

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Summer Newsletter 2024

Dear Blackrock Community,

Another school year has come to a close, and what a remarkable journey this year has been. It is a journey marked by resilience, collaboration and countless moments of inspiration. Together we have weathered challenges, celebrated victories, and consequently, grown stronger. Our corridors, classrooms and recreation areas have been vibrant hubs of learning, where curiosity blossomed, friendships formed and knowledge expanded.

There are many within our community that we are grateful to and for and it is important at the end of an academic year to express that gratitude. To the boys - from second to sixth year, from the first day in August last year, you have shown resilience, creativity and a hunger for understanding. You have embraced and fully engaged with the learnings of life both inside and outside the classroom and you have shared your talents with us – whether it is in sport, the Arts, through academics or our charitable and social justice initiatives - and in doing so you enrich the tapestry of life that is Blackrock College and help to make this school a great place to be.

To my colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, your dedication this year has been unwavering, and your impact immeasurable. In particular I would like to thank our retiring colleagues, Mr. Richard Barrett and Mr. Martin Dunne, both of whom are exemplars in using your talents in the service of others. Our community is indebted to them for their decades-long service. Their daily contributions to our community will be missed but their legacies will always remain. We also take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sinead Nolan for her service to the College and wish her the best on her new adventure as principal in Mount Anville.

To our parents and guardians, your support has been the bedrock of our community. Whether volunteering at events, attending parent-teacher meetings, cheering from the sidelines or in the audience, you have made a difference. Your partnership with us is invaluable.

It is important that throughout this summer break, we continue to express gratitude to and for each other. Gratitude is like sunlight, it warms our hearts, nourishes our souls and makes everything grow. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge the efforts of others, no matter how small. And importantly, gratitude is contagious – the more you do it, the more it will grow, spread joy and strengthen the bonds that we have as a community. Let's carry that spirit of gratitude with us this summer, take a moment to thank your parents, a friend or a sibling.

Summer awaits, with its promise of lazy afternoons, adventures and time spent with loved ones. Whether you're travelling or staying close to home, embrace the warmth of the season. Read a good book, explore nature and savour simple pleasures.

And remember, our school community remains connected, even when the halls are quiet.

Wishing you all a safe, joyful and rejuvenating summer.

Yvonne Markey

Yvonne Markey, Principal



Patrick Hayden, delivering the Valedictorian Address for the Class of 2024, on Prize Day.



Class of 2024 process to the Jubilee Hall for their Graduation Mass

Message from the Deans....



As the school year draws to a close, we take time to reflect on a bustling and eventful final term here at Blackrock College. From academic achievements to memorable performances and sporting triumphs, so many of our students have truly excelled and made the most of the opportunities presented to them.

This term, our talented 2nd and 4th Year students brought the house down with their outstanding performance of 'The Great Blackrock Bank Robbery'. This hilarious new musical showcased the best of Blackrock- innovative, engaging, and inclusive in equal measure. The dedication and hard work of the cast, crew and band were evident in every scene, song, and dance, making it a highlight of the year for the entire Blackrock community.

Our Soccer Leagues across all five year groups saw fierce competition and exceptional sportsmanship. Teams from all years participated with enthusiasm and determination, showcasing their skills and teamwork. Congratulations to all the players and referees for their commitment and effort throughout the league season.

The annual Sports and Family Day was a vibrant and joyous occasion, bringing together students, families, and staff for a day of fun-filled activities. From relay races to tug-of-war, the day was packed with events that highlighted the spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition that defines Blackrock. The weather played its part too!

We bid a heartfelt farewell to our graduating Sixth Year students at the Graduation Mass. It was a moving ceremony in the Jubilee Hall, celebrating the boys' achievements and the friendships forged during their time at Blackrock College. We wish our graduates all the best in their final exams as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Academic excellence was celebrated at our annual Academic Prize Day. Students were recognised for their outstanding achievements across 29 subjects. Students who also made a significant contribution throughout the academic year were also rewarded and given due recognition.

Examples of that contribution could be seen in both the 5km Rock Run- a tremendous success, with students, staff, and families participating in this charitable event- and the Summer Concert- which showcased the incredible musical talent within our school. Performances ranged from orchestral pieces to solo acts, and the evening was a testament to the dedication of our music department and the students' passion for the arts.

Our 5th Year students participated in a reflective programme designed to help them prepare for their final year at Blackrock College. This was a time for introspection, goal setting, and building the resilience needed for the challenges ahead. We are confident that they will enter their final year with renewed purpose and determination.

As we conclude this busy term, we think of our 3rd Years and 6th Years in the upcoming state exams. We would like to wish all our students a productive and enjoyable summer. Take this time to rest, explore new interests, and prepare for the exciting year ahead. We look forward to seeing you all in the new school year, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer!

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

Message from the Deans....



Pi Quiz All Ireland Finals

Congratulations to Third Years John Ding, Andrew Kearney, Sean Mullane and Patrick Ryan who were one of only 42 teams from Ireland to qualify for the All-Ireland Final making it the first time a Blackrock College team qualified for the competition – a fantastic achievement.



Pi Quiz All Ireland Finalists: John Ding, Patrick Ryan, Andrew Kearney and Sean Mullane

Fifth Year Family Mass: It was wonderful to welcome Fifth Year families to the Chapel this term where the choir were in full voice as this joyful occasion was celebrated by Fr. Paddy Moran. We were further delighted to join Fifth Year student Thomas Macland and his family at his recent Confirmation in the College Chapel.

Remember our TY Motto 'Respect, Engage, Challenge and Enjoy!'

TY Activities: Since returning from Easter **TY students** have had a range of different activities. As well as the TY One Day Soccer League and the TY Tag Rugby Blitz, the Leadership Pathway Program was delivered by Rick Cooper, his first time giving this course outside of the UK. For two hours each week over a number of Thursdays he delivered his innovative Leadership program to small groups of engrossed students. The program also incorporated mindfulness and breathing techniques. TY Students left each week eagerly awaiting the next week's session. As always the Tuck Shop, Modules and Evening Courses were ongoing. TY students assisted in the Community going on the weekly Soup Run, Pastoral Placements and the ever-popular assisting elders in the Community with their IT Skills. TY students were also on hand for the Past Pupils, assisting with Union Golf Outing in Milltown and most recently at both the 30 years out and 40 year out reunions. As the TY year came close to the end Chaplain Flor Madden organised a TY Day of Reflection for those students who had not had an opportunity to reflect. TYs were found hard at work in class preparing for their end of Year TY Portfolio Assessment and Interviews.

A significant highlight of the second and third term in **Second Year** was the Second-Year boys' involvement in our **Auxilium Programme**. The programme invites all Second Year boys to reach out to others, to help at home and in their wider communities, to **make a positive difference in the world**. In April, the boys reflected on their volunteering experience in their auxilium booklets. Boys who submitted noteworthy reflections included: Michael and Daniel Goss, Harry Horrigan and Daniel Morrissey. Congratulations to Josh and Zach Costello who won first prize.

On Thursday May 9th a packed Jubilee Hall was treated to a top-class evening of musical entertainment with the **Summer Concert**. **6th Year** was very well represented at the event, and we congratulate all involved.

In March, **Transition Year Band, Serotonin**, participated in the Sion Hill and Blackrock College Talent Show. Band members Donnacha Barry, Daniel Patterson and Kian Toralde showed off their musical talents and were really superb.



Serotonin: Daniel Patterson, Donnacha Barry and Kian Toralde

The Senior Cricket team, captained by **6th Year** Macdara Cosgrave suffered a narrow semi-final defeat in their Leinster Schools' Senior Cricket Cup semi-final to St. Columbas. We congratulate the entire squad on their campaign.

Message from the Deans....



Fifth Year members of the Willow

Ten **Fifth Year** students completed the **Willow Wheelers' Legends'** cycle over the Easter break. The 171km ride took place during the annual Willow Wheelers European Trip in Tarragona, Spain. This was the 23rd Legends ride and marks the end of the boys' time as Junior members of the club.

Debating

A fantastic year culminated with Daneil Burns and Thomas Murray representing the College in the finals of the Junior Schools Debating Competition held in UCD. Daniel came runner up best speaker of the night. Both Daniel and Thomas then went on to in the National Junior Mace Debating Finals. Well done gents.

The Junior Gold Medal debate was held on the 10th of May in the College. **3rd Years** represented by Daniel Burns, Marc Hooper, Matthew Leamy, John McCallig, Thomas Murray, and Paddy Shanahan debated the motion *This House Believes that the traditional classroom addresses the contemporary needs of society*. Congratulations to Marc Hooper who won the Gold Medal.

Students completed their briefs in Construction Studies and Art, and submitted **Leaving Certificate** projects in Economics, Agricultural Science, History, Geography, RE and Physical Education. Practicals in Construction Studies and Art were also undertaken as well as the Computer Science class sitting their Leaving Cert exam on May 22nd.

TY Breath School - Mental Health and Resilience Workshop A pilot program from the **TY Breath School** was delivered by Leo Ryan to a group of TY students.

Academics come alive ...As high standards of learning and teaching continued inside the classroom this term, many **Fifth Year** students have availed of opportunities to attend workshops in subject areas such as History and Chemistry. Many also had their first formal Language Oral exams and performed strongly overall.

On Tuesday 7th May, there was a very large attendance for the End of Year **6th Year Parents' Conference** as the end of year arrangements for the various 6th Year events were discussed along with the support structures available throughout. Ms. Crimmins, our 6th Year Chaplain, then led all in a concluding Ceremony of Light.

There was great participation and sign up for the **TY Dragons' Den** competition 2024. We were so fortunate to have a broad, diverse, and highly knowledgeable selection of Dragons who offered their services to the students to help them with their ideas. After several weeks of mentoring and honing of their proposals 5 business ideas from a range of business plans submitted were selected for the final on 20th March. From these five, Jack Casey - Boutique Websites was crowned the Winner of Dragons' Den 2024 with Evan Holmes and Dermot O'Driscoll – Recon Cybersecurity, coming in as the Runners up. Well done to all who participated and to Mr Fitzsimons and Ms Reilly for their work in organising this unique TY event. We wish Jack, Evan, and Dermot all the best with their business ventures.



Dragons Den 2024 Winner Jack Casey – Boutique Sites

Message from the Deans....



The **MasterChef Transition Year Programme** offers a comprehensive and engaging way for students to develop their culinary skills, explore the world of food, and gain valuable life skills. The final was held on Friday 24th May 2024 with Ross Lewis as our guest judge. Ross is a distinguished Irish chef known for his innovative approach to modern Irish cuisine. As the head chef and co-owner of the Michelin-starred Chapter One restaurant in Dublin, he has established himself as one of the leading figures in the Irish culinary scene. We were extremely fortunate to have him visit engage in this Transition Year event. Each of the finalists was presented with a personalised MasterChef apron and the top 3 students were awarded vouchers and a trophy for the winner. The students were also provided with the opportunity to visit Chapter One restaurant for a day's work experience over the summer break.

1st Place Lorcan Golden

2nd Place Lewis Gibney

3rd Place Martin Penamaria

Congratulations to all for entering and to Ms Marren and Ms Reilly for organising the event.



Martin Penamaria (3rd place), Lorcan Golden (Masterchef Winner 2024) and Lewis Gibney (2nd place)

The Fifth-Year group of 2023-24 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.

GAA

The school was very proud to see **Third Years** Jack Dolan and Cian Manning representing Dublin on the U16 football team, beating both Meath and Waterford in April. An incredible achievement and we wish them well in the months ahead.

Early in the term the 6th Year Dayboys, captained by Alex Kenny, won the **Karl Ashe Memorial GAA Trophy** in a very entertaining contest versus the Boarders on the 4G pitch. However, the Boarders came back strongly in the Paul Stanley soccer final! This was played on Thursday 23rd May with the Boarders defeating the 6th year Dayboys 2-1 thanks to a controversial late penalty awarded by Mr.O'Brien! It was an excellent final, played in a wonderful spirit and congratulations to Paddy Collins (Captain) and his squad on the win.

In order to complete the **Gaisce, TY students** had to participate in an overnight trip in any location. A number of students went on an overnight Gaisce Trip and cycled the Waterford Greenway in order to achieve their Gaisce Certificate



TY Gaisce students

The **6th Year Gold Medal Debate** on Monday May 13th was one of extremely high quality. The motion that *'The House believes that engagement with Social Media can lead to impulsive and potentially dangerous behaviours'* resulted in a very entertaining and closely fought debate. Victory went to Patrick Hayden who thus became the Valedictorian for the Class of 2024.

Message from the Deans....



The **TY students** had **Mental Health Training Day** to strengthen their resilience to stress and anxiety. The training day had four modules: A Breath School Workshop, a lesson on healthy Lifestyle foundations, Mental Health Resilience, using your mind to focus for academic performance and finally the Mental Health Breath Resilience Training culminating in an ice cold plunge to test the students calmness! Many thanks to Mr Grant for providing this very popular opportunity.



Duff House, winners of the 3rd Year A League.

Our **Senior Tennis Team** featuring **6th Years** Sean Ó'Nualláin, Jack MacCarthy, Harry Sheridan, David Ortiz and Max Vidal, competed in the Senior Tennis Final vs Belvedere College in Fitzwilliam LTC on Wednesday May 22nd. Some superb tennis was played as we retained the Leinster Schools Senior Tennis Division 1 Cup for the third year in a row.

The **Second-Year** boys thoroughly enjoyed their first **Inter-House Soccer Leagues** in the last term. Ebenrecht, under the management of William Hegarty, won the A final 5-3 against Leman. Shanahan house led by Marcas McGovern defeated Duff house in the B league final.

Our annual **Prize Day** was celebrated on Saturday May 25th. Congratulations to all **Sixth Year** prize-winners and their families but we mention in particular, our valedictorian Patrick Hayden who gave a magnificent speech, and our General Excellence winner Oisín Daly; and Aongus Óg Curran, winner of the Student Leadership Award for 2024.

Past Pupil Eoin Martin BL (Class of 2005) met with the Blackrock College and Sion Hill **TY students** in the CADLC at the first session to introduce them to **the role of Barristers and to the concept of Mock Trials**. At the second session the students were split into three groups and past pupils Ben Casey, Michael White and Matthew O'Donnell (all Class of 2022) and their UCD Law colleagues provided the students with coaching and the materials need for the Mock Trial. After the trials and judging were finished they led a discussion on studying Law at UCD. For some students another highlight of the year!

The vibrant and thrilling **Fifth Year** 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 Leman over Browne. These activities together with the **Senior Cricket League**, the **All-Ireland Senior Tennis**, the Inter-Schools **Swimming Gala**, and the continuation of **Athletics** and other training ensured that Fifth Years had an active and **competitive end to the term**.

The **TY Students** who went on the Kenya Immersion Program committed to **fundraising for Aidlink**. As well as the flagship fundraising event that is the 5K Rock Run, the students also raised nearly 3000 euro doing a Bake Sale in Booterstown Parish Centre and by trialling the first ever 'Spice Bag' Drive encouraging students to purchase an award-winning Spice Bag in San Saba in Blackrock Village with a percentage of every bag sold going to Aidlink. Thank as always to Ms Reilly for encouraging the students in these endeavours.

Table Tennis

Another amazing season saw our Junior Team finish Leinster and All Ireland finals. A fantastic achievement. Congratulations to the squad **Third Years** Colum Breslin, John Healy, Iker Lopez, Kevin Roche, James Smyth and Tom Woods. Great work gentlemen!

Message from the Deans....



Mock Trial



Richie Pattinson, Jack Spain, Evan Holmes, Daniel Gray, Kian Toralde, John O'Callaghan, Leo Kearney, Matthew Dempsey, Joshua Tanner, Matthew Kearney, Morgan Clancy, Lorcan Golden and Daniel Berry (Fundraising for Aidlink)

Dependable and embracing of opportunities best describes the twelve fine young men who led the **Fifth-Year group as House Captains**, representing them daily but also at Student Congress and Student Council. Their passion, leadership, organisation, and coordination of events were excellent, and congratulations to Devalera Captains Patrick Brennan and Harrison Carr on leading their House to victory in the House League.

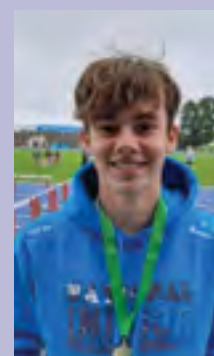
At the end of April this year's Junior Musical called **'The Great Blackrock Bank Robbery'** allowed more TYs perform, this time alongside the 2nd Years in association with the students of Loreto Dalkey. **TY students** were involved not only on stage as members of the cast, but they helped run the show as members of the Crew, back stage and also front of House. Another fantastic and unique production by Mr Savage showcasing the talents across the two years groups. Another highlight of the year for many!

Congratulations to **Second Year Athletes** who competed at the recent Leinster Schools' Athletics Championships. Zach Bunce won gold in the discus. Other medal winners included Paul Hartnett, Zach Bunce, Alfie Hogan, James Byrne, Samuel Kane, Hugo Glynn and Bobby Somers. We wish them well in the All Ireland Schools' Championships over the June bank holiday weekend.

Third Year Soccer Leagues

On a glorious afternoon, the standard of football was top class as Duff and Shanahan competed in the A league final. Shanahan saw the majority of possession in the first half but failed to find a breakthrough. Against the run of play, just before half time Duff took the lead. They grew into the game in the second half and an incredible pass from Rory Mellon saw Stephen Wall double their lead. Shanahan kept fighting until the end with Sean McManus seeing a chance narrowly go the wrong side of the post. Congratulations to Duff on their victory and both teams on the quality of football on show.

The B final was a far less cagey affair as both teams attacked from the off. Duff captained by Alex Crowley and perhaps inspired by the A teams victory earlier in the week surged into a two goal lead. However, Ebenrecht captained by Conor Mahony, kept to their game plan and eventually won out 4-3. A half volleyed finish by Senan Bennett was one of the highlights. An entertaining game, which brought the curtain down on a great competition.



Zach Bunce - Leinster School Junior Discus Champion.

Message from the Deans....



Rockcast 2024 has been sponsored by the Duck Race Sponsors



We would like to acknowledge their contribution

BNP
PWC
PTSB
High Tech
KOD Lyons
Sports Care
Nolan Coaches
Surface Renew
Living Language
Coady Architects
Layden Properties
Sandyford Ceramics

This year the Launch of the **Rock Run** was held on the 10th of April. **TY Student Don Banks** was the MC with Jack Spain and Daniel Patterson speaking about their personal experiences on their trip to Kenya in association with Aidlink.

We were fortunate to be joined by Dublin GAA players Cormac Costello and Cian O'Sullivan (Class of 2006)



John Murphy providing his professional MC services preparing the Rock Run Participants for the post race raffle.

On Sunday May 12th, the excellent **6th Year** participation and attendance set the tone for what was a wonderful **Sports and Family Day** on a beautiful sunny day. Sean Ó'Nualláin received the **Sports Personality of the Year Award** and while Shanahan were the top performing House on Sports Day, the overall winning 6th Year house for the year as a whole by a small margin of just two points was Leman. Congratulations to House Captains Philip Guinan, Oisín Daly, and all in Leman.

Thank you to Mr. Morris and Ms. Lorraine Crimmins for providing such discrete and effective support for the **Fifth-Year** students throughout the year with a wealth and depth of wisdom. A highlight of the term in **Career Guidance** was the well-attended visit from TUD and also the seminar provided by Crimson Education helping students to focus their minds on career plans and to keep all options open.

Message from the Deans....



Music, Art and Drama Week: This week the **TY students** were treated to a Magic Show in the Jubilee Hall, a trip to see the Amy Winehouse movie 'Back to Black' in Dun Laoghaire and on the last day there were two workshops; VA Drumming and a Dancing Workshop. Many thanks to Mr Killian Grumley Traynor for organising.

Summer Concert

Great to see such musical talent in **3rd Year** on display at the Summer Concert. Plenty of representation with musicians and the Corless Choir. Particular mention to soloist Michael Kennedy and James Smyth and Binghong Wang on their performance of *The Scientist* by Coldplay. A really uplifting evening.



Pearse Doorley McErlane, Callum Downes, Finn Hamilton, Conor Barrett, Mikel Connolly, and Lorcan Golden participating in the Samba Drumming

The Graduation Mass for the Class of 2024 was celebrated in the Jubilee Hall on Sunday May 19th. Fr. Paddy Moran, accompanied by Fr. O'Brolchain and Fr. Nash; a most wonderful liturgy and the music was absolutely stunning. We thank Mr Flor Madden and the RE/Pastoral team who helped prepare this liturgy and the 5th Year Parents' Committee for the superb reception that they hosted in the Dining Hall.

Bike Maintenance Workshop

Thanks to the encouragement from past teacher Hugon Simm, we encouraged a group of **TY students** to attend a five-day **bike maintenance course** in April at the Bike Hub in Dun Laoghaire.

A great idea to get our students thinking about getting in some daily exercise and travelling in a more environmentally sustainable way. The students found it to be a very worthwhile course, some even citing it as their favourite activity so far in Transition Year!

Thank you to the hardworking and committed **Fifth Year Parents' Committee** led by the Parents' Council, chaired so effectively by Ms. Dearbhalla Baviera for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year as well as coordinating and hosting the tremendous Sixth Year Graduation Reception.

We congratulate **Sixth Year** Harry Dixon (Captain) and his **Senior 2nds squad** on their victory over St. Michael's in the Senior 2nds league final in an excellent contest at the beginning of term and Diarmaid Byrne and the Senior Table Tennis Team completed a Leinster League and cup double, a wonderful achievement.

We are very proud of all our **TY students** participating in **extra-curricular activities** for the College. We mention especially the TY Table Tennis Team reaching the All-Ireland Semi Finals and Freddie Bracken, Jamie O'Nuallain and Nic Sheridan winning the Schools Leinster Senior Tennis Division 1 Trophy. Congratulations also to Callum Dee and Olly Woods for representing Dublin in the underage Hurling and Gaelic Teams.

Message from the Deans....



The **TY students** had **Mental Health Training Day** to strengthen their resilience to stress and anxiety. The training day had four modules: A Breath School Workshop, a lesson on healthy Lifestyle foundations, Mental Health Resilience, using your mind to focus for academic performance and finally the Mental Health Breath Resilience Training culminating in an ice-cold plunge to test the students calmness! Many thanks to Mr Grant for providing this very popular opportunity.

A glorious evening of superb **Fifth Year** talent was on display at this year's **Summer Concert** in the Jubilee Hall. A perfect blend of entertainment enjoyed by all. The One Act Play with its intensity and intrigue was masterfully presented by a small group of Fifth Years wrapping up a terrific year of music and drama in Fifth Year and the College as a whole.

Finally, a huge thank you to Catherine Walsh (Chair) and the entire **6th Year Parents' Committee** who worked tirelessly over the course of the year on the Graduation Day for the students, Machakos, the amazing Class of 2024 Yearbook produced by Karen Flannery and so much more besides. They have been a wonderful support to me and the 6th Year Team and have done so much to make the year so special for the Class of 2024.



Fifth Year moment to reflect artwork by Aryn Kelly and Harrison Carr.

A moment to look back... All **Fifth-Year** students were afforded the opportunity to take a moment to look back during the last term. With the aim of helping students identify and articulate their personal development this past year, students completed a reflection booklet of many soul-searching questions in relation to the College Values, service to others and their personal experiences outside of the classroom. We are thankful for the high levels of student engagement with this activity and hope it assists in making students' final year in the College even more fruitful and worthwhile.

Congratulations to the **Second Year** boys who won **Feile U15 Division 1 Hurling** for Kilmacud Crokes. All the 'Rock boys acquitted themselves very well and are very much looking forward to the National Feile competition in Wexford on June 22nd. With 7 members, Blackrock had the largest school representation on the panel.

Past parent Eibhlin Johnson, Speaker, Coach and Trainer from the Resiliency Hub, with a 30 year background in the Financial Services Industry, delivered a six hour program over five weeks on the **Irish Funds Financial Literacy Program to TY Economics and Accountancy students.**

The experiential modular Financial Literacy Programme for Transition Year students combines: Financial Literacy, Life Skills, Real life Funds and Asset Management examples, Digital Finance, Sustainable Investment taught in a fun and engaging manner.

Message from the Deans....



Shanahan House 2nd Yr: P. Whelan, L. Hill, E. Callaghan, E. Brophy, S. O'Donohue, A. Quinn, M. McGovern, H. Cooney



Crokes U15 Hurlers - Louis Robinson, Noah Crowley, Brian Farrell (1st Year), John Nolan, Paddy Whelan, Eoin Hassett, David Ffrench



Shanahan, runners up in the A league.(Second Year)



Ebenrecht, winners of the B league (Second Year)



Duff, runners up in the B league (Second Year)



Lorcan Golden Masterchef Winner 2024 with Judge Chef Ross Lewis



Masterchef Finalists 2024: Alex Browne, Dominic Clarkson, Mikulas Sluka, Lewis Gibney, Lorcan Golden, Martin Penamaria, Oliver Pluinced, James Barron and Anrew Keogh.



Dragons' Den Finalists -Conor Barrett, Hugo Carroll and Luke Coffee - Targnet



Tom Bennet with his Mum at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Santiago: Camino 2024

Message from the Deans....



Gwen Layden, Executive Director of the Layden Group, addressing the TY Students at the Launch of Dragons' Den 2024



Rock Run Launch



Rock Run Launch



Mock Trial



Gwen Layden, Executive Director of the Layden Group, addressing the TY Students at the Launch of Dragons' Den 2024



Mock Trial



Mock Trial



Fifth Year Commerce and Economics Students enjoying THE CHASE



*Happy
Summer
from
Dayshawn!*



Fifth Years Andrew McCarthy and Henry Brown enjoying an end of term English Quiz.

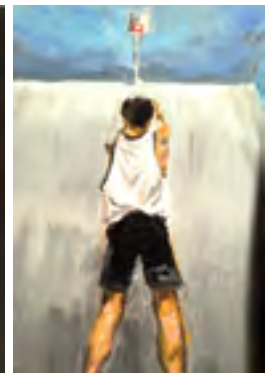
The Arts....



Sascha Gibney (Sixth Year)



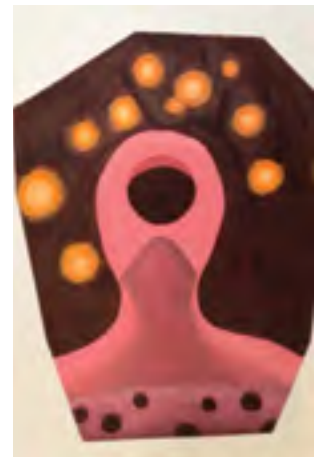
Alex Fenelon
(Third Year)



Adrian Ho (Third Year)



Ricky Shin (Sixth Year)



Leo Fowler (Fifth Year)



Joseph O'Connell (6th Year)



Darragh Bowler (6th Year)



Brian Jones (Sixth Year)





BLACKROCK COLLEGE C.S.Sp. MUSIC & DRAMA

As we reach the end of the final term, we can look back and reflect on many great musical moments this year. We bid farewell to our current Sixth Year students at the **Graduation Mass** on Sunday May 19th. Our Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble performed alongside the music teachers and led the liturgical music beautifully to finish their time in the College on a high. Well done and thank you to all.



Sixth Year Choir and Ensemble at the Graduation Mass

The **Summer Concert** took place on Thursday May 9th in a packed out Jubilee Hall, thanks to our supportive audience. Performers from Second through to Sixth Year joined together with the Adult Choir and staff in a celebration of all things musical in the College. The programme ranged from Sinatra to Mozart to our very own

Daniel Flannery (Sixth Year) performing his brilliant composition 'Seasons'. This same week was **'MAD Week'** (Music, Art and Drama). We hosted various workshops for our Transition Year students including magic, dancing and samba drumming. We thank all the experts who came in and made the workshops so engaging.



Cormac Morris (6th Year) playing in the Ensemble at the Graduation Mass

Earlier in the term, **'The Great Blackrock Bank Robbery'**, a new original musical written by Mr. Brian Savage, was performed in the Jubilee Hall. The cast, band and crew all worked together as a big team to create the show. Special thanks to the Second and Fourth Year students of Loreto Abbey Dalkey for joining us for this show and for bringing their wonderful talent and enthusiasm. Our musicals truly embody the eight principles underpinning the Framework for Junior Cycle: wellbeing, creativity & innovation, engagement, relevance & enjoyment, continuity, quality, choice & freedom, inclusive education, life long learning. While I'm sure I'm biased, I believe they are one of the best things to get involved in, be it on stage, in the band, back stage, front of house, marketing, building set... there are so many opportunities to connect and make life long memories.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to all our Music & Drama events, concerts and shows in 2024 – 2025. In the meantime have a great summer!



Junior Debating

This year Blackrock College competed in the **Junior Schools' Debating Competition**, hosted by the UCD Law Society and the UCD Literary and Historical Society.

Two Junior Debaters qualified for the Finals of the Junior Schools Debating Competition, hosted by the UCD Law Society and the UCD Literary and Historical Society. This competition took place in UCD on Wednesday April 10th.

Daniel Burns & Thomas Murray (both 3rd Year)

Motion for this round:

In the event of a European Union Army being established, This House Would forgo Ireland's neutrality to join it.

Junior Debating (CONTINUED)

Speaking in First Proposition, Daniel and Thomas put forward a confident and compelling argument for this motion. Daniel came runner up best speaker of the night and of this event in total. With over 300 students competing in the preliminary rounds, to be two of the twelve finalists is tremendous for our Junior Debaters. We congratulate them on their dedication and commitment to Junior Debating and on their epic debating skills in this competition.

In other news, Blackrock College had five teams compete in the **Junior Debating MACE** with Daniel Burns and Thomas Morray (both 3rd Year) and Tate Tomkin Beddy (2nd Year) qualifying to compete in the Finals in UCD on Saturday, April 27th.

Motions included:

This House Would ban all nicotine products.

This House Would require teachers to sit the Leaving Certificate every five years in the subjects they teach and achieve a H1 in order to continue teaching that subject.

THW ban all athletes caught doping from ever competing in the Olympic Games.

We congratulate all our Junior Debaters for their participation on the day and particularly, Daniel, Thomas and Tate who represented the College with determination and conviction.

Arlo Liddy and Paddy English (both 2nd Year) competed in a day of debating in Sion Hill MACE on Saturday, March 9th.

Lastly, the year ended with the Junior Gold Medal Debate on May 10th.

Debaters: Proposition: Paddy Shanahan, Daniel Goss, Paddy English, Arlo Liddy, Marc Hooper and Dan Hayden.

Opposition: Thomas Murray, Matthew Leamy, Tate Tomkin Beddy, John McCallig and Daniel Burns.

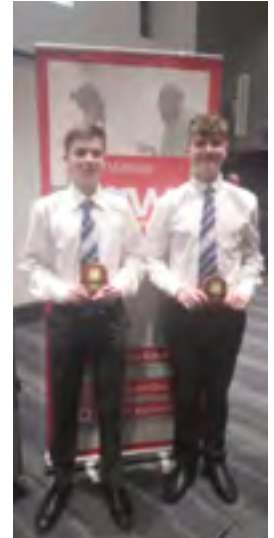
Motion:

This House Believes That the traditional classroom addresses the contemporary needs of society.

We congratulate Arlo Liddy (2nd Year) and Marc Hooper (3rd Year) on being the 2024 Gold Medal Winners.



Tate Tomkin Beddy (2nd Year), Daniel Burns and Thomas Murray (both 3rd Year) at the Junior Schools MACE Final in UCD



Daniel Burns and Thomas Murray (both 3rd Year) at the MACE Finals in UCD.



Marc Hooper (3rd Year) and Arlo Liddy (2nd Year) winners of the Gold Medal debate.



Junior Debating Gold Medalists 2024.

Senior English Debating

As always, it's been a busy final time for the Senior English Debating Society. Well done to Peter O'Connor who reached the final of the inaugural Fás public speaking competition, hosted by Dunshaughlin Community College. The final round saw twelve speakers from across the country present speeches on the topic of 'The Future'. Peter's speech focused on how sometimes our concerns with the future can eclipse the present moment, as he drew inspiration from the words of Master Oogway: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift."

The Fourth Year Gold Medal Debate, which took place on Monday 20th May, focused on the motion that we should prefer a world where billionaires are not glorified. Josh Murphy and Rossa Clonan proposed, with Jamie Browne-Lynch and Kieran Lennon opposing. Each speaker was commended for their interesting perspectives on the topic, and we were delighted to award the Gold Medal this year to Jamie Browne-Lynch.

