



# Blackrock College Bulletin

2024-2025 Bulletin No. 6



## Christmas Carol Service

This year's Carol Service took place in a full Sports Hall with all students, including Willow Park First Year, invited to join and sing together and listen to the story of the birth of Jesus. The College Leman Choir led us in song, accompanied by our Orchestra who produced a wonderful sound. Patrick Cody, Isaac Moss and Conor Blackburn were our brilliant Sixth Year soloists for *O Holy Night*. A special mention must also go to our two sleigh bell ringers: Peter O'Connor, Sixth Year, and Ethan Edwards, Second Year. Congratulations to all our readers, singers and musicians on a festive liturgy bringing our school community together in celebration of Christmas!

The leadership and example of the 6th Years at the Christmas Carol Service through their reading and contribution to the singing was impressive. In particular we thank Isaac Moss, Patrick Cody and Conor Blackburn for their magnificent rendition of 'O Holy Night'.





## Cross Country

Congratulations to the 2nd and 3rd Year Cross Country team, who represented the school brilliantly at St. Vincent's Cross Country event in Castleknock. Pictured alongside Coach Eddie McDonagh are team members Jamie Simpson, Fionn Spillane (Third Years) Tom Delaney, Timo Prendergast, Milo Hunt, Peter McKone Giles, Ronan McDonagh, Eli Cassidy, Christian Byrne, and Jack Moloney (Second Years) . Well done to all on their fantastic effort!

## Coding and Robotics Club Tour of Google

On Wednesday, December 4th, the Blackrock College Coding and Robotics Club had an exciting opportunity to tour the Google offices in Grand Canal Dock. The visit began with an engaging presentation on the history of Google and its presence in Dublin, providing students with fascinating insights into one of the world's leading tech companies.

Following the presentation, students participated in a lively Q&A session with a panel of Googlers, where they asked thoughtful questions and received valuable advice on careers in technology. The day concluded with a guided tour of four of Google's impressive office buildings, showcasing the innovative and dynamic work environment that Google is known for.

Overall, the visit was an inspiring experience for all attendees, sparking new ideas and aspirations for their future in technology.

Coding and Robotics Club is open to all students and meets every Wednesday from 2pm to 3.30pm in the Computer Lab.



## SCT News

We congratulate Sami Bishti (Captain), Johnny O'Sullivan, Michael Walsh and Paddy Clancy (Vice-Captains) (Sixth Years) on their appointment to these SCT Leadership roles. The narrow defeat to St. Michaels in the Noel Turley Cup and the 27-26 victory in horrendous conditions away to Clifton on the front lawn, though both contrasting results, showed the undoubted potential of the squad in the season ahead.







## TY Parents' Coffee Morning

The TY Parents' Coffee Morning, held on Friday, December 6th, in the library, was a resounding success. The event showcased the collaborative spirit of Transition Year students and staff, with a delightful combination of homemade treats and freshly brewed coffee.

The mince pies, expertly prepared by the TY boys in collaboration with the Home Economics class, were a particular highlight. Adding to the festive atmosphere, students from the Barista course took charge of serving coffee, demonstrating their newfound skills to attendees.



The event attracted a large crowd, united in support of the St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) Christmas Appeal. Through generous contributions, over €1,300 was raised to help those in need during the holiday season.

This heartwarming initiative exemplified the school community's dedication to charity and teamwork, leaving a lasting impact on both participants and beneficiaries alike.



## Careers in Sixth Year

It has been a very busy term from a careers perspective with Mr Drury giving an informative CAO presentation to parents and also CAO classes to the students. This was followed by the Careers Fair the following week.

## News from Abroad

Philip Guinan (Class of 2024) outside the famous Dome at Notre Dame where he is studying Accounting at the Mendoza College of Business and has so far represented Notre Dame College in rugby and GAA playing against other US colleges.



## U19 Badminton

Congratulations to the U19A Badminton team on their fantastic achievement of reaching the semi-finals of the competition! The team has shown tremendous skill and determination throughout the season and will now face Sandford Park in what promises to be an exciting match during the first week of January. Best of luck to the players as they prepare for this important game.

