

May 2026



Belvedere Union



WELCOME TO THE BELVEDERE UNION

Newsletter

Foreword from John Reynolds, President of Belvedere Union - As we approach the close of another academic year, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the many occasions that continue to strengthen and unite our Belvedere community. Over recent months, our Annual Dinner, Past v Present Debate, Lourdes retreats, many Reunions, Annual Mass for the Deceased, Breakfast Network events, and most recently our Annual Network Lunch, have each served as powerful reminders of the friendship, tradition, and shared spirit that lie at the heart of Belvedere Union. Collectively, these events welcomed more than 1,200 attendees, highlighting the enduring connection within our community across generations.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are delighted to showcase some of the outstanding work taking place across the wider Belvedere family, including updates from Belvedere College SJ, Belvedere Youth Club, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Old Belvedere Rugby Club, as well as a number of important initiatives and events being planned by Belvedere Union in the months ahead.

I would also like to draw your attention to two upcoming Union events. **Our Golf Society Outing** will take place on Friday, 5th June at Portmarnock Golf Club, with tickets still available through our website. In addition, our **Annual Dinner** will be held on Friday, 16th October, with tickets going on sale in early June, including a special early bird offering for initial bookings.

Finally, on behalf of Belvedere Union, I would like to extend our very best wishes to all students of Belvedere College as they prepare for their Junior and Leaving Certificate State Examinations.

Belvedere Union Annual Lunch 2026

This year's Union Annual Network Lunch at Fire Restaurant on Friday 8th May was a fantastic occasion - an opportunity to reconnect, strengthen professional ties, and celebrate the shared spirit and connection that unites our past pupils.

With 165 in attendance, the event created a vibrant and engaging atmosphere, highlighted by an insightful interview with Paul McCann (former Managing Partner of Grant Thornton and CEO of Ergo - and current Managing Partner of Ecovis Ireland), in conversation with Peter Flanagan from the Irish Times.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, €7,000 was raised for Belvedere Youth Club, supporting their summer programme and the vital work they do for young people.

A sincere thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making the afternoon such a success.



165 Belvederians and guests joined us at Fire Restaurant for this year's Belvedere Union Annual Network Lunch



OUR RECENT EVENTS



A very special occasion on April 16th as Belvedere Union held its **Annual Past President dinner** at Belvedere College S.J. The evening was convened by immediate past president Cathal Barry and welcomed guests including current President John Reynolds, Headmaster Gerry Foley and 11 other Past Presidents.



Every year **Belvedere College** is delighted to host reunions and this year has been no exception with wonderful gatherings of 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 year reunions - with photo attached of recent Reunion for Class of 1976 on May 16th. A huge thank you to all year members who together with our Alumni Relations Officer, Bernie Millar, help organise, attend and share precious memories of their school days.



A great morning, at the **Belvedere Union Entrepreneurship Network Forum** - a huge thank you to everyone who joined us at Toast HQ for what was a fantastic breakfast event on the morning of 25th February. It was a brilliant morning of honest conversation, sharp insights and real entrepreneurial experience shared so openly by our speakers — Robert Hoban (OB'98) , Dave McGeady (OB'99) and Niall O'Driscoll (OB'94). The discussion was refreshingly candid and full of practical wisdom for founders at every stage.

Another great morning, this time at the **Belvedere Union Network Pathways Forum Breakfast** on 25th March. A big thank you to our three panelists — Conor McGowan (OB'85), Thomas Arnold (OB'15) and Brendan Murphy (OB'88) — for their openness, honesty and insight in sharing their very different career journeys. The discussion was both thought-provoking and genuinely valuable for everyone in the room. Networking, resilience and even, bizarrely, MMA training (thanks Thomas!) were some key takeaways.





OUR CLUBS AND CHARITIES

Belvedere Youth Club (BYC) continues to go from strength to strength providing a vital service in the North East Inner City to over 200 children and young adults from the ages of 7 to 20 supported by many past pupils as well as by the Union. We have raised over €60k directly for BYC through our Annual Lunch in recent year and a number of past pupils also organise Golf and Cycle fundraising events where in excess of €80-100k pa is also raised. You can find out more details about the charity at belvedereyouthclub.ie. Photo of Jenny Courtney (CEO of BYC) and members of the Board of BYC at our recent annual lunch in May 2026.



