



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 27 / Spring Term / 31st March 2017



April	Time	Event
Sun 2 nd	All Day	Silver Duke of Edinburgh (return Tue 4 th April)
Mon 3 rd	All Day 18:30	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (return Tue 4th April) Songs for an April Evening
Tue 4 th		Early Years' Bun Sale
Wed 5 th	18:00	R1-R2 Visit from Cats Protection JDS "Fantastic Mr Fox"
Thu 6 th		PTA Easter Bunny Visit
Fri 7 th	12:30	End of Term

Headmaster's Headlines

Harry's Game: Early Years' golf scholar **Harry O'Hara** (R4) has set social media alight with some video clips of his game going viral. See those clips for yourself on the link below. Well done, Harry!

<http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/sport/other-sport/rising-young-golf-star-harry-12783058>

News of Former Pupils: I was pleased to learn just yesterday that, following an audition, **OR Thomas Hunt** has been offered a place at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance in London (ICMP); and a year early to boot. We (and especially Miss Carr) will continue to follow his progress with interest. Also, news that the Peter Pan/Dorian Gray enigma, the evergreen, sexagenarian, OR and teacher that is **Josh Reynolds** gained a silver medal (missing gold by a hundredth of a second) over hurdles two weeks ago at the British Masters Indoors Athletics meet in London. Great stuff.



We Are Not Amused: Apparently, ritually humiliating Headmasters is pure gold to marketing people; and I am told that nothing on Earth can publicise the PTA Colour Run as much as the sight of me being pasted by small children armed with pots of coloured dye. I am further told that there are people who actually enjoy seeing this sort of thing (sadists, I suspect).

Ohm from Ohm: Sparks were literally flying in the Science Labs yesterday as the eight shortlisted candidates for our Physics teaching post each taught a demo lesson. We attracted a really strong field for this post, the standard of lesson taught was extremely high and the successful candidate will be revealed in due course. However, by the time the year 10 pupils (who were the guinea pigs for this experiment) went home last night, they could be excused for feeling a little bit too informed about all things Physical. Observer Miss Holland certainly was, commenting that she learned more about Physics yesterday than she did during 7 years at grammar school, albeit that that was in the days before electricity.

George Vance
Headmaster



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Simple HOW TO PACK YOUR DofE RUCKSACK

GET MORE TIPS AT WWW.DofESHOPPING.ORG/EXPEDITION-KIT.

Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Those year 10 pupils participating in the bronze practice expedition from Monday 3rd – Tuesday 4th April MUST arrive in school at 8.30 am on Monday for a rucksack check, ready to leave school at 8.45 am sharp. Parents should collect pupils at school on Tuesday at approx. 3.30 pm. Any remaining medical forms should be returned to either Mrs. Megarry or Mrs. McBride.

Heather McBride
Teacher of Business Studies



Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition will commence this Sunday, 2nd May. Students should meet at the front of school at 8.00am. Although the weather looks promising, please ensure your child has packed waterproofs. We aim to return back to school around 3.30pm on Tuesday.

Sarah Parke
Head of ICT



JDS Fantastic Mr Fox

Thank you to all parents who have sent in costumes. Could I ask that all remaining costumes be in by Tuesday please.

Most children are word perfect but those who have bigger roles should keep practising over the weekend. Once again, thanks for your support in this.

We are short of a few props so could I ask if you have any **toy chickens and /or ducks** (plastic very acceptable) that we borrow them for a few days?

Tickets are still available from the School Office. We hope to kick off at 6pm sharp and the show should last about an hour. Many thanks .

Clare Neill
R5 Form Teacher/French

Opportunity Europe Euro Quiz 2017



The Geography and Modern Language's Department are teaming up to enter a Rockport team to compete in the Opportunity Europe Euro Quiz, which will run in collaboration with the European Commission Office in N. Ireland after the Easter holidays.

