



26 June 2020

NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



Key Dates

Please take note of these important dates for the next two weeks.

You will also find term dates and our school calendar for the year here -

www.rockportschool.com/school-calendar

Headmaster's Headlines

End of Term: And what a term. As we prepare for break-up today I want to wish you and the children a safe and restful summer holiday. This might be the final Newsletter of the academic year, but rest assured there will be communication from the school throughout the summer as the situation develops, and especially in August as we confirm exactly what the start of the new academic school year will look like. For now, I include here a little of what I will outline in my Speech Day address later today:

"...I congratulate our students, parents and teachers. First, the Rockport pupils, for attending lessons and working so hard. I know you have enjoyed your studies but maybe even more, you enjoyed just seeing and catching up with your teachers and friends every day. To the overseas boarders, what you have been doing really is 'remote learning' and often, incredibly, attending lessons from a very different time zone. And our parents are second-to-none when it comes to involvement in their child's education and without their help, patience and lots of printing, none of this would have been possible. And our teachers have really stepped up. I am in awe of what they have managed to achieve in the past few weeks and it is my privilege to lead them..."

...I want to say something to you about the school reopening next term. We have already been busy making preparations for the return to school and there will undoubtedly be more to do as the situation develops over the summer but here is our (current) 5 point plan for September.

Our overseas boarders will return to school no later than 19 August and will stay in school for two weeks before any day pupils return, encompassing and absorbing any government requirement for a quarantine period

The Winter Term will begin for all, as planned on Wednesday 2 September

We intend that ALL our students will return to school that day and ALL will attend school every day thereafter (local boarders may return on the evening of the 1st)

We are NOT planning for phased return or a rota for school attendance

We will have in place all necessary procedures and protocols to facilitate this

More detailed joining instructions will be sent out to you over the summer and will be updated as and when the situation demands but suffice to say for now that we are very confident that, with the small numbers of children in each class on the (large) Rockport campus, that we can return to school safely and provide effectively for your child's education.

Have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing you ALL back in school at the start of term."

George Vance
Headmaster

General news

Thank you!

As I said in last week's newsletter, I wish to thank everyone who has embraced the new normal of online learning and has worked hard to maintain some sense of normality over the past few months. School is not the same without each and every one of you and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September, albeit probably to another set of new circumstances, but at least to an environment where we can continue to flourish and work together to achieve our best possible outcomes. Thank you for all your efforts, your commitment, tenacity and resilience. Stay safe and enjoy a good rest over the Summer months.

Examination Results – A Level and GCSE

AS and A Level results will be released on Thursday 13th August. Those students who have been examined with CCEA will be issued with a PIN letter from CCEA mid to late July (these are already in school and will be forwarded to you in due course). Please keep these PINs secure, as we cannot reissue them! You can use this PIN to access your results on the CCEA website on the morning of 13th August if you wish. Results from other exam boards will be available from the school office after 9.30am on Thursday 13th August. Please do remember, when you are collecting your results, that social distancing is likely to be a requirement, so do not congregate in the front hall with your peers! GCSE results will be released on Thursday 20th August. Depending on the situation with Covid-19, we may have to post results out to students, but we shall be in touch to let you know how this will operate closer to the time.

If, for any reason, students are unable to come to school to collect results in person, you may call the school office and access your results over the telephone; you will be asked a security question in order to establish that we are speaking with you.

Entry to 6th Form at Rockport School

Following the release of GCSE results on Thursday 20th August, Mr Vance, Mrs McBride and I start a busy round of interviews with those students who wish to attend Rockport 6th Form. Please ensure that you register your interest in an interview with Mrs Hamill in the school office, so that she can schedule these for us. A reminder also that entry to 6th Form at Rockport is not a "given" if you attend the school and that places are earned, based on GCSE performance and your track record in the school!

Thank you

Mrs R D Palmer

General news continued.

As the summer term comes to a close we are already underway in preparing for next academic year. As part of that work is ensuring our equipment is ready for teaching in September. In light of this, if you borrowed a laptop from the school for the purposes of Remote Learning, can you please return these to the School Office after the term has ended? If we could have all laptops return prior to the end of July that would be most appreciated and allow us to be fully prepared in September.

R8 History

Congratulations to Fin Eager and Ellie Russell in R8 for their medieval castle models and audio tours. Not only did the models reflect their hard work, but the audio tour was informative and they used the appropriate terminology for their castles' features. A particular highlight was Ellie's use of medieval music in the background! The prizes are in the post!

Well done to all who took part.

Please remember to return your text book to Miss Holland's room.

Mrs A Walker

Boarding Update

After an empty and disappointing term for Boarding we are excited to start preparations to reopen again on 19th August prior to our new academic year beginning. Only international boarders are required to return on this date, all UK & Ireland boarders can return on Tuesday 1st September ready for classes to begin on Wednesday 2nd September.

Please forward flight details to ssmith@rockportschool.com and houseparent@rockportschool.com and we will ensure that airport transfers are arranged. We will be in contact closer to the time to confirm which staff will be collecting your child.

We look forward to welcoming our Boarders back very soon!

S Smith

Head of Boarding

Photography

In R11 Photography, we decided to finish the year under the theme 'Lockdown'. Here are a few of the entries we have received which I am sure you will agree are great and very thought provoking! The work below is from Mufeng Jin, Joshua Patterson, Grace Lau and Matthew Alexander.

S Smith



Free choice practical dishes from Year 8,9 and 10.

Even a guest chef joined her form class live to create some homemade tuna burgers...well done Miss Carr!



Sixth Form

UCAS

Most of year 13 have now completed the first draft of their personal statement. I would encourage all students to continue to carry out research of universities and courses of interest and continue to fill in the online application form over the summer break.



Academic

Well done to both the year 12 and year 13 students for continuing with their studies online right up until the final week of term. I know this hasn't been easy but students have engaged and are now in a strong position when we return, as they have made a very good start to their AS courses of choice and also the A2 courses.

Social

Unfortunately, our sixth form evening out has to be postponed. I hope to be able to arrange an evening out to celebrate all of your achievements. Date is to be confirmed.

I hope you all have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing you all back in school soon.

Heather McBride

Head of Sixth Form

ROCKPORT RUNNERS

NHS APPEAL

Well done to all pupils, staff and parents who have really stepped it up to ensure that we have surpassed our target of 2000k and many, many thanks to all of those people who have donated and continue to do so.

The final distance was 2055.30 kms and we reached our target of £1000! With some donations still coming in!

Thank you all so much for your fantastic efforts and I am sure the NHS will put the money raised to good use. Everyone should feel extremely proud!!!! Have a great summer break!!!

Gail Holland

Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty

