit to every tackle so Michael's had no easy route for counter attacks. Well done to all!

Remember our TY Motto

'Respect, Engage,
Challenge and
Enjoy!

Best wishes to **Third Years** Conor Byrne and John Ding who will be competing in the **All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad**. Conor and John qualified from 845 students from 80 different schools. A fantastic achievement.



Lorcan Petrelli, Will Hegarty, Noah Crowley, Conor May, Harry Malone representing the Second Years who brought in 423 eggs for international families in direct provision.



Trip to Glendalough



Spiritual Ethos Workshop with Frank Browne from SET

Message from the Deans....



Conor Barrett and Noah Vidal (4th Years) on Lollipop Day collecting for Oesophageal Cancer.



Alex Browne and Jack O'Connell (4th Years) with their entry in the BT Young Scientist competition 'The Physics of Table Tennis and how it improves your Hand Eye Co-ordination and Reaction Speed'



Leo the Lion (Harry Harvey) and Tom Boret (TY) at the Launch of the Willow Park 5th Form Rugby Blitz



Tom Boret (4th Year) at the heart of the clean-up in 'Juanitas Big Problem Show' at the BT Young Scientists Exhibition



Skyline Tour at Croke Park



Gwen Layden at the introductory meeting for the Dragons' Den Competition for 4th Years



Barry McEvaddy (4th Year) and James 'Jeb' Bannon (HGP) on the Croke Park Skyline Tour



Mark Crowley, Ted Taylor, Matthew Quinlan, Max Schmitt, Andrew Keogh, and Mossy O'Loughlin (4th Years) enjoying the Croke Park Skyline Tour



Spiritan Ethos Workshop with Frank Browne from SET

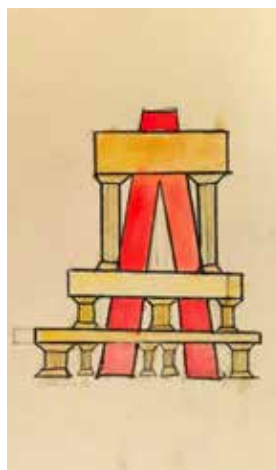
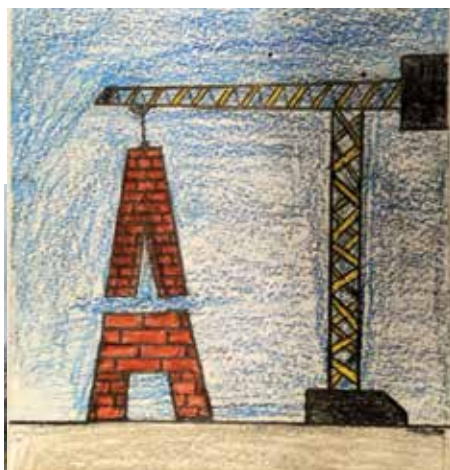
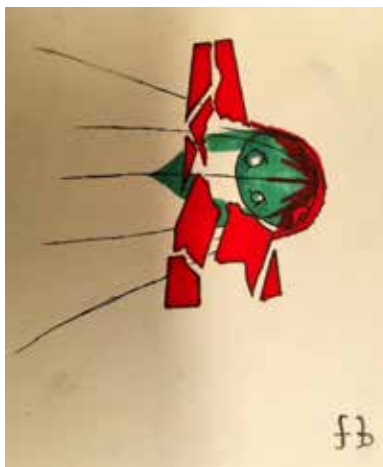


Ted Taylor, Jack Dobbys (HGP) Barry McEvaddy, Finn Hamilton, Cian Murphy and Peter Olsen (HGP) at the Spiritan Ethos Workshop

The Arts....



Art Club presents a selection of 'historical initials'. These portray figures or scenes that are clearly identifiable - they tell a story.



RIGHT:
G. Korobov
(Fifth Year)



BELOW: Ayrn Kelly (Fifth Year)
Winner of the Inaugural 'Then
and Now' Competition with
College Archivist, Dr. Jessica
Cunningham.



James O'Reilly (Second Year) Art Club
Terry Cuddy, HSP Philadelphia



G. Korobov (Fifth Year)



Junior Debating



Blackrock College had five teams competing in the **Junior Schools Debating Competition**, hosted by the UCD Law Society and the UCD Literary and Historical Society.

Rock A: Thomas Murray & Daniel Burns (both 3rd Year)

Rock B: Simon Quinn & Tate Tomkin Beddy (both 2nd Year)

Rock C: Dan Hayden & Daniel Goss (both 2nd Year)

Rock D: Ross Murphy & Paddy English (both 2nd Year)

Rock E: Calum Burke & Marc Hooper (both in 3rd Year)

Qualifying to go through to the Octo-Finals in February, we had Thomas Murray, Daniel Burns, Simon Quinn, Tate Tomkin Beddy, Dan Hayden, Daniel Goss, Ross Murphy, Calum Burke and Marc Hooper.

The semi-finals of this debating competition take place on Wednesday March 6th. Those who qualified and speaking are: Thomas Murray, Daniel Burns, Tate Tomkin Beddy, Daniel Goss and Ross Murphy.

In other news, Blackrock College had four teams compete in the **Junior Debating MACE** in Belvedere College in January against 120 students in the third round of the **National Junior Mace Debating Competition**.



Team A: Daniel Burns & Thomas Murray (both 3rd Year)

Team B: Matthew Leamy (3rd Year) & Ross Murphy (2nd Year)

Team C: Dan Hayden & Daniel Goss (both 2nd Year)

Team D: Paddy English & Arlo Liddy (both 2nd Year)

MOTIONS INCLUDED:

This House Would Make Music and Art compulsory for Junior Cycle.

IR: This House Believes That Irish Neutrality does not have a place in modern times.

This House Would pay stay at home parents a basic income of €325

Final Round: This House Would implement Demy Voting

We congratulate all our Junior Debaters for their participation on the day and Team A for placing 9th in this round.



Blackrock College & Holy Child Killiney – friendly MACE

Congratulations to all our 2nd Year Junior Debaters who competed alongside the 3rd Year Debaters from Holy Child Killiney on Tuesday January 16th.

Motion: This House Believes That all secondary school students should have an after-school job or internship.

Proposition: Daniel Goss, Paddy English, Louise Purcell, Arlo Liddy

Opposition: Simon Quinn, Tate Tomkin Beddy, Dan Hayden, Una Kiigan, Ellie Begley

We thank HCK for visiting us, along with their coach Elizabeth O'Sullivan, and debating alongside our Junior Debaters.

Congratulations to Best Speakers Dan Hayden and Ellie Begley, and Winning Side Opposition.

We also thank our judging panel: Ishaan Pandey & Darragh O'Neill (both 5th Year), Jamie Browne Lynch and Josh Murphy (both TY).



Senior Judges at the Holy Child, Killiney v. Blackrock College Junior Debaters: Ishaan Pandey, Darragh O'Neill, Jamie Browne Lynch and Josh Murphy



Junior Debaters competing against Holy Child, Killiney



Junior Debaters competing in UCD: Thomas Murray, Daniel Burns, Simon Quinn, Tate Tomkin Beddy and Ross Murphy.

Wesley Model United Nations Conference 2024

WCDMUN 2024 took place on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th of February at Wesley College. Blackrock sent three delegations, France, Cuba and Cameroon. In total, 17 delegates attended from Blackrock, while Henry Brown (5th Year) represented the College as the chair of the ECOSOC committee.

Topics such as *the Ongoing Partition of Cyprus*, *External Influences in the Israel-Hamas Conflict* and *Unethical International Aid* were discussed.



Darragh O'Neill, Leo Fowler, (Fifth Year) Aran O'Flaherty (6th Year), Edward Wilson (5th Year) and Dan Hayden (2nd Year) Award Winners at MUN.

Congratulations to Aran O'Flaherty (6th Year) and Leo Fowler (5th Year) on receiving *Best Delegate* awards, Dan Hayden (2nd Year) on receiving the *Highly Commended* award and Darragh O'Neill, Fionn Whelan and Edward Wilson (Both 5th Year) and Daniel Burns (3rd Year) on receiving *Commended* awards.

Overall, the delegation of France was the only delegation at the conference that had each member win an individual award. The delegation won *Best Delegation in General Assembly*.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in exciting debates across the two days.

