



18 September 2020

NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



Key Dates

Please take note of these important dates for the next two weeks.

You will also find term dates and our school calendar for the year here -

www.rockportschool.com/school-calendar

Date	Time	Event
Monday 21st September	All day	R8 to Ganaway Adventure centre – collection 5pm (approx)

Headmaster Headlines

Covid Test: We had our first real Covid 'test' last week when the parents of the first member of the school community to test positive for Covid -19 called the school to share the news. We were right to say it would be a case of when, rather than if, this would happen and we would have to implement our emergency protocols. And, as we methodically worked our way through the management flowchart last Friday it became increasingly clear that, like any system, it can only really be tested when applied to a real situation involving real people. And like the proverbial chain, any system is only as robust as its constituent parts. It was brought home when the Public Health Agency clinical consultant said 'we're all still learning as we go, Mr Vance'. I was reminded of the Gif currently circulating on social media which describes running a school this year as 'building the aircraft while flying'.

Positive Test: That all said, there are so many positives to draw on from last week. The parents of the boy concerned acted so promptly and correctly that, to date, he remains the only case in the school community, although one is clearly one too many - and thankfully he only ever displayed very mild symptoms. The isolation and subsequent removal of those who may have been in close contact was also done quickly and efficiently and without any fuss or melodrama. The bespoke emergency number for schools was a welcome alternative to the general and ever-busy PHA number and the health (and other) professionals we spoke to on Friday and over the weekend were extremely helpful throughout. As a result, the school response was measured and calmly carried out by the whole team who stepped up as I knew they would. Finally, having been through this once, we have all emerged a little bit more confident and ready, should we ever have to do it again. My thanks to all those who played their part and for your continued support and understanding as parents, particularly when you hear such worrying news emanating from the school.

Welcome Back – Again: So, we will hit the reset button on Wednesday for the R9 class when they return from self-isolation (and not Monday as previously announced), consigning the webcams and laptops to the shelves, at least for another while.

Golf Academician: I was pleased this week to hear that **Jamie Nevin** (R10) is the 2020 Junior Champion at Holywood Golf Club, his name being added to a list of winners which apparently includes Rory somebody.

George Vance
Headmaster

General news

Absence from School

Just a reminder that, if your child is unwell and you are keeping him/her at home for any reason, you should contact either their form teacher or the school office and let us know. If your child is being tested for COVID-19, please let the school office know and also inform us about the outcome of the test as soon as you receive it.

R9 Return to School

Those students in Year 9 who have been self-isolating have been issued with a letter this week from PHA, which indicates that the return to school date is **Wednesday 23rd September**. Please do not return to school if you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 and follow the advice in the PHA letter.

Face Coverings

Please remember that face coverings are required in school. Several students this week have arrived without face coverings and have had to be issued with a disposable alternative. In this situation, please be aware that a charge for disposable face coverings will be added to your child's bill, at a cost of £1 each.

Reintroducing Blazers to Years 11-14

Initially we asked students to come in to school wearing hooded tops or fleece jackets instead of their blazers due to the fact that cleaning blazers was going to prove very difficult. However, over the past week few weeks, several companies have been working on creating a solution to the laundry issue! Dettol (among other companies) produce a fabric spray called Spray & Wear, which alleges to kill 99.9% of all bacteria and is suitable for hard-to-wash items, such as blazers. So, if parents are happy to source the fabric spray and use it, we would like to reintroduce blazers from Year 11-Year 14 from Monday 21st September.

Thank you

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

MUSIC

Singing and Instrumental lesson fees

Please can we ask that if you wish your child to have music lessons that lesson fees for this term are paid ASAP and directly to the tutor.

Thank you

Melanie Carr - Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Notices

Baby sitting services

Please contact me if you'd like to book for any baby sitting services.

07788546565 or via email jillvance6@icloud.com

Spanish and French tuition

Mrs Crowther, our Sixth Form co-ordinator, has some availability for private online tuition in French and Spanish. Ideal for R11 and R12 pupils working towards GCSE, but suitable for R8 upwards. A Level Spanish tuition also available.

Mrs Crowther studied French and Spanish at Cambridge University, has lived and worked in Spain and has over 20 years' experience teaching languages to GCSE and A Level at independent schools in England including Charterhouse, Godolphin and Latymer School and Winchester College.

Please email ccrowther@rockportschool.com if you would like more details.

Rockport: Home to Published Authors!

Congratulations to Carter Conn, Katie Calvert, Ellie Russell and Javier Blanco Velazquez who are going to be published authors in a Young Writers Publication under the theme of 'Through Their Eyes'.

Last year they entered a competition in which they were successful. The published pieces will be judged and cash prizes are to be awarded to the top 5 entries. As a school, we are so proud of this accomplishment.

A Walker

Sport

R8's are looking forward to a fun-filled day at Ganaway Activity Centre on Monday 21st September. It promises to be an exciting day with a variety of challenging activities. The pupils will need to bring the gear listed in the letter emailed to parents. Pupils will be coming into school in their PE gear at the normal time but pick up will be 17.00 approx.

Any queries please email gholland@rockportschool.com



Sporting achievement

We're really proud of Jamie Nevin (R10) who recently took the title of Junior Champion at Hollywood Golf Club.

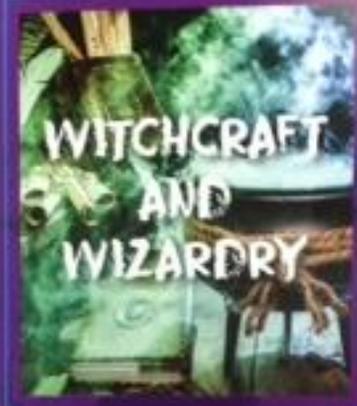
Well done Jamie!



Boarding

Great fun last weekend and more to come this weekend for our Boarders who are settling really well.

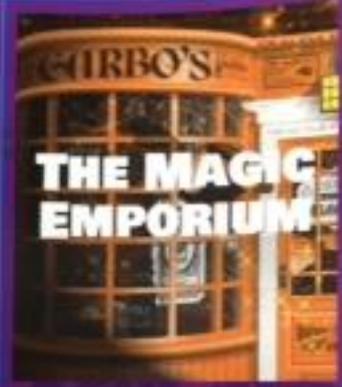
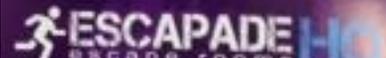
We took a trip to Pickie swans in Bangor, we tested our skills at the Escape rooms and did pretty well, so the reward was ice cream! Throw in a 'Just Dance' party and many outdoor games too!



WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY

The professor has set you a task to prove you are fit to enter the school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. You have one hour to solve his riddles, then find the magic wand and figure out the spell which releases you.

Complete the task in under an hour and you will be worthy of a scholarship to the School of "Witchcraft and Wizardry".



THE MAGIC EMPORIUM

Three days ago, a well known supplies shop for budding wizards closed for the day. However the shop never opened again. Sensing that something isn't right you have decided that you are going to investigate the mystery behind Ms Garbo's disappearance.

Don't get caught... find Ms Garbo and reopen "The Magic Emporium".

CAN YOU ESCAPE IN 60 MINUTES?

