



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 21 / Spring Term / 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017



February	Time	Event
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-12.30	R3-R4 to Hollywood Library Netball Tour Cake Sale
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>		Cool 4 School, Individual Class Photos
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-11.00 9.00-12.30	All R9 class to LMC Food Demonstration R1-R2 to Hollywood Library
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-12.45 15.00	R10 Sentinus Digital Makers Workshop Half Term Starts

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Smart Turnout:** In terms of turnout, the Open Morning last Saturday morning was a great success, attracting as it did the largest footfall certainly during my time at the school. The turnout of our pupils who came along was no less impressive, along with the number of events that they and the staff manned across the campus. Thank you for supporting the event by getting them here in such good condition and well done to our pupils and staff on a great effort.

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**Evil Gum:** Earlier this week I asked teachers to engage in a purge on chewing gum in class. We would like your support on the wider issue of preventing or at least reducing the amount of the stuff being brought into school in the first place. I get it that there are bigger issues and that the problem is hardly an endemic one, but the effect on the school tarmac by just one or two miscreants over a period of time can be significant, and I am determined to reduce this. Some transgressors have already spent some of their lunchtime this week chiselling gum from the front car park. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

**Year of the Rooster:** It was reported that Franco the school cockerel was strutting his stuff with even more pomp last Friday as the R9 Home Economics class celebrated Chinese New Year. The Centenary Building was decorated by Mr Hamilton's Art class in readiness for the event and several of our expat Chinese families joined us, making it a real family celebration which featured an impressive banquet. Prawn Crackers, Dim Sum, Sweet and Sour and Stir-Fried dishes were the order of the day and all, to Franco's relief, without a chicken foot in sight. The amount of pre-planning and preparation that went into this event did not go unnoticed and Miss McConaghy and the R9 class deserve special mention.

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## R11 GCSE Timetable

Those pupils who are completing GCSE modules in R11 have been issued with their timetables and statements of entry this week. Details of the R11 examinations are as follows:

<b>Learning for Life and Work (Personal Development)</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10.15-11.00am
<b>Geography Unit 1</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	1.30-3.00pm
<b>Business Studies Unit 1</b>	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00-10.20am

Pupils are expected to report to the Tucker Hall **at least 15 minutes before** the start time for each examination.

**Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer**  
Deputy Head

## Individual School Photographs Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Individual and Sibling Photographs will be taken in the Centenary Building on Tuesday. All pupils should be in full school formal uniform. Any queries please contact [creid@rockportschool.com](mailto:creid@rockportschool.com).

**Colin Reid**  
Head of Faculty



## R7 Spellers

It was with some amazement that I welcomed seven Year 7 pupils for the first heat of our in-school Spelling Bee during lunch break on Wednesday. Four pupils got through to the second heat on Thursday and then we were down to three finalists – Ronan Jordan, Christian Simms and Abi Toland. All three tried their very best in the final heat but there can only be one winner. Congratulations to **Christian Simms** who will represent Rockport at the final on 17<sup>th</sup> May. He is going to be a very busy bee between now and then!

**Suzanne McCartney**  
R7 English teacher



### **Visit to Prince's Trust**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February School Council members Robert Burke and Chris McGowan met with Lucy Lewis to find out more about the work of the Prince's Trust in the local area. They were also given a tour of the premises and were much impressed by the facilities. We will be continuing to support the work of this very important charity throughout this academic year.

### **Bye, Bye Baby, Baby GOOD-BYE!**

As the last remains of white sifted flour gradually get washed away in the rain, Mr Reid once again packs his play-pen back into the attic and sighs with relief – the R7 Flour Baby Experiment is over for another year!

Well done to all the year 7 pupils, girls and boys alike, who suffered the little flour bags for a whole week, but a special 'pat on the back' to the following:

Katie Calvert – for compiling the best baby diary

Hollie Webb – for fully embracing the role of parent

Clara Waterworth – for producing an excellent likeness of her flour baby "Sweetpea"



**Suzanne McCartney**  
R7 English teacher

# 谢谢

Thank you (Chinese New Year Lunch)

Many thanks to the pupils and Chinese parents who supplied food/decorations for the Chinese Lunch on Friday. Thanks also to Mr Hamilton and his Art pupils for decorating the room as well as Mr Greene for allowing us to use his bain maries and to Mrs Calvert for setting up the tables beforehand.

It was an enjoyable experience and I felt so proud of the Year 9 pupils who prepared the food for this event – I recommend hiring them out for dinner parties as none of them had made any of the Chinese dishes before!! Well done!!



## London Tour Cake Sale

There will be a cake sale in the Home Economics room on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to raise funds for all those pupils who are going on the London netball trip in March. Could all bakers ensure that their boxes/containers are named so that they can be easily returned to them. Thanks and happy baking!

**Helen McConaghy**  
HE Teacher

## **Boarding**

Many thanks to all parents who have supplied departure and return information for the forthcoming half term break. Please note that the Boarding Department is open for returning pupils from 6pm on Sunday 26th February.

**Dawn Toland**  
**Head of Boarding**

# EARLY YEARS

## **Visit to Holywood Library**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

As the R1 and R2 pupils will not be having golf on this day, they should come to school in their everyday uniform. Don't forget to bring Rockport bags to carry the books!

## **Individual School Photographs**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

A reminder that individual school photographs will be taken on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Playgroup and Reception pupils should wear everyday uniform. Children in R1-R4 should wear their full school uniform. That's white shirt, tie, grey jumper and blazer.

*R3 and R4 pupils will have swimming as usual and should bring their games kit to change into after the photographs.*

## **Summer Scheme**

A few families have expressed an interest in a Rockport Summer Scheme. To make it viable, we would require a certain number of children. Please register your interest with me as soon as possible either in person or by email - [lathanasiou@rockportschool.com](mailto:lathanasiou@rockportschool.com).

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

**The puppy made me do it.....**

The chewing has begun in earnest and nothing is safe, iphone cables, slippers, shoes, dog beds and alloy wheels. Okay, Pepper didn't actually chew the wheels but she did make me kerb them. I was parking up at school and coming to a halt when Pepper leapt from the floor. I put my hand over to the passenger side to calm her and then heard the worst sound in the world. KKKKKKKKK. Oh no, please nooooooo! First thoughts were "John's going to kill me" so I got out and had a look. Nothing; phew. Two days later I received a photo from John of his wheel with a healthy amount of white scrapes glaring out from the black wheel accompanied by "???". John had got the car washed. So I replied with "How did you do that?"...denial is the only way to go when it comes to cars; I firmly believe that it makes for a happier marriage ☺

**Rockport Colour Run!!**

Are you mad enough to get blasted with tons of colour? This Easter we plan on doing just that around the cross country track. The Rockport School Colour Run will be making its debut this Easter at the end of Spring Term. This will be open to everyone along with any crazy parents who wish to run the gauntlet of the cross country track around school. Keep your eye on the school media pages for a short video of what we're planning☺ I hope Mr Vance puts his old tennis whites on.....

**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**