



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 1/ Winter Term / 6th September 2018



Sept	Time	Event
Mon 10 th	15.30 13.30	R5 Induction R1 Induction
Tue 11 th	14.30	R2 Induction
Wed 12 th	14.30	R3 Induction
Thu 13 th	14.30	R4 Induction
Fri 14 th	13.30 14.30-16.30	Reception/Playgroup Induction New Parents' BBQ on the Lawn

Headmaster's Headlines

A Warm Welcome Back! As we reach the end of the first week of another new academic year, we have already inducted/induced(?)/welcomed more than 40 new students and three teachers into the Rockport family, completed 3 successful staff training days, introduced 5 new A Level subjects (Maths, Physics, Politics, History and Spanish), settled the Upper Juniors into their new environment and timetable, our Round Square delegates are preparing for the upcoming Global Conference in Montreal and the PTA are already busy, preparing for *Jazz on the Lawn* next Friday (14 September). And so it begins.

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

A Smooth School Run: One change you will certainly have noticed (or felt) is the new-improved surface on Rockport Road. We are indebted to OR **Henry Crosslé** for tackling this during the summer holidays.

Slow Children: One advantage of those potholes of course was that they slowed (most of) us down as we drove into the school. Please remember to drive slowly and carefully both coming down Rockport Road and in the Drive. As the nights draw in our new students who are unfamiliar with the site will be particularly vulnerable.

We're Happy for Harry: Someone else who was busy this summer was **Harry O'Hara** (R5) who has just won the Irish Junior Open Golf tournament. The Rockport Golf Academy Scholar came out on top at the end of a gruelling six-event summer series held all across to lift the prestigious Gary Player trophy. Great effort, Harry!

George Vance
Headmaster

EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY - Arabic Classes for Beginners

We are very pleased to be able to offer a 6 week enrichment club in Arabic for Beginners. As a Round-Square School, we believe that offering our children a breadth of experience and culture, which helps increase cultural understanding, is something to be sought after. This also sets our young people apart from their teenage counterparts elsewhere.

There are limited places available and initially the course will be available from children aged 11 and up. It will take place on a Tuesday afternoon from 4.30-5.30pm and is available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. The cost will depend on uptake but we estimate that it will cost between £25 and £35 for the 6 week course. If you are interested in having your child attend, please email me rpalmer@rockportschool.com and we can add the cost to your bill once we establish uptake.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

Singing Timetable

The singing timetable is up on the notice board in the Jackson Hall and also outside Miss Carr’s room. Singing pupils should check their day and time and bring their singing file with polypockets to their lesson. Many thanks.

Catherine Hunter
Singing Tutor

We have had a great first week in the Early Years Department. Our children are looking very smart. Thank you for ensuring they are so well turned out for school each day. It can be a bit of a logistical nightmare getting uniforms and PE kits organised for the week and we hope that you are clear on what uniform should be worn/brought to school on which day!

The Week Ahead...

You may have noticed our new 'The Week Ahead...' notice board at the entrance to the Early Years Building. We will update this on a Friday afternoon for the week coming up!

Parent Information Meetings - Week Beginning: Monday 10th September

Next week teachers will host an information session for parents of children in their class. This is a great opportunity to find out about the year ahead and ask any questions you might have.

Meetings will take place in the relevant classroom and will be finished in time for afternoon pick up.

Monday 10th September 2018	R1	1.30pm
Tuesday 11th September 2018	R2	2.30pm
Wednesday 12th September	R3	2.30pm
Thursday 13th September	R4	2.30pm
Friday 14th September	Playgroup Reception	1.30pm

Clubs

You should have received information on Clubs for this term. Please return permission slips and payment by Monday 10th September to ensure your child's place.

Head lice

Just a reminder to check your child's head regularly for head lice and treat accordingly to prevent the spread.

Lynn Athanasiou

Head of Early Years

New Recruits

A very warm welcome to all those pupils who have joined the Upper Junior section of the school this week. The R5 pupils have been skipping about like happy little bunnies, very much enjoying their new-found freedom, being able to explore much more of the school campus during playtime.

We are also delighted to welcome Crystal into R6 as well as Ruby and Anaya into R7. I am pleased to report that all of our new pupils have settled very quickly and have been made very welcome by their new buddies in Upper Juniors.



Cameron and Arielle (R5) playing in the wooded area



Ruby, Jasmyrn and Luca (R5) on the steps of their new classroom



Eva Rose and Ryan (R5) having fun on the trees

Back to Work

This week, pupils have been gradually eased back into their academic work schedule. Those R7 pupils sitting the AQE certainly have plenty to keep them busy.



Golfing Success

It seems that we already have news of sporting success this term. Ryan George in R5 has been awarded a cup for the Boys' 5 Hole Winner at Holywood Golf Club – great job Ryan, well done!



Onwards and Upperwards

Pupils and staff have been enjoying our newly designated Upper Junior area of the school campus. It has encouraged pupils to mix more freely between their year groups and has cut down on movement between lessons.

This term we have also introduced a new earlier lunchtime for R5-7, which means the children have the run of the entire campus during their lunchtime play, when the senior pupils are in the dining hall. An additional snacktime has also been introduced in the afternoon to boost our energy levels before the pupils go to games. These changes have benefitted the pupils and have been welcomed by all.



York

Any remaining medical forms, passports or final payments should be passed to me by Monday morning. Details of final arrangements will be sent out next week. We will be travelling as a group from school by coach to Dublin Airport. Prepare yourselves for a VERY early start I'm afraid – but just think of all that free time you'll have in the 4 days to follow.

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome back our returning as well as new Year 13 pupils. We are pleased to have this group return to study their A Levels with us. They have spent this week getting to know their new timetables and enjoying using the sixth form facilities.



Year 8 Mentoring Programme

Our Year 14 pupils have demonstrated responsibility right from the minute we returned on Monday morning. Many of them arrived to a bustling office and helped out by greeting our new arrivals and were able to show them where to go and introduced them to their new form teachers.

We have also introduced a new Mentoring Programme for the Year 8 group. This involves getting to know the year 8 pupils individually and will continue throughout the year. The Year 14 will carry out the class registration once per week and talk to the Year 8 pupils, explaining that they are available if they need someone to talk to or need help finding their way around the school. We hope both groups will find this rewarding.



Mrs. Heather McBride
Head of Sixth Form

Sports Programme - Winter Term 2018

Day	Groups	Activities	Venue	Staff	Times	Transport
Monday	5-7 Boys	Football	Rockport	SMcl	1.35-2.50pm	
	5-7 Girls	Fitness	Rockport	HC	1.35-2.50pm	
	8-10 Boys	Football	Rockport	SMcl/DH	2:50-4pm	
	8-10 Girls	Netball	Rockport	AR	2:50-4pm	
Hockey Club – Yrs 5-7 (optional)						
Tuesday	5-7 Boys	Swimming	Aurora	SMcl/HC/CN	2:50-4pm	Coach
	5-7 Girls	Swimming	Aurora	SMcl/HC/CN	2:50-4pm	Coach
		<u>Trampolining - SpringTerm</u>	Rockport	SMcl/HC/CN		
	Netball Club Yrs 5-9					
Wednesday	5-7 Boys	Hockey/Golf	Rockport	GH/SMcl/HC	1.35-2.50pm	
	5-7 Girls	Netball/Golf	Rockport	GH/SMcl/HC	1.35-2.50pm	
	8-10 Boys	Rugby	Rockport	RR/HC	2:50-4pm	
	8-10 Girls	Hockey	Rockport	HMcC/GH	2:50-4pm	
	Hockey Club Yrs 8 upwards (optional)			Rockport	HC /RB	4pm – 5pm
Thursday	5-7 Boys	Hockey	Rockport	HC	2:50-4pm	
	5-7 Girls	Hockey	Rockport	RB	2:50-4pm	
	8-9 Boys	Football	Rockport	SMcl/HC	2:15-4pm	
	10-12Boys	Rugby	Rockport	RR/HC	2.15 – 4pm	
	11-12 Girls	Trampolining	Aurora	SM/HMcC	2:15-4pm	Coaches
	8-10 Girls	Netball	Aurora	GH/HMcC	2.15-4pm	Coaches
Friday	5-7 Boys	Rugby	Rockport	RR	2:50-4pm	
	5-7 Girls	Hockey	Rockport	HMcC	2:50-4pm	
	8-10 Boys	Hockey	Rockport	HC/RB	2:50-4pm	
	8-10 Girls	Fitness	Rockport	GH	2:50-4pm	

Gail Holland
Head of PE & Personal Development

A New Term at Rockport!

Welcome to a new term at Rockport! Rockport was hiving with activity on Monday as beautifully presented children of all ages buzzed around the school, finding their classrooms and greeting friends old and new. I don't think I have ever seen so many happy faces so early in the morning! My children were delighted to be back to see their pals, many of whom they haven't seen since June. I have to say R6 and R7 has started very positively and my children are relishing the next step up of academic challenges. (This is actually true and a shock to me) All three want to stay in school until 5.30pm for prep and are quite competitive about who can read the most pages of their reading books in 30 minutes. This of course is completely alien to me because I don't possess a competitive bone in my body and I certainly couldn't have cared less what my brother did when we were at school. So far so good and long may it continue!!

Welcome BBQ – Front Lawn – Friday 14th September – 2.30-4.30pm

Next Friday the PTA will be holding a very informal "Welcome to Rockport" BBQ for all parents and pupils. It's a chance to meet and greet new parents as well as catch up with parents you haven't seen in a while. Everyone is invited so fingers crossed for some nice weather. We will have a BBQ, bar, children's refreshments for sale as well as bouncy castles and ice cream. If anyone fancies lending a hand manning the BBQ or bar please drop me a line to pta@rockportschool.com. New parents welcome!

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

CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE DEADLINE 10TH SEPTEMBER

Dates for Your Diary

Welcome BBQ – Front Lawn – Friday 14th September – 2.30-4.30pm

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

Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson