



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 14 / Winter Term / 9th December 2016



December	Time	Event
Mon 12 th	All week 19.00	R12-R14 Mock Exams R3 & R4 to Hollywood Library Community Carol Service, Holy Trinity Church, Glencraig
Tue 13 th	14.00-16.00	RDS Cast Outing
Wed 14 th	14.00 – 17.30	R1 & R2 to Hollywood Library R8 – R12 Cross Country, Campbell College Junior & Minor Netball Teams v MCB (A)
Thu 15 th	17.00-18.00 14.30-16.30	Senior Choir, Victoria Square Junior & Minor Netball Teams v Grosvenor (pick up at Bangor Aurora)
Fri 16 th	13.00-16.00	R13 Form Class Outing

Headmaster's Headlines

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies: I am looking forward to seeing you this afternoon at picking-up time (1600) when we will proudly show off our new Sixth Form Centre. This wonderful new facility is already being put to good use by our sixth formers and was only made possible due to the kind efforts of parents through the MORE@Rockport campaign. Prepare to be impressed.

The Piano: I am still appealing (?) for a good piano to replace one in the music practice rooms, so if you know of any, please let the school office know.

No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: Thanks to the PTA as well as all of you who supported the Rockport Ladies' Lunch last Friday. This was the twelfth such event and it was once again a great success, raising much needed funds for the school and for local charities *The Boom Foundation* and *Reverse the Trend*.

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Spirit of Adventure: Well done the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Groups who attended the training residential in the Mournes this week: the students and staff faced all kinds of weather, often in poor visibility but complained not once. Thanks to Mrs Parke and Mr Blair for organising and accompanying.

Community Carol Service: Please feel free to join us on Monday evening at 1900 in Holy Trinity Church in Glenraig for the local community Carol Service. The Junior Choir will perform as well as one of our instrumental groups and several of the children will be reading. This is always a popular event, so do come early if you want a seat.

The Great Gapper: Today we say a fond farewell to our Gap Student **Laura Renyard** who returns to her home in Australia (and the summer) at the weekend. Laura is from Round Square partner school Ballarat Grammar near Melbourne and has spent the calendar year at Rockport benefitting from a wide range of experiences (or being asked to do absolutely everything under the sun at really short notice, depending on how you look at it). She has been just great.

Tree Fellers (or maybe two): If you are afraid of heights or have any tricky or dangerous work you need to be carried out at altitude, we can recommend local company **CCC**, or **Cunningham & Crosslé Contractors**. No job is too small for this pair, including putting 150 metres of Christmas Lights on tall trees at short notice and at night. Indeed, they seem to work best in the dark and are very easy to pay, with no apparent need for frivolous expense on things like warm clothing or safety equipment. Thanks also to parent Mr Henderson for supplying the lights, although at around 11pm last night his ears may have been glowing more than those 1,800 LEDs...

George Vance
Headmaster

R11 Business Studies

The R11 Business class have had a successful week selling their Christmas logs alongside the book fair but have some remaining stock. If you would like to purchase one before they sell out, please contact me on hmcbride@rockportschool.com.



Heather McBride

Teacher of Business Studies

R11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Despite the miserable weather, the R11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award candidates seemed to thoroughly enjoy their residential experience at Killyleagh OEC.

This experience not only provided them with an insight into the challenges they will face during their expeditions, but also allowed them to further develop their navigational skills. Silver DOE club will commence on Thursday 12th January 2017, 4.30-5.30pm in CS1.

***Please support us:** Changes within the Department of Education has resulted in the proposed closure of 4 statutory education centres and there are concerns for the future of Killyleagh OEC. Our school sees these facilities as invaluable to our young people and are asking parents to sign the petition (located in the school office) opposing this action.*



Sarah Parke
Head of ICT
ICT Co Ordinator

Charity

The approach of Christmas sees the start of our school-based charity work. This academic year Rockport will be supporting the work of the Prince's Trust. All of our fun fund-raising events for the pupils will together contribute to our final donation at the end of June 2017. This month, proceeds from the Festive Bun Sale, the Penny Post, Christmas Jumper Day and the Carol Service collection will all benefit the on-going work of the Prince's Trust.

