

27 November 2020



NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



Headmaster's Headlines

Thank you for your Service: Another great effort by all during week 2 of our 4-week Round Square service project in which the efforts of the children and young people are directed towards 4 good causes as we approach Christmas. Your response to this week's appeal for the Assisi Animal Shelter and German Shepherd Rescue has been no less overwhelming than last week and Mrs Toland's classroom is now out of commission again, stocked as it is this time with fluffy blankets, pet food of every form and flavour, as well as a bewildering array of animal treats and toys . Thanks also in advance for your help next week as, from Monday we shift our focus onto a homeless charity.

Captains of Industry: Hearty congratulations to **Angus Salters** and **Katy Webb** in the Upper Sixth who have been appointed as the school's inaugural **Business Captains**. This is a significant and senior post in the sixth form and will be awarded annually going forward. The holders will be responsible for working alongside teaching staff in forging and improving business links between school and the world of work but will also have a practical role in organising activities like our 6th Form business breakfasts, inviting visiting speakers, arranging work experience and professional shadowing, as well as improving links with the Universities and UCAS. Great stuff.

George Vance

Headmaster

General News

Carol Service Planning

As we are putting plans in place for preparing a virtual carol service for the end of term, we are trying to coordinate all of our recordings. This week, we plan to film all of our singers on Wednesday 2nd December. Please remember that, if your son/daughter is in Mrs Hunter's singing groups and will be performing, he/she will be required to wear full school uniform on Wednesday (white shirt, blazer and tie).

Traffic Alert

Please be mindful of the fact that, as the mornings become darker, it's becoming increasingly difficult to spot our students as they walk down from the train station in the morning. If your son/daughter comes to school by train, please remind him/her to use a reflector and a torch or light in order to ensure that he/she can be seen by other road users. Also, a reminder to drivers that we need to slow down and take care when entering and exiting the school grounds.

(Anti-)Social Media Workshop

On Tuesday 1st December, students from R7 to R11 will be involved in a series of workshops with PSNI, during which they will consider responsible and reasonable use of social media/mobile phones and the law. The purpose of this training is to ensure that all of our students are aware of what they can and cannot do online, what constitutes cyberbullying and how they can respond if they feel that they are a victim of such behaviour.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

Sixth Form Service Campaign



Week 3

Thank you to everyone who has donated for the past two weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the support given by the whole school community. Over these two weeks, we have been given the opportunity to donate to the North Down Storehouse, Assisi and German Shepherd Rescue.

This week as the temperature drops it is timely that we re-focus our service campaign on helping people less fortunate than ourselves and we would like to support The Welcome Organisation in Belfast. **The Welcome Organisation** is a charity which helps homeless people in Belfast, assisting them to find accommodation and set up a home and directly helping those on the streets with their outreach programme. Initially we were looking for a few items but feel we should add in some warmer options too. This week, can we kindly ask for donations of the following items;

- **New** warm socks
- Liquid soap and hand sanitiser
- **New** woolly hats and gloves

With current restrictions we are unable to accept donations of used clothing items into school.

Many Thanks, Ciara West (Year 13)

Group 3 Leader

On behalf of the Sixth Form Service campaign group, I would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff, who by Thursday afternoon have made the following collective donation to Assisi (Bangor) and German Shepherd Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rehome (based on Whinney Hill, Holywood)

The Rockport community are clearly pet lovers!

- 80kg of dry dog food
- 35tins of dog food
- 65 packets and boxes of dog treats
- 21packets of dry cat food
- 100 packets and tins of wet cat food
- 19 packets of cat treats
- 40 bedding items
- 40-50 pet toys, leads and harnesses

Animal welfare items are scheduled for delivery on Monday 30th November, any further items will be gratefully received.

Angus Salters Yr 14 and the Week 2 team

Angus Salters, Katie Webb, Ethan Harlen, Rachael Cooke, Mulang Shu, Melissa Stanfield





Art

As part of their 'Identity' project, R11 Art pupils have been exploring self portraiture.

Natanis Sin captured his own likeness superbly with this striking pencil piece, whilst **Emily Chawich** and **India McNellis** have made layered monoprints, inspired by Andy Warhols celebrity portraits of the 60's and 70's.

Fantastic work all round, well done!!

D Hamilton



Sport

Alexander & Mikey prepare for the battle of the Houses! Mr Clark will have his hands full. Healthy competition as always for Greens V Whites!

G Holland

Head of P.E.



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