The Fifth Year Gold Medal took place on Tuesday 14th May. Darragh O'Kane, Henry Brown and Darragh O'Neill proposed the motion that we regret single sex schools, with Shane Hamilton, Ishaan Pandey and Peter O'Connor opposing. Lots of insights were offered from the lasting influence of Greek and Roman civilisation on our education system, to the difficulties with

socialisation that single sex schooling may present to modern society. Congratulations to Ishaan Pandey who was awarded the Gold Medal, and well done to all the speakers involved for their hard work in preparing for the debate.

Another highlight of the final term was the Sixth Year Gold Medal Debate, which took place on Monday 13th May. This motion this year was: This House Believes That Engagement with Social Media can Lead to Impulsive and Potentially Dangerous Behaviours. The proposition team comprised Anthony King, Aran O'Flaherty, Oisín Daly and Luke Murphy, while Ethan Tracey, Harry Pierce, Will Probert and Patrick Hayden opposed. As always, this event was marked by moments of great insight coupled with humour, as each speaker vied for his chance to represent the Class of 2024. Hearty congratulations to Patrick Hayden who was crowned this year's Valedictorian and winner of the Centenary Gold Medal. Patrick spoke at both the Sixth Year Graduation and Academic Prize Day. He presented with great conviction and sincerity, reflecting on his time in the College on behalf of his classmates.

And so, as another academic year draws to a close, we commend all our senior debaters for their good humour, enthusiasm and commitment to the College debating programme. We look forward to another exciting year ahead in 2024-2025.



Ethan Tracey, Harry Pierce, Will Probert and Patrick Hayden (Opposition) Gold Medal Debate
Luke Murphy, Aran O'Flaherty, Oisín Daly and Anthony King (Proposition) Gold Medal Debate

Senior English Debating

It was another busy term in the library. We continued with our Friday Kahoots. DnD club gave a fantastic presentation to Willow Senior students. The Global Citizenship committee ran parts of their showcase day in the library and the Economics and Commerce Society had their very own version of The Chase in the library.

Library Classes and Workshops

Ms A Dillon facilitated the following classes and workshops:

History RSR Research Class

Ms Pierce's, Mr Halpin's and Mr Deasy's 5th Year history classes attended a class on how to do research for their RSR History project. Students learned about resources like JSTOR, local library online resources, 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 where they had to determine if a person was guilty of assault. Students learned about the significance of intention to cause harm, what burden of proof means and the difference between open ended and closed questions. The library was set up like a court room and students had to prepare for and enact the trial. The idea of the exercise was that students would learn about the various responsibilities in a court room.

Historical Fiction Creative Writing Class

Ms Dillon invited Mr Deasy's 2nd year English class to choose a historical event or person from the History magazines in the library. Students used the event or person as a base for an idea to create a historical fiction story. The story could have been anything from fantasy, sci-fi or futuristic. The purpose of the class was to encourage use of history resources in the library, while also learning how to develop ideas for writing a story.

Seamus Heaney Workshop with the National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland gave an online workshop on two Seamus Heaney poems *Mid-term Break* and

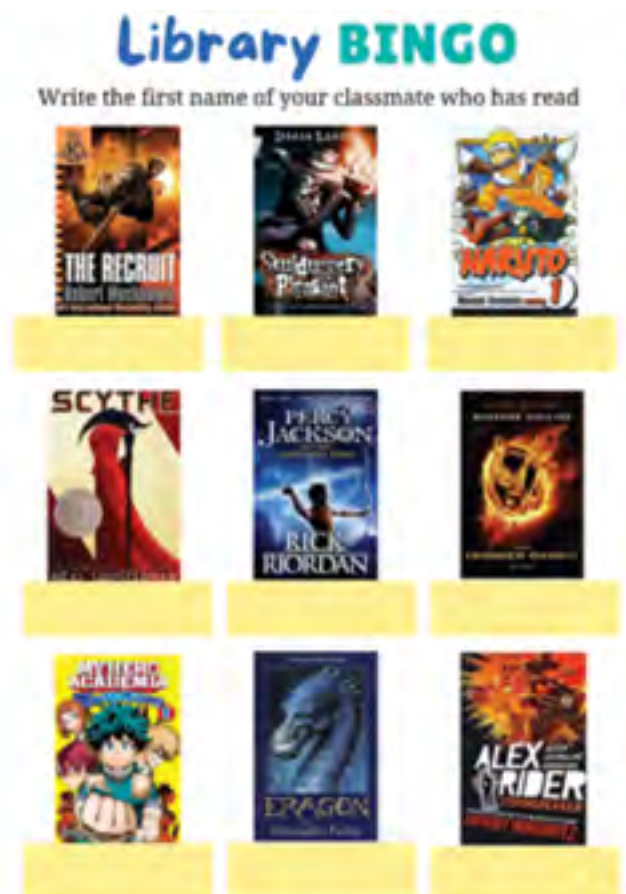
Early Purges to Ms Kelleher's and Mr Maher's 3rd year English classes. Students interacted with the presenter with comments and questions. The workshop helped students have a greater understanding and appreciation of Seamus Heaney's poetry.

Willow Readers Visit

25 enthusiastic readers and club goers from Willow senior popped over to visit our library. 2nd Year Committee members Dan Hayden and Eamon De Valera welcomed the group. Ms Dillon invited students to play a 'book version' of People Bingo where each student had to find names of classmates who had read 9 different books. After this, students had an opportunity to relax in the library, play board games or read a book. We look forward to welcoming all Willow senior students next year.

Poetry Ireland Day 24

To mark poetry Ireland day, 25th April 24, students who read or recited a short poem of their choosing at lunch were rewarded with a lollipop. It turned out to be a very popular affair with approximately 100 students queueing up to read/recite a poem.



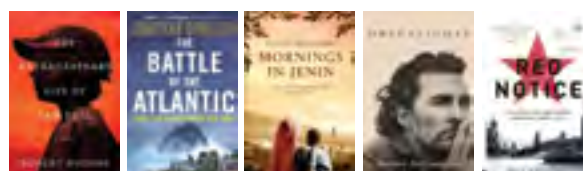
Staff Baby Photo Competition

35 staff members submitted a baby/toddler photo and a title of a book they are reading/have read. 76 staff and students entered the competition where they had to guess what teacher was reading what book. It was a very enjoyable competition and well done to all those who took part.



Book Recommends Section

Each newsletter, I will be sharing book recommendations from staff or parents. In this newsletter I am including some recommendations from parents.



- 1. *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni:** Fictionally it gives a great insight to the prejudices and struggles living with a disability can have on a child and his parents. Why somebody bully others. Ultimately uplifting. (*Vanessa O'Connaill, 5th Year Parent*)
- 2. *The Battle of the Atlantic* by Jonathan Dimbleby:** Dimbleby explains the single most significant WWII in a style that allows a real appreciation of how perilous a position the Allies were in. The impact of these events reverberates even today. An epic read. (*Parent to Cuan Greany, 5th Year*)
- 3. *Mornings in Jenin* by Susan Abulhawa:** I read this beautiful book 15 years ago, but it is more relevant now than ever. (*Sinéad Moriarty, 5th Year*)
- 4. *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey:** Full of nuggets, not an autobiography, not a how to book. A really entertaining view on life. (*Susan Crowley, parent to Ben 5th Year and Noah 2nd Year*)
- 5. *Red Notice* by Bill Browder:** A book of two halves - murky financial world ups and downs - moving on to corruption, grief, murder. It's a real thriller but one that was actually lived by Browder himself. (*Julie Clifton, 5th Year parent*)



If you would like your book recommendation to be included in an upcoming newsletter. Just scan here

National Library of Ireland Exhibition: Heraldry: Coats of Arms Uncovered!

An exhibition on Heraldry, borrowed from the [National Library of Ireland](https://www.nli.ie/) was on display for a couple of weeks in the library. To distinguish themselves in battle, knights had unique identifying designs painted on their armour. The resulting 'coats of arms' became popular, evolving from their original purpose to become coveted status symbols. Those responsible for the design and recording of coats of arms became known as heralds. Ireland has had its own herald since 1552.



Greens Schools' Committee

Green Schools

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

In May we focused on our new Lost & Found Project, clearing through parts of lost and found to return items to students in their rec rooms.



We encourage students and parents to be aware of when lost and found is open to reduce their waste! We also welcomed the 1st Year GC Committee and gave them a tour of our new bin system and explained to them the processes of getting the system in place and working with the student body to make them effective.

This year as a committee we identified that we could improve in engaging senior students more. We worked hard this year to do this by inviting in various guest speakers to talk on the sustainability sector, green politics and the future of energy research and design. Our first guest speakers were Minister Eamon Ryan, he spoke to the committee and students during our second Environmental Awareness Week. In the same week we welcomed Mr. John Walsh (PhD), Head of Emerging Technologies at ESB. Our final guest speaker of the year was Garrett Quinn, Head of Sustainability at Smurfit Kapp who gave an engaging talk to the Green Schools Committee in collaboration with the Economics and Commerce Society on how large firms make the sustainable transition and the challenges business face to go green.

Sports and Family Day is one of the final events of the year the Green Schools is involved in. We made a stand to promote ourselves, our Instagram and the

work we do! For the first time we didn't 'man' the stand and that worked well with various QR codes and physical resources for those interested to engage with.

At our final meeting we welcomed Fr. Tom Nash and his guests Mr. John Golding (Class of 1969) and Ms. Lisa Golding who are both very involved in Climate Activism in Norway. They brought great insight and ideas to the meeting and we hope to have them attend again soon!

Overall it was a very successful term for the Green Schools Committee, I would like to thank the committee members, staff coordinators Ms. Harlowe, Ms. Wyse, Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Brennan for their support and the wider school community for engaging with what we do to take action and be more sustainable in our everyday lives. We now look to the next academic year with Clubs and Societies Day and our first EAW taking place in September under the leadership of the Chairman, Cian Ó Flannagáin.



Global Citizenship Team

The Spiritan Showcase

The 3rd of May was Blackrock College's turn to host the annual Spiritan Schools' Global Citizenship Showcase. The other Spiritan schools in Ireland were invited to attend the event, and Rockwell College and St Michael's College were both present for the day's activities. During the opening ceremony, each school presented a video in which they showed what their Global Citizenship Committee had accomplished that year.

Once the ceremony concluded, the students present were separated into groups in order to mix the students from the different classes. The workshops ranged from topics on class difference to migration. After the workshops were finished, the groups of students went around different rooms of the school, "visiting" the Global Citizenship Committees of countries around the world through Zoom calls. The countries that the Global Citizenship Committee called were Sierra Leone, Portugal, Tanzania, Kenya and the US. The students had the chance on these calls to learn about issues affecting these countries, such as the housing crisis in Portugal.



After the students finished speaking to the students from the different schools, they gathered in the sports hall for a final time, where Frank Browne of the Spiritan Education Trust gave an address. In it, he discussed how we are a shining example of global citizens as we are making the effort to address the injustices present in our society.

Calum Burke, 3rd Year

At the showcase students participated in an 'Active Citizen Passport' event. Each of the Irish Spiritan schools moved to different locations around our school and met virtually with Spiritan schools from Taiwan, Portugal, US, Kenya, Tanzania, and Sierra Leone. As the students passed through the different conversations they earned a stamp on their global passport. The conversations were based around issues of social injustice in the different societies and also what active citizens are doing in each of the countries to combat these issues. The idea behind this is that the students get a sense of themselves as global citizens who can make a positive impact in the world they share.



Open Panel Discussion – Awareness Event

During Global Citizenship Week we hosted numerous events and workshops. One of the highlights was a talk show regarding the current pressing housing crisis hosted by Daniel Burns and John McCallig, and two esteemed guests: Killian Woods, a renowned journalist specialising in housing for the Business Post, and Eoin Ó Broin TD, the Sinn Féin spokesperson for housing.

The discussion delved into the multifaceted nature of the housing crisis, exploring its root causes and the complex economic and social factors contributing to its current scale. Woods provided an insightful analysis based on his extensive analysis and reporting, shedding light on the issues that have led to the shortage of affordable homes. Ó Broin, on the other hand, offered a





political perspective and outlined his parties views.

The discussion not only was informative and thought-provoking, but also highly engaging, prompting a lively Q&A session with the audience, further enriching the discussion. The experience was incredibly informative for the Global Citizenship Committee and for the audience alike. We are immensely grateful to both Killian Woods and Eoin Ó Broin for joining us and for their valuable insights into this important issue.

Daniel Burns, 3rd Year

Development perspectives workshops

On Wednesday of Global Citizenship Week Development Perspectives (NGO) ran a workshop on human rights, specifically the housing crisis and homelessness.

They spoke about ways to intervene and create Active Plans with the students. One thing mentioned was the need for collaboration in the school. We have started this through collaboration with Green Schools and Wellbeing committees.

Our students noted that a lot of the time it is the same students participating in these extra curriculums and referenced how this could be an accurate depiction of society. Students brought up the need for a whole school approach.



World Wise Global Schools Passport Achievement

World Wise Global Schools (WWGS) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), which rewards progress in development education. WWGS involves all schools in Ireland.

This year the Blackrock College Global Citizenship Team received the Gold Special Passport, the highest award.

We have been working for a number of years on this. Due to the invention of the staff global citizenship committee we were able to achieve this, so thank you!

We need continued collaboration on this and we think through the implementation of the cross curricular development education in TY this will continue to succeed in the future.



Chemistry Olympiad

We would like to commend the seven students who took part in the recent All Ireland Chemistry Olympiad. It was a sixty-question multiple-choice exam,



with questions at an extremely high level. Only 10% of all students taking part qualified for the next round, which took place on the 4th of April in DCU. We would like to congratulate Simon Considine on being successful and qualifying for that next round. Simon went on to

be chosen as one of four people to represent Ireland in the Chemistry Olympiad in Saudi Arabia. This is an amazing achievement and a first for Blackrock College. He will take part in various challenges over a nine-day period. We wish him all the success in his endeavours.



Simon Considine(6th Year)



Students who took part in the All Ireland Chemistry Olympiad.

CBA 1 – Extended Experimental

All the Second Year students completed their CBA 1 – Extended Experimental Investigation, where students had to propose and test a hypothesis using the Scientific Method to complete their investigation. They will then be awarded one of four descriptors: Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations, or Yet to Meet Expectations.



Energy in Action

Students were tasked with building a car that demonstrates the transfer of energy from one form to another. They then had fun racing them. These were the winning vehicles from 38 and 37A.





Six Third Year students travelled to Belvedere College on Wednesday, 24th April to take part in the Dublin Junior Science ISTA Quiz. The questions were based on the Junior Cycle Science course and general knowledge. Our A Team consisted of Patrick Ryan, Rory Staunton, and Jake Wright. Our B Team consisted of Matthew Leamy, William Lynch, and Sean Mullane. The B team tied for 1st place but lost to Belvedere College's B team on a tie-break question. Our A team came 9th out of thirty schools.



Team A: Patick Ryan, Jake Wright and Rory Staunton



Team B: William Lynch, Sean Mullane and Matthew Leamy



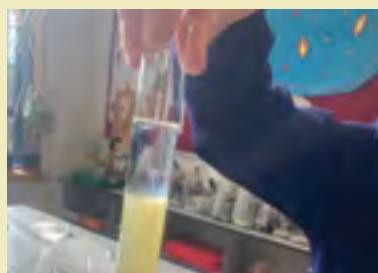
William Lynch, Patrick Ryanm Matthew Leamy, Jake Wright, Sean Mullane and Rory Staunton

TY Genetics

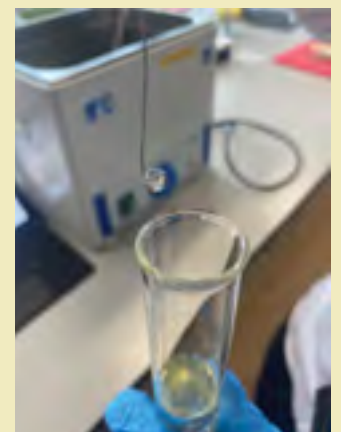
Some Transition year students covered a Genetics module. They made DNA double helix using sweets. They also isolated DNA from strawberries and onions.



Kieran Lennon and Daniel McDermot (TY)



DNA Isolation of onions and strawberries



AMGEN[®] Biotech Experience

Scientific Discovery for the Classroom

Ireland

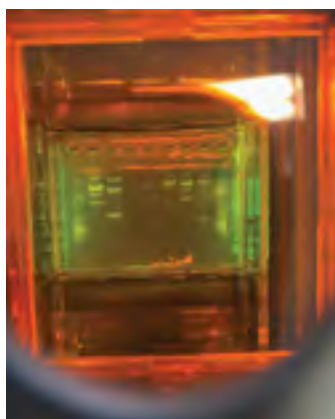
Genetic engineering is a branch of biotechnology that uses special procedures and techniques to change an organism's DNA. This ability has had a huge impact on the field of medicine, as genetically modified bacteria can make human insulin that treats diabetes and other lifesaving products. 41 and 46 Biology got to experience and to carry out experiments that led to breakthroughs in biotechnology and gain hands-on experience with producing genetically modified bacteria.



Mark Ahearne and Oliver Pluinced (TY)



Jamie Shanley (TY)



DNA Profile completed by Science 41 during Lab 2



Max Schmitt, Jamie O'Neill and Lewis Gibney (TY)



Tom Boret, Jamie Shanley, Harry O'Neill, Daniel Cunningham, Max Schmitt and Christian O'Flynn (TY)



Hugo Carroll (TY)



TY Students in the Biology Lab



65 Biology learned the skill of Micropipetting



Above: Aran O'Flaherty and Jack Rapley (Sixth Year)
Right: Harry Lowes perfecting his skills (Sixth Year)



Rat Dissection

Transition Year students from Mr O Sullivan's and Ms Grove's class doing rat dissection.



Patrick MacHugh, Adam Aherne- O'Connell and Matthew Kearney (Fourth Year)



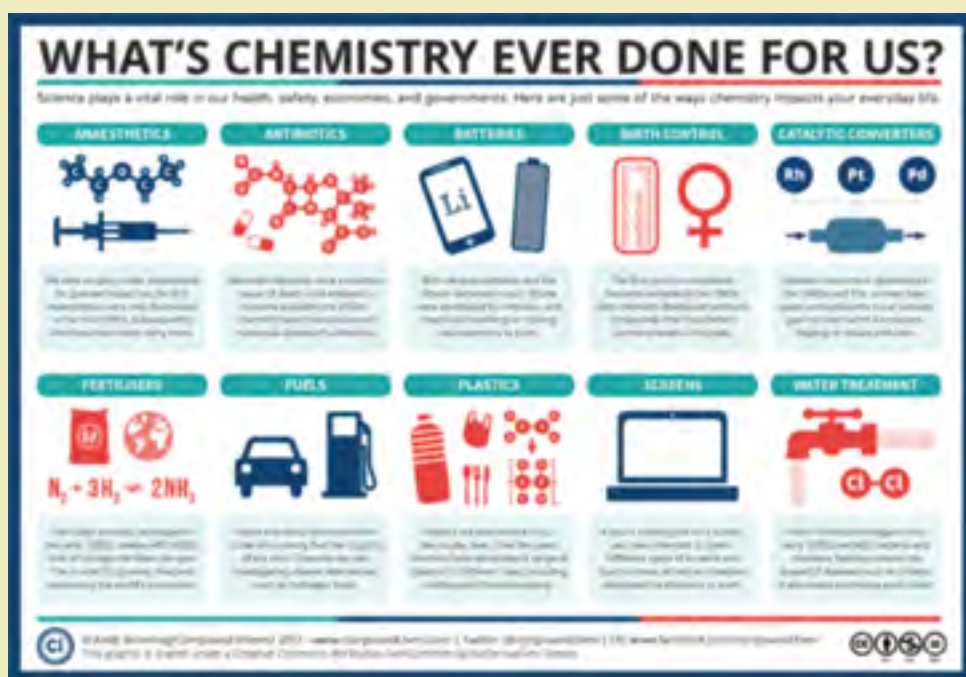
Rossa Clonan, Luca Kelly and Conn Andrews (Fourth Year)



Daniel Cunningham, Donnacha Barry, Andrew Lowey, Oli Fahey and Sebastian Snyman (Fourth Year)

5th Year Chemistry

On Friday the 10th May, we had a visit from eight PhD students from UCD. They ran a workshop for our Fifth Year Chemistry students called 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase'. It exposed students to analytical apparatus like IR and UV machines that they wouldn't have an opportunity to use until University. The boys really enjoyed the experience and were a credit to the school.



5th Year Biology-Ecology

5th Year Biology students are spending a lot of this term studying Ecology, which involves a habitat study. We are fortunate enough to have such a large campus, allowing us to investigate the flora and fauna on our doorstep.



Michael Cunningham, Ciaran Murphy and Michael Percival (Fifth Year) Recording the Air Temperature



James Kennedy and Thomas Magee (Fourth Year) found a Centipede



56 Biology studying Ecology



Sean McEvoy (Fifth Year) caught a woodlouse



56 Biology recording the Soil pH



Charlie O Connail, Alex Parsons and Daire Casey(Fifth Year) found Decomposers



Brian Kilbride, Adam Dungan and James Heenan (Fifth Year) Recording the Light Intensity



Samuel Kan) Alex Naughton) Matthew O Donnell, Spencer Jordan, Ronan O Leary) Ryan Hanley) Archibald Quinn, Jamie Cahill, Tate Tompkin Beddy, Charlie Lynch, Jack O Connell, and Alex Browne and Ms Aoibh Steele

On Friday 3rd May, fourteen students took part in SciFest@College in TU Dublin Grangegorman. The students and projects were;

'The Physics of Table Tennis and how it Improves Your Hand Eye Co-Ordination and Reaction Speed'. Alex Browne and Jack O'Connell

What tee height is best for golf?
Tate Tomkin Beddy and Jamie Cahill

Light Versus Heavier Boots
Spencer Jordan, Alex Naughton and Thomas Callan

Does chew gum affect short-term memory?
Charlie Lynch, Ryan Hanley and Archie Quinn

Do expensive golf balls go further?
Eoin Simpson

Effect of Music on Memory
Sam Kane, Ronan O'Leary and Matthew O'Donnell



Tate Tomkin Beddy and Jamie Cahill won the Huawei Communications Award.



