

BLACKROCK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Summer 2017

Dear Parents,

**“The meaning of life is to give meaning to life.”
Viktor Frankl**

If your son is going to read one book this summer – and you should require him to read at least one book – I recommend Viktor Frankl's 'Man's Search for Meaning', particularly if he is going into Transition Year or indeed has experienced Transition Year.

It is about hope and heroism, high expectations and optimism. It is about encouraging your son to be what he can be, not just what he is. It is about gratitude for what we have and a realisation that if we give more, happiness and fulfilment follow. It is about choosing your attitude – **“he who has a why to live can bear almost any how”** (Nietzsche).

A Blackrock education is about bringing meaning and a sense of purpose to our lives. In this term alone there have been so many different opportunities for your sons to grow and extend themselves, to feel proud of their peers, their community, their Blackrock.

Witness the creativity within our spectacular Junior Musical and the Summer Concert, the eloquence of our Gold Medal debates, the fervour at our Graduation Mass, the pride within Prize Day; the excitement of representing us in Athletics, Cricket, Table-Tennis and Tennis; the outreach, concern and action in our Swan, Soup Run, Development Education, Machakos and Green Schools' programmes; the companionship in the friendly rivalry generated by our Inter-House Soccer Leagues, Paul Stanley Cup, Sports and Family Day, MasterChef and 100 Mile Cycle; the power of reflection on the Camino at the 2nd and Transition Year Retreats and the learning in class or study; each one spurs us on.

With so much worthwhile activity, being negative and sceptical should not be an option. If our young men are open to these opportunities they will feel better about themselves. That is not to trivialise the very real suffering and challenges some of our boys face. Each individual's well-being is different. There are deep and hidden dimensions to every life.

Having said that, a pathway away from cynicism and despair is through a belief that we can make a difference in the lives of others and in so doing be complete in ourselves. A Blackrock education is about living our Christian hope. It puts before our boys the value of service, of community, of faith and faithfulness of reflection, of reaching out to others, of breaking down barriers. Blackrock is about good habits of the heart and mind. How can your sons subscribe to this? – Just show up!

As the year closes, I thank the many heroes of Blackrock – my Colleagues, the Spiritan Community, the Parents and of course the boys - who make all of the above and much more happen. I particularly wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Chairman of the Parents' Council, Brian O'Sullivan who steps down after 2 years in office. His clear thinking and forthright approach have ensured that the parental voice has been considered in our decision making. Also I thank the chair of the Student Council, James Kelly (6th Year), the Secretary Liam McMahon (5th Year) and their fellow members who have served with intelligence.

Finally, thank you for sending your sons to Blackrock. May the 'Be There, Be Caring, Be Truthful, Be Grateful' of Blackrock be with them throughout the summer.

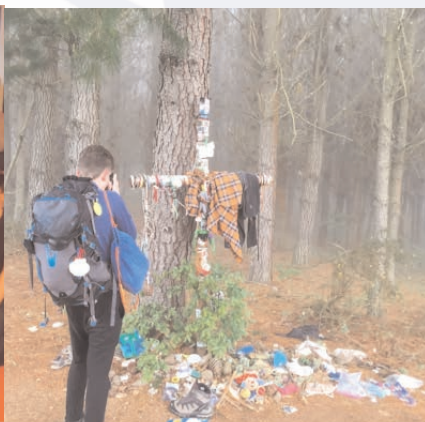
I look forward to our next academic year with hope and optimism.

God Bless.

ALAN MacGINTY
Principal

Photos from L to R :

- a) 'Fake News' (2nd Year and TY students from Blackrock College and Loreto Abbey, Dalkey)
- b) Camino 2017
- c) Sean Hannon (TY) leads his team of Blackrock College rowers



Second Year



The Class of 2021 concluded its Second Year with a 'fantastic' production of **Fake News** in collaboration with our Transition Year boys and the girls from Loreto College Dalkey. All the Second Year boys involved in cast and crew deserve huge credit, as do the Second Year boys who attended on the opening night; they were 'the greatest audience ever..!' The **House Competitions** ended with the last contributory events being the Debating Final, the Soccer Leagues and Sports & Family Day. And so at the final Assembly of the year, the Inter-House Barry Shield 2017 was presented by the Principal to Duff House.



Inter-House Barry Shield

At **Prize-giving**, Oscar Bourke Mullaney received the Student Leadership Award for Second Year; Darragh Dempsey was awarded the Bro Thaddeus Judge Medal for Religion and the Gold Medal for Second Year Debating was won by Andrew Ryan.

The **Academic Excellence Awards** for Second Year went to Conor Crumlish, Matthew Gibney and Max Reid. Book prizes for individual subjects were awarded to John Daly, Dara O'Grady, Andrew Ryan, Michael Lucey, Gregoire Vidalinc, Darragh Harrison, Oscar Bourke Mullaney, Greg Dettling, Matthew Gibney, Max Reid, Jack Tarpey, Rory McGuire, Conor Crumlish, Sam Loscher, Darragh Dempsey and Ciaran Conway.



Day of Reflection, with Retreat Leaders

Six Second Year students who each demonstrated an excellent contribution to the life of the College received **Honours List Awards**: they were Jacob Antonio, Zach

Boyle, Niall Brophy, Robert Kenny, Cian Macken and Charlie Mullin. Harry Whelan was awarded the Second Year Honours List for the Halls of Residence. Special Awards in the Arts, for an accomplishment judged by an external norm, were given to Oscar Bourke Mullaney, Robert Byrne, Robbie Gallagher, Alex Kelly, Sam Loscher, Sean Probert, Michael Lucey and Evan Walsh. Special Awards for Sports were presented by the Principal to Theo Boland, Ben Hogan, Jamie McMahon, Ethan Murtagh, Mark O'Brien, Stephen O'Nuallain and Nathan Van Steenberge at the final Assembly of the year.

After a vote amongst their peers and consultation with staff, the following have been nominated as **House**

Captains for Third Year: Alex Kelly & Michael Nealon for De Valera; Alex Bolger & Michael Moloney for Duff; Oscar Bourke Mullaney & Robert Kenny for Ebenrecht; Niall Brophy & Scott Graham for Leman; Sam Loscher & Harry Whelan for McQuaid; and Conor Bleakley & Charlie Mullin for Shanahan. We thank the outgoing cohort of Captains for their service and wish the incoming group well in their new responsibilities.



Parents' Committee presents a cheque for Machakos

Finally, the College is indebted to the members of the Second Year Parents' Committee who gave of their time and shared their expertise for the service of the school community. And so after a busy term of sports and study, of music and drama, with events as diverse as Sci-fest, Days of Reflection and the Summer Concert, the Second Year boys can enjoy a well-earned holiday, preparing themselves for Third Year.

Third Year



The final days of last term ended with the Junior Seconds beating Clongowes to retain the Cup in a very competitive match and the Junior Thirds losing to St. Michael's in a titanic contest that was decided in the last minute of play. Both panels of players deserve great credit for their achievements this season. In swimming Peter Harrington and David Cosgrave were members of the Intermediate Medley and Freestyle Relay Team that won silver in the Irish Schools' Relay Championships. In addition three of the year group travelled to Eton over the Easter break to represent the College. Ronan Cowhey and Robert Galligan were members of the Senior Golf Team which won the Leinster Cup. The team suffered a narrow defeat in the All-Ireland Finals. Both deserve great credit for their efforts.

Five Third Year Boys were members of the College team that participated in the St. Andrew's International MUN over Easter. We congratulate them and encourage more to join the MUN in Transition Year. Congratulations to Callum Byrne and Colm Hogan on being members of the College Jazz Band, to all the Third Year Boys who participated in the Summer Concert and those who were involved in the Willow Wheelers 100 Mile Cycle over the May Bank Holiday weekend. It was great to see the Past Pupils' Union honour Mr Christy McDaid with their President's Award at their annual dinner in recognition of the remarkable contribution he has made over the years, the great commitment to the Third World and the tangible difference the Club has made to the projects they have supported.

