



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 20 / Spring Term / 3rd February 2017



February	Time	Event
Mon 6 th	9.00-12.00 11.00-15.00 11.45-15.00 15.00-16.45 16.00-18.00	Reception Class to Hollywood Library R12-14 Amazing Brains Event, Centenary Building R7 at BeeSafe event, RADAR Centre, Hollywood Exchange R6 Parent Transfer Interviews (please contact Office for appointment) R5-R7 Parent Teacher Consultations, Sports Hall
Tue 7 th	16.00-18.00	R8-R9 Parent Teacher Consultations, Sports Hall
Wed 8 th	16.00-18.00	R10-R11 Parent Teacher Consultations, Sports Hall

Headmaster's Headlines

Choir of the Year: Well done on a great effort by the Junior Choir at this week's heat of the BBC Choir of the Year competition. The children have practised really hard for this event and sang beautifully throughout. Even though the judges did choose another school to progress to the finals (how could they?), they took time to single out our team for special praise, even tagging Teddy Geddis and Jamie Anderson Orr as the best soloists in the competition to date. We are proud of them all.

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Democracy in Action: the whole notion of referenda, polls and democracy in general may be under the cosh at the moment, but a small, dynamic team of Rockport pupils will ensure that the student voice will be heard at the highest level in the school, including by the Board of Governors. The School Council will hold weekly 'clinics' on Tuesdays and in that way will be accessible to any pupil of any age. The team will be invited to management and Governors meetings to air their views. Perhaps more importantly they will play a leadership role in the implementation of our Round Square IDEALS. Well done to **Josie Allen, Robert Burke, Christopher McGowan** and **Sophie Shiel** for stepping up.

Open Morning: Our second Open Day of the academic year happens tomorrow, **Saturday 4 February at 1030** and comes at what is the end of the long, annual open day season for post-primary schools: still, hopefully we can attract some interest from prospective parents who are not too fed-up seeing other schools. The children will need to be here and in position by 1015 and can be picked up again at noon. They have already been briefed on what to wear and where to go. Finally, please encourage anyone you know who might be interested to come along tomorrow. You are still our best marketing tool!

George Vance
Headmaster

R12 GCSE/A Level Meeting

At our GCSE to A Level Meeting this afternoon, all R12 pupils present were issued with their GCSE timetable and statements of entry. If any parent was unable to attend, please ensure that you ask your son/daughter for their envelope which contains this information, which you might wish to note in your own diary!

Parent-Teacher Consultations

Parent-teacher consultations will take place this week as follows:

R5-R7	Monday	4-6pm	Sports Hall
R8-R9	Tuesday	4-6pm	Sports Hall
R10-R11	Wednesday	4-6pm	Sports Hall

Please bear in mind that consultations should last no more than 5 minutes each. Should you require lengthier discussion, it is advisable to ask the staff member to arrange a separate appointment for you. Please plan to attend as this is an important opportunity for parents to gain valuable feedback regarding their child's performance.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

R6/R7 Parent Teacher Interviews

Any R6 parents who have not yet made an appointment on Monday to see Mr Reid and Mrs McCartney for an AQE Meeting, please contact the office and reserve your 10 minute slot between 3pm and 4.45pm. This will also mean that Mr Reid and Mrs McCartney will not be available to see R7 parents until after 4.45pm on Monday in the Sports Hall.

Colin Reid
R7 Form Teacher

To the parents of R5 children re Parent /Teacher Interviews

Mrs Neill is hoping each parent will make an individual appointment to see her in the R5 Form Room. The Dates and times are posted on the wall outside the classroom and parents can choose a time which suits them. All other subject teachers will be available in the Sports Hall on Monday evening (6th) from four until six p.m.

Clare Neill
R5 Form Teacher/French

Clubs

There will be no clubs next week with the exception of JDS (Wednesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm) due to Parent Teacher Interviews.

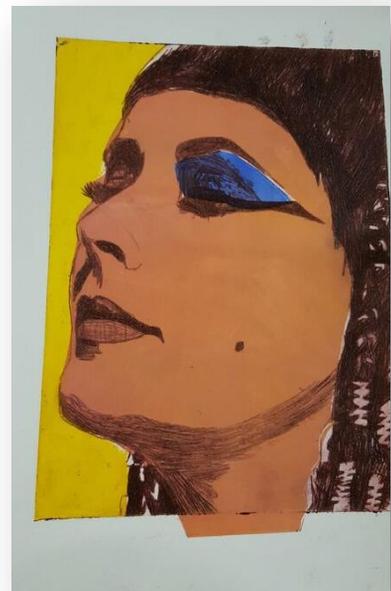
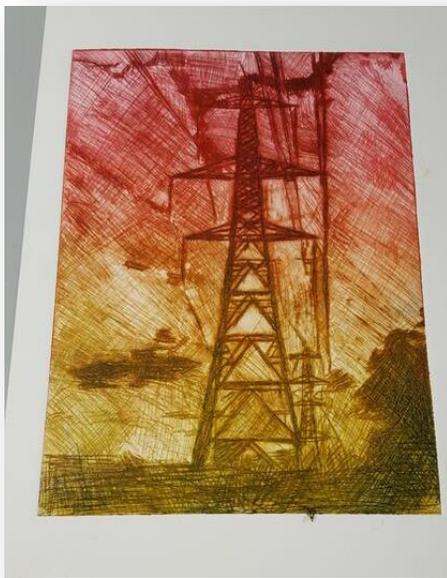
Senior Choir

Due to parent teacher consultations, there will be no Senior Choir next Tuesday on 7th February.

R12 Printmaking Workshop

This week R12 GCSE Art pupils took part in a printmaking workshop at Seacourt Print Workshop in Bangor. The group investigated drypoint etching, an “Intaglio” method where an image is engraved onto a plastic or metal “plate” and a print taken from this – with many variables in between! After being shown how to alter tone, texture and colour during the process, the students created some stunning work that can now be used as part of their coursework and for display at the end of year show. Our host Robert was left thoroughly impressed, with an open invite on the table to pupils to come to further courses and even perhaps some work experience! A selection of prints will be included in “The Gallery” in weeks to come.

David Hamilton
Teacher of Art & Design



Amazing Brains

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a new programme for our R12 – R14 pupils. The programme will be hosted by ‘Amazing Brains’ and is beneficial for anyone undertaking exams: *the high achievers who panic on exam day or during the run up; the students who don’t know ‘how’ to revise; the students who can’t seem to get organised and the students who find it difficult to stay motivated, positive and energised.*



Its aim is to take usually stressful exam scenarios and make them less daunting for the students by helping them adopt the skills, competencies and mind set required for exam success. The programme covers Self Belief & Success Visualisation, Revision Strategies relevant to student learning preferences, Exam Techniques, Planning and Time Management, Physiological and Psychological preparation in the run up to exams and coping with anxiety/stress.

This event will incur a charge of £15 per pupil, which will be added to their bill and will take place in the Centenary Building on Monday 6th February from 11 am – 3 pm including lunch.

Heather McBride
Business Studies, Maths & ICT Teacher

R7 @ RADAR

The R7’s will be visiting a BeeSafe event at RADAR Centre, Holywood Exchange, Belfast on Monday from 11.45am to 3pm. Pupils should bring a small snack with them and a drink, as they will be having an early lunch before they go. Normal school uniform should be worn. Please send any queries to creid@rockportschool.com

Colin Reid
R7 Form Teacher



R7 Spelling Bee

Easons are running a Spelling Bee Competition for children in P7. The final will take place on Wednesday 17th May (venue TBC). Each school may enter only one pupil.

Next week, I am inviting any R7 pupil who would be interested in putting themselves forward for this competition to come along to my classroom on Wednesday at 1.15pm for an in-school trial.

The winner will then have the great pleasure of working with me on a one-to-one basis once a week from now until the final in May – if that isn’t enough to put them off I don’t know what is! Hoping to see a few brave souls – come on, you can do this!

Suzanne McCartney
R7 English teacher



School Council 2017

Well done to Chris McGowan, Robert Burke, Sophie Shiel and Josie Allen who will make up the 'all new' School Council for 2017. This small but enthusiastic group will be proactive and each of them want to make a real difference.

All pupils from all age-groups should know that two reps will be available every Tuesday during lunch break in the Old Library. This is a time for pupils to air any issues or ideas they wish to bring to the Council's attention. The School Council will also be helping to promote the Round Square IDEALS within the school. I would like to thank them for 'stepping up' and wish them luck in their endeavours.

Suzanne McCartney
R6 Form Teacher

MUSIC

Junior Choir

Well done to our Junior Choir, who gave an incredible performance at School Choir of the Year. Judges feedback was positive – in fact, we were the only choir to receive so many positive comments! Jamie and Teddy, in R5, were singled out with the following quote 'the best soloists in the entire competition'! I feel extremely proud of each and every child who took part and I could not have asked for better singing. Junior Choir you are fantastic!

Our heat will be broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster and online, in the near future. Details for this will appear in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Melanie Carr
Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

EARLY YEARS

Open Day - Saturday 4th February

It's Open Day tomorrow and we would love to show off as many of our pupils as possible! Children should meet in the Jackson Hall **from** 10.15am. They should wear everyday uniform. R4 children will be playing golf and should wear PE kits.

Pick up at 12pm.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Still Here!!!

I can't believe it is February already and we are marching towards half term. Each week is flying past and with that the PTA are mindful that we need to knuckle down and get back on track with fund raising for the school. We decided to leave the Spring term free of any major events because we appreciate that the Winter term is manic, now that we have so many events as part of the school calendar. We will be getting a visit from the Easter Bunny for the Early Years and we'll get our thinking caps on about what we can do with the older children who have outgrown egg painting and Easter Bonnets. If you have any suggestions that you think might be fun for the older children, please drop us a line through our PTA email address.

Rockport Rocks!!

If any of you are online with Facebook and other outlets you will have noticed an increase in Rockport's social media. As a parent it is joy to see so many children having a great time with their school. As well as their academic achievements it is a joy to see the children taking part in a raft of activities from school trips, sports to finger painting, clay modelling and music....did you see the Junior Choir singing in their heat of the BBC's School Choir of the Year? Wow they were AMAZING! If you haven't "liked" the various school Facebook pages yet, please do. It could seriously brighten up your day☺

Pepper Power!

You know when you make that decision to get a puppy you turn into a 5 year old child who is about to receive the best present EVER? That was me on Monday when John went off to look at Labrador puppies while I collected the children from school. The children and I could hardly contain our excitement looking out for John coming up the lane. As soon as the car was spotted the children screamed and screamed, Mathew ran into a door (not quite sure what happened there) and Mimi had to rush to the loo (she has her grandmother's bladder). It was full on excitement.

John had brought home the most beautiful pure black Labrador with the waggiest of tails. The children named her Pepper, although she may get re-named Pooper. Then reality set in...you see we have always had dogs. Growing up I had three, John always had dogs and together we have always had lots of dogs. How hard can it be? But it's been 5 years since we've had a puppy. It's like having a toddler with no nappy on and zero potty training. I literally have not stopped watching Pepper and I've been in and out of the house like a yo-yo putting her on the grass in the hope that this will trigger her loo reflexes. Did I mention that she howled at night? So after two nights in the sitting room she now sleeps in our room and wakes ONLY twice a night to be let out to the loo. On the upside she is beautiful, velvety and toasty warm and best of all, the children adore her. I just hope our sofas, door frames and skirting boards withstand her mighty chewing powers☺

Dates for Your Diary:

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