Next up will be the two-day conference in High School in Mid-April.

Senior English Debating

The much-anticipated Past vs Present Debate took place on Tuesday, 30th January. This year, we were delighted to welcome back Ben Kieran Glennon (Valedictorian, Class of 2023), John Sheil (Former Head of English, Class of 1979), Eoin Martin (Class of 2005) and Jamie Conway (Class of 1996). We were also very pleased to welcome Mr Justice Tony O'Connor to Chair this year's debate. The present student team comprised Aran O'Flaherty (6th Year), Darragh O'Neill, Ishaan Pandey, and Peter O'Connor (all 5th Year) had great fun proposing the motion that we should follow our dreams, rather than taking secure jobs. As always, the Past Pupils brought great humour and enthusiasm to proceedings, and it was very enjoyable to hear their nuanced perspectives. In the end, though, the Present Team emerged as the winners, with the award for Best Speaker being awarded to John Sheil.



Aran O'Flaherty (6th Year), Darragh O'Neill, Ishaan Pandey, and Peter O'Connor (all 5th Year). Winners of the Past V Present Debate

The Arts....



We are grateful to Mr Johnny O'Shea and Mr David Gillette (Union President) for their help in co-ordinating the debate. We also thank Ms Kelleher (Head of English), Ms Pierce (Head of History) and Michael White (Class of 2022) for adjudicating, and Pearse Woods (Class of 2020) for acting as timekeeper. We look forward to carrying forth this important tradition in years to come.



It was another active few weeks in the library with lots happening including climate cafés, a visit from Minister Eamon Ryan and a karaoke session.



Zach Egan-Ruane singing at the Karaoke

Karaoke

The karaoke took place on Thursday 1st February for wellbeing week. Studies have shown that singing can be good for your mental health because according to the British Academy of Sound Therapy singing "alters the hormones and neurotransmitters that boost mood-state and the immune system". The library was packed with students cheering their classmates on. Students from all year groups sang and Mr Toolan gave his traditional performance. Well done to all involved and those who came along. The atmosphere was great and we're already looking forward to next year.

UNESCO International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is observed on the 21st of February each year to promote cultural and linguistic differences. To celebrate this day the front of the library had "Welcome to the library" translated in the various languages that represent the boys in the school and inside was a display of books in various

Díospóireacht Ghaeilge

Well done to Calum Burke (Captain), Seán Mullane and Cian Ó Flannagáin who participated in this year's Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsagh. After winning two qualifying rounds, we made it through to the regional finals which took place on Thursday 22nd February in the Lucan Spa Hotel. All of the boys made excellent speeches against the motion that we have a good public transport system in Ireland. Although we didn't qualify for the National Finals, the boys thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the competition and did great work on honing both their written and spoken Irish skills. We were delighted to accept a bronze trophy on behalf of the College and look forward to participating again next year.

languages. Ms Corcoran's TY French class took part in a language quiz and for Kahoot Friday students had to guess the language various popular books were translated into.

Blackrock College and the Constitution

With the referendum taking place on International Women's Day, Ms A. Dillon contributed to an exhibition *Blackrock and the Constitution* that was put together by archivist Jessica Cunningham by providing some of the arguments in favour of and against the new 'care' referendum.



The Referendum Debate

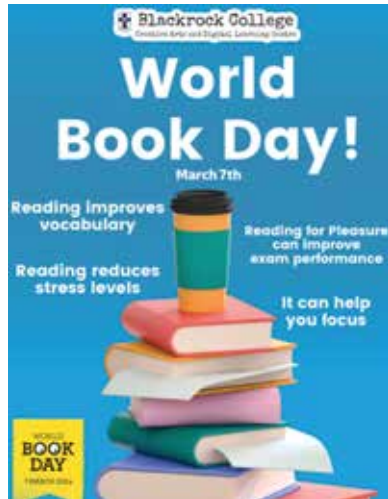


International Women's Day

Ms Fitzsimons TY History and Ms Corcoran's TY French completed projects on women they admire and their link in with the school values. A selection of projects were put on display in the library.

World Book Day

Thank you to library committee member Leo Fowler (Fifth Year) for doing a poster for World Book Day with the very important message that reading can help you focus, relax, do better in exams, and improve your vocabulary.



Have a book to recommend?

Scan the following QR to recommend a book and it will be shared on upcoming newsletters.



Recommended Book Corner

Each Newsletter I plan to give book recommendations whether they are from myself, staff or Parents. For this Newsletter I will be focusing on staff book club reads. The following are some of the books we read over the last couple of years. Some we loved others not such much.

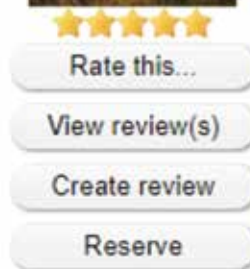
1. **Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.** We loved this book about a female scientist navigating a male dominated work environment in the 1960s and not accepting the status quo.
2. **Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry:** We found this reading quite grim about a retired policeman who is forced to confront his past while solving a murder mystery
3. **The Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel:** There were mixed reviews on this speculative fiction book. Some liked it, others really enjoyed it. Set around the backdrop of a pandemic and similar to the concept around David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas, this is a book that travels through time and space.
4. **Small Things like These by Claire Keegan:** We all found this book deeply moving and reflective of Ireland's shameful past. Set in a small Irish town a coal merchant is forced to confront his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.
5. **Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver:** One of our favourites. This heartbreaking novel, inspired by David Copperfield, is a contemporary take on a young boy's survival in rural America.



Student Book Reviews

Well done to all the students who have submitted a book review to the library catalogue. Any student who submits a review gets a small treat. Students just need to:

1. Go to <https://library.blackrockcollege.com> and select catalogue
2. Log in with their school email address and Date of Birth in **ddyyymm** format.
3. Type the name of the book in the search box, click search.
4. Select rate/review and follow the instructions.



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief [Paperback]

[Rick Riordan](#)

Published by [Penguin Books Ltd](#) (2006)

Shelved at GEN 813.6 RIO

ISBN 9780141319131

Review Percy, a 12 year old who has just found out he is son of poseidon, is accused of stealing zeus' lightning bolt. Together with his friends Anabeth and Grover, he sets out to find who stole Zeus' lightning bolt. [Sean Goggin](#) - 29 Nov 2023

I really enjoyed reading this book, it is one of my favourite books ever and I also read the other books in the series. I would recommend reading this book as it is very interesting.

Book Bites 20 second interview with Dr. Jessica Cunningham, Archivist

What book(s) are you reading right now?

I always have a hard copy book and a kindle book on the go. The main function of the kindle book is for reading in the middle of the night without turning on a light. Right now I'm reading 'Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow' by Gabrielle Zevin in hard copy and 'The Diving-Bell and the Butterfly' by Jean-Dominique Bauby on

kindle.

What was your favourite book as a teenager?

I remember loving 'The Cay' by Theodore Taylor, when I was in first year. When I was a bit younger I read and re-read the series of Irish famine books by Marita Conlon McKenna, starting with 'Under the Hawthorn Tree'.

Books or movies?

I love movies but when you think of the immersive experience you

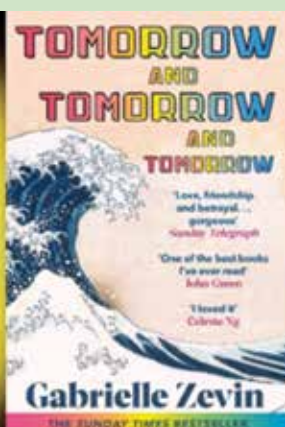
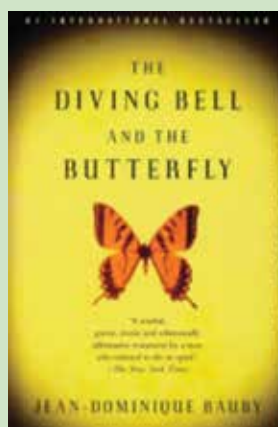
get from a good book you can't beat that.

What books would you take with you on a desert island?

'Dubliners' by James Joyce and 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell. To cheer me up and keep me going, I'd also bring along the collected 'Jeeves and Wooster' by P.G. Wodehouse, master of the comedy of manners.

