



Blackrock College Bulletin

2024-2025 Bulletin No. 10

Deans' Report

As term two continues, we encourage all students to maintain their momentum in relation to academic progress. As reinforced for many at the well-attended Parent-Teacher meetings since the New Year, the value of the weekly Application Cards and monthly Progress Cards cannot be underestimated. They provide clear indicators of the levels of overall effort and academic progress especially as the Easter Exams are only a few short weeks away. Students are continually encouraged to be proud and accountable and to show their cards at home.

Since returning to school after the Christmas the corridors, classrooms, CADLC and Lecture Hall have been a hive of activity for various key events in our Calendar. Catholic Schools' Week including the Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel, Wellbeing Week and a wonderful array of events organised by the Students Wellbeing Committee. Congratulations to Henry Brown and Leo Fowler, the 6th Year representatives on the Wellbeing Committee on a hugely successful Wellbeing Week.

Congratulations to the 6th Year Digital Leaders; Patrick Cody, Zack Egan-Ruane, Ben McElligott, Darragh O'Neill and Ishaan Pandey on their organisation of an excellent Safer Internet Day under the guidance of Mr. Grumley Traynor.

As part of this week all year groups attended Addiction Awareness talks during the day with the annual Past vs Present Debate on after school. The excitement was palpable along St. Patrick's Corridor at the annual Machakos sale as the sugar rush kicked in. As always, a well-supported event! TYs continued fundraising for Aidlink, before they headed off for their Immersion Trip to Kenya. We wish them well.

The Cup Campaigns for both SCT and JCT are well underway as are all the Rugby Leagues, Soccer Competitions and all the extra-curricular activities in the College. Remember get up, get out, engage and be active doing whatever you enjoy.

Machakos Annual Cake Sale

The 6th Year Parents' Committee has been busy this term with particular focus on the fundraising for the trip to Kenya this summer. The annual cake sale in aid of Machakos on 31st January was a huge success with over €3,000 raised. This will fund the purchase of all the equipment for the technical college which will be constructed by the Class of 2025 this summer. The Ladies' Lunch on the 7th of February, a huge success, was sold out. Coming up there is the Men's Lunch on 28th March. The Graduation sub-Committee is also working hard on the planning and organisation of the graduation for the Class of 2025 which takes place on Sunday 18th May.

On Sunday 2nd February we were treated to another phenomenal Leman Festival Concert with excellent 6th Year representation across the board. In particular we

congratulate Fintan Ballard, Conor Blackburn, Mike Brady, Patrick Cody, Jack Drumm, Mark Goss-Keogh, Jack Luff, Conor McCarron, Isaac Moss, Mark O'Kane, Lucas Perez, Fionn Whelan, Edward Wilson and our fantastic MCs for the evening Harrison Carr and James Neary.

PPU Career Mock Interviews

On Thursday 23rd January Peter Cosgrove gave a superb talk to the group about the ever-changing world of work which was very well received. This leads in nicely to the Career Mock interviews ran by the PPU where interviews in many disciplines will take place on February 12th. Almost half of the Class of 2025 have signed up.

Boarding House News



The Castle was all energy coming into **Cup Season**, with the lads getting out to support their housemates – Artur Smykovskiy and Michael O'Sullivan made opening appearances for the team, with Ben Crowley and Declan Cadden getting pitch time too hoping to bring back the cup, with the castle cheerleading squad cheering them on from the sidelines!

The castle had to hunker down for Storm Eowyn, and the lads got together for a morning breakfast session to bear out the storm.

There was another celebration besides cup victories – the end of January saw **Chinese New Year**, and the boys got together to have a celebrate with a tasty feast - 新年快乐!

And as usual, the boys enjoyed scheduled outings to the movies, sea swims, and a hike up Killiney Hill.



Leman Festival Concert XXXIX

The 39th edition of the Leman Festival Concert took place on Sunday, February 2nd in the National Concert Hall – a fitting date as it was the feast of Ven. Francis Libermann, the "*Second Founder of the Holy Ghost Congregation*".

As one of the highlights of our school calendar, the Leman Concert is a reminder of the enduring power of music to inspire, connect, and unite us.

This year, our theme "**Anthems**" was a celebration of songs that stir the soul, galvanise movements, and define moments in our lives. Congratulations to our wonderful choirs, orchestra, ensembles, bands and soloists. Over 200 people were involved in this mammoth production!

Thank you to our audience and all the supporters, especially behind the scenes. Next year will be the 40th Leman Festival Concert and we are already excitedly planning for it – **Be There!**



Leman Festival Concert XXXIX



Senior Soccer Updates



FAI Leinster Cup 1/2 Final

The soccer squad faced Castleknock Community College in the semi-final of the Leinster Cup. A dominating start to the game saw the team go 2-0 up thanks to two **Conor O'Neill (TY)** goals. An excellent start to the 2nd half saw a **Jack Kelly (5th Year)** header crash off the cross bar. In the 59th minute, an **Archie Quinn (3rd Year)** strike gave the team breathing room. Two more goals from Archie sealed the victory

before a late Castleknock goal.

The squad have qualified for the Leinster final on Monday 24th of February against Salesians College, Celbridge. This is the first Leinster final the school have qualified for in 17 years - **Be There!**

Blackrock College 5-2 Castleknock Community College



Dublin South Metropolitan League Final:

Marlay Park was the location for this year's South Metro final. Playing against an excellent side, the soccer squad had to dig deep. **Archie Quinn (3rd year)** scored two goals, then winning in extra time, to see the team win the South league.

This victory qualifies the team directly into the Metro 1/2 final and the Leinster Champions League.

Blackrock College 2-1 Marian College





Sailing

Congratulations to **Guy Smith (2nd)**, **Maurice Nelligan (2nd)**, **Tom Delaney (2nd)**, **James Gorman (3rd)**, **John Healy (TY)** and **Dan Moran (TY)** on winning the 3rd round of the Shanahan Cup in the INSS. This is a fantastic achievement. The boys have followed up their previous round victory and now going into the last round of the competition are in a great position to win the overall competition.

We wish them well in the next round of the competition.

Post Primary Schools Hurling

Our 2nd Year hurlers were off to a flying start in U.C.D. on Friday last (February 7th). In their opening game of the season, they racked up a mammoth score of 6-10 against an under-strength Salesian College. In blustery conditions, both teams exchanged early scores and were evenly matched for the first quarter. The second half was particularly one-sided with Blackrock dominating in every position on the field.

Blackrock College 6-10

Salesian Celbridge 2-5

Leinster Senior Schools

Blackrock swimming delivered another stellar performance at the Leinster Senior Schools.

In the junior events, **Sam Ramke (2nd Year)**, **Jack McNamara (1st Year)**, and **Aidan Whitaker (1st Year)** dominated the relays, winning gold in both the 4x50 freestyle and medley. Strong individual performances saw Jack, Josh, and Sam finish in the top 10 of the 100m freestyle, Aidan place 10th in 100m breaststroke, and **George Gaskin (1st Year)** secure 5th in the 100m butterfly.

The intermediate boys also impressed, with **James Kelly**, **Daire Hannon**, **Finn O'Reilly**, and **Nate LaMont (all 3rd Year)** taking bronze in the 4x50 medley relay. **Garry Kingston (3rd Year)** contributed to a strong freestyle relay finish, while Daire, recovering from injury, placed 16th in the 400m freestyle.

The senior boys narrowly missed the podium in the 4x50 freestyle relay, despite strong swims. **Gerard Egan (5th Year)** delivered a solid breaststroke leg in the 4x50 medley relay.

With these performances, the team has earned spots at the Irish National Schools in April, where they'll aim for more success.



TY Immersion Programme – Kenya

A group of 26 students accompanied by 4 teachers have arrived safely in Kenya last Sunday as part of a 10-day Immersion Programme. The boys have been getting to know the culture, traditions and society whilst attending Holy Ghost School Makueni.

Stay tuned to the next edition for further updates on this adventure!



Safer Internet Day 2025

Digital Leaders
Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 4th February

Garda Talk
3rd Year: Period 4 (12.08)
5th Year: Period 5 (12.45)
6th Year: Period 6 (13.15)

Identifying Photos: Real vs AI
2nd Year: Period 2
3rd Year: Period 4
4th Year: Period 3
5th Year: Wednesday: Period 3
6th Year: Period 5

Digital Leader Classroom Visits
2nd Year: Period 1
4th Year: Period 2

Safer Internet Day is about helping to create awareness of a better internet for all users – **Be Caring!** We recognised this day on February 4th in the College and our Digital Leaders prepared different activities for our students, including talks from the Gardaí, an activity identifying whether images were real or AI generated, and classroom visits by our Digital Leaders.