Old Belvedere Rugby Club - Senior Men finished their first year back in the AIL 1A with a strong 7th position while Senior Women reached the AIL playoff semi-final, a strong effort with many players on provincial/international duty. Junior Men J3s won their league, defeating St Mary's in the final while the U20s won the McCorry Cup, beating UCD in the final. Youths had another strong year with Girls U14 Sharks team winning Leinster Final, with Minis involved in a number of blitzes, and Mens Shed had tour to Treviso. OB Padel is progressing nicely and expect a public opening in coming months.

A committed group of Belvedere past pupils continues to support the St Stanislaus SVP Conference, assisting families in the community around Belvedere College SJ, with education remaining a central focus of their work. Last year, almost €40k was distributed in support, thanks to the generosity of past pupils and their families. As demand continues to grow, particularly for educational assistance, the Conference warmly welcomes both donations and new members from the Belvedere past pupil community. Donations can be made by bank transfer to IBAN: IE61 BOFI 9000 1717 0674 12, BIC: BOFIE2D, or by cheque payable to St Stanislaus SVP. Donations over €250 may qualify for tax-efficient top-up support. For further details or to get involved, please contact Brendan Heneghan (OB '78) at belvederesvp@gmail.com.





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NEWS FROM BELVEDERE COLLEGE SJ



Academic succes - Belvedere College Claimed 1st place at the prestigious All Ireland Applied Maths Competition and John Reynolds, President of Belvedere Union was delighted to present awards to 16 Syntax boys in receiving Distinctions in the JC Business Studies Exam

School Musical
- Elements boys put on a wonderful performance of HOLES for the Junior Play



Belvedere College became All Ireland Cross Country Champions for only the second time racing superbly on a cold tough Belfast Course.

Basketball - A huge congratulations to 3 Rhetoric Students A Farrington, M Raftery and O McKenna of St Vincent's Basketball Club, who won the All- Ireland Division 1 U14 Cup Final on 3rd May 2026.

In Rugby - the Senior 1st claimed victory in a hard fought contest against Clongowes in Donnybrook in the Leinster Schools Senior Plate Final, and Elements came out on top in this year's Cooke Cup.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



- Our Golf Society are hosting 2 outings - our Captian's Prize in Portmarnock on 5th June (small number of tickets available) and our President's Prize at Royal Dublin on 27th August.
- A number of milestone **Class Reunions** are being planned for early 2027 including :
Class of 2017 (10 year) - Jan 2027
Class of 2007 (20 year) - Feb 2027,
Class of 1997 (30 year) - Mar 2027,
Class of 1987 (40 year) - April 2027.
If you are involved in these year groups and would be happy to be key contact for your reunion, please contact us at belvedereunion@belvederecollege.ie
- **Belvedere Union Annual Dinner** on Friday 16th October which follows last years sold out event - and tickets are going on sale in early June.
- Our Annual Mass for Deceased will be held in Belvedere College on Sunday 16th November
- Please see our website and join our LinkedIn, Whatsapp and Instagram pages to hear more about our upcoming events.

Get to Know Us  belvedereunion.com
Contact us at belvedereunion@belvederecollege.ie

www.linkedin.com/company/belvedere-union/

www.instagram.com/belvedereunion/

Scan QR code on right to join our
Whatsapp Channel



Introducing Belvedere Union Membership

Join a community that values connection, tradition, and the spirit of giving back. With a paid membership (€25/year) you support the Unions key initiatives including the Annual Dinner, Debates, Reunions, Network Events, the Belvedere Benevolent Association, Christmas Sleep-Out, Lourdes Pilgrimage, and the Youth Club. Together we contribute over €100,000 annually to these projects. Members also enjoy early access to events.



Join today at belvedereunion.com/membership or scan QR code