Tate Tomkin Beddy and Jamie Cahill won the Huawei Communications Award.



Exciting Discoveries at the Science Club!

This term, our Science Club has been buzzing with fascinating activities and experiments that have sparked curiosity and excitement among our members!

We kicked off with an in-depth rat dissection, where students explored anatomy first-hand, gaining valuable insights into mammalian biology. This hands-on experience not only deepened our understanding of organ systems but also honed our

dissection skills in a controlled, educational setting.

Next, we delved into the art and science of cheese-making. From understanding the role of bacteria and enzymes to observing the transformation of milk into delicious cheese, this activity was a hit. Everyone enjoyed the process, and the best part was tasting our homemade creations!

Our rainbow fizz experiment brought chemistry to life with vibrant colors and exciting reactions. By mixing acids and bases, we created colorful fizzing solutions, demonstrating chemical reactions in a fun and visually captivating way. The results were spectacular and educational, highlighting the principles of pH and reaction rates.

We also turned our attention to environmental science by constructing bee hive hotel. These

cozy habitats are designed to support our friendly neighborhood pollinators. Building these hotels taught us about the importance of bees in our ecosystem and how we can help preserve their populations.

In a grand finale, we explored the science behind fireworks using flame tests. By burning different chemicals, we observed a spectrum of colors, linking each hue to specific elements. This dazzling experiment showcased the principles of atomic emission and the exciting world of pyrotechnics.

As we wrap up this term, we are thrilled with the enthusiasm and participation from all our Science Club members. Your curiosity and passion have made each session memorable and impactful. We will continue to explore our exciting science adventures in September 2024. Thank you to all our Science Club members!

Second and Third Years enjoying Science Club



Everything that happens in Blackrock College is pastoral in nature because the well-being of each student is the common denominator behind every activity that takes place; at its broadest the full curriculum and all extra-curricular activity constitute pastoral care.

This final term of the 2023/2024 academic year has been a very busy and rewarding term. Easter was early this year and as a result we celebrated Pentecost Sunday [50 days after Easter] during our final term, coincidentally on Graduation Day 19th May, when Fr Paddy Moran CSSp, Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin CSSp and Fr Tom Nash CSSp concelebrated Mass with a congregation in excess of 600 in the Jubilee Hall. During preparations for the Graduation Mass, the 6th Years were offered the opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the College Chapel. When the Class of 2024 began their journey in the College five years ago, no one could have expected them to experience Covid lock downs, online teaching and mask wearing in class – their resilience and infectious joy helped raise the spirits of all in the school – truly a fantastic year group – we wish them well.

Faith is alive within the boys here in Blackrock – we are truly fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful teenagers. Some of the pastoral activities in the final term included a group of Transition Year students taking part in the Camino de Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage, 2nd Years had their Days of Reflection in the De La Salle Retreat Centre in Dublin 10, the Annual Novena to the Holy Spirit has been celebrated at morning Mass on each of the last nine days of term, Transition Year students had an end of year Day of Reflection, many staff attended the Staff Retreat, the



Fr Cormac O'Brolcháin CSSp, Fr Paddy Moran CSSp, and Fr Tom Nash CSSp concelebrated the Graduation Mass for the Class of 2024

two-week pastoral placement programme which is "Matthew 25" continued for Transition Year. Past Pupils also continue to engage with the College with large numbers attending the Holy Week Retreat and liturgies for 10 year, 20 year, 30 year, 40 year, 50 year, 60 year, 70 year and 75 year reunions!

It is a source of great joy in the College, a Spiritan School when, ever few years the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated. This year we were fortunate that Thomas Macland of 5th Year, fourth generation of his family to attend Blackrock, was confirmed on Monday 13th May by Fr Paddy Moran CSSp.

Thomas Macland (5th Year) fourth generation of his family to attend Blackrock, was confirmed on Monday 13th May by Fr Paddy Moran CSSp.

As a school community, may we continue to make a positive difference to those around us while grounding this in and with faith.

In the Spirit – God Bless.



The Holy Spirit has guided us and been present to us in a special way, just as the Holy Spirit was present at the First Pentecost – fearless and bold.

MORNING MASS

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

You are welcome either in person or online. If you have any special intention or anniversary you would like remembered, please email fmadden@blackrockcollege.com or phone 01 – 275 2125.

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

Dungeons and Dragons Club



The dungeons and dragons year came to a close on a high note, with fantastic campaign cliffhangers from DMs Matthew Leamy and John Ding, both running their campaigns for the bulk of the final term. Players will need to wait on tenterhooks for the stories to pick up after the summer – with a host of new players!

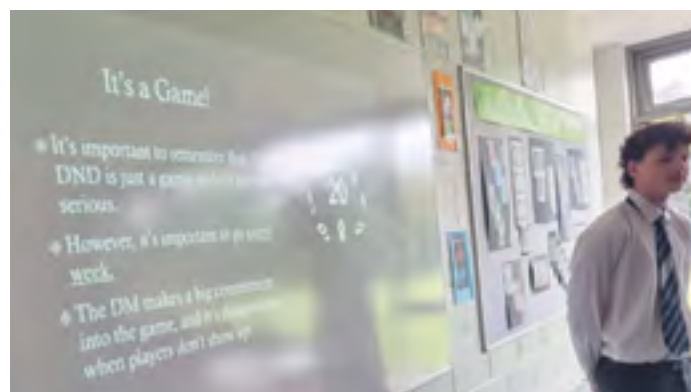
The club went on their annual trip to Willow Park to teach the incoming 1st Years all about the game – how it works, how to be as creative as possible, and how to get the most fun out of each session! An enthusiastic group of eight first years then got the opportunity to roll dice and have fun with the seasoned club players and give them a taste of what they can expect next year! Fun all round, and we look forward to all of the new members who come and join next year!



A big group of 1st Years getting an intro to DnD



Sam Kyrchenko, Sean Mullane, Sam McCann (Third Year) show the 1st years all about DnD



Sam McCann (Third Year) hammering home the most important point!

Blackrock Bees 2024 ...



It has been a wonderful Spring for our bees in 2024. They had to contend with an exceptionally wet summer and Autumn in 2023. This left their stocks very low and we only took the bare minimum in harvest at the end of the season. They showed their resilience and came through a changeable winter in relative good health. One hive did succumb to the elements but three re-emerged for spring.

Because the grounds of the school are so lovingly maintained by the ground staff, it meant the bees had

a ready supply of nectar on which to feed. The good weather of April and May saw an explosion of blossom on our trees and hedges. The bees gorged on the bounty. Honey production went into overdrive and we were able to harvest some honey at the end of May. This is very early in the year to do so but the conditions were perfect.

Our bees continue to thrive. We have four healthy hives. None of this would be possible without the guidance and care of our Bee Keeper Niall Ringrose (class of '79). He has our heartfelt thanks.



Pure Gold Certainly a Taste of More !!!

The Third Term for the Wellbeing Committee while little less hectic than the previous two nonetheless contributed to everyone's collective wellbeing.

One of the highlights of the term was the "*Cuppa Club*" for 4th and 5th year on April 16th. This week was also *Seachtain na Gaeilge* and all participants were encouraged to practise their Gaeilge. A run of good weather during the week reduced the attendance on the day but there was a particularly convivial atmosphere in the digital learning centre. (In spite of fewer people all cakes and hot chocolate on offer were nonetheless completely consumed).

Thanks to Henry Brown and the college catering department for organising the goodies.



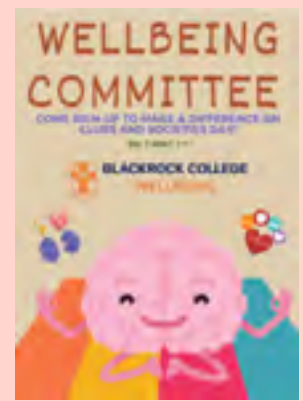
The other notable event of the day was the awarding of the Amber Flag in May, a process that was started the previous month.

The award is an acknowledgement that our committee has led many initiatives on mental health and wellbeing in our school this year.

The flag is a symbol of our care and respect for each other, staff and students alike.



We finished the year planning for *Clubs and Societies Day* which will take place during the 3rd week of next term. Thanks to Tate Tomkin Beddy and Eamonn DeValera (2nd year) for their draft posters (below) for this coming event. Even as early drafts the next two posters look great! Hopefully next year will see continued swelling of the ranks of the Wellbeing Committee!





Castle Chronicle – Summer 2024

Message from the Director of Boarding

As the final term draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the boarding class of 2024 on your graduation from Blackrock College. This momentous occasion marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and perseverance. We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved.

The end-of-year BBQ and Sports day was a wonderful celebration filled with laughter, camaraderie, and shared memories. It was a joy to see everyone come together, reflecting on the journey we've had and looking forward to the exciting paths ahead.

A special congratulations goes out to the 6th Year Boarders for their impressive and historic victory over the Housemasters in the annual tag rugby match. This is no small feat!

To the 31 boys leaving the Castle, we wish you the very best as you embark on the next chapter of your educational journey. Whether you are heading to university or continuing your studies at an international school, we are confident that the skills, values, and friendships you have built here will serve you well in all your future endeavors.

I would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to the parents and guardians for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your dedication and involvement have been vital to our community's success. We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer.

God bless,

Mr Tiernan Mealiffe



Castle April Birthdays (Rick Shin, Garry Kingston and Shaou)



Castle May Birthday's (Charlie Harvey, Eduardo Hauptmeier Lopez, Joseph Meenan, Nikita Biryukov, Evan Vajda, Mark Walsh)



6th Year Boarders enjoy a group takeaway night.



Castle Boarders after completing the Rock Run 2024.