When I say book what's the first word that comes into your head?

Bedtime





BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp. MUSIC & DRAMA

Leman Festival Concert XXXVIII Programme

The new year launched all students and adults involved in the Music & Drama department into what we call 'Lemanuary', culminating with the **thirty-eighth Leman Festival Concert** in the National Concert Hall on Monday 22nd January. This year's theme was '*Rock does Rock*' and the programme note by producers Una O'Kane and Killian Grumley Traynor can be read below. With over 200 students, staff, parents and adults performing on stage and helping backstage and front of house, this was truly a celebration of the Blackrock College community coming together to make music in an uplifting and feel good concert. Congratulations to all involved!

Leman Programme Note: *Rock does Rock*

While on the surface our creativity in choosing a theme for this year's Leman Festival Concert seems to have only extended to a pun about 'Rock', there are definitely other commonalities between the College and the genre.

Rock men began to emerge from Williamstown as early as the 1860s but rock music, as we know it today, only emerged nearly a century later, around the 1960s, as a powerful and influential genre that has left an indelible mark on the musical landscape. Rock music's roots can be traced back to the convergence of various musical styles, including blues, country, and rhythm and blues, giving rise to a dynamic sound that would shape the cultural landscape for decades to come. The French tradition of a wide cultural education was brought to Blackrock by founder Père Jules Leman CSSp and this has continued to be developed down the years as the College has grown with a dynamic sound resonating from its students, staff, parents and wider community.

Rock music can be described as "*a form of music with a strong beat, intended to give pleasure to people listening*". Isn't that what our community here in Blackrock is also? A place with a strong heartbeat where life long friends are made. Yes, we strive for excellence and push ourselves to be the best we can be, but what is

this without a sense of the greater good, a sense of connection, and most importantly being happy.

Rock music continues to evolve, blending genres and embracing new influences. Today's Rock students draw inspiration from the rich legacy of their predecessors while pushing the boundaries of creativity, ensuring that the spirit of rock lives on in the hearts and minds of music enthusiasts around the school community. Rock music holds a paramount significance in the history of contemporary music, transcending mere entertainment to become a cultural force that mirrors and shapes society. At its core, rock music encapsulates the spirit of rebellion, individualism, and freedom of expression. The genre has played a pivotal role in challenging norms, fostering social change, and providing a voice for generations seeking authenticity and identity. With its electrifying guitar riffs, passionate vocals, and driving rhythms, rock music has the power to evoke emotions, inspire movements, and unite people across boundaries.

This evening in the National Concert Hall we hope you experience how rock music's enduring appeal lies not only in its musical innovation but also in its ability to encapsulate the essence of human experience, making it a timeless and influential art form that resonates with listeners of all ages and backgrounds. Tonight we celebrate the enduring legacy of rock music and pay homage to some of the artists who have shaped this genre into a timeless and ever-evolving cultural force. Enjoy the journey through the decades as we showcase the spirit, energy, and passion that define the world of rock music. From *Dire Straits* to *Heaven*, *Boulevards of Broken Dreams* to *Streets With No Name*, we invite you to sit back, *Dream On* and of course *Don't Stop Believin'*!



Matthew Leamy and Conor Byrne
(both Third Year)



Daniel Flannery (Sixth Year) with
Gavin Fox (Adjudicator)



Interschools' Music Festival 2024

Wesley College

Congratulations to all 21 entries who represented Blackrock College superbly at the **Interschools' Music Festival** on March 1st and 2nd. The **excellent results** can be seen below – well done! Even more impressive was the sense of **camaraderie** and **support** shown by the competitors and their parents, friends and teachers. This festival presents a great **opportunity** for students to **share** their music and **listen** to each other perform in a **supportive environment** and we thank Wesley College for all their work in putting this together every year.

Results 2024

Conor Byrne	Solo Singing Classical U16	First Prize
Daniel Flannery	Own Performed Song O15	First Prize
Matthew Leamy	Solo Singing Popular U16C	First Prize
Matthew Leamy	Wind U16	First Prize
Patrick Cody	Solo Singing Popular O17B	Second Prize
Matthew Leamy	Solo Singing Popular U16 Final	Second Prize
<i>Jazz Band</i> Harry Brady, Mike Brady, Robert Byrne, Patrick Cody, Anthony King, Matthew Leamy, Robert MacHale, Michael Wilson	Secondary Level Orchestral Band	First Class Honours
Mike Brady	Drum Kit O15	First Class Honours
John Ding	Piano Solo U16	First Class Honours
Conor McCarron	Strings O16	First Class Honours
Charlie Harvey	Rock Guitar O15	Highly Commended
Edward Wilson	Solo Singing Popular O17	Highly Commended

Adult Choir Evening

Jubilee Hall, Blackrock College

On Thursday 7th March, the Blackrock College Adult Choir hosted two other similar adult choirs in the Jubilee Hall from Loreto Abbey Dalkey and Muckross Park College. The aim of the evening was to have an informal event, starting with a cup of tea/coffee, where the groups performed for each other in a relaxed and friendly setting. After a big group warm up for everyone, the three choirs introduced and sang a variety of songs for each other and also collaborated and joined up singing together for some songs. This was a great success, and we hope to have a similar event again in the future.



Greens Schools' Committee

It has been another great term for the Blackrock College Green Schools' Committee.



The highlight was our second Environmental Awareness Week of the academic year but this time we called it Environmental Action Week as we believe it represents our aims better as a committee. We believe everyone has a role to play in becoming more sustainable! It was an effective week with a theme of Global Citizenship Energy.



We held a multitude of activities for students to do in CSPE and Religion classes such as walking debates and biodiversity walks. Mr. Edmund



O' Farrell brought a couple of large groups out for cleans of the locality in Blackrock Park. This action along with our lunchtime Litter Patrols were excellent in reducing pollution in our area.



We also invited two guest speakers in during the week. This was great to engage senior students more as they look to university and choosing career paths. We hosted visits from Minister for Transport, Communications and Environment, Eamon Ryan and John Walsh (PhD) Head of Emerging Technologies and R&D at ESB. There was super engagement, and we are very grateful for both speakers giving us their time.

As part of our work for our Green Flag, Global Citizenship Energy we sent out an awareness survey to students and staff asking them about their experience when it comes to



energy efficiency and understanding their energy consumption. We had good results and these findings will be included in our final submission to receive our flag.

Another action we encouraged among the community was WOW (Walk on Wednesday). To reduce personal carbon footprint, we promoted walking to school or for some portion of the journey.

We cannot mention EAW without highlighting our Instagram account (brcgreenschools). We posted several times to raise awareness and prompt action among the wider community. We are at just under 120 followers, we plan to hopefully achieve 200 followers by next September! Go follow us to stay updated on our work!

And last, but certainly not least, we published our first topical news article regarding Sustainability. It was written by Dan Hayden (2nd Year) and on the future of nuclear energy! It can be found through our Instagram page – link in our Bio!

Overall, it has been a very active term, and we can't wait to start Term 3 and continue working hard to preserve our environment!



Global Citizenship....

Kenya Mass

Our annual collaboration Liberman Day Mass took place in the College Chapel this term. This is an annual event which the boys from GCE prepare and participate in, alongside our sister school in Kenya.

The mass was well attended by both staff and students. It clarified that cultural exchange and collaboration fosters greater learning. The class of 2026 travelling to Kenya this February, attended prior to setting off on their travels. This allowed them the opportunity to reflect and pause on the trip they were about to undertake. Throughout the mass, students exchanged information



Students and Teachers in Blackrock College Chapel for the collaborative celebrational Mass for Liberman Day with our sister school in Kenya.

about their societies, experiences of war and refugees. Kenya spoke about the war in South Sudan, while the GCE members focused on war in Ukraine. This made the religious celebration to be an educational one too.

Website link: [Blackrock College GCC \(black-rock-college-gcc.com\)](http://blackrock-college-gcc.com)



Students from Blackrock College and our Sister School in Kenya on a Zoom call in the Digital Learning Centre planning the collaborative celebrational Mass.

Reunion....

Bob Geldof (Class of 1969) was honoured at the annual Blackrock College Union London Lunch, which took place at Smith & Wollensky on Friday, 8th March. Principal Yvonne Markey and President of the Blackrock College Union, David Gillett, both addressed the packed house of 180 guests that included Ryan Tubridy (Class of 1991), Bob Casey (Class of 1996) and special guests, former England rugby player Roger Uttley and tennis superstar Pat Cash.

Geldof spoke passionately and honestly about his time at Blackrock College and his journey since leaving Blackrock College in 1969 during which his fearless global activism has influenced

world leaders and changed the lives of millions of the poorest and most deprived people on our planet. David Harvey (Class

of 1979) conducted a humorous questions and answers session with Geldof to round off the afternoon's activities.



Johnny O'Shea (Class of 1996), David Gillett (Class of 1987), Bob Geldof (Class of 1969), Yvonne Markey (Principal), Ryan Tubridy (Class of 1991) and Darragh Connell (Class of 2005)

The Wellbeing Committee has had a very busy term, the highlight of which was Wellbeing Week.

Nowadays, with our collective wellbeing perhaps being more under siege than ever, the Wellbeing Committee worked hard to make sure that our week could reach as many people as possible.

The committee began on Friday and Saturday the week before meticulously placing welcome messages on every locker for each student providing an encouraging message on the dreaded Monday. On top of this, posters were hung up all across the school bearing messages such as "Add friends to your tea" and "Boost your mood with the healthy food".

Wellbeing week began on Monday which was the 'take notice' day. Breathing exercises in all P.E classes for not just Monday but for the rest of the week happened too. This provided students with a break in their stressful and busy day and helped them reflect on themselves and what they did that day. Musicians greeted staff and students on the way into school on Monday morning. Huge thanks to Mark Goss Kehoe and Patrick Cody, (5th Year).

On Tuesday we had the 'keep learning' day. That evening was the Past vs. Present Debate which was full of rebuttals, questions and enjoyable entertainment for everyone in the audience.

Then on Wednesday, which was the 'give day', the staff were involved in the events enjoying a wellbeing walk through Blackrock Park followed by a breakfast in the College. This gave the teachers an essential rest before the day began but also helped the students.....no detentions given out that day!

On Thursday, we had possibly the most busy day with Karaoke in the Library during lunchtime. This



involved some great singing to some questionable song choices. Possibly the biggest act involved Paddy English duet with a teacher singing Smash Mouth! As everyone joined the atmosphere in the library was ecstatic and alive.



On the last day, Friday, we had a well-being themed Kahoot where the winners were given a pack of crisps and chocolate. Huge numbers participated in the Kahoot with many groans and cheers when you got the question right or wrong.



Throughout the week we also had Biodiversity walks during class, around the campus providing the students with calmness and

some nature in our packed and stressful days. We also had a photo competition throughout the week. The theme was 'Something that brings you Joy' and the winner was Cian Sheehy from 5th Year with a great picture of his dogs.

Thanks to students and staff for enthusiastically embracing wellbeing week and also to the PE, Religion, CSPE and SPHE departments for their input. Also special thanks to all the Wellbeing Committee, Ms R. Harlowe, Ms A. Dillon, Mr A. McKimm, Ms N. Drew, Ms L. Crimmins, Ms J. Fitzsimons and the MUN for helping make the Wellbeing Week of 2024 a very memorable experience for all students!

Wellbeing Committee meets every Tuesday at 1:10pm in the library. New members are always very welcome!





All Second and Fourth Year students visited the BT Young Scientist exhibition in January. Blackrock College had two successful group entrants in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences.



Callum Burke and John McCallig



Alex Brown and Jack O'Connell

Representing Third Year were Callum Bourke and John McCallig with their project titled, 'Does the Wood that an Acoustic Guitar is Made of Affect the Sound of the Guitar?'

Representing Fourth Year were Alex Browne and Jack O'Connell, with their project, 'The Physics of Table Tennis and how it Improves Your Hand Eye Co-Ordination and Reaction Speed'.



Alex Brown, Jack O'Connell, Ms Aoibh Steele, Callum Burke and John McCallig



On Tuesday 27th February, we had our 11th SciFest@School Stem fair. In recognition of this, Blackrock College was awarded a SciFest STEM Gold Award. This consisted of a framed certificate and an official SciFest STEM School Award digital badge.



The digital badge is now on the school website. There are eight schools in Ireland who have achieved this award.

Ninety-nine projects were judged



Ms. Rachel Harlowe (Deputy Principal), Mr Hugo Rowsome from SciFest, Ms Jennifer Groves (Head of Science) and Mr Tom Ryan (Deputy Principal)

by Hugo Rowsome (SciFest), Rory Geoghegan, Brian Smyth, Marie Kelly and Siobhan Sweeney. 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 enthusiasm, communication skills and confidence, while presenting their projects. They also mentioned that the boys were very good at reflecting on their projects and how they could be improved upon, which is a huge part of a scientific investigation.



Marie Kelly judging Thomas Doyle (Second Year)



Ms Rachel Harlowe (Deputy Principal) speaking with 2nd Years



Third Place; Archie Quinn, Charlie Lynch and Ryan Hanley

The awards are as follows:

WINNER

What tee height is best for golf?

Tate Tomkin Beddy and Jamie Cahill

RUNNER UP

Light Versus Heavier Boots

Spencer Jordan

Alex Naughton

Thomas Callan



First Place. Tate Tomkin Beddy and James Cahill



Best Communicator: Eoin Simpson

3RD PLACE

Does chew gum affect short-term memory?

Charlie Lynch, Ryan Hanley and Archie Quinn

COMMUNICATION AWARD

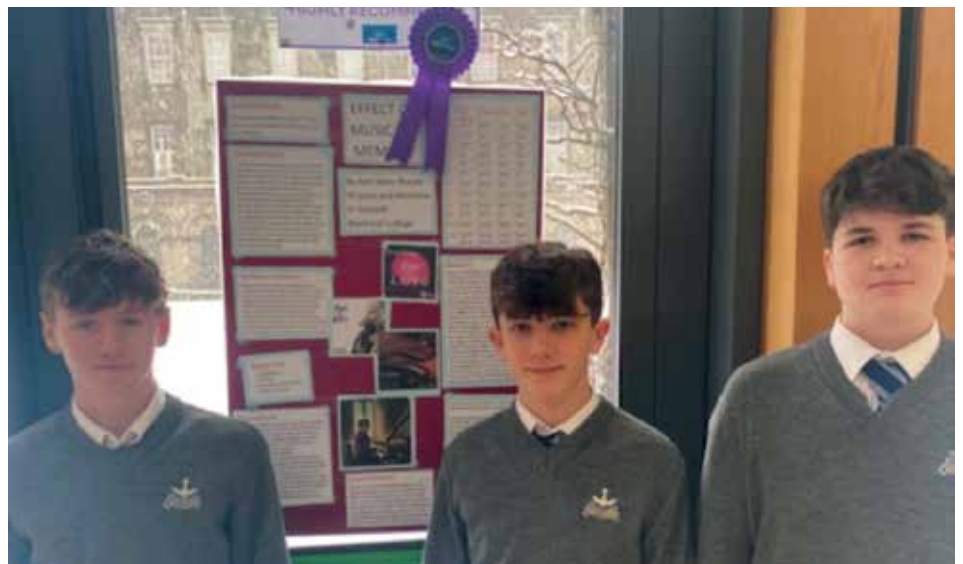
Do expensive golf balls go further?

Eoin Simpson

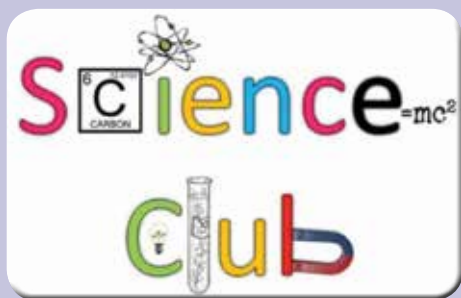
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Effect of Music on Memory

Sam Kane, Ronan O'Leary and Matthew O'Donnell



Highly Recommended; Matthew O'Donnell, Sam Kane and Ronan O'Leary



This term has been an absolute blast as we dove headfirst into the world of physics and engineering! Our students became budding engineers, designing, and testing their very own boats in an epic showdown to see whose creation could withstand the most waves! And in the spirit of February, the month of love, we got up close and personal with the heart, dissecting a lamb's heart to uncover its secrets and share the love for biology! Not to mention our lung demonstrations which were a breath of fresh air, showing just how amazing our bodies are! It's been a jam-packed term full of excitement and discovery, leaving us all feeling inspired and ready for more!