In table-tennis another Leinster Junior League, Cup and All-Ireland Cup arrived back in the College. We salute each member of the squad on their great efforts throughout the year. In athletics a large number of boys represented the College in the East Leinster's and Leinster's with some very encouraging performances recorded. All the best to Harry Cullen and Ian Douglas who are competing in the All-Ireland Finals on the 3rd of June. In cricket we had boys playing on both the Senior and the Junior teams with the Junior team captained by Gavin Hoey losing out narrowly to Wesley College in the semi-final. While there were no finals in tennis for Third Year, it was great to see a core group give it all they had.

The rowers continued their very busy schedule which included the Schools' Championships with Jack Tiernan and MJ Power winning the Junior Double Sculls and the Under 16 '8' which included Louis Crowe, Peter O'Grady, Mark Kavanagh, Matt Smith, Jack and MJ finishing 2nd. In addition Jack won the Junior Sculls. Finally in the Inter House competition Ebenrecht edged past McQuaid to win the Inter-House Cup.



Blackrock College rowers at the blessing ceremony of the College's new boat – 'Fides'

New records for boys making the Principal's List were reached this year. To set such a high standard of application throughout the year is a testament to the year group. Congratulations to all those who were awarded prizes on Prize Day.

Book Prizes for Subjects:

Michael Gadaloff, Alexander Doyle, David Molony, John Huggard, Harry O'Leary, and Matthew O'Kelly

Jack Kane, Aaron Ryan, Gavin Hoey, Conor Duddy, Oliver Bosworth, Jamie Dowling, Chris Byrne, Shane Murray, Tom Dooley and Ernesto Ortiz.

Academic Excellence: John Huggard, Michael Gadaloff and Luke O'Brien.

Honours List: Adam Dixon, Liam Heylin, John Huggard, Jeff Kenny, Mark Landers and Shane Murray.

Hall of Residence: Adam Simpson

Student Leadership Award: Matt Smith

Gold Medal Debate: Oliver Bosworth

Religious Education: Matthew O'Kelly

Over 50 boys have paid up for the outing to Skirmish Paintball in Kiltarnan on the day the **Junior Certificate results are released**. Late applications will be accepted up until **Monday the 4th of September**. Please feel free to leave €25 with your son's name in an envelope marked Skirmish Paintball at **Reception**.

Transition Year



Dragons Den

On Monday 22nd of May the entrepreneurs of TY had their start up projects and businesses scrutinised by Blackrock College's dragons led by Mr Paul McGowan in the final of the competition. There were five finalists in what was a great morning in the College. The final was to be the culmination of business development, which began in the first term. All finalists were complimented on the quality of presenting in front of their peers, their ability to answer the questions posed by the dragons and of course their business ideas. The judges were particularly impressed by the fact some of the businesses were already up and running. Duran Osan was the winner with his company *Grind Gymwear*, Sean Lardner and Liam Duncan came second with *DL Labour and Gardening Services* with Rhys Rowlands and his *Blackrock Business Directory* in third. I commend all finalists for all the work they have put in - it was very apparent to all in attendance. I thank Mr O'Neill for his leadership and organisation of this terrific TY project.

Build a Bank Competition

On Tuesday the 25th of April Zach Donnelly, Tom Dwan, Tadhg Egan, Oisín Ellison, Ben Murphy and Adam O'Sullivan travelled to the AIB Build a Bank finals in the RDS to showcase Blackrock College Bank. The group had qualified from the regionals before Easter. The group made a presentation to the judges about their experience. It was a very successful project as they focussed on 'Backing Blackrock'. Blackrock College Bank focussed on the customer experience encouraging many students to open bank accounts. The judges were particularly impressed with their digital marketing campaign.



Tadhg Egan, Tom Dwan, Zach Donnelly, Ben Murphy, Adam O'Sullivan and Oisín Ellison at the AIB Build a Bank in the RDS

Day of Action for Climate Change

On Wednesday 24th May the Transition Year Development Education Group under the guidance and inspiration of Ms Payne held a day of action on Climate Change in the college. Staff, parents and students were encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school. We then began the school day with a liturgy led by Ms McMahon to remind us to care for our planet and work together to prevent global warming. Drummond McGinn, Max McKenna, Ruairi Moore, Conor O'Neill, Adam O'Sullivan and Andrew Ryan outlined to the year group why it is so important to act now on climate change, the work the committee have completed and what they plan to do going forward. The liturgy concluded with the Transition Years in full voice as they sung Louis Armstrong's *What a wonderful world*.

Fake News

We are lucky to have the talent of Mr Savage in our midst as the College was treated to four nights of hilarious comedy, top class acting and energetic song and dance during the week of 2nd Year/ 4th Year musical. The show *Fake News*, in collaboration with Loreto Abbey Dalkey received rave reviews from a sell out audience over four nights in the Jubilee Hall. Mr Savage, Mr Grumley Traynor and Mr O'Brien had a very talented cast and band to work with and produced a brilliantly uplifting show. The staff and cast were of course ably supported by a crew who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and produced an amazing set. Ably assisted by Ms Keenan and front of house, it was a top class show.



'Fake News' cast and crew (Blackrock TY and Loreto Abbey, Dalkey students)

Camino de Santiago de Compostela

On Saturday the 29th of April 20 TYs departed for Northern Spain on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The group was accompanied by myself, Mr O'Neill, Ms Nolan, Mr Ryan and again we were very fortunate to have Father Marc Whelan as the



Camino 2017

group's Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims before them, the group took the *Camino Francés* starting in Triacastela and covering over 130 km. Although the group walked through rain and hail stones on their first few days the sun eventually came out, but returned on the final day's walk. This did not dampen their spirits as they arrived in Santiago on Friday 5th May following six days walking. I thank my colleagues on the Camino, Mr O'Neill and Mr Ryan for their organisation of the pilgrimage.

M.A.D. Week

Music Art and Drama Week (2nd - 5th of May) kicked off with a hilarious magic show performed by Mr Jack Wise. The week provided the students with the opportunity to take part in a number of different workshops including: Samba drumming, song school, animation and hip hop dancing. Other highlights of the week included a trip to the cinema to see *The Promise* and the fabulous Summer Concert. The week overall gives the students the opportunity not only to showcase, but explore their artistic abilities. It would not be possible without the organisation of Ms O'Connor and Mr Grumley Traynor assisted this year by a very hard working MAD week committee.



Drumming during MAD Week

MasterChef

A project which really encapsulates what Transition Year is all about - it again is an opt in project where we offer a platform for the students to showcase their talents and be the best they can be. 60 students took part in the heats this year with 8 qualifying for the final which was held on Friday 25th. The judges led by Michelin Star chef Mr Derry Clarke were very impressed by the variety and complexity of dishes produced on the morning. Congratulations to winner Scott Cullinane, James Gibney in second and Fergal McCluskey and Harry Spain in joint third. Well done to all competitors, it was great to see such culinary excellence on show.



MasterChef 2017

Extra-Curricular

There has been no let up in sport in the final term. Our UI6'8' including Sean Hannon and Conal Regan finished second at the Schools' Championship in Limerick on the 23rd of April. In swimming Rhys Rowlands was part of the Intermediate Medley Team Relay that finished second at the Irish Senior Schools' Relay Championships held in the National Aquatic Centre on the 29th of April. Congratulations to our Intermediate Relay Team including Ross O'Reilly and Ben White who won gold at the East Leinster Athletics Championships on the 3rd of May.

Volunteering

There was no shortage of opportunities for Transition Years to volunteer in the spirit of giving and helping good causes. And of course the group yet again did not disappoint, participating in collections for The Happy Heart Foundation, assisting with the Machakos golf outing and caddying for the Declan Drislane Masters in Elm Park and at the annual Golf outing for St. Michael's House. I really am impressed with this groups' generosity of their time, and as always the feedback we received from organisers was very complementary. I would like particularly to commend Tim Darcy, who among other things this year, ran a marathon to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society raising over €10,000 - Well done Tim!

Days of Reflection

On Tuesday and Thursday 23rd and 25th of May Transition Year students had the opportunity for reflection and meditation at the end of a very busy year. The venue was the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. The opportunity to look back on Transition Year and take stock prior to their end of year interviews was broadly welcomed by the students and the feedback was very positive.

