



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 05 / Winter Term / 6th October 2017



October	Time	Event
Mon 9 th	All Week	EY 'Get Outdoors' Week
Tue 10 th	9.45-11.45	R1-R2 Trip to Tesco, Springhill
Wed 11 th	11.30	R5 Visit from Firemen R11-R12 Meet the Marines, Palace Barracks
Fri 13 th	15.30	R11 GCSE Parents' Meeting, Centenary Building
Sat 14 th	10.30-12.00	Rockport Open Morning

Headmaster's Headlines

RSIC2017: I write this short note from the Waterfront in Cape Town feeling more than a little pride in how our pupils have conducted themselves this week at the Round Square International Conference 2017. **Robert Burke, Ashleigh Riddell, Sophie Shiel and Phoebe Wright** have covered themselves in glory at every opportunity this week and have made friends and influenced people from every corner of the globe. Robert deserves special mention for his efforts in supporting the Indonesian service project to combat blindness in that part of the world. Indeed, his fundraising through the 80's Danceathon last week resulted in Rockport (and Northern Ireland) getting special mention at the opening ceremony. When you consider that there were Heads, teachers and students from 180 schools representing more than 50 countries present, you will appreciate just how special that moment was.

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

As we wind up the 2017 conference and prepare for a weekend of safaris and sightseeing, Miss McConaghy's expert notes and handy hints on the area have once again become invaluable. If she ever tires of teaching Home Economics, she is assured a future with the South African Tourist Board.

A Full Magazine: If you ask your child this evening (or search his or her bag) they should be able to retrieve a copy the 2017 Rockport School Magazine before it gets too dog-eared. I think that this year's edition is the best yet and it shows just how much we at Rockport cram into the academic year. It will also, I hope, provide you and them with a treasured memento which will jog memories of the 2016-17 academic year for many years to come.

Creating this document is a real Rubik's Cube: to somehow pull together all the strands from every part of the school and present it in such a professional way is no mean feat and we are indebted indeed to magazine editor Mrs Oliver.

George Vance
Headmaster

R11 GCSE Parents' Meeting

All R11 parents and pupils are invited to attend a GCSE meeting at 3.30pm in the Centenary Building on Friday 13th October. The purpose of this meeting is to clarify expectations of Year 11 pupils in terms of commitment to study, preps and exam preparation and we plan to provide information regarding controlled assessment and coursework. There will also be an opportunity to discuss subject specific queries with some GCSE staff at this meeting. Please plan to attend.

Open Morning – Saturday 14th October

Please be aware that we have planned our first Open Morning of the year for Saturday from 10.30-12.00. As our children are our best ambassadors, we like to have them present to speak with our visitors. All children are expected to attend and if for any reason your child is unable to attend, please inform their form teacher beforehand. Please drop your children off at 10.15 and pick-up will be from 11.45-12.00. Thank you.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

Sponsorship wanted - School Calendar

We are currently getting organised to put together the 2018 edition of the Rockport School Calendar. If anyone is interested in sponsoring this year's calendar in exchange for their logo on the front and month pages, please get in contact with our Marketing Officer, Mrs Emma Thompson for a chat or more details ethompson@rockportschool.com Thank you!

Limited Edition Must-Have Magazine!

The School Magazine has come back from the printers and each family in the school will receive a copy. £15 will be added to your bill to cover the cost of this keepsake, which will make a wonderful aide-mémoire for years to come. Should you wish to purchase an extra copy for family or friends, please email schooloffice@rockportschool.com to request additional copies. Work is already underway on the 2017-2018 edition, reflecting this current academic year.

R8 Share Centre

R8's had a fantastic but exhausting trip to the Share Centre. Lots of challenges were overcome, from wall climbing, mountain biking, canoeing and many attempts were made to push Mr Reynolds into the water – some attempts may have been successful! If any student would like copies of the pictures taken, please send in a memory pen to Miss Carson and she will upload the photos.

Victoria Carson
Science Teacher



GCSE Art

Featuring this week is R12 GCSE Art student **Cameron Alexander**, who has chosen to look at football as his coursework.