Webwise (www.webwise.ie) is the Irish Internet Safety Awareness Centre. They provide information, advice and resources for schools, families and young people on online safety and digital citizenship. Webwise are hosting a series of free webinars to empower parents to support their child as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of the online

world. You can register for them here: <https://www.webwise.ie/news/parent-webinars/>.

Wellbeing Week 27-31 January 2025



The beginning of this term's Wellbeing Week coincided with **Mental Health Action Day** with a message of **BE KIND** and **CONNECT**.

Staff and 6th Year students wore orange and 6th Years enjoyed a coffee break treat.

Other **highlights of the week** included:

- Lunchtime **Drop in Creativity Hub**. (This event was a big success and may be repeated more frequently throughout the year.)
- **Cubbie Time** for all. Heart Checks were also offered in school.
- **Breathing Techniques** were offered all week in PE and SPHE.
- **Cuppa Club** for 2nd and 3rd Years was received as enthusiastically as ever. A new ticketing system ensured an even smoother rollout of goodies.
- A **Photography Competition** on the theme of *What Brings You Contentment in Life?*
- A **Staff Wellbeing Walk** and **breakfast**.



Junior Debating



On Saturday February 1st, Blackrock College had three teams competing, alongside over 120 other students, in the Belvedere College Junior MACE:

Rock A: Ross Murphy and Dan Hayden

Rock B: Tate Tomkin Beddy and Daire Moran

Rock C: Paddy English and Arlo Liddy

Motions included:

This House Would abolish the phone pouch system in schools.

This House Believes That social media is a trustworthy news source.

This House Supports absolute free speech

This House Believes That Ireland is failing its youth.

It was a challenging debate, and we were delighted that the students could compete in such a renowned competition. Special congratulations to Tate Tomkin Beddy on being awarded seventh best speaker of the competition.

What I'm Reading

To promote reading for pleasure, Ms A. Dillon invited staff and students to share what they were reading, and generated posters through the website <https://whatimreading.org/>. It is great to see so many staff and students reading such a wide variety of books.

Well done to Patrick Burns (2nd Year), Michael Dunn (2nd Year), Patrick Burns (2nd Year), Rian O'Halloran (2nd Year), Lucas Perez (6th Year) and Ben McElligott (6th Year) who all won a prize for entering. Staff posters can be found in front of the library and student posters along St. Patrick's Corridor.



The Holocaust Memorial Day

On January 26th Tate Tomkin Beddy (3rd Year), and Dominic Doyle and Jack Spain (both 5th Year) read from the scroll of names at this year's Holocaust Memorial event in **Round Room** in **The Mansion House**.

Alongside guest speakers such as the President of Ireland, the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Chairperson of Holocaust Ireland Education, there were readings from victims and a poignant candle-lighting ceremony.

Karaoke in the Library

The traditional karaoke session took place in the library on Friday 31st January 2025 as part of wellbeing week. The atmosphere was great with students cheering their classmates on.

A big thank you to the library committee who ran the show and well done to Toby Brown-Lynch (2nd Year), Paddy English (3rd Year), Elliot Brophy (5th Year), Kieran Flowers (5th Year), Zach Egan-Ruane (6th Year) and Mr Toolan for all getting into the spirit of the event.



ROCKMUN 2025

ROCKMUN 2025 took place on Friday and Saturday the 7th and 8th of February after the recent storm forced a date change.

This saw the College welcome 255 students from across the greater Dublin area for 2 days of debating, and it was a great success. There was great participation across the college, with every year group represented in the planning and operation of the conference. Preparations are now underway to pass over the leadership of the society in the coming weeks from current 6th years to next year's 6th years.

Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



February 17th-21st, Monday to Friday

Mid-Term Break

February 23-28th, Sunday to Friday

Holy Ghost Prep, Philadelphia Visit

February 26th to March 4th, Wednesday to Tuesday

6th Year Mock Orals

March 3rd to 7th, Monday to Friday

Environment Action Week 2

March 4th to 7th, Tuesday to Friday

2nd/4th Year Musical