



Blackrock College Bulletin

2024-2025 Bulletin No. 11

SciFest in Schools



On Tuesday 4th March Blackrock College hosted SciFest in schools. SciFest is a nationwide science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fair program for students in Ireland. It provides students with the opportunity to develop and showcase their science projects in a fun and engaging way.

5 judges interviewed our 2nd Year science students on investigations they had completed on a topic of their choice. They had their work cut out as there was a total of 100 projects on display in the science corridor. Congratulations to all the 2nd Years, winners will be announced soon.

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.



Water Polo

Congratulations to 2nd Years and Shane Ferguson and Cian Hughes, members of Sandycove Water Polo Team who were both selected to represent Leinster at the U15 inter provincial competition over the February Midterm.

Blackrock College Water polo team welcome all players who would like to try the sport. Come along on Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool.

Cross Country

Congratulations to **Charlie White (5th Year)** and **George McGilton (6th Year)** for their outstanding performances in the Leinster Cross Country Senior 6000m event. Both athletes showcased incredible determination and endurance in a highly competitive field.

A special commendation to **Charlie White**, who has secured qualification for the All-Ireland Final on March 8th in Ballybrit, Galway. We wish him the very best as he prepares to represent the school on the national stage.

Well done to both competitors for their dedication and achievement!



Senior Cup Rugby

The Senior Cup Team (SCT) put in a dominant performance to defeat Cistercian College Roscrea in the semi-final on March 6th. It was a well-earned victory, with both sides showing tremendous skill and determination.

The team now sets its sights on the final, where they will take on Terenure College on St. Patrick's Day. Best of luck to the squad as they compete for the title!

Junior Cup Rugby

The Junior Cup Team (JCT) put in a strong performance to defeat St. Mary's in the second round. It was a well-earned victory, with both teams showing great skill and fortitude.

Their focus now shifts to the semi-final, where they will take on St. Vincent's Castleknock College next week. Best of luck to the squad as they push for a place in the final!



Senior Soccer Leinster Final



The senior soccer team joined a small group of Blackrock boys by claiming the FAI Schools Leinster cup on February 24th, with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Salesians College, Celbridge. 22 years since the last victory.

Despite conceding an early goal, the team showed great resilience, with Captain **Geordy Lavin (6th Year)** leading the charge. Lavin scored both goals, inspiring his team to a memorable comeback and securing the school's first Leinster Cup title since 2003.

Congratulations to the players and coaching staff on this incredible achievement!

Fourth Year Soccer

The TY soccer team delivered a dominant performance in the last 16 of the Leinster Schools Cup, securing an emphatic 9-0 victory over Oatlands College.

Captain **Conor O'Neill** led by example, finding the net twice, while Tom O'Donovan also contributed a brace. The remaining goals came from **Ariston Xourafas, Mark O'Meara, Sean Cox, Eoghan Flood, and Finn O'Byrne**, showcasing the team's attacking depth and teamwork.

With confidence high after this impressive win, the squad now turns its focus to the quarterfinals, where they will face Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole. Best of luck to the team in the next round!

Team Bonding



The senior soccer team marked Pancake Tuesday with a team bonding session at lunchtime. The lads made pancakes together, taking a break from their usual routine and enjoying some time to relax ahead of next week's All-Ireland Final.

All-Ireland Semi-Final

Another huge milestone for our senior soccer team, who have secured a place in the FAI Schools Dr. Tony O'Neill Senior National Cup final following a dramatic penalty shootout victory over St. Eunan's, Letterkenny on March 27th at Oriel Park, Dundalk.

After a tense scoreless draw through regular and extra time, the match was decided by penalties. 'Rock held their nerve, winning 4-1 in the shootout, thanks in large part to an outstanding performance from goalkeeper **Ronan Ffrench (6th Year)**, who made two crucial saves to deny St. Eunan's and send his team through to the final.

The final will take place on Wednesday, April 12th, at 1:00 PM in Athlone Town FC, where Rock will face Rice College for the national title. Best of luck to the team as they aim to bring home the trophy!



Soccer Gallery



Table Tennis

The Table Tennis League and Cup matches are in full swing, with all our teams remaining unbeaten at this early stage of the season.

Our **Senior A** team is on track to defend their Leinster double from last year, securing dominant 6-0 victories over Castleknock, Gonzaga, and Coláiste Eanna. The **Senior B** team is also performing strongly, with wins against Oatlands A, Oatlands B, and Stepside ETSS.

In the junior competitions, **Junior A** has advanced to the Junior Cup quarterfinals after a 4-0 victory over James' Street CBS. **Junior 2A** have recorded wins over High School and Oatlands, while **Junior 2B** defeated Gonzaga, drew with Oatlands in the League, and claimed victory over St. Tiernan's in the Cup. **Junior 2C** have also impressed, beating St. Seton's in the League and Gonzaga in the Cup.

At the Minor level, **Minor A** secured a League win against High School, continuing the strong performances across all divisions.

Well done to all players, and best of luck in the upcoming matches!

Lollipop Day 2025



Lollipop Day, the annual Oesophageal Cancer Fund awareness and fundraising campaign, returned last week.

60 Transition Year students volunteered to support the campaign across the City Centre on Friday. Their enthusiasm and commitment to supporting this cause made a significant impact and we are hopeful the funds raised will go a long way in supporting research and providing hope to those affected.



Rock Run 2025 Launch



The launch event for the upcoming fundraiser run was held on Tuesday afternoon. The event aimed to raise awareness and gather support for '**Rock Run 2025**' scheduled for this **Saturday, 8th March** across the College campus grounds. The fundraiser run will support **Aidlink**, with all proceeds going towards providing quality education to children in underprivileged areas of Kenya.

We were honoured to welcome our distinguished guest, **Luke McCann**.

Luke is a proud member of the Blackrock College Class of 2016 and an elite Irish middle-distance runner. Since his school days, Luke has gone on to represent Ireland on the international stage, competing in major events across Europe such as the 2024 Olympics in Paris. A standout in the 1500m, he has set records and continually pushed the limits of his sport. Beyond his

achievements on the track, Luke embodies the values of hard work, resilience, and determination—qualities that inspire all of us here at the College.

Also present at the launch event were our event sponsors, **Sherry Fitzgerald Commercial, MSL Ballsbridge, Nolan Coaches, Daft.ie, Explorium, VITHIT and Peter Mark**. Thank you kindly to them for their generosity, without them this event would not be possible.

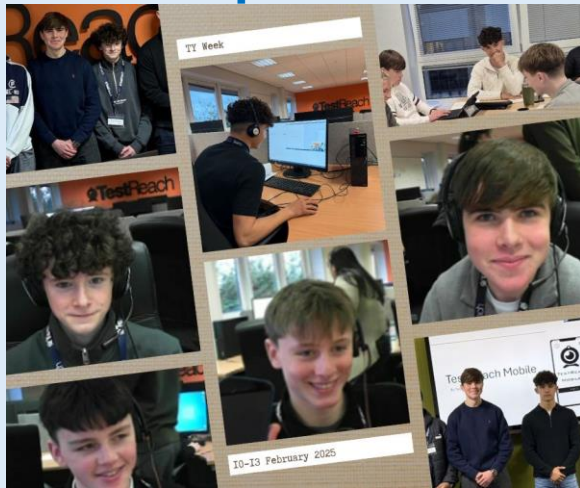
All Blackrock College community members are encouraged to register for the run, walk or jog, volunteer, or donate to the cause

<https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/BlackrockCollegeRockRun2025>

All support is greatly appreciated.



Work Experience



Transition Year students on Work Experience last month.



TY Tours

On Tuesday, March 4th, Transition Year students embarked on an exciting day of tours, splitting into four groups to visit different activity locations.

One group travelled to Beyond the Trees Avondale, where they explored the treetop walkway and took the thrilling spiral slide from the top of the tower.

Another group visited GoQuest, an indoor challenge zone where they worked in teams to solve puzzles and complete physical tasks.

The third group went to Explorium, a hands-on science and sports museum, where they engaged with interactive exhibits and experienced the excitement of science in action. The final group played Footee Footgolf,

combining soccer and golf for a fun and competitive outdoor experience.

The day was a fantastic opportunity for students to bond, develop teamwork skills, and enjoy new experiences.



Junior Debating

Five of our junior debaters qualified to compete in the octo-finals of the UCD *'Junior Schools Debating Competition.'* Tate Tomkin Beddy, Simon Quinn, Ross Murphy and Dan Hayden debated the motion: *'This House Believes there should be a mandatory retirement age'* and Daniel Goss opposed the motion: *'This House Prefers independent politicians to political parties.'* Tate, Ross, Dan and Daniel have now all qualified to compete in the quarter finals in UCD on March 26th.

Our junior debaters are competing against Willow Park 1st Years on Tuesday March 11th opposing the motion: **'This House Believes That society today lacks empathy and compassion.'**

Lastly, we congratulate the following debaters who have qualified to compete in the **National MACE** on April 5th: Tate Tomkin Beddy, Ross Murphy, Dan Hayden, Daire Moran and Arlo Liddy.

UCD Ad Astra Scholarships 2024-2025

Congratulations to Samson Grennell, Robert MacHale (class of 2024) and Conor Hughes (class of 2023) (Academic) & Charlie Molony (class of 2024), Luke O'Regan and Michael Yarr (class of 2023) (Elite Sports) on their award of an **Ad Astra Scholarship**, a fantastic achievement which reflects well on them, their families and the College.



UCD Entrance Scholars Awards

Congratulations to Gavin Bowen-O'Connor, Callum Dunne, Daniel Keeley and Tom O'Riordan (all class of 2023); Diarmaid Byrne, Robert Byrne, Simon Considine, Oisin Daly, Samson Grennell, Eoin Healy, Luca Kenny, Sam Kilroy, Robert MacHale, Cian McAdam, Thomas O'Connor, Conor O'Leary and Shane Van Zuydam (all class of 2024) (Academic High Achievers) and Cormac Morris (class of 2024) (Academic High Achiever and Symphony Orchestra Scholar), each of whom has been awarded a **U.C.D. Entrance Scholars Award**.

In congratulating them on their achievement, we acknowledge the supportive, encouraging and mentoring role played by their parents, teachers and peers.

Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



Monday to Thursday, 10th – 14th of March

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Monday, 17th of March

Bank Holiday

SCT Cup Final Blackrock College V Terenure College

Thursday to Monday, 20th – 31st of March

House Exams

