



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 29 / Spring Term / 28th April 2017



May	Time	Event
Mon 1 st		Bank Holiday - School Closed (Except for Boarding)
Wed 3 rd	9.30 15.30-18.00	EY Dress Rehearsal of 'Pirates v. Mermaids' Open Evening
Thu 4 th	8.45 9.15-16.00 13.15	R6 to North Coast (return: Fri 5 th May) R7 Sailing EY Production 'Pirates v. Mermaids', Tucker Hall
Fri 5 th	9.15-16.00	R12 Study Leave begins R7 Sailing
Sun 7 th		PTA Spring Fair

Headmaster's Headlines

Get Your Concert Tickets Here: A few tickets are still available (through the office or online) for the upcoming musical concert in May when some of singing tutor Catherine Hunter's more famous former protégés will perform in the Sports Hall, presented by Julian Simmons. It promises to be a great night.

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Irish Champions: In my final contribution of last term I reported that the Rockport Golf Academy was already producing some pleasing results, in that two of our elite golfers, **Molly O'Hara** and **Katie Webb**, were winners of the Ulster Schools Junior Cup and would therefore go forward to represent Ulster in the Irish Championships. I am therefore even more pleased (and more than a little bit proud) to report that the girls are now the **Irish Schools Junior Champions**, having gone and won the competition at the Milltown Club in Dublin last Monday. This is a magnificent achievement, one I will be dining-out on for a while to come, and both girls are to be congratulated on what was a tremendous effort. Thanks also to coaches Mr McIlveen and Mr Clarke who accompanied the girls on their trip south and who themselves were victorious in the best-dressed-caddy competition.

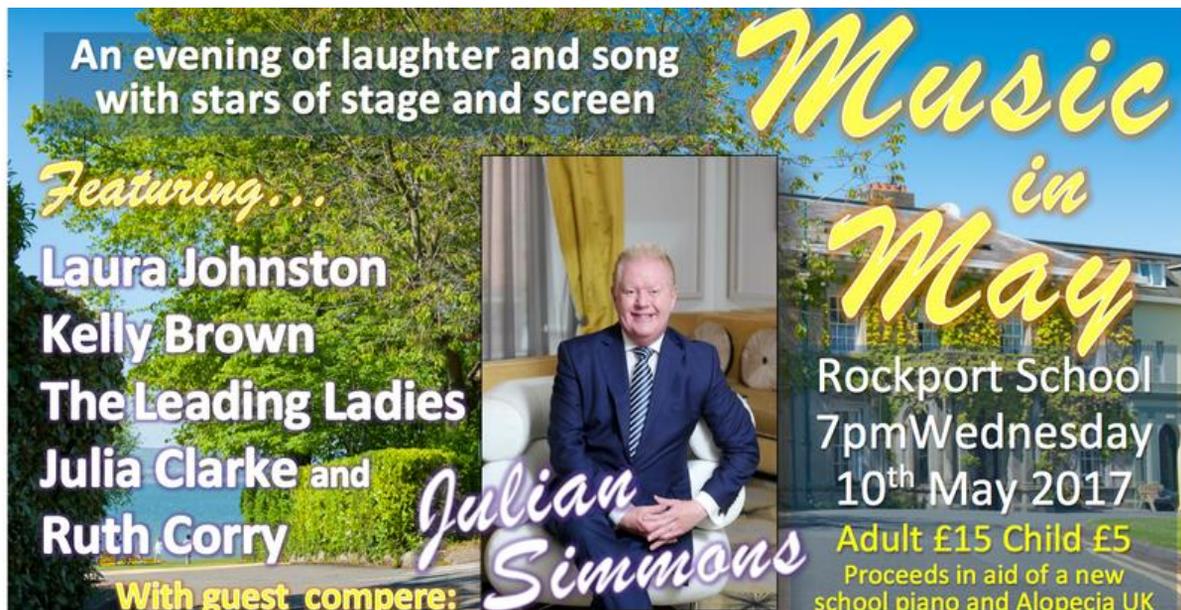


True North: I have had great feedback from the R7 residential trip to the Causeway Coast this week. The conduct and general demeanour of the children has been excellent throughout and they are now well versed in every bit of history, geography, geology as well as every flavour of ice cream to be found on the north coast. They return to Rockport this evening and by all accounts will be easily put to bed tonight, due not just to their hectic schedule and that fresh Atlantic air, but also to the fire (false) alarm which roused them all from their slumber in the wee small hours of this morning. They may need Monday off to recuperate. Thanks to Mrs McCartney and Mr Reid who are accompanying them.

