



Newsletter no 2/ Winter Term / 14th September 2018



Sept	Time	Event
Tue 18 th		Departure to Round Square Global Conference, Montreal

Headmaster's Headlines

Welcome BBQ: Weather permitting, I look forward to seeing you at the front of school later on today (1430-16.30) to help welcome our new parents and children into the Rockport family. Thanks to the PTA for all their hard work in making this happen.

News on Old Rockportians: News has reached us of OR **Zara Murphy** who has qualified as a physiotherapist having graduated recently from UWE Bristol. Those of us who remember Zara will not be surprised to learn that she was also the recipient of the prestigious **Mullally Prize** for Exceptional Student Commitment, Development and Contribution to the Course of Physiotherapy. Zara has recently taken up a post in the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. Great stuff.

Success Above and Below: Our pupils continue to achieve beyond the classroom: many congratulations to **Ruby Tolland** (R5), whose impressive win in an all-Ireland climbing competition is described in more detail elsewhere and to **James McKissick** (R12) and **Georgia McKissick** (R10) who have been selected respectively for the Ulster U17 and U15 Water Polo teams.

ROCKPORT SCHOOL, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 0DD, UK

Tel: +44 (0)28 9042 8372 Fax: +44 (0)28 9042 2608

Email: info@rockportschool.com Web: www.rockportschool.com

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119

Future Leaders: I was pleased also to present in assembly this morning ties and badges to our newly appointed Heads of Junior School. **Teddy Geddis** and **Aissa Nugent** (both R7) are deserving recipients and I have high expectations of them both for the year ahead in these challenging roles. Well done to you both!

George Vance
Headmaster

Arabic Enrichment Classes

Please remember that Arabic Enrichment classes commence on Tuesday 18th September and will run from 4.30-5.30pm in the School Room. If your son/daughter has not yet signed up but wishes to attend, please email rpalmer@rockportschool.com

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

Boarding News

After a busy two weeks all the Boarders are well settled into their routine. It has been lovely to see our existing pupils return and welcome new pupils from around the world. Last weekend we went off to do some team building with ten pin bowling and a familiarisation shopping trip in Belfast. This weekend the Boarding pupils will be offered the chance to go to the driving range and practice their swing and/ or swim at the Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex.



Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding

Bright Young Things

We are excited for 'Bright Young Things' which will begin after school on Monday 17th September. There are still spaces available if you'd like to sign your child up. It's sure to be lots of fun!

After-School

If you've been up in After-School this week, you will have seen that Mrs Reynolds and our wonderful Gappers have been giving the place a bit of a makeover. They are ready for the next stage - painting the fences! If you have any outdoor paint/wood stain in your garage - we would love to make use of it! If you think you could help, please speak to Mrs Reynolds.

Don't forget to book ahead for after-school. There are 'Booking-In Forms' available in the Jackson Hall or contact Mrs Reynolds directly.

Voices Speech and Drama

Voices Speech and Drama will be offering classes at Rockport starting from the 20th September for children from R2 to R14. These classes will offer children an excellent opportunity with which to develop both their communication skills and self-confidence. In addition to this, these classes will:

- Help children to read fluently, with understanding, clarity and expression
- Expand the children's vocabulary
- Substantially improve the child's confidence in speaking and listening
- Develop important skills in memorisation and information recall
- Offer a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for the children to engage in constructive and informal conversation

Pupils will be offered the opportunity to participate in local festivals and enter L.A.M.D.A examinations each year. L.A.M.D.A. is a member of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (Q.C.F) Grade 6 and above will provide children with UCAS points, which contribute towards university applications.

Classes will be between 30-45 minutes in length depending on age and class size. The cost of a lesson is £8.00. The classes will run on a Thursday afternoon. Parents are billed on a termly basis.

If you wish for your child to take part, please email me at lathanasiou@rockportschool.com by Tuesday 19th September.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Leading the Way

This morning Mr Vance came to our junior assembly and spoke about the importance of good leadership at all levels throughout the school. The Upper Junior pupils are being good leaders on a daily basis by setting an excellent example for the Early Years pupils to follow and I am very proud of them all!

Every year we appoint a Junior Head Girl and a Junior Head Boy. This year, I am pleased to congratulate R7 pupils Aissa Nugent and Teddy Geddis. I am certain they will be shining examples in their new roles. Very well done to both!



Congratulations

A super well done to Ruby Tolland (R5) on her weekend win at the [Boulder World Belfast Climbing Centre](#) Battle. This is one of Ireland's top youth climbing competitions and Ruby (who is already ranked no1 in Ulster) was competing against the top young Irish climbers and pulled off an amazing performance to scoop top prize. Great work Ruby!



Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

Rockport sport success

Congratulations to James and Georgia McKissick on their selection for the Ulster U17 and U15 Water Polo teams. This is a huge achievement especially as there were 2000 fighting for a small number of places. The trials totalled 6 hours of rigorous training and selection over 2 sessions. Fantastic!!!! Good luck in your further training and competitions! Keep us posted.

Golf Academy

Our golfers have achieved great success during the summer months. Check out our Facebook and Twitter as we keep up to date with their progress.

Golf Academy has started with our Early Years and Elite Squad. Those selected for Development Squads have been issued with letters for parental consent. These forms need to be returned by Monday 17th September.

Mixing it with the Celebs!!!!

On Wednesday 15th August Mr Clark and Katie Webb played alongside Mr Webb and Richard Finch (European Tour Professional) in the Northern Ireland Open Pro-Am at Galgorm Castle Golf Club. The day was a great experience for both Katie and Mr Clark who got to learn new skills whilst playing with Richard. Playing with the top golf professionals gives any player the opportunity to learn new skills and advance their own game. It was safe to say all of us enjoyed this unique experience followed by an exquisite dinner attended by all the players and guests. Luckily our standard of golf did not let us down on the day all safely getting it down the middle of the fairway on the first hole with the crowds watching!



Gail Holland
Head of PE & Personal Development

Sports Clubs

Monday	4.30-5.30	Junior Hockey Club (R5-7)	Astro pitch	(HC)
Tuesday	4.30-5.30	Junior & Senior Football Club		(RR & SMcl)
	4.30-5.30	Netball club		(GH)
Wednesday	4.30-5.30	Senior Hockey Club (R8 and above)		(HC)

If you missed week one, do not worry! Let the PE staff know and turn up on the day! For more information, please click on the link below:

<https://www.rockportschool.com/sport-programme>

North Down Primary Schools Sports Meeting

On Wednesday 19th September Miss Holland will be meeting PE staff from all the local primary schools to ensure that lots of sports fixtures and courses are made available to our pupils.

Gail Holland
Head of PE & Personal Development

Dads' Day Out – 28th September – Field of Dreams – 4pm

Iain, our Treasurer, has organised a fantastic afternoon/evening at Field of Dreams just outside Newtownards. It promises to be a great afternoon of clay pigeon shooting for the accomplished and beginner alike, with all dads, granddads, uncles, and friends welcome. All training and equipment will be provided on site so there's no need to head out and spend a fortune on unnecessary kit...unless you want to 😊 After the clay shoot all men folk should convene at the Dirty Duck in Holywood for a bit of craic and food.

Please email pta@rockportschool.com for more information. Thank you to those who have already booked their spot.

Shoot cost £40

Dates for Your Diary

Dads' Day Out – 28th September – Field of Dreams – 4pm

Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson