

Election Extravaganza

Blackwater Integrated College has been a whirlwind of manifestos, speeches and photographs, as candidates have sought to become elected for the new Student Council for 2010.



Year 10 students discuss where the real power lies

Events began with the arrival of Julie Taggart, a field officer from SEELB. She spoke to Years 8 - 11 on two "Democracy Days". Activities included ranking the respective authority of different groups within the College, as well as crafting responses to a number of issues which they could face if they were part of the Student Council. The Democracy Day taught the students about responsibility and how the ability to bring about change was in their hands.

It was then time for the students to bring about this change, by nominating their peers to stand for election. Over 30 candidates were selected, and now they had to encourage the rest of the College to vote for them on Election Day. The main corridor was awash with posters and slogans, catching the eye of potential voters.



Bombarded by election-hungry students

A series of special assemblies were held for Years 8 - 11, where candidates laid out their manifestos and promised their peers a variety of changes. These included changes to uniform, timetables, canteen food, the credit system, lockers and activity clubs. Some students even embraced the new modern age, by presenting their speeches on video.



"If I was elected for Student Council, I would..."

On Thursday 28th January, the countdown was over. The campaign trails had halted. It was time for the students of Blackwater to cast their votes for a Council which would lead them through the first year of the new decade.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Cockfield, students were given their very own election cards for the day. After presenting these to Year 12s, it was off to the polling booths while the candidates looked on nervously.



“Hmmm, your name doesn’t seem to be on the list”

The Election Day was visited by Mr Eddie McGrady of the SDLP and Mr John McCallister of the UUP. They oversaw the students making their votes and offered words of wisdom on the importance of getting involved and making their voices heard.



Mr McGrady watches the votes pile up

On Monday 1st February, the results were in. A special assembly led by Mr Bothwell congratulated the winners of the Election. Mr Bothwell thanked all of the candidates for their efforts and encouraged the winners to serve their peers well in the coming year.



Amy has a powerful supporter in Mr McCallister

Year 8 Winners

- Marc Davey
- Chelsey Logan

Year 9 Winners

- Sophie Bailie
- Sam Garrett

Year 10 Winners

- Laura Morris
- Corey Jamison

Year 11 Winner

- Chris Ritchie

Year 12 Representatives

- Zoe Bailie
- Curtis Mackin



A Cold Start to the New Year

The new decade has brought some less-than-welcome weather over the last few weeks. For future reference, please check local radio stations, the College website or call the College telephone number for a recorded message about closures or other impacts of the weather. Please remember that any contact with the College, regarding student absences or other matters of concern, must be via telephone to a member of staff. The College cannot accept text messages.

Sporting News

Year 8 and 9 students have been busy this past month, drawing 2 - 2 with St Colmcilles and winning 2 - 1 against Glastry College. Samantha Strain was on fire during these matches, scoring all 4 goals! Well done Samantha!

Please hand in any **P.E. kits or tracksuits which no longer fit**, as these can be used by other students when necessary.

Going for Gold

A raffle was held for a signed Ulster Rugby shirt, raising money for Year 8 student Tori Campbell on her journey to the Special Olympics. £386 was raised in total, with the winning ticket going to Hannah Armstrong in Year 10. Tori will be heading to Limerick to take part in Gymnastics. Everyone at Blackwater is very proud of Tori and we wish her the very best.



Will Mr Hutchinson let go of that cheque?

Inspiration

Year 11 students journeyed to the CEA Art Exhibit in Belfast, where they were got to see work produced from other schools both at GCSE and A-Level standard. Students took photos of exhibits and learned tips on how to present their coursework in the future.



Year 11s discover a wealth of project ideas

Fairtrade Fortnight

A two week period in February is devoted to the Fairtrade Foundation. This year, the theme is "The Big Swap". This will continue the drive for better trading, prices and working conditions in the developing world. 10JB showed their support for the organisation in Geography class. Check out www.fairtrade.org.uk for more details.



Robert, Hannah + Graham promote Fairtrade

Parents Quiz Night

On Thursday 11th March at 7:30pm, there will be a family quiz night in the Main Hall. Tables are £5.00 each, with a maximum of 6 people. Light supper will be provided. Come test your knowledge!

Trip to the Linen Museum

Year 12s paid a visit to the Linen Museum this month. This was part of their single-award Science, where they learn about how linen is produced from a flax plant. They also got to indulge in some weaving of their own!



Year 12s get into the spirit of things

Primary School Choirs Festival

Blackwater ended the first month of the new year by holding its first ever Primary School Choirs Festival. The College was invaded by students from Ballykeigle PS, Comber PS, Killinchy PS, Killyleagh PS, Millennium IPS, Carrickmannon PS and Moneyrea PS!



Killinchy PS sing "Shake the Papaya"

They were judged by Mrs Stott, Mrs McHugh, Chair of the Board of Governors Mrs June Wilkinson and two visitors from the Integrated Education Fund; Project Manager Paul Caskey and Project Officer Suzie Smyth. Students were rated on entertainment, originality and enthusiasm.

The audience was treated to a variety of songs, from "Oh Happy Day" to "Penny Lane". The morning was hosted by Mr Keith Burnside, with students and staff being entertained by Mr Danny McGreevy and Mr John Rodgers of "Celtair". It was an enjoyable morning for all involved, and all schools were very well represented. We hope to see many of the same faces at our Open Night on Wednesday 3rd February.



Millennium IPS sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Dates for your Diary

February

Monday 1st - Wednesday 3rd
Key Programme Residential

Wednesday 3rd
Open Night 7pm - 9pm

Monday 8th & Wednesday 10th
Years 8 - 11 Parent Consultations, 4pm - 6pm

Monday 15th - Friday 19th
Half-Term Holiday

Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th
LET Programme

Friday 26th
GCSE Science Modules

March

Thursday 4th
HPV Vaccinations

Friday 5th
Options Fair (Year 10 only attend)

Thursday 11th
Quiz Night - 7:30pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 17th
St Patrick's Day Holiday

Saturday 29th - Saturday 27th
Ski Trip

Monday 29th
Key Stage 3 English Mock (Years 10 and 12 only attend)

Tuesday 30th
Key Stage 3 Mathematics Mock (Years 10 and 12 only attend)

Wednesday 31st
Key Stage 3 Science Mock (Years 10 and 12 only attend)