Conclusion

I would like to thank my colleagues in Transition Year: Mr Patrick O'Neill, Mr Brian Savage, Mr Garry Sullivan and Mr Tom Ryan, Director of Pastoral Care who have worked tirelessly to run a very busy TY Programme. I am also very grateful for all the work of the Transition Year Parents' Committee chaired by Mr John McCabe. Their support has been invaluable. And to the future Fifth Years - I thank you for all the work, commend you on your enthusiasm and participation in the programme and wish you well for the future. Have a great summer!

Fifth Year



Summer 2017

The final term has been one of continued commitment and focus with good levels of effort and performance evident both in and out of the classrooms. Academic Prize Giving has highlighted the determination of the year group to reach their academic potential and we congratulate all those awarded prizes.

Sports and Family Day

A truly fantastic day was had by all at this year's Sports and Family Day. As expected, Fifth Year students and their families attended in high numbers to enjoy fine weather (for the most part!), a joyful ambiance and of course to witness the high calibre and at times intense competition as the Houses aimed for first place. De Valera emerged as victors overall but the day was won by all who participated enthusiastically in the many events. Well done to all involved and a special word of acknowledgement to Ewan McMahon who was one of the students shortlisted for the Sports Star of the Year Award 2016-2017 for his exceptional achievements in sailing over the past year.

Career Guidance - Centigrade Testing

We are grateful to Mr Nick Menezes in the Careers' Department for his administration of Cognitive Ability Tests and Centigrade Tests for all Fifth Year students this term. The results of these tests and the accompanying insights into future career options will be available for students on their return from the summer break. Also, thank you must be said to Angela Gillman, who was also busy organising the tests.

Cheerleading

A big well done goes to all Fifth Year members of the cheerleading squad. They represented both their school and the year in a fantastic manner at games throughout the year. Well done, boys.

Music

Congratulations to our Libermann Choir who received a highly commended 3rd place in the Feis Ceoil Senior Choir Competition held at the R.D.S. on Tuesday, 28th March 2017. Congratulations also to the College Orchestra who competed in the post primary Orchestral Competition and gave a stunning performance. This was the first appearance for the College Orchestra at the Feis Ceoil and they received a well-deserved 85%. Congratulations to Stephen Ryan (5th Year) who received 2nd place in the U18, Solo Singing Competition. Congratulations to Harry Kearns (5th Year) who was awarded first prize for his performance in the Junior Organ Competition in Feis Ceoil. The competition took place in St Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, and was adjudicated by Colm Carey, Master of Music at the Chapels Royal of the Tower of London. Huge credit must go to his organ teacher Carole O' Connor, and to Father O' Brolchain for his vision and generosity in providing an organ scholarship in the College. Govinda, a Fifth Year band consisting of Fionn Byrne, Alex Quinlan, Mark Crowley and Avi Shandilya had a fantastic term which saw them win the over 15s Rock Band competition in the Wesley Feis performing their own song 'Aisle'. Following their great win, they went on to participate in the Battle of the Bands in Oatlands which provided another platform for the boys to perform their own songs. They went to battle again playing in 'The Academy' which saw them play their biggest set list to date and a battle which they thoroughly enjoyed. I thank Ms O'Connor, Mr Grumley Traynor and Mr Cavanagh for their organisation, encouragement and instruction of the boys. Our Jazz Band, consisting of Fifth Years Avi Shandilya, Byung Jun Lee, Leo Downes, and Simon Huggard had the novel experience of performing in the marquee at Leopardstown Races on Sunday, May 6th. They were excellent and very well received.

Summer Concert

An appreciative audience of family and friends enjoyed the best of Blackrock in the Jubilee Hall on Thursday 4th May. I never cease to be amazed at the extraordinary talent in the College. I would like to congratulate all the Fifth Year boys who took part, either as soloists, duets, in the boarders choir, orchestra or choir. Our M.C. Louis Keyes ensured that it ran to schedule and kept the audience engaged and amused. There is no doubt that the talent is excellent but it is brought to a higher plane by our superb team: Mr MacDonald, Mr O'Sullivan, Mr Swan, Mr Cavanagh, Mr Grumley Traynor and Ms O'Connor. Well done and thank you.



Summer Concert

Athletics

The East Leinster Championships were held over two days, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd and 4th May in Santry. The Fifth Year highlights included Harry Kearns (300M Walk) and Conor Halpin (5000M) winning their respective events as the Senior Team Trophy was retained. We congratulate all the boys on their performance and thank our co-ordinators Ms Farrell, Mr Rowsome and Mr Fitzsimons for their organisation of the teams.

Model United Nations (MUN)

14 Blackrock boys took part in the St. Andrew's International MUN on the 10th to 13th April. The Fifth Year boys representing Mauritania were Ben Heapes, Simon Huggard, and Christopher O'Flaherty and representing the Dominican Republic were Conor Barry and Eddie Goggins. I congratulate all our boys on an excellent conference and thank Mr Smyth for his organisation of MUN at Blackrock.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge is a week where we celebrate our national language and our culture.

Gabhaim mo bhuíochas le Roinn na Gaeilge as a gcuid cabhair i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Golf

Congratulations to Robert Abernethy (5th Year) on winning the League Title with the Senior Golf team at the Royal Curragh Golf Course on Friday 7th April. We congratulate the team on completing the Double having already won the Leinster Matchplay. Unfortunately the team were pipped at the All-Ireland Matchplay, but that does not take away from their fantastic efforts throughout the year. We thank Ms Fitzgerald and Ted Collins (class of 2014) for their preparation of the squad.

Table Tennis and Tennis

The table tennis success story continues, with Blackrock College winning another Senior Leinster title. This is an outstanding achievement. We also thank Mr Butler for his tireless work with the boys throughout the year.

Two Blackrock teams were also in the Senior Cup Semi Finals, again on opposite halves of the draw, and on this occasion there was an all Blackrock final with Senior A taking the honours in the final, winning a 9th consecutive Leinster Schools' Senior Cup, and completing their treble of Leinster Senior League, Senior All Ireland and Leinster Senior Cup titles. Senior B was made up of Stephen Campbell, Kevin McCabe (both 6th Year), captain Barry O'Keeffe and Harry Owens (both 5th Year), while Senior A was made up of Charlie FitzGerald, Louis Murphy (both 6th Year) and captain Joey Nelson (5th Year).

In tennis, our team of James Tarrant (Single 1 – 5th Year), Harry Owens (Single 2 – 5th Year) and Rex Lloyd (Single 3 – 6th Year) and Des Roche (6th Year), Gary Galvin (5th Year), Jerome Doyle (6th Year) and Callum Ryan (5th Year) all playing doubles, playing two very tight matches, losing to St. Michael's (25 April) and Terenure (2nd May) losing 2-3 in both. Unfortunate losses as every boy played well on both days. Our 3rd match, against Gonzaga (9th May), resulted in a loss for Blackrock with Des Roche and Gary Galvin in doubles being the only ones to secure a win on the day.

Rugby

Congratulations to Thomas Clarkson, Sean Moloney, Tom Maher, and Liam Turner on their selection for the IRFU U18 Tri-Nations' Festival Squad which was held over Easter. We commiserate with the Second and Third House Squads and thank them all for a memorable season. We wish them and all this year's House Rugby players the best for next year, and safe travels to all the Fifth Year boys selected to tour New Zealand this summer in what will be a tour of a lifetime.

Football

We congratulate the House Captains and all the players for their enthusiasm and positive contribution that makes the House League such a great end of term activity.

Fifth Year Day Boys lost out to the Sixth Year Day Boys in the final of the hotly contested annual Stanley Cup commemorating Paul Stanley (class of 1971). The Fifth Year Day Boys led 3-0 in the first half, but due to a resilient comeback from the Sixth Year Day Boys, the game was drawn 3-3 after full time and penalties ensued, which the Sixth Year Day Boys won. We congratulate all for their enthusiastic participation.



Fifth Year Soccer League Winners

Fifth Year Family Mass

On Sunday, 2nd April 2017 Father Brendan Carr C.S.Sp told the congregation that "We believe in a God who feels our pain, is compassionate and is our friend. He also can transform my life and the lives of others, who may be hurting and distressed." After a wonderful celebration of our faith and sense of community, Daniel Walpole (5th Year) presented a cheque for €3,260 from the 24 hour fast, to Mr Rory Halpin C.E.O of Spirasi. He was accompanied by Miriam Ormoro, Asylum Seeker and Board Member.

I thank the President of the Union, Mr Brian O'Neill (class of 1981) Ms O'Connor, Mr Grumley Traynor, Mr Tom Ryan, Mr Myles Ryan, Mr Goan, Mr O'Reilly, Mr Walsh, Mr O'Neill, Ms Wade, Ms Brady, the Fifth Year boys their parents and extended families in attendance for their contribution to such a wonderful liturgy.

Thank you to the many members of the Blackrock staff; academic, sports, maintenance, house-keeping and others for their contribution to all the events throughout the year in Fifth Year. Thank you to Mr Donal O'Nualláin and Mr Myles Ryan for providing such discrete and effective support of students throughout the year.

As the term and indeed the year draws to a close it is important to thank sincerely the hardworking and committed Parents' Committee chaired so efficiently by Mr Donald Hickey for their positive contribution to the smooth running of the year. A special thanks is owing to all Fifth Year parents who helped, through meticulous planning, to make the Sixth Year Graduation reception a resounding success enjoyed and much appreciated by all involved.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the Fifth Year House Captains. Their interest in, leadership and support of the year group have been excellent in many ways with their hard work, motivation and commitment contributing to the smooth running of every day routines as well as events such as the Swimming Gala, SVP fundraiser and Sports and Family Day.

Finally and certainly not least of all, the Fifth Year group of 2016-2017 deserves a resounding well done and thank you for their efforts both inside and outside the classroom this past year. They have displayed a wealth of enthusiasm and talents and have conducted themselves in a caring and responsible manner. We wish them a happy and safe summer and wish them every success as they continue their journey to the Leaving Certificate and beyond.



The Arts

Children's author and Cavan-native Dave Rudden spoke to three of our Second Year classes on Friday 7th April, just ahead of the official launch of the second novel in the Knights of the Borrowed Dark trilogy, *The Forever Court*. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, Dave recited some of his book off by heart, spoke about his characters, plots and the editorial process of publishing a book.

In between hilarious anecdotes he encouraged the students to try their hand at writing, by telling them that writing is a muscle, every word is a weapon and more importantly, you don't have to get it right first time.

Dave answered questions on his writing, and signed the boys' books, as well as kindly supplying their teachers with a leaflet on advice about writing. We look forward to seeing him again, and wish him the best with his latest novel.



Dave Rudden with Second Year boys

Senior Debating

The final term was largely dominated by The Gold Medal Debates. The Transition Year winner was Max McKenna who just pipped Drummond McGinn. Both speakers have attended regularly and we hope they continue to do so into Fifth and Sixth Year.

The Fifth Year Gold Medal winner was Oisín Ryan, who defeated five talented speakers. We look forward to this group continuing into their final year.

In being the gold medal winner in Sixth Year, the valedictorian goes on to make two prestigious speeches. One delivered to his peers after the Graduation Dinner and the other at Prize Day. This year Joe McIntyre was a worthy winner. The debate was one of the most impassioned, and well-contested that we have had in recent years. It is a credit to the speakers, and to the entire Sixth Year group, that they should see that debating can be enjoyable and thought-provoking.

The Arts

During the Summer Term framed high quality reproductions from The National Gallery were put on permanent display in The Senior Wing classrooms. QR codes, enabling viewers to access additional information about the artists are displayed beside the pictures. This project, made possible by cooperation between The Art Department and The Parents' Council, enhances our print rich environment and will in time grow to include The Junior Wing.



Appreciating the new art reproductions in a Fifth Year classroom

The student art work displayed on Sports Day and Prize Day attracted many favourable comments. An illustration by Matthew Kenny for The Graduation Mass booklet was highly commended by his peers, parents and staff.

Jazz Band

Blackrock College Jazz Band had the novel experience of performing in the marquee at Leopardstown Races on Sunday, May 6th. They were excellent and very well received. A sincere thank you to the boys for the generosity of time and enthusiastic spirit.

Summer Concert

An appreciative audience of family and friends enjoyed the best of Blackrock in the Jubilee Hall on Thursday 4th May. We never cease to be amazed at the extraordinary talent in the College. Our Choirs – Libermann, Corless, First Year Willow Park, Adult and Boarder – Sixth Year ensemble, Jazz and Trad Bands and the College Orchestra delivered a programme par excellence. Our M.C. Louis Keyes (5th Year) ensured that it ran to schedule and kept the audience



Matthew Kenny (6th Year)

engaged and amused. There is no doubt that the talent is excellent but it is brought to a higher plane by our superb Music & Drama Team.

Blackrock Swan Music Programme

This term, as part of the first 'Cross-Class Youth Development Programme' to be established in Dublin, seven Transition Year students performed in the Five Lamps Arts' Festival, as part of the Blackrock Swan Music Programme. This weekly programme sees the seven TY students, along with their inner city counterparts, explore issues of class and its effects on young people growing up in Ireland today, through the medium of music and song writing. Singing and playing from a barge on the canal, the various cross-class bands performed songs throughout the evening of April 1st, creating a wonderful atmosphere on Charleville Mall which had been closed to traffic and turned into an inner city street festival for the occasion. They also recently performed their original songs at the Irish Youth Music Awards on 22nd April in Croke Park where they won the award for most collaborative approach to the event.



Summer Concert

This ground breaking social initiative has proved a hugely positive experience for all involved, due in no small part to the commitment and dedication shown by their coordinator, Mr Eoghan Cleary and students: Peter Coyle, Tom Dwan, Tadhg Egan, Gavin Jones, Rob Jordan, Thomas McCormack and Ruairi Moore of Transition Year, as well as all of the participating young people of Swan Youth Service.

Sixth Year Graduation Mass

The Graduation Mass was a deeply moving liturgy appreciated by the boys and their parents. The combined efforts of the Sixth Year Choir and Orchestra enhanced the liturgy with their uplifting hymns and instrumental performances. It was a liturgy that marked the end of their time with us in the College, and one that they will always cherish and remember. We thank them, applaud them for their generous contributions to music in the College, and wish them well on the road ahead.



Ms O'Connor and Sixth Year boys at The Blackrock Graduation Mass

FAKE NEWS - MAKING MUSICALS GREAT AGAIN!

From the makers of 'The Parent - Teacher Meeting' and 'Parklife,' Blackrock College and Loreto Abbey Dalkey came together to present their latest musical sensation - 'FAKE NEWS'.

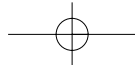
It was hilarious rip-roaring comedy that combined current affairs with great 80s tunes. It was a sell-out sensation from the opening night and closed with the best of standing ovations. A thrilling musical with a superb cast! Congratulations to all involved.



Rob Kinsley (TY) and Georgina Egleston (Loreto Abbey, Dalkey)



'Fake News' Blackrock College Musical



Snapshot of Final Term 2016/17



Camino 2017



Ms Hester's Second Year Spanish Class enjoying tapas



Robert Kinsley (TY) performing in 'Fake News'



Tom Dwan (TY) performing in 'Fake News'



Liam Prior and Oscar Bourke Mullaney (both 2nd Year) at SciFest



Scott Cullinan at Masterchef with judges Ms Betty Smith and Mr Derry Clarke



Blackrock College rowers



Tom Hardiman, Patrick O'Connell, Will Stacey, Ben Horkan, Patrick Graham and Mark Murphy caddying for the golf outing in Elm Park



Mr Alan MacGinty holding a tarantula



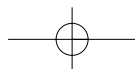
Charlie Fitzgerald (6th Year) winner of The Student Sports' Personality of the Year at Sports Day

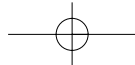


TY students in a Climate Change and Climate Justice workshop



Matthew Barry (6th Year) who received The Father Jim Burke Cup Student Leadership Award with Brian O'Neill, President Blackrock College Union





Snapshot of Final Term 2016/17



'Thursday Tunes' in The Digital Learning and Creative Arts Centre



Joe MacIntyre (6th Year) delivering his Valedictorian address at Prize Day



Harry Keyes and Tadhg Egan (both TY) performing in 'Fake News'



Adam Patterson (2nd Year) in 'Fake News'



Charlie Fitzgerald (6th Year) winner of The Student Sports' Personality of the Year at Sports Day



Robert Byrne (2nd Year) in 'Fake News'



Gavin Jones (TY) performing at Thursday Tunes



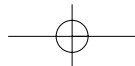
Summer Concert



James Kelly (6th Year) who received The General Excellence Award with Mr Brian O'Neill, President Blackrock College Union



Colm Kelly (2nd Year)





News from the Past

A Hundred Years Ago

The war continued to affect people's lives and several past students met their deaths on the battlefields. The Blackrock sense of family among the Spiritan community, students and past students meant that these deaths affected them deeply.

The frugal comfort of the College would have been sadly influenced by the following official request "...that Institutions, Hospitals etc should be asked to aim at saving both coal and light to the extent of 25%, or more, if that is found possible." The image of students freezing cold in an ill-lit study hall is a miserable one. Some of them were also affected by a serious outbreak of disease necessitating the closure of the College for a time and an extensive overhaul of the sewerage system, reflected in the College Accounts ledger as payments for trouble with the Waterworks and for work on Drainage and Lavatories.

The College, like most other institutions, grew most of their own vegetables and fruit and kept farm animals. Pigs were raised and sold and during the summer months, sheep grazed on the playing fields before being butchered here on site or sold. This was extra useful in the deprivations of wartime.



James J Roche, aged 30, born in Cahirciveen, died on 7 June at the Battle of Messines Ridge and was awarded a posthumous MC

BROTHERHOOD AMONG IRISHMEN?

The Battle of Wijtschate-Messines Ridge, June 1917



Soldiers from Ireland, North and South, at the Battle of Messines Ridge where they fought together as depicted in the play 'Observe the Sons of Ulster marching towards the Somme.'

Father Downey was President of the College in 1917 and much appreciated by the students for his gentleness, understanding and courtesy. He had taught de Valera and they had become close friends. When Dev was released from prison Father Downey invited him to dinner at the college. As de Valera described the pangs of real hunger suffered because of their short rations in gaol, Father Downey remarked: "Edward, you must have found that very trying" and received the jocular reply "Not at all, Father, after the good training you gave us in the Castle." Dev reported that Father Downey was "not amused."



Study Hall. Rugs hanging on pegs for chilly students.



Sheep grazing at the old Clareville (demolished 1988)

Fifty Years Ago

Career guidance tests were arranged for the first time in the College. A new Students' library was officially opened (now the Digital Learning Centre) and a new senior study hall was in constant use providing "space, comfort and atmosphere in keeping with the demanding standards of 1967." Cricket was a popular summer sport and in 1967 Blackrock won the Leinster Schools' Cricket Cup.



Senior Cricket XI, winners of the Leinster Schools' cricket Cup 1967

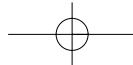


The Senior Gaelic League in the College was won by Peter Bugg's team "Galway"

The Past Students' Union Bridge Club played an international Italian team. One of those officiating was past student Roddy Connolly who, just over fifty years earlier, had been a student in the College a few months after his father, James Connolly had been executed for his part in the 1916 Rising. He also adjudicated at the College Gold Medal debate in the summer term, the motion being "That this house does not care where it is going" which was defeated.



Past student Roddy Connolly (standing), Adjudicator, Gold Medal Debate 1967



Sixth Year



The year has flown by and the Leaving Certificate is just around the corner. On returning from the Easter break, the Sixth Year students were straight into the thick of things. Language orals, practical exams and numerous coursework deadlines were completed within three weeks of their return; a very busy time for all. Thankfully everything went smoothly!

Parents' Conference

The Parents' Conference was held on Tuesday 2nd May. Ms McMahon, our Sixth Year Chaplain, opened the evening with a Ceremony of Light. The focus of the conference was twofold; firstly, a discussion on the arrangements for the remainder of the term and secondly the support structures that are in place for the students in the lead up to the exams.

Gold Medal Debate

The Gold Medal Debate was held on Wednesday Thursday 11th May in front of a packed Sixth Year audience. The motion being debated was,

The class of 2017 has no future in Ireland.

The eight speakers were simply fantastic; the debate was lively, humorous and raised many thought provoking points. Joe MacIntyre emerged as the adjudicator's choice to be this year's Valedictorian. Many thanks to Mr John Sheil for his organisation of the event and to our adjudicators Mr John Morris, Ms Caroline Pierce and Conn McCarrick (Class of 2014).

Graduation Day

The Graduation Mass was celebrated on Sunday May 21st. Father Cormac O'Brolchain, our chief celebrant, gave a wonderful homily and assured the students that they'd always be welcome in Blackrock. A special thanks to all the staff, students, parents and particularly Mr Tom Ryan on their organisation of the Graduation Mass. The celebrations moved into the Quadrangle and into the Dining hall – a huge thank you to the Fifth Year parents for the reception in the Dining hall. The Graduation Lunch was held in The Pavilion, Leopardstown, with nearly 600 people in attendance. Joe Macintyre's valedictorian address was witty, entertaining and his delivery was perfect. Thanks to Fiana Curneen and the graduation committee on their organisation of the lunch. All in all, it was a wonderful day and a fitting celebration for the Class of 2017.



Sixth Year Graduation Mass

House Competitions

Thanks to Mr O'Brien for his organisation of the House Football Leagues. In a tense affair Duff beat Shanahan in the final 1-0. After the results for the Swimming Gala, Sports Day, Soccer Leagues and Pool competition were tallied up, it emerged that Duff House were the overall winners. Congratulations to Mark Nealon and Alan Francis and the rest of their house on this achievement.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year was held on Sunday 15th May. A huge crowd was on hand to witness the sporting talents of the boys in over 90 events. Ebenrecht house won out in Sixth Year, closely followed by De Valera. Alan MacGinty (Junior) was awarded with the Past Pupils' Sports Personality Award for 2017, while the Student Sports' Personality of The Year was awarded to Charlie Fitzgerald (6th Year) for his contribution to Table Tennis.



Charlie Fitzgerald (6th Year) and Mr Brian O'Neill (President of The Blackrock College Union)

Maths Olympiad

Best of luck to Mark Heavey this summer as he flies off to Rio de Janeiro to represent Ireland in the International Maths Olympiad.

Stanley Cup

On Thursday 21st May the final of the Stanley Cup saw the Castle Day Boys take on the House Day Boys. The game looked dead and buried at half time as the House boarders led 3-0. The Castle Day Boys gradually fought back and levelled matters in injury time, thanks to a James Moriarty strike. Extra time couldn't separate the teams and penalties followed which the Sixth Years duly won.

Prize Day

Prize Day took place on Saturday 28th May, congratulations to all Sixth Year prize winners and in particular to James Kelly (General Excellence Award), Shane Keane (Top Academic) and Matthew Barry (Father Jim Burke Cup for Leadership). And just like Graduation Day Joe MacIntyre produced a witty and entertaining speech.

Finally, a particular thank you to John Sheedy, (6th Year Chairperson), and everyone on the Parents' Committee. The work that they have done throughout the year has been immense, from the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle, Graduation Lunch, Machakos fundraisers and many more events, their commitment and organisation has been greatly appreciated by all.

To the Class of 2017 – you have been a great group of students to work with throughout your final year. You have significantly contributed to the Ethos and Life of the College and we, as a College, were very fortunate to have students like you! Please drop by sometime and let us know how you are. Take care and God bless.

Green Schools



Blackrock College awarded An Taisce Green Schools Biodiversity Flag



On Wednesday 24th of May at The Helix, DCU Campus, the Blackrock College Green Schools' Committee received their fourth green flag. The occasion was made all the more special as Willow Park First Year and Junior School also received their biodiversity flag. All three schools have been working together to enhance biodiversity as a Green Campus. A range of projects were undertaken over a two year period which included the creation of biodiversity

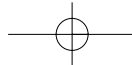
sites, tree trail, restoration of the Holocaust Memorial Garden, outdoor classrooms, brimstone butterfly project, nature walks, bird surveys, nest boxes and feeding stations. It is fitting to receive this flag during the month of May when our campus looks so spectacular with nature putting on a truly beautiful display. We are very fortunate to have the world of nature on our doorstep. As custodians of our natural world we must continue to protect and develop this biodiversity resource for future generations of Blackrock students.

