



SEPTEMBER

Fri 9<sup>th</sup>

Year 14 Tudor Cinema Trip

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Our Children Have Right of Way:** I am deliberately placing this issue right at the top of the agenda and the newsletter as my first item of the year. Please remember to slow down and drive carefully both on Rockport Road and in the school grounds. New pupils (and parents) will be unfamiliar with the campus layout and congestion in the mornings and afternoons make it even more difficult for the younger and smaller children to be seen. This will only get worse as the mornings get darker.

**Welcome!:** As we reach the end of the second day of the new academic year, we have already welcomed more than 40 new pupils into the ranks (with a few more applications pending), The Golf Academy is in full swing (ouch), we are preparing for the Round Square trip to Germany, the Sixth Form Centre is approaching completion and the PTA are already preparing for *Jazz on the Lawn* on Sunday 18 September. We wouldn't have it any other way.

**MORE Happening:** Thanks to all those parents who have been supporting the MORE campaign to date. Your efforts have enabled us already to carry out much drainage work around the tennis courts and rugby pitch in preparation for an exciting new facility (watch this space) and to give the front of Jackson Building a makeover. Some of you have donated specifically to the Bursary Fund and one parent has funded the installation of the smart red telephone box now proudly situated at the front of school. MORE developments are happening soon. Do not hesitate to contact me for a chat if you want to get MORE involved.

**Thinking Inside the Box:** On that note, there has been much speculation (and not all of it kind) about the purpose of the new/old red telephone box. I can reveal now that it is **not** a changing room for either Superman or Mr McIlveen (are they not one and the same?); **not** Mr Maudsley's new soundproofed violin classroom; **not** the new sixth form centre; **not** a cell for detention; **not** a meditation space for stressed teachers; **not** an indoor putting green; and, most unkindly, it is **not** the new meeting place for the Headmaster's fan club. Instead it is an accessible location where we will site one of our defibrillators for both school and local community use. We plan to install the defibrillator soon but I fear the jokes will just keep coming...

**George Vance**  
Headmaster

### ROCKPORT SCHOOL

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**GENERAL**



**Round Square**

Space has become available for a senior student (R10 upwards) to travel to Louisenlund in Germany as part of Rockport delegation to the Round Square Global Conference 2016 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October. The cost of this conference is £1450. Any pupil interested in attending should ask their parent to email Mrs Toland [DToland@rockportschool.com](mailto:DToland@rockportschool.com) as soon as possible to confirm that they are happy for their child to participate. The space will be allocated on a first

come, first served basis.

**Dawn Toland**  
**Head of Humanities Faculty**  
**Round Square Rep**

**Swimming**

The R5, R6 and R7 classes will be swimming every Tuesday afternoon at the Aurora complex in Bangor. Children can be picked up from the pool at 4pm or from school at 4.25, whichever suits best. Please let your child's Form Teacher know each Tuesday if you do plan to pick them up from the pool.

Children should bring their swimming bag in on a Monday morning along with sports bags and schoolbags. Each child should have a school swimsuit, cap, goggles and a towel, all kept in a separate bag. Thank you.

**Clare Neill**  
**R5 Form Teacher/French**

**New York Trip**

Please note that final payments for the Arts Tour to New York are now due. If you have not yet made the final payment please do so with the bursar. Three spaces are still available if any student would like to join. Please speak to Mr Lutton for details.

**Paul Lutton**  
**Head of Arts Faculty**



R4M first day back at school – all smiles and happy faces!

**Eunice McKerrow**  
**R4M Form Teacher**

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**Don't throw them away!**



If your household is in the habit of purchasing weekly/monthly comics or magazines for 9-12 year olds and you do not wish to hold on to them, the R6 and R7 English classes would love to make good use of them. It doesn't matter how far back they date. Please leave any donations in the school office and they will soon make their way over to our classroom. We also wouldn't refuse donations of novels that your older children may have outgrown – we are particularly interested in book sets suitable for 9-12 year olds. Many thanks in advance.

**Suzanne McCartney**  
**R6M Form Teacher**

**Moving Image Arts – Tudor Cinema Trip**

The Year 14 MIA students have a chance to attend the Tudor Cinema on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September to view Brazil by Terry Gilliam – our study text for the A2 exam.

Parents will receive a permission letter next week and the cost of the trip will be between £5 to £10 pounds depending on the number of attendees.

The Tudor Cinema is a great local 'micro-cinema' venue for classic and new release films and it should be a great opportunity to give our MIA students an early boost for their exam understanding.



