



Blackrock College Bulletin

Bulletin No.14 2024 - 2025

SciFest@College, Grangegorman TUD



Congratulations to our 15 Second Year students who represented the College with pride and enthusiasm at SciFest in TU Dublin Grangegorman!

The students had a fantastic day showcasing their innovative projects and engaging confidently with judges, lecturers, and PhD students.

Students had the opportunity to attend a variety of science talks as well as participating in SwitchOnStem demonstrations and competitions.

Their hard work, curiosity, and teamwork were evident throughout the event, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication and achievements. A special congratulations to Maurice Neligan on achieving a TUD commendation for his project to investigate the effect of pH on enzyme activity.

Well done to all involved!

Junior Science Quiz Team Shines at ISTA Eureka Quiz



On Wednesday, 7th May, our Junior Science Quiz team travelled to Belvedere College to compete in the ISTA Eureka Quiz. With 20 teams from across the Dublin area vying for the trophy, the competition was intense.

Representing our school were Dan Hayden, Ruairi Tran, and Garry Kingston. The team delivered an outstanding performance, narrowly missing out on first place by just one point to St. Benildus College. A sudden-death round was required to determine second place,

as three schools were tied. Blackrock College ultimately secured the runner-up spot.

Well done to Dan, Ruairi, and Garry for their excellent achievement and for representing our school with distinction!

Schools Open Day, Irish Defence Forces



The Irish Defence Forces held a public engagement event at Cathal Brugha Barracks in Rathmines last week, featuring interactive displays and equipment demonstrations highlighting their domestic and international roles.

TY students took part in the tour, gaining firsthand insight into military life and the Defence Forces' operations.

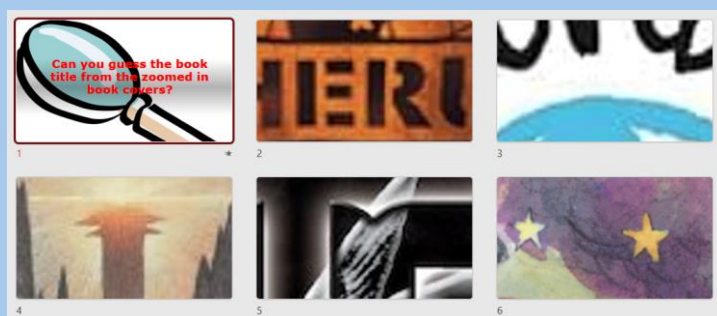
Students had the opportunity to meet and speak with personnel from the Infantry, Cavalry, Ordnance, Engineers, Medical,

Transport, Military police, Catering and Signals Corps along with representatives from the Air Corps, Navy, Reserve Defence Forces and Recruitment Section. There was a vibrant and engaging atmosphere, and students found the experience both enjoyable and informative.



Guess the Book Library Competition

The Library Committee came up with a very novel idea for this term's competition – zoom in to part of a book cover and get students to guess the book. About 45 students entered the competition and many have been seen standing outside the library with their friends collectively trying to guess which picture is in what book. The idea of these competitions is to promote reading for pleasure and get students talking about books. Congratulations to Arthur Glavin, 3rd Year who got all the answers correct and was the lucky winner of a €20 one4all voucher.



MAD Week and Summer Concert 2025

Mad Week ran from Tuesday 6th until Friday 9th May. The week celebrated the variety of musical, artistic and dramatic disciplines practised by people around the world, inspiring the Blackrock TY students by exposing them to these skills through several interactive workshops and experiences.

MAD Week kicked off on Tuesday morning when the entire year was split into two groups and took part in **dancing** and **drumming** workshops. TY students learned about finger tutting and pop dance styles with the instruction of Alan McGrath, as well as a variety of percussion instruments, such as shakers, djembe drums, shekeres and more with David Day from Jabba Jabba Jembe. In the afternoon, we were entertained and taught by the **magician**, ventriloquist, sword swallower and comedian, Jack Wise.

On the Wednesday of MAD Week, the TY Year had a trip to the **cinema** to watch the brand-new release, *Fran the Man*.

On Thursday, TY Year rotated in three groups between three amazing workshops, the first of which was **drama**. This workshop focused on honing acting skills and telling a story through body language and emotions. The next workshop was **Circus Skills** where students learned how to juggle, use diablos and even make animals and swords from balloons, all whilst enjoying the sun. Lastly, in an **Irish Culture** workshop, TYs learned about the origins of popular traditional music, how the songs are formed through music theory and how to sing some Irish songs, like Whiskey in the Jar in an Irish **Culture Workshop**.

That evening, the **Summer Concert** ran for 1.5 hours in the Jubilee Hall. TY Choir performed the first and final songs of the night 'Mamma Mia' by ABBA and 'What I Did for Love' by David Guetta.

MAD Week came to an end on Friday afternoon when the whole year took part in the **MAD Quiz** hosted in the TY Rec Area. The students' musical knowledge was put to the test throughout eight rounds of questions, ranging from the writers of songs to finishing lyrics and identifying the nationalities of various artists, while also enjoying pizza and the lively atmosphere.

A big thank you to Mr. Grumley Traynor for organising MAD Week.



MAD Week and Summer Concert 2025



Sports & Family Day 2025

There was a fantastic atmosphere around Blackrock College on Sunday, May 11th as students, staff and families gathered for our 165th Sports and Family Day. It's always a special occasion on the school calendar, and this year was no exception.

The day began with the national anthem and opening ceremony, followed by a packed schedule of events – everything from sprints and relays to spikeball, penalty shoot-outs and the ever-competitive tug-o-war. It was great to see such high levels of participation and team spirit throughout.

There was no shortage of encouragement from the sidelines, with classmates, parents and staff out in force. The atmosphere was relaxed, good-humoured and full of community spirit – a reflection of what the day is all about.

Two highlights of the afternoon were the presentation of the Sports Star of the Year Award to Sami Bishti, recognising his outstanding contribution to sport in the College, and the Past Pupil Sports Personality Award, which was awarded to James Power.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring the day together – particularly the students who took part so enthusiastically, and the staff who gave so generously of their time.

After a hard-fought contest across the events, Shanahan House emerged as the overall winners – well done to them and to all who competed.



Snapshot of Sports & Family Day 2025



Leinster Schools' Tennis Cups

The Senior 1st team (captained by Freddie Bracken, Fifth Year) have qualified for the Leinster Schools' Senior Cup Division 1 final at Fitzwilliam LTC where they will play St Michael's on Wednesday 21st May.

The Junior 1st team (captained by Ben Connolly, Third Year) have qualified for the Leinster Schools' Junior Cup Division 1 final at Templeogue LTC where they will play Gonzaga on Tuesday 20th May.

The Junior 2nd team (captained by William Hegarty, Third Year) have qualified for the Leinster Schools' Junior Cup Division 1 final at Templeogue LTC on Tuesday 20th May. We await confirmation of their opponents.

Swimming



The swimming team, in a strong performance won medals all round at the Clongowes Invitational gala this May. Sam Snyman (2nd Year) swam up against a heavy heat of 3rd and 4th years and managed to swim a personal best and take 1st place in the junior 50m freestyle. More strong performances by Finn O'Reilly (3rd Year) and James Kelly (3rd Year) filled in the podium for the Intermediates, while Charley Collenette and Gerard Egan put in winning performances in the

Breastroke and Butterfly events for the seniors.

The relays were competitive as always, with a nail-biting finish in the Intermediate medley relay, where team members Daire Hannan, James Kelly, James Cahill, and Finn O'Reilly held their own against Terenure's strong team.

Leinster Track and Field Final



Congratulations to our junior athletes who proudly represented the school at the Leinster Track and Field Finals in Tullamore on Tuesday, 13th May 2025. Their dedication and performance were outstanding, and we're thrilled to announce that four of our students have qualified to compete at the All-Ireland Final. Best of luck to **Arya Golchin, Tim Daly, Marcus Bourke, and Julian Browne (2nd year)** as they prepare to take on the national stage!

Blackrock 2nd Year Hurlers win Dublin Championship

Blackrock College 4 - 14

Skerries Community College 5 - 8

Early scores from Brian Farrell, Jack Mountjoy, and Alex Little settled Blackrock, however, Skerries began to dominate and scored 2-4 in quick succession. Blackrock's midfield and half-forward line gained control, 1-4 from Brial Farrell securing a one-point half-time lead.

Blackrock took a narrow lead in the third quarter with a Simon Cahill goal, Skerries responding with a three-goal blitz. A 30-metre free from Brian Farrell and a point from Liam Hogan put Blackrock back in the lead.

Skerries launched a wave of attacks, scoring one goal and forcing two world-class saves from goalkeeper Alex Bannon. The six defenders held strong for the last ten minutes, effectively shutting down Skerries attack.

Captains Brian Farrell and Ryan Wehrley lifted the cup, praising the hard work and commitment of all twenty-eight panel members and thanking the huge crowd of Blackrock College supporters.



Tennis

Congratulations to Jack Moloney (2nd Yr) and his partner Jul Oostvogels following his fantastic win in the **U14 Boys Doubles Final in the Tennis Europe tournament**, hosted by Landsdowne Lawn Tennis Club in April.

Jack and Jul and beat the British duo of Nicholas Ellinghorst and Hau Yan Wong 6.2 6.4.



Dublin U19 Hurling Championship

After a hard-fought championship campaign, including wins over Laois, Offaly and Wexford. Dublin met Kilkenny in the final of the U19 Leinster Hurling Championship. It was an enthralling game, with Dublin leading with only minutes remaining.

Unfortunately, a last-minute goal from Kilkenny ended Dublin's dreams of winning a first ever U19 Leinster Hurling Championship.



Blackrock College Table Tennis All-Ireland Finalists 2025

Success for Blackrock RFC U14 team

Blackrock RFC U14 team won the Metro Cup last week as well the Leinster U14 Premier Division Cup in March.

Many congratulations to the team who had to overcome many challenging matches against strong competition.

Well done!



Global Citizenship: The Spiritan Showcase



Students from the Global Citizenship Committee, along with their peers from St. Michael's, attended the annual Spiritan Showcase at Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to collaborate and deepen their understanding of sustainability. They participated in engaging talks

and interactive activities led by local organizations on topics such as sustainable agriculture and fast fashion.

The day also served as a celebration of the hard work and dedication shown by students from all participating schools throughout the year, with special recognition given to our own GCC team for their successful media campaign.



Belfast Trip



On Tuesday, May 13th, Blackrock College Transition Year History students travelled to Belfast where they first met with Brian McKee and Joe Austin in St. Gomall's.

After an initial introduction to the History of the north, they had a tour of the murals in the city, a trip to Milltown Cemetery, The Peace Walls and a visit and tour of Stormont. There they had a meeting with Gerry Kelly and sat in the main chamber and listened in to a debate between the SDLP and the DUP.



Rex Montag (3rd Year) presents the All-Ireland Junior TT shield to Mr Evan O'Brien.

Junior Debating

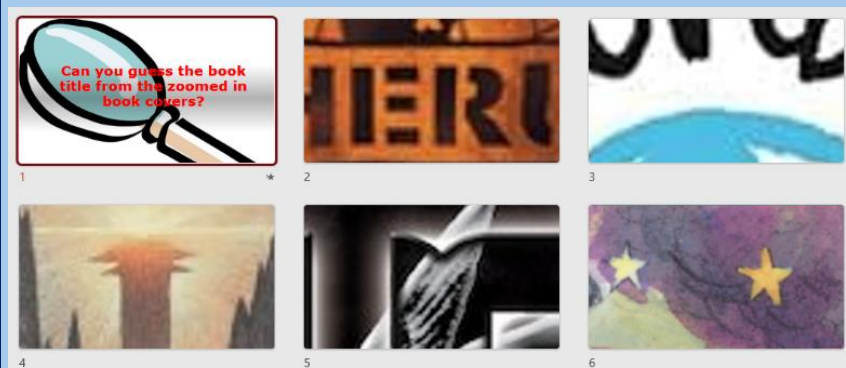


The Blackrock College Junior Gold Medal Debate took place on Monday May 12th with 2nd and 3rd Year students arguing the motion that:

'Happiness is more important than success.'

In Proposition, we had, Tate Tomkin Beddy, Daniel Goss, Neil Doyl and Maurice Nelligan and opposing this motion was Daire Moran, Fergal McPolin, Simon Quinn and Dan Hayden. Adjudicated by past pupils Frazer McGinn and Ben Kieran Glennon, Tate Tomkin Beddy (3rd Year) and Maurice Neligan (2nd Year) were awarded the 2025 Gold Medal Finalists.

Guess the Book Library Competition



The Library Committee came up with a very novel idea for this term's competition – zoom in to part of a book cover and get students to guess the book.

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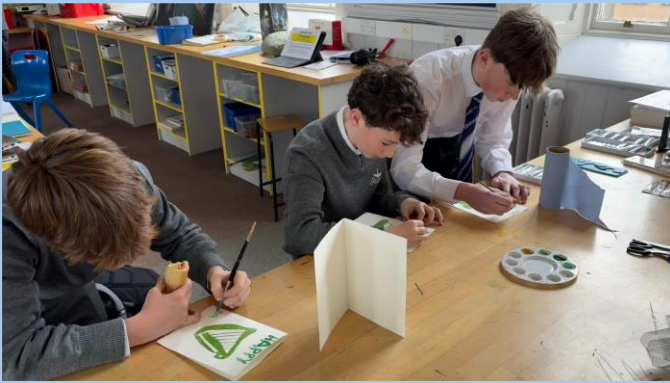
friends collectively trying to guess which picture is what book. The idea of these competitions is to promote reading for pleasure and get students talking about books.

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Snapshot of Lunchtime Art Room Creative Hub



LUNCHTIME ART ROOM CREATIVE HUB



Snapshot of Art: Elephant in the Room



Snapshot of Transition Year Camino Trip



Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!



Sunday, May 18th

6th Year Graduation Mass (12 noon)

Friday, May 23rd

Academic Prize Giving (4:30pm-6:00pm)

Wednesday, May 28th

Summer Tests begin for 2nd and 5th Year

Wednesday, May 28th

Class Ends for 3rd, 4th and 6th Year

Wednesday, May 28th

Class Ends for 2nd and 5th Year

State exams begin on Wednesday, June 4th



Best of luck to our 3rd and 6th Year students!