George Vance
Headmaster

Music in May

Aside from the array of professional talent on stage at our *Music in May* concert, the **Junior Choir** will be performing their songs from the **School Choir of the Year** competition. If you have not yet got your tickets for this fantastic event, please do so now from the school office or online at <https://goo.gl/osjKH6>.



An evening of laughter and song
with stars of stage and screen

Featuring...
Laura Johnston
Kelly Brown
The Leading Ladies
Julia Clarke and
Ruth Corry

With guest compere: *Julian Simmons*

Music in May
Rockport School
7pm Wednesday
10th May 2017
Adult £15 Child £5
Proceeds in aid of a new school piano and Alopecia UK

As well as raising funds for a new school piano, this concert will also support the work of **Alopecia UK**. You may have heard Old Rockportian **Juliet Cooke** speaking very powerfully about alopecia on Radio Ulster's Talk Back programme over the Easter break. You can watch her incredible music video to raise funds for this important charity by following the links on our **Facebook page**.

Paul Lutton
Head of Faculty

Round Square

Congratulations to Sophie Shiel and Robert Burke who have been successful in their application to represent Rockport at the Round Square International Conference 2017 in Capetown, S.Africa. Sophie and Robert will travel with Mr Vance and we look forward to their presentation upon their return.



Sail Training Dates Years 7,8,9,10

CLASS	DATES
R7	Thursday 4th May
	Friday 5th May
R9	Thursday 11th May
	Friday 12th May
R8	Monday 15th May
	Tuesday 16th May
R10	Tuesday 30th May
	Wednesday 31st May
Small Sailors Morning	Tuesday June 13 th (AM)
Rockport Regatta	Tuesday June 13 th (PM)



Pink Sailing consent forms have been issued to pupils and **must be returned to form teachers no later than next Tuesday 2nd May**. Sailing is an optional extra and will be charged to your bill at £75-80 for the 10 hours of tuition. Sailing has been a popular choice in the past and the majority of pupils sign up for this adventure activity training. It is however not compulsory and if your child does not wish to partake they can attend school as usual and will attend lessons.

Pupils will be transported to and from school by coach or minibus.

Pupils who have sailed before should bring their RYA logbook. Pupils who have not sailed will be issued with a new log book. Pupils who have lost a logbook can purchase a new one for £5.

In a 10 hour course pupils are likely to achieve their Stage 1 Introduction to Sailing but higher stages require more time and pupils may be signed off on a few of the competences of other stages but are unlikely to complete a full stage. Quite often these competences are weather dependant on the day.

On a sail training day pupils should come to school in their school tracksuit and trainers. They should bring a packed lunch with plenty of snacks and drinks (not fizzy). Boarders will collect their packed lunch from the kitchen on the morning of their course. They will depart from school at 9.15am after registration and will return to school by 4pm for collection or prep as usual. If they are staying for prep, pupils should bring a school bag and leave it in their form room. Pupils should work on revision in advance of their summer exams if they have not been in class to receive prep.

Kit List

A packed lunch and sufficient snacks and drinks for a day out of school, no fizzy drinks please

Pupils may attend school in their school tracksuit on a sailtraining day. This and their footwear should remain dry for wearing upon their return to school. Please name all items.

Each participant will be given a wet suit, spray jacket and a buoyancy aid for the sailing session. This will be on loan from Ballyholme and returned at the end of each session

They will also need to bring.

- warm clothing (lots of woollen/ fleece layers) for the upper body
- swimwear for underneath wetsuit
- a hat or cap & gloves
- old trainers/crocs/wetsuit boots that will get wet (not wellington boots)
- warm socks
- a change of clothes including another pair of shoes for transport to/from school
- towel
- plastic bin bag for wet clothes
- long hair must be tied back
- no jewellery
- MEDICATION (inhalers etc.)
- Sunscreen

Pupils who have their own sailing kit are welcome to bring it but please label and name all items.

Thanks in advance to parents for prompt return of pink forms for May courses. Details for Small Sailors and Regatta will be made available in the coming weeks.

Please direct all queries regarding sailing to dtoland@rockportschool.com

Dawn Toland



Sentinus K'Nex Competition

Well done to the four pupils who competed in the Belfast heat of the Sentinus K'Nex building competition in Mercy College. The pupils were given just an hour to plan and build an unknown structure, which turned out to be a bridge. The judge praised the two Rockport groups for their imaginative designs and the high quality of their bridges. A special mention must go to the team of Oran Toland and Finn McCartney who were placed second in the Belfast heat. Depending on how other heats go, the two boys could be through to the Northern Ireland Finals in June.