Inflating Sheep's lungs



2nd year students heart dissection



Sam Kyrychenko with his boat designs



Sean Mullane and John Ding testing their boat to see if it can withstand the waves.



Sean Mullane and John Ding testing their boat to see if it can withstand the waves.



Irish Science Teachers' Association
Eol Oidí na hÉireann

Our former colleague, John Daly, was presented with the Lodge Medal at the annual Irish Science Teachers' Association (ISTA) conference on the first of March. The award was established in memory of George Lodge, who was the founding member of the ISTA. To date, there have only been seven recipients of the Award.

John has been a member of the ISTA for over thirty-five years. It was John who was the inspiration behind the now hugely successful Science Quiz, at first in the Dublin Branch and subsequently at national level. He has sat on Council, was a member of the Chemistry syllabus Sub-Committee, The Safety in Schools' Committee and the NCCA representing the needs and views of science teachers.

At national level he held Chair from 1995-1997 and under his leadership helped to develop new policies and protocols which brought the Association forward. He travelled the length and breadth of the country giving CPD and In-Service courses for teachers. He visited the student science teachers in the Universities and gave practical demonstrations, sharing his joy and enthusiasm for Chemistry.

He developed his now famous Chemistry Show for students and teachers in schools all over the country. He had a brilliant assistant, the wonderful Deirdre. None of this 'just happened', it was practised and perfected until it appeared effortless – the sign of a true professional and a class act.



Ms Jennifer Groves, Mr John Daly and Ms Siobhan Sweeney.

With all of this, it is his sense of fun and commitment to the Irish Science Teachers' Association that makes John a most worthy recipient of the Lodge Medal.

Easter has come early this year!

How quickly our school year is passing by – Easter exams are all done – the state oral exams for 6th Years are taking place over the Easter Holidays and so many other things are happening in classrooms, on the sports pitches, cup and league finalsit is time to reflect and be grateful for all the opportunities that we have been given.

This second term has indeed been a very busy term; an exchange with our sister school in Philadelphia, an immersion programme with our sister school in Machakos, several placements on the Matthew 25 Pastoral Programme, the collection and distribution of hundreds of Easter eggs to those children seeking asylum and refuge in our country from war and oppression in their home country. Our term concluded with the opportunity for our students to voluntarily avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the College Chapel. Although the "school" closes for Easter 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.

Lent gives us a time in the Church's calendar to take time to reflect – the first week of our holidays allows us to relive the Passion of Jesus and to take part in our parish liturgies. But we are an Easter people, after the crucifixion of Good Friday

comes the resurrection of Easter Sunday ... we are an Easter people.

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>

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.



Pastoral Department

Update from Blackrock College Archives

The Archive regularly acquires records relating to daily college life internally. These range from programme booklets to digital photographs of teams or events. Along with the existing body of records contained in the Archive, dating to the college's foundation in 1860, the goal is to maintain a living history of Blackrock College, for existing users and future researchers.

In addition to this, we are grateful to past students, relatives of past students and the general public who, from time to time, donate items of interest relating to the college's history. Items may include old report cards, photographs, rugby jerseys, or video footage of performances or matches. All are gratefully received

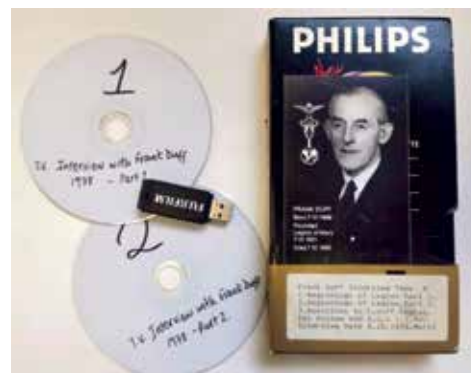
and reflect a shared interest to retain and commemorate a collective history.

A wonderful example of this was the recent gift by past student Anthony (Tony) O'Connor (Class of 1963) of a rare VHS recording of a lengthy American TV interview with Frank Duff (1889-1980) from 1978. Duff, a student at Blackrock College in the period 1899-1907, was well-known as the founder of the Legion of Mary. The footage, over three hours in length, is a valuable and interesting resource for researchers of Frank Duff, Blackrock College, Irish social history and 20th century Irish and global Catholicism. Tony kindly arranged to have the VHS cassette digitised so we



now have this interview available on DVD and MP4 digital files. This has ensured the preservation of this footage and facilitates its easy access by researchers. Many thanks, Tony!

The Archives welcomes any enquiries relating to our collection and if you would like to get in touch about items in your homes relating to Blackrock College that you may wish to donate, please email: archives@blackrockcollege.com.





6th Year students have now made their CAO applications which were submitted by February 1st. Several students submitted UCAS applications for UK Universities. Some students have already received conditional offers from the UK. Some students are applying to the USA and Europe this year with several having already received early offers.

HPAT – The exam was held in February this year. Our students had the opportunity to participate in HPAT preparation classes run by the school since last October. They have also taken a number of practice tests and good

progress has been made. I would like to thank Robert Gallagher for all of his work facilitating these classes on a Saturday morning.



PLC - Open days have commenced for Post Leaving Certificate courses and a number of students have begun submitting applications for these courses. Further information is available from the career counsellors in the College, on the careers noticeboard and from the websites of the PLC colleges themselves and

more recently they are available to view on CAO. Applications for these courses are on a first come first served basis. Please apply online ASAP if you are considering this option.

CVs & Interviews – In advance of the mock interviews we held a talk on “Skills and Jobs of the Future” Mr. Peter Cosgrove from Futurewise.ie presented the talk and it was open to all 6th Years. The students found it highly engaging, informative with plenty of questions being asked from the students.

The **Mock interviews** were held on Wednesday 7th February. It was a great night, with great energy. Each student was given great encouragement and positive written feedback. This event is organised with the assistance of the Past Pupils Union & Mr. Maurice Tunney, we had 49 interviewers and 66 students interviewed. This event has proved to be a very valuable learning experience in the past and we are hopeful for it continued success in the future.

Course search:

www.careersportal.ie

www.cao.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.accesscollege.ie



DIARY DATES

- DARE Section A: In the CAO account - Answer yes to question 1 and complete questions and personal statement and submit -1st March 2024
- DARE Section B (School section) & Section C (Disability Report) submit by registered post to CAO before 15th March 2024
- DARE Section D -Filled in by school for Dyslexia without a Psych report.
- NUI exemptions –Ensure your CAO number is on your NUI forms. Submit documentation to, NUI, 49 Merrion Square, D2. (Available online from NUI)

If you submitted the NUI before you registered your CAO, please contact NUI, Merrion Sq. to add your CAO number to it.

- TCD Language Waiver Form – Submit documentation to TCD. (Form available online)
- CAO Statement of Application in May – ensure course codes are correct and that you meet matriculation for each course.

NUI Exemptions should also be visible in this statement.

NONE OF THE ABOVE IS LINKED TO THE SCHOOL. WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR DARE, WAIVER FORMS OR CAO. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Castle Chronicle – Easter 2024

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! 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.

We were treated to outstanding performances from a number of boarders in the Leman concert, most notably Charlie Harvey, Aran O'Flaherty and Oscar Egan. On behalf of the community, I would like to congratulate them and all of the other boys who put such diligence into their preparations and performances.

Our JCT and SCT players have been busy representing the college in Donnybrook recently and while the job is not done yet we can be very proud of how these young men have conducted themselves through what has been two very exciting and challenging cup campaigns. I must also offer very high praise to our Castle Cheerleaders who have provided excellent leadership in the stands and in the build up to the matches.

Alongside the boys in the classrooms and on the pitches, boys represented the Castle and College as far away as South Africa, Kenya and the US. All of whom have represented themselves with dignity and pride.

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 loosing site of the state examinations, we have Sechtain 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



Photo of the Senior Cup Squad taken by 3rd Year Boarder Iker Lopez Pinilla.



