



## Newsletter no 10 / Winter Term / 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018



Nov	Time	Event
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	All Week All Week	R5 – R11 Assessment Period Early Years' STEM Week
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-12.30	Amazing Brains Study Skills Workshop, Centenary Building - 9.00-10.30 R11 - 11.00-12.30 R13
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00-12.45	Explore Enterprise, Centenary Building
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	R11 – R13 Geography Trip PTA Thanksgivings - 17.30 Dinner - 19.30 Fireworks

### Headmaster's Headlines

**Teaching Time is Premium Time:** Rockport pupils will already be familiar with my views on poor timekeeping and unnecessary absence. With A Level and GCSE mocks coming up in December it is also a timely reminder that it is doubly important that senior pupils especially turn up to school every day and on time. I know we can rely on the support of you as parents to reinforce this message.

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**Remembrance:** Thanks to Major (Ret'd) Bert Smith MBE of the Irish Guards who gave such a poignant address at our annual remembrance service last Friday and well done to all those readers and singers who read and spoke so beautifully throughout.

**Full STEM Ahead:** The younger children are looking forward to a great celebration of Science Technology, Engineering and Maths next week as the Early Years Department run STEM Week. Thanks to those parents who are getting involved and to Mrs Athanasiou and the Early Years team for organising.

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## Global Business Week

As part of the ongoing activities surrounding Global Entrepreneurship Week, our Year 11 pupils were treated to a day out of school to attend this workshop held in the Aurora. The event started with a motivational talk from Philip Bain from Shred-bank who talked the group through 10 different myths of becoming a successful entrepreneur. The group were impressed with Philip's enthusiasm and inspiration and were then given the task of creating their own business model, based on tourism in N. Ireland. The group performed really well in the presentation task, speaking confidently about their unique business idea. Well done guys.



## Amazing Brains Study Skills Workshop

On Tuesday 20th November we will host the Amazing Brains study workshop in the Centenary Building. We have been hosting this event for over 4 years and try to change the format each year. This year, we are running this for our R11 and R13 pupils and they should bring along the following to this event:

- **A specification (syllabus) of their choice (must be correct exam board i.e CCEA, Edexcel, AQA).**
- **Class notes and textbook for that subject**

Through guided instruction the Amazing Brains presenter will steer students through the specification - identifying units, topics, sub-topics and key language, and will endeavour to enable students to interrogate the syllabus in order to make it more accessible.

There will be a charge of £23 per pupil for this event which will be put on your bill. We hope all of our pupils find this valuable in preparation for their mock exams in the next few weeks.

**Heather McBride**  
**Head of Upper Sixth**

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Thanksgiving and Fireworks- Car Parking Information

**Please note – access for emergency vehicles is a safety requirement for any fireworks display**

As a consequence, parking space within the school grounds will be very limited from 4pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. There will be **NO PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING and access must be maintained on the driveway and the approach lane to school**. Parents are asked to be considerate towards this important safety precaution when arriving for the Thanksgiving Dinner or arriving to see the fireworks display. Please consider car sharing, travel by train, parking at Seahill Station and walking down the Beech Walk to attend the fireworks display. Thanksgiving Dinner will start at 5.30pm and the Fireworks are scheduled for approximately 7.30pm. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

**Dawn Toland  
Head of Boarding  
Round Square Rep**

### **Prep Arrangements during Thanksgiving Dinner**

Due to the Dining Hall being used for Thanksgiving Dinner next Thursday, Prep is still available and will be split up in the following classrooms:

R5-R8: Home Economics Room

R9-R12 : Art Studio

There will be no supper option available that evening due to the Thanksgiving Dinner which is pre-paid ticket access. Boarders will be attending this event.

**Helen McConaghy  
R10M Form Teacher**

### **Maths Puzzle Day**

As part of STEM week, pupils in Playgroup to R8 will be taking part in a Maths Puzzle Challenge Day on Thursday. The Happy Puzzle company are running 4 workshops for different age groups throughout the course of the day. There will be a small charge for this activity which will be added to the bill.

**Colin Reid  
Head of Faculty**



## **Rockport Ladies Christmas Lunch 2018 in aid of Wellbeing of Women**

Friday 7th December at Merchant Hotel, Belfast

So the Christmas lights are being turned on all over the local towns, Christmas ads are appearing on our televisions and I know that everyone's minds are now counting down preparation for their own family holidays. So what better way to reclaim a day of fun and laughter with your best girlfriends and fellow women of the school family than attending a lovely relaxed afternoon which will also benefit Wellbeing of Women.

Many thanks to all those who have already booked their tickets for this year's Ladies' Christmas Lunch. The roomful of tables are filling quickly and the attendees will not be disappointed as they will be assured of a relaxing yet full afternoon of beautiful music, fun and laughter - as well as some amazing prizes to be won.

The ballot prizes this year include a beautiful pendant from Malcolm's Jewellers, vouchers from several restaurants, a Fortnum and Mason hamper, a Charlotte Tillbury Christmas giftbox-something for every taste!

As always the success of this charity lunch is entirely dependent upon the generosity of our school community, so if you can donate a ballot prize or sponsor any element of the day, it will all go towards benefitting this year's chosen charity Wellbeing of Women.

Tickets are still available by either paying online via the school's PayPal account : [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) or by dropping into the school reception and booking with Anja or Christine. Please leave your email or mobile telephone numbers and state if you wish to be seated beside or with any other guest to make table planning a little easier.

Tickets will be posted out and all attendees are encouraged to bring their ticket with them to the lunch as this year we will have a special prize for those ladies.

As always please contact [sineadmdall@gmail.com](mailto:sineadmdall@gmail.com) if you have any questions, queries or can offer any assistance.

**Sinead Dall**

**Rockport Ladies' Lunch Organiser**



## **STEM Week**

We are excited about our STEM Week next week! We have lots of wonderful things planned! Take a look at the programme attached to get an idea of what we will be getting up to.

As usual, we will be documenting our adventures on our Facebook page, 'Early Years at Rockport'. Be sure to follow along.

## **Late Night Madness....**

Fancy a 'child free afternoon' to enjoy a long lunch or some much needed Christmas shopping time? The Early Years Staff are on hand to give you just that!

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December we are planning a fundraising event which will allow your child/children to stay in school until 7pm or 10pm! It will be available for children from Playgroup – R7 and we have lots of activities planned to ensure the children have the best time! All money raised from this event will go towards resources for the Early Years Department. Booking forms will be sent home with your child next week!

## **A date for your diary**

Christmas has arrived in the Early Years Department... Rehearsals have started for our Nativity! Our Nativity 'A Miracle in Town' will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am in the Tucker Hall. Mark it in your diaries now...it is not to be missed!

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
**Head of Early Years**



## Looking Ahead

It's never too early to start thinking about future career paths and our Upper Juniors were given much food for thought during their whistle-stop tour of SERC's Bangor campus. They had the opportunity to see for themselves a wide range of courses including Engineering, TV & Drama, Technology, Catering, Animal Care, Public Services Training and Sport. All of our pupils found lots to inspire them and yet we were left with the feeling that we had only seen the tip of the iceberg.



**Suzanne McCartney**  
**Head of Upper Juniors**

## **STEM Week - 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

We are delighted that the Upper Juniors will be taking part in our STEM week next week. Please see the note and programme attached for more information.

**Please note: There will be NO SWIMMING for R5-R7 next week.**

### **Tuffy Times**

R6 helped mount a new squirrel box on the tree outside their classroom. They have filled it with nuts and look forward to watching daddy squirrel fill his tum. Apparently he comes from a family of five and any free meal offered is a welcome bonus...



### **NSPCC**

We would like to thank all those parents who sent in donations for the NSPCC. Your money will help the NSPCC to continue the invaluable work they do with children across the province. If you have not yet made a contribution, you can still do so. They will be back on Monday to collect our donations. We will let you know how much we raised in next week's newsletter.

**Suzanne McCartney**  
**Head of Upper Juniors**

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**Lynn Athanasiou**  
**Head of Early Years**



## **A Level Transition Meeting**

Following on from our meeting with parents on Monday 12th November, I would like to remind R12 students to return their Subject Survey forms to Mrs McBride by Friday 23rd November. We have attached the A Level subject choices booklet for those parents who were unable to attend.

**Heather McBride**

**Head of Sixth Form**

## Thanksgiving and Fireworks

Preparations are well under way for this year's Thanksgiving dinner and fireworks display. Luckily for us we have the expert services of local pyromaniac Iain Shiel organising the fireworks and not the local council ☺ although I imagine there are some fireworks going cheap at the minute...

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - The evening will begin at 5.30pm sharp in the Dining Hall, with a welcome drink and cheese and biscuit starter, for the now famous Rockport School Thanksgiving Dinner prepared and served by our kitchen staff. I can't emphasise enough the sheer noise levels that will be reached within the Dining Hall as all the children uncontrollably race around excitedly meeting their friends...that they've just spent all day with! It is noisy and chaotic but most of all it is a sincere evening of gratitude and togetherness. The Junior school will have prepared pieces of art and writing to decorate the hall and you will enjoy a school dinner like no other; it'll wash away the childhood horrors of lumpy potatoes and cold semolina with tinned mandarins in an instant.

The kitchen will provide puddings but we would like to ask any star bakers out there if you would like to donate a pudding. In previous years these have been cakes, trifles, pies and anything at all would be gratefully received. Please drop me an email if you would be happy to make a pudding. Thank you!

As in previous years this is always a sell-out event; I would strongly advise popping into the office and putting your name on the list with one of the office staff sooner rather than later.

**Fireworks** – These will commence on the back lawn from 7.30pm sharp. Everyone is welcome to this event and we will be selling hot chocolate and mulled wine to keep you toasty. The PTA, especially Mr Shiel, and school staff work very hard to ensure this event goes off without a hitch. Please respect any parking restrictions as we need to ensure a clear path for any emergency vehicles that hopefully will not be required. **All children must be supervised by an adult at this event.**

Thank you to all the parents and staff supporting this whole school event. It takes a lot of organisation and commitment and without your help it would not be possible.

**Cost:**                    **Thanksgiving Dinner – to be booked and paid for directly through the office**  
                               **£15 per adult**  
                               **£7 per child**

**Fireworks - £5 donation per family**

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Thanks giving Dinner – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – 5.30pm sharp – Dining Hall**

**Fireworks - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – 7.30pm Sharp – Back Lawn**

**Coffee Morning & Cake Sale in aid of Hollie Massey – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Santa Claus – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December (CANNOT WAIT)**

**Carol Thompson  
PTA Chairperson**