



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 37 / Summer Term / 23rd June 2017



September	Time	Event
Mon 4 th	8.45	All Pupils Return

Headmaster's Headlines

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: It has been a busy week as always as we prepare for the end of term. Our summer concert on Wednesday evening provided a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to get together. The performances were that great mix of the high-brow and contemporary, real talent, lots of variety as well as bags of hard work and effort. Break-Up Supper last night (Thursday) was a lovely occasion for all present and gave the boarders and staff a chance to dine-out our leavers in style. As I write, I am preparing for final assembly, at the end of which we will once again make our way to the lawn in front of the school to sing what is always an emotional rendition of Auld Lang Syne, before the staff will line up to shake hands with every pupil.

Finally, I hope you and our children enjoy a peaceful and restful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone back, bright and breezy in September, prepared for another year of madness and mayhem at Rockport.

George Vance
Headmaster

ROCKPORT SCHOOL, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 0DD, UK

Tel: +44 (0)28 9042 8372 Fax: +44 (0)28 9042 2608

Email: info@rockportschool.com Web: www.rockportschool.com

Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119

Rockport Girls Live up to the Motto *"Plus est en Vous"*

Well done to our five Year 8 girls who represented Rockport at the Gordonstoun Prep Schools Challenge last weekend. Georgia McKissick, Tabby Allen, Louise Leonetti, Scarlett Mooney and Emily Jackson made up a super team, facing each challenge with energy, positivity, determination and a tremendous sense of team work.



In addition to the camping experience they also sampled each of the services on offer at Gordonstoun – such as the fire service, first aid and coast guard. Their speed, agility and stamina were put to the test during a series of timed tasks in the Sports Centre and they also tackled the assault course (which they completed in the fastest time of all the teams) and the climbing wall (which they accomplished with confidence, being highly praised for their efforts).

Add to this mix a joint Art task, some tricky problem-solving, a spot of Scottish dancing with the Headmaster and an evening at the Ogstoun Theatre to watch a highly-inspiring Performing Arts Showcase and you have an action-packed but most enjoyable weekend for our five pupils.

It was also a great opportunity to further strengthen the bonds Rockport has already established over many, many years with our Round Square friends at Gordonstoun and we came away feeling that we had once again been welcomed with open arms in our unique position as the only Irish participants.



As for our team, they really were great girls who proved themselves to be fine ambassadors for our school. It was a joy helping to prepare them for this event and a privilege to be able to accompany them to it.

Suzanne McCartney

GCSE, As and A Level Results

AS and A Level results will be available from the school office on **Thursday, 17th August at 10am**. **GCSE** results will be available on Thursday, **24th August from 10.00am**. If you are unable to collect your results in person, please let us know beforehand. Results will be in a sealed envelope for all pupils. Many thanks.

Rhonda Palmer
Deputy Head

New Piano!

We are very excited about the arrival of the new school piano, which is being delivered to the Centenary Building next Wednesday. Thank you once again to Mrs Catherine Hunter for organising the 'Music in May' fundraising concert and to the Fox family, whose very generous donation has allowed us to get something truly special! We look forward to lots of lunchtime recitals next year.

Mr P Lutton
Head of Arts and Humanities Faculty

2017/18 Fees in advance

Last call for the discount available to any parents who wish to pay next year's fees in full in advance by 30th June. Please contact the Bursar if you wish to avail of this option.

Mr Russell Hannah
Bursar

BOARDING

We would like to wish all the Boarding Students, local and international and their families an enjoyable summer vacation.

The Boarding House will reopen on Sunday 3rd September from 5pm to receive returning pupils. Please forward arrival details to schooloffice@rockportschool.com as soon as possible and **no later than Monday August 14th to enable us to plan airport collections.**

Thanks in advance

Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding

Summer Spectacular

The summer concert was simply WOW. I laughed, cried and cheered during two hours of sheer musical talent. From the youngest choristers in R1 right through the whole school. I was entertained, astounded and made extremely proud by each and every performer. A truly extraordinary evening, thank you for working so hard and giving me a wonderful evening to remember. To all the teachers who champion our children, you must be bursting with pride.

End of Term

Some of you may breathe a huge sigh of relief at the end of the school year as you look forward to recharging your batteries but this time I'm not. Yes, I'm looking forward to the summer break whereby I don't have to iron uniform four times a day, but it's the fact that all my children will have officially left the Early Years Department. I have been an Early Years parent for seven fantastic years. I have enjoyed every second immensely. I remember their first day at playgroup when they didn't give me a second look. I remember how they all gave up their dummies because they were very grown up and in school. I have all their cards, paintings and beautifully painted pottery that still holds my jewellery. Every day they have skipped into school and every day it has taken me three hours to get them out again. They have grown in confidence, learned musical instruments and performed prolifically on stage. They have looked up to the "big sisters and bruvvers" and they now look after the "little sisters and brothers". They have learned so much and are eager for more, they have been properly cared for and nurtured by their teachers who have loved them like their own children. The experiences they have had are too numerous to mention, they have so many friends and I can honestly say I would not change one thing. Thank you to our incredible Early Years and Daycare teams for taking such good care of my children.

PTA Thanks

It has been a very busy year for the PTA. We have concentrated more at school and encouraged whole school participation in most events. All this takes a lot of preparation and organising and it could not be done without the full support of the whole school staff and especially my girl Fridays Anja Oliver and Christine Hamill, Emma Thompson, Angela Reynolds and Ruth Calvert. Our thanks also to Harry Porter, I know we torture you, to the kitchen and cleaning staff and all the staff who give their time to support us.

We would like to thank all the parents who have helped organise and attend events throughout the year because without you they would not happen.

We would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer break with plenty of sunshine!