2nd Year Boarder Daniel Morrissey arrives back from a tough rugby match.



5th and 6th Year Boarders share 5th Year Boarder Michael O'Sullivan's birthday with him in the Castle.



6th Year Boarder Aran O'Flaherty at the Wesley College MUN.



LEFT: 5th Year Boarder Michael O'Sullivan cuts his cake with Conor McKechnie, 5th Year Boarder.



BELOW: Castle January birthdays (Sergii Ishchenko, Oscar du Halgouet, Braydon Chau, Kai Qi Guo, Charlie Lloyd) with Mr. Mealiffe.



4th Year Boarders Kieran Byrne and Dermot O'Driscoll on the Transition Year Immersion Trip to Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro in the background.



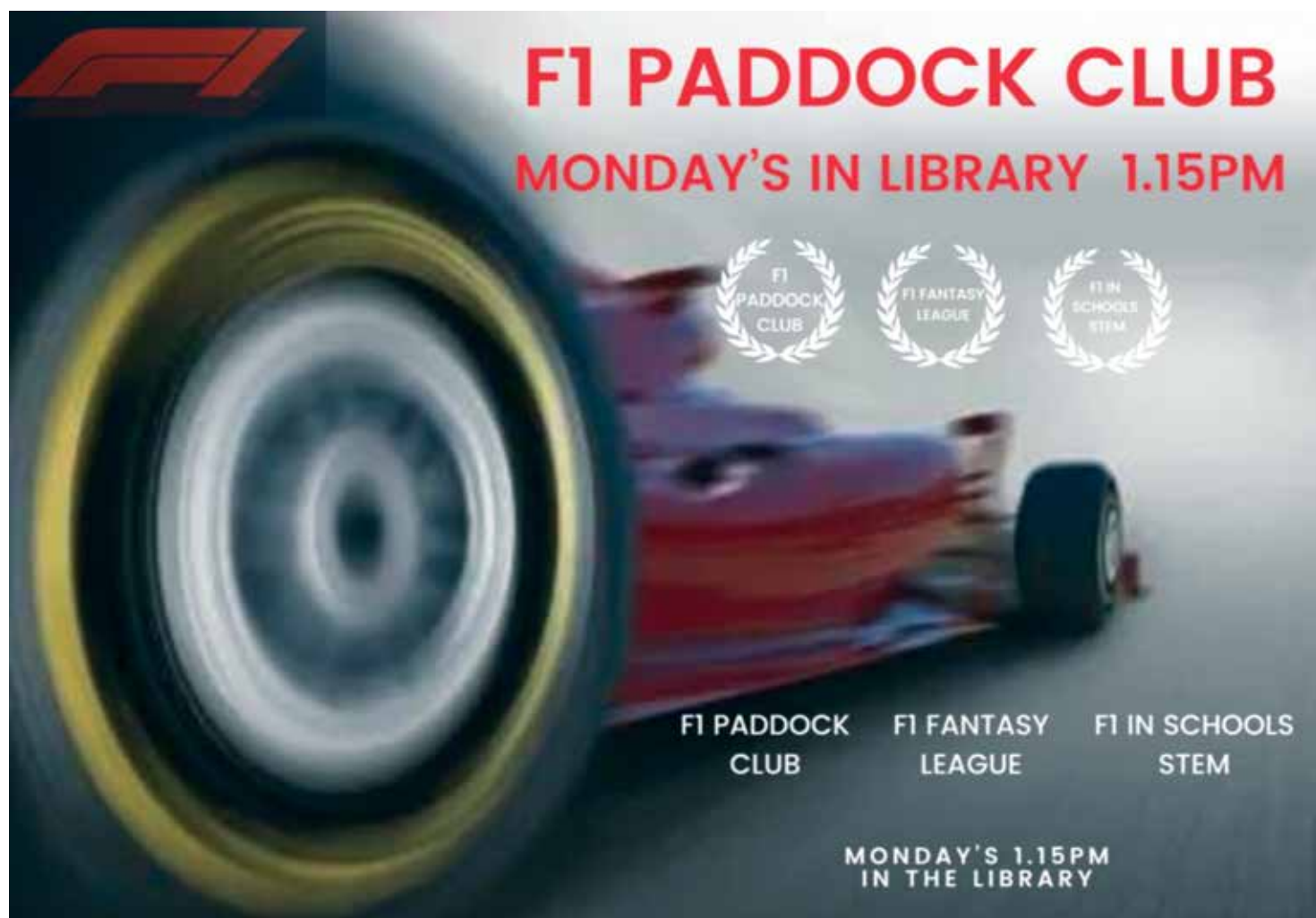
Dungeons and Dragons Club



Dice were rolling again this term in the Dungeons and Dragons club, with new campaigns getting underway from first time DM James O'Brien (3rd Year) and returning DM Sam Kyrchenko (3rd Year), both kicking original home-brew adventures to bring new stories to the club. Experienced DM Daire Casey (5th Year) continued his Spelljammer campaign with budding players Michael and Daniel Goss (2nd Year).




This term saw another invitational blitz, with the girls from Loreto Dalkey coming over for an exciting afternoon of one-shot campaigns. Matthew Leahy and John Ding carefully pieced together fun sessions for beginners and advanced players to give everyone a chance to get involved, with DM Sam McCann also filling in a survival shot to keep tensions high.

With more meet-ups planned for the final term there's plenty to play for in Blackrock Dnd!



F1 Paddock Club

MONDAY'S IN LIBRARY 1.15PM



F1 Paddock Club

F1 Fantasy League

F1 In Schools STEM

MONDAY'S 1.15PM
IN THE LIBRARY

Snapshot of TY Immersion Trip to Kenya in Association with Aidlink

4th Years on Immersion Trip to Kenya 2024 Richie Pattinson, Jack Spain, Jamie O'Nuallain, Matthew Kearney, Daniel Patterson, Tom Keavney, Kian Toralde, John O'Callaghan, Leo Kearney, Lorcan Golden, Joshua Tanner, Daniel Berry, Morgan Clancy, Daniel Gray, Dermot O'Driscoll, Lorcan Lawless, Kieran Byrne, Matthe Dempsey, JJ Hamilton and Evan Holmes.



Snapshot of the Leman Concert 2024



Snapshot of *Lovers*



Cathal Maher directed and produced a marvelous adaptation of Brian Friel's play 'Lovers' which was performed over four nights to full houses in the Jubilee Hall. Well done to all involved from Mount Anville and Blackrock College on a fantastic show.

Cast

Jessica Cronin - Mags
Arienne O'Donnell - Mags
Patrick Cody - Joe
Isaac Moss - Joe
Alica Hampson - Narrator
Emily Keane - Narrator
Jack Luff - Narrator
Luc O'hAonghusa - Narrator
Julia White - Narrator
Edward Wilson - Narrator

Student Production Team:

Phillip Duffy
Mark Goss Keogh
Patrick Hayden
Ben McElligott
Edward Wilson

Staff Production Team:

Martin Dunne
Julie Fitzsimons
Louise Maguire
Eimear McKenna
Diarmuid O'Hegarty



Snapshot of SCT Final 2024....



Blackrock - 28 St Michael's College - 12



Snapshot....



Jack Spain (Transition Year)
at the recent Leinster v
Benetton match



Luke Fitzpatrick, Robert Murphy and Will O'Sullivan
(5th Year) House 3rds V St Michael's



Will O'Sullivan (5th Year), Harry O'Neill and
Tom Keaveney (TY) House 3rds V St Michael's



Stephen Moloney (3rd Year) JCT V Roscrea



Cillian Hainbach, (Third YrR)
JCT V Terenure



JCT V Terenure



John Donnelly (Third Year) JCT V Roscrea



Daniel Noonan, Hugo Cullen and Daniel English (Third Year) JCT V Roscrea



Harry Clancy, George Eggers and Rhys Keogh (Third Year) JCT V Roscrea



Paddy Scally (Third Year) JCT V Roscrea



Robbie Maloney(2nd Year)
with his unpouched
phone !!!



