



# Blackrock College Bulletin

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## Whole School Assembly



Our first Whole School Assembly of the year took place on Wednesday 2nd October to mark the feast of Claude Poullart des Places. Peter O'Connor and Matthew Neary (Sixth Years) shared their experiences on Retreat and in Lourdes, respectively. Ian Duane (5<sup>th</sup> Year) did a reading and Father Paddy Moran CSSp told those assembled about the life of Claude Poullart des Places, how he had given up a life of wealth to help the poor and serve those in need.

Ms Y. Markey (Principal) spoke about the importance of community and highlighted that being in a community is not the same as being part of a community, encouraging us to play a meaningful part in the Blackrock College community. The 6<sup>th</sup> Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year House captains were commissioned and for the first time, Second Year House Captains received their badges from the Sixth Year House Captains. We were delighted that our former colleague Mr Gareth Pickering and some students and teachers from Dilworth School in New Zealand joined us. It was wonderful to gather respectfully and with gratitude as a whole school community.



## John Hooper Order of Merit

Congratulations to John Ding and Sean Mullane! They were awarded an **Order of Merit Parchment** from the Central Statistics Office. The award ceremony took place in Croke Park. They were awarded the Order for their project titled "A Study into the Effectiveness of Popular AI Chatbots". This is a great accomplishment given the competitive nature of the **John Hooper National Competition** which had 258 entries this year.

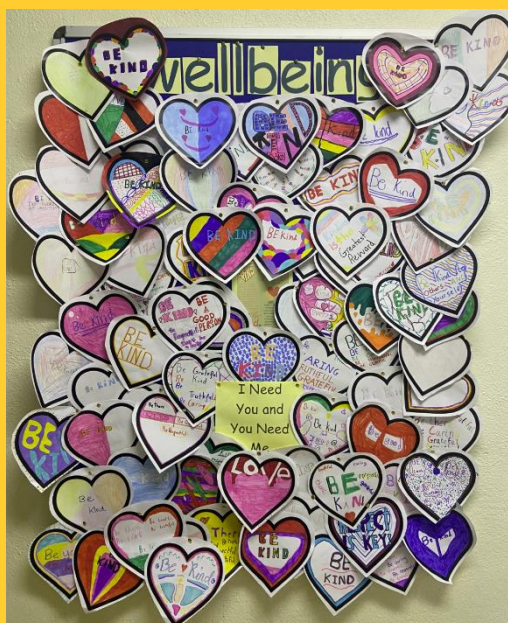
# Wellbeing Week 2024



This term's Wellbeing Week, October 2024, showcased a broad and diverse range of activities throughout the school.

*Highlights included:*

1. Drop Everything and Breathe to promote mediation for Junior Cycle
2. Odd Socks Day to celebrate our uniqueness.
3. There were PowerPoints and class discussion on "Respect" for Anti-Bullying Day.
3. Cuppa Club for 5th and 6th Years to celebrate **WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**.
4. A lecture on storytelling to the 2nd Years from Niall de Burca storyteller.
5. A Wellbeing Walk and Swim for staff.



## Kindness Art Project

To celebrate World Mental Health Day (and as part of our Wellbeing Week in school), some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year SPHE Classes took time to reflect on **Random Acts of Kindness** – remembering how they felt when someone was kind to them.

Students contributed to forming a beautiful and colourful 'Be Kind' display and were asked to show Random Acts of Kindness to others and to help kindness spread throughout our community.



