



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 01 / Winter Term / 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017



September	Time	Event
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:50 14:15	R5 Induction R1 Induction
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	R2 Induction
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	R3 Induction
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	R4 Induction
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	13:30 14:30-16:30	Playgroup & Reception Induction Welcome BBQ

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Welcome Back!** Or should I say Willkommen, Bienvenue, vítejte, 歡迎, Bienvenida, أهلا بك and Bemvidos (I only wish I could...). I hope you and yours have had a lovely summer and that the children come back to us refreshed and ready for the new school year. Indeed, it is great to finally get the term started as the days and weeks in the run-up to the beginning of term begin to resemble something of a 'phoney war'. We were reminded once again on Monday that it is the children that make up the school; and not the buildings and grounds, and as we plan a Rockport year that will be busier than ever I know that you will encourage your child to make the most of it. They should grasp those opportunities on offer to play their full part in the life of the school, whatever their age and remember that, as Kurt Hahn reminds us, **'there is more in you than you think.'**

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**We're Going to Need a Bigger Boat:** I extend a Rockport welcome to all our new pupils and parents to the school and to the wider Rockport community. The record numbers enrolled for this academic year are providing a challenge for the timetable team who at times are struggling to plan for classrooms for everyone, although rumours that Mrs Hunter will now be teaching singing lessons in the telephone box are totally unfounded.

**TGIF Jazz & BBQ:** In fact, we can all take the opportunity to welcome our new families to the Rockport community **next Friday** (15<sup>th</sup> September) at pick-up time when the PTA will provide some music and refreshments on the front lawn from **2.30pm-4.30pm**. Please come along and bring your friends and family for what promises to be a lovely way to kick-off the term, and if you feel able to help with any PTA events this year, please let me know.

**We're Up and Running:** As we reach the end of the first week of the term much has been accomplished already but I am reminded that many have also had a busy summer: our GCSE results were outstanding at a 5 year high; the Upper Sixth returned a 100% pass rate at A Level; the boarding house had been refurbished throughout (and the capacity increased as a result); our Golf Academy stars have had a busy and fruitful time (more on that to come); and the school summer scheme in July and August was an outstanding success. Thanks to all those who gave up their time to make it all possible. Looking forward, we are already busy preparing for the Round Square Global Conference in Cape Town at the end of the month and the Sports Tour to Marbella involving 60 students in October. We are fortunate indeed to have such a vibrant and dynamic school and it is my privilege to lead it.

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## Public Examination Success

### GCSE

Once again, we are delighted with our Year 12 GCSE candidates, who produced a bumper set of results in mid-August. For the fifth consecutive year, we had an improvement in percentage pass rate at A\*-C, with some of our pupils achieving outstanding personal results. These results can best be summarised in the table below:

#### GCSE Results showing % pass rate at grades A\*-C for the past 5 years

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UK Schools (excluding Scotland)	68.1	68.8	68.8	66.9	66.3
Northern Ireland Schools (including Grammar Schools)	76.5	78	78.7	79.1	79.5
<b>Rockport School</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86.7</b>

When one considers the performance of our young people, one can easily see that Rockport students are outperforming their peers in 5th form in other schools both here and in the mainland. These results are down to the students' hard work, the teachers' commitment, parents' involvement in their children's learning and, most certainly, the small class sizes, where individual attention ensures that the best possible outcome can be achieved.

Congratulations to all GCSE pupils on such a fantastic set of results.

## A Level

This year also marked the first year of A Level results at Rockport and, while we do not have 5 years of data to demonstrate growth in results, we can illustrate that our students have received a very pleasing set of results. Our results can be best illustrated in the comparative table below:

### A Level Results showing % pass rate at grades A\*-E for 2017

	UK (excluding Scotland) % pass rate at A*-E	Northern Ireland % pass rate at A*-E	Rockport % pass rate at A*-E
% grades achieved at A*-E	97.9%	98.3%	<b>100%</b>

Congratulations to all of our Sixth form leavers, who have gone on to 3rd level education or who are now venturing into the world of work. We are very proud of you!

**Rhonda Palmer**  
Deputy Head

Our welcome BBQ is happening this day week! We hope as many of you as possible will join us, a warm welcome is extended to all.

A promotional poster for a 'Rockport Welcome BBQ'. The background is light blue with several large, stylized orange stars with dark blue outlines. The text is centered and reads: 'ROCKPORT WELCOME BBQ' in bold orange capital letters, followed by 'Friday 15th September' and '2:30-4:30pm' in black. Below that, it says 'Bouncy castle, face painting, BBQ and music!' in black. The main message, 'A great chance to welcome our new families at Rockport!', is written in a large, orange, cursive font. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'JOIN IN THE FUN!' in white capital letters.

**ROCKPORT  
WELCOME BBQ**

Friday 15th September  
2:30-4:30pm

Bouncy castle, face painting, BBQ and  
music!

*A great chance to  
welcome our new  
families at  
Rockport!*

**JOIN IN THE FUN!**

## Sailing R5 & R6

The Sailing season at Rockport continues with the following courses on offer:

- R5 Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th September
- R6 Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st September

Consent forms for sailing courses have been distributed by Mrs McCartney and Mrs Neill. If you wish your child to participate, please return forms to form teachers by Tuesday 12th September at the very latest. Information has to be processed and forwarded to Ballyholme Yacht Club by 14th September.

## Dawn Toland

[dtoland@rockportschool.com](mailto:dtoland@rockportschool.com)

## R5 Parents

Mrs Neill will hold a brief induction meeting in the R5 Form Room next Monday (11th) at 8.50am.

**Clare Neill**  
**R5 Form Teacher/French**



## Clubs

Afternoon clubs will start on Monday, 18th September. Next week your child will have the opportunity to choose a club and a list will be published in next week's newsletter.

**Colin Reid**  
**R7 Form Teacher**

## Last years Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Students (R11)

In order to complete the documentation for the bronze award, it is necessary for those pupils that took part in this last year to come in on Friday lunchtimes from Friday 8th September. We will work with four pupils each week (form teachers will remind you in form class). You must bring your book and edofe login details in order to complete this. Meetings will be held in the school room and the final date for completion is Friday 29th September.

**Mrs McBride & Mrs Megarry**



# There's something for everyone!

Welcome back! We're excited to kick off another busy year at Rockport and welcome you to join us on our social media.

It's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening but it's also a great way to find out more about 'who' we are.

(Remember that time we taught Mr Vance to dab? And that time Mr Clark had an unfortunate experience on the ice in New York? 😊 )



Well, there really is something for everyone and as we SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS how great we are, we'd love you to join us too.

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



Twitter - search  
Rockportschool  
Rockport\_golf



LinkedIn  
Search Rockportschool



Instagram  
Search Rockportschool



You Tube  
Search Rockportschool

## Marketing & Development

## **An adventure awaits!**

Old Rockportian and Entrepreneur Alice Watson recently got in touch to let us know about her new venture, [www.kidogoadventure.com](http://www.kidogoadventure.com)

Kidogo Adventure organises short-term volunteering trips for people who would like to visit Kenya, see a bit of the country and volunteer in child-focused projects.

Alice works closely with the charities to ensure that the volunteers are beneficial to the projects as well as giving the volunteers a useful and enjoyable experience.

Accommodation, food, in-country transport, activities and a short safari are also included, so it really is a perfect opportunity for anyone looking to volunteer and experience a shorter-term scale.

We'd like to congratulate Alice on her new venture and if anyone would like any further information, get in touch [info@kidogoadventure.com](mailto:info@kidogoadventure.com)





## **Music/singing lessons**

Music lessons will be commencing from Monday 10th September. Should your child wish to start a lessons on a new instrument, please speak to me as soon as possible. There are places available in woodwind, brass, percussion, piano and singing.

## **Junior and Senior Choir**

Choir will be held at the following times from next week:

Junior Choir: Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime (1.15-1.40PM)

Senior Choir: Monday and Wednesday lunchtime (1.15-1.40PM)

## **Melanie Carr**

**Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama**

## **ABRSM exam pupils**



Congratulations to all the singers who performed so well in the recent ABRSM exams and achieved very high marks. Special mention must go to Teddy Geddis who scored an exceptional 143 out of a possible 150.

## **Singing Lesson**

Please note that singing lessons will resume at the start of next week. Please remember to bring your singing folders and spare punched pockets. Many thanks.

