

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



February 2017

Dear Parents,

Cian Reilly (6th Year), Captain of the 2017 S.C.T., in a stirring address at the Whole School Assembly last month acquainted the boys with Henry Ford's Maxim, that **"you can't build a reputation on what you are going to do"**.

Intentions. Life is what happens when we are busy making plans. It comes, it goes, it passes. In the busyness of our lives, we get by even get on without necessarily getting it. Part of the problem is the deceptive ease of technology. We live in the 'best of times, the worst of times' but our tale of two cities is that of a virtual one and a real one. Which is more important - our real or virtual self? Is there a difference?

A consequence of the ubiquity of the internet is that it affects the way we think. We can go so wide that we forget or indeed ultimately become incapable of going deep. We skim the surface, constantly distracted by the next tweet, text or Facebook update. Nicholas Carr in his book – **"The Shallows: what the internet is doing to our brains" (2010)** – argues that we have moved from **"the depths of thought to the shallows of distraction"**. We have become scanners and skimmers at the expense of our capacity for concentrated thought, contemplation and reflection. **"A concern is that the internet may fracture our focus, muddy our mind set"**. Our intentions are good but that is not enough.

We need to prayerfully consider this. Lent – Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March – offers a prompt to connect with our inner self, where the Holy Spirit urges us to be our best selves. It is a reminder not to stay on the periphery of our own lives but to develop a deeper awareness of our responsibility to self and of our duty to others. Cian Reilly reminded us that our reputation is built around what we do, what we stand for, what we prioritize.

Blackrock, our families, our homes should be much more than docking stations to energise our sons' superficial busyness. Blackrock encourages our boys to appreciate the value of service, of community, of faith and faithfulness and provides the opportunity to go deeper. Our recent RockMUN (Model United Nations), Leman Concert, Past V Present Debate and the Whole School Assembly reinforced the real joy experienced in coming together. Our gatherings celebrate the breadth of talent here be it in Sport, the Arts or Academia and we have had much to celebrate this half term - in Basketball and Badminton, Rowing and Rugby, Swimming and Soccer, Table-Tennis and Cross-country as well as Thursday Tunes and the One Act Play, Inter Schools Spanish Debating, the Maths Quiz and our Chess Team. Such happenings draw us together. But it is by reflecting on all of our life experiences through for example, our Retreats and Pastoral Placements, Faith Friends, Development Education, Soup Run and Swan Programme that we go deeper.

Our liturgies help us to find God in these things and bring God into our society. Tom Dwan (T.Yr) in his homily at the Boarders' Mass on Sunday 5th February reflected on his experience on the streets of inner city Dublin. **"The soup run has completely destroyed my preconception of homeless people... helping those in need is so important, however, it is equally important to focus on the reasons as to why some people end up in these situations"**. Going deeper.

Encourage your son to consider, as part of his Lenten journey, the service and duty owed to you his parents, to his school, to society, to himself and to God. I believe he will be better for it.

We have great people at Blackrock, youngsters and adults who together build our community, take responsibility, do more than their duty, willingly, and make a difference.

I thank our Spiritan Community, Parents, Past and Present Students and our Teachers and Support Staff all of whom provide the inspiration and deliver.

Yours sincerely

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) Tom Maher (5th Year) Rock V Terenure
- b) Callum Byrne who played the trumpet in the College Orchestra at the Leman Concert
- c) The Lion at the Whole School Assembly to launch the Cup Campaign



Second Year



2017 has seen our Second Year group continue their enjoyable time in the senior campus. This experience has been reinforced with their on-going achievements in their weekly **Application Cards**. This card, which each boy brings home on the Monday, is a great opportunity for parents to congratulate their son on another good week's work. More than half the year group is on the Principal's List in any one week. The Principal's List compliments those boys who have achieved at least seven ones on their card for that week, reinforcing good practice and organisation. A student who continually achieves the Principal's List gives himself the opportunity to be nominated for an Honours Award at the College Prize Giving in May.

The **House Competitions** in Second Year continued on with the Art competition being held and the Table Tennis and Chess competitions finally concluding. The House Cross Country will be held after the mid-term break. Shanahan House currently lead the House Scoreboard! The **BT Young Scientist Exhibition** in January saw all Second Year boys attend, viewing not least the two projects being displayed by four of our Transition Year students.

Bullying Awareness Day took place in January with Helena Murphy of the Bullying Research Unit in DCU giving a talk on different types of unacceptable behaviour. She also gave advice on what to do if a person witnesses bullying, in person or on-line.

Catholic Schools' Week focused on Christian morality and the environment, in particular Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. Awareness of our ecological footprint was promoted, the water we use, the refuse we leave. Each Religious Education class had a tour of the College campus, guided by members of the school's *Green Schools' Committee*.

A **Whole School Assembly** was held to honour the start of the College's Rugby Cup campaign with Garry Ringrose as the guest-of-honour. Our Junior Cup team started well, with Second Year represented by Scott Barron, James Culhane, Michael Moloney, Ben Brownlee and Paddy McGowan. Some additional sports and clubs that have progressed during this half-term include table tennis, rowing, cross country, chess, basketball, the Art Club and Model United Nations, amongst others.

Also in **sports**, special mention should go to the winners, from Blackrock College

Second Year, of the Dublin Schools U14's Division 3 Badminton Final, pictured here. What a fantastic achievement! Congratulations also to Ethan Murtagh who has qualified for the *European Youth Olympic Games* to be held in Hungary this July. Ethan is one of only eight swimmers selected by the OCI to represent their country at this event.



Darragh Dempsey, Alex Cronnelly, Stephen O'Nuallain & Andrew Ryan

The **Leman Concert** was held with Second Year boys performing so well in the orchestra and the Corless Choir, in the Jazz Band and Ceoltoiri Carraige, with Evan Walsh playing the flute as part of a duo, with the fantastic Second Year band Paradox, and with an outstanding performance on the piano by Alex Kelly. Our school is undoubtedly a place of artistic and musical excellence!



Alex Kelly at the Leman Concert



Robert Byrne and Oscar Bourke Mullaney rehearse for the Leman Concert

Dates for your Diary

27 February – start of Environment Awareness Week
28 February – Reptile Day in 2nd Year (more anon)
1 March – 2nd Year Parents' Seminar 1
1 March – Ash Wednesday
6 March – start of Lenten Reconciliation Services
8 March – 2nd Year Parents' Seminar 2
15 March – House Examinations begin



Third Year

It's good to be able to report that there was very positive feedback overall from the Days of Reflection that the boys attended during the second week of the term. Gerry Keegan shared his experience of his journey from adolescence to adulthood with the boys. The fact that the boys attended with their Houses was seen as a good opportunity for bonding. The following reflections from three of the boys give an insight into the day. 'His face was contorted with passion and memories, and a powerful silence washed over us. The day progressed quickly as Jerry told us about his youth, stories wrapped in his own nostalgia, and they left me with reverence for the man who educated me about God and life, through personal experiences which many would be too feeble to share'. 'It was great for all of us to learn how faith in and awareness of God changed a man's entire perspective on life'. 'I could see on the day that his message about drink and his encouragement clearly affected some of the lads there'.