Mr R. Barrett (Head of Irish), Mr J O' Shea (Head of Development) President Michael . D. Higgins , Ms C. Kelleher (Head of English) and Ms C. Pierce (Head of History) at Holocaust Memorial Day



Daniel Goss, Dan Hayden (2nd Year), Andrew Gillet (6th Year), Jamie Brown Lynch, Cillian Staunton (TY) at Holocaust Memorial Day



Tomkin Beddy (Second Year) at Holocaust Memorial Day in the Royal Dublin Convention Centre



Rugby Cheerleaders SCT v Cistercian College



Rugby Cheerleaders SCT v Cistercian College



Harrison Carr (Fifth Year) Rugby Cheerleader SCT v Cistercian College



Geoff Wall (TY),Tommy Butler, Seb Shortt (6th Year) and Patrick Clancy(5th Year) and Charlie Woodcock (6th Year) SCT V High School



Tommy Butler (Sixth Year) (SCT V High School)



Derry Moloney (6th Year)SCT V High School



Albert Lindner (Fifth Year) SCT V High School



Mark Walsh (Sixth Year) SCT V High School



Paddy Clancy (5th Year) SCT V Methody

Mark Walsh (Sixth Year) SCT V High School



Snapshot....



Louis Magee (TY) Donnacha Maguire (6th Year) , Michael O' Sullivan (5th Year) and and Geoff Wall (TY) SCT V Methody



Jack Angulo (Captain of the SCT) Jack Pollard (6th Year) Patrick Clancy(5th Year) SCT V Methody



Donnacha Maguire (6th Year) Michael Walsh (5thYear) and Conor o' Shaughnessy (6th Year) SCT V Roscrea



Johnny O'Sullivan (5th Year) SCT V Roscrea



Michael Walsh (5th Year) SCT V St Mary's



Jack Kelly (TY) and Patrick CollSenior Soccer V Marion College



Daniel Cheung and Jack Luff Senior Soccer V Marion College



Unexpected Magical Snowfall on March 1st 2024



Unexpected Magical Snowfall on March 1st 2024



Ms Y Markey (Principal), Mr T. O' O' Connor (SC) , Ms Cathy Kelleher (Head Of English) , Ms C. Pierce (Head of History) , Mr M. White (Class of 2022,) and Mr D. Gillett, (President of the PPU and Class of 1987) at the Past V Present debate.



Mr D Gillett (President of the PPU and Class of 1987), members of the winning team of the Past v Present Pupils Debate, Aran O'Flaherty (6th Year), Darragh O'Neill, Ishaan Pandey, and Peter O'Connor (all 5th Year) and Ms Y Markey (Principal).



Mr. David Gillett (President of the PPU and Class of 1987) Ben Kieran Glennon (Valedictorian, Class of 2023) , Jamie Conway (Class of 1996), Eoin Martin (Class of 2005), John Sheil (Class of 1979) and Ms Yvonne Markey (Principal)



Past V Present Pupils' Debate in the CADLC



Unexpected Magical Snowfall on March 1st 2024

Blackrock College Rowing Club

Blackrock College Rowing Club won multiple medals at the Irish Indoor Rowing Championships at University of Limerick grounds in January,

In the first race of the day Jon-Luc Elias (3rd Year) took home a gold medal in the J15 1000m category, being crowned a National Champion. This was backed up by the success of Charlie Schmitt who came 5th and Oliver Hammersley, Andrew Clancy, and Daniel Moran (3rd Year) all of whom finished in the top half of the race. The J15s backed up this early success with Charlie Schmitt picking up a bronze medal in the 500m race.

At J16 level Ian Duane (4th Year), Casey Graham and Eoin Fitzpatrick (3rd Year) all picked up new personal bests in the 2000m.

In the J18 category Harry Pierce (6th Year) came 6th overall with Matthew Neary and James Hodgins (5th Year) putting in very strong performances in what was a very competitive field.

An unseasonably warm weekend was the perfect way to start our season of boat racing at Sligo Head of the River in early February. The club had multiple boats and age groups racing on the day. Some impressive performances bode well for the on-water season ahead.

J16 8+ came second place, just 10 seconds behind Enniskillen Rowing Club.

The club was also very well represented in 5th and 6th place by Harry Pierce and James Hodgins in the J18 scull.

Preparations for Regatta Season



are well underway, with an exciting week of warm-weather training in Spain planned for over the Easter break.

With the evenings getting longer and the rowers making great use of our new base on the Liffey, it won't be long until those winter miles turn to summer smiles.

Dates for the diary:

Training Camp, Amposta, Spain
31st March - 4th April

Neptune Regatta, Dublin 6th April

Commercial Regatta, Dublin 7th April

O'Brien's Bridge, Limerick 20th April

Schools Regatta, O'Brien's Bridge, Limerick 21st April

Portadown Regatta, 4th May

Lough Rinn Regatta, Leitrim
12th May

Trinity Regatta, Dublin 18th May

Dublin Metropolitan Regatta, Blessington 25th May

Galway Regatta, 1st June

Athlone Regatta, Westmeath
15th June

Irish National Rowing Championships, Cork 12th - 14th July



Matthew Neary and Jack Buckley, 5th Year



Ian Duane, 4th Year



Max Raingill, 3rd Year



Iban Connolly, 6th Year



Iban Connolly, 6th Year



Gym training session



Jon-Luc Elias, 3rd Year



Louis Kelly, 5th Year

Chess

On Thursday 18th of January, we invited seven schools to compete in a friendly chess tournament. We were joined by teams from St. Benildus College, St. Andrew's College, Oatlands, CUS, Loreto Foxrock, Loreto Abbey Dalkey and the Institute of Education. In total 14 teams joined us and we had 2 teams from Blackrock. It was a team tournament which consisted of five rounds each with a 5min +3sec game tempo. Our coach Hector was arbiter for the day.

A great day was had by all. A total of 64 students took part and each had the opportunity to participate in 5 games of chess. It was excellent to have such a large gathering. Congratulations to the Institute of Education who won the tournament receiving 17 of 20 points. Also congratulations to Oatlands College who came in second and third place. Even though we didn't win we had a highly commendable score of 11.5 points and it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for our students. We look forward to Oatlands hosting a similar event after the Easter exams!



Elliott Brophy (Fourth Year), Conor Walsh (Fifth Year), Philip Duffy (Fifth Year), Davide Canettoli (Fourth Year), Conor Wall (Fifth Year), Dan Hayden (Second Year), Jamie Cahill (Second Year) and Daniel Goss (Second Year).

Second Year Basketball

The Second Year Basketball Team have had a challenging run in a very competitive A-League. Nevertheless, the squad has shown good commitment to training and great improvement game after game.

Last week they took on St. Michael's at home. The score entering the second half was 22-14 to Michael's. Peter Gilligan and Daniel Chambers played brilliantly together in the second half with quick passes and fast cuts to the basket. With a win within their grasp, the team went out to play an energetic and dynamic fourth quarter. Their unrelenting defence and great teamwork on offence turned the tide of the game. 'Rock started to pull ahead as they kept Michael's scoring to a minimum. The final whistle rang in a score of 39-34 to 'Rock.

A week after this win, the team headed out to Leixlip to play Colaiste Chiarain in the first round of the Plate Competition. Despite a slow start to the match, 'Rock began to dominate in the third quarter. Good passes, quick cuts to the basket and two impressive three-pointers from Peter Gilligan and Javier Poza resulted in a 16-point quarter. However, the game turned around completely in the last quarter. With an aggressive and disruptive defence, Colaiste Chiarain began to catch up, ultimately securing a lead of 30-25 in the last minute of the game.

Captain Peter Gilligan and Vice-Captain Javier Poza worked well to keep the team motivated despite some challenging games. They and their teammates can be proud of their commitment over the season and their continued improvement.



Don Banks (TY), Iker Lopez (Third Year), Clyde Corbantes (Third Year), Jack O'Connell (TY), Peter Lee (Third Year), Hugh Foley (Third Year), Collie Breslin (Third Year), Adrian Ho (Third Year), Shane Maxwell (Third Year), Michael Breslin (5th Year), Gearoid Nutley (TY) and Thomas Hughes (Third Year), U17 Basketball team celebrating their 47-41 win against The High School.

Cross Country

Congratulations to James Foot (Third Year) who finished 9th place in the Intermediate Boys 5,000m race.

The Schools Cross Country All-Ireland was hosted by Rathfarnham in Tymon Park on March 9th.

Over a strong field of competitors, James managed to finish in a time of 16:53, just 31 seconds behind the race winner.

Second Year GAA

Blackrock College 4-10 St.Pauls Raheny 4-4

Congratulations to the second year Gaelic Football team on an emphatic second half display to win the Dublin Schools' title for the first time. Playing into a tempestuous breeze in the first half, Blackrock were very fortunate to only be a goal behind at half time. Man of the match Hugo Glynn gave a scintillating defensive display, seeming to be omnipresent whenever Blackrock were in trouble and even ventured up the far side of the pitch to finish his shot to the net, making sure our scoring deficit wasn't too challenging to overcome in the second half.

St. Pauls scored the first point after the break to lead by four. However, Blackrock dominated the rest of the half. Super sub Archie Quinn scored two goals within the first two minutes of being of coming on and his introduction seemed to inspire the players around him to improve their performance. David



Ffrench, Jack O'Neill, Jack O'Connor and captain Charles Coffey added to the points tally in the second half before Archie Quinn pounced on a loose ball to score his hat trick illustrating our dominant display in the second half. St. Pauls finished with two late goals to narrow our winning margin.

We now qualify for the Leinster final which will be played the week of the 26th of February. I would like to thank coaches Pat Smith, Mr McWalter, Rob Kenny (class of 2021) and Marc Ó hAoghusa (class of 2023) for their coaching and organising on the team.

Rugby

U14 Rugby

All U14 rugby teams have shown an excellent level of commitment and determination to improve throughout the season. Since Christmas the A recorded victories against Clongowes, Belvedere, Castleknock, St Michaels and Gonzaga. They lost narrowly to a very strong RBAI side. The B team have recorded wins in all matches against the above opposition. The C, D and E teams have had some excellent performances against Clongowes, Castleknock, St Michaels and Gonzaga. We congratulate all players on their progress this year and look forward to seeing them grow again as Junior sides in 3rd year.

JCT

We salute the character and whole hearted endeavour that Patrick Agnew and his Junior Cup Rugby Squad showed in their semifinal match against Terenure College They gave their all, as they have done throughout the year. Great team spirit, courage, determination, and tenacity were in evidence in all facets of the game and although the result did not

go our way with Terenure running out winners (28-24) this Blackrock junior team lived up to the finest traditions of the College.



JCT V Terenure



JCT V Terenure

Junior 2nds/3rds/4ths/5ths

All players in 3rd Year have shown an exceptional level of commitment. The period between Christmas and Easter is a very selfless period for the Junior 2nds as they help prepare the JCT whilst also competing in the league. Their attitude this year has been nothing short of phenomenal. As results go, they have recorded a good win against Belvedere. We wish them well in the rest of their league campaign.

The Junior 3rds, 4ths and 5ths have had very successful seasons to date. In January 50 players embarked on a short tour to Belfast. They went to a Belfast Giants, ice hockey match as well as playing Belfast Royal Academy. The 3rd team lost against B.R.A. JCT whilst the 4th team recorded a great win against their 2nds. In their leagues the 3rds have recorded good victories over Newbridge, CBC Monkstown, and Wexford CBS. We wish them well in the remainder of their games. The 4ths recorded two good wins against Boyne and St Gerrards but lost a very tightly contested semi-final to Pres Bray. The 5ths had a very good win over Belvedere before losing out in their quarter final to St Gerrards. We wish all the players well as they move into senior rugby.

House 3rds and 4ths

The House 3rds and 4ths have had a very good season. The House 3rds had a very good win against Bandon Grammar SCT in January. In the Senior 2nds League, they had two very good performances against St Michaels 2nds and 3rd respectively. The House 4ths have had a great season and will represent the College in their league final. Their journey has seen them record wins against Oatlands, Wilsons and Clongowes. We wish them well in their final.

House 5ths and Colts

The House 5ths have shown a real camaraderie as a group this whole year. They have had some strong performances against Wesley, St Michaels, Belvedere, and St Marys. All of these sides are 6th year only teams which proves is a real challenge for our House 5ths, but it is one they are always up for and we commend them for that. The Colts League unfortunately only saw them play one match against Wesley whilst the other teams pulled out. We wish all players well as they continue their rugby journey at Blackrock.



Charlie Molony and Jack O' Neill (Sixth Years) SCT V High School



Seb Shortt (Sixth Year) Louis Magee and Geoff Wall (TY) SCT V Methody



Albert Lindner (Fifth Year) SCT V Roscrea



Paddy Clancy (5th Year) and Brian O' Flaherty (Sixth Year) SCT V St Mary's



Shane Cowhey and Alex James (Sixth Year) Senior Soccer V Marion College

Sam Long (TY) Senior Soccer V Marion College



U16 Dublin Schools' Badminton Report

Blackrock College

Gonzaga College



Congratulations to the U16's B Team who won the Dublin School's Division 4 final recently. It was an impressive 4-2 win against Gonzaga College. The four players: *Martin Penamaria Cancelo* (Transition Year), *Alonso Lopez-Reina* (Transition Year), *Javier Elizalde* (Third Year), and *Scott Zhu* (Second Year), played to the best of their ability and fought hard for this victory.

After the first game with a disappointing loss, nerves were high in the team, but they rallied and won the final three singles games with Javier and Scott finishing their games with staggering 30-19 and 30-17 wins respectively. The boys entered the two doubles games needing to secure one game to win. The first game was neck and neck the whole way and, unfortunately, Gonzaga secured the decisive point to win 30-29 after a heated game. Undeterred, Alonso and Scott stepped up to the mark in the final game of the day and secured another impressive win with 30-19 to push us to victory.

This win follows on from an U16 (Div 3) win last year and it is so rewarding to bring another shield home this year. Huge congratulations to the players.



Scott Zhu (Second Year), Javier Elizalde (Third Year), Martin Penamaria Cancelo (Transition Year), Alonso Lopez-Reina (Transition Year).



Javier Elizalde (Third Year) against his opposition from Gonzaga College.

Castleknock, St. Josephs and St. Tiernans, with Junior B through to the Cup QF.

Minor A are also at the business end of their League Division 1, with wins against High School and Gonzaga, and are through to the Last 16 of the Leinster Minor Cup.

Swimming

Great results from the Blackrock Swimming Team this term, with medals coming in from two major galas.

Early February saw the team out to Athy to compete 16 other schools. The competition, organised by Naas CBS, gave the swimmers a chance to prepare for upcoming Leinster and national galas, and every swimmer dove at the opportunity. Blackrock turned out 13 medals from the day, with big winner Charlet Collenette (TY) taking in 5 himself. Medals were also earned by James Cahill (2nd Year), Ciaran Murphy (6th Year), Cian McAdam (6th Year), and Cuan Fallon (6th Year), all putting in impressive performances.

The end of February saw Leinster Senior Schools, where Blackrock swimmers again showed up perform. Strong swims were put in from Daire Hannon and Rory Staunton in the Junior and Intermediate categories, while Ciaran Murphy pushed his limits in the Senior Sprints.

The teams really put on a show in the relays, where the Junior Team of Garry Kingston, Nate LaMont, Sam Ramke, and Daire Hannon turned back-to-back gold medals in the freestyle and medley relays. The senior team also picked up silver in freestyle relay, with Eamon Bradley, Cian McAdam, Cuan Fallon, and Ciaran McAdam all putting in strong swims.

The team has high hopes for National Relays, which take place on Sunday 24th March, and are looking forward to the annual duel in the pool with Fordham prep coming over this year from the US!

Table Tennis

All teams remain unbeaten as they head towards Easter, with the last week of term to be the crunch week for all the A teams in their respective Leinster title & All Ireland qualifying chases.

Senior A are in control of Leinster Division 1 with 6-0 victories over CBS James' Street and Gonzaga, and are also through to the Leinster Senior Cup SF, continuing their title defence with a 4-1 win against St. Tiernans.

Junior A are also in a good place, with 6-0 victories against Gonzaga and High School, and are in the last 16 of the Junior Cup.

Junior B, Junior 2A, Junior 2B and Junior 2C are all in contention in their league divisions, with wins against, variously, Gonzaga,



LEFT: Rudy O' Reilly (5th Year) and Harry O' Neill (TY) House 3rds V St Michael's



JCT V Roscrea

