

# Rockwell College News Letter



Welcome to the Rockwell College Newsletter. This publication is Intended to give past pupils and parents an insight into some of the College and Union events of the past months.

Rockwell College is an active and vibrant centre of education and Achievement. The College is incredibly fortunate to have the support of an equally vibrant past pupils' Union which supports the College and College pupils in many ways.

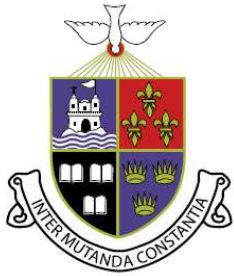
In this newsletter you will see the successes of our pupils, past and present in the areas of academia, the arts and sports. Their success is applauded and encouraged by the College and Union and we are proud of their achievements. The support of their parents has also been integral to their success and we look forward to continuing the positive relationships between staff and parents for the benefit of our pupils.

The Rockwell College Union members have generously supported development in Rockwell College for many, many years.

Membership of and involvement in the Union is encouraged and is a tangible method for former pupils to access the support and expertise of older past pupils across a range of professions. In turn, we hope that past pupils who benefit from connections with the Union will play their part in guaranteeing the vitality and vibrancy of the Union into the future.

The continuing strength of Rockwell College depends on all its stakeholders - pupils, Union members, parents, staff, the Spiritan Congregation and College management. In working together we can ensure our pupils are gaining the maximum benefit from their time here and that, when they leave, they are the future leaders of whom we can be proud.

Audrey O'Byrne  
Rockwell College Principal



## Rockwell College Newsletter



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# Rockwell College Union President Address

Fellow members of the Rockwell community past and present,

On behalf of the Rockwell College Union, I am delighted to see this newsletter showcasing the accomplishments and activities undertaken at the school. The myriad of talents assembled under the Rockwell roof never ceases to amaze me. All of our past pupils around the world will take immense pride reading about the magnificent and diverse achievements - academic, sporting, musical and community giving. A huge thanks to the Transition Year students for producing such a fine publication.

As both a past pupil and a parent, it's a real joy to watch the school going from strength to strength and a sincere thanks to Audrey O'Byrne and the staff of Rockwell College for their ongoing and unflinching commitment to providing a wholesome and complete education for all who attend the school.

The Rockwell College Union remains as strong as ever, and a vital part of the ongoing connection we all feel to the school. We have a number of major events coming up:

- Mark your calendars now for the Annual Union dinner on Friday, March 27th, 2020 in the splendid Minella Hotel, Clonmel. We look forward to seeing another full house again this year, with large turnouts expected from the classes of 1970, 1985, 2000 and 2010 to name a few.
- Our loyal Rockwellians in London have another great night planned with the biennial Rockwell Dinner at the Radisson Hampshire in Leicester Square on February 22nd, 2020.
- The Rockwell College Junior Union is a vibrant and energetic group of recent past pupils who host a number of great events in Dublin. We are looking to spread this to Cork and Limerick in 2020.

John Riordan (1984)  
President, Rockwell College Union



## Upcoming Events

- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass  
8.00 pm
- February 22th Rockwell College Union  
London Dinner
- March 27<sup>th</sup> Rockwell College Annual  
Dinner



Rockwell College Union



## Rockwell Business Gathering 2019



### Business Gathering:

The 25<sup>th</sup> Business and Social Gathering was held in Lansdowne Football Club, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The theme for the night was “Entrepreneurship”. Rockwell College Union President, John Riordan opened the event. For a change this year, there was two speakers - each of whom shared their entrepreneurial journey.

First up was Oisín Ryan from [Service Dock](#) who described what his company does, encouraged the attendees to support entrepreneurs and asked the assembled gathering to help him network in the retail and restaurant space.

Oisín handed over to the main speaker Ross O’Dwyer, CEO of [Pundit Arena](#) whose mission was to explain the unexplainable - how someone with dyslexia could end up running a media company. Ross captured the audience with tales of his days as a bit of a tearaway at school, and how his father had weekly meetings with Vice Principal Mick Doyle during Sixth Year.

