Winter Term 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

#### **SEPTEMBER**

ewsletter no 2

Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	14:15	R1 Induction	
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	R2 Induction	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	R3 Induction	
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 14:30	1 1 2 1	
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	13:30	Reception and Playgroup Induction	
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	13:00-16:00	Jazz on the Lawn	

#### Headmaster's Headlines

I'm off: A shorter-than-usual offering this week as I'm out of school today but that doesn't mean that this week hasn't been hectic. Lots of new pupils have been kitted out and settled in; weekend boarding reports record numbers; all classes including GCSE, AS and A2 Level (for the first time) started in earnest; our development guru Ian McLean joined us once again on Tuesday and Wednesday to monitor our progress; the Rockport Golf Academy beginners group kicked off (?) on Wednesday at Blackwood; and we have been busy interviewing more prospective families even though the enrolment now stands at an impressive 205 (a record for the start of term during my time here).

**MORE Happening**: Many thanks to those parents who have made it possible to give the Cricket Pavilion a makeover. This building is over 100 years old and is very important to all of us at school and to all ORs. It has now been returned to its former glory: first by the hard work of the PTA last year and more recently spruced up inside and out by the MORE campaign. It is once more a thing of wonder and beauty.

The Slippery Slope to Anarchy: If some pupils think that the teaching staff are being petty or overzealous about the uniform regulations this week it is because they are. And it shows they are doing exactly what I have asked of them. Being told that it is unacceptable to wear black shoes that are mostly black but have different coloured heels to school may temporarily be upsetting to the teenage mind but those of us who have been around for a bit longer know that if you look after the little things, the big things tend to look after themselves. I know that our parents will support us in the battle ahead.

George Vance Headmaster



#### **GENERAL**

#### **MORE Adventure @ Rockport School**

Kayaking Club at Rockport Beach - Wednesday 4.15pm - 5.30pm: Cost £90 for a Six Week Introductory Course starting Wednesday 21st September



Pupils from R7 – R14 are invited to sign up to a new club this term. Six pupils are required to make this club viable and no more than 12 pupils can participate in this session. Should demand exceed the number of places, an additional course will be run in the Summer Term. Priority will be given to older pupils who may have examination courses in the summer term.

Please register interest with Mrs Toland by email on or before Wednesday 14th September. dtoland@rockportschool.com

#### **MORE Adventure @Rockport School**

Sail Training Sessions for R5 and R6 have been scheduled for this term. Consent forms have been issued to pupils and some have even been returned already – thank you! Please return any remaining consent forms to Form Teachers by Wed 14<sup>th</sup> September to allow for them to be passed to Ballyholme Yacht Club.

For new pupils – no prior experience of sailing is required and no specialist equipment. This is a fun introduction to sailing. Along with fully qualified RYA instructors our partner, Ballyholme Yacht Club, will provide wetsuits, buoyancy aids and spray jackets.

- R5 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am-3.30pm
- R6 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 9.30am- 3.30pm

All details of kit required are listed on the consent forms.

Please forward queries by email to dtoland@rockportschool.com

Dawn Toland Head of Humanities Faculty Round Square Rep



**RDS** 



Rockport Dramatic Society is very excited to welcome Mr James Huish as director of this year's production of Oliver! James is one of Northern Ireland's leading directors in musical theatre. He has just recently directed a youth production of *Les Miserable* and is currently directing *Ghost*, both at the Grand Opera House.

*Oliver!* will be performed over two nights on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Rehearsals will begin this coming Monday from

4.15pm to 7.00pm in the Centenary Building and then again on Wednesday at the same time. Interested students from R5 to R14 are encouraged to attend. It is not anticipated that cast members will be required at every rehearsal. After the remaining parts have been cast this week, Mr Huish will put together a detailed rehearsal schedule which will be in next week's newsletter.

While I know this is a busy term and students have several extra-curricular commitments, I would really appreciate parental support encouraging student involvement in the next six weeks. It promises to be an excellent production and a fantastic opportunity for our students to work with a very talented director

Paul Lutton
Head of Arts Faculty

#### **Junior School Books**

The R6/7 pupils are already enjoying being 'transported' to all sorts of new and interesting places through their reading. A big 'thank you' to those parents who have kindly left donations of good quality books for us to enjoy. We are happy to continue receiving any reading material that your older children no longer want — magazines included. Thank you.



Suzanne McCartney R6 Form Teacher

#### Clubs

#### Go Media Academy, R5-R7, Thursday - 4.00pm-5.15pm, £64

This club will run for 8 weeks, beginning on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils will experience Augmented Reality using Ipads, Film making and Special Effects, 3D animation and Game Design. For more information and to book your place, visit www.gomediaacademy.com/rockport

#### Speech and Drama, R2-R12

Speech and Drama lessons will run throughout the year with Mrs MJ Carsewell. Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in local Speech and Drama Festivals and complete LAMDA exams. Please email <a href="mailto:lathanasiou@rockportschool.com">lathanasiou@rockportschool.com</a> if you are interested.

Lynn Athanasiou Head of Early Years

#### ROCKPORT SCHOOL

#### Clubs

Please find below an overview of the clubs list for 2016-17 for each year group (R5 – R12). Clubs have now been divided up into six weekly blocks. The first block of six weeks will commence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September and finish the week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The clubs for this first six week block are as follows:

Class	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
R5	Netball (GH) 6 – 7pm Cookery (HM) 6 – 7pm RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Multimedia Academy 4.00 – 5.30pm
R6	Netball (GH) 6 – 7pm Cookery (HM) 6 – 7pm RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Multimedia Academy 4.00 – 5.30pm
R7	Netball (GH) 6 – 7pm Cookery (HM) 6 – 7pm RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Multimedia Academy 4.00 – 5.30pm
R8	Netball (GH) 6 – 7pm RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC)
R9	Netball (GH) 6 – 7pm RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC)
R10	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC) Duke of Ed Bronze (SP)
R11	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Duke of Ed Bronze / Silver (SP) Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC)
R12	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm	Football / Rugby (SMcI / RR) 4.30pm	RDS (PL) 4 – 5.30pm Duke of Ed Silver (SP) Kayaking 4.15pm – 5.30pm	Choir (lunch) (MC/VC)

Please discuss with your child the club they have chosen. Any queries should be addressed to the club teacher or <a href="mailto:creid@rockportschool.com">creid@rockportschool.com</a>

Colin Reid Head of Faculty

# ROCKPORT Rockport School A Learning Adventure EARLY YEARS

# **NEWSLETTER**

#### **Parent 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. Please do try to attend.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday	R1	2.15pm
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 30 minutes. Daycare will be available for R1 pupils on Monday.

#### **Early Years' Clubs**

After-school clubs will commence this week for Playgroup to R4. Don't forget, registration is online.

Clayrazy	Playgroup-R1	2pm-2.45pm
	R2-R4	3pm-4pm
Go Media	R2-R4	3pm-4pm

**Speech and Drama** will recommence on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. This is likely to run as a lunchtime club. Further details to follow. Please let me know if you would like your child to attend.

#### 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.** A reminder that boys should wear their Rockport caps to school on a daily basis.

#### **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. (Please let a member of staff know if you do not want your child's picture to be used.)

> Lynn Athanasiou Head of Early Years

# ROCKPORT Rockport School A Learning Adventure

### NEWSLETTER

#### **SPORTS**

#### **Golf Academy**

Excitement around the Golf Academy was palpable this week and our Early Years pupils were the first to get a taste of the game! It has been a resounding success so far with much more to come!

Golf is being introduced at 3 levels — Beginners/Development/Elite - and this week the beginners group got started. All pupils from Playgroup to Yr 10 will be given the experience of the game of golf and pupils will be assessed for the Development and Elite Squads in the coming weeks.

