



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 22/ Spring Term / 17th February 2017



HALF TERM BREAK Mon 20th – Fri 24th February

February	Time	Event
Mon 27 th	8:45 17.00-17.30	All Pupils Return IAPS Parent Information Meeting, Jackson Hall
March		
Wed 1 st	10.30-12.00	IAPS Tour (Return Friday, 3 rd March) R1-R2 to Tesco, Springhill

Headmaster's Headlines

Amazing Brains: There has been great feedback from students (and parents) about the *Amazing Brains* study skills programme we ran the Monday before last. Learning about revision strategies, planning, time management and examination technique will not only help our GCSE and A Level candidates to maximise their chances of success in the upcoming examinations, but will also hopefully reduce those stress levels which can sometimes impede performance. We will all endeavour to enter the examination period in a relaxed state of vigilance.

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Literary Brains: Well done to R11 pupils **Elia Boutros** and **Robert Burke** who have been successful in attaining a place on the prestigious Arvon creative writing residential course in Devon which takes place during the summer holidays. This is a high-powered, immersive experience where the boys will be tutored by top writers who will give help in developing independent writing skills, through a series of workshops and tutorials. Well done, boys.

Sailing Towards Tokyo: I am pleased to note some further success on the water. Well done to **Sally Bell (6L)** who has earned a place on the 2020 Olympic Focus Squad. This group comprises those young hopefuls who are deemed to have the potential to compete in the Olympics in Tokyo in 3 years' time. Sally is currently training in Spain for 3 weeks where she will be coached by Slovenian 3 times gold medallist (Beijing, London and Rio), Vasilij Zbogor. Great stuff.

The Other Half: As we go off for the Half Term this afternoon, I am reminded of the inconvenience caused to those of you who have children in other schools: many of which have been closed this week (or in my case, my wife who teaches in such a school...). Notwithstanding the fact that we opted for a week which actually bisects the term in half, for next year we endeavoured to coordinate with neighbouring schools, even if that meant slightly delaying the release of our own holiday dates. Enough said.

George Vance
Headmaster



GCSEpod

As half-term approaches, we would advise our R12 students to take advantage of the holidays, by making a start on revision for their upcoming GCSE examinations. We are promoting the use of GCSEpod to facilitate this.

GCSEpod is an award-winning service that provides your child access to thousands of hours of professionally produced, audio-visual content relating to their up incoming examinations.

The GCSEPod website can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the Pods can be downloaded for offline viewing. The Pods are mapped to the curriculum and students can access pre-set exam playlists which collate all the Pods relevant to a specific exam into a neatly organised list.

Consistent use of GCSEpod has been proven to support achievement, so please encourage your child to make use of this service throughout their GCSEs. If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact Mrs Parke (sparke@rockportschool.com).

Sarah Parke
Head of ICT
ICT Co Ordinator

R12 Sixth Form Options

The banded options form should be completed over half term and returned to the school office on the Monday after half term.

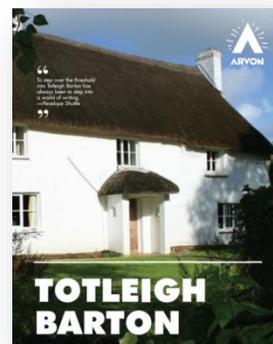
Sixth Form Book Group

A reminder that the group will meet after half term to discuss *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Attwood.

Rockport Writers

Congratulations to **Robert Burke** and **Elia Boutros** who have been accepted onto a prestigious young writers' retreat in Devon this summer. This July they will spend a week at Totleigh Barton, a 16th-century manor house in one of the most peaceful and idyllic parts of Devon, under the tutelage of some exciting contemporary writers. We look forward to reading the fruits of their labour in next year's school magazine or in hardback from the local Waterstone's... whatever comes first!

Paul Lutton
Head of Arts Faculty



Shouting from the rooftops

Ever wondered what a Marketing Department of a school actually does? We could answer with some impressive technical jargon, or make it very simple. We SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS how great we are! And why wouldn't we?

Rockport is a very unique place, we all know that. We have great children and young people who on a daily basis surprise and inspire us, a dedicated staff team who go beyond their job description without being asked and supportive parents who (and if we don't say it enough), we very much appreciate. We've been working hard this year to show Rockport off and hope you agree we're starting to put Rockport on the map! People use different types of social media to stay connected so please join us on any of the below. We are everywhere 😊



Facebook
Search Rockport School / Early Years at Rockport / Old Rockportians



Instagram
Search Rockportschool



LinkedIn
Search Rockportschool



Twitter
Search Rockportschool / Rockport_golf



You Tube
Search Rockportschool

Our students say it's 'all about the followers' but the old cliché is true. It's quality over quantity and as our social media presence grows, we're delighted to see that it's growing with current parents, prospective parents and people who are genuinely interested in seeing what we're all about at Rockport!

So we want to say THANKS for the support so far – you are our best Marketers. Please enjoy a restful and lovely half term break!

Marketing & Development

Visit is Tesco, Springhill - Farm to Fork Trails

This very worthwhile excursion is taking place on the dates below. Please return permission slips to class teachers at your earliest convenience.

R1/R2 – Wednesday 1st March 2017

R3-R4 – Tuesday 21st March 2017

Arts' Week 6th-10th March 2017

We are very excited to be running our first ever Arts' Week in the Early Years Department from the 6th-10th March. The week will incorporate workshops around Literacy, Drama, Art, Music and Dance. We are delighted to be welcoming a number of visitors, including Paul Howard (author/Illustrator), Ed Reynolds (artist), Bright Young Things Drama and Fun with Drums. Some of our Senior pupils will be performing and maybe even some of our very own parents. We will also be heading to the Lyric Theatre to watch a show. More details to follow... It's going to be great! J

Summer Scheme for Playgroup – R7

If you are interested in your child attending a Rockport Summer Scheme please register your interest with me as soon as possible either in person or by email - lathanasiou@rockportschool.com.



Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years



Music in May

Please note this date for your diary: a Musical Concert to raise funds to buy a piano for school will be held on **Wednesday 10th May** at Rockport School. This promises to be wonderful evening of music to suit all tastes, performed by local stars of the stage and TV. More information will follow closer to the time.

R5,6,7 Dates for your Diary

Thursday 27th – Friday 28th April } R7 residential trip to the north coast



Thursday 4th – Friday 5th May } R6 residential trip to the north coast

Friday 26th May } R5-7 celebrate end of school exams with a camp night
Information letters giving details of the above events will be sent out after half-term.



Suzanne McCartney
R6 Form teacher

Lost PE kit

A plea please to locate a few items of clothes: Olivia Dixon, R9 has lost her shin guards, black leggings, black PE shorts and white polo shirt. All items are named, so could parents please check their children's belongings to make sure that they haven't accidentally picked up somebody else's PE kit. Many thanks for your cooperation!

BOARDING

Half-Term Return Arrangements

Could all parents intending their children to return on Sunday, 26th February, please email Dtoland@rockportschool.com to indicate the time off arrival. Please note that the Boarding Department is open for returning pupils from 6pm on Sunday.

Wishing you all a restful break and a safe return.

Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding

Netball Tour

After half term the girls' netball teams are off to London to participate in the I.A.P.S annual tournament. So that the girls have everything they need, they have been issued with a list and itinerary for the tour plus a medical form that must be returned on Monday 27th. The list and itinerary have also been attached to the Newsletter for your information.

G Holland

Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty

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