Despite the challenges he faced in school and college, Ross was effusive in his praise for the grounding Rockwell and UCC provided him. The MC on the night Sean Tobin did a wonderful job keeping the evening moving along. The event was a financial success generating a surplus of a little in excess of €4,000, and enabled the Union to donate €1,000 towards the TY Hope Foundation TY trip to Kolkata, India.



Oisín Ryan  
Founder and CEO of ServiceDock, which is helping brick-and-mortar. Click [here](#) for more.



Ross O’Dwyer  
The CEO and co-founder of Pundit Arena ([punditarena.com](#)); a sports media house and digital consumption platform. Click [here](#) for more.



Rockwell College Union



## Rockwell Annual Dinner 2019



### Annual Dinner 2019

The 2019 Rockwell College Union Annual Dinner was held on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 in Clonmel for the first time, in the Minella Hotel, owned and run by Rockwell past pupil John Nallen and his sister Liz Nallen. The Munster Junior Cup was in attendance for the first time in 22 years along with Team Captain Henry Buttimer and Vice Captain Shane Neville.

Past student Andrew Foley spoke about his experiences helping and working with refugees in Lesbos with the charity Better Days. It was a very inspirational and thought provoking talk about those who are much less fortunate than ourselves. The Rockwell College Union Person of the Year Award was awarded to Rev. Fr Jack Meade.

Fr Jack is a native of Miltown Malbay, Co Clare. He studied at Blackrock College and was a prefect in Rockwell College from 1962 to 1964. our sincere thanks to the Rockwell Final Year students Harry Tobin, Moya Whelan, Joe Dwan and Elaine Graves whose help was invaluable at the registration desks on the night given the high numbers in attendance.



Fr. Jack Meade  
Rockwell College Union  
Person of the Year



Rockwell College Union



## Union Golf 2019



### Union golf Cup

The Perpetual Union Cup was to be played for in Doonbeg on Friday, 12 th October 2018 but as a result of particularly stormy weather had to be postponed. The event subsequently took place in Clonmel Golf Club on Saturday 6 th April 2019, the day after the Union Annual Dinner in the Minella Hotel, Clonmel. 36 bookings made - the Results were as follows: 1 st – Packie Bolster [35 points], 2 nd - Padraic Marren [33 points]. 3 rd - Joe Barrett [32 points] The Governing Body wishes to thank and acknowledge the hard work of John Riordan in ensuring the success of this event.





# Achievements

Philippa  
Harold-Barry



## **Rockwell Transition student, Philippa Harold Barry wins silver in the 4 Nations Microsoft Tournament in London.**

Rockwell Transition student, Philippa Harold Barry from Tipperary competed in the 4 Nations Microsoft Tournament which was held in the British Law Library in London last weekend. This competition involves the use of Word, Power Point and Excel and competing against other students from England, Wales and Scotland. In the national finals Philippa received the best results in Ireland and here she was up against students from secondary schools, post Leaving Cert courses and also those in third level institutes. She was narrowly pipped for the gold but this is a remarkable achievement for one so young. She was accompanied to London by her mother and her teacher, Roisin Egan.



Philippa at the Law Library in London





# Achievements

## Young Economist



### No shortage of Young Economists in Rockwell

Four months of hard work bore fruit on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup> with the announcement of the Young Economist of the Year Awards. The students of Rockwell College gained a Silver and three Gold Medals. Dylan Shaw won the National Silver Medal in the Central Bank Competition for his essay entitled 'Ireland Economic Growth sustainable or not', Leah McGarry and Padraic Clark won a Gold Medal in the team category for their essay based on 'Food Wastage', Varvara Artiuk won the Senior International Economics Award for her essay on 'Russian Foreign Policy' while Sihoo Kim won the 'Senior Human Behavioral Economics Award' for his study on 'Consumer Behavior'. Their Economics teacher Pat Egan said of the group that 'they deserve their success for their endeavor and in particular how they co-operated so well together and encouraged each other as the closing date approached' When reflecting on the achievement Michael Doyle, Deputy Principal congratulated all involved and spoke of the recent success in the Young Economist of the Year Award with Dara Murphy winning Gold in 2017 and Ben McDonald winning Silver in 2018. The prizes were presented at an awards ceremony in UCD on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019. All gold medal winners were in contention to be picked to represent Ireland in the International Olympiad held in St Petersburg. Rockwell's Sihoo Kim was one of the lucky winners who was given the chance to travel to the International Economics Olympiad  
Pic: Padraic Clarke and Leah McGarry

Click [here](#) to participate in the groups Survey online



*Dylan Shaw, Sihoo Kim, Mr Pat Egan, Padraic Clarke, Leah McGarry, Varvara Artiuk*



*Sihoo Kim with his teacher Mr Pat Egan in St. Petersburg*





# Achievements

## Tiernan Power



### Tiernan Power's visit to Brussels

I recently travelled to Brussels as part of a Transition Year student group from Ireland South, having earned a place on the trip by being selected as a winner in Mr. Sean Kelly's annual "Meet Your MEP" essay competition. The title of this year's competition was "How life would be different if/when we achieve gender equality". The twenty of us travelled from across the Ireland South constituency including counties Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Offaly, Wexford and Carlow.

We met in Dublin Airport early on Sunday morning Nov 17<sup>th</sup> and took a flight to Brussels. Sunday afternoon was spent in Brussels city centre where we had free time to explore the sights and sample the famous Belgian chocolates!

Two busy days lay ahead with a tour of the European Parliament and participating in workshops on gender equality and the EU's Erasmus+ programme, the END FGM Network and the European Women's Lobby. Sean Kelly hosted dinner for us that night in a restaurant in Brussels.

Our next and final day began with a visit to the European Commission and a meeting with the Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan. After a walking tour of the European Institution we got an opportunity to present our ideas on issues such as gender-based violence and inequalities in sport, agriculture, the workplace and politics. A top priority for our group was the need to end gender stereotypes and to recognise the damaging impact on women and men.

This was an amazing experience and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet with other students and hear the range of opinions on this topic. Sean Kelly really looked after us well and took a lot of time to engage with us on EU issues. He showed us first-hand what it means to be an EU citizen.

Tiernan Power



*Tiernan Power with his teacher Mr Condon*





## Sports Achievements



### Sports star of the Month:

Sports Star of the Month is an award to provide students with recognition of high profile sporting achievements that take place inside and outside of school. It was started as an incentive for students to continue achieving at high levels in all kinds of sports.

Students can win this award by being nominated by staff throughout the month and then winning the votes of a TY sports committee at the end of the month.

The successful student is then interviewed and presented with a certificate signed by Ms. Looney and Ms. O' Byrne. The interview is stuck in the cabinet on the main hall along with their photo and their significant achievement.

This award provides students with the confidence and encouragement to continue doing the best they can in their preferred sport.

#### 2019/20

September- **Tom Watchman**  
for representing Ireland at show jumping

October- **Cathal and Conor O' Gorman**  
for winning a Munster cross country competition

November- **Mark Kearney**  
for being selected for the Irish kayaking team

#### 2018

September- **Sive Kearney**  
for representing Ireland in Dressage

October- **Brendan Cantwell**  
for winning a Munster swimming competition

November- **Kate Flannery**  
for winning the rugby schools All-Ireland as captain

December- **Max Watchman**  
for representing Ireland at show jumping

January- **Kevin O' Connor**  
for representing Ireland at rugby

February- **Odhran McGrath**  
for winning in the Irish indoor rowing championship

March- **Henry Buttimer**  
for winning the Munster Junior Cup as captain

April- **Kaitlyn Hewitt**  
for competing in the world Irish dancing competition

May- **Jane O'Donnell**  
for representing Ireland in the tetrathlon



## Successful Past Pupils



### Successful Past Pupils:

There have been many students who have left Rockwell to become very successful athletes. There are quite a few past pupils who earned a name for themselves in the decades gone by, such as Eamon de Valera and Thomas MacDonagh. However there have also been more-recent pupils who have also been successful.