**Patrick Toland**  
**Teacher of MIA**

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**Information for Parents: Winter Term 2016, Sports Timetable**

Days	5/6/7 Boys	5/6/7 Girls	Boys 8/9/10 11/12 Thurs	Girls 8/9/10 11/12 Thurs
<b>Monday</b>	Hockey RR	Netball HMCC	Hockey / Rugby RR/DI SMCl	Netball KMCCV
<b>Tuesday</b>	Swimming	Swimming	x	x
<b>Wednesday</b>	Rugby  TBC	Netball  GH	Yr 8's Golf Yr 9/10 Hockey SMCl RR/HMCC	Yr 8's Golf Yr 9/10 Hockey SMCl RR/HMCC
<b>Thursday</b>	Hockey TBC	Hockey TBC	Trampolining & swimming <i>Football(Seniors)</i> SM SMCl/RR <i>Senior Match Day</i>	Netball/ <i>Netball</i> GH/KMCCV/HMCC <i>Senior Match Day</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Football RR	Hockey HMCC	Football SMCl	Hockey GH

**Netball**

Congratulations to Josie Allen and Megan Ashcroft for being selected for the U17 Northern Ireland netball squad. Well done, girls!

**Gail Holland**  
Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty

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## EARLY YEARS

### Clubs

This term, we are excited to welcome two new clubs to Rockport:

'GO Media Academy' will be running a course for R2-R7 pupils during the winter term.

Go Media Academy is 'the **ONLY After School Academy** in Northern Ireland that offers **true creative learning & Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) skills**, using iPads, laptops and digital media software. Children will gain valuable skills in Film-Making, Special Effects, Green-Screen, Music production, Game Design, 3D Animation and even the opportunity to **create 3D Virtual Reality Worlds and 360 Videos**.

This club will commence on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Spaces are limited so use the link below to book your child's place at your earliest convenience.

## Go Media Academy

DIGITAL MEDIA & STEM AFTER SCHOOL  
Timescale: Winter Term | R2 – R7 students

- R2 – R4 – Augmented Reality using iPads | Sound & Video | Game Design on iPad
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  - 
  - 
  
- R5 – R7 - Augmented Reality using iPads | Film-Making & Special Effects | 3D Animation | Game Design on iPad
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  - 

Days: Every Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Sep – 15<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Times: R2 – R4 3pm – 4pm  
R5 – R7 4pm – 5pm  
Price: Full winter term £105 for R5 – R7, £100 for R2 – R4  
How to Book: [www.GoMediaAcademy.com/rockport](http://www.GoMediaAcademy.com/rockport)

If you have any problems booking your child, please email [info@GoMediaAcademy.com](mailto:info@GoMediaAcademy.com) or phone 07522177681 anytime.

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Rockport Primary  
Afterschool Course  
\*\*\*  
12 week course £48  
Wednesdays  
2pm – 2.45pm Preschool & P1  
3pm - 4pm P2-P4  
14/09/16 – 07/12/16

A fun creative course, where the children  
make and take a 3D creation each week

**ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY**  
at [www.clayrazy.co.uk](http://www.clayrazy.co.uk)

Spaces are limited, please register asap  
to guarantee your child's place.  
Optional payment online or  
cash/cheque on first day of course.  
Cheques to Clayrazy

The Clayrazy Club starts on 14th September for 12 weeks. Please check out their website and register online.

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
Head of Early Years

## **MUSIC**

### **Instrument lessons**

Any new pupil or current pupil wishing to start instrument lessons please speak to Miss Carr on Monday morning. We have places available in drums, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flute, piano and violin.

**Melanie Carr**  
Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

### **Singing with Mrs Hunter**

Please note that singing with Mrs Hunter will resume next Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. Please check the timetables near Miss Carr's room and in the Jackson Hall and make a note of your timeslot. Also, please don't forget to bring your music files.

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### **A New Term at Rockport!**

Welcome to a new term at Rockport! Rockport was hiving with activity yesterday as beautifully presented children of all ages buzzed around their school, finding their classrooms and greeting friends old and new. It was smiles all round. If Carlsberg did a first day back at school, it would be a Rockport one!