MUN

Third Year boys contributed to the great success of the second annual Rock Model United Nations (MUN) which took place on the 20th and 21st of January. It was clearly a great experience for the boys and we would encourage others to give a go. The Third Year delegates were John Huggard, Tom Dooley, Aidan Canavan, Lorcan Patchell, Aaron Ryan with Mark Landers photographing the event and Mark Kenny, Patrick O'Connor and Mark McGrane working on administration. The society meets every **Friday at 4pm** in the Creative Arts & Digital Learning Centre. Anyone doing Friday Night Study can go along after MUN finishes as can the boys who swim or play squash on a Friday afternoon.



Mark Morrissey, Adam Dixon and Charlie O' Carroll (Rock V Terenure)

Leman Concert

It was great to see 12 Third Year boys in the magnificent orchestra at the Leman Concert. In addition there were four of the year group in the Jazz Band, three in the Corless Choir and Andrew Jones was a member of Ceoltoiri na Carraige. They all contributed in no small way to making it a most enjoyable and memorable evening. It would be great to see former members of the Corless Choir reconnect with it in Transition Year.

Extra-curricular

The second term is always a very busy one for table tennis with both cup and league matches taking place. The Junior A team which included Andrew Doyle, Colm Hogan and Alan Patisson had a 4-0 win in the Cup and the B team of Charles Cullen, Conor Hughes, Darragh Kelly, Elliot MacNamara and Lorcan Patchell, following defeat in a league match went to win 4-0 in the Cup.



Scott Healy, Liam Barry and Tom Guinevan (J 3rds V High School)

A large number of rowers, including thirteen Third Year boys participated in the Indoor Championships in Limerick and in Cross Country the Junior team has qualified for the Leinster's.

Following a hard fought but fully deserved victory over Terenure the JCT are looking forward to the quarter final fixture against Gonzaga on our return to school after mid-term and the Junior 2/3/4/5 League campaigns are currently up and running.

For **Bullying Awareness Day** the boys had a talk from Helena Murphy and Liam Challenor of the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre which was very well received. It was pointed out that Bullying affects the whole culture of a School and that people who bully lack emotional empathy. The boys were urged to look up the school anti-bullying policy, to make sure they are watching out and not to be **passive bystanders**. The fact that sexting is illegal, the great increase in cyber bullying and that anything you put on social media can never be permanently removed were very strongly presented.

Dates for your Diary

JCT vs. Gonzaga- Tuesday 28th February, 3.00pm
Third Year Parents' Dinner – Saturday 4th March
Easter Exams – 15th – 24th March
Easter Holidays – 7th April

Transition Year



Leadership programme

On return after the Christmas break the students attended the second part of the Self Leadership programme given by Mr Denis Hevey. We feel it is an ideal opportunity for the students to examine and reflect on their engagement with the TY programme in the first half of the year, and perhaps a chance to make some new year's resolutions to get more involved! Mr Hevey encourages the students to analyse their motivation and attitude and how they can get more out of themselves. He also looks at techniques to develop resilience and manage moods. The feedback from the groups was great.

Lecture Series

The Transition Year Lecture Series continued with the students attending 3 talks. On Bullying Awareness Day, there was a talk given by Maureen Griffin a Forensic Psychologist who spoke about online bullying and our digital footprint. On the 25th of January, there was a talk given by Senior Dermatology Nurse in Sligo General hospital, Ms Celine Daly, who gave a very informative talk about skin cancer and how to protect ourselves in the sun. Finally, on the 7th of February Rachel Foster from Bank of Ireland spoke to the year group about online safety and how easily our personal information can be accessed. Students were given advice on how to prevent this and also on how to look out for potential phishing and scams.

Young Scientist

We had two very interesting projects representing Transition Year in this year's BT Young Scientist Competition. Sam O' Carroll and Fergus Woods and their project "Protein Glue" also Tadhg Egan and Ryan O' Connell and their project titled "Does music affect performance in sport?" Both presented very well and represented the College with distinction. It was a fantastic achievement by the lads to be among the 550 projects to qualify out of 2091 entrants.



Young Scientists, Fergus Woods and Sam O' Carroll with TDs Kate O' Connell and Maria Bailey

Build a Bank

What was once the Blackrock College Radio studio has been commandeered by a group of TYs and is now headquarters the first ever Blackrock College Bank. The students have entered the 'build a bank' competition in conjunction with AIB. The student managers have been very happy with the take up thus far. They assure me it is being regulated and cannot be used to launder money! We wish them well in this exciting venture.



Jay Boland (AIB Bank) Zach Donnelly, Tom Dwan, Ben Murphy, Adam O' Sullivan, Oisín Ellison and Tadhg Egan

Pastoral Programme

Since Christmas two more groups have gone out on Pastoral Placement with the Matthew 25 programme. The feedback continues to be excellent. Our Faith Friends Group (a religion class helping with preparation for the Willow confirmation) attended a workshop in Kimmage Manor in preparation and had two workshops with the Willow boys – so far so good. Members of the TY Green Schools' committee gave a very informative talk and nature walk to each of the religion classes in the school as part of Catholic Schools Week. The focus was on the Papal Encyclical "Laudato Si" and how to look after our common home. The TYs had clearly put a lot of work in under the guidance of Mr Copeland and Mr O' Reilly and spoke very well. Finally, a group of students kindly volunteered to help with bag packing in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland in Cornelscourt shopping centre on Friday 10th of February. As always the feedback from the organisers was very complimentary of the effort and attitude of the boys.

As term two continues, we encourage all 5th Year students to maintain their momentum in relation to academic progress. As reinforced for many at the well-attended Parent-Teacher meeting on 2nd of February, the value of the weekly Application Cards and monthly Progress Cards cannot be underestimated. They provide clear indicators of the levels of overall effort and academic progress. Students are continually encouraged to be proud and accountable and to show their cards at home.

Career Seminars (January 14th and 28th)

We are grateful to Head of the Career Guidance Department Mr Nick Menezes, together with the Past Pupils' Union for organising a number of worthwhile and engaging career seminars for over two Saturdays in January. A high number of students turned out on both days to listen to speakers share their experiences in a number of career areas including Medicine, Accounting, Media, Law and Marketing. A high number of students also attended a worthwhile CV and Interview workshop. The seminars were very insightful for all the students present. Students are encouraged to complete and submit their Career Plans to

5k for Kenya

Still a working title for the 'Rock Run' the Transition Years will be helping to organise in aid of the Missions in Kenya. The year has been divided into groups from launch committee to logistics and promotion/advertising. The date is set for the 26th of March in Leopardstown Racecourse. This has the potential to be a fantastic and very worthwhile event. It will be a busy time when the students return after midterm!

