



FEARLESS & BOLD

A BOOK CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF BLACKROCK COLLEGE

This coffee table style book is a limited edition and is a must for anyone who has an interest in Blackrock College, its origins, traditions and aspirations for the future.

The publication is rich in history, personal memories, impressions, articles and photographs.

BOOK LAUNCH

At Blackrock College in Dublin this evening Thursday October 22nd one of Ireland's best known secondary schools launched a new book that has been published to mark the 150th anniversary of its foundation. The two principal speakers to mark the occasion were one of the most respected political figures in the country, Dr. Rory O'Hanlon TD, who left the school in 1952 and his son Ardal who graduated in 1983 and who entered the world of comedy and entertainment.

The book, which is a hard cover "coffee table" publication, is a portrait of the school written in large measure by men who were and are part of its still evolving story and contains a wealth of magnificent archive and contemporary photographs. It is definitively not a history of the 150 years of the school though it is, as present student, Robert MacCarthy, writes in the Introduction "a celebration of everything that Blackrock College has achieved" in that history.

Speaking at the launch of 'Fearless and Bold' Rory O'Hanlon said:
"Fearless and Bold' is a fascinating story of the establishment and growth of the College seen mainly through the eyes of former students who recount in a very readable manner the developments, the initiatives and the highs and lows of college life since 1860. It includes brief glimpses of the social history of Ireland over that period. There are very many marvellous photographs which tell their own story of life in the College and the changes that have taken place. This book is beautifully

produced and will be of interest to a wide audience well beyond those who have an association with Blackrock.”

His son Ardal, writing in the book on the 1980s when he attended the school, reflected on what it meant to join Blackrock College *“For a shy, skinny, soccer-mad kid with a thick Monaghan accent, ‘Rock was, to begin with at least, a scary rollercoaster. Thrown together with boys from Israel, the Bronx and Mayo you had to have your wits about you. Very quickly you had to have the resilience of a rhino and the cunning of a card shark.”*

The book is full of personal reminiscences and reflections, some short and some not, written by both well known past pupils and those who would be known only to their former schoolmates. Speaking at the official launch, the school Principal, Alan MacGinty, said that he believed the variety in the contributions reflected the multi-dimensional aspect to life in Blackrock College over the decades. *“Those who do not know this institution may not see the rich tapestry of daily life that has been part and parcel of Blackrock College since it was founded by Fr. Jules Leman. This book, in a unique way, captures the essence of life in this school for 150 years through to today.”*

‘Fearless and Bold’ was edited by well known national newspaper editor and past student Paddy Murray, who said that while the school was noted for its sporting achievements and its many famous alumni *“it is a school which, through thick and thin, has retained its Catholic ethos and which has resolutely demonstrated that it possesses Fides et Robur.”* The book is full of interest for anyone with an association with Blackrock College but particularly for its students, past students and staff. 2,000 copies of the book were published and in excess of 1,000 have already been sold. The book costs €65 and is available through the school.

Further Information:

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