



# *Blackrock College Bulletin*

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## **Agricultural Science Students Explore the Heart of Irish Farming at the National Ploughing Championships**

**O**ur 5th and 6th Year Agricultural Science students recently attended the 2025 National Ploughing Championships, joining over 225,000 visitors and hundreds of exhibitors at one of Europe's largest outdoor events.

The trip offered a unique opportunity to witness the scale, innovation, and significance of Irish agriculture in action. From pedigree livestock displays to cutting-edge farming technologies, students engaged with a living classroom that brought their studies to life in the most dynamic way possible.

It was a day filled with learning, inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for the role agriculture plays in shaping Ireland's economy, environment, and rural communities.



# Environmental Action Week 2025: 22nd – 26th September



**E**nvironmental Action Week 2025 was a vibrant celebration of learning, creativity, and stewardship across all year groups.

Second and Third Year students explored nature through language and poetry. Third Years penned verses inspired by their surroundings, while Second Years questioned how words shape our view of the natural world, guided by the powerful poem *The Rose That Grew from Concrete*.

Senior students took their learning outdoors, identifying native trees and engaging in discussions around Laudato Si, Pope Francis' call to

care for our common home. These activities deepened their understanding of biodiversity and environmental ethics.

A major highlight was the ceremonial raising of our newest Green Flag — **Global Citizenship: Energy** — attended by **Gerry Clabby** from the Department of Environment and Green Schools members from Sion Hill. This marked a proud moment in our sustainability journey.

The week also featured a Climate Café, where students exchanged ideas and solutions, and a beach clean that reinforced our commitment to protecting local ecosystems.

From poetry to practical action, the week inspired students to reflect on their role in safeguarding the planet. It was a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to nurture and protect the environment for future generations.



# Environmental Action Week 2025: 22nd – 26th September



## Machakos Mass



Last week, our school community, led by **Fr. Augustine, Fr. John** and **Fr. Leonard** accompanied by members of our own Spiritan Community, gathered for a deeply moving Mass to celebrate the end of an incredible outreach programme led by past pupils and parents in Sultan Hamud, Machakos, Kenya. The generosity, commitment, and compassion of all involved has helped establish a secondary school, a technical college, and a dispensary in the area —transformative projects that continue to change lives.

This celebration was not only a recognition of what has been achieved, but also a reflection on the reciprocal nature of education and service. Those who travelled to Kenya have not only impacted communities there but have returned with a deeper understanding of social justice, our shared humanity, and the responsibilities of global citizenship. Their experiences speak powerfully to the values embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:



We are deeply grateful to all who made this moment in our school such a moving experience. As we mark the end of one chapter, we also look forward with hope and excitement to the beginning of a new one—this time in Marigat, an area four hours north of Nairobi. The legacy of this outreach programme continues to grow, reminding us all that small acts of kindness and solidarity can ripple across continents.



# Record-Breaking Start to Dragons' Den Mentoring for Transition Year Students

The first Dragons' Den mentoring session for our Transition Year students took place on Tuesday, 23rd September 2025 — and it launched with record-breaking enthusiasm and participation. Over 140 students submitted more than seventy business ideas, showcasing an exceptional level of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit.

During the session, students pitched their initial concepts — ranging from inventive products to original service ideas — to a panel of Dragons. Each pitch received thoughtful and constructive feedback, focusing on originality, feasibility, and potential for growth. This guidance will help students refine and develop their ideas ahead of the next mentoring session next week.

The energy, ambition, and teamwork on display were truly inspiring. We extend our sincere thanks to **MFO Property Professionals** and **Coen Steel** for their generous sponsorship of the prize fund, which plays a vital role in encouraging and supporting our young entrepreneurs.



# 4th Year Cookery Club Serves Up a Delicious Start



The 4th Year Cookery Club has launched into the new school year with flavour and flair! Kicking off on Thursday 18th September, students got hands-on in the kitchen by creating their own spice bags — a fun and tasty way to begin their culinary journey. The results were a hit, with everyone enjoying the fruits of their labour.

Building on that success, the group returned to the kitchen on Thursday 25th to whip up a mouth-watering beef and chilli stir fry. The session was filled with sizzling pans, vibrant ingredients, and plenty of teamwork, as students explored new techniques and flavours.

The club is already proving to be a fantastic opportunity for students to develop practical cookery skills, build confidence, and enjoy the shared experience of preparing and tasting food together. With more exciting recipes and challenges ahead, it is shaping up to be a deliciously rewarding year. Stay tuned for more culinary creations from our talented young chefs!



## Art Club

Congratulations to Second Year student **Aodhfin McMahon**, whose innovative creation “A-Team Bot” earned top honours in the Wednesday Art Club’s Eco-Bot Competition during Environmental Awareness Week.

Crafted entirely from recycled materials, Aodhfin’s robot impressed the room with its creativity, design, and environmental message. The competition challenged students to transform everyday “junk” into imaginative Bots, highlighting the power of reuse and artistic ingenuity.

Aodhfin’s winning entry stood out not only for its craftsmanship but also for its clever use of discarded items — proving that sustainability and creativity go hand in hand.





## House 3rds

**H**ouse 3rds lined out against Pres Bray on Saturday 13th September at home. The team put in a strong effort and showed great teamwork and spirit throughout the game. It was a fantastic occasion with plenty of support on the sidelines.





# Tennis

September has been a busy and productive month for some of our leading tennis players. The following boys all represented Ireland internationally last week:

**Zac Naughton** (*Fifth Year*) – European Championships in Oberpullendorf, Austria

**Ronan Doyle** (*Third Year*) – European Championships in Parma, Italy

**Jack Moloney** (*Third Year*) – Four Nations Championships in Nottingham, England



## Jack Moloney Shines on the International Stage with Team Ireland



**C**ongratulations to **Jack Moloney** (3rd Year), who proudly represented Team Ireland at the Junior Four Nations Tennis Tournament held recently in Nottingham. Competing against top players from England, Scotland, and Wales, Team Ireland delivered an outstanding performance to emerge as joint champions — marking their best result in the tournament since 2014! Jack's achievement is a testament to his dedication, skill, and sportsmanship, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate his success on the international stage.

## Blackrock Basketball Teams Tip Off the Season



**T**he Blackrock College U19 and U16 Basketball Teams are set to launch their 2025 campaigns with a home fixture in Des Places Hall against Marian College on Thursday, September 25th. With energy high and preparations complete, both squads are ready to hit the court and make their mark.

In the lead-up to the October midterm, the teams will face a competitive run of fixtures against Gonzaga College, Nord Anglia International School, and St. Kilian's Deutsche Schule. A rescheduled match against St. Conleth's College also promises to be a key moment in the early season.

We extend our best wishes to team captains **Gearóid Nutley** (Sixth Year, U19s) and **Tom O'Brien** (Third Year, U16s), who will lead their squads with skill, focus, and determination. Their leadership will be vital as the teams navigate a busy and exciting schedule.



## Strong Start for J3–J5 Rugby Panel

The J3–J5 rugby panel has kicked off the season with an impressive run of five matches, showing great promise and determination across all squads.

The opening round of fixtures on September 10th saw a clean sweep of victories: J3 triumphed over Wilson's Hospital, while both J4 and J5 secured wins against Kilkenny College. These early successes set a confident tone for the term ahead.

On September 17th, the J3s and J4s faced Terenure College in a spirited midweek clash. The J3s delivered a thrilling performance, navigating momentum swings to clinch a well-earned win. Although the J4s were edged out by a strong visiting side, the match offered valuable insights and plenty of positives to build on.

With sunny skies and strong team spirit, the panel has laid a solid foundation for the season. Coaches and players alike are looking forward to refining skills and tactics in training, carrying forward the energy and lessons from these early encounters.

We are excited to see how the teams continue to grow and compete — watch this space for more match updates and standout performances!

## Don't Forget – Mark Your Calendars!

### **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

6<sup>th</sup> Year Family Mass (6pm)

### **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

6<sup>th</sup> Year Retreats

### **Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Commissioning of House Captains

### **Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Wellbeing Week

### **Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Maths Week