Leman Concert

What a show! A very uplifting and energetic performance by all involved. It was great to see so many students involved in orchestra, choir, backstage and of the course the band from TY. Well done; it was a fantastic celebration of the musical talent in the school.

Trips abroad

There were a lot of sore arms in Transition Year as the students travelling to both Kenya and China received their vaccinations from the tropical medical bureau ahead of the trips. As you read this there are 16 students visiting our sister school in Machakos and another group travelling with the Willow Wheelers in Kenya. The immersion trip in conjunction with the charity Aidlink will also take the students to Kaijado County, home of the Masai tribe where they will visit some of the Aidlink projects, part funded by previous fourth year charity collections. I hope both groups have a fantastic time and look forward to hearing about their experiences.



Shore Oluborode at the MUN conference held in Blackrock College.

Phone Free Friday

An interesting response to this new initiative in TY. Students are asked/encouraged/nagged to put their phone away whilst in the rec area Friday before school and during lunch. They are encouraged to give their eyes a rest and engage in conversation. It has certainly started a conversation and students are showing some signs of self-regulating. In keeping with the school policy of be there, be truthful, be caring, be grateful – I have reminded the students that being there also involves being present in a person's company, fully engaging with them and not giving half their attention to a screen. Findings of a small survey in 2015 recently published in the Sunday Times found: "that participants were using their phones five hours a day, at 85 separate times. Most of these interactions were for less than 30 seconds, but they add up." While progress has been slow, it has however been noticeable and I will stubbornly persist!



Jack Curtin, Will Stacey, Conor Austin, Michael Ennis, Oisín Reid, Philip Moran and Adam Kelly "enjoying" phone free Friday!

We hope all the students enjoyed and benefitted from their week's work experience.

Dates for your Diary

Addiction Awareness Day – Thursday 2nd March
Lenten Reconciliation Services – 6th – 10th March
Easter Exams – 15th – 24th March
5k for Kenya – 26th March



Mr O'Nualláin and to consult websites such as qualifax.ie and careersportal.ie to explore the many third level course options available.

Spirasi (February 9th)

The Fifth Year boys attended a lecture where they were introduced to the work of Spirasi in Ireland and a refugee then addressed the group about her journey to Ireland and the assistance she received from Spirasi. This is followed up by a fundraiser organised by the students (a 24 hour Fast), with the proceeds presented to Spirasi during the 5th Year Family Mass in Blackrock, which will take place on April 2nd at 11am. A target of 2000 euro is set and hopefully will be exceeded. We thank all the boys who took part in helping out those in need.

Lourdes Visit

Fifth Year students are currently applying to volunteer for the 2017 Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September 2017. The boys are busy preparing for their interviews,

Fifth Year Cont'd



outlining their qualities and talents articulately and honestly. We wish the selected boys well as they prepare for this potentially life changing experience.

Bullying Awareness Day (23rd January)

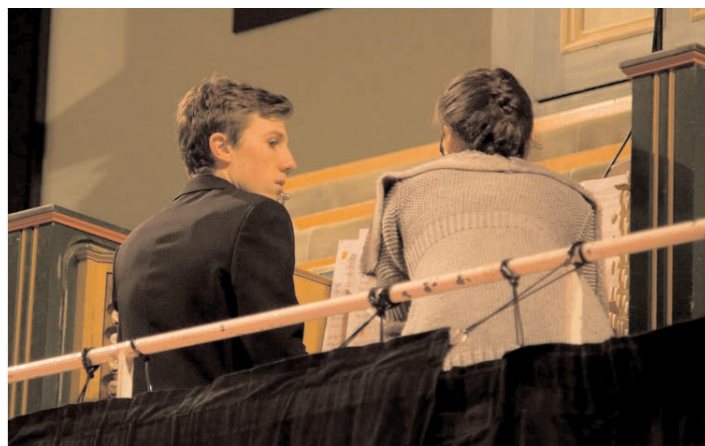
On the second Bullying Awareness Day of the year, the students were addressed by Caoimhe O'Grady-Tegert, who highlighted the importance of being kind and caring to others, along with the importance of being comfortable with your own self. We thank her for her presentation on such an important issue.

Leman Festival (February 5th)

On Sunday 5th February the Fifth Year participation in the Leman Concert was excellent. Their contribution and enthusiasm in the Leman and Libermann choirs as well as the orchestra was tremendous. Solo performances from Conor Williams, Harry Kearns, Cian Hasson, and Stephen Ryan were most entertaining and the unique contribution of Fionn Byrne, Mark Crowley, Alex Quinlan and Avi Shandilya (or Govinda, as they are also known) received huge applause. We congratulate all those involved, including those in the choirs, the orchestra, the boarders' choir and all backstage.



Luc Demichel, Simon Huggard and Eoin Fuller dine backstage at the Leman Concert



Harry Kearns prepares for his organ solo at the Leman Concert with Ms Patrice O'Connor

Training, leagues, tournaments and competitions are in full swing across all extra-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to get involved, not only as part of a healthy body-health mind drive but also to build much needed interpersonal, teamwork and time management skills. Some of the most recent Fifth Year activities are detailed here.

Basketball

Adding to their excellent season, the Senior Basketball team are congratulated on their victory over Larkin CC by four points in what was a thrilling All Ireland Final played in the National Basketball Arena. It is their first All-Ireland title and we congratulate both Karl Conroy and Barry O'Sullivan, along with the rest of the panel, on their incredible achievement.

Model United Nations and Debating

The Fifth Year members of the MUN society are congratulated for their part in organising the College's Conference, hosting 235 delegates from various schools. The conference was flawlessly organised and was a resounding success and all are looking forward to the next Conference.

We commend our Committee Chairs who went above and beyond the call of duty to make each committee run smoothly and efficiently, including Christopher O'Flaherty and Ben Heapes, with thanks also going to Quincy Murray, Simon Huggard, Conor Barry, Eddie Goggins, Stephen Ryan, and James Arbuthnott.

Rugby

We congratulate the Fifth Years and all members of the SCT squad who have enjoyed success over King's Hospital so far and are hopeful for their match against Terenure. We congratulate also the Fifth Year members of the cheerleading squad for their contribution to the Whole School Assembly in January and for their fabulous support of the Cup Teams in Donnybrook. We wish the teams and the cheerleaders well for the rest of the campaign.

As the competitive stage of the rugby season begins we wish all involved in House Rugby well in their participation in Leinster Branch Rugby Leagues.

Sailing

A special congratulations must go to Ewan McMahon, who was not only awarded the Silver Fox Trophy by Howth Yacht Club, but who was awarded Young Sailor of the Year by the Irish Sailing Association; two fantastic achievements.

Senior Soccer

The presence of Fifth Years on the senior soccer squad is notable and we commend their determination and wish them all the best in their training for the rest of the season in the new Senior League.



Matthew Curran and Sean McCann, Senior Soccer Team (Rock V Belvedere)

Spanish Debating

Congratulations to our Spanish debating team, who included Luke Demichel (5th Year), who defeated Eureka School Kells in the final of the interschool debating competition held in the Cervantes Institute.