## TY Soccer Marathon

On Friday, November 29th, the TY Soccer Marathon united 120 students for a full day of action, camaraderie, and charity, raising an impressive €8,000. The marathon ran from 9am to 9pm, with games played on the All-Weather and JCT pitches. Playoff matches added excitement as teams battled it out in the Jubilee Hall. Students were evenly matched into balanced teams, ensuring a competitive yet fun atmosphere. The event culminated in a thrilling finale, where the winners of the Shield and Cup tournaments faced off against teacher and past pupil team in a light-hearted, spirited showdown, with the TY students provided with a late evening lesson! The day concluded with all gathering in the Home Economics room to enjoy well-earned pizza, reflecting on their collective efforts and sportsmanship.



## Junior v Senior Debate

On Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup> the Blackrock College junior and senior debaters went head-to-head in our bi - annual event with the juniors proposing the motion that: This House would punish sports teams for the misbehaviour of their fans (violence, offensive chants, offensive images).

Juniors speaking order: Ross Murphy, Dan Hayden, Paddy English and Tate Tomkin Beddy (3<sup>rd</sup> Years).

Seniors speaking order: Jamie Browne Lynch (5<sup>th</sup> Year), Leo Fowler (6<sup>th</sup> Year), Darragh McCarthy (5<sup>th</sup> Year) and Matthew Leamy (TY).

This year, judges Mr. Orrock and Ms. Pierce awarded the seniors as the winning side and Tate Tomkin Beddy as best speaker of the day.





## Economics and Commerce Society Welcomes Guest Speaker

The Economics and Commerce Society was delighted to welcome Gwen Layden, owner of George's Street Arcade, to the school recently. Ms. Layden's talk focused on the journey of building her successful business, the importance of having solid systems in place and what it means to put ethics at the heart of your business. Ms. Layden shared valuable insights on how treating clients and customers with kindness and empathy can significantly impact a company's reputation and success.

The event was attended by forty-five enthusiastic students who were eager to learn from Ms. Layden's experience. Her engaging presentation not only inspired the students but also provided them with practical advice on how to navigate the business world with integrity and compassion. The session concluded with a lively Q.& A., leaving the students motivated and equipped with new perspectives on ethical business practices.

## Fourth Year Soccer

The TY Soccer Team progressed to the Last 16 of the FAI Leinster Schools Cup with a 5-2 win at home to a strong Arklow CBS side. This game was played in very rainy and windy conditions which the squad dealt with excellently. A captain's performance from Conor O'Neill saw him score a hat-trick with Seán MacManus and Tom O'Donovan contributing a goal each. It was an excellent performance from the team throughout. Our next match is a last 16 match v Oatlands College after Christmas.



## Boarding School News

The Boarding School has been busy coming up to the Christmas holidays – David Montgomery kindly came in to help the Castle Choir prepare for the carol service this year, and they never sounded better, with a lovely turn out from parents to support them!

The 6<sup>th</sup> Years enjoyed a trip out go-karting ahead of their exams – Con Mason (6<sup>th</sup> Year) took a narrow victory over Luca Casolari, with intense races all round!

The lads also enjoyed a (cold!) trip out to the Aviva to see Ireland in action in the November international series

Looking forward to strong performances in the exams – and a well-deserved break!





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Christmas Jumper Day

Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Years and to Mr Pat Smyth for creating a wonderful atmosphere in the Rec Area wearing a wide range of Christmas Jumpers



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Table Quiz Fundraiser for SVP

Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Years for raising €5,000 for the SVP at the Annual Table Quiz.

A wonderful event with the TY students assisting with the corrections and collation of scores, Mr Owen Brennan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Dean, designing the questions and Mr John Murphy as an outstanding MC!

There was a tie for first place between Morocco and Spain leading to a Sudden Death Round with Morocco emerging victorious.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year St Vincent de Paul Quiz

The SVP quiz raised over €5000 euro. The winning team was New Zealand made up of:

Christopher Cullen  
Rudy Gibney  
Oscar MacManus  
Sam O'Donohoe  
Simon Quinn

## 6th Year Fundraising

186 sixth Year students (plus Mr. Drury, Ms Crimmins and one very hungry Dean!) completed a 24-Hour Fast on behalf of the SVP Society between Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November raising a phenomenal total of €18,237.72!! My thanks to the many parents who contributed a prize towards the raffle. Between this, Christmas Jumpers and decorating the 6th Year Christmas tree in the rec, Christmas cheer was not in short supply amongst the Class of 2025!







**Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!**



**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Classes re-commence

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Transition Year Tours

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent-Teacher Meeting

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Parent-Teacher Meeting

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

TY Parents' Social

*Blackrock College would like to wish everyone in the Blackrock College Community a peaceful and joyous Christmas*