



Rockport School



INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL | BOYS & GIRLS | 3-18 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter no 7 / Winter Term / 14th October 2016



OCTOBER	Time	Event
Mon 17 th	9.30	R1 – R2 Holywood Library
Tue 18 th		SERC Careers Convention
	19.00	R8 Form Supper, Centenary Building
Thu 20 th	All day	RDS Rehearsal Day
Fri 21 st	9.30-13.00	R12 Literary Trip to Grand Opera House
	All day	RDS Rehearsal Day

Headmaster's Headlines

Germany Calling I am away this week at the Round Square International Conference 2016 at Louisenlund Schule in Schleswig-Holstein in Northern Germany. The Rockport contingent has been outstanding throughout the week but we will produce a fuller account next week on our return.

George Vance
Headmaster

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GENERAL

RDS

This is the last week of rehearsals; please make sure there is full attendance on Monday and Wednesday. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Monday	4.15-7.00	FULL CAST
Wednesday	4.15-7.00	ALL ACTORS
Thursday	9.00-4.00	FULL CAST
Friday	9.00-4.00	FULL CAST

Tickets will be available from the office from Monday morning. Tickets are free but there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the production on both performance nights. Please get your tickets early as space in the hall is limited.

The performances will take place on Wednesday 26th October (starring Teddy Geddis as Oliver) and Thursday 27th October (starring Jamie Anderson-Orr).

Paul Lutton
Head of Arts Faculty



Playing with Poetry

This little pic of R6 didn't quite make it into last week's newsletter so here it is now – R6 celebrating National Poetry Day.

Suzanne McCartney
R6 Form Teacher



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Duke of Edinburgh

Any remaining R11 students who are interested in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award must return their consent forms to Mrs Parke, **no later than Friday 21st October**, to facilitate booking of the residential.

Sarah Parke
Head of ICT

R11 and R12 GCSE Students

Following on from last Friday's GCSE presentation, I have ordered a parent guide for all pupils in R11 and R12. These handy little booklets will be posted out to you before half-term and contain some great tips about helping to motivate teenagers and keep on top of deadlines! A small fee of £2.50 per copy will be added to your extras bill.

Going to print...!

As I write this, the school magazine for 2015-2016 is being processed by the printers. We are hopeful that these will be with us before half-term and will ensure that each family in the school receives a copy. £15 will be added to your bill to cover the cost of this keepsake, which will make a wonderful aide-mémoire for years to come. Should you wish to purchase an extra copy for family or friends, please email schooloffice@rockportschool.com to request additional copies. Work is already underway on the 2016-2017 edition, reflecting this current academic year.



Macmillan Cancer Support

Many thanks to those of you who managed to come along to the coffee morning on 30th September in support of this very worthwhile cause. This week we presented Ms Clare Brown from the charity with a cheque for £227 towards supporting those suffering with cancer and their families. Thank you to all who made a contribution.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head



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EARLY YEARS

Parent/Teacher Meetings - Week Beginning: Monday 17th October 2016

Parents have an opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher next week. If you haven't signed up already, appointment lists are available outside classrooms.

Library Visits

Don't forget - R1-R2 are off to the Library next week. Please ensure you have signed the permission slip and returned it to your class teacher. If your child is not already a member of the library, registration forms are available from class teachers. Children should bring their green Rockport bags to carry books.

PTA Halloween Party - Tuesday 25th October 2016

Our annual Halloween Party will be on Tuesday 25th October. Children should come to school in a costume on this day. In light of this week's news, we would ask that children do not come dressed as clowns! Every year, the children are encouraged to create a pumpkin and we are always amazed by your creativity. This year, instead of 'novelty' pumpkins, the PTA would like traditional carved pumpkins, to use to line the back lawn at the Fireworks display. They will be lit with LED lights.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

SPORTS

Golf

Congratulations to Katie Webb who has qualified for the National Final of the ILGU Junior medal to be played at Seapoint Golf Club on Wed 2nd November. Only the top 60 junior girls in Ireland are eligible to play so this is a fantastic achievement. We all wish Katie good luck for the event. Well done!

Good luck to our boys' golf team on Thursday 20th Oct at the Ulster Schools Championships being held at Kirkistown Golf Club. They have had a practice round this week and are well prepared!

Development squads have been identified and if your child has been selected he/she will have received a letter today. If not, they need not despair as they can play themselves on to the squads as they improve.

Gail Holland
Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty



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PTA

Spooky Shenanigans at Rockport

Our hair-raising Halloween activities take place on Tuesday 25th October this year and we have a real treat planned for you!

Zombie Workshop

Rockport equips our children with a wide plethora of essential skills and tools throughout their educational years and adding Zombie choreography is no exception. As part of our PTA Halloween activities, pupils from R5 - R10 are invited to take part in a fun, interactive zombie workshop with highly acclaimed actress, director and writer, Christina Nelson. The workshops will include direction on moving and sounding like a zombie as well as an opportunity to take part in groan-tastic role-plays.

Zombie Run

You might have seen the trailer for our Zombie Run on the Rockport Facebook page, if not make sure you catch it. A LOT of cameo appearances from staff and pupils in there. Any connoisseur of a classic zombie film can tell you that it is not just the combination of artistic make-up and costumes or the all-important social themes that impresses but it is often the setting that keeps the audience in a thrall.

On Tuesday afternoon we will witness zombie shuffling not in an echo-filled shopping centre or a gloomy cemetery but in the deepest darkest corners of the GT. Our brave and daring pupils will take the opportunity to outrun zombies in the hope of preventing a Zombie Apocalypse. Just a standard Tuesday then. Children can dress to distress or wear sports gear for the run. We recommend appropriate (and fast) footwear.

A £5 charge will be added to your extras bill for these fearless fundraising activities.

!!Halloween Date Changes!!

Pumpkins (just carved please) to be brought into school on Monday 24th October

Early Years – Fancy dress, games and movie – Tuesday 25th October

Zombie Workshop – R5s to R10s – Tuesday 25th October

Zombie Run – R5s and upwards – Tuesday 25th October

Fireworks Display – Cricket Pavilion, 5.30pm, Tuesday 25th October

Hot dogs & refreshments on sale





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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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