



**SEPTEMBER**

Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	13-16:00	Jazz on the Lawn
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30-15:30	R5 Sailing
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30-15:30	R5 Sailing
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:45 -15:15	Meet the Marines
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30-15:30 9:30-15:00	R6 Sailing AS MIA students to Nerve Centre, Belfast
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30-15:30	R6 Sailing

### Headmaster's Headlines

**Helicopter Lifts the Whole School:** There was (literally and metaphorically) a great buzz around the school on Tuesday morning as a Puma helicopter from 33 Squadron RAF paid us a visit. It was also a great pleasure to catch up with a former pupil (and Air Cadet) of mine who is the Squadron Commander, even if I am far too young to have taught someone who is now a Wing Commander...

**Megan Nets Place in International Team:** Well done to Megan Ashcroft who has been selected for the Under 17 Northern Ireland Netball Squad, despite being two years younger than most of her counterparts. We will follow her progress with interest and pride.

**Round Square Visitors:** More on this to come, but in a couple of weeks' time we will welcome some special overseas visitors from three other schools in the Round Square family. Staff and pupils from Ivanhoe Grammar School in Melbourne, Methodist Ladies' College in Sydney and Vivek High School in Chandigarh, Punjab will be our guests at Rockport for 5 days on a pre-conference visit before we all head off to Germany for the global event. For their time here Mrs Toland has planned a hectic but fun-filled programme to include those ubiquitous trips to Titanic and the Causeway Coast, as well as a day trip to Dublin. One of our current RS exchange students, Madeleine Sherbon, is especially looking forward to catching up with her classmates from MLC Sydney.

**PTA Jazz this Sunday:** Thanks to the PTA who are kindly running Jazz on the Lawn once again on this Sunday afternoon when we hope everyone will bring a picnic along and get a chance to properly meet and greet our new families. I look forward to seeing you all there.

### ROCKPORT SCHOOL

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)



**Conkered:** In my assembly on Monday about Kurt Hahn's message on privilege and self-denial I used a conker as an example of one of life's simple pleasures in gentler times (I *am* turning into my Father). I know more than most that actions can have unintended consequences but even I didn't predict the resulting mayhem: every Horse Chestnut tree on the campus has been stripped of its seeds; the cleaners and grounds staff are spending hours clearing up the resulting detritus both inside and out; in the changing rooms, countless shoelaces have been going missing from shoes and football boots; and Matron has dealt with a couple of scratches and bruises; not from playing conkers but from the sticks that are thrown up at the trees (to knock the conkers down) returning to earth. Next week's assembly will be on pillow fights. Or maybe not.

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

**ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119



**GENERAL**

**MORE Adventure@ Rockport – Kayaking Club- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 4.15-5.30pm**

All places for this session of kayaking have now been filled. Pupils involved have been given consent forms and these should be completed and returned to Mrs Megarry by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Pupils should meet at Mrs Megarry's classroom at 4.05pm on Wednesdays. They should bring swimwear, a towel and footwear (that will get wet!). Mobile Team Adventure who will provide the instruction for this 6 week course will provide boats, paddles, helmets, buoyancy aids, wetsuits and also a Paddlepower booklet, which is used to record the pupils' skills progression through the BCU (British Canoe Union) learning scheme.



Any pupil who wishes to bring their own wetsuit is welcome to do so. Please name personal equipment and take it home after every session!

We will complete a review of this new club after the 6 week session has been completed and should there be sufficient demand, we will offer an additional course in the Summer Term.

Please direct queries regarding kayaking club to Mrs K. Megarry.

[kmegarry@rockportschool.com](mailto:kmegarry@rockportschool.com)

**MORE Adventure @Rockport – Sail Training**

Many thanks for the prompt return of sailing consent forms.

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

Cost of Course £75 (*this will be added to your September bill*)

**Please bring a packed lunch and sufficient snacks and drinks for a day out of school, but no fizzy drinks please.**

Pupils may attend school in their school tracksuit on a sail training day. This and their footwear should remain dry for wearing upon their return to school. Please name all items.

Each participant will be given a wet suit, spray jacket and a buoyancy aid for the sailing session. This will be on loan from Ballyholme and returned at the end of each session.



**ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119



### Kit List

They will also need to bring:

- warm clothing (lots of woollen/ fleece layers) for the upper body
- swimwear for underneath wetsuit
- a hat or cap & gloves
- old trainers/crocs/wetsuit boots that will get wet (not wellington boots)
- warm socks
- a change of clothes including another pair of shoes for transport to/from school
- towel
- plastic bin bag for wet clothes
- long hair must be tied back
- no jewellery
- MEDICATION (inhalers etc.)
- sunscreen

*Please note that it is colder on the water than on the land and so on a day that might require 1 jumper outside, your child may need 2-3 on the water. Please remember to pack footwear for on the water – this will get wet. Pupils are welcome to bring their own wetsuits/drysuits and other kit if they have it.*

**Please ensure all items are clearly named and your child has a large bag for all their kit (IKEA bags work perfectly!)**

Please direct queries regarding sail training to Mrs D. Toland  
[dtoland@rockportschool.com](mailto:dtoland@rockportschool.com)

**Dawn Toland  
Head of Humanities Faculty**

### **DofE Bronze and Silver News**

Mrs. Parke and Mrs. McBride would like to see the Bronze and Silver groups from last year to finish the areas required for their qualification. This will run on a Thursday afternoon from 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm when required. Could all pupils please bring along any books, evidence of volunteering, skills as well as physical. We hope to run this club up to half-term, beginning Thursday 15th September.

**Heather McBride  
Business Studies, Maths & ICT Teacher**

### **ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)



On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September we will celebrate the European Day of Languages with a range of fun events across the school. There will be a European fancy dress competition for pupils in playgroup to R7 to celebrate in style. Rockport staff, get your creative thinking caps on too as there will be a bottle of Spanish 'vino' for the best dressed!

Look out for our R11 and R12 linguists at break time, who will be handing out sweets to those who can respond to them in French or Spanish. They will be wearing language billboards so you will not miss them!

At lunchtime pupils from R8-R14 are invited to the 'Café des Langues' in the Languages classroom, to enjoy European music, cuisine and a Euro Quiz. There will be space for 20 pupils at a price of £2 per person to cover food costs (this will be added to your bill). Please email Mrs Megarry if you are interested on or before Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at [Kmegarry@rockportschool.com](mailto:Kmegarry@rockportschool.com).

### 'Meet the Marines'

On Wednesday 21st September a number of our senior students are participating in a one day course at Palace Barracks. This involves tough physical challenges but the Rockport pupil is well prepared for this!

#### Arrival & Departure:

Pupils are required to be at the minibus at Rockport by 08.45 to be transported to Palace Barracks arriving at the main gate on the Old Hollywood Road by 9:15am (registration will begin at 9:15am). The day's events will be complete by 3:15pm and you should arrange pick-up from Palace Barracks after that time.

#### Clothing:

Specialist clothing will be provided for many of the activities however please have/wear:

- a. Walking boots or strong trainers.
- b. Old trousers or a tracksuit.
- c. A long-sleeved top.
- d. Waterproofs (jacket is essential).
- e. Warm clothing (jumper or fleece).
- f. Hat and gloves.



### ROCKPORT SCHOOL

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)



- g. Change of clothing.
- h. Towel.

**Food:**

No food is provided, so you are to bring a packed lunch and drink to the event.

*Please note: Your child will not be permitted to take part unless they have their completed Public Liability Forms with them on the day. These have been issued to each pupil, so please check that they are filled in and given to G Holland by Monday for safe keeping!*

**Netball Clubs**

**Netball club on Monday evenings will start after Half Term. Numbers are seriously depleted by RDS rehearsals, so netball club will not be taking place from this week.**

**RDS Rehearsals**

Please note that RDS rehearsals continue this week in the Tucker Hall on **Monday and Wednesday evening from 4.15 to 7.00pm** (with a break for supper). The students listed below have signed up for this year's production and are expected to attend both rehearsals.

This week Mr Huish will be setting and rehearsing the main chorus numbers which is why the entire cast is needed. If everyone attends, then the following week he will be able to block rehearsals for the principal actors. While I know students have other commitments and pressures, I would ask that RDS is given priority in the next few weeks as our rehearsal time is very limited and progress is difficult without full attendance.

Josh Lally R13  
Angharad Fitzgerald R12  
Adam Onas  
Robert Burke R11  
Dominic O'Loane  
Anna Thompson R10  
Jack McGimpsey R10  
Ciara Mulgrew R9  
Ciara West R9  
Gabriel Walker R9  
Belinda Acheson R9  
Farah Nixon R9  
Natalie Medhurst R9  
Georgia McKissick R8  
Scarlett Mooney R8  
Matt Lavery R8  
Daniel Parker R8  
Elif Karauzum R8

**ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)



# Rockport School

A Learning Adventure

## NEWSLETTER

Tabby Allen R8  
Ronan Jordan R7  
Abbie Toland R7  
Tara Boyd-Curry R5  
Louis Scullion R5  
Teddy Geddis R5  
Jamie Anderson-Orr R5

**Paul Lutton**  
Head of Arts Faculty

### **Moving Image Arts Editing Trip - Nerve**

Our AS students will have their first opportunity to travel to the Nerve Centre to begin their training in editing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 9.30 to 3pm. Students will bring a permission slip home and the cost is around £20 for the day. Students require parental permission to arrive or depart from the

venue unaccompanied (Nerve Centre – Belfast/Ormeau Road) and parents can contact [ptoland@rockportschool.com](mailto:ptoland@rockportschool.com) to supply this permission also or seek more information.



**Patrick Toland**  
Teacher of MIA

### **THE GALLERY**

It has been a busy start to the year for R12 Art & Design students who are already well underway with coursework projects. This week features **Imogen Rauch** who has chosen to investigate “Fears&Phobias” as her theme. This chalk pastel piece explores the fear (or lack of, perhaps!) of heights – an amazing effort, well done Imogen!



**David Hamilton**  
Teacher of Art & Design

### **ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119



**PTA**

**Man Down**

I was called to school on Monday to collect one of the twins who had fallen ill. Truth be told, Mimi was still recovering from her wake-over at the weekend to celebrate her birthday. Add to that a little head cold and Mimi's big brown sorry eyes and Mrs McKerrow had no choice but to send her home. I arrived after 1pm where I got to see Rockport in its natural state. Children were everywhere, children with sticks, throwing sticks, shaking branches and climbing trees, jumping up and down in and around the trees and lawns. At first I thought it was some historical re-enactment for a lesson; Rockport likes to use the outdoors as much as possible, so I assumed it was a History lesson in motion. I drove SLOWLY past the excited children of ALL ages and I realised they were trying to get conkers from the trees! My heart did a little leap for joy. Children being children. Something we all did as children and was part of everyday life that for most children in schools now is no longer allowed. I wholeheartedly encourage the gathering of conkers...because they ward off spiders and I have them placed strategically around the house 😊 Keep up the good work kids!

**Dates for Your Diary:**

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

**PACK A PICNIC AND BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

It looks like the weather will be perfect for Sunday. It may not be a balmy 25 degrees but we are in Northern Ireland and anything over 12 degrees is practically a heatwave. It'll give Mr Vance another excuse to show off his pins in his shorts 😊. 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](mailto:pta@rockportschool.com).

**Pub Quiz – Friday 14th 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 SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)





**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 is generously sponsored by Radox Health. We 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:



[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**

Thank you all for your continued support for all our events. Together we raise much needed and appreciated funds for our school that benefits each and every child.

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

**ROCKPORT SCHOOL**

15 Rockport Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down BT18 0DD

Tel: 028 9042 8372 Fax: 028 9042 2608 Email: [info@rockportschool.com](mailto:info@rockportschool.com) Web: [www.rockportschool.com](http://www.rockportschool.com)

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119