To kick-start our fund-raising there will be a special assembly for the main school led by R11 pupil Robert Burke. He will be delivering his own presentation, outlining the valuable work of this charity in our local community. As you know, 'Leadership' is one of the six Round Square IDEALS that we aim to nurture in our pupils and we look forward to hearing from Robert next week.

Please see below for further details of our forth-coming Christmas charity events. Details of other events in the Spring and Summer Terms will be sent out nearer the time.

We are, however, looking for a little bit of help with regard to our Christmas gift donations. Due to the Carol Service being so close to Christmas, we are having difficulty finding an organization prepared to receive and distribute the children's gifts. We are reluctant to abandon such a worthwhile tradition. If you know of a worthy cause that would benefit from the receipt of new, unwrapped children's toys (they don't have to be for Christmas), please contact me smccartney@rockportschool.com at your earliest convenience. Let's spread the joy!

Charity at Christmas



Monday 12th December ~ Penny Post begins

Post your Christmas cards and they will be delivered by Santa's helpers. Festive post box will be located inside the main pupil entrance. Stamps available each morning at a penny per card from:

Jackson Hall - for Early Years pupils
Mrs McCartney's room - for R5-14 pupils

Monday 19th December ~ Festive Bun Sale

All buns £1 each. Free juice drink with each purchase. In the dining hall from 10.30-11.15am.



Thursday 22nd December ~ Christmas Jumper Day

Wear your festive gear to school (£1 will be added to each pupil's bill)

Friday 23rd December ~ Annual Carol Service

Bring an unwrapped gift to place under the tree.





R6 and Year 13

From Monday to Wednesday next week R6 will be assisting with the Christmas postal deliveries. Pupils should bring in some festive clothes or costume to wear for this purpose.

Year 13 will take over Thursday and Friday of next week. They should also have something festive to wear (tacky and uncool would be just perfect!). Let the chaos begin...

Suzanne McCartney
R6 Form Teacher and Charity Co-Ordinator

A Continental Christmas

On Monday 19th December pupils in R8-R14 are invited to a Continental Christmas Party at 1.15pm in the Languages classroom, where there will be festive food and music from several European countries. There will be space for 20 pupils at a cost of £3 per person to cover food costs (this will be added to your bill). Sign up with Mrs Megarry if you are interested in coming along by emailing kmegarry@rockportschool.com, on or before Friday 16th December.



Katie Megarry
R10K Form Teacher



Original Rockport Christmas Puddings

Handmade artisan Rockport Christmas puddings are now for sale! They can be purchased from the Dining Hall at the cost of £6 each.

Alan Greene
Catering Manager

GCSE and A Level Mock Exams

Please remember that GCSE and A Level mock examinations start on Monday morning. Pupils have been reminded that they are expected to be at the Tucker Hall **at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for each exam**. Most examinations in the morning start at 9am (unless otherwise advised) and afternoon examinations start at 1.40pm.

Pupils are reminded to bring the necessary equipment with them for each examination and to sign in and out when arriving at and leaving school. Pupils are only permitted to sign out and go home if they have no further examinations that day, otherwise they are expected to study in school.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

Fee for Readers/Scribes

Please be aware that there is a charge of £12.50 per hour for pupils who have access arrangements (reader/scribe, separate invigilator) in the mock exams. Any queries should be directed to Russell Hannah, Bursar.

Celia McFarland
SENCO & Learning Support Specialist

RDS Cast to We Are Vertigo

RDS cast members, including Back Stage crew, who took part in our recent production of 'Oliver' will be visiting We Are Vertigo on Tuesday 13th December, from 2-4pm. Pupils will be able to change into their games kit at lunch. Permission slips must be returned to Miss Carr no later than Monday 12th December.

Melanie Carr
Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

EARLY YEARS

Christmas Counts - Wednesday 21st December 2016 , Tucker Hall

You, your family and friends are warmly invited to our Christmas Nativity on Wednesday 21st December 2016 in the Tucker Hall. The show will start at 1.15pm. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available in the Home Economics room from 12.30pm. This is sure to be the highlight of your Christmas Season so don't miss out. See you there!