We will enter a team, consisting of six Key Stage 3 students, two each from Years 8, 9 and 10. The regional heat will take place on Wednesday 26th April in The Great Hall at Queen's University Belfast. The top two teams from each heat will go forward to the Euro Quiz Final in Belfast on Thursday 1st June 2017 at Belfast Metropolitan College e3 Springvale Campus.

If you would like to be considered for the team, come along to the selective test which will take place in the Languages room on Wednesday 5th April at 1.15pm.

K Megarry and A Berry



Final Credits

On March 29th, Moving Images Arts staff travelled to the wilds of Aldegrove and Crumlin to watch MIA student, Peter Fitzgerald, shoot his epic final film for his A2 studies. With script in hand and quite the collective of costuming and brethren of actorly talent, Peter braved the elements (which play havoc with sound) to bring together his footage for his final piece which has a touch of the historic, local, medieval and Game of Thrones about it. Well done Peter - a real example of going above and beyond in the pursuit of your art.

Moving Image Arts Department



EARLY YEARS

Bun Sale - Tuesday 4th April

Don't forget...We are having a Bun Sale in school on Tuesday 4th April. We would really appreciate it if each family could provide a dozen buns. They should be brought to school on the morning of the 4th and left in the Resource Room in the Jackson Building. All proceeds to the Early Years Department.

Cats Protection Visit - Wednesday 5th April

Cats Protection are coming to speak to the R1 and R2 children on Wednesday 5th April. If you have any old blankets or towels at home, they are very grateful for any donations. Food and cat toys are also very much appreciated.

Pirates Versus Mermaids

Could we ask that all costumes are with class teachers on, or before, next Thursday 6th April.

Clubs

There will be no Choir, Gardening or Speech and Drama next week. Monkeynastics as usual!

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Rockport Colour Run – Thursday 6th April – Cricket Pavilion – 3pm!!

Please feel free to dress up in anything colourful; wigs, tutus, leg warmers, armbands, the opportunity to be silly is endless 😊

A massive thank you from the PTA to all the staff and parents who have willingly (arm twisted) offered to help on the day of the run. We have 160 runners/walkers/skippers/hoppers and 22 colour chuckers/water, crisp & hotdog dispensers plus some spectators! Let's pray we have fine, dry weather or we'll have to do a risk assessment for throwing coloured concrete.

I've had to rethink the packaging of your colour run packs....I had ordered bags from amazon but didn't check the delivery date; they are currently on a boat somewhere. So had a bit of a panic and bought 5 million swing bin liners, packed and labelled the entire Early Years bags for them to look like the bag you get handed by a teacher when your child has had a mishap. Take 3; dispatched John to search for better bags.

The Plan:

We hope to have your packs ready for distribution on Monday 3rd April and we will leave them with your class or form teacher. On Thursday we will meet at the cricket pavilion at 3pm ready to go. The colour run will follow the route of the Founder's Day cross country course. It is entirely up to you whether you complete the shorter course that the R3/4s do or continue on the longer route. You can run, skip, hop or cartwheel your way around as long as you are having FUN. We have had a great response to this and we thank you for getting into the spirit of fun!

Dad's Day Out – DATE CHANGE - Friday 12th May – 4pm – Clay Pigeon Shooting

We have booked the Field of Dreams just outside Newtownards for the annual Rockport Shoot. All dads, friends and staff are most welcome to come along. No previous experience needed and all equipment provided.

Please put your name on the list in the office or email pta@rockportschool.com and let us know if you can come. Spaces are limited so let us know as soon as you can. Thank you.

The cost is £35 to include all equipment, instruction, tea/coffee.

Dates for Your Diary:

Easter Bunny visit – Thursday 6th April

Colour Run – Thursday 6th April

Dad's Day Out – Friday 4th May

Belfast Marathon – Monday 1st May

School Fete – Sunday 7th May

Speech Day – Thursday 15th June

**Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson**