



Newsletter no 5 / Winter Term / 30th September 2016



October	TIME	EVENT
Tue 4th		R12 Drama 'Blood Brothers' Trip to Londonderry
Wed 5th	9.30-16.00	R13 Art to Seacourt Print Workshop
Fri 7th	15.30	R11 GCSE Parents' Meeting, Centenary Building
Sun 9th		RS European Tour Departs

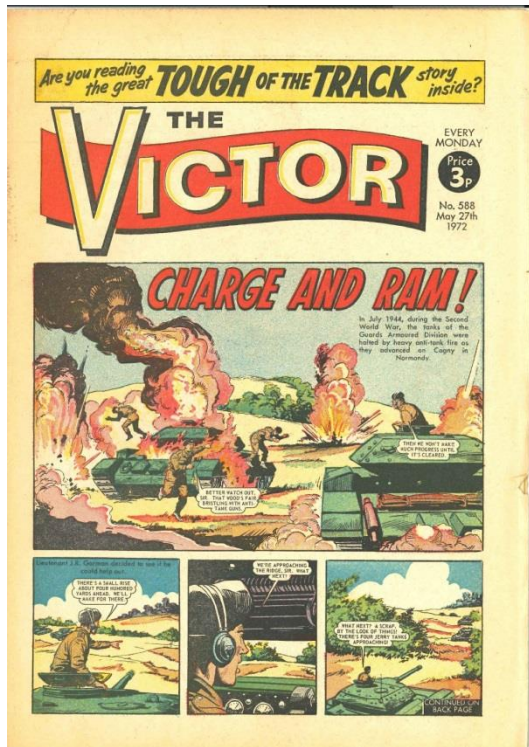
Headmaster's Headlines

The Full Set of Medals: Well done to **Sally Bell (6L)** **Rob Salters (R12)** and **Joseph Karauzum (R11)** who between them gathered Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the RYA Northern Ireland Youth Sailing Championships over the weekend. Sally came first in the Laser female race, Rob second in the male, and Joseph 3rd in the Topper class. A magnificent effort.

News of Former Pupils

Captain Hurricane: in June of last year I attended the funeral of OR **Sir John Gorman** and watched as a troop of Irish Guardsmen resplendent in red tunics and bearskins carried him in some style from Saint Mary's Star of the Sea RC Church in Killyleagh towards his final resting place. On speech Day soon after, I read this excerpt from his obituary in the Daily Telegraph which described part of his action soon after D-Day (when he was 21), which led to the award of the Military Cross:

"Having led his men to safety behind a hedge, Gorman raced 400 yards to leap into a lone Firefly tank, where one crew member had been decapitated and two others were in shock. The vehicle was still workable so, after removing the body and wiping the blood from the gun sights, Gorman fired its gun to disable the Tiger and his own tank, before driving behind three more Tigers to score two hits.



He then carried three burning men from another Sherman to an aid post. For this action, Gorman was recommended for an Immediate MC ... presented in the field by General Montgomery."

Finally, last week I was able source a copy of *The Victor* comic from 1972 which immortalises his exploits (£3.69 on EBay) and which will be now framed and placed in the McBride Room.

The Evil Gum: a little repeat order to please support us in reminding our students that chewing gum is banned from the school grounds at all times. I have visited areas of the town recently where the ground is pebble dashed with the stuff and it has now appeared in school again. It is not clever and is definitely not pretty, either inside or outside the mouth:

**A gum-chewing student
and a cud-chewing cow;
Seem quite alike;
but they're different somehow;
The difference is clear;
I see it all now;
It's the intelligent look
on the face of the cow.**

Anon.

**George Vance
Headmaster**

GENERAL

European Day of Languages 2016



On Monday there was an exciting buzz about school as we celebrated the European Day of Languages with a range of fun events throughout the day. The European fancy dress competition was a hard one to judge for Mr Vance and Mrs Palmer as all pupils had gone to such effort. Some staff embraced European style for the day, with stripes and berets being the most popular look. However, our prize went to Mrs Allen, who came to school dressed from head to toe in an Italian pizza chef outfit and had even gone to the effort of gluing a cooked pizza to a handmade board to accessorise her look!

Our R11 and R12 linguists managed to get lots of pupils speaking different languages at break time in exchange for a sweet and the lunchtime 'Café des Langues' was 'très populaire'. For those that didn't get to enjoy the European cuisine this time round, there will be another food tasting event in the run up to Christmas, so watch this space.

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Katie Megarry
French and Spanish Teacher

RDS

CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE DATES: Due to changes with the PTA Halloween event, the RDS Performance is moving back to the original dates: **Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October**. Apologies if this has caused any inconvenience.

Open Day Rehearsal: 10.00am-12.30pm in the Tucker Hall **for principal cast only** (not whole cast as previously stated).

Rehearsal schedule: from now on Monday evenings from 4.15pm-7.00pm will be **full cast rehearsal**; Wednesday evenings 4.15pm-7.00pm will be for **principal cast members**. It is compulsory for cast members to stay for the duration of the rehearsal.

Paul Lutton
Head of Arts Faculty



Sailing News

Congratulations to Sally Bell, Rob Salters and Joseph Karauzum who participated last weekend in the 2016 RYA NI Youth Championships which were held at Strangford Lough Yacht Club. Despite the challenging conditions Rockport's Elite Sailors produced some fantastic results.

Sally Bell :

1st Laser Radial, N.Ireland Female
Overall 13th Laser Radial Class (Ireland)

Rob Salters :

2nd Laser Radial, N.Ireland Male
Overall 4th Laser Radial Class (Ireland)

Joseph Karauzum :

3rd Topper Class

Sailing at this level requires commitment and a high level of dedication to train in all weather conditions, well done!

Dawn Toland
Head of Humanities Faculty
Round Square Rep



Duke of Edinburgh

All R11 students who displayed an interest in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award received a permission letter at the beginning of the week. These forms must be returned to Mrs Parke before the end of next week.

Sarah Parke
Head of ICT
ICT Co Ordinator

GCSE Drama to 'Blood Brothers'

The GCSE Drama classes are going to see 'Blood Brothers' on Tuesday 4th October, in the Millennium Forum, Londonderry. The minibus will be leaving school at 2pm for a 7.30pm show. We will be having dinner before the show. Pupils may bring a small amount of cash for refreshments during the show. Estimating time of return is likely to be around 12.30am. Non boarders will need to be collected from school at this time, unless other arrangements have been made with Mr Reid. Any queries please contact creid@rockportschool.com

Colin Reid
R7 Form Teacher

PTA

Pub Quiz – Friday 14th October – Dining Hall - 7pm – Teams of 6-8

I have heard that there may be a round on Brussel sprouts, I kid you not. Brains you may have in spades but nothing can prepare you for the questions that Mrs Neill is putting together for an evening of fun. You can get a team of 6-8 or join a table on the night. It really is laugh out loud funny and stupidly competitive.

Please pop your name on the list in the office for catering purposes and help us raise some money!! **Cost £10 per person for supper and a drink**

Children's Halloween Party – Thursday 27th October

Please bring pumpkins CARVED as we will be using these to light up the cricket pavilion for our fireworks display that night. Day-care spaces are limited so please pre-book to ensure your child has a spot if you wish them to stay in school until the firework display that evening.

Halloween Fireworks display – 5.30pm - Tuesday 25th October – BBQ

£5 per family will be put onto your extras bill for the firework display. Please notify the bursar if you are not attending and want to remove the £5 charge. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Dinner – 24th November – 5.30pm

Rockport Ladies Lunch – Friday 2nd 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. This year we are supporting:



www.caredni.org

The Boom Foundation – a charity supporting patients with sarcoma.

www.theboomfoundation.co.uk

Santa Claus visit – Thursday 22nd December

Easter Bunny visit – Thursday 6th April

Dad's Day Out – Friday 28th April

Belfast Marathon – Monday 1st May

School Fete – Sunday 7th May

Speech Day – Friday 16th June

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

Carol Thompson

PTA Chairperson

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ROCKPORT SCHOOL, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 0DD, UK

Tel: +44 (0)28 9042 8372 Fax: +44 (0)28 9042 2608

Email: info@rockportschool.com Web: www.rockportschool.com

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119