# Literacy Day Events



➤ Competition on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October (Doctor Who Themed Sci\_Fi/ fantasy language of the world of fantasy) Congratulations to Jack Drumm( 6<sup>th</sup> Year) who won a €50 one4all voucher. (2<sup>nd</sup> Years)

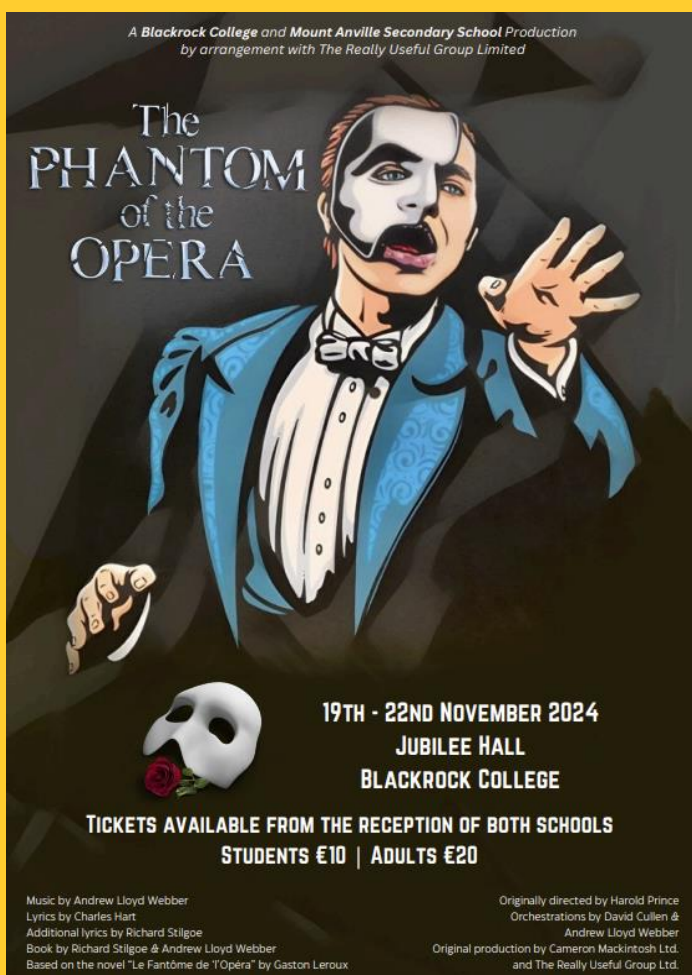
➤ *Word of the Week* displayed on TV monitors, created by TY students, to be continued throughout the year.

➤ There are plenty of words to describe our emotions good and bad so why do we resort to Bad Language? Discussion with activities (Fifth Years and Sixth Years).

➤ Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> Period 1 Niall deBurca storyteller (2<sup>ND</sup> Years)  
Period 3 IR65 and IR67 Niall deBurca storyteller

➤ Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1.10 Staff Book Club CADLC

➤ Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>, Period 3: Ciaran Murphy, Sportswriter for the *Irish Times*, creator of *Second Captains Podcast*, author of 'This is the life 'in conversation with TY students Niall Joyce, Callum Burk and Rhys Keogh with Callum Burke as facilitator and Jon Luc Elias behind the scenes.



## Senior Musical *The Phantom of the Opera*

**F**or the first time ever, Blackrock College in association with Mount Anville will perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's all time classic - ***The Phantom of the Opera!***

Running in the Jubilee Hall for four nights only, **from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November**, this epic musical cannot be missed!

Featuring a superb twenty-piece orchestra, a spectacular set, and stunning songs such as *Music of the Night*, *Think of Me* and *All I Ask of You*, ***The Phantom of the Opera*** is bound to be a brilliant night's entertainment for all the family.

Get your tickets at the college reception before it sells out!

## Maths Week & Numeracy Day



During **Maths Week 2024** a wide range of events, activities and displays were evident everywhere in the school. The **Maths Quiz** ran all week with an impressively high level of participation from students.

*The winners were:*

2nd Year: **Simon Cahill**

4th Year: **Finn McGovern**

5th Year: **Daniel Patterson**

6th Year: **Con Mason**

The winner of the *Pinball Competition* was **Denis Egan**. There were 314 pinballs!

The "J.C.T - Guess the Score" was won by **Timo Prendergast (Second Year)** and the "Car Park Spaces Competition" by **Luke O Connell (Third Year)**



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Retreats

As the first half term of 3rd Year draws to a close the young men are becoming aware that life is full of endings as well as beginnings. Primary School has been left behind and now the final year of the Junior Cycle is moving towards June. Next year the Senior Cycle begins. It is important to make time for taking stock.

Each boy attends one of the three Retreat Days with his House. The day is split in two halves involving two venues – Donnybrook Parish Centre and The Avila Retreat Centre on Morehampton Road with the boys walking between venues at lunchtime.

## Dragons' Den Mentoring Sessions



The second and third mentoring sessions, as part of the **Transition Year Dragons' Den project** took place in recent weeks. The Dragons praised some of the initiative shown by the students, as well as some clever products and ideas being discussed. The ideas ranged from an alternative to Yondr Pouch, customised golf head covers, Vintage Clothing resale, Wallet tracker, concussion prevention scrumcap, sports

gloves, sealing balloons, biodegradable golf tees, Fitness tracker app, to mention just a brief cross section of 72 different products / services / themes / apps.

The final will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This event is kindly sponsored by MFO Properties.

## Senior Science Quiz



There was a huge turnout for the Senior Science Quiz this year. Congratulations to Patrick Cody (6<sup>th</sup> Year) who achieved the highest mark in the quiz which covered all area of science.

The 6 students with the highest score will compete as two team in the ISTA Regional Schools Science Quiz which will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November in Trinity College.

We wish them the best of luck.

### The two teams are:

#### Team A:

Patrick Cody  
Jaward Imran  
Peter O'Connor

#### Team B:

Will Browne  
Conor McCorron  
Mark Collins

## BT Young Scientist

Congratulations to the following students whose projects have been accepted into the **BT Young Scientist Exhibition**:

Sean Mullane and Rory Staunton (4<sup>th</sup> Year) with their project '*An artist's invaluable tool: coding a tool to generate mutualistic colours*'.


Tate Tomkin Beddy (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) with his project '*A mathematical investigation into how the loft of a golf club affects the golf ball and its flight path*'.

We wish Sean, Rory, Tate and Ms Steele the best of luck as they work on their projects for the exhibition in early January. It's a huge achievement for their work to be chosen out of the thousands which were entered.

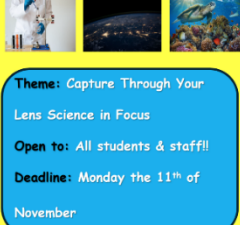
## Science Club

Take a look at Blackrock's Science Club and see what we've been up to this term!


We've made elephant's toothpaste foam everywhere, launched exploding tennis balls, and crafted groovy lava lamps. For Halloween, we went big with foaming pumpkins and gruesome rat dissections. If you love wild experiments and aren't afraid of a little mess, join the fun every Monday from 4-5 JSC4 – it's going to be explosive!




**SCIENCE WEEK 2024  
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**



Theme: Capture Through Your Lens Science in Focus  
Open to: All students & staff!  
Deadline: Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November



Win!  
One4all  
Gift Cards



Scan Here to Enter

## Science Week 2024 – Photography Competition



## MUN Conference



**O**n the 19th of October, 12 of Blackrock finest delegates took the red eye flight to London Gatwick airport for the annual Royal Russel School for the 4 day Model United Nations conference.

The 4 days were filled to the brim of questions, speeches and facts of questionable origin. Lúca Ó hAonghusa's resolution (Fifth Year) went to the general assembly. Only 11 people out of 450 total attendees have this honour!

Blackrock managed to walk away with 9 individual 'distinguished delegate' awards, and one of the three highest team awards 'outstanding delegation'. The main team representing Slovenia, swept, with every member receiving an individual award. This is one of the only times this has occurred in the conference's nearly 50 year long history! A conference history first, and this happening back-to-back with Blackrock sweeping last year as well!



## Chess



**T**he Blackrock Chess Club participated in a tournament in St. Andrew's on Friday 27th September. Fourteen students attended the competition and represented the school. Congratulations to all the students involved, and special mention to our senior team who placed in the top 10, with our other two teams not too far behind. Chess club is still open to new members who want to join, regardless of ability. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5pm in Junior Science 2.





## Soccer



**T**he senior soccer squad had a fantastic weekend in Bristol a fortnight ago. After an early start in Dublin Airport, the boys went directly to Clifton College for a training session followed by go karting. The following day they took on Clifton College 1st XI and 2nd XI. 2 wins capped off a successful weekend.

Following on from their successful trip to Bristol, the senior soccer team had a positive start to their league campaign with a 4-1 win against an excellent

Coláiste Éanna side thanks to goals from Jack Kelly (5th year), x2 Conor O'Neill (TY) & and an own goal. However, the result could have been completely different only for a man of the match performance from Ronan Ffrench (6th Year) in goal.

The team will learn a lot from this match and look forward to their Leinster Cup game against Cross & Passion College after Mid-term.



## Patrick Burke

**C**ongratulations to Patrick Burke (5th Year), on his outstanding achievement at the Irish Times Shield, held in Powerscourt on the 6th of October. Patrick secured victory with an impressive score of 69.

Adding to the celebration, his team from Foxrock Golf Club also claimed the team prize. Notably, the entire team is made up of past pupils from Blackrock College, showcasing the continued excellence and camaraderie of our school community.

Well done to Patrick and the team on this fantastic success!

## Cross Country



**B**lackrock students competed in the Brother Schools Cross Country event in Santry on Wednesday October 18th. Cameron Fallon came 13th in his Intermediate 3000m. The junior team consisting of 2nd Year students; John Cox, Ronan McDonagh, Dylan Maher, Tom Delaney, Eli Cassidy and Jack Moloney, represented the College well in their 2000m race. Well done to all the boys involved!

## Archie Quinn Stars for Ireland Under 15's



**A**rchie Quinn (Third Year) played a starring role for the Republic of Ireland Under 15s at the recent UEFA Development Tournament in Zagreb, Croatia.

Archie, who plays his club football for **Shamrock Rovers**, scored four goals across three matches against Slovenia, Croatia and Lithuania.

## U19 Basketball

**C**ongratulations to captain Aaron O'Halloran (Sixth Year) and his squad on their thrilling 56-51 victory over Coláiste Éinde in the 2nd round of the National Cup. Blackrock started strong, with key contributions from Sam Curley and Michael Breslin (both Sixth Year), leading 22-20 at halftime. However, a tough third quarter saw Rock fall behind by 6 points. With a late switch to man-to-man defence, Rock staged a remarkable comeback, forcing overtime and eventually securing the win. Sam Curley led the scoring with 32 points. Next up, they face Gonzaga in the U19 East League.



## U16 Basketball

**T**he U16 basketball team travelled to Gonzaga for their final pool match. Despite a challenging start, with Gonzaga leading 21-8 by the end of the first quarter, Blackrock showed resilience, particularly in the third quarter. Daniel Chambers (3rd Year) led with 12 points, supported by Adrian Ho (4th Year) and Tom O'Brien (2nd Year). Although Gonzaga secured a 71-36 victory, Captain Peter Gilligan (3rd Year) and his team displayed great determination and teamwork throughout. Special thanks to our coaches: Luke Brophy, Eric Brandt, Maitiu Heckmann, Ms Fitzsimons, and Mr Somerville



## Blackrock College Rowing Club

### Welcomes Olympic Rowing Medallist!



**W**e are excited to share that Dr. Philip Doyle, 2024 Olympic Bronze Rowing medallist, recently visited Blackrock College Rowing Club no doubt leaving a lasting impression on our members. On October 15th, Dr. Doyle shared his inspiring journey, offering insights into teamwork, goal setting, and the hard work needed to succeed at the Olympic level. The event included a challenging erg session led by Dr. Doyle, followed by an engaging talk and Q&A, where

students gained valuable advice for their futures. We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Doyle and everyone who made this memorable event possible!



### Sedbergh match

**O**ur yearly fixture with Sedbergh School did not disappoint. It is a fantastic occasion and one we look forward to every year. The SCT game lived up to everybody's expectations, with our Seniors winning 17-12 - showing fantastic spirit to keep Sedbergh out at the end.

Our 2nds lost out to Sedbergh's 2nds; it was another very intense game with Sedbergh scoring some late tries to win the game.

Our JCT put in a strong performance to beat Sedbergh, 32-5.

We are already looking forward to travelling to Sedbergh next year for their 500-year celebrations.



# Swim Gala



The lads headed out early to get a good warm-up before the races began. First in the water was Cathal Daly, (Second Year), who set out on his first competition with the school team and put in a strong performance to set the team up for the day. There were strong swims at all levels from junior to senior in the freestyle events, with impressive personal bests being achieved by 3rd year James Kelly to take bronze.

The team’s strongest results came in the 50 breaststroke, from Jamie Cahill and Gerard Egan, who won two bronze medals in the Inter and Senior categories respectively, while Denis Egan, Max Schmitt, Ted Taylor, and Andrew Kearney all finished with top 5 spots in their respective categories. Max Schmitt went on to blow his personal best away and take gold in the 50m butterfly, while Jamie Cahill turned in another strong performance in the final event of the day to take another bronze in the Inter 100m IM.

A strong day of racing all round, and a great start to the competition year!

Inter-House Competition 2024/25						
SWIMMING GALA						
WINNING HOUSES – DeValera & Shanahan (Tie)						
Year	Browne	DeValera	Duff	Ebenrecht	Leman	Shanahan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	04	10	02	08	06	12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	02	06	10	04	12	08
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	04	12	02	10	06	08
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	06	08	02	10	12	04
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	12	06	08	03	03	10
TOTAL	28 (04)	42 (11)	24 (02)	35 (06)	39 (08)	42 (11)

# Blackrock College Castle 62

Haberdashers' Boys' School 5 - 23/10/2024





## Boarders Retreat Reflection - Albert Lindner



**O**n the 15<sup>th</sup> of October the Boarders set out for their annual retreat. After a quick breakfast we boarded the bus. On the way up to the Wicklow Mountains, the atmosphere was electric. Spirits were high as we started the walk noises of laughter and talking filled the quiet forest. The excitement quickly dissipated and as the slope got steeper, the giggles were replaced by huffing and puffing. The last stretch up the mountain was the hardest, but the feeling of having made the effort added to our sense of accomplishment. The mood was good as chants were sung on the way down. The next stop on the bus was the Merry Plough Boy. We were rewarded with a chicken lunch. We all got closer as a

collective and enjoyed each other's company. The day will be remembered fondly.



## Boarding School News

**T**he Castle had a busy few weeks of events, with the boys getting out and about on a nice selection of trips.

After getting to enjoy the long weekend, the castle was back and bustling. Ms. Kate Canning started up the book club and public speaking clubs for all boarders, which will run through-out the year, and the castle choir got started on rehearsals for music at the Christmas party!

Mr. O'Sullivan brought the lads out to watch housemaster John play with Clontarf against UCD, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Years had a great evening of pizzas and games to celebrate their Junior Certificate results.

The annual Boarders Retreat saw the lads hike to the top of Djouce mountain in Wicklow to get some great views. A lovely day out to round out the half term!



## Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



### **Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Class terminates at 3:45pm for **Mid-Term Break**

### **Monday to Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-Term Break**

### **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Transition Year Tours

### **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

CAO Talks for Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Years (7:00pm)

### **Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

Career Talks 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years II (10am)

### **Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Oide Cluster Day - Classes suspended

**We hope you have a wonderful & safe Halloween!**

