



Blackrock College Bulletin

2024-2025 Bulletin no. 9

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025 19TH – 25TH JANUARY

The theme of Catholic Schools week, this year, was **"Alive in Christ"**. Religion classes took the opportunity to reflect on what that means and students produced photographs of what **"gives me life"**. While sport featured heavily, students also identified family, friends, music, art and holidays too.

Prayer was central to our celebrations and students and staff, in very large numbers, opted to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at various times throughout the week. The chance to have quiet time in the College Chapel really appealed.

When the weather permitted, students took a guided, reflection walk around the campus – stopping at points along the way to pray and think about family, their future, nature, the sick and those who have died.

Finally, staff got to enjoy our annual religion themed quiz in the staffroom on Thursday.

As a Catholic, Spiritan, school, our faith community is "Alive in Christ", and it was refreshing to focus on that theme for the week.



Basketball

The Second Year Basketball team had a challenging start to the East Boys' A League. Their first game against a well-organised Coláiste Eoin team ended in a score of 49-9. Eoin got an early run in the game and put 'Rock under a lot of pressure.

The squad, however, was not deterred by this loss. The team travelled away to play against Pres Bray. Bray's full-court press and Zone defence made it difficult for 'Rock to get to the basket. The players did well under this pressure in the first quarter, but it wasn't enough to turn the tide of a game dominated by Bray, who ultimately won with a score of 73-13.

Co-Captains Tom O'Brien and Conor Carey and the rest of the team are preparing for their upcoming home game against Gonzaga on Friday January 31st.

Irish Indoor Rowing Championships 2025

Building on a successful 2024 campaign, the Rowing Team returned to the University of Limerick on January 18th for the 2025 Irish Indoor Rowing Championships. Ten rowers competed, with five securing medals.

The day started strong with **Garry Kingston (3rd Year)** dominating the J15 1000m race, retaining the National Championship previously won by **Jon-Luc Elias (4th Year)** in 2024. Garry also impressed with a 7th place finish in the 500m event.

Jon-Luc Elias earned a close second in the J16 2000m, just 0.8 seconds behind first place, while **Charlie Schmitt, Daniel Moran, Hugo Higgins, Andrew Clancy, and Oliver Hammersley (4th Year)** all put in strong performances.

Matthew Neary (6th Year) placed 11th in the highly competitive J18 2000m, with **Eoin Fitzpatrick (4th Year)** and **Ian Duane (5th Year)** also finishing strong. The day ended with a thrilling tie for first in the Men's Transition Year Relay.

Congratulations to all participants and to the coaching team of Pat Gannon, Matthew O'Donnell (2022), Frazer McGinn (2023), Harry Pierce (2024) and James O'Sullivan (2014).



Rowing Club Training Camp in Seville in January 2025



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TY RNLI Water Safety Talk

On Thursday January 23rd, a number of TY students engaged in a webinar ran by RNLI Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. This session focused on raising water safety awareness among young people. The presentation was engaging and informative, ensuring that our students understand how to stay safe in, on, and around water.

Cross-Country

Congratulations to our Cross-Country runners who ran in the East Leinster competition on Wednesday January 22nd, in Phoenix Park. **Charlie White (5th Year)** and **George McGilton (6th Year)** qualified for the Senior Leinster Cross-Country final. **Cameron Fallon (4th Year)** also qualified in his Intermediate 4000m run. The Leinster Final will take place in Phoenix Park on February 12th. Wishing the best of luck to our runners.

Senior 5000m: Charlie White and George McGilton

Intermediate 4000m: Cameron Fallon, Jamie Simpson, John Cox, Eoin Fitzpatrick.

Junior 2500m: Ronan McDonagh, Jack Moloney, Eli Cassidy, Timo Prendergast, and Tom Delaney.



Rugby

On January 28th, the SCT rugby team faced St. Mary's in the first round of the Senior Cup. It was a closely contested match, with both teams battling hard throughout the game. The SCT players showed impressive skill and determination, securing a victory.

We would also like to wish the JCT rugby team the best of luck in their first round of the Junior Cup on February 6th.



Paul Hartnett (Third Year) Captain of the JCT at the Whole School Assembly Cup Rally



Joe McCarthy, Sami Bishti (Captain of the SCT) and Hugo Keenan at the Whole School Assembly Cup Rally

Senior Soccer

The senior soccer team have continued their good form in the past two weeks. Following on from their last 16 win against Patricians Newbridge, the team travelled to Kilbarrick to take on St. Fintan's Sutton in the FAI Leinster Cup 1/4 final. The scoreline (6-1) does not reflect the game; it was only 2-0 until the 70th minute. The squad look forward to their Leinster Cup semi-final against Castleknock Community College on February 12th.

In the metropolitan league (south section) the squad faced an excellent Clonkeen College in the semi-final. It was a top-class game of football - played in excellent spirits in horrendous conditions. Jack Kelly (5th Year) gave us an early 1-0 lead only for Clonkeen to equalise in the 30th minute. The game ended 1-1 and extra time was required. With the game destined for penalties, in injury time in the 2nd half of extra time, a Conor O'Neill (TY) free kick was turned into his own net by a Clonkeen player to give us a 2-1 lead. A moment later after Clonkeen pushed all their players up for a free kick, a Geordy Lavin (6th Year) break away gave us a 3-1 lead and qualification into the final on Friday 7th February against Marian College. We wish Geordy and the squad the best of luck in their upcoming games.



Trinity Entrance Exhibition Awards

From the Class of 2024, Harry Sheridan, Donnacha O'Riordan, Jack Murphy, Daniel Begley, Sam Merren attending their Trinity Entrance Exhibition Award Celebration, hosted by Dr Linda Doyle, Provost and President of Trinity College Dublin and Professor Vincent Wade Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies in Trinity College. This is the most prestigious award for these top scoring students who are making the most enthusiastic and positive start to their undergraduate studies. We congratulate them, their families and their teachers and wish them continued success.



TY Guest Speaker – Neal McMahon

As part of the TY Programme, we had the privilege of hosting Neal McMahon (Class of 2004). Neal is currently Director of Operations at Ryanair. Neal delivered a very insightful presentation to students on his career to date and the Ryanair success story. His stories, advice, and expertise provided the students with a fresh perspective on career choices and personal development. Students truly appreciated his engaging approach, and the practical lessons shared. We thank Neal for proving such an impactful session.

TY Off the Ball Sports Quiz Qualifier

TY students engaged in an Off the Ball Sports Quiz Qualifier on Tuesday, January 21st. This table quiz was organised by students travelling to Kenya next month on an Immersion Programme with all proceeds raised in aid of Aidlink. This event saw enthusiastic participation from all students showcasing their sports knowledge and passion for all things sport. The national event, held on Wednesday brought together bright young minds from schools across the country to test their knowledge of sports. Well done to the two teams who qualified to partake on behalf of Blackrock College.
Team 1: Harry Clancy, Paddy Scally, Rocky Kenneally, Oliver Tuthill
Team 2: Hugo Cullen, James Foot, Alex Beatty and Adam O'Connor



Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



Tuesday, 4th February 2025

Safer Internet Day

Thursday, 13th February 2025

2nd Year Parent-Teacher Meetings (4:15pm-6:45pm)

Friday, 14th February 2025

Class terminates for Mid-Term Break