Castle April Birthdays (Rick Shin, Garry Kingston and Shaou)



Castle May Birthday's (Charlie Harvey, Eduardo Hauptmeier Lopez, Joseph Meenan, Nikita Biryukov, Evan Vajda, Mark Walsh)



Finalists in the Castle Tip Rugby League, Eason Li, Albert Linders, Javier Poza Perez, Sergii Ishchenko, Evan Vajda, Mirko Sancho, Ethan Tracey, Adrian Ho, Oscar Hackett, Rocky Kenneally, Daniel Morrissey



1st Year's, Charlie Lloyd, Lem Khutiev, Joseph Meenan and Fernando Donoso, getting ready for their race



6th Years are the winners of this year's 6th Years Vs. Housemasters tip rugby match. (Mr. Mealiffe presents Niall Smyth with the trophy)



1st Year Boarders, Joseph Meenan and Eason Li



Housemaster Ruairi and Max Assaf-Melly at the Castle Sports Day



5th Year Boarders starting their wheelbarrow race at the Castle Sports Day



5th Year Boarders Braydon Chau, Adam Dungan, Albert Linders and Sergii Ishchenko, taking part in the sack race during the Castle Sports Day



3rd Year Boarders, Illia Ishchenko, Rocky Kenneally, Javier Elizalde, Marcos Diez and James Sharkey, taking part in the sack race during the Castle Sports Day



Illia Ishchenko and Grigorii Korobov enjoying the Castle Sports Day



6th Year Boarders celebrate their win at the barbeque after the Castle Sports Day



5th Year Boarders enjoying the barbeque after the Castle Sports Day



2nd, 3rd and 4th Year Boarders enjoying the barbeque after the Castle Sports Day



5th Year Boarders enjoying their day out at airsoft



6th Year Boarders enjoying their day out at airsoft

Snapshot of Graduation 2024



Sixth Years Process to the Jubilee Hall



Finn Toolan at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Harry Dixon at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Mark Dempsey at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Harry Sheridan at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Harry Pierce at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Ricki Shin at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Jack Murphy at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Ms Y. Markey at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Mr T O' Reilly(Head of Religion) releasing the doves in the Quad at the Sixth Year Graduation Mass



Oscar du du Halgouet, (5th Year) and Gavin O'Donoghue (6th Year) Karle Ashe Final



Mr B. Savage, Ms C. Kelleher (adjudicators) Patrick Hayden (winner) and Pearse Woods (adjudicator) Class of 2021 at the Gold Medal debate



Past v Present Students' Basketball Match



Past v Present Students' Basketball Match



Karle Ashe Final



James Neary (Fifth Year) and his parents on Prize Day



Swimming Gala 2024



Karle Ashe Final



Leaving Certs at the Gold Medal Debate



James Clancy) Gavin O'Donoghue and Luke Murphy Karle Ashe Final



Oscar Hackett (3rd Year) Robert O'Reilly(6th Year) and Hugh Foley (3rd Year) Karle Ashe Final



Rock Run Launch 2024



Rock Run Launch 2024



Rock Run Launch 2024



Rock Run Launch 2024



Rock Run Launch 2024



Exhibition of Students' Work on Sports Day



Mr Alan Boyle and Mr Martin Dunne (Head of the Technical Subjects)



Exhibition of Students' Work on Sports Day



Mr E. O'Brien (Head of Sport) awarding the Sports person of the year to Seán Ó'Nualláin on Sports and Family Day



Seán Ó'Nualláin, winner of the Sports Personality of the Year Award 2024 with his parents and Mr D. Gillett (Class of 1987), President of the Past Pupils' Union) on Sports and Family Day



Students Enjoying Blackrock College Sports and Family Day May 2024



Sam Kilroy) Matthew Buckley and Harry O' Doherty Tug of War on Sports and Family Day



Patrick White and Robbie Jones (6th Years) Tug of War on Sports and Family Day



Mr J. O'Shea (Head of Development) Blackrock College at Sports and Family Day



Ross Murphy 2nd Year and Ms L. Crimmins at Sports and Family Day



Second Years enjoying the Slow Cycle at Sports and Family Day



Daniel Courtney (TY) and Ms. K. Reilly at Sports and Family Day



Marcus Cullen with his mum and grandmother at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Will O'Sullivan Marcus Cullen, Luke Beale, Ronan Savage, Michael Walsh and Robert Murphy Tug of War on Sports and Family Day



Students Enjoying Blackrock College Sports and Family Day Day May 2024



Running for their lives at Sports and Family Day



Students Enjoying Blackrock College Sports and Family Day May 2024



Eoghan Rowlands) Ryan Duffy and James Smyth (Third Year) Sack Race at Sports and Family Day



Oscar du Hergouet and his Mum at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Loghlan Gulliver) Donnacha Murray, Eoghan Rowland, Oscar Hackett and Ryan Duffy (Third Year) Sack Race on Sports and Family Day



Thomas Doyle (2nd year) and Mr B Manion Sack Race



Jeremey Carroll) Peter Walshe, Jay Courtney and David Mattimoe (Fifth Year) Participating in Sport and Family Day



Charlie Quigley (Sixth Year) Participating in Sports and Day



The Choirs and Orchestra at the Summer Concert



Daniel Flannery (Sixth Year) performing at the Summer Concert



Gregory Quinn (Sixth Year) performing at the Summer Concert



Fintan Ballard) Lucas Perez and Jack Luff (Fifth Years) performing at the Summer Concert



Members of the Orchestra performing at the Summer Concert



Ms Y Markey (Principal) at the Summer Concert



Aongus Óg Curran, Winner of the Student Leadership Award 2024, with his Mum, Ms Y Markey (Principal) and Ms S Nolan (Deputy Principal) on Prize Day.



Charlie Harvey (Sixth Year) performing at the Summer Concert



Ms R. Harlowe (Deputy Principal) at Prize Day



Ms.Y.Markey (Principal) Oisín Daly (Winner of the General Excellence Award 2024) and his Mum, and Ms S. Nolan (Deputy Principal) on Prize Day



Mr T. Ryan (Deputy Principal) at Prize Day



Mr D. Gillett Class of 1987, PPU President, presents the Father Corless Gold Cup and Medal to Daniel Flannery for his outstanding contribution to the Performing Arts.



Edward Wilson (Fifth Year) and his Dad at Prize Day



Conor MacFarland and his Mum at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Charlie Clifton and his Mum at the Fifth Year Family Mass



Cian Sheehy and his parents at the Fifth Year Family Mass

Senior Tennis Team Completes Three-In-A-Row

The Senior 1st team won the Leinster Schools' Senior Tennis Division 1 title for the third successive year following a victory over Belvedere at Fitzwilliam LTC on Wednesday May 22nd. The team featured players from Third Year, Transition Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Year, which underlines the strength in depth of Blackrock's current tennis group.

Having come through their pool stages with a perfect record the team performed extremely well in the final and they registered the three match wins that were required to secure the cup without the loss of a single set. Early wins for Zac Naughton (singles) and the doubles pairings of Harry Sheridan and Freddie Bracken (number 1 doubles) and Max Vidal and David Ortiz (number 2 doubles) meant that the remaining two matches featuring Sean O Nualláin and



Back Row: Max Vidal, Harry Sheridan, Jack MacCarthy, Sean O Nualláin, James Forde, Joey Connolly, Nick Sheridan. Front Row: Zac Naughton, Freddie Bracken, Jamie O Nualláin, David Ortiz

Jack MacCarthy, in their respective singles matches, did not require completion.

This squad of players is arguably the strongest Senior 1st team that has ever represented Blackrock College, featuring as it does five

players who have won National Junior titles in recent years and led by the 2024 Blackrock College Sports Personality of the Year, Sean O Nualláin, who commences a tennis scholarship at the University of Memphis next January.

Athletics

Congratulations to all teams at the East Leinster Athletics Championships who swept all team titles and qualified for a record 50 events at the Leinster Championships.

The three teams had some excellent results at the Leinster's where Sami Bishti, Brian Walsh, Robert Murphy and Rory McNally all qualified in the throwing events which helped the team place second overall on the day. The intermediate team placed second with Bernard White (4th Year), Peter Le Roux (2nd Year), Gavin Laing (4th Year), Hugo Bourke, Dan Noonan (Both 3rd Year) qualifying for the Irish Schools Championships. A major highlight of the day came when our junior boys team won their team title with qualifying performances from Paul Hartnett, Zach Bunce, Alfie Hogan, James Byrne, Samuel Kane, Hugo Glynn and Bobby Somers (All 2nd Year).

All attention turns now to the All Ireland Schools' Championships in Tullamore on the Bank Holiday weekend. We wish all boys representing the college the very best of luck!

Chess

Chess club visited Oatlands College on Wednesday 17th April for friendly tournament. We placed 6th out of 16 teams. It was great opportunity to compete against schools and it was great fun.

As another year comes to an end we had our end of year chess summer party with our coach Hector. Thank you to Hector for all his hard work throughout the year.



Daniel Goss, Elliot Brophy, Davide Canettoli) Theo Galligan, James Odlum, Philip Duffy and Conor Walsh

Basketball

Blackrock College 3X3 Tournament 2024

On Wednesday April 24th, 2024, Blackrock College, St. Andrew's, St. Mary's and Coláiste Eoin came together in the Des Places Hall to take part in the first 3X3 Tournament to be hosted in Blackrock. Each school came with 2 squads and there was both an A and a B tournament running simultaneously.

3X3 is a much shorter, faster and more intense version of basketball. Each game has a score limit of 21 points (in 1s and 2s) or a time limit of 10 minutes. Should overtime be required, the first team to score 2 points are the winners.

St. Andrew's, fresh from finishing 3rd in the National League competition at A level, came prepared and would lead the way in both groups, finishing both group stages unbeaten. Blackrock's



A team would finish 2nd in their group, with the B team finishing 3rd.

Both competitions then moved to the semi-final stages with Blackrock facing Coláiste Eoin in both. The As would end up losing a close game which went back and forth over the full 10 minutes before being decided by a mere 2 points. The Bs, buoyed by the heroics of **Amlan Parida (6th Year)**, would overcome Coláiste Eoin in an overtime thriller to set up a final with St. Andrew's. Ultimately, the experience of our close neighbours would prevail and St. Andrew's hoisted both the A and B trophies. We congratulate them on their victories.

I would like to thank all the staff and students who made the day run as smoothly as it did: Mr. E. O'Brien for his help organising, the catering department for feeding our guests, the PE Department for facilitating the use of the Sports Hall and students Gearóid Nutley (4th Year), Hugh Foley, Clyde Corbantes and Collie Breslin (all 3rd Year) for running the table for both tournaments.

A Squad: Cormac Morris (6th), Sam Curley, Aaron O'Halloran, Michael Breslin (5th), Peter Lee (3rd)

B Squad: Oisín Daly, Amlan Parida, Scott Downes, Nicholas Cronnelly (6th), Jack O'Connell (4th)

Past vs Present Basketball Match

A huge thank you to the team of Past Pupils who came back to contest this year's Past vs Present Basketball Match. In what has become a running theme over the last couple of years, the game would run extremely close, eventually being settled by a single score in overtime.

The game was contested in great spirits with players on both sides happy to play with and against familiar faces. The Present team consisted of 6th Years Cormac

Morris, Oisín Daly and Amlan Parida who will make the long journey across half court for the fixture next year. They were ably assisted by 5th Years Michael Breslin, Aaron O'Halloran and Sam Curley, 4th Year Gearóid Nutley and 3rd Year Peter Lee. The Past Team consisted of Eric Brandt, Luke Brophy, Maitiú Heckmann, Murray Baker, Ronin O'Halloran and James Gilligan.

