



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 18 / Spring Term / 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017



January	Time	Event
Fri 27th	15.30	R10 Careers Options Meeting, Centenary Building

## Headmaster's Headlines

The Headmaster is away.

## **A truly incredible opportunity for Rockport pupils**

Since September our GCSE and A Level pupils have been lucky enough to be part of a bespoke programme facilitated by Visual Arts Ireland, kindly brought to us by Standard Utilities.



The programme has been inspiring our young people as well as helping them through studio time, mentoring and support. The year-long programme will culminate in a week-long exhibition by the Rockport students at the Crescent Arts Centre in April.



So far, our pupils have very much enjoyed the Artists' visits with the chance to see studios and working spaces, and are looking forward to the opportunities the remainder of the programme will offer.

We'd like to thank Standard Utilities for providing this for our students and to the visiting Artists, it's been exciting to be involved and we can't wait for the rest of the year.

*Rockport students  
engrossed in work  
at gallery visit.*



**Sponsors of "Stretching the Canvas" Mr Chris Fetherston and Mr Brian Nixon from Standard Utilities with Mr Vance and celebrated artist Susan MacWilliam.**



*A Level art students Tim Li, Sally Bell and Phoebe Wright join artist and mentor Jane Butler at her studio.*

For full details of just how our pupils are benefiting from this fantastic opportunity, we welcome you to read the news article here.

<http://www.rockportschool.com/my-rockport/latest-news/news/a-truly-incredible-opportunity-for-rockport-pupils/>

**Paul Lutton  
Head of Arts Faculty**

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### **R10 GCSE Options Meeting – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

A meeting to discuss GCSE options will take place for pupils in Year 10 and their parents on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm. This meeting, which will last approximately 30 minutes, will take place in the Centenary Studio and I would like to urge all R10 parents to attend with their son/daughter. At this meeting, a useful guide to GCSE and a “Straw Poll” letter will be given out to all R10 pupils.

### **R12 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Parent-Teacher Meetings – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Parent-teacher meetings, which will provide essential feedback on the recent mock examinations, will take place for those pupils who are in Year 12 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January from 4.00-6.00pm, in the Sports’ Hall. All GCSE and A Level teachers plan to be there and this is an invaluable opportunity for parents to meet with teachers, with their son/daughter present, in order to gauge what needs to be done between now and their examinations. Please plan to attend!

### **R12 A Level Options Meeting – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

A meeting to discuss A Level options at Rockport will take place for pupils in R12 and their parents on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 3.30pm. This meeting, which will last approximately 30 minutes, will take place in the Centenary Studio and I would like to urge all R12 parents to attend with their son/daughter. At this meeting, a useful guide to A Level and a “Straw Poll” letter will be given out to all R12 pupils.

**Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer**  
**Deputy Head**

### **R6 AQE Interviews**

Parents of R6 pupils are invited to meet with myself and Mrs McCartney on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February between 3pm and 4.30pm. 10 minute appointment slots will be available in the Main Office from Monday. This will be prior to annual Parent Teacher meetings in the Sports Hall with the other members of R6 teaching staff. Please fill in an appointment slot with the School office next week. Any queries please contact [creid@rockportschool.com](mailto:creid@rockportschool.com) or [smccartney@rockportschool.com](mailto:smccartney@rockportschool.com)

### **R11 Further Maths**

The R11 Further Maths Class will now be on a Monday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. This class will be taken by Mr Reid until the end of May. Any queries please contact [creid@rockportschool.com](mailto:creid@rockportschool.com)

**Colin Reid**  
**Head of Faculty**

## R7 Poets

The R7s have been learning about the use of personification in poetry. Inspired by last week's windy weather, they composed their own poems using male/female terms to describe the varying characteristics of wind. I was 'blown away' after reading these two excellent pieces by Jamie Nevin and Samuel Wright - as good as you'll find in any Valentine card this year!

### Suzanne McCartney

#### Wind - Sometimes Sweet, Often Not

Her soft voice, whispering in trees  
Her gentle touch is lovely.  
With barely a sound  
She sweeps along the grass,  
Warm-hearted, warm touch.  
She blows the flower a kiss,  
As gently as if a honey-bee  
Had come to rest.

Until HE comes by,  
Rough seas, fallen trees,  
Ripping the petals from a flower.  
Making houses cold and damp,  
Gardens flooded, fences fallen.  
Hard-hitting hail-stones  
Battering windows  
At 60 miles an hour.

By Jamie Nevin



#### Wind, Oh Wind!

The wind is like a she, calm, lovely  
So soft and quiet,  
A pretty, gentle breeze  
Kisses on your cheek, cool, refreshing  
Yet warm-hearted,  
Still whispering,  
Her touch is light upon us.

He is the one who bashes the trees,  
The one who is frightening,  
Aggressive, rough and dominating.  
Smashing against our homes,  
Making tiles fall and crash.  
Strong and forceful,  
We do not want to mess with him!

By Samuel Wright

### **School Council – New for 2017!**

We are in the process of setting up an 'all new' School Council for 2017. The search is on for a small but dynamic group of young people who will prove to be a hard-working and fully-effective 'voice' for all of the pupils at our school. To this end, any pupil in Year 10 or above, who is interested and can fully commit to this new and important role, should apply now in writing.



Your application should be no more than 500 words and should state clearly why you believe you are the person we are looking for. Applications should be handed into the school office by 9am on Wednesday 25th January. Address your letter to 'Mrs McCartney' and label it 'School Council 2017'. I look forward to hearing from you.

### **R7 Flour Babies**

The R7 Flour Babies Experiment will begin on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January and run for one week. Pupils will be given further details of what this involves during English classes next week.

**Suzanne McCartney**

## EARLY YEARS

### **Monkeynastics**

If your child attends Monkeynastics on a Tuesday, they should bring a pair of trainers/plimsoles to change into before it starts.

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
**Head of Early Years**

**Dates for Your Diary:**

**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 – Thursday 15<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.

**Carol Thompson**  
**PTA Chairperson**