Golf

We congratulate our Senior Team on winning 10up in the 1st round of the Leinster League v St Michael's in Woodbrook Golf Course. We wish the team all the best for the rest of the year, especially to 5th year Robert Abernethy.

Table Tennis

The Senior A team remains on target for a record equalling 8th consecutive Leinster League title as we saw off the challenges of Marian College and Woodbrook College, both on a 6-0 scoreline. The team is Stephen Campbell, Charlie Fitzgerald and Louis Murphy (all 6th Year), captain Joey Nelson and Barry O'Keeffe (both 5th Year).

The Senior B team is also unbeaten, having recorded two 6-0 victories, against DLS Churchtown and St. Fintan's, as well as a 4-0 scoreline over DLS in the Senior Cup. The team is Stephen Campbell, Kevin McCabe (both 6th Year), captain Barry O'Keeffe and Harry Owens (both 5th Year). We wish them all the best in the rest of their season.

Squash

Congratulations to Captain, Kevin O'Donnell, Oisin McEnroe (both 6th Year), Callum Ryan and Conor Fitzpatrick (both 5th Year) on their victory in the League final over Lycée Français d'Irlande on Thursday, 11th January. The final was a close affair. We won the singles 3-1 but lost the doubles 0-2. However, victory was ours on total points scored.

Cross Country

Congratulations to the boys of our Cross-Country teams who competed extremely well at a blustery Avondale Co. Wicklow, Thursday 26th January. Our Senior Squad retained their title while our Junior and Intermediate teams placed 3rd. I thank Ms Farrell, Mr Rowsome and Eddie McDonagh for their preparation of the squads.

Rowing

Our rowers were out in force on Saturday, 21st January, at the National Indoor Rowing Championships held at the University of Limerick. Over thirty Blackrock rowers competed in the event. Three brave parents also took to the challenge and raised money for equipment for the rowing club. These parents have put a lot of time and effort in the weeks leading up to the event to be fully prepared.

Catholic Schools Week

Each R.E class had a tour of the College campus guided by members of our Green Schools' Committee culminating in a short reflection. There were also displays on the electronic noticeboards. On Thursday 2nd February, we celebrated Venerable Francis Libermann Day, co-founder of the Spiritan congregation.

5th Year Family Mass

The 5th Year Family Mass will be celebrated in the College Chapel on **Sunday, 2nd April**. It is hoped that as many parents and sons as possible will be in attendance.

Dates for your Diary

5th Year Family Mass - Sunday 28th February.
Modern Languages Easter Aural - February 23rd
Irish Easter Aural - February 29th
House Exams - Tuesday 8th March
Niall McNamee Talk re Addiction Awareness - Thursday February 25th

The Arts

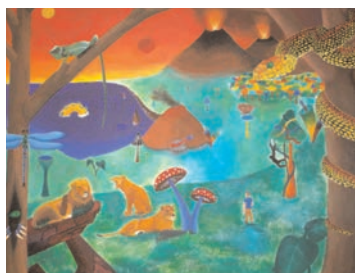


Art Fund

High quality reproductions from the National Gallery of Ireland will soon enhance the visual environment of our classrooms. A selection of 30 framed pictures will be put on permanent display in our main classrooms. Masterworks from the National Art Collection will include paintings by Vermeer, Caravaggio, Titian, Rembrandt and Jack Yeats. It is intended to link each work to a digital information code to allow students to access further information about the works. This project was made possible through the generosity of the Parents' Council and The Art Fund.

Art Club

The Wednesday afternoon Art Club 1.15 to 3.00 continues to grow in popularity. All are welcome.



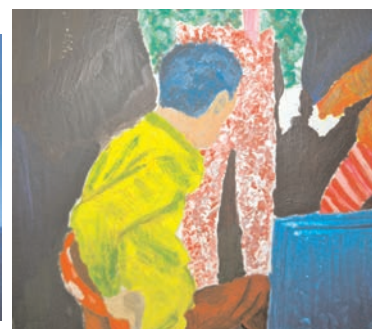
Michael Gadaloff (Third Year)



Robert Murphy (Third Year)



Michael Gadaloff (Third Year)



Robert Murphy (Third Year)

Music and Drama

As we near the halfway point of this term, we can reflect on recent weeks with great pride. Over the past few gatherings, **'Thursday Tunes'** facilitated the space for those involved in the **'Leman Festival Concert'** to fine-tune their performances in front of an audience and showcase their talents to those who weren't lucky enough to acquire tickets for the hallowed event. **'Thursday Tunes'** also hosted the **'Crocus Project'**, a project that remembers the children of the Holocaust. Organised by Ms Harlowe, through a lunch time of music, poetry and presentation, all present in the library were given an understanding that allowed us to put a human face to the facts and figures of history books.

Sunday, 5th February will certainly stand out as one of the highlights of the academic year 2016/2017 for Blackrock College. The Sam Cook refrain, "A change is gonna come", inspired the theme of 'change' for the **'Leman Festival Concert'**. It was a night that provided the perfect blend of rocking bands and dexterous soloists, stunning duets and a harmony of choirs – not to mention orchestra, pianists, MCs and singer-songwriters; all who moved between a rich variety of musical genres and epochs, reimagining old standards and realising original material. A packed National Concert Hall was given a night of truly outstanding entertainment and the boys were met with a standing ovation upon its conclusion. A special thank you to all involved: from the organisers to the crew – all of you who made the event possible and a most wonderful gathering. Thank you!



Cian Hasson (5th Year) at the Leman Concert



The Corless Choir perform at the Leman Concert.

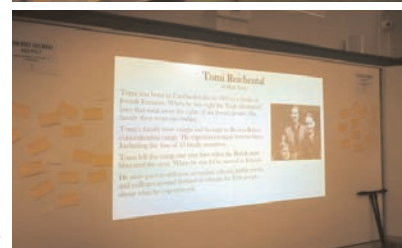
Wednesday, February 15th, will see Blackrock College take part in the **'St Andrew's One Act Drama Festival'**. Roy Geary (Sixth Year) joins Cian Hassan, Hugh Kelly and Harry Keyes (Fifth Year) in a production *Tear Up the Ground*, a new play written for the festival. *Tear Up the Ground* is a funny and disquieting exploration of family life and the intergenerational nature of the effect we can have on those closest to us, as we all strive to establish a genuine sense of belonging in our lives. Best of luck to all of those involved and a very special thank you to Lorraine Hoffman whose skills as a make-up artist add years to the boys!

Creative Arts and Digital Learning Centre Holocaust Exhibition Thursday 9th – 17th February

The Holocaust Exhibition, a joint venture organised by the **Green Schools' Committee** and our History Department, led by **25 History class** and launched on **Thursday February 9th** by Ms Harlowe, reminds us of this most awful genocide. 6 million Jews were massacred including 1.5 million children. Mr Cleary's 25 History class, with the help of Ms Marrey, researched and presented on PowerPoint, the case studies of different survivors of the barbarous act.

The Green Schools' Committee under the guidance of Mr Copeland, and in particular Dylan Hutchinson, Andrew Ryan, Conor O'Neill and Adam O'Sullivan, organised the clearing of the Crocus Project Memorial, located in front of the Junior Wing, which is a reminder to us all of the dangers of racism, discrimination, prejudice and hatred.

At Thursday Tunes, **Mark O'Donohue (T. Yr)**, played, on violin, the theme tune from 'Schindler's List' and **Stephen Ryan (5th Year)** sang 'Sunrise, Sunset' from 'Fiddler on the Roof'. **Theo Boland, Hugh Cuniam, Andrew McSweeney, Eoin O'Sullivan, Jack Roche, Christian Thoms and James Turley (all 2nd Year)** explained the exhibition to the audience, particularly encouraging them to engage with it through the quiz and comment noticeboard.



Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2017



Sam Cleere and John Fitzgerald give Robert Kenny and Geoff Larkin a makeover on arrival at SCTV Terenure match!



Rockapella perform at the Leman Concert



Peter O' Reilly and Stephen McLoughlin (Rock V Terenure)



Andrew Murphy (6th Year) plays the tuba in the College Orchestra at the Leman Concert



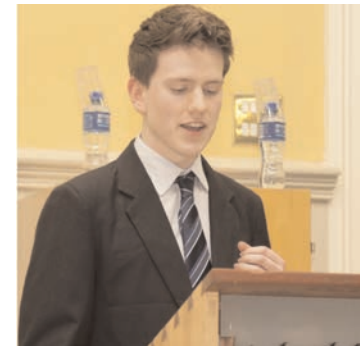
The Leman Choir and the College Orchestra under the baton of Mr Andre Cavanagh at the Leman Concert



Christopher Wong, Robert Sheedy, Peter Stevenson and Eoin Joy(Cheerleaders at Rock V Terenure)



Ben Melly Murphy, Charlie O'Carroll and Liam Heylin (3rd Year) (Rock V Terenure)



John Heavey (6th Year) at Past V Present Pupils' Debate



Simon Huggard and Scott Donohue at the MUN Conference



Blackrock College SCT Squad

Snapshot of 1st Half Term 2017



Michael Ryan (4th Year) at the MUN conference.



Donnacha Mescal (5th Year) taking the ball off the top (Rock V Wallace)



Josh Slevin (5th Year) Rock V Wallace



Under 14s Rock V CUS



Joe MacIntyre (6th Year) goalkeeper Senior Soccer Team (Rock V Beneavin)



Cian Reilly (Captain of the SCT) addresses the Whole School Assembly to launch the Cup Campaign



John Walsh (5th Year) House 2nds v Leinster Clubs



Gary Ringrose (Class of 2013) and Alan Francis (6th Year) at the Whole School assembly to launch the Cup Campaign

News from the Past



A Hundred Years Ago.

Eoin MacNeill, Chief-of-Staff of the Irish Volunteers who had tried to cancel the Rising, was one of those who had been interned in camps in England and Wales. His sons, Brian and Turlough, had come to Blackrock in September when St Mary's closed down.



Eoin MacNeill after his release from prison, 1917, with his son Brian

The boys returned to school on 16 January 1917. They were among an exceptionally interesting intake of students in terms of the political situation which in 1917 led to some remarkable conjunctions in classrooms, dormitories and sportsfields. For the second year running, Michael Ross of Edgeworthstown, Co Longford, who had drilled with the Volunteers, was on the 1917 SCT along with Walter Finn whose father was in the R.I.C., based in Clonbur, Co Galway.

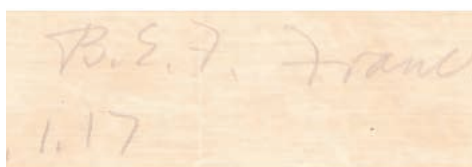
Another team-mate was Thomas F O'Carroll of Clyde Road in Dublin who captained the winning 1916 SCT, having captained the JCT in 1913. He had been on the winning SCT in 1915 and was to captain the 1917 team. While gaining these victories, he succeeded in financing his education by winning scholarships throughout his years in Blackrock.



Irish Air Aces 1917

The War still continued to dominate news. The youngest Major in the British Army was past student Frank Glynn from Tuam, twenty-years old and only eighteen months a soldier. He had survived "some thrilling experiences in the trenches" in France. Presumably news like this encouraged others, such as Thomas Carroll of Booterstown Avenue who joined the Royal Naval Air Force and Michael O'Connor of Sydney Parade who joined the RAF flying corps seemingly undaunted by hearing of the deaths of so many.

Malachi Martin wrote from the British Expeditionary Force in France where he said that things were 'pretty lively'.



Malachi Martin

By extraordinary good luck all three survived the war unlike several alumni who died in 1917.

Nine days into the term Ireland was covered in a huge snowfall, the heaviest for over fifty years and it lay on the ground for weeks affecting almost all activities throughout the spring.



Fifty Years Ago - 1967

The new Recreation Room was opened with a party for the cast of the College musical and a film for all. The Sunday night films held there were a highlight of the boarders' lives, more austere then than now, to say the least.



The subject for 5th Year debate in January was "That a modern community's most important asset is its airport". The Opposition were scornful of the "total totalitarian phraseology of the motion" and one of their number, David Gill, was judged Best Speaker.

The tradition of introducing new cup match songs continued with the use of "pop songs" heard on *Folk Scene* and the *Top Ten*. The value of Thursday night TV programme *Top of the Pops* for the boarders was questioned.

Mick Kelly (later to play for Manchester United) was Captain of the College Soccer XI and also a member of the winning SCT.



The College Soccer XI

R. Byrne, C O'Sullivan, C O'Kelly, D Elliott, J O'Leary, D Connolly, M O'Reilly, A Forte, M Kelly (Captain), T Dolan, S Sripisuth

Sixth Year



Parent Teacher Meeting

There was a very large attendance for the 6th Year parent teacher meeting held on Thursday 12th of January. The feedback from the meetings was extremely positive and provided the opportunity for constructive discussions on the back of the recent Christmas exams.

Leman Concert

The 31st Leman Concert was held on Sunday 5th of February in the National Concert Hall. A large number of 6th Years were involved this year and we congratulate them on what was an outstanding concert. A special mention must go to our very entertaining 6th Year MCs, Harry Doherty and Ross Deegan. Sixth Year soloists on the night included Lorcan Brophy, Sean Byrne, Bill Madigan, Chris Wong and Roy Geary. As always the Boarders' Choir was hugely entertaining when they performed *I'm Yours* and *Can't help Falling in Love*. And finally a special mention to all the performers on the night, the talent on display was simply astonishing.



Chris Wong performs at the Leman



Ross Deegan MC at the Leman Concert

Bullying Awareness Day

We were very fortunate to have Caoimhe O'Grady of Smart and Rockabill Coaching in and she talked mainly on self-esteem and how to cope with bullying when it occurs, a worthwhile and thought provoking talk. Remember that there is a confidential email address to report bullying issues in Blackrock College.