Please ensure your child's costume is in school by Wednesday 12th December. Many thanks for your help with this.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Junior Choir and Woodwind duet - Glenraig Community Carol Service, Monday 12th December

Junior Choir and woodwind players will be performing at the Glenraig Carol Service, starting at 7pm sharp. Pupils staying for prep and supper will travel to Glenraig at 6.30pm in the minibus. Pupils who are going home after games, should arrive at Glenraig no later than 6.45, to be seated. Please collect your child at 8pm at the doors of the church, after the Carol Service. Boarders will return to school with Mrs Toland. **Full school uniform must be worn.** Any pupil who is unable to attend, please contact Miss Carr at mcarr@rockportschool.com

Melanie Carr

Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Hollywood Festival Results 2016

Music Theatre 9 Years and under F1a

1st Jamie Anderson-Orr
2nd Teddy Geddis
3rd Eva Hill

Music Theatre 9 years and under F1b

1st Evelyn Brammer

Music Theatre 9 years and under Set Piece

1st Tara Curry
2nd Jamie Anderson-Orr

Music Theatre 12 years and under

2nd Georgia McKissick

Music Theatre 12 years and under Set Piece

2nd Eve Naysmith

Music Theatre Duet 14 years and under

1st Georgia McKissick and Tamzin McMullan

Boys and Girls under 7

2nd Arielle Allen

Boys and Girls 7 & 8

1st Teddy Geddis
2nd Jamie Anderson-Orr
3rd Eva Hill

Boys and Girls 9&10

1st Clara Waterworth
2nd Evelyn Brammer

Boys and Girls 11 & 12

1st Georgia McKissick
3rd India McNellis



Non-Prizewinners 12 and under

1st Eve Naysmith
Joint 2nd Clara Waterworth and Aissa Nugent

Confined class Boys and Girls 12 and under

Joint 2nd Teddy Geddis and Jamie Anderson-Orr
Joint 3rd Clara Waterworth and Evie Brammer

Folk Song Accompanied 12 and under

1st Teddy Geddis
2nd Evelyn Brammer
Joint 3rd Georgia McKissick and Ciara West

Folk song unaccompanied 12 and under

1st Jamie Anderson-Orr
2nd Penelope Brammer

Folk song accompanied 13 and 14

2nd Anna Thomson
3rd Alexander Hook

Folk song unaccompanied 13 and 14

1st Alexander Hook
2nd Anna Thomson

Boys Open

1st Alexander Hook

Duet in the Classical Style 14 and under

1st Anna Thomson and Teddy Geddis

Catherine Hunter
Singing Tutor

Thank You

Last Friday saw the Twelfth Annual Ladies Lunch at the Culloden. For many it is the start of the Christmas season and a chance to get together with friends. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who was involved; the sponsors, the stall holders, our wonderful Rockport staff, the angelic Rockport School Choir, the PTA and of course all of you who took the time to support our school, our chosen charities and encouraged friends and family to come too. Thank you.



The Rockport Ladies' Lunch was proudly sponsored by:



'tis the Season

I am a confirmed Christmas Crazy. I LOVE Christmas. I had the most magical of Christmases as a child; a beautiful tree with Disney lantern lights, the sitting room, hall and dining room adorned with brightly coloured shiny decorations. The smell of the trees filling the rooms, pine needles strewn on the carpet, that tin of Roses waiting to be opened, my Christmas stocking filled with treats or "Treetts"...feeling presents and tearing little holes in the wrapping to see if I had got Mr Frosty(I did and for those of you who didn't..it was basically a grater☺).

The build-up was nearly unbearable. I remember going to bed early and hearing the sleigh bells just outside my bedroom window and lying in bed with my eyes tightly shut just in case Santa popped his head around the bedroom door. Then hearing the giggling elves, lots of loud shushing, the attic door being opened and shut, more giggling and shushing (the elves had obviously sampled quite a few glasses of sherry by the time they had reached our home) thumps and bangs and then silence....yippee it was time to get up!!!!

To this day I still thoroughly enjoy everything about Christmas, not just Santa but Christmas Carols, Church services, family gatherings and drinks parties. Tomorrow I will have 25 for a full Christmas Dinner and I have purchased my Christmas logs from Young Enterprise at school to decorate the tables (very pretty). It really is the season to be jolly☺

Dates for Your Diary:

Santa Claus visit – Thursday 22nd December (CAN NOT WAIT)

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 – Thursday 15th 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