Jonathan Blair
Science teacher

Summer Term Clubs – May/June 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Beach Club R4-R5 4.15 – 5.15pm	Choir / Summer Concert R5 - 12 1.15 – 1.45pm	Cricket 4.30 – 5.30pm R5 - 10	D of E Bronze 4.30 – 5.30pm R10
Tennis R5 – R10 6.00 – 7.00pm	Girls Night In R5 – 7 4.15pm – 5.15pm		D of E Silver 4.30 – 5.30pm R11/12
	Athletics 4.30 – 5.30pm R5 - 10		Gardening (starts Thursday 11 May) 3.30 – 4.00pm R4
			K'nex (starts Thur 11 th May) 4.30 – 5.30pm R5 - 7
			Fishing (£10 per session – 4 sessions) 6.00 – 7.00pm R5 - 10

Clubs will be on

Week commencing:

Monday 1st May

Monday 8th May

Monday 15th May

Monday 22nd May:

No clubs (exam week)

Monday 29th May

Monday 5th June

Monday 12th June

Colin Reid

Head of Faculty

Fee for Readers/Scribes

Please be aware that if your child requires a reader/scribe for GCSE or school exams, a cost of £12.50 per hour will apply.

Celia McFarland

Learning Support Specialist

Open Afternoon

Wednesday 3rd May 2017, 3.30pm-6pm

Parents of children in the Pre-School who are considering P1 at Rockport are warmly invited to come along to our Open Afternoon on Wednesday 3rd May. The purpose of this Open Afternoon is for you to talk to the Early Years staff, look around the classrooms, find out about our curriculum and have an opportunity to ask any questions you have. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pirates versus Mermaids

The wait is almost over and the children are SO excited for their production of Pirates V Mermaids on **Thursday 4th May**. The show will start at 1.15pm. Refreshments will be served in the Home Economics room from 12.30pm.

Our dress rehearsal will be on Wednesday morning. Please ensure all costumes are with class teachers by Tuesday 2nd May.

Clubs

Clubs will begin next week (beginning Monday 1st May). Please ensure all registration forms are with class teachers by Tuesday morning.

	Playgroup, Reception and R1 2.00pm-2.40pm	R2-R4 3.00pm-3.40pm
Tuesday	Little Feet, Big Moves	Little Feet, Big Moves
Wednesday	Debutots	
Thursday		Speech and Drama

Summer Scheme

Summer Scheme registration forms will be sent home with your child early next week. Booking and payment must be made by Friday, 9th June 2017.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Prep in R4M

The pupils in R4M will stay in school to complete written prep on Monday – Thursday each week starting Monday 15th May.

Prep will be from 3.00pm – 3.30pm in our classroom and will be supervised by me. Reading, spelling and tables should continue to be covered at home. Thank you.

Eunice McKerrow
R4 Form Teacher

Boarding

Welcome back to our Boarders. Parents should be advised that Rockport Boarding is running close to capacity this term and space for casual boarding has become very limited. All requests for casual boarding must be made in advance by email via the school office who will advise if we are able to accommodate your son/daughter.

Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding

Summer Madness

Can you believe we are in the last term of the school year? This term is definitely Rockport Silly Season with exams, excursions, plays, tournaments, residentials or as one teacher put it “just Rockport”. It certainly is! Aren’t our children having the most amazing educational experiences?

Rockport School Fete – Sunday 7th May – 1pm-4pm

HELP!! Are you a barbecue ninja? Have you always wanted to be Mrs Doyle from Father Ted? If so, we have a few positions at the fete where we would be grateful to you if you could give us a helping hand for an hour. Drop me a line to pta@rockportschool.com and I can slot you in to suit you.

Roll up roll up! We are very excited this year to welcome some very special guests to Rockport for our annual school fete. Joining us will be:

- Dave Jackson – home grown star of The Voice singing his favourite songs
- Captain America – star of comic con
- The award winning Emerald Garrison – professional Star Wars costumers delivering Jedi Training (I’m sure they’ll allow adults too?)
- Bouncy Castles
- Face Painting
- Food & craft stalls
- BBQ

Entry is **FREE** and there is literally something for everyone. Please come along and support this great day at Rockport ☺!

Dad’s Day Out - 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 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:

Dad’s Day Out – Friday 12th May

Belfast Marathon – Monday 1st May

School Fete – Sunday 7th May

Speech Day – Thursday 15th June

Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson