



Rockport School



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

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter no 8 / Winter Term / 21st October 2016



OCTOBER	Time	Event
Mon 24 th	9.15-11.30	R3 & R4 to Holywood Library
Tue 25 th	17.30	PTA Hallowe'en Party PTA Fireworks
Wed 26 th	19.00	RDS Performance 'Oliver'
Thu 27 th	19.00	RDS Performance 'Oliver'
Fri 28 th	15.00	Half Term begins

Headmaster's Headlines

News of Former Pupils: We have all watched with interest OR **Torlough Convery** as he swashes his buckle on the BBC series *Poldark*. Closer to home OR Laura Johnston will appear in the Clandeboye Courtyard on Saturday 17 December in a show called *Laura Sings Christmas*. A ticket costs £20 and includes a glass of fizz and a spa goodie bag (What's not to like?). Tickets are available from Karen at courtyard@clandeboye.co.uk. It may not be OR related, but I am also plugging a Remembrance event in **Richmond Nursing Home** on Seafront Road in Cultra on Saturday 5 November. The Ulster Aviation Society plan to bring their replica Spitfire aircraft down and there will be lots of other things of interest as well.

It's Baltic: Last week our Round Square visitors from Ivanhoe Grammar School in Melbourne, Methodist Ladies' College in Sydney and Vivek High School in Chandigarh, Punjab accompanied us to Louisenlund Schule in northern Germany where the Baltic Sea definitely lived up to its name. I felt sorry for our guests from the southern hemisphere who had left their summer behind to spend a week in northerly winds and rain; which, combined with a significant wind-chill added an interesting extra dimension to the week. I am pleased to report that the Rockport delegation of **Robert Burke, James McKissick, Emma Reid, Sophie Shiel** and **Bethany Wilson-Parry** covered themselves in glory throughout by never giving in or complaining, even after 6 hours on the water during the Adventure (sailing) Day. I am very proud of them all.

George Vance
Headmaster

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GENERAL



RDS

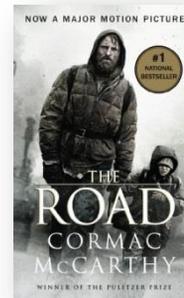
Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* will be performed on the Rockport stage this Wednesday and Thursday evening. Our students have worked really hard in a very short space of time to make this a fun and entertaining show. Please come out to support this production and give the cast a well earned round of applause! Tickets are free and available from the school office.

Final rehearsal The cast have made excellent progress this week but Mr Huish needs everyone involved to be there until **7pm on Monday** for a final run through. I apologise if this causes any inconvenience (I know it was not expected) but I really appreciate your support.

Sixth Form Book Group

We meet this Wednesday for an extended lunch in the newly refurbished Sixth Form Common Room, when we will be discussing Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* over tea and cake. If you have not managed to finish reading yet, you still have the weekend! I look forward to seeing you there!

Paul Lutton
Head of Arts Faculty



R11 – 14 GCSE / AS and A2 Mock Exams 12th – 16th December 2016

Attached to this newsletter is the timetable for the GCSE and A Level Mock Exams. Page one is an overview of all the exams whilst page 2 – 5 is a breakdown by year group. Please note that on Monday 12th December the exams will start at 8.45am – this is to allow some longer exams to be completed before breaktime. Pupils should ensure that they are in school by 8.30am. Tuesday to Friday exams start at 9.00am and pupils should be in registration by 8.40am.

Year 11, 13 and 14 will return to class in the session after their final exam. Year 12 pupils will be out of class all week and all pupils R12 – 14 will be able to come into school at the times they have an exam. R11's not sitting an exam will be in class as normal the whole week. Any queries please contact creid@rockportschool.com

Colin Reid
Head of Faculty



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Round Square Update

Congratulations to the Rockport delegation, Bethany Wilson-Parry, Sophie Shiel, Emma Reid, Robert Burke and James McKissick who acted as fantastic ambassadors for the school at the recent Round Square International Conference 2017 which was held in Louisenlund, Germany and also during our pre-conference tour when we hosted students and staff from Ivanhoe Grammar School, Vivek High School and MLC, Sydney.