After 37 minutes of outstanding basketball, sportsmanship and even a Cormac Morris dunk, the

Present team would emerge victorious on a scoreline of 73-70. The game was dedicated to the memory of Barry O'Sullivan who passed away in 2024. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Senior Cricket

Macdara Cosgrave (Sixth Year) and his young side were highly competitive in this year's Leinster Senior League, knocking out the back-to-back winners, CUS in the quarter-final, before succumbing to St Columbus again in the semi-final.

Having qualified second in their group, the difficult task of CUS awaited the team. A five-wicket haul from John Pierce (Third Year) was supplemented by some excellent catching in the field. Peter Le Roux (Second Year) knocked off the winning runs after Macdara Cosgrave had built strong foundations early in the reply. An unlikely victory on paper, but a wonderful reminder as to the fragility of favouritism in sport.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reproduce the same level of performance in the semi-final, with St Columbus running out deserved victors by 70 runs at the penultimate stage.

Junior Cricket

As with the senior side, our juniors also fell at the semi-final stage to a better team on the day. This time in the form of Wesley College.

Four straight victories in the group stage (Clongowes, Coláiste Pobail Fola, Gonzaga, and Adamstown) meant we qualified as group winners, before defeat to St Mary's in a 'dead rubber' brought our group stage to an end. The five matches, under the captaincy of George Eggers (Third Year) allowed game opportunities for as many as 18 players and has seen us build strongly for future campaigns.

The semi-final was a step too far this time around, however, as the juniors succumbed to defeat in the very same manner as the seniors, two days earlier. We can have no complaints as Wesley produced a stronger performance on the day and ran out deserved winners by 55 runs.

Paul Stanley Memorial Football Trophy

Castle Boarders 2-1 Castle Day-Boys

In a thrilling encounter at the Paul Stanley Memorial match, the Castle Boarders emerged victorious, over the castle Day-Boys, overcoming a 1-0 half-time deficit to secure a dramatic 2-1 win. The match, filled with intensity and passion, was a fitting tribute to Paul Stanley, honouring his legacy with a display of exceptional football.

The first half saw the Castle Boarders struggling to find their rhythm, as the Castle Day-Boys capitalized on an early opportunity to take the lead. Despite several attempts to equalize, the Boarders went into the break trailing 1-0.

The breakthrough came midway through the second half, when a well-coordinated attack led to an equalizing goal, sending the Castle Boarders' supporters into a frenzy. With momentum on their side, the Boarders continued to press for the winner.

As the match approached its conclusion, it seemed destined for a draw. However, deep into injury time, a decisive moment occurred. The Castle Boarders were awarded a penalty, offering a golden opportunity to clinch the victory. Alonso Lopez Reina stepped up to take the crucial spot-kick, displaying nerves of steel as he calmly slotted the ball past the goalkeeper, securing the win for his team.

Table Tennis

The schools table tennis season came to an end in early May with the Leinster Cup Finals, as Blackrock Juniors, captained by Daniel Patterson (4th Year), and Blackrock Seniors, captained by Diarmaid Byrne (6th Year), completed their Cup double, both with victories over Castlenock College. This was a 13th consecutive Leinster Cup Final and title for the Seniors, while the Juniors recorded their 13th title in 14 years. Blackrock Minors, captained by Rex Montag (2nd Year) were unlucky to lose out on a 3-4 scoreline in the semi-finals, while Junior B, captained by Kevin Roche (3rd Year) were also narrow losers in their semi-final.



Hugo Cooney & Rex Montag (both 2nd Year) receive serve in the deciding doubles in the Leinster U13 Cup Semi Final

Table Tennis (*continued*)

The previous week, Junior A and Senior A were in action at the All-Ireland Finals, with Blackrock seniors unable to make an impression on a very strong Ulster champion team from Grosvenor GS, losing 0-5. However, Junior A were imperious in reaching a 12th All Ireland final in 15 years, defeating Munster champions Ennis CS and Ulster Champions Enniskillen Royal GS, both on a 5-0 scoreline, and retaining their All-Ireland title, a 7th title in 11 years

The Leinster League divisions finished up in the last two days before the Easter break, with Junior A securing the first leg of what would become a second consecutive treble title winning season, taking the Mahony Cup for Junior Division 1 for a 13th time in 15 years. Senior A also took the first step towards what would be their Leinster double, as they secured the Kemp Shield after an absence of two years, returning the Shield to Blackrock for the 11th time in the last 13 years. Junior B were Runners Up in Division 2 with a hard-fought draw against Castleknock in the final match of the season; Junior 2A, captained by Colum Breslin (3rd Year) won Division 3; while Junior 2C, captained by Adam Lawlor (2nd Year) were Runners Up in Division 4. Finally Minor A also brought home silver medals, losing out to Castleknock in Division 1.

At the Interprovincial Championships in April, Blackrock made up the entire U19 Boys Leinster team, with Daniel Patterson and Conor Sheehan (4th Year) joined by first time selectees Diarmaid Byrne and Jack O'Connell (4th Year).



Blackrock Squad at the Leinster Sup Finals in UCD

At the end of year School Championships, Daniel Patterson took the title ahead of Diarmaid Byrne, while Jack O'Connell and Richard Pattison (4th Year) were the semi-finalists.

The end of year Table Tennis Awards in the College saw the successful teams receive their medals from TTI President Emeritus Joe Hickey, while Mr. Mike Kemp presented to Senior Captain

Diarmaid Byrne the Senior Kemp Shield, named for Mr. Kemp's father Cyril Kemp.

The Blackrock Player of the Year Awards were also presented by the Principal, Ms Y. Markey. Rex Montag was named Minor Player of the Year; Alex Browne (4th Year) is the Junior Player of the Year; Jack O'Connell is the Senior Player of the Year; while Diarmaid Byrne is the overall Blackrock Player of the Year.



Blackrock Junior & Senior Squads at All Ireland Finals in the National Arena



Blackrock College Rowing Club

A number of Rowing Club members travelled to Amposta, Spain over the Easter break for a 5 day training camp led by the club coaches. It was a wonderful opportunity to train in the warm weather. The trip was enjoyed by all.

Regatta Season is under-way! The Club has been competing in recent weeks in a number of Regattas including Limerick Regatta, Schools Regatta, Portadown Regatta, Lough Rinn Regatta, Trinity Regatta and Neptune Regatta. Recent achievements include Jon Luc Elias coming first place in Indoor Championships, the Men's J15 4x came 1st in Portadown Regatta, Finn O'Brien came 1st in J15 1X, the Men's J16 8 came 2nd in Schools, the J15 4x came 1st in Limerick and 1st again at Neptune. Congratulations to all.

The next Regatta will be on the River Corrib in Galway on the June Bank Holiday weekend.

The Club held its annual BBQ Social at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Congratulations to all those who were presented with a golden spanner award. It was a fun evening enjoyed by all. Thank you to all members of the club committee for organising this.

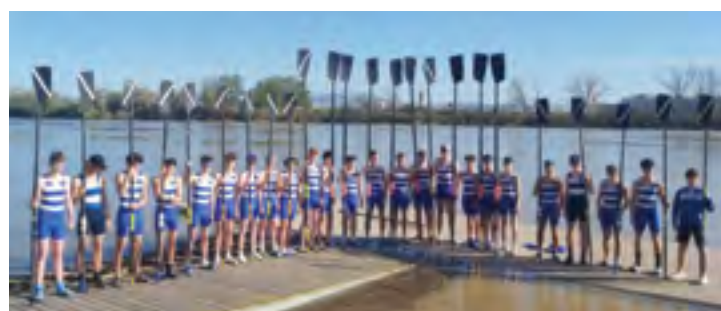
The Rowing Club had the honour of a guest speaker session from Paul Ahearne, Sports and Performance Psychologist. The students feel this talk benefited them much more than any of them could have thought. He discussed practical strategies for approaching races with a positive mindset. They have since used the topics he talked about in their pre-race routine by gathering together and asking each other what we want to improve and how we want us to be perceived.



Matthew Neary, 5th Year



Andrew Clancy, Jon-Luc Elias, Charlie Schmitt, Daniel Moran and Dan Moran



Blackrock College Rowing Club members in Amposta, Spain



Paul Ahearne, Guest Speaker



3rd Year Winners at Portadown Regatta



Finn O'Brien, 3rd Year



Sports Day

Date for the Diary:

Irish Rowing Championships

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and

Sunday 14th of July 2024

National Rowing Centre, Farran Woods, Cork.

Update from Blackrock College Archives

There has been a recent surge of interest in the College's magnificent collection of stained glass. Art historians Dr David Caron and Dr Joseph McBrinn have renewed interest in the works of Michael Healy and Evie Hone with their publications. Their research has brought them to the College and the archives as they traced the artists' connections to Blackrock College and the College's role in commissioning their works in the early decades of the 20th century.

David Caron's book – 'Michael Healy 1873-1941; an Túr Gloine's Stained Glass Pioneer' – was published earlier this year by Four Courts Press. The publication's numerous illustrations include several of Healy's pair of 2-lights flanking the altar in the chapel. These pairs depict the Annunciation and the Visitation and, as Caron writes, 'are two of Healy's most profoundly sublime works'.

Joseph McBrinn's publication – 'Evie Hone and the International Avant Garde' – will be published next spring (also by Four Courts Press) and positions Hone as both an important Irish and international artist within the radical artistic movements of the 20th century. Evie Hone's work is to be found in the college chapel, staff dining hall and in the beautiful Pentecostal triptych in the Castle Oratory.

This recent scholarship has renewed interest in the College's stained glass bringing a large tour of stained glass enthusiasts

from the UK's Stained Glass Museum in April and the Friends of the National Gallery of Ireland will arrive in June.
archives@blackrockcollege.com



Above: Detail from *The Annunciation* by Michael Healy, in the College Chapel, photograph by Jozef Vritel

Left: Middle window from Evie Hone's *Pentecost* in the Castle Oratory, photograph by Jozef Vritel

Guidance and Counselling....



Well done to all our 6th Year students who have completed their final year of secondary school. Please ensure you have received an email "Statement of Application" from the CAO to confirm that the details on your CAO account are correct. Double check all is in order, especially that your exam number and any **LANGUAGE EXEMPTIONS ARE RECORDED THERE**. Please contact the NUI 01 4392424 if the NUI language exemption is not listed.

Check your Junk/Trash 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.

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. When the course offers come out for everyone, you will then know if you were offered the course through DARE.



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

Please contact me if you are unsure

about a decision, be it with your leaving cert results or your CAO offers. We will be available to meet on those days. Best of luck to all our Leaving Cert Students, we will still be here to support you if need be, do not be afraid to reach out.

The Guidance Department.

NUI Ph: 01 4392424 www.nui.ie

DARE: www.accesscollege.ie

CAO queries: www.cao.ie – log into your account and contact them from there.

REFLECTION

This is a wonderful
day, I have never
seen this one before.

Maga Angelen