



4 September 2020



NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School

Headmaster's Headlines

We're Back! Try as it might, the rain could do nothing to dampen the spirits of the returning troops as we gathered at our 4 muster points on Wednesday morning. And any fears of killing the mood by creating some dystopian nightmare where masked children would be 'processed' through tunnels of sanitising spray, soon dissolved in the morning drizzle, overwhelmed by the positive energy and that familiar buzz of excitement and anticipation that accompanies the start of any new school year.

Of course, this is not just any new school year and it is striking to think that, in its 114 year history, these school grounds must never have remained silent for so long. As I write, I can hear the sounds of the Early Years children outside on the lawn as they enjoy a break in the fresh air. It is a familiar and comforting sound to a teacher. It is the sound of happy children.

Welcome Aboard: Not only are we back, but there are a lot of new faces for us to welcome to Rockport. Indeed, we start this new term and school year on what must be a record enrolment for the school, certainly in modern times. In any other year the PTA would be busy planning 'Jazz on the Lawn' or some other such clever vehicle for getting to know our new families (and for inveigling them into helping with some future event). I hope a time will come soon when we can properly greet our new friends but for now, we send you a very warm welcome to the Rockport family. You don't know what you've let yourself in for.

Notes on Former Pupils: I was pleased this week to hear from OR Courtney Hodgson who tells me she is now a florist running her own business in North Down, a business named for her grandmother. We wish her and Harriett Reilly Floral Design every success.

George Vance
Headmaster

General news

Back to School

Thank you to all those parents who have obviously read through the material in the Bubble Book with their children and made sure that they are well equipped for the return to school. Just a few little issues have presented themselves this week, which we should address:

Parents are requested not to enter any of the classrooms – if you need to drop an item off for your son/daughter, please leave it in to the school office and it will be passed on to your child.

Some children do not have all of the pencil-case equipment which they need – a reminder that children from R5 up will need to have a supply of pens (red, blue, black), ruler, eraser, pencils, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, glue stick and for Year 8 and above, a Maths set and a scientific calculator.

Apprentice-ship training

One of our Year 12 Leavers has embarked on a plumbing course at SERC and needs to find an apprenticeship placement with a plumber/plumbing firm. If there is anyone who could help with this matter, please contact me on rpalmer@rockportschool.com.

Thank you

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer

Deputy Head

Boarding

Boarding, after many days and nights of preparation, improvements and maintenance (one student even described it as an Art Gallery now!), has now finally reopened after nearly 6 months lying empty!

We have had several boarders here now for over 2 weeks completing their mandatory isolation periods before school started and things are starting to feel like normal again! We have a great mix of existing and new students to keep things fresh and exciting with still many students due to join us in the coming weeks!

Students have been settling back into school routines and will be glad for the weekend to begin where we are off for some bowling, miniature golf and ice skating!

For some boarders, this has been a daunting experience as the first time away from home and family but they have all been tremendous with friendships flourishing so quickly you would think they have been friends for years! Our returning boarders have all come back a little taller, more mature and some with deeper voices (mainly the boys!). As one new student put it so simply, "it already feels like home" – what more could we hope for!

Finally, we have some new and returning gappers in Boarding as well with Grace (Australia) returning with us, Jenna (England) newly joining us and an not-so-old Rockportian joining the team, Sophie.

We are excited for the term ahead and look to keep busy with our very full Boarding house – many photographs and updates to follow!

S Smith



Art

So as to operate as safely as possible in Art Lessons the sharing of equipment must be kept to a minimum. In light of this all pupils in R5-7 and R8-10 will require their own set of materials, and should bring these to every Art lesson. The materials are as follows:-

At least 2 HB pencils

Rubber

Sharpener

30 cm ruler

Scissors

Glue stick

A set of coloured pencils and a set of coloured felt tip-pens – a set of 12 of each would be adequate.

GCSE Art pupil parents will receive an email outlining what will be required for their course.

D Hamilton

Singing Lessons

Singing lessons are commencing next week. Please check your day and time on the noticeboard at Miss Carr's room. Please remember folders with polypockets.

I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone again and welcoming some new singers.

Mrs C Hunter

Sport

We're back to being outdoors doing what we love best!


Please take a look at the information for after-school tennis beginning next week. If you wish your child to attend please contact Andrew and make payment before their start day.

G Holland

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ROCKPORT AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS CLUB



Professional Tennis Coaching for Kids

PROFESSIONAL PTR COACH

Monday 7th Sept (6 Weeks) £30
Reception & P1 2-3pm P2 - P3 - 3-4pm

Tuesday 8th Sept (6 Weeks) £30
P4 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 4-5pm

Wednesday 9th Sept (6 Weeks) £30
Yr 8 - Yr 12 4.30-5.30pm

All children attending from P4 upwards must bring their own racket and three tennis balls.
Maximum 16 children per session.

Sign up for personal coaching with Professional PTR Coach Andrew Strain to improve your all round tennis ability.

All payments must be made by bank transfer by 1st September
Andrew Strain - Sort Code 07 02 46
Account Number - 38419512

To book your child's place contact Andrew Strain:
Mob: 07703 379 606 Email: andrewstrain54@gmail.com



Early Years at Rockport

Welcome Back!

We have had a great first week in the Early Years Department. The children have settled really well and we are excited for the year ahead! We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Elliott (R1) back from maternity leave.

Uniform

Your children are looking so smart in their Rockport Uniform. Thank you for ensuring they have all the necessary uniform and kit. Please ensure all pieces of uniform are clearly named.

From next week, children from R1-R4 should come to school on Wednesdays and Thursdays in their PE kit.

Early Years at Rockport

Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook. We are keen to keep you updated on all that we get up to in the Early Years Department.

Parent Information Meetings

Next week, class teachers will be holding information meetings for the parents of pupils in their class. It's a chance for you to find out about classroom routines and curriculum and ask any questions you might have.

Monday	R1	1.30pm
Tuesday	R2	2.30pm
Wednesday	R3	2.30pm
Thursday	R4	2.30pm
Friday	Playgroup/Reception	1.30pm

Meetings will take place in classrooms. They will last for about 20-30 minutes. We would ask that only one parent per family attends. You should wait at your child's pick up area for teacher's to welcome you into classrooms. Please ensure you wash/sanitise your hands before entering and do wear a mask.

Lynn Athanasiou

Head of Early Years