

26th March 2021



Rockport Newsletter

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



Headmaster's Headlines

Notes on Former Pupils: The acting career of OR **Jessica Reynolds** continues on its upwards trajectory, with the announcement that she is currently filming in Scotland in a significant role in the historical drama series *Outlander*. Jess has already achieved much during her short acting career, landing a movie role even before graduating from the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts and then securing a part in a BBC Drama. Great stuff.

An End of Term and A New Beginning: Fingers crossed. A bittersweet feeling abounds today as we break for Easter. Many are ready for the break whilst at the same time feel that we have only had a taste this week of what was missed so much during the lockdown: being back in school every day amongst our friends and colleagues. Others who have not been able to be here since December wait impatiently for *their* permission to return to school following the holiday and yet can still empathise with those of our overseas students who haven't seen their parents since August 2020.

The signs are good for April, but the Executive will not meet to make that final decision until the end of the month. In the meantime, we pile hope upon hope that we are all allowed to be reunited here on Tuesday 13 April. Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable holiday and I very much look forward to seeing you then.

George Vance

Headmaster

General News

Return to School for All!

We look forward to welcoming back our final year groups on Tuesday 13th April, when hopefully we will have a full cohort of students with us! A reminder please that students should wear their Summer uniform for the final term.

Covid-Testing R12-6th Form and Staff

Thank you to those staff and senior students who have engaged in the roll-out of the twice weekly test and trace system adopted by schools in Northern Ireland. All of those who handed in consent

forms have been issued with their test kits and should have completed at least one test by now. Over the Easter break, please carry out two tests per week (Sunday night and Wednesday night) and then please ensure that a test is done on Sunday 11th April, prior to return to school (on Monday 12th for Staff and Tuesday 13th for Students). Please do continue to ensure that you register your results on the NHS website each time you carry out a test. This important step in ensuring that we are protecting everyone else by being responsible for yourself is a welcome step in our return to normality!

Anyone further in Year 12 and 6th form who has not yet availed of this opportunity can contact Mrs Hamill if they wish to be registered for the free tests going forward.

Awarding of Grades Summer 2021

It has been a very busy first week back for R12 and 6th Form as teachers begin work with these students to prepare them for their upcoming assessments. Over the Easter break, students should be revising for their assessments in each subject, as the next 2 months will be incredibly challenging in terms of workload and revision. Please do use your time wisely and prepare just as if you were having GCSE and A Level exams; these assessments are just as important and the more work you put in now, the better your grade will be in August. The ball is now firmly in your court!

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer Deputy Head

Kyla Bell (R10) has been using lock-down to develop her drawing skills and portraiture in particular. She has been making a series of celebrity portraits in her own distinctive style, her latest being this one of a very recognisable 1950's icon! Not a bad "side hustle" talent to have, I suspect it will be no time at all before she has a list of commissions. Well done Kyla!



D Hamilton

Miss McConaghy must have been feeling in a fine Spring mood, allowing pupils a 'free choice' week to whip up some culinary creativity... good choices all round we say!



Sixth Form

Careers Coaching

Many thanks to Old Rockportian, Phil Appleton, who has generously been carrying out some individual careers advice coaching with some of our Sixth Form pupils this week. The students said it was really helpful and are grateful for the opportunity and guidance.

Business Seminars

This has been the final week of our Business Seminars and it was lovely to have our Sixth Form pupils together for this one. Thanks to Stephen Orr from Spirit Aerosystems for taking the time (live from Morocco) to speak with the group. Stephen provided some honest answers to their questions about how to stand out from the crowd and how to display honesty and integrity in all areas.

Over the past five weeks we have heard from speakers from various industries and it has been interesting that many have made similar suggestions, these include resilience skills when things don't always go right and about following a career in an area you really enjoy. I feel the Sixth Form pupils have been engaged throughout these and have felt inspired too. Thanks to the pupils for attending each of these and thanks again to all of those involved in making these events such a success.

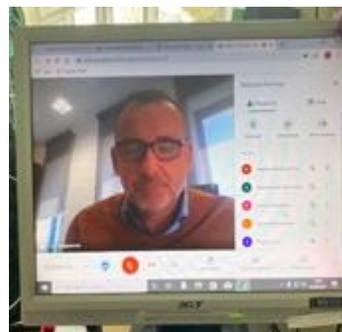
'After listening to Stephen talk about his career choices, we learnt and understood that sometimes life can take you on a different path than expected. We really enjoyed listening to Stephen's story and we are very thankful that he took time out of his day to talk to us'.

Ciara West (Year 13).

I want to wish our Sixth Form pupils a Happy Easter and please ensure you carry out continued revision for those subject assessments when we return to school on Tuesday 13th April.