Rockport's commitment to exposing our pupils to a wide and varied curriculum is at the heart of this initiative whilst also identifying talent. Elite performers will be given the chance to pursue their sport in order to reach their full potential but at the same time have support for their academic studies.

For further information on the Golf Academy, brochures are available from the office and it is also in PDF form on the Rockport website.

#### Netball



Good luck to Josie Allen and Megan Ashcroft at the U17 NI netball trials tomorrow from 9.30 – 4pm at Lisburn Racquets Club. This is the National Squad and clearly demonstrates how talented the girls are – well done!

G Holland Head of PE & Personal Development

#### **PTA**

#### **Plastic Fantastic**

So far I have discovered that I can't keep whites white and I can't sew badges on straight. I have now found my third nemesis: sticky back plastic. In my day, if you were lucky, you got your books backed with beautiful wrapping paper. If you were unlucky they were backed with brown paper from the Post Office and if you were very unlucky it was chipped wood wallpaper. I was very unlucky. We didn't even have chipped wood wallpaper! I must ask my mother why? WHY? It was impossible to write my name on the cover over the woody bumps!

Fast forward to present day and sticky back plastic is fantastic, wipe-able and durable. I couldn't wait to get started on the twins' books. Once I got over the impossible-to-remove backing, I meticulously placed it onto the edge of the book, pressing carefully down, smoothing firmly and pulling away the backing until I had managed to hermetically seal the book!! I didn't realise how difficult it would be to part the plastic. Nightmare. So onto Peter's reading diary and I thought I

#### ROCKPORT SCHOOL

# Rockport School

### NEWSLETTER

better not be so firm. Big mistake. Lined it up and gently smoothed giant bubbles onto the book. Every effort to squeeze them out resulted in multiplication of bubbles and to top it off I had misjudged the amount of plastic cut and ran out half way across the back of the book. Peter looked at his book and said "You made a bit of a mess of my book Mum." Yes son I did! I think it's time to bring wood chipped wallpaper back ©

#### **Confidence and Independence**

I know I've said this many times about Rockport but Rockport School really does encourage every child to be confident and independent whilst still enjoying childhood. This week has been a steep learning curve for me as I have watched Peter in R5 embrace the huge change in daily structure, lengthened school hours and games schedule. Last night he decided to board with his friend in the same class. Yes, he has had sleepovers but boarding is a little different. I packed his overnight bag, with enough to last a week, and sent him on his way yesterday morning. I resisted the urge to find him and say hello when I was picking up the twins yesterday afternoon. It's hard to sometimes accept that my little boy is growing up. Watching him navigate through his first week back at school solidifies the belief I have in Rockport School as a unique environment dedicated to the betterment of the whole child.

#### **Dates for Your Diary**

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

PACK A PICNIC AND BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Everyone is welcome to come along to our annual Jazz on the Lawn. It's a chance to enjoy your picnic, relax and let the children play or chat to friends whilst listening to 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

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

I hear a formidable staff table has already been arranged for this event, so come on parents, we need to beat them!!! Get your friends and family together and take a table of 6-8 and see if we can outsmart the smarty pants. The pub quiz is always fantastic fun with the lovely Mrs Neil and her wonderful daughter Lucy entertaining us for the evening. If you haven't got a team, we can sort you out on the night. Please pop your name on the list in the office if you wish to come for catering purposes. Thank you!

Cost £10 per person for supper and a drink

# ROCKPORT Rockport School A Learning Adventure

# **NEWSLETTER**

Children's Halloween Party – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Halloween Fireworks display – 5.30pm - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Thanksgiving Dinner – 24<sup>th</sup> November – 5.30pm

Rockport Ladies Lunch – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

CARED NI – a charity providing support and advice to parents and carers who have a loved one suffering and recovering from an eating disorder. <a href="www.caredni.org">www.caredni.org</a>



The Boom Foundation – a charity supporting patients with sarcoma. 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