

9 October 2020



# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



## Headmaster's Headlines

**Teaching Time is Premium Time:** Apparently this is a favourite phrase of mine but it is one that is well worth repeating. I will speak directly to all our GCSE and A Level students in assemblies next week about arriving at school on time but I know that you the parents will help me to get this important message across as well. The 'meet, greet and seat' process in the mornings has become much more streamlined since we provided all Form Teachers (except for Early Years) with digital thermometers, but its success still relies on our students arriving to school between 0820 and 0840.

**Round Square IDEALS:** With so many new students joining the Rockport family last month there is a lot of induction to do in the first part of the new school year. So no surprise that the themes for the first two of our fortnightly bubble assemblies were **Internationalism** and **Democracy**, that next week's will focus on **Environment** and that assemblies on **Adventure**, **Leadership** and **Service** will follow thereafter. These six Round Square IDEALS are embedded in our school culture and underpin everything that we do as well as providing us with a sense of moral purpose. For new parents, I plan to develop this thread in upcoming Newsletters so that you too can discuss the school ethos and culture with your child or young person and perhaps even reinforce those messages at home.

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## General News

### Dress Code and Appearance

As you will be aware, all students from Year 8 to Year 14 are now back into full school uniform, wearing blazers every day. We are proud of our uniforms and wish to ensure that we maintain those high standards which we expect from our students. All form teachers have been asked to be vigilant around uniform but could I please ask parents to also reinforce the message at home. Particular areas of challenge include the following:

Girls with long hair up to Year 9 should have it tied back at all times.

No coloured nail polish. Several older students have brightly coloured gel nails which need to be removed this weekend please!

Blazers are to be worn by all pupils from R8-R14 - hoodies or fleeces are no longer a part of the everyday uniform. Year 13 and Year 14 students may wear a plain navy jacket over their blazer until their new coat arrives in school. Kilts should not be rolled up.

Often when our students are out of school, they receive compliments on their appearance; please help us ensure that this continues to be the case! Many thanks for your continued support.

## **Halloween Creativity!**

Just a little forward notice to get those creative juices going! Thanks to the PTA who have suggested a couple of activities to kick-start Halloween week.

All children from Early Years and Upper Juniors are invited to get involved in the **Pumpkin Perfection** activity which will be running from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The children are encouraged to carve a pumpkin at home and take a photograph with their pumpkin and send it to the school Facebook page. Early Years' children are also invited to come to school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Fancy Dress.

Not to be outdone, the Year 8 to Year 14 students are also invited to enter a **Scary Showcase**, demonstrating their frightening make-up artists' abilities in creating the most frightening looks ahead of Halloween. They too should create their masterpieces at home, take a photograph and send it to the school Facebook page. Let's see the skill out there!

**Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer**

**Deputy Head**

## **The Rockport Ramblers**

A parents walking group now meets every Wednesday at 8.45 on the front lawn for a group walk and cuppa afterwards. All parents welcome to join!



## **A little birdie told us...**

That Mrs McCartney's class is THE place to be!

R6 welcomed a small visitor to their class this week who stayed for a story before he was on his way! Lovely.

## Sixth Form

### Head of School Positions

We are delighted to announce our Senior Head Girl Anna Thomson and Head Boy Ethan Harlen, alongside our Deputy Head Girl Anna Beattie and Deputy Head Boy Jesse Saha. These pupils have been selected after a rigorous application process and then interview with both Mrs Palmer and Mr Vance. They are well deserved and we look forward to seeing them fulfil their responsibilities around school throughout the year.



### Senior Prefects

Other exciting news is the nomination and selection of our senior prefects, Katie Webb, Mulang Shu Jack McGimpsey, Tabitha Sweeney, Ella Thomson and Angus Salters. Congratulations, so well deserved.

### Heather McBride Head of Sixth Form



## Just Dance!

Congratulations to everyone who was successful in this week's dance auditions!

Pictured below is Rockport's first Dance Team and their coaches, Miss Rice and Miss Close.

Keep an eye our social media and the newsletter to see what fab things we get up to this year!

The first practice will be this coming Wednesday at 4:30-5:30 pm.



## Sport Update

Games' Captain - Any Sixth Former wishing to apply for the position of Games' Captain can pick up an application form from Miss Holland. Applications must be completed by Fri 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### G Holland

#### GAMES KIT ARRANGEMENTS

Day	R5-7	R8-10	R11/12 GCSE
Monday	Bring PE kit	Come into school in kit Change for class	
Tuesday	Bring PE kit Go home in kit	Bring in kit	
Wednesday	Bring PE kit Go home in kit	Bring in kit	
Thursday	Come into school in kit Change for class	Bring PE kit Go home in kit	Bring in kit Change at lunch Go home in kit
Friday	Bring PE kit	X	GCSE class Come into school in PE kit Change into uniform for classes

Please note: all pupils should be wearing the following recognised Rockport PE kit. It is now officially cold so full tracksuits/leggings should be worn until pupils complete warm-ups in PE lessons. Skorts or shorts alone will not be allowed around school in between classes.

Girls	Boys
Trainers White ankle or green knee socks Black tracksuit bottoms or Black sports leggings Skorts White polo shirt Rockport hoodie or tracksuit top	Trainers White ankle or green knee socks Black tracksuit bottoms Rugby shirt Black shorts White polo shirt Rockport hoodie or tracksuit top

## **Early Years**

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

**Week Beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Playgroup-R4**

There is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during the week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Be sure to sign-up if you haven't already done so.

### **Halloween Dress Up**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the children in the Early Years are invited to come to school in fancy dress. *Please ensure children have a coat and sensible footwear on this day. (It can be easy to forget in all the excitement!)*

### **Half-term**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October** (*inclusive*)

A reminder of our half term holiday from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October (inclusive). School will finish at normal time on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Friday ahead of our half-term holiday. **Please be aware that After-School is only available until 3pm on this day.**

**Lynn Athanasiou**

**Head of Early Years**