



Blackrock College Bulletin

2024 – 2025 Bulletin No. 12

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Last week, students enthusiastically celebrated **Seachtain na Gaeilge** under the theme "*Bain Triail As!*" (*Give It a Try!*). The week was filled with engaging activities designed to promote the Irish language and culture while fostering a sense of community and fun.

Monday, "*Bí Ann*" (*Be There*), encouraged students to embrace Gaeilge by using their favorite Irish words in conversations, playing bingo in class, and making an effort to speak the language throughout the school. TY students also decorated classrooms and corridors with balloons, flags, Irish phrases, and proverbs, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

Tuesday, "*Bí Cabhrach*" (*Be Caring*), focused on teamwork and friendship, with students participating in a treasure hunt, joining conversation circles. Students also spoke

with teachers to help them remember their favorite Irish words or phrases, reinforcing the shared connection to the language.

Wednesday, "*Bí Measúil*" (*Be Respectful*), was all about sportsmanship and competition, featuring the All-Ireland soccer final, a challenging crossbar challenge, and exciting poc fada contests that tested students' skills.

Thursday, "*Bí Buíoch*" (*Be Grateful*), celebrated Irish traditions with a visit from Sion Hill, a lively céilí that got everyone dancing. At lunchtime, the school's trad group, Ceoltóirí na Carraige, played a fantastic music session in the library celebrating our cultural identity.

Friday, "*Bí Fírinneach*" (*Be Truthful*), marked the beginning of St. Patrick's weekend, two members of the school's trad band, Ceoltóirí na Carraige—Eoin FitzPatrick on flute and John McCallig on banjo—welcomed staff and students at the front entrance with traditional Irish music. Staff and students alike dressed in green for Lá Glas. Students and teachers were tested on their knowledge of the Irish language and culture. Additionally, TY students engaged with the public outside Blackrock Shopping Centre, encouraging them to use a cúpla focal in celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge.

The events aim was to deepen students' and staffs' appreciation for Gaeilge and Irish heritage encouraging them to continue using the language beyond the week's festivities. Bhí craic, spórt agus spraoi ann.

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Senior Cheerleaders

Congratulations to **Senior Cheerleader** Harrison Carr and his leadership team of Jeremy Carroll, Niall McCarthy, Zach Hally Doody, Joe Caskey, Peter Lawlor and Paddy Fitzpatrick. The commitment, passion, energy and endless hard work given to this student leadership project by the students mentioned above and the 36 additional cheerleaders in the wider squad has been incredible. It began with our Whole School Assembly in the Sports Hall back in January to mark the start of the SCT and JCT Campaigns and the size of the crowds at the matches along with the energy in the stands culminating in an outstanding atmosphere as we won our 72nd cup. They truly went above and beyond at the Senior Soccer Leinster Cup Final, with the atmosphere created at the All-Ireland Final in Soccer created an incredible atmosphere.

Rock Run 2025

The annual Rock Run 2025, in aid of Aidlink took place on Saturday 8th March 2025 across the College campus. There was a huge sense of community throughout the day and an event such as this with all the different variables involved only happens with the support of the entire Blackrock College and Willow Park community. Participants had the option to walk, run, or jog the 5km route, making the event accessible to all fitness levels. The event not only promoted fitness and teamwork but also reinforced the importance of giving back to those in need.

The proceeds raised from Rock Run 2025 will contribute towards enhancing education, providing water and sanitation facilities along with creating school feeding programs in Kenya. Also, a major focus for the proceeds raised will support Aidlink's flagship project "Every Girl in School." This immense and extremely important project strives to provide all girls with an education and allow them to make choices on their own life.

The event concluded with a raffle which included 2 tickets to the Six Nations Ireland France game in the Aviva Stadium that afternoon.

Thank you to each of the event sponsors, MSL Ballsbridge, Sherry Fitzgerald Commercial, VITHIT, Nolan Coaches, Explorium, Daft.ie, Peter Mark and Londis Foxrock for their ongoing support and generosity. Without them this event would not have been possible.

A special thank you to all the Transition Year students whose engagement in such large numbers made the event such a success and a final thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and donated—your efforts have made a real difference.

If you did not get an opportunity to donate, please feel free to contribute on the online donation page Support Rock Run 2025 in aid of Aidlink on iDonate.ie.





Boarding School News



There's been great excitement in the Castle these past few weeks with the success of the Senior Cup Team. The strong Castle cohort this year, including Artur Smykovskiy, Albert Lindner, Michael O'Sullivan, Michael Walsh, Aiden Vetjens, Declan Cadden, and Ben Crowley have been keeping their heads in the game and staying strong in training while keeping up with the Castle lifestyle, while the cheerleaders have kept the energy buzzing around them!

Castle life has kept going, with the boarders getting ready for their Easter exams – around a few nice trips out to Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, JCT and SCT matches, and a day out to Jump Zone to boot!

As well as that, our international boarders put their year's work to the test as they

completed their Cambridge exams – an internationally recognised certificate to show just how much they've gotten out of their time at Blackrock College – fingers crossed on good results!

Fourth Year Home Economics: A Taste of the World

This week, Fourth Year Home Economics students explored "Foods from Around the World", showcasing their cooking skills with a variety of international dishes.

Pauric and **Andrew** took on the bold flavours of Mexico, preparing delicious tacos. **John** and **Lughán** went for a German classic, making crispy chicken schnitzel. **Ben** and **Fionn** chose France, baking golden, flaky sausage rolls, while **Mark** and **Illia** brought a taste of Ukraine to the kitchen with homemade pelmeni.

It was a great opportunity for students to learn about different cultures through food, and the results were both impressive and delicious!



2nd Year Hurling

Our 2nd Year hurlers maintained their winning record with an emphatic victory over St. David's College this week. Blackrock settled into the game from the whistle and ran up an impressive lead. St. David's mounted several attacks resulting in a second-quarter goal spree, the game now very much in the balance. Both teams traded scores in the run-up to half-time and Blackrock retained an eight-point lead at the break. Our defence, led by **Paddy Rigby** and **Cian Kenny**, held firm in the second half, conceding only one goal and four points in total while the midfield trio of **Jack Mountjoy**, **Liam Hogan** and **Brian Farrell** continued to register scores. All panel members made a telling contribution. The panel consisted of (All 2nd Year): Alex Bannon; Killian Bohan; Alex Little; Brian Doorly; Brian Farrell (C) (4-10); Cathal Dunphy (inj.); Cian Kenny; Saul Coughlan; Finn Purcell; Hugo Dunne; Jack Mountjoy (0-3); Johnny Maguire; Liam Hogan (2-4); Milo McDermott; Paddy Rigby; Patrick Burns; Ross Leahy (0-1); Ryan Wehrley (VC); Sam McKeown; Simon Cahill (0-1); Tebhnán O'Herlihy; Thomas Kilty (2-0); Brian Doorley (inj).

Blackrock College 8-18 / St. David's Artane 5-6

Sailing

Congratulations to **2nd Year Max O'Hare** who represented Ireland at the Optimist World Championships in Mar Del Plata, Argentina in December 2024 competing against 227 sailors from over 52 countries. Despite needing stitches in his head when hit by the boom in high winds training the day before the competition, he was lucky to still compete. An amazing experience for Max and a great lesson in resilience. Well done, Max!



Table Tennis

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

Senior A finished up their Leinster League campaign, dropping only a single match in Division 1, taking the Leinster Division 1 title for a 12th time in 14 years, and for a 21st time overall.

Junior A have one match remaining in their League campaign, but cannot be caught on the table, also taking a 21st Leinster title, and a 14th title in 16 years. Both teams have qualified for the playoffs to go to the All Ireland Finals.

Junior A and Senior A have also qualified for Leinster Cup Finals Day, with both teams through to the Cup Semi Finals.

Junior 2A remain unbeaten in Division 2, while Junior 2B in Division 3 and Junior 2C in Division 4 have each lost one match. Minor A in Division 1 have also dropped one match. All teams will finish out their league campaigns after the Easter tests, all still in the hunt for a top two finish.

Junior Cup Rugby

On March 11th, our Junior Cup Rugby team's journey came to an end in the semi-final against Castleknock College. It was a hard-fought match, with both teams giving it everything.

Though the result didn't go our way, the team can hold their heads high after a brilliant season. Huge thanks to the coaches, supporters, and everyone who backed the team. It wasn't our day, but there's no doubt this group has a bright future ahead.

Senior Cup Rugby

On Monday, March 17th, our Senior Cup Rugby team battled past Terenure in a tough and physical contest. Both sides showed incredible determination, making for a thrilling game.

Terenure came out strong, testing our defence early on, but our lads stood firm and responded with some brilliant attacking play. It was a game of fine margins, with every tackle, pass, and kick crucial. In the end, our hard work paid off, and we secured a well-deserved victory.

Blackrock College – 14 Terenure College 9

Junior Thirds & Fourths

It was a great week for our Junior Thirds and Fourths rugby teams as they kept their league campaigns on track with strong performances.

The Junior Fourths put in a great team effort against Boyne C.S., Trim, to book their place in the semi-final. They'll face St. Michael's on Saturday, March 22nd, with hopes of making it to the final on Thursday, March 27th.

The Junior Thirds also had a great result against Wesley College, securing a spot in the final. They'll take on either St. Michael's or Pres Bray on March 27th.

Both teams have worked hard to get to this stage, and we wish them the best of luck in the games ahead!

Blackrock Relay Races

Congratulations to **Jamie Simpson, Tate Tomkin-Beddy,(3rd Year)**
James Smyth, James Foot, and Cameron Fallon(TY) on winning a silver medal in the Blackrock Relays on Thursday, March 13th.



Coding & Robotics Club

On Wednesday, March 19th, the Coding and Robotics Club proudly represented Blackrock College at the ZeroDays Capture the Flag challenge held at University College Dublin. This national event, designed for secondary school students, brought together schools from all over Ireland to compete in a series of cyber security challenges.

Our club members showcased their cyber security knowledge through a variety of tasks, including cryptography, web security, and forensics. Despite the competition's difficulty, it proved to be an educational experience, offering valuable insights into the practical applications of cybersecurity.

The event was an excellent introduction to the field of cybersecurity, providing students with real-world experience and the opportunity to apply their skills in a competitive environment.



SCT & Senior Soccer Team

With the **SCT winning our 72nd cup on St.Patrick's Day**, this completed a unique double with **our Senior Soccer Team, also Leinster champions**. This is only the second time in our history this has been done and for the first time in 51 years!



**BANK OF IRELAND
BOYS SCHOOLS SENIOR
CUP CHAMPIONS 2025**

Blackrock College


Bank of
Ireland



Snapshot of All Ireland Soccer Final



Snapshot of All Ireland Soccer Final



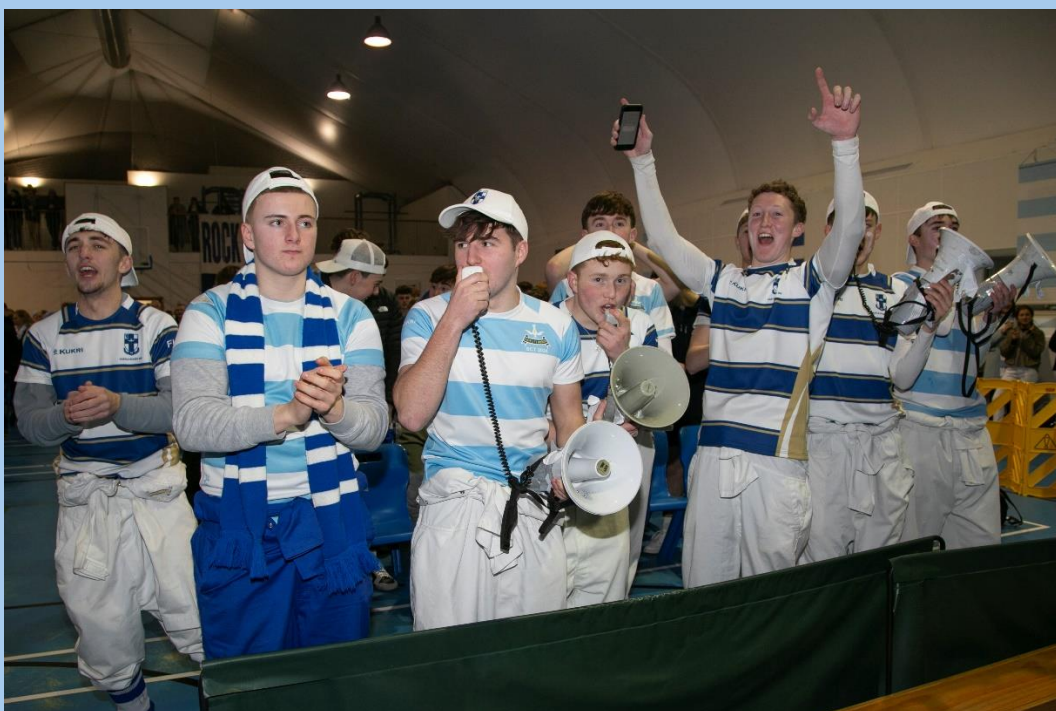
Snapshot of All Ireland Soccer Final



Snapshot of SCT Final



Snapshot of SCT Final



Snapshot of SCT Final



Snapshot of Junior Musical



Environmental Action Week

We had our first environmental action week of 2025 between Monday the 3rd to Friday the 7th of March. We started the week by hosting Kahoot quizzes on environmental topics and introducing posters encouraging people to reduce energy use around the school. We had a talk from Conor Dowling on green projects and how to deal with opposition to them. The highlight of the week was the rowing competition on Thursday where students got to see how much power they produced and compared it with the power consumption of household appliances, we found that we would need 20 million people rowing at the same power that the boys participating did to power Ireland. Finally, we hosted a climate café on Friday with free hot chocolate and a smoothie bike that blended drinks with pedal power. We encourage all students to consider joining Green Schools if they are interested so we can continue to reduce the environmental impact of Blackrock College.

*Cllr Conor Dowling
with members of
the Green Schools
Committee*



*Second Years
compete in the
rowing energy
competition during
Environmental
Action Week*

*Tate Tomkin Beddy
speaks to students
at the Climate Café
during
Environmental
Action Week*





Please join us– staff, students and parents, (past & present), friends of Blackrock, our Past Pupils’ Union, Blackrock College Rugby Club and Blackrock College AFC – as we come together to make this unique and most welcome Blackrock occasion a memorable one.

Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



Thursday to Monday, March 20th – 31st

House Exams

Good luck in
your exams!