### Jake Flannery

Jake left Rockwell in the summer of 2018 after achieving a maximum of 625 points in his leaving cert. The balance between sport and his studies was an important one, and one which he performed to perfection. After leaving Rockwell he began college life in University of Limerick where he now studies chemical engineering. He was called up to the U20's Irish squad for the six nations in the summer of 2019 where he proved himself as an excellent full-back and out half. Undoubtedly, he has huge ambitions for the coming year, saying that he will push for a place on the Munster Pro14 squad this season and achieve more game time overall.



## Successful Past Pupils



### Diarmuid Barron

Diarmuid was a successful student during his time at Rockwell College where he won the 2015 Munster Senior Cup. He left Rockwell the same year to study Business in University of Limerick. He made his U20 international debut in 2017 during the U20 World Cup against Italy and made his senior Munster debut against Cardiff in September of 2018. "It took lots of training and a bit of luck", he said, but he managed to secure spots on both teams.

Diarmuid has many ambitions for the years ahead, saying that he hopes to play for the Irish senior team in the future. At the moment though, his mind is set on playing more for Munster and making a living out of playing the sport he loves.



### Bill Johnston

Bill was a successful student while at Rockwell College both academically and athletically. Bill won the Munster Senior Cup with Rockwell in 2015, leading the team from fly half. He left Rockwell for the University of Limerick soon after. In 2015 Bill made his debut for the Munster A squad, scoring a penalty for his side. He made his debut for the senior team in 2017. Bill was selected for the Ireland U20 team for the 2016 World Rugby Championship. He also played in the U20 six nations in 2017. He is currently studying International Business at University of Limerick.



## Leaving Certificate Success



### **RECORD NUMBERS EXCEED 500 POINTS AT ROCKWELL COLLEGE**

A record number of pupils at Rockwell College achieved over 500 points. Over 32% of the candidates reached this level in comparison to around 13% nationally, with 15% achieving over 550 points. All the candidates were delighted with their results, in particular the pupils who repeated their Leaving Certificate at the College. More than half of this group achieved over 500 points. The Principal of Rockwell College, Audrey O'Byrne congratulated all the pupils - " I am delighted to see that the hard work and dedication of our pupils has been rewarded. Those pupils who took the difficult decision to repeat their Leaving Certificate can now see that decision vindicated. On average, these pupils earned 90 extra points each, which opens up a significant range of Third Level options for them that they did not have previously." The Principal further noted that some of the repeat candidates had raised their tally by up to 156 points.

There were strong grades achieved across all subjects, with grades in Maths, Applied Maths, Biology, Accounting and Chemistry well in excess of the national averages. Of particular note this year was the success of Jake Flannery, Bansha, who earned the maximum of 625 points.

### **Academic Scholarships 2019**

Trinity College  
Dublin

- Ciaran Healy
- Dylan Shaw

University College  
Dublin

- Thomas Dowling
- Liam Featherly
- Bill Fitzgerald
- Fergal Maher
- Dara Murphy
- Leah Ryan



## Bill Fitzgerald



### Bill Fitzgerald

Pictured below is Bill Fitzgerald who achieved 8 H1s in his leaving certificate, one of just five students in the country. Bill studied maths, Irish, English, French, biology, accounting, applied maths and chemistry. Bill was a student in Rockwell from first year and is now studying engineering in UCD and had a love for maths in particular.

Bill modestly credited his success to a healthy school environment, encouraging teachers and great friends. Every day after classes, Bill would go for a run around the lake and then study for a few hours in the evening. Sports helped him feel refreshed and motivated.





# Christmas Carol Service

The annual carol service was held in the college chapel on Monday the 9th of December. The Parents' association organised a lovely mulled wine reception for guests prior to the service. Helped by the catering staff they served sandwiches, mince pies, mulled wine and other refreshments. This reception was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended. The service was a beautiful event with a multitude of extremely talented acts and performers. There were two choirs performing on the night, one organised by the Rockwell College Music Academy (Suzanne Buttimer and Ms Lena Hally) and the other organised by Mr Niall McGonagle. Both put on an absolutely magnificent show. Alongside the choirs were some highly talented soloists and musicians. All this was accompanied by some very well chosen readings thanks to Ms. Aisling Mulherin and an audience of 430 people meant this was a night to be remembered.

