



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 4/ Winter Term / 28th September 2018



Oct	Time	Event
Mon 1 st	9.00-10.45	R12 Study Skills, Centenary Building
Wed 3 rd	TBC	Rugby fixtures with Lagan College

Headmaster's Headlines

At the Helm of the Marie Celeste: There wasn't much of a school to come back to this week, what with the Round Square team still in Canada, the Upper Juniors away in York and the R8 induction trip to the share Centre in Fermanagh. More on all those successful ventures follows below.

While I was away last week, of course, everything that could go wrong *did* go completely pear-shaped. No sooner had I left than Storm Ali arrived, causing power cuts, mayhem and the necessity to keep all the children indoors during break and lunchtime (never an ideal scenario). When the weather did finally abate, the school's entire computer, telecommunications and reprographic systems were off-line: teachers couldn't access teaching materials, the office couldn't make or receive calls and a million inbound emails were quietly stacking somewhere in the big server in the sky, only to arrive all at once late on Friday afternoon. Thanks to Mrs Palmer for holding the fort. I promise not to go away again (at least until the marketing trip to Beijing next month...).

George Vance
Headmaster

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ROUND SQUARE
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
September 20-26, 2018



Congratulations to **Sophie Shiel, Sophie Ennis, Jessica Moffett and Miles Cunningham** who have travelled to the Round Square Conference in Montreal and represented Rockport at this annual global gathering. As you read this they are likely to be recovering from their jet lag and the conference experience which in itself is an endurance test which requires resilience and a certain amount of courage to push yourself out of your comfort zone, engage with others and discuss some challenging themes.

The conference theme was ‘Bring Your Difference’ and guest speakers covered all areas of diversity. The students have heard from Wade Davies a National Geographic photographer who has lived with indigenous communities around the world; Amal Elsana Alh’jooj who described the challenges and struggles facing her as a female who desired an education and equality with her brothers within their Beduoin community and Lisa Dazols a campaigner for the LGBT community. After each speaker is heard in an auditorium the students are split into smaller ‘baraza’ groups and are encouraged to discuss the issues raised by the speaker.



In addition to the formal programme of educational and inspirational speakers the students have also had 2 days in the Canadian wilderness camp in Orford National Park where they have had the opportunity to canoe and hone their wilderness survival and lumberjack skills amongst a myriad of other team building games. They have also completed a RS Discovery Dash around Old Montreal and been hosted by some fantastic families who took them to the cinema, out for dinner and to the ice hockey.

By pupil numbers Rockport is the smallest school within the nearly 200 Round Square community. However, the consistently high standard of representation and involvement that our students have provided this year and also in previous years has resulted in the smallest school achieving not only global membership but also worldwide recognition within the organisation.

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In **March 2019** Rockport School will celebrate this by hosting approximately 30 schools for a global conference experience for pupils aged 13 – 15 years. A number of pupils from Year 9 upwards will have the opportunity to apply to assist at this event.

Rockport School will also be the venue for the Round Square Global Board Meeting at this time, a meeting that is normally been held in Windsor but has been relocated to allow the Round Square Global Board to see Rockport in action and be involved in some aspects of the conference.

Students interested in involvement in our March 2019 event will be provided with application details over the coming weeks. With 30 schools and 200 delegates coming I would be grateful to any parent volunteer who could commit to some time (a half day or day) to assist myself and the other Rockport staff involved during the conference (12th March - 16th March 2019) . Please contact me directly by email if you feel you could help in any way with either time or sponsorship or even goody bag items for our delegates.

Dawn Toland
Round Square Rep



Instrumental lessons

Music lessons are in full swing apart from drums with Mr Finlay and piano with Mr Smith. These lessons will commence shortly.

Lessons are at the following times:

Monday	Piano	Hilary Crawford
	Piano	Mr Sam Smith
Tuesday	Piano	Mrs Crawford
	Voice	Ms Hunter
Wednesday	Piano	Mrs Crawford
	Voice	Ms Hunter
	Flute	Ms Benson
Thursday	Strings	Mr Mawdsley
	Voice	Ms Hunter
	Piano	Mrs Crawford
Friday	Guitar	Mr Steve Smith
	Drums	Mr Finlay

Senior Choir

Senior choir will be taking place on Mondays, 13:15 – 13:40 in Miss Carr's Room. All year 8 to 14 are welcome to join.

Mel Carr

Head of Music

York

A really big “well done” to the 17 R5 and R6 pupils who left behind their mums and dads VERY early on Monday morning and then had no contact whatsoever for the next 4 days! This was a new experience for many, if not all of them, and a huge achievement for children of such a tender age. It goes without saying that they all had an amazing time – I’ll say a little more about what we got up to in next week’s newsletter. For now, I would like to thank all 17 sets of parents who entrusted us with full care of their off-spring for such an extended period of time. I can whole-heartedly report that you have produced a great wee bunch of kids who really did you proud.



Tour Photos

A small selection of tour pics filtered through social media while we were away. However, if you would like a copy of the full set of tour photos, please send in a named pen drive and we will transfer them for you.

Passports

Any remaining passports have been left in the school office for collection.

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

Saying Goodbye

The R5/6s set off on their first residential school trip this week, bright and early at 3.30am on Monday morning. Yes 3.30am☹. Having said that, it didn't bother the children one bit, they were far too excited to care that it was the MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. Bleary eyed parents gathered by the side of the bus while their children gave them a quick hug and jumped on board to find their classmates.

Then I noticed one of mine, who I assumed was still at the loo, had slipped onto the bus without kissing me goodbye. In a panic I knocked the window and mouthed "Come and give me a kiss," as I pointed to the front of the bus. "NO!" was mouthed back...eh what?? So again, I mouthed for him to come to the front of the bus, and again a definite "NO!" was mouthed back. I may have done this several more times before making the snap decision to run onto the bus and shout "Mathew Thompson come and give your mother a kiss good-bye!" Yes, I know, how embarrassing for Mathew, but I was worried the super-efficient Mrs McCartney would command the bus to leave Rockport before any parents could do something like I just had. I must have looked like a lunatic, actually I know I did. Up Mathew came to the front of the bus and it was only when he came close to me for a hug that I realised his little dimpled chin was wobbling and he was trying not to cry. Bless his little heart, it wasn't that he didn't care (as a needy mother this is exactly the thought that was in my head) he was just showing some bravado to avoid an emotional goodbye, which of course I had then forced upon him. Sorry Mathew.

Over the week pictures of happy children appeared on Facebook and I think it's safe to say they could not have seen any more of York. It was a non-stop, sight-seeing, fun-packed school trip.

The children returned late last night and couldn't wait to tell us all about it. They had had the time of their lives with their friends on a very well organised trip.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs McCartney, Mr Reid and Mr Hamilton for making this trip the huge success that it was.

Dads' Day Out – TODAY - Field of Dreams – 1430

Details for Dad's Day Out Friday 28th September 2018:

Venue:

Field of Dreams
55 Upper Gransha Road
BANGOR
BT19 7QE

Meet Field of Dreams at 14:30 for safety briefing; 15:00 start.

Cost is £30 (please bring cash).

All equipment will be provided and no previous experience necessary.

Outdoor venue so come suitably dressed.

30 cartridges each - we will divide into teams for banter!

Expected to last approx 2.5 / 3 hours, and then onto the Dirty Duck (18:30 for 19:00), for a pint and a meal, each paying their own.

Dirty Duck
2-4 Kinnegar Road
HOLYWOOD
BT18 9JN

A deposit has been paid for both Field of Dreams and the Dirty Duck.

Dates for Your Diary

Dads' Day Out – 28th September – Field of Dreams – 1430

Halloween – Thursday 25th October

Thanksgiving & Fireworks – Thursday 22nd November