TACKLINGBULLYING@BLACKROCKCOLLEGE.COM

Past v Present Debate

In front of a packed Lecture Hall the past students (James Cronin, Robert McCarthy, Rossa Fanning and David McWilliams) successfully proposed the motion that 'In light of recent events this house believes that Ireland should leave the EU'. Our present student team comprised of 6th Years Scott Donohoe and John Heavey. We'd like to thank Joshua Kiernan-Glenon, Mr Sheil and Ms Kelleher for adjudicating the debate. It was a hugely entertaining evening and we congratulate all involved.



Sixth Year students enjoy the Past v Present students' Debate

Career Interviews

21 Sixth Years availed of the Career Mock Interviews held on Wednesday January 25th. The interviews spanned many different industries from Business to Politics, Engineering to Medicine and Law to Film. It provided the boys with a fantastic opportunity to undergo a rigorous interview by experienced professionals. We are extremely grateful to the College Union for their continued support and to Mr Menezes for his organisation of the evening.

Extra-Curricular Basketball

The Senior Basketball team is having a fantastic season and won the U19s All Ireland Schools Cup, defeating Larkin CC 49-45. We congratulate Captain, Robert Somers and the team on this fantastic achievement, and of course to Mr O'Neill for his preparation of the team.

Spanish Debating

Congratulations to our 6th Year Spanish debaters Riccardo Mei, Alex Concannon and Joe MacIntyre who along with Luke Demichel (5th Yr) defeated Eureka School in the final of the Interschool's debating competition.

ROCK MUN

On January 20th/21st Blackrock College hosted its second annual MUN conference. Over 225 delegates from 9 different schools attended the two day event, a hugely successful occasion. A special mention to our Sixth Years Scott Donohoe, John Heavey and Mark Heavey who organised and ran the event along with Mr Smyth.



Scott Donohoe speaks at the MUN conference

Badminton

Congratulations to Oisín McEnroe and Kevin O'Donnell who were part of the Senior Badminton team who won the Dublin Schools' League and finished third in the Leinster Finals. A big thank you to Ms McMahon for her organisation of the team.

Golf

Well done to Captain, James Cronin and the Senior Golf team on winning the Leinster schools match play title. Their All-Ireland Semi-final will be sometime in April.

Whole School Assembly

The whole school gathered in the Sports Hall to mark the start of the Cup Campaign. Garry Ringrose was the guest speaker on the day and he reminisced about his time on the SCT. Well done to Matthew Barry and the Cheerleaders for their organisation of the event.

Rugby

Well done to Cian Reilly and the SCT on beating King's Hospital in the first round of the cup. Congratulations also on their victory in the quarter final against Terenure. We wish the team continued success.



Mark Phelan (Rock V Terenure)

The Castle Thirds started their league campaign against Castleknock. It turned out to be a cracking game of rugby where attack over shadowed defence. In the final stages the Castle were ahead by 4, but then Castleknock broke out of their half and looked like scoring. Fortunately our cover defence held tight and we actually managed to steal the ball and score under the posts. A dramatic finish to a great game, the castle won 32-21. The second game in the group saw us away to Gonzaga. Things didn't go our way and we lost to a very strong Gonzaga team 26-10. The final group game is against St Mary's.

Soccer

The soccer team bowed out in the semi-final of the Dublin Metropolitan League to a very talented Marian College. The game finished 3-3 after normal time and Marian managed to pinch a winner in extra-time to send them into the final, we wish them well.

Swimming

Congratulations to 6th Years Sean Desmond, Ian Leavy, Rolf Jager and Charlie Lawless who were part of the College's senior relay team that won the Freestyle and Medley Relays at the Leinster Schools' Championship. Sean Desmond also won bronze in the 100m Butterfly.

Dates for your Diary

Addiction Awareness Day	February 28th
*Anticipated Exams	Tuesday 7th March – Friday 10th March
Regulation Exams	Monday March 13th – Friday 24th March
State Orals	Monday 27th March – Friday 7th March
End of Term	Friday 7th April

*** A reminder that normal classes continue during anticipated exams. If a student is not doing an exam he should be in class.**

Pastoral Care Programme



3rd Year Days of Reflection – The start of the new calendar year is also the time when our third year students participate in their days of reflection. This is the first time that students in the College travel to an 'off campus' retreat and once again the venue was the facilities provided by the Sisters, Disciples of the Divine Master, at the top of Newtownpark Avenue. The Retreat leader was Mr. Gerry Keegan. He was most impressed with the levels of attention and engagement shown by our 3rd Year students on each of the three days.

The following comments by the 3rd Year House Representatives highlight what the young men take from this day of retreat...*'I really enjoyed Gerry's life story, it taught me important lessons in life that I will treasure forever.'*...*'It was a very good opportunity for us as a group to have a time of reflection as well as a small break from class. The environment was very relaxed.'*...*'Gerry was very honest and made me think. He told us stories that we could learn from and I think most people benefitted from them. I also liked his sense of humour which made the day feel more casual.'*

Many thanks to Sr. Brid Geraghty for organising the facilities, Mr. Garry Sullivan for accompanying the students, the House Reps for their leadership on each day and to Mr. Sean Dunne for his valued support of this most important Third Year event.

Matthew 25 Programme 5 & 6 – The Matthew 25 Programme has continued this term. Two more Religion class groups, RE45 (Jan 16th to 27th) and RE43 (Jan 30th to Feb 10th) have spent two weeks on pastoral placement, befriending clients and supporting the amazing work undertaken by the staff in each of the venues that we attend.

The following comments taken from Matthew 25 Journals give some insight into the holistic learning that is taking place...*'Over the last two weeks I have learned that there's no such thing as a disability, rather I have discovered that we are all special in our own way.'*...*'The staff in my centre are truly amazing. I cannot fully express the respect I have for people like them who prioritise helping the needy over themselves.'*...*'The placement has impacted me greatly. It has taught me to appreciate my life and not to take the little things in life for granted. I've learned to see beyond people's disabilities and restrictions.'*

Well done to all TY students on their committed and dedicated service throughout this academic year.

Catholic Schools Week: 29th January > 4th February - The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week was "Learning with Pope Francis to Care for our Common Home". This theme was built on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" which is a call to all Christians to be more caring of the environment. In response to this call, each religion class was brought on a nature walk around the school grounds where they were shown different aspects of the bio-diversity within the college campus. The walk concluded with a prayerful reflection in our outdoor class space.

Within the school building, the RE classes were introduced to the main points raised by Laudato Si, a religion quiz was held for staff, plus the Digital Learning Centre (DLC) had on display, relevant publications about the environment and Pope Francis. We are blessed to have mass celebrated in the college chapel at 8.15am each morning by Fr. Paddy Dundon CSSp and during Catholic Schools Week, prayers of the day were said for St Brigid, St Blaise (along with a blessing of throats) and the feast of Francis Libermann.



Catholic Schools Week 2017



**Catholic Schools:
Learning
with Pope Francis
to Care for
Our Common Home**



A huge thank you goes to Cathal Copeland and the Green Schools Committee who led the nature walks; this was a wonderful opportunity to witness quality peer to peer teaching. Many thank also to Lorraine in the CADLC, Fr Paddy and to all in the RE team who successfully and generously co-ordinated the week's events. We are hopeful that all members of the Blackrock Community will continue to work to ensure that we care for our common home.

Spirasi (5th Year) – On

Thursday 9th February, Mr. Rory Halpin, CEO of Spirasi and Ms. Miriam Omoro, a member of the Board of Spirasi, spoke to the 5th Year students about this Spiritan mission that has been operating in Ireland since 1999. Spirasi assists refugees and asylum seekers who arrive in Ireland and in recent years the organisation has begun to focus more closely on the rehabilitation of victims of torture. In a powerful

and moving testimony, Miriam spoke of her experiences in Uganda where she became separated from her family, of her journey to Ireland and of the challenges she has faced since arriving in this country. She informed the year group that while she is still only allowed live here on a temporary three year visa, she has at last moved out of 'Direct Provision' and can take begin to take back some ownership of her life. In response to the visit by Spirasi, the 5th Year House Representatives and Year group have committed to organising a 24 hour Fast before mid-term. It is hoped to present the proceeds of this fast to Spirasi during the 5th Yr Family Mass on April 2nd.



Transition Year Faith Friends Confirmation Programme – The New Year has also seen the Transition Year Faith Friends Programme (the 'Lighthouse' programme) spring into action. This is a programme where students in Mr. O'Reilly's TY RE Class, work with the confirmation candidates in Willow Park School 6th Class (as Mr MacGinty noted, the Blackrock Class of 2023!). The first meeting took place in Willow Park on Monday 6th Feb and a wonderful atmosphere of anticipation marked this gathering. On a return visit to the College, the second of five group sessions, Mr MacGinty welcomed the 6th class boys and offered his congratulation to our TYs on stepping forward and choosing to accompany them on their journey of faith.

We are very proud of our Faith Friends leaders who themselves have been preparing for their particular roles since September. The high point of this training was undoubtedly the day of reflection spent in Kimmage Manor under the direction and guidance of Ronan Barry and Fr Paddy Moran CSSp. We look forward to celebrating with the 6th Class students when they receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 11th March.



Other major pastoral events that have taken place during these hectic weeks since Christmas include the outstanding Leman Concert and the Soup Run project which RE 45, Ms McMahon, Mr Walsh and Ms Marren have continued to operate each Wednesday in Dublin city centre. Preparations for the pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in April and Lourdes in September have moved into focus and when we return to school, the season of Lent will be on the horizon.



After all of this activity, it is time to pause, take stock and recharge the batteries. A well-earned mid-term break beckons!!! Enjoy.

Guidance and Counselling



This term has been a busy one for the Guidance Department with the **CAO** applications one of the main focus in January. The Guidance Department continue to meet the boys on a regular basis with a number of key events taking place during this term.

The UCAS applications to Universities in the United Kingdom were all finalised before the deadline of January 15th. Several students applied through this system and now await provisional responses regarding conditional places. A big thank you to Mr. Barrett for providing references for the boys which are an essential part of the application process.

On January 14th, the 5th Years attended a number of **Career Talks** on Medicine, Education, Sport, Engineering and a CV workshop. This day was provided by the Past Pupils' Union in collaboration with the Guidance Department and was a great success. A second morning of career talks took place on the 28th of January with talks in Technology, Science, Accounting, Business and Law provided to the boys. The Past Pupils' Union and Guidance Department also conducted mock interviews with the 6th Years on January 25th with over 30 boys participating. Many thanks to Robert McCarthy, Gary Clarke and the rest of the

Union for their efforts.

Bullying Awareness Day took place on January 23rd with the boys from each year group attending talks on anti-bullying and well-being. The Bullying Research Centre from DCU addressed 2nd and 3rd Years, psychologist Maureen Griffin spoke to the Transition Years and Caoimhe O'Grady-Tegert who is a life coach gave a talk on anti-bullying and self-esteem to 5th and 6th Year. A poster campaign was run during the day with a debate taking place at break time which was organised by Oisín Ryan in 5th Year. Well done to the student well-being committee who had a huge involvement in the day.

The CAO closed on the 1st of February. The application will remain shut until the **'change of mind' facility which will open on the 5th of May**. Students can amend their order of preference and add or take away courses on their CAO from this date. However any 'restricted' courses (e.g. Medicine, Art and Design, Drama etc.) cannot be applied for during the change of mind as the extra assessments for these courses take place in March/April.

Sport



Badminton

Congratulations to our U19 badminton team who won the Dublin Schools' Finals on Thursday the 19th of January. Captain Kevin O'Donnell led Oisín McEnroe, Callum Ryan and Conor Fitzpatrick to victory of 4-2 against Lycee Francais. Next year our U19 badminton team will compete within Division 2. We commend Lycee Francais for their excellent display on the day and wish them luck next year.



Senior Badminton Team - Oisín McEnroe, Conor Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Donnell and Callum Ryan.

Under 14 (Division 4)

Hard Luck to our U14s in Division 4, as they were defeated in the Semi-finals by an experienced St. Declan's. John Dennison and his team Ben Ryan, Nathan Van Steenberg and Daragh Harrison have had difficulty getting play in their division due to unforeseen walk overs. We wish St. Declan's all the best in the Dublin Schools' final.

U14 (Division 3)

The U14s Division 3 team played De La Salle in the Semi-finals at Whitehall Road recently. Darragh Dempsey led his team of Alex Cronnelly, Stephen O'Nuallain and Andrew Ryan to a win of 4-2. In the final there were some outstanding matches played against last year's finalists Templeogue. Both teams were impeccably matched with the score line finishing 3-3. Blackrock won on a count back of individual points.

Basketball Senior

This term was a historic one for Basketball in Blackrock College as the U19 side secured the school's first ever All-Ireland Basketball title in what was an incredibly exciting back and forth All-Ireland Final against Larkin Community College at the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght.

In the All-Ireland final, Blackrock came up against a side who had beaten us earlier in the year in the East-Leinster final by 11 points. Larkin started much the better and after winning the first quarter 11-4, had reached a lead of 20-16 at the halfway stage. Blackrock however fought back and with two minutes to go in the third quarter had moved 29-26 ahead. Larkin to their credit came back and scored ten points in the last two minutes of the third quarter to lead 36-29 going into the final quarter. Blackrock put in an incredible display of skill and determination in the last quarter (winning the quarter 20-9) and to run out eventual winners 49-45.



Senior Basketball team after the All-Ireland final

Seán Lardner finished with 18 points from some outstanding long range shooting. Rob Somers (6th Year – Captain) and Rory Linnane (6th Year) were both outstanding on rebounds, with Rob Somers finishing with 12 points. Rhys Hennessy (6th Year) put in a season's best performance on rebounds and finished with 8 points. Roberto Brusasca (4th Year) and Tom Dowdall (6th Year) were at the heart of everything as they shared point guard duties. Karl Conroy (5th Year) hit a long range 3 pointer at a crucial stage of the 4th quarter which swung the game in our favour. However the extended squad of James O'Connor, Barry O'Sullivan, Rob Johnston, Gonzalo Araluce, Michael Callaghan, have been crucial to the win throughout the year and certainly this victory wouldn't have happened without them.

2nd Year Basketball

2nd Year Basketball has begun in earnest this term. For much of the squad it is their first competitive basketball of any kind so the training and preparation has focused on fitness, developing the core fundamental skillset, gaining experience and most of all at this stage of the Basketball programme, enjoying the sport and being a part of the team.

The attitude and application of the squad has been excellent. Feargal Keane (Captain) and his squad have started their season with two wins from two, defeating Temple Carrig on a scoreline of 17-7 and St. Michael's by a scoreline of 18-9. There are two matches left in the group against St. Mary's and Colaiste Raithín. A top two finish in the group secures an East-Leinster quarter-final.

Chess

On Wednesday 25th January, Castleknock College travelled to Blackrock College to play our U16 team. The team consisted of Fergus Woods, David Halpenny, Tom Gennell, John Cawley and Eoin Whooley. Fergus Woods got the team off to a good start winning his match.

From there all games were fiercely contested throughout the afternoon with Blackrock coming away eventual winners 3-2. We look forward to the next round of games after the mid-term break.

Sport



Cross Country

Blackrock College had a tremendous start to 2017 at the annual DCU cross country invitational. Standards were high with athletes competing from all over Ireland and many races having over 300 athletes partaking at a time. All boys performed well but particular praise must be given to our senior team. Conor Halpin (5th Year) gave an incredible performance coming in 2nd place, followed by Ross McCann (6th Year) and Patrick Fahy (5th Year) finishing 17th and 18th respectively.

However it was in our first competitive outing of the year that the boys truly shone, competing in the East Leinster Cross Country Competition in Avondale, Co. Wicklow on January 26th. The students performed extremely well, both individually and as a team. The junior team placed 3rd and the intermediate team placed 2nd, whilst the senior team placed 1st to retain their title. This ensured that all competitors qualified for the Leinster Championships in Santry on February 15th, a truly terrific achievement.



Senior Cross Country team Patrick Fahy, Conor Halpin, Ross McCann and Harry Kearns

Golf

The senior golf team consisting of James Cronin (captain) Robert Abernethy, Shane Bresnan and Ronan Cowhey had a comprehensive win against St Michael's College in Woodbrook Golf course, with a scoreline of 10Up.



Ronan Cowhey, Robert Abernethy, James Cronin (c) and Shane Bresnan. (Senior Golf Team)

Rugby

Senior Rugby

The Christmas holiday was a busy period for the senior rugby squad as they trained through the break and completed fixtures in preparation for the cup campaign.

Victories against St Munchin's and CBC Cork came either side of an excellent performance over in Wales against Cardiff Blues U18 at Cardiff Arms Park. With the lead changing hands multiple times, an entertaining game finally ended with honours even (19-19). A win against Methody mid-January concluded the pre-season friendlies and left the squad in positive mind-set for the first cup match against King's Hospital a fortnight later.



Carl Delaney and Andrew Savage prepare on the side-line (Rock V Terenure)

A more competitive match than the unforgiving score line (41-3) suggests left Cian Reilly and his team with a hunger to raise their performance further when meeting Terenure in the second round on the 13th February. This quarter final match ended in victory for Blackrock. (Blackrock 27 -Terenure College 7)

Junior Rugby

The junior squad continued to work hard over the Christmas period, with plenty of training and challenging matches in preparation for the cup campaign. Last Monday 6th February the JCT overcame a strong Terenure side 15 - 6 in Donnybrook in the first round of the cup. In a closely fought contest and in tough conditions, some stellar defence from our boys kept Terenure try less at crucial stages of the match. We now look forward to the next round of the cup against Gonzaga College on the 28th February at 3.00pm. Preparations are ongoing and the match is eagerly anticipated by all.

Swimming

The Leinster Schools' Swimming Competition was held on Sunday 7th of January in Tallaght Community School Sports Centre. Our students did fantastic work on the day and brought home multiple individual and relay medals.

The Senior Relay Team of Sean Desmond, Rolf Jager, Ian Leavy Charles Lawless (All 6th Year) won gold in both the Medley and Freestyle event. Sean Desmond won bronze in the 100M Butterfly.

In the Intermediate Category, Peter Harrington, Philip Towns, Patrick Harty (All 3rd Year) and Ethan Murtagh (2nd Year) won silver in the Medley Relay and bronze in the Freestyle Relay. In addition, Ethan Murtagh dominated the individual events winning gold in the 100M Butterfly and bronze in the 100M freestyle.



James Moriarty (6th Year) (Rock V King's Hospital)



Ruairi Coyne (3rd Year) and Michael Moloney (2nd Year) (Rock V Terenure)

In the Junior Category, our junior squad of Patrick Curley, Ben Bracken, Hugh O'Connor (Medley Only) (All 1st Year) and Naoise Cautley (2nd Year and Freestyle Only) won silver in the Freestyle Relay and bronze in the Medley Relay. I would like to thank Coach Carole Walsh for all her hard work and dedication to preparing the students for the event.

Table Tennis

It has been a busy few weeks for the table tennis teams. Senior A remain on target for a record equalling 8th consecutive Leinster League title as they saw off the challenges of Marian College and Woodbrook College, both on a 6-0 scoreline. Senior B are also unbeaten, also recording two 6-0 victories, against DLS Churchtown and St. Fintans, as well as a 4-0 scoreline over DLS in the Senior Cup.

Junior A have started well in their defence of the Leinster Junior Cup, with a 4-0 win over St. Fintan's, and are also off to a good start in the League, with a 6-0 win over Terenure College. Junior B suffered their first loss in the League with a 2-4 result against Colaiste Eanna, but recorded a 5-1 scoreline against Terenure College. In the Junior Cup, the B team is through to the semi-finals, with 4-0 wins over Marian College and Terenure College.

Junior 2A dropped to a 3-3 draw against Marian College but came through 6-0 against St. Fintan's in their league matches, as well as stealing an incredibly tight 4-3 result against Glenart College in the Junior Cup, followed by a 4-2 result against Terenure College. Junior 2B also dropped to a 3-3 draw, against Glenart College, but recorded a 6-0 win over Mountrath CS in both matches in the junior league. The team had a poor result against Oak Academy, knocked out of the Cup on a 1-4 scoreline.

Minor A are off to a good start; in the League, with a 5-1 win over Terenure College, and in the Cup, with a 4-0 result against DLS Churchtown.

Photos courtesy Rock Photography
www.rockphotography.ie

www.blackrockcollege.com

Reflection