Cameron has worked over several weeks on this energetic, expressive (and ambitiously sized!) portrait of Atletico Madrid and France striker Antoine Griezmann in chalk pastel. A great effort, well done!

David Hamilton
R9H and Art Teacher



Meet the Marines - Wednesday 11th October

R11 & R12 pupils will be participating in 'Meet the Marines' at Palace Barracks. Activities will include abseiling, obstacle courses and general physical challenges.

Tour

Well done to all of the touring party on completing their sponsored shoot on Thursday! Lots of sponsor money has already come in but all must be collected on Monday so use the weekend to chase up your sponsors!

U17 NI Netball Future Development Squad

Congratulations to Megan Ashcroft who has been selected for the U17 NI Netball Future Development Squad. Several Rockport girls have been nominated for the forthcoming U15 and U13 squads so we wish them all good luck and hope they play well and follow in Megan's footsteps!

Careers

R12 Individual Career Interviews will start next Friday and will be held in the boarders common room. Any queries see Miss Holland.

Spider Protection Unit or SPU

It's definitely getting chillier this week and with that comes the unavoidable invasion of spiders. I hate spiders, not just a normal hatred, I am petrified. In previous years we have had ridiculous sized spiders with knuckles and antlers that don't scurry they gallop! BUT I think I have found the solution to keeping the majority at bay. Conkers. Spiders hate conkers according to the font of all knowledge, Faceook. Luckily Rockport has lots of horse chestnut trees and my boys have been filling their water bottles and hoods at the end of the school day to bring home. You place a conker at the window or door to ward them off. This year my boys have been particularly zealous in their quest for bringing home conkers and have placed them everywhere. Hopefully it'll work again this year except my house now looks like some ancient ritual is about to take place with neatly placed conkers lining windowsills, along the edges of beds and bookshelves, chests of drawers, and behind every stationery object!

Hallowe'en – Thursday 26th October

Playgroup-R5

Pumpkin display – Please carve out or create a pumpkin masterpiece (there's no pressure to be competitive unless you really want to be and then it's GAME ON!) to display at the front of the Jackson Building. If you have never carved a pumpkin don't be afraid of it, it really isn't that hard and certainly a lot easier than scooping out a turnip like our parents had to in the 80s! There are lots of ideas online and using a thin serrated knife to cut out a face or design is quite easy. If your little one would prefer to decorate their pumpkin with glue, glitter and sequins this can be a lot of fun too. Please bring your pumpkins in during the last week before half term and give them to your class teacher. I can't wait to see them!

Trick or Treating – this year we are trick or treating! Dress up in your favourite costume and come trick or treating around the school. I know that some teachers have some yummy treats for us!

R6+

We are in the planning stages of putting together "Spooky Alley". I don't want to give too much away but we are hoping to re-create a haunted house type of activity for the older children to walk through. We have had lots of ideas and just need to gather together props. So if anyone has a large stuffed grizzly bear, smoke machine, sound machine, chainsaw, okay I'm joking...but am I? Mwhahahahaha!!! I'll be waiting outside afterwards with hot chocolate to calm anyone's nerves☺

Tropic Pamper Party – Thursday 9th November – Jackson Hall

We have Tropic Glambassador Corrina MacLean coming to school to show us the wonderful Tropic skincare and make-up range. It'll be a fun night and maybe a great way to get some Christmas shopping done!

Fireworks!! – Thursday 23rd November

This year we have decided to change the timing of the Halloween fireworks due to school commitments. Instead we will enjoy Mr Shiel's annual explosions after our Thanksgiving Dinner. As many of you know Thanksgiving is a highlight for families at Rockport. Not only do we get to have a DELICIOUS meal catered for by our very own top notch kitchen team but it is a time to enjoy each other's company. It's a noisy occasion but one I highly recommend you come along to.

Cost:

Thanksgiving Dinner

Adult £15

Child £7

Under 4s Free

Fireworks to be billed at £5 per family to cover costs

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Halloween – Thursday 26th October

Tropic Pamper Party – Thursday 9th November

Thanksgiving Dinner & Fireworks – Thursday 23rd November

Santa Claus – Thursday 21st December

Carol Thompson

PTA Chairperson