## **Katherine Hunter**

**Singing Teacher**

## Parent Meetings

Next week, class teachers will be holding information meetings for the parents of pupils in their class. It's a chance for you to find out about classroom routines and curriculum and ask any questions you might have. Please do try to attend. The schedule is as follows:

Monday	R1	2.15pm
Tuesday	R2	2.30pm
Wednesday	R3	2.30pm
Thursday	R4	2.30pm
Friday	Playgroup/Reception	1.30pm

Meetings will take place in classrooms. They will last for about 30 minutes. Daycare will be available for R1 pupils on Monday.

## Early Years' Clubs

Hopefully you have received information about clubs for this term. To secure your child's place, please return permission forms and payment by Tuesday 12th September.

- Peninsula Martial Arts will commence on Wednesday 13th September.
- French Club will commence on Tuesday 19th September.

Speech and Drama will recommence on Thursday 21st September. Further details to follow.

## Uniform

Your children are looking so smart in their Rockport uniform. Thank you for ensuring they have all the necessary uniform and kit. Please ensure all pieces of uniform are clearly named. A reminder that boys should wear their Rockport caps to school on a daily basis.

## Early Years at Rockport

Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook. We are keen to keep you updated on all that we get up to in the Early Years Department. (Please let a member of staff know if you do not want your child's picture to be used.)

## Welcome

The PTA would like to welcome all new and returning parents back to Rockport School for another action packed term of adventurous learning. Monday morning was absolutely buzzing with activity around the school and it was wonderful to see so many excited and happy faces.

Returning parents will know that the school term starts IMMEDIATELY. There is no easing in...so for new parents it might seem a little overwhelming. The truth is there is just so much to do! As well as covering the curriculum, Rockport prides itself on giving your child an extraordinary educational experience.

## Survival tips:

Label EVERYTHING - even under garments. As your child moves further up the school, they will require more "stuff" and more stuff means a higher possibility of misplacement. Day 3 of school and my three have brought in a full PE kit, swimming kit, golf clubs and hockey equipment. At the end of the week I hope to have most of that back....we've already misplaced a Bridgedale on Day 1. Yip, it happens but things usually turn up.

Mud; lots of mud. We have the privilege of acres of woodland, lawns and shoreline which inevitably gets attached to shoes and clothing. So, I advise booking your car in for a full valet service at the end of each week.

READ the NEWSLETTER. Yes, it seems obvious but so many of us don't or skip over it (I'm guilty). There will be oodles of information every week on what is happening or what is needed for the following week and it is vital for your own sanity. There is nothing worse than having to race back home (when you live 18 miles away like me) to get a different uniform or kit.

Always put your hand up. Okay, not literally but if you have ANY queries at all, please ask a member of staff or your child's teacher as they are all very approachable and I can honestly say are always happy to help.

Social Media. You will find various Rockport pages on Facebook and twitter. It is a great way to see what all the children are up to on a near daily basis so get liking!!

### **Welcome BBQ – Friday 15th Sept – 2.30-4.30pm – Front Lawn**

We will be holding a BBQ with a donation bar and refreshments next Friday to welcome everyone to Rockport with bouncy castles & face painting for our younger children to keep them amused. We will have hot dogs ready for 2.30pm but if your pick up is 2pm please come on over and you can watch us fighting with gazebos!

### **PTA AGM – Tuesday 19th September – 12.30pm – Jackson Hall**

The PTA AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th September in the Jackson Hall at 12.30pm. This meeting serves to elect in a new PTA for the coming year and we would be very interested to hear from anyone wanting to be a part of the PTA.

***Our aim as the Parent Teacher Association is to provide proactive support to pupils, teachers and parents through the organisation and delivery of social events and fundraising activities. Through these endeavours we will strive to foster a culture of togetherness where all within the Rockport community enjoy an atmosphere of warmth, friendliness, inclusion and belonging.***

As we enter 2017/2018 we hope to continue our work and we sincerely hope that each of you will enjoy what we offer as much as we do. I know that our children really enjoy being part of whole school events and it is so important to them when possible to have their parents their too.

If you would like to explore a more official or organising role as I view it, or maybe you are happy to lend a hand putting an event together and delivering on the day please drop me a line to [pta@rockportschool.com](mailto:pta@rockportschool.com).

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Welcome BBQ - Friday 15th September - 2.30-4.30pm – Front Lawn**

**PTA AGM – Tuesday 19th September – 12.30pm – Jackson Hall**

**Halloween Fireworks – Thursday 26th October**