Heather McBride

Head of Sixth Form



Sports Update

We are all really excited about getting back to Rockport for our Summer Term Sports so I have attached overleaf the pupils' timetables for the coming months. (Years 5-12).

Early Years will get information from Mrs Athanasiou.

Andrew Strain will be returning for Covid-safe **tennis** lessons & Holywood CC will also be coaching our pupils **cricket** in a Covid-safe environment.

Inter-school matches are still not permitted but we plan to have Inter-House matches internally to allow our young people to, once again, enjoy competition within sport - sadly missing this year!

Exciting stuff!!!!

In order for us to deliver the programme I would ask you to ensure that your child has all the named, correct kit/gear for the term.

Girls

Tennis racquet & ball

Green/black & white skirt or shorts

White polo shirts

White socks (ankle)

Predominantly white trainers

Tracksuit bottoms or **plain** black **sports** leggings

Rockport sweatshirt /hoodie

Boys

Tennis racquet & ball

Black & white shorts (Rockport or plain)

White polo shirt

Rugby shirt

White socks (ankle)

Black tracksuit bottoms

Rockport sweatshirt / hoodie

No variations please - many thanks for your support in this matter.

G Holland

Head of P.E.

Years 5-7 - Boys

Day	Time	Sports
Monday	11.00 – 12.10	Ball Games HMcC/HC/SMcl
Tuesday	14.15 – 16.00	Athletics JB/JR/HC
Wednesday	14.50 – 16.00	Golf Squad Remainder – Tennis GH/JR/HC
Thursday	08.55 – 10.05	Cricket/Golf <i>GH/SMcI/HC</i>
Friday	13.40 – 14.50	Tennis <i>HMcC/HC</i>

Years 5-7 - Girls

Day	Time	Sports
Monday	11.00 – 12.10	Ball games HMcC/HC/SMcl
Tuesday	14.15 – 16.00	Athletics CH/JR/HC
Wednesday	14.50 – 16.00	Golf Squad Remainder – Tennis GH/JR/HC
Thursday	08.55 – 10.05	Cricket/Golf/Rounders <i>GH/SMcI/HC</i>
Friday	13.40 – 14.50	Tennis <i>HMcC/HC</i>

Years 8-10 - Boys

Day	Time	Sports
Monday	09.30 – 10.40	Football <i>SMcI/JR/HC</i>
Tuesday	11.35 - 12.45	Tennis/Golf/Athletics <i>SMcI/JR/HC</i>
Wednesday	13.40 – 14.50	Athletics/tennis <i>SMcI/HC</i>
Thursday	14.15 – 16.00	Cricket/Tennis/Athletics/Golf All PE staff

Years 8-10 - Girls

Day	Time	Sports
Monday	09.30 – 10.40	Tennis/Rounders/Dance <i>GH/HMcC/CRi</i>
Tuesday	11.35 - 12.45	Tennis/Golf/Coastal Run <i>GH/HMcC</i>
Wednesday	13.40 – 14.50	Athletics/Tennis <i>HMcC/CRi</i>
Thursday	14.15 – 16.00	Cricket/Tennis/Golf/athletics All PE staff

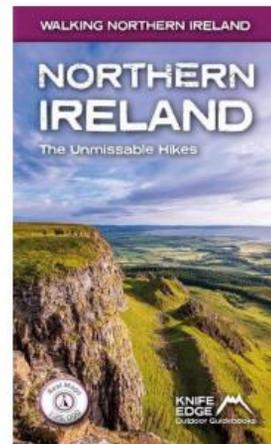
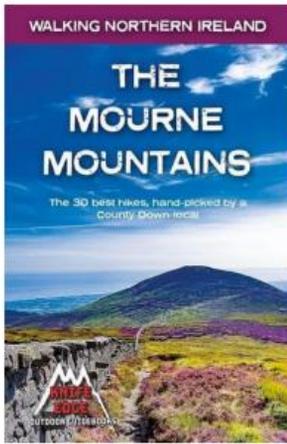


Early Years

R4 have been studying all about The Water Cycle and the Mourne Mountains. This week they were very fortunate to be joined by a local outdoor writer and photographer Andrew McCluggage.

Andrew, who has written many outdoor guide books, gave the children an extremely informative presentation on safety whilst trekking or hiking. The children also had the opportunity to ask Andrew many interesting questions. It was an extremely enjoyable session for all involved. We would like to thank Andrew for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to our R4 children.

<https://www.knifedgeoutdoor.com>



A reminder that children from Playgroup to R4 should return to school after the Easter holiday (**Tuesday 13th April**) in their summer uniform.

Girls: Summer dress, grey v-neck, white ankle socks and black shoes.

Boys: White polo shirt, grey v-neck, grey shorts, school socks and black shoes.

Playgroup and Reception children wear green Rockport sweatshirts instead of grey v-neck.

Lynn Athanasiou

Head of Early Years