Attendance at this conference was particularly important to Rockport this year as we were officially welcomed to the conference as a Round Square Global Member School, something that the pupils and staff have worked towards since our entry as a Regional Member in January 2014. The delegation had the honour of accepting our Round Square flag at the opening Ceremony of the Conference. It has now been presented to the school and we look forward to seeing it flying at the front of school soon.

The theme for this year's conference was "It's the journey that makes us ...". An important message for our students who heard 6 inspiring guest speakers who delivered material related to our six pillars of learning (IDEALS) and closely linked to the conference theme. The guest speakers included Ben Saunders, a polar adventurer, who discussed leadership, teamwork and adventure; Dr Manfred Spitzer who discussed the impact of technology on brain development and Saria Samaike an alumni of King's Academy, Jordan.



Saria shared his moving personal story of his early teenage years in Aleppo, Syria when as the result of a comment on social media he was kidnapped and tortured at the age of 14 by the Syrian government and then kidnapped again a few months later by the Free Syria Army. After building a relationship with his captors he was eventually allowed to return home. After his release he travelled as a refugee to Jordan where at the age of 18 he applied for a scholarship to King's Academy, a Round Square school. He received some financial aid but not enough to cover all tuition fees. He set up a crowd-funding page and a generous donor agreed to fund his tuition. Saria will graduate from King's Academy, Jordan next summer and has, along with 2 of his fellow students, been awarded the Kurt Hahn prize for 2016 in recognition of their development of an outreach programme 'Fikra 3al Mashi', which aims to provide education for Syrian and Iraqi refugee children.



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The students set up the initiative in response to the overwhelming number of Syrian and Iraqi refugee children who cannot access education while seeking refuge in Jordan. Almost fifty percent of the 220,000 school-age Syrian refugee children in Jordan are not receiving a formal education. Even those who do attend school complain of abuse, neglect and a difficulty in learning and integrating.



In June 2015, Saria, Rami and William hosted a week long workshop for 20-25 children aged 12-15 and taught internet research skills and basic computer programming skills. Following the success of this initial workshop Sari, Rami and William led a three month long course for 20 Syrian refugee girls aged 12-16. The boys now plan to run a similar month long course for Syrian refugee boys scheduled to start in April.

Rami and Saria raised 8000USD to fund the campaign, which covers operational expenses such as internet usage and the purchasing of laptops they donate to the groups at the end of the course. An amazing achievement for 3 young men who have not yet reached the age of 20 years old yet.

In addition to hearing the guest speakers there was a half-day dedicated to service activities in the local area and a day of sailing as an adventure activity. This was particularly challenging, the weather was very cold, our pupils showed real resilience on this day. There was also plenty of time to make new friends and connect with them on social media to ensure that they can keep in touch after the conference. There were 75 schools in attendance from 40 different countries.

The Rockport Delegation are now preparing to share their conference experience with their peers at a special Round Square Assembly after half term.

Forthcoming Round Square Conferences:

European Round Square Regional Conference- Transylvania January 27th – January 29th 2017

x2 student places are available for students aged 14 or 15 years old. Costs and further details will be distributed early next week.

Round Square International Conference 2017 – Capetown 30th September – 5th October (tbc)

Details to follow later in the term

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

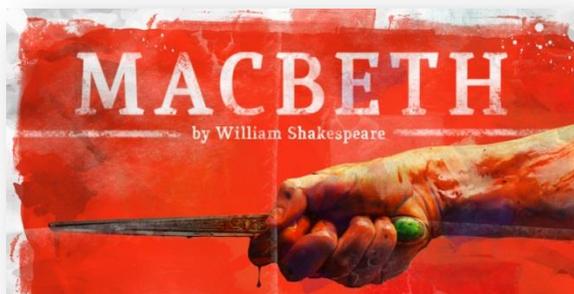


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R12 Literature Trip to the Theatre!

The R12 Literature class enjoyed a trip to the Grand Opera House this week to see William Shakespeare's play, Macbeth. C21 Theatre Company produced a fantastic show directed by Arthur Webb, specifically edited for schools. The R12s had a great trip and are now suitably inspired to start their Controlled Assessment Task on Macbeth!

Louise Hobson
Teacher of English

Cake Sale

R12 will be running a cake sale on Wednesday 26th October from the Home Economics room at break, lunchtime and after school.



Head Lice

Please be aware that there is a case of head lice at the school. We would ask parents to carefully check their children's hair and treat it if necessary please. Thank you.

SPORTS

Netball

Good luck to all of the U13 girls selected for netball trials on Saturday. The trial venue has been changed and is now from 9.00am – 1pm at Belfast Royal Academy. Girls will need snacks and plenty of fluids to sustain them! Letters have been issued with these details.

Golf

Please note due to RDS commitments and Halloween arrangements the 'Development' squads at Holywood and Blackwood will commence after the mid-term break. Letters will be given to all concerned with details.

Gail Holland
Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty



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EARLY YEARS

R3-R4 to Hollywood Library

Monday 24th October 2016

This week, it's the turn of R3 and R4 to visit Hollywood Library. 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.

Pumpkins

Monday 24th October 2016

Every year, children are invited to bring pumpkins to decorate our department. This year is no exception but we would like traditional carved pumpkins instead of novelty pumpkins. They will be used to line the back lawn on Tuesday evening at the fireworks display. Pumpkins may be brought to school on Monday.

PTA Halloween Party

Tuesday 25th October 2016

On Tuesday we are having our Halloween Party. Children can come to school in costume on this day. We have lots of fun activities planned for this Halloween Extravaganza!

Half-Term

Monday 31st October – Friday 4th November

School will finish at normal time next Friday ahead of our half-term holiday. Please be aware that Daycare is only available until 3pm on this day.

Swimming Gala

Thursday 10th November 2016

Looking ahead, please note that the swimming gala will take place on the morning of Thursday 10th November. All pupils in R3 and R4 will take part. More details to follow.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years



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PTA

Hallowe'en – Tuesday 25th October

Hallowe'en at Rockport is always fun and this year is no exception. There will be spooktacular happenings in the Early Years department with lots of fun activities for our little dressed up witches, wizards, princesses and pirates to enjoy during the day.

The Junior and Senior school are taking the fright level up a notch with a zombie invasion! We are delighted to be welcoming to the school highly acclaimed actress, director and writer Christina Nelson. Christina will be holding drama workshops throughout the morning for all R5-10s and any seniors wanting to perfect their moan, walk or general zombiesque demeanour 😊. In the afternoon the seniors and some REAL zombies will be getting ready to give the older children a slight scare....in the ROCKPORT ZOMBIE RUN!!!

We will be filming the run to catch all the frights and squeals to add to our short film and maybe a few other cameos....think THRILLER!!

Talking of THAT film, did you catch it? Last Friday our short film debuted on the Rockport YouTube channel, and various media outlets including Belfast Live and our Facebook pages to over 16,000 views. WOW! Well done to everyone who got involved in the filming, acting, screaming and directing. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Monday 24th October - Pumpkins – Jackson Building

Traditionally at Rockport we have had the most amazing array of colourful, creative and absolutely weird pumpkin creations; but this year we are going old school. Thankfully not as old school as using a Northern Irish turnip 😊. My poor parents' hands must have been in agony. We are after good old fashioned carved pumpkins. Please bring your pulped out carved pumpkins to the Jackson Building on Monday 24th October. We will be using these to decorate and light up the cricket pavilion for our Fireworks display on Tuesday.

Firework Display – 5.30pm - Cricket Pavilion – Tuesday 25th October

To recover from all the shenanigans of the day you and your family are warmly invited to enjoy a hot dog and beverage as we wait for the sun to set over Rockport. We have scheduled the fireworks for 6.30pm. Iain Shiel has once again okayed our fun with air, sea and land authorities, co-ordinated with our local council, made sure we are fully insured and purchased some booming blasters! John, my husband, will be chief firestarter along with Ben, Cait's husband, setting off the fireworks...they'll be the two running around with head torches manically from one side of the rugby pitch to the other. New to this PTA lark is Ben. He has no idea what he, by proxy, has let himself in for MWHHAHAHAHA!!

We can't wait to see you all there!



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Rockport School Ladies Lunch – Friday 2nd December – 11am – Stuart Suite – Culloden Estate

Plans are well under way for this year's lunch and we are delighted to say your support has been phenomenal. This is our biggest fund raiser for the school and also for local charities and we rely solely on your generosity. You make this event happen by buying tickets and supporting us through generous donations, fantastic ballot prizes and merchandise.

This year we are kindly sponsored by:



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