The children are delighted to be back at school and it's no wonder. I had planned to be a total amazing mum and read, write and bake each day over the holidays. I planned to give them structure whilst being a total earth mother and font of all knowledge. That didn't happen. They learned to juggle two oranges, and YouTube learnt to tie their laces. Thank God for Rockport because I totally failed as a mother :)

THIS year I decided would be THE year that I was PREPARED for the first day of term. After 9 weeks off, there really wasn't any excuse not to have ALL essential pieces of uniform (at least ordered) and all badges and name tags beautifully stitched on every item of clothing. On Wednesday night I found myself sitting in front of the television with jumpers, hoodies, a sewing kit and house badges ready to go. Then I checked my phone; giggled at Facebook and before I knew it, it was nearly 10pm. I re-evaluated the situation and decided first day back uniform was sufficient and I promised myself I would absolutely do the rest over the weekend. I definitely have a blind spot for badge sewing! Does anyone else feel slightly sea sick when they look at their children's badges or is it just me?

One thing I definitely was not prepared for was my eldest saying. "Drop me off here mum, see you at 5.30 and you don't need to speak to my teacher." Before I could argue he had disappeared into the myriad of buildings and foliage. My eldest boy had grown up over the summer and now in R5 I was services no longer required. Wow that was a blow. I admit that I gulped down the tears. As much as I want my children to be needy forever, I appreciate they must become independent and confident. My children are entering their 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> year at Rockport and there has never been a day when they weren't excited to learn. I don't think we can ever underestimate the influence a teacher has on a child's wellbeing. Rockport School teachers teach and nurture the whole child and that is immeasurably valuable.

### **A New PTA**

I met with Rockport School's new PTA line up yesterday for an informal chat about the year ahead. 5 hrs later (I'm not kidding) and I think we had solved all world problems too! I am delighted to be working with an enthusiastic bunch that is eager to get this year's events under way.

The new line up is:

**Carol Thompson – Chair (not new)**

**Jonny Henderson – Vice Chair – Dad to Ebony R5 and Rueben R9**

**Jo Traboulsi – Treasurer – Mum to Zeina R12**

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**Cait Greene – Secretary – Mum to Oli R9**

We also have our head of the PTA Mr George Vance along with Mrs Rhonda Palmer leading the way and teacher members Colin Reid, Paul Lutton and Angela Reynolds. We still have to firm up the teacher line up so there may be a change.

Over the years we have had incredibly generous help from parents and other staff members. The list is endless and we really appreciate everything you have done and hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts to fundraise for the school.

**Dates for Your Diary:**

**Jazz on the Lawn – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Front Lawn - 1-4pm – £10 donation PER CAR**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE FROM PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED**

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME**

This day is always a hit for all ages at Rockport. It's a chance to relax and let the children play or chat to friends whilst enjoying the music play out over the Front Lawn. We will have bouncy castles, face painting, a bar, tea/coffee and children's refreshments with live music.

If any parents would like to help on the day, we would be very grateful for biscuit or bun donations. If you would like to man the bar, tea/coffee or refreshment stand for an hour, please drop the PTA an email on [pta@rockportschool.com](mailto:pta@rockportschool.com)

**Pub Quiz – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Dining Hall -7pm – Teams of 6-8**

The PTA is looking forward to this event as it promises to be A LOT of fun. Mrs Neil and her lovely daughter Lucy is a match made in pub quiz fun heaven. If you have never been to one of the pub quizzes, I highly recommend it. There is absolutely no point swotting up for the quiz because it tends to be obscure which means we all have a fighting chance of winning (or beating the school staff table because that's most important). You can get together with friends or simply join us on the evening and we can work out tables then. A list will be left in the office for you to put your name down so we can organise catering.

**Cost £10 per person for supper and a drink**

**Children's Halloween Party – Thursday 27th October**

**Halloween Fireworks display – Thursday 27th October**

**Thanksgiving Dinner – 24th November – 5.30pm**

**Rockport Ladies Lunch – Friday 2nd December**

This year the Rockport Ladies Lunch will be raising funds not only for our school but for two very worthy local charities. I will be sending out a letter to all parents shortly explaining in more detail about the charities and also how you can help us through sponsorship.

This year we are supporting:

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CARED NI – a charity providing support and advice to parents and carers who have a loved one suffering and recovering from an eating disorder. [www.caredni.org](http://www.caredni.org)



The Boom Foundation – a charity supporting patients with sarcoma.  
[www.theboomfoundation.co.uk](http://www.theboomfoundation.co.uk)

**Santa Claus visit – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Easter Bunny visit – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Dad's Day Out – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**Belfast Marathon – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**School Fete – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Speech Day – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Carol Thompson**  
**PTA Chairperson**

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