Many congratulations to the three Green Schools' Committees and in particular to Conor Bailey (6th Year) and his innovative and enthusiastic committee comprising students from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Years who have worked tirelessly under the guidance of Green Schools' Coordinator Mr Cathal Copeland. This flag was very much a collaborative effort and the Green Schools' Committee would like to acknowledge the constant support of the College

management, Subject, Maintenance, Housekeeping and Grounds Departments and Dean Eaton (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) over the last two years.



Karl Conroy, Conor O'Neill and Mark O'Brien receiving the Biodiversity Flag on behalf of Blackrock College



Pastoral Programme



Matthew 25 Programme 8

Friday 5th May saw the conclusion of the final Matthew 25 Programme for this academic year. In keeping with the previous seven groups, the feedback from each of the centres students visited was once again very positive. At this stage of the year it is important to recognise the role played by all the Volunteer Managers and School Principals who have looked after our TY students with such care throughout the year. Many thanks to all in Carmona Services, the Royal Hospital, Our Lady's Manor, Dalkey Care Unit, Benincasa School, St. Joseph's Shankill, Setanta School, Park House, Leopardstown Park Hospital, Marino School Bray, St Mary's Merrion Gates and the Holy Family National School. We look forward to re-commencing the Pastoral Programme once again next September.



Second Year Days of Reflection

All Second Year students participated in days of reflection during this final term. The eight RE classes formed the groupings for these retreats which took place over four days. The days of reflection were facilitated within the College by Mr Patrick Reynolds and members of the Holy Family Mission Team based in Glencomeragh House in Clonmel. The feedback from students was very positive with many identifying the Reconciliation service at the end of each day of reflection as a particular highpoint.

Camino 2017



Having walked from Blackrock to collect the pilgrim passports in the Church of St. James in Dublin on Sunday 23rd April, our 20 student pilgrims flew to Santiago de Compostela on Saturday 29th April in the company of Father Marc Whelan C.S.Sp, Mr Tom Ryan, Ms Nolan and Mr O'Neill, the Group Leader. For the next 6 days the Camino group encountered extremes of weather, quite a number of blisters, some aches, pains and illness before arriving in Santiago de Compostela having walked a distance of 144km from Triacastela in Galicia. All pilgrims carried their bags the full distance too! Despite these challenges, the spirit and camaraderie among the group never faltered and testament to this was that all rose early on the morning of Saturday 6th May to attend the English Pilgrim Mass in Santiago Cathedral which was celebrated by Father Marc. It was wonderful to see pilgrims from the US, UK, Germany and Ireland being treated to a prayerful version of 'Go Ye Afar'

at the end of the Mass sung by our 'choir' of twenty TY students. Congrats to all, a truly wonderful week that will live long in the memory!

Morning Star Hostel & Frank Duff House

On Monday 29th May, in the company of Ms McMahon and Mr Walsh, the TY soup run class visited the Legion of Mary Headquarters and Frank Duff's House in Dublin city centre. The link between our College soup run and the Legion of Mary is strong and this visit provided an insight into the mission of the Legion which was inspired by the Blackrock past pupil Frank Duff. The students were also given a tour of The Morning Star, a hostel Frank Duff opened on the 25th of March 1927 and is still run completely by volunteers and operating independently of all government funding.

Graduation 2017

The sunshine made a most welcome appearance as the Class of 2017 gathered in the College with their parents to celebrate Graduation Day on Sunday 21st May, the 6th Sunday of Easter. During a most prayerful and moving liturgy led by Father Cormac O'Brolchain, the Class of 2017 were challenged to live lives marked by 'Love' and to take comfort in the fact that God has promised to be with them always. Graduation Day is a wonderful amalgamation of the gifts and talents of the Spiritan community, the RE & Chaplaincy Departments, the Fifth and Sixth Year Parents' Associations and the Graduation Class and this year's celebrations in the Jubilee Hall, the College Quadrangle and Dining Hall and Leopardstown racecourse created wonderful memories that students and parents of the Class of 2017 will remember for a very long time. The Pastoral team wish all the Sixth Year students every blessing for the future, praying for success as they undertake both immediate and lifelong goals!

Transition Year Retreats

Under the guidance of Mr Savage, 86 TY students participated in the Gaisce Award this year and each of these students participated in an overnight retreat led by Mr John Forrest in Craanbridge, Wexford. On Tuesday May 23rd and Thursday May 25th, the rest of the year group travelled to the Dominican Retreat House in Tallaght for their Day of Reflection. Students who participated in these days found the retreat most valuable as they looked back and reflected on their myriad of Transition Year experiences and looked forward to consider the challenges that the Senior Cycle years may hold.

Mr Sean Goan

It was with great sadness that the Pastoral Team heard of the news of Sean Goan's decision to retire from teaching in Blackrock at the end of this academic year. Sean has been a valued member of the RE, Spanish, Pastoral and Chaplaincy teams during his time in Blackrock College. In particular, since returning from working with Le Cheile to take up the role of Chaplain in the College, Sean has offered valued support and leadership among the teaching staff and student body. His knowledge of Scripture and spirituality was admired by all and his advice and support were truly valued. When Sean spoke, people listened! While the Pastoral Team will miss his presence around the College, we are delighted to hear that he will still be making an ongoing contribution to Spiritan Mission in Ireland. Sean, thank you for your ministry over the years.



Mr Sean Goan on a staff trip to Rome, February 2016



Mr Sean Goan and Brother Joe

The Pastoral Team - Mr Frank Hurl, Mr Tom Ryan and Mr Sean Goan

Guidance and Counselling



With the school year drawing to a close, the Guidance and Counselling Department continue to work hard to see the boys through what is an important period. Mr Brennan, Mr Sullivan, Mr Ryan, Mr O'Nuallain and Mr Menezes will continue to meet the boys from each year on an individual basis.

The CAO re-opened its change of mind facility on the 5th of May and this will remain open until the 1st of July. Students are strongly advised to have their final choices selected before the Leaving Certificate, however, as mistakes can be made during the exams. A common mistake students make every year is changing their CAO due to what they feel is a bad exam. It is more beneficial to have 'back up' courses down rather than changing everything on the basis of an exam we do not know the result of yet.

PLC College applications are also advised. PLCs are back route entry courses that allow students to progress onto degree level after either 1 year or 2 years of study. It is a popular option for students as both a back-up course and also as an option for those struggling to get the points for their dream course. PLC courses are not on the CAO and should be applied to through the individual websites.

A number of students have also applied for courses outside of Ireland. In the last month some of our Sixth Year students have been given conditional offers to the likes of Sweden, Italy, The Netherlands and the United States. Several students also received conditional offers to a number of Universities in the United Kingdom.

Fifth Years have been busy accumulating various information to help with their college

selection. With the tremendous work of Ms Gillman and Ms Ryan, the entire year group sat the cognitive ability tests (CATS) in the computer room over the past few weeks. This test is important for discovering the strengths and abilities of the boys.

The year group also sat the Centigrade Tests over one morning with Mr Menezes. These interest tests help to measure the boys' college, course and study interests which are essential for their Sixth Year Guidance. Although the results of these will not set in stone what the boys choose at 3rd Level, they are a good starting point to researching courses and being open to an array of areas. CollegeSelect were also kind enough to run a trial of their interest tests with a group of 5th years.

On the 8th of May, the subject choice conference for parents took place in the College Lecture Hall. It was very well attended where Mr O'Neill, Mr M Dunne, Mr Menezes, Mr MacGinty and Mr Dunne all addressed the parents of Third Year. Students are reminded that subjects should be selected on interest, strengths and openness to 3rd Level opportunities.

As we enter exam time it is important that the students of Blackrock College appreciate the hard work and dedication they have put into their studies this year, particularly the Sixth Year students who reach the final chapter of their time in the College. It is easy to feel like we have not done enough for the exams but a positive outlook on the attendance, participation and the work that we have done will always reap the rewards. As Winnie the Pooh said 'You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.'

Science Department



SciFest @ CollegeBlanchardstown IT Wednesday May 3rd

This was a very successful outing for our Second Years.

Ben Ryan and Joey Haughton came third in the Junior Group of Life Sciences with their project 'Does time perception change as you get older?' Joey Haughton also received a special prize for best question at the STEM talk.

Liam Prior and Oscar Bourke Mullaney came second in the Junior Group of Life Sciences with their project 'Can Toilet germs reach your toothbrush?'

Conor Slattery came first in the Junior Individual in Physical Sciences and Technology with his project 'The prevention of sodium chloride build up on glass windows.'

James Crowley was commended for his communication and delivery on his project entitled 'Meet the Microbes: What is the best environment for the growth of bacteria?'

Overall the standard was exceptionally high at this SciFest@College competition. Our students' projects were some of the best that have been entered into this competition in recent years.

Junior Science Eureka Quiz

On Wednesday 10th May Ms Groves accompanied six Third Year students to Belvedere College to take part in the Junior ISTA Dublin Science Quiz. Team A consisted of John

Huggard, Michael Gadaloff and Oisín Luff. Team B were Mark Landers, Aaron Ryan and Aidan Canavan. There were 42 schools taking part in this competition and the standard was very high. Both teams were in the top 5 from the beginning. Team B came in 4th place and Team A came 5th place, 1 point behind Team B!

Project Details:

Project Name	Student Name	Student Name
How CRISPR works	Shane Redahan	Donal De Buiteir
Does Time Perception change as you get older?	Ben Ryan	Joey Haughton
Investigating the conversion of energy	Alexander Kelly	Rory McGuire
Meet the Microbes: What is the best environment for the growth of bacteria?	James Crowley	
Can Toilet Germs Reach Your Toothbrush?	Liam Prior	Oscar Bourke Mullaney
The Prevention of Sodium Chloride Build-up on Glass Windows	Conor Slattery	



Development Education

Day of Action on Climate Justice

Wednesday 24th May saw whole school engagement on the subject of Climate Change and Climate Justice. Our Green Schools' Committee encouraged us to walk or cycle on the day and our Development Education committee collected a carbon tax from drivers who didn't car pool. The tax collected was donated to the Blackrock College Soup Run. Assemblies in Second, Third and Transition Year were student led and included a liturgy and a presentation on 'Care for Our Common Home'. Students from all years watched documentaries and participated in quizzes on the subject. Transition Year students were challenged in excellent workshops by Meaghan Carmody from Friends of the Earth and Catherine Devitt from Stop Climate Chaos. Finally, Fifth Year students and their teachers were inspired and stimulated by a passionate presentation from John Gibbons, Climate Change spokesperson from An Taisce. Development Education aims to develop the skills of critical thinking and analysis which in turn leads us to challenge the structural causes of poverty and inequality. Blackrock College Development Education Committee are encouraged by the great

success of this event which challenged us to reflect on our role in contributing to Climate Change and its devastating effects on the world's most vulnerable.



Ruairi O'Moore (TY), Ms Anne Payne, Mr John Gibbons, Mr John Sheil and Ms Caroline Pierce



Drummond McGinn collecting carbon tax

Sport

Athletics

On May 2nd and 4th over 60 athletes across 4 age groups competed in Santry at the East Leinster Championships. All boys performed well with many taking medals and 23 qualifying for the Leinster Championships on May 17th and 20th. All age groups performed well and our Senior Team in particular excelled retaining the Senior Shield from last year.

The boys performed excellently at Santry in the Leinster Championships on May 17th and 20th. The majority of the boys got personal bests in their event and many were very unlucky not to qualify for the All Ireland's in Tullamore. Particular highlights include Shane Keane (6th Year) winning Long Jump and coming third in the Senior 100m Sprints. Our Intermediate Relay Team, consisting of John Campbell (3rd Year), Michael Lowey (3rd Year), Ben White (TY) and Ben Murphy (TY) came 3rd and narrowly missed out on qualification for the All Ireland's. We commend all the boys for their efforts and in particular congratulate Ian Douglas (3rd Year), Harry Cullen (3rd Year) and Shane Keane (6th Year) for qualifying for the All Ireland's on June 3rd.



Intermediate Relay Team – Ben White, Ben Murphy, Michael Lowey and John Campbell

Cricket

Senior

The Blackrock Senior Cricket Team were knocked out of the Leinster 'A' grade Schools' Competition by Wesley after qualifying for the knock out stages with a win over High School. The quarter final stages is the highest placing the school has finished in Senior Cricket this century with the future looking promising and a number of junior players on the senior team already. In the quarter final Blackrock were bowled out for a disappointing 78 with only Shane Keane (6th Year) showing much resolve with the bat scoring 24. It was a spirited bowling performance in return with Shane Keane, Gavin Hoey (3rd Year) Cillian McDonnell (3rd Year) and Ben Brownlee (2nd Year) all bowling well; but it wasn't to be with Wesley making the target 3 wickets down in the 17th over.

In the pool stages Blackrock played High School at home. High School batting first were bowled out for 61 with Shane Keane, and Gavin Hoey taking 3 wickets each. In chasing the total Blackrock made the target in the 11th over with Gavin Hoey top scoring with 34 not out.

In the first competition game Blackrock were defeated by Gonzaga College. Gonzaga batting first made 161 in their 20 overs. Blackrock chasing were all out for 130 with Ben Brownlee (2nd Year) scoring 41 and Sean Lardner (Transition Year) scoring 26.

Junior

The Junior Cricket team, led by captain Gavin Hoey (3rd Year), have been attempting to retain the Leinster Schools' Cup which the College won last year for the first time in over 50 years - no easy task.

Strong team victories in their two group games helped them to win their section, with notable individual performances such as Jamie Sood's (3rd Year) hat-trick and Gavin Hoey's quick-fire 60 not out against Castleknock College. David Cosgrave's 73 (3rd Year) and Gavin Hoey's 64 versus St. Mary's being particularly impressive in that game.

The quarter final against Gonzaga was won by 8 wickets with the Junior Team successfully reaching the target of 67 runs for the loss of just two wickets. Ben Brownlee (2nd Year) was the pick of the bowlers with 4 excellent wickets. The conquerors of our Senior Team, Wesley, were once again just too good on the day, but only just! With our Juniors bowled all out for a disappointing 77 (Cillian McDonnell 20) we bowled with some real quality, taking early wickets and putting the Wesley batting line-up on the back-foot. At 67-5 there appeared to be only one possible outcome, but 4 quick wickets from the bowling attack of Gavin Hoey and Ben Brownlee turned the game on its head (72-9). However Wesley's final pairing, who deserve great credit, saw them over the line and into the final at our expense. Congratulations to Gavin Hoey and his team on a fantastic effort and commitment shown throughout the busy final term, and for their great sportsmanship shown at the end.

Golf

The Senior Golf Team set off by bus to Lucan golf course on the 25th April for the All Ireland Semi-Final against Ulster at 8.40am. It was the start of a gruelling day as the winners would have to play again in the afternoon. Tee off was delayed due to weather conditions but the arrival of our caddies toggled out in Augusta style white boiler suits with 'Rock Rule' emblazoned on the back gave a message of our intent to Ulster.

The quality of the golf played by both teams was superb and it went all the way with a very close but deserved win on the 18th seeing Rock through to the final with only an hour of a turnaround. Our final opponents were Munster and with two current internationals we knew it was going to be an extremely difficult ask. Again both sides played some tremendous golf and we can be extremely proud of our team in the way they played and represented the school.

Unfortunately we will have to wait another year to raise the cup but the future looks very promising with some very talented youngsters coming through and with the added confidence of being reigning Leinster champions and All Ireland finalists. My thanks and appreciation go to Ted Collins and Conor Harte for all their hard work in getting the team ready to perform at the highest level.



Sport



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those who participated in the golf teams the very best of luck in their upcoming exams. Blackrock Team: James Cronin (Captain), Robert Abernathy, Paddy Somers, Rob Galligan, Ronan Cowhey, Tom Dowdall and Jack Small.

Rowing

The Lough Rynn Regatta was held on Saturday 13th May in Mohill Co. Leitrim. Blackrock had 38 students competing in 9 events over the course of the day. The Second Years put in a great performance winning the Men's Junior 14 quad (Oisín Fitzgerald, Jack Tarpey, Matthew Gibney, Alex Cronnelly, Mark Doyle-cox) whilst the Men's Junior 15 and 16 eights both finished in third place.

The weather changed for the worse in the afternoon, with squalls and bouts of heavy rain. The programme ran late and Junior 15 and Junior 16 events were cancelled. Unfortunately, this affected two of our scullers, Louis Crowe and Michael Cagney

Next up we see 33 students take to the water for Metro Regatta in Blessington Co. Wicklow on Saturday 27th May. Best of luck to all those competing.

Table Tennis

Summer Term continued at high intensity for table tennis, as the All Ireland Finals and Leinster Cup Finals replaced the league competitions, while other league results finalised the finishing positions of the Blackrock teams.

In the league, Blackrock Senior A and Senior B won Division 1 and Division 2 of the Leinster Schools' Senior League, respectively; Junior A won Division 1 of the Leinster Schools' Junior League, while Junior 2A and Junior 2B took the Leinster Division 2 and Division 4 titles respectively. It was a first ever finish for a Willow team ahead of a Blackrock team, as Willow A took the Leinster Schools' Minor Division 1 crown just ahead of Blackrock A. Elsewhere in Minor competition, Willow B took Leinster Division 2, Willow D1 took Leinster Division 4 and Willow D2 were Runners Up in Leinster Division 5.

All Ireland Finals day loomed, with Blackrock the Leinster representatives in all three boys' age groups. Unfortunately, Minor A and Junior A both bowed out at semi-final stage, both on a 5-2 score line, against Kinsale CS (Munster) and Colaiste Choilm (Munster) respectively, and both teams will feel there were chances there to take their titles; however, in the 3rd Place playoff, both teams bounced back to take bronze medals, Minor A on a 5-0 score line against Claregalway College (Connaught), and Junior A Beating Colaiste Mhuire (Connaught), on a 5-1 score line. The Senior Team were on a mission to regain the Cork Trophy, and duly despatched reigning champions St. Louis CS (Connaught) on a 5-2 score line in the semi-final, followed by a 5-2 victory, for their 6th title in 7 years, and in an 8th consecutive final against Malone College (Ulster).

At the Leinster Cup Finals, the outside chance of a treble, and indeed the chance of having all three finals contested only by Blackrock teams, unfortunately didn't come to pass, as Minor A went out in a tight match against Griffen Valley in the semi-final, who went on to beat Willow A in the final; earlier, Willow A had come past Willow B in an all Blackrock bottom half. In the Junior Cup, Junior A saved their best until the end of the season, with a powerful performance in the semi-finals against Colaiste Eanna. In the bottom half, Castleknock came past Blackrock B, but Junior A were in no mood for delay as the final was wrapped up in record time on a 4-0 score line, Blackrock appearing in a 10th consecutive Junior final, and taking their 7th Junior Cup in a row. Senior A also had a target in their sights, seeking the third stage of their Treble, following from their Leinster League and All Ireland titles, and this they duly achieved with 4-1 wins in the semi-final against Colaiste Eanna, followed by a home derby in the final against Blackrock B, who had comfortably come past Castleknock in the semi-finals. This was a 9th Senior Cup title in a row for Blackrock.

In the Schools' Championship, Charlie FitzGerald retained his title as School Champion, beating Alan Pattison in the final; semi-finalists were Joey Nelson and Louis Murphy. Representative honours were gained by Charlie FitzGerald and Alan Pattison (Ireland Schools), Alan Pattison and Joey Nelson (Ireland) and Alan Pattison and Joey Nelson (Leinster).

Swimming - Eton Trip

Congratulations to Robbie Condon (6th Year) and his squad who represented Blackrock College superbly at our annual Gala v Eton v Harrow held in Eton on Saturday the 22nd April. Despite an early 5am start at Dublin Airport on Saturday morning our boys competed fiercely winning 9 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze medals, finishing 2nd overall to Harrow. The school Games Master, Bill Norton gave us a brief history of Eton and then a tour of the school. He was informative, amusing and very welcoming. Eton is a great school and this event, be it in Harrow or Eton, represents a wonderful experience for the swimmers and the school.

The Junior Swim Team comprised of: Ben Bracken, Jamie Blackburn, Phillip Breen, Patrick Curley, Eoin Dunne and Jake Smyth. The Intermediate Team competing comprised of: David Cosgrave, Patrick Harty, Ethan Murtagh, Rhys Rowlands and Phillip Towns. The Senior Swimmers consisted of: Robbie Condon, Sean Desmond, Rolf Jager, Charlie Lawless, Ian Leavy and Mark O'Connor.

I would like to thank the Games master Mr Evan O'Brien for organising the trip. I would also like to thank the coach Carole Walsh and the Assistant coaches Paul O'Dea (Class of

2015) and Matthew Long (Class of 2016) for their work getting the boys ready for the competition.

Irish Senior Schools' Relay Championships

Well done to our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Relay Teams who all won medals at the Irish Senior Schools' Relay Championships on the 29th April at the National Aquatic Centre. Our Junior Medley Relay and Junior Freestyle Relay won Bronze on both races. Well done to Ciaran Conway, Patrick Curley, Ben Bracken (All 1st Year) and Adam O'Reilly (2nd Year). Our Intermediate Medley Relay and Freestyle Relay won two Silver Medals in both races. Well done to Ethan Murtagh (2nd Year), David Cosgrave, Peter Harrington (3rd Year) and Rhys Rowlands (TY). A massive congratulations to our Senior Relay team winning Gold in both Medley and Freestyle races. A massive achievement for Sean Desmond, Charles Lawless, Ian Leavy and Rolf Jager (All 6th Year).

Tennis

The summer term has been action packed for this year's Senior, Junior and Minor tennis teams that took part in the Leinster Boys' School Tennis League. Twenty-six fixtures took place over a three-week period after the Easter holidays. Our courts, revitalised in 2016, were home to the majority of matches.



Stephen O'Nuallain (2nd Year)

All teams were drawn in highly competitive and challenging sections within each age group. Despite strong performances at the Senior level, both division one and two teams did not proceed to the finals this year having lost out narrowly to teams such as St. Michael's, Terenure, Belvedere and Gonzaga.

Our Junior Division One Team reached the semi-finals against Belvedere and unfortunately lost on the day to a deserved Belvedere team.

Our Minor division one team consisting of Colm Kelly (2nd year - Single 1), Stephen O'Nuallain (2nd Year - Singles 2), James Brophy (1st Year - Singles 3), Tony Rowe (2nd Year - Doubles 1), Will Fitzgerald (1st Year - Doubles 1), James Harvey (1st Year - Doubles 2) and Callum O'Brien (1st Year - Doubles 2) played St. Michael's in the finals at Castleknock on Monday 22nd May and beat them five games to nil. They have brought home a minor trophy to the College for the first time since 2006. Congratulations to all of the team.



Callum O'Brien (1st Year), Colm Kelly (2nd Year, Co-Captain), Tony Rowe (2nd Year), Stephen O'Nuallain (2nd Year, Co-Captain), William Fitzgerald (1st Year), James Brophy (1st Year), James Harvey (1st Year)

Well done to all students who participated in this year's competitions. We wish all Sixth Year tennis players well as they leave Blackrock College and thank them for their commitment to tennis at the college over the last five years.

Squash

Our two refurbished squash courts have been a hub of activity during this summer term, with a significant uptake from students. The boys have travelled to De La Salle, Churchtown to compete in friendly games and were victorious on some occasions. We would encourage more boys to enjoy the fabulous facilities, teamed with first class coaching from Ronan Peyton, from September onwards.

Photos courtesy Rock Photography

www.rockphotography.ie

www.blackrockcollege.com

Reflection

In his letter The Principal Mr Alan MacGinty tells us that 'we can make a difference in the lives of others and in so doing be complete in ourselves.' Why not consider volunteering for The World Meeting of Families 2018 in Ireland. The WMOF2018 Volunteer Application Process is now open!

Applicants to volunteer must be residents of the island of Ireland at the time of application and be over 18 years of age, as of 1st of January 2018. Young people over 16 years old may apply as a group of volunteers with an adult leader.

You can apply here: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer

See also: <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/>