



# Rockport School



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

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter no 9 / Winter Term / 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016



Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November HALF TERM HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER	Time	Event
Mon 7th	8:45	All Pupils Return
Tue 8th		R12-14 Prospects Event (Skills NI), Titanic
Wed 9th		R12-14 Prospects Event (Skills NI), Titanic
Thu 10th		Swimming Gala
Fri 11th	10.45-11.15	Remembrance Service, Glencraig
Sat 12th		AQE Test 1

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Oliver!** The audience at last night's closing show was definitely pleading for *more* at the end of our RDS production of *Oliver!* in the Tucker Hall. This was one of those events which left us with a nice warm feeling and not just because the heat was permanently stuck on in the hall. Everything, from the acting and singing to the set and the back stage organisation was truly brilliant and I really meant it at the end of the show when I said I was very proud of them all for the tremendous effort they have put in to make this such a success. I still am.

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**School by the Sea:** Well done to the members of the Kayaking Club who have successfully completed their Level 1 qualifications: **Amber Allen, Carlos Blancos, Miles Cunningham, Jessica Kelly, Matt Lavery, James McKissick, Daniel Parker, Lucia Ruiz Byrne, Oran Toland, Angus Walters** and **John Wilson** were presented with their certificates in assembly this morning. It is really pleasing to note how we are utilising the wonderful resource on our doorstep that is Belfast Lough.

**Zombies Go Viral:** I usually studiously avoid Facebook but the last time I looked (and it was a while ago) the PTA *Zombie Walk* video had received 11.5k hits, including some as far away as Kuala Lumpur and Texas. This was indeed a thing of wonder and the trailer set us up perfectly for a wonderful evening on Tuesday. Thanks once again to the PTA and all other volunteers who made this such a success and especially to producer and cameraman **Oli Whiting (R9)** who, I understand, has already been signed up by Messrs Hamilton and Toland to study A Level *Moving Image Arts* in 2019.

**The Walking Dead:** There are, of course, some mornings when we don't need the makeup to look like Zombies and as I surveyed the scene in this morning's assembly I concluded that our children are definitely ready for Half Term. All of that madness of the last few weeks, culminating in the *Zombie Run* on Tuesday night and our RDS production last night has definitely taken its toll. I hope they have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing them back, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on the morning of Monday 7 November.

**George Vance**  
Headmaster



## GENERAL

### Visual Arts Programme

We are very excited to launch a new arts initiative at Rockport in partnership with **Visual Arts Ireland** and sponsored by **SU Solutions**.

Beginning on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November** our GCSE and A Level Art students will be working with some of the most interesting and well respected contemporary artists in the UK and Ireland, culminating in an exhibition of selected students' work at the Crescent Arts Centre.

More information will follow after the Hallowe'en break, but I would ask students to be aware that workshops will run from **4.15pm – 5.30pm in the art room** on the dates listed below. Please note that attendance is **compulsory** for art students A Level and R12. Other students who have a special interest in visual art (including moving image) should speak to Mr Hamilton if they would like to attend.

7<sup>th</sup> November

Still TBC

14<sup>th</sup> November

Liam Crichton

[www.crichton-ross.com](http://www.crichton-ross.com)

21<sup>st</sup> November

Susan MacWilliam

[www.susanmacwilliam.com](http://www.susanmacwilliam.com)

28<sup>th</sup> November

Miguel Martin

[www.miguelmartin.co.uk](http://www.miguelmartin.co.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> December

Jane Butler

[janebutler.net/](http://janebutler.net/)



### Sixth Form Centre

The new sixth form centre is almost complete as the builders are now well underway getting the new study space ready for the new half term. The sixth formers have been busy too... Here is a snapshot of them finishing touches to their new common room. Those soft greys are very on trend!

### Remembrance Service

Our annual service of remembrance will be held at Glenraig Parish on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Students attending the service (R4-R14) should be in formal school uniform.



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## **Please RDS... we want some more!**

Congratulations to all involved in the spectacular performances on Wednesday and Thursday evening. It was such an amazing feat to produce such a fantastic show in just six weeks! I am looking forward to next year's production already!

**Paul Lutton**  
Head of Arts Faculty



## **Kayaking Club**

Congratulations to Rockport's first set of kayakers, Oran Toland, James McKissick, Angus Salters, John Wilson, Miles Cunningham, Carlos Blancos, Daniel Parker, Matt Lavery, Jessica Kelly, Lucia Ruiz Byrne and Amber Allen. They have all completed enough sessions and achieved the basic skills to be awarded their Paddle Power Level 1 Certificate in Kayaking.

Certificates were presented in assembly this morning, any pupil who was absent should see Mrs Megarry to collect their certificate. Names will be taken after half term of pupils who are interested in being involved in the summer term.

**Mrs K. Megarry**  
R10K Form Teacher

## **R1-R7 Medical Forms**

Thank you to those parents who have completed and returned the medical form issues to your child yesterday. Could all remaining forms please be handed in on your child's return to school on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks.



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## SPORTS

### Athletics

On Saturday Ellie Gordon ran successfully for North Down in the Ulster U14 Cross Country Championships. The team has now qualified for the All Ireland Championships on the 27th November in Dublin. Well done!



### Golf

Our golfers will be busy over the mid-term break! Katie Webb will be competing against the top 60 girls in Ireland at Seapoint Golf Club.

Jack McNulty will be competing in the GUI Championships at Clandeboye Golf Club on Mon 31st Oct and Johnny Napier will also be competing in the All Ireland GUI Winter series championships to be held on Monday at Ardglass Golf Club.

Good luck to them all! Bring back some silverware!

### Personal Development

Rockport pupils will be participating in a Skills Northern Ireland interactive two day event held at the Titanic Exhibition Centre on Tues 8th and 9th November. This event aims to help and influence their future job and career choices.



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## EARLY YEARS

### **Swimming Gala - Thursday 10th November 2016**

R3 and R4 children will take part in the whole school Swimming Gala on Thursday 10th November at Aurora. Pupils will meet Mrs McKerrow and Miss Breen at the venue at 8.30am for registration. They will be returning to school on the train before lunch.

Parents are warmly invited to come along to support the swimmers!

More details to follow from class teachers.

### **Service of Remembrance - Friday 11th November**

R4 pupils will be attending the Service of Remembrance on Friday 11th November at Glenraig Parish Church. On this day, they should come to school in their formal uniform. That's white shirt, tie and blazer.

### **Medical forms**

A medical form has been sent home with your child (brown envelope). Please ensure this is returned to school on, or before, Monday 7th November.

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
Head of Early Years

## BOARDING

The Boarding House will be open from 6pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November to welcome back boarding students.

From November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 please direct queries regarding Boarding or boarding students to Mrs Dawn Toland [dtoland@rockportschool.com](mailto:dtoland@rockportschool.com)

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



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## PTA

### **Only at Rockport**

The PTA has had a lot of fun this week with all the children and staff at Rockport. We kicked off the Hallowe'en celebrations by making up treat boxes for all the little Hallowe'eners in the Early Years department. They were all so cute! Then to the top of the GT to create the Rockport Graveyard and the start of the Zombie Run while R5-10s immersed themselves in the drama workshops directed by Christina Nelson. The school enjoyed a gruesome lunch followed by the zombification of our seniors.

At 3pm it was time for the run. First up were the R5s; they were both excited and scared. We gave them all a whistle for protection from the zombies and off they went! Within seconds it sounded as if we had our very own Rockport Flute Band☺ I forgot to mention to Cait, leading the way, that there were a few zombies completely disguised in the undergrowth... Cait's face said it all when she came out of the other side; they had given the adult in charge the scare of her life!!

The day was rounded off nicely with fireworks from my PTA Subcontractor and part time pyromaniac husband and his fellow Firestarter Ben.

Thank you to everyone within the Rockport Community for being such a good sport, coming along and helping out on the day.

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

This is quite a special occasion for the entire family. Many of you know that this was started a number of years ago by the PTA to welcome, and make feel at home, our American families within the school. Over the years it has come to represent all that we, the Rockport Community, are thankful for. Our children will be encouraged to think about what they have in their lives and to express their feelings through art and written pieces to be displayed on the walls of the Dining Hall for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Our wonderful kitchen staff will cook the most delicious school dinner that you will have ever tasted. It is honestly a real treat.

Each year we ask any parents and staff who like to make puddings to bring along a pudding on the night. From pumpkin tarts, pavlovas, cupcakes to banoffee, all puddings are gratefully received! Anyone who would like to be a star baker please let the office staff know. Thank you ☺

We encourage all families to attend and be part of something special. It will be noisy and fun but it is a wonderful memory to have with your children at their school.

Adults	£15
Children	£7
Four and under	Free

Please put your name down as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



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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:



We are raising funds not only for our school but for:

The Boom Foundation – a charity supporting patients with sarcoma [www.theboomfoundation.co.uk](http://www.theboomfoundation.co.uk)

Reverse the Trend Foundation – Inspiring a Generation - a charity running the Healthy Happy Child Programme

[www.reversethetrend.org.uk](http://www.reversethetrend.org.uk)



Please note we had previously decided to support CARED NI but due to a re-organisation within the charity they are unable to take donations at this time.



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## Dates for your diary:

**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 benefit each and every child.

Have a wonderful half term break!

**Mrs Carol Thompson**  
PTA Chairperson

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