

4 December 2020



# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Rockport School



## **Headmaster's Headlines**

**Thanks Again for your Service:** Any fears that any 'giving fatigue' might set in the penultimate week of our 4-week Round Square service project were quickly dispelled on Monday as another deluge of donations descended quickly upon Mrs Toland. Another great effort by our children and young people (supported by you) has resulted in giving us and the homeless charity (The Welcome Organisation) another nice logistical challenge. It is very much in keeping with our RS Service ethos that we support these good causes, especially as we approach the upcoming holiday. I know I have little need to appeal for your help in our final effort next week as, from Monday, we turn our attention once more to providing gifts for those who will spend Christmas in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

**Notes of Former Pupils:** His former teachers will be pleased to learn that OR **Andrew Smyth** has recently successfully completed an MSc with Commendation in Marketing. Andrew studied for his Master's Degree at Queens University Belfast, having previously graduated from Liverpool John Moores with a BA (Hons) in Events, Tourism and Leisure Management.

**George Vance**

**Headmaster**

# **General News**

## **GCSE and A Level Mock Exams**

All students from Year 11 to Year 14 will be involved in Mock Examinations during this incoming week. These start on Monday morning (7<sup>th</sup> December) at 9.00am and run through until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Students have been fully briefed about what to expect and how to approach the exams, but a few salient points for parents:

Please ensure that students are in school at least 15 minutes before the start time of each exam (morning exams start at 9.00am and afternoon exams start at 1.40pm).

If a student is unable to attend school or is running late, please call the school office to make us aware of the fact.

Students in these year groups may come into school only for exams. Students are reminded that they must sign in and out of school at the school office each day. Students who have morning and afternoon exams are expected to remain in school for a mid-morning revision session, which will be supervised by their teachers. Students are not permitted to leave the campus to have lunch elsewhere and then return for an afternoon examination.

Students are reminded that full school uniform is expected.

Mobile phones and smart watches are not permitted in the examination hall; these should be left at home or left with form teachers in the morning.

Please remember that, if a student is working closely (one-to-one or in an enclosed space with a member of staff), they will be required to wear a face covering.

Students have been provided with a handout detailing all of the necessary information.

Year 11 students will return to timetabled lessons on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Year 13 students on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Year 14 Students on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Year 12 Students (except French students) return to class on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day**

School Christmas lunch day is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December and all students and staff are invited to wear Christmas Jumpers on that day too! Early Years' children may well have a surprise visitor, if they've been very good!

## Lost Uniform

Please could all parents check hoodies – specifically for Annabella Cole R5. 'A.Cole R5' is handwritten on them. Thank you in advance.

**Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer**  
**Deputy Head**

## We're counting down the days!

Miss McConaghy's R8's produced tasty Christmas treats! They didn't last long, they were yummy!!! It's beginning to feel very festive in the R6 classroom too, the children are really getting into the Christmas spirit.



## Sixth Form Service Campaign



### Week 4

#### Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children

Thank you for all your generous donations for the North Down Storehouse, Assisi and The German Shepherd Rescue and The Welcome Organisation over the past 3 weeks. It means a lot to those charities in need and the Sixth Form have been overwhelmed by the positive response from all areas of the school community.

The Royal Victoria Hospital is the final organisation that we would like to help this term. We are delighted to support our NHS Key Workers and your donated gifts are gratefully received by Jenne McDonald on behalf of the RVH Play Therapy Department.

Similar to what we do every Christmas, we will be donating gifts to the children staying in the hospital over the Christmas period. As you can imagine, it is very daunting staying in the hospital over Christmas let alone over a global pandemic with restricted visitor numbers. We would be incredibly grateful if you would bring in an unwrapped gift suited to your age group, something you would love to receive. By doing this, we will ensure that all children in hospital over the festive period will get an extra present at Christmas to help them through this challenging period of time.

Any gifts remaining after Christmas are distributed by the play therapists throughout the year to help to brighten the day of any child who may be in hospital after an accident or in hospital for on-going treatment.

**On behalf of Group 4,  
Thank you, Anna Beattie (R14)**



Thank you from Week 3 Service Team gathering on behalf of The Welcome Organisation, Townsend Street, Belfast. The entire Rockport community has pulled together once again this week and on Thursday afternoon we were able to advise the Welcome Organisation that they should probably bring their Outreach Programme Van rather than a car to load the donations received so far!

We are delighted to report on the collective effort and let you all know that by Thursday afternoon the following items had been gathered together and will be distributed to those in need by The Welcome Organisation over the coming weeks.

X75 Liquid Soaps

X80 Hand Sanitiser

X 160 new pairs socks

X50 new pairs of gloves

X40 new hats

X4 new scarves

X3 new jumpers

X2 new blankets

X50 personal care and toiletry items

X10 household cleaning items

X 720 teabags

6 large jars coffee

2 large hot chocolates

X12 packets pasta/noodles

X6 pasta sauce

X8 breakfast cereal

The donations received will be collected early next week – any additional items brought in on Friday will be added to the items documented above. As we enter the final week of our 4 week service campaign we would like to thank the Rockport Parent body for their continuing generosity and for helping The Sixth Form to engage every class in the school in a very worthwhile project. A project which we can work on together whilst remaining separate during these challenging times.

**Ciara West, Eliza Neville-Forrest, Oli Whiting, Ugonna Ojaiko, Ben Lally, Laura- Kate Lattimer, Abdul Alhowaish and all in Sixth Form**



## **(Anti-)Social Media Workshop**

This week our R7-R11 pupils took part in an (Anti-)Social Media Workshop, delivered by our local PSNI.

We'd like to say a big thank you to the officers who took time out of their busy schedules to help us to educate our young people, reminding them about the dangers of social media and what constitutes good online practice. In an ever-changing world of social media, it's important that we are constantly reminding our students about how to keep themselves safe online.

We are grateful to our parents for their ongoing support around social media and hope this further cements our commitment to being proactive, when it comes to keeping our young people safe.



## Early Years

### Christmas Fun Day

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Our children have had a pretty tough year, so we want to treat them to a day of festive fun this Christmas. On Thursday 10th December 2020, they are invited to come to school in their festive gear (*own clothes with a Christmas jumper*). We will fill the day with arts and crafts, a yummy Christmas lunch and we might even have a couple of special guests... We can't wait!

