



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 11 / Winter Term / 24th November 2017



Nov	Time	Event
Sun 26 th		Junior Choir and instrumentalists to Culloden
Mon 27 th	All Day 9.00-12.00	Duke of Ed. Silver Group at Killyleagh Outdoor Centre (return Wed 29 th Nov) R1 & R2 to Holywood Library
Tue 28 th	All Day	Cool 4 School Individual and Sibling Photographs
Thu 30 th		A Level London Field Trip 'Julius Caesar' (return Fri 1 st Dec) Rockport Swimming Gala
Dec		
Fri 1 st	All Day	LFLW KS3/4 workshop at Stormont Building Cool 4 School for R11 pupils and their siblings R8 at Radar
Sat 2 nd		AQE Test 3

Headmaster's Headlines

Oh, Christmas Tree: I look forward to those of you who make it to the Culloden Hotel on Sunday (3pm) as our Junior Choir and some instrumentalists perform once again at the annual lighting ceremony. This is a lovely family event which each year seems to attract ever more Rockport families past and present.

Thanksgiving: Speaking of lovely family events, I for one am extremely thankful to the PTA for last night creating the kind of event which brings so many members of our Rockport family and community together. Those two much over-used words *family* and *community* can be a cliché but anyone who was there last night will know exactly what I mean. Thanks also to all the staff that helped make it happen, not least to Mr Greene and the Rockport catering team for yet another culinary success.

Rockport Rockets: What better way to round off the Thanksgiving evening than a fireworks display in the school grounds. As usual, PTA volunteers Mr Shiel and Mr Ashcroft left nothing to chance and the display was meticulously planned and executed. Thanks also to the teaching and supervisory staff who expertly marshalled all traffic (human and otherwise) throughout what was a very cold but clear evening.

Football Result - Rockport 5 Lathallan 4: With both teams under pressure to get the match played before any fireworks (literally), there seemed to be a great urgency on the pitch during the Junior Boys' 11-a-side game against Lathallan yesterday (Thursday) evening. This game is a long-standing annual event as the Lathallan boys stop off on their way for a second fixture against Headfort and we wish them well on their travels. Thanks to Messrs McIlveen and Reynolds for coaching the boys.

Final Point: Well done to **Emma Yeaman** (R9) who has won a gold medal (Junior foil Series 1) at the recent NIJFS Northern Ireland fencing competition held at Grosvenor Grammar School. Great job, Emma.

George Vance
Headmaster

Tech Know Club

Tech Know club will be starting next week. This is a STEM club where the students will be getting into small groups of four and setting up their own business. Students then have to learn how to code and make a website about sustainable energies. This will involve researching, exploring, modelling and exhibiting their own scientific research and present it within their websites and apps.

In March they will present to the Dragons in the old school library before the winning business goes on to represent the school at the Northern Ireland Finals.

It will be running in ICT every Tuesday at Lunchtime and Thursday 3.30 – 5.00pm for KS3 students.

Shaun O'Neill
Head of ICT



Yoga Club

Yoga club will not be happening on **Tuesday 28th November** as Miss O'Hara is out on a school trip. It will resume on Tuesday 5th December.

Sophie O'Hara
R10 Form Teacher

Ypres / Paris trip October 2018

Please note closing date for return of forms is Friday 1st December. Please return forms to Mr Reid or Mrs Megarry.

School Individual / Sibling Photographs Tuesday 28th November

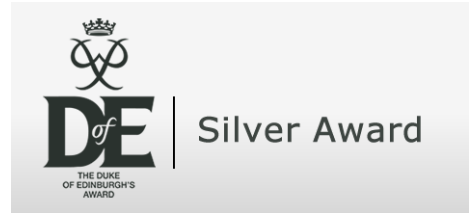
Reminder that individual and sibling photographs will be taken on the morning of Tuesday 28th November (except R11 Duke of Ed Team). Pupils should come to school in full uniform as per Remembrance Day. Any queries to creid@rockportschool.com

Colin Reid
Head of Faculty

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training

Year 11 pupils going on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh residential training on Monday 27th – Wednesday 29th November should come to school in their hiking gear on Monday.

Transport will be provided by coach and we will leave after registration. Pupils will return to school before 4pm on Wednesday.



What to bring: Rucksack and liner or day sack, survival bag, boots, thick comfortable socks (several pairs) gaiters (optional), water bottle, warm clothes for hiking, hat and gloves, waterproof jacket and trousers, towel and wash kit, nightwear, change of clothing and underwear, change of footwear for centre, personal first aid kit, torch, notebook and pen.

Katie Megarry

R11 Form Teacher

Rockport Ladies Christmas Lunch – 8th December 2017

Kindly sponsored by Investec Wealth & Investment and Parkside Flexibles (Europe)

All planning is now in place for a wonderful Christmas Ladies Lunch and the tickets are about to be posted out to all the ladies who have already purchased them. When you receive your tickets can you please send through any special dietary requirements for yourselves or any of your guests by Friday 1st December to ensure that the relevant menu options can be pre-booked.

Ticket sales have been fervent. However, there are some tickets remaining if any of our school community, friends or family wish to attend. Please contact sineadmdall@gmail.com

Ballot prizes already donated for the usual draw have been wonderfully generous so far, ranging from Fortnum & Mason Christmas Wine Hamper to afternoon tea for four, beauty treatments and restaurant vouchers, a trug filled with Prosecco and a Charlotte Tilbury Advent Box. Again the support from everyone for Marie Curie is hugely encouraging and should help with the great service they supply. Should you know of anyone who wishes to donate a ballot prize, all items will be gratefully received and will provide attendees with some amazing gifts.

Marie Curie have asked to address their most sincere thanks for everyone's generosity so far in making this annual event possible.

All enquiries please contact sineadmdall@gmail.com or 07793 811788

Individual/Sibling Photographs - Tuesday 28th November 2017

A reminder that it's photograph day on Tuesday. Playgroup/Reception should wear everyday uniform. R1-R4 should wear **formal uniform** (white shirt, tie, blazer).

R3 and R4 will be swimming as usual. They should bring their swimming kit **and** a spare bag with their Games kits to change into after the photographs.

Hollywood Music Festival Photograph - Tuesday 28th November 2017

In case you missed it above – Children who took part in Hollywood Music Festival should bring any cups, medals and certificates to school on Tuesday for a photograph.

Swimming Gala - Thursday 30th November 2017

R3 and R4 pupils will be taking part in the Swimming Gala on Thursday 30th November. Pupils should meet their teachers at Bangor Aurora at 8.30am for registration. They should wear their games kit. Swimming gear as usual but please bring an extra towel and white polo shirt. They should bring a water bottle and a snack. We will be back to school in time for lunch.

Our races will be first at 9am. Please come and cheer the children along.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Junior Choir/Instrumentalists Culloden Tree Lights

Please note the times for Sunday:

Instrumentalists – arrive at Culloden 2.50pm. **Playing from 3-3.30pm**

Junior Choir - arrive at Culloden **3.15 sharp**, to be met by Miss Carson in the foyer
Singing from 3.30-4.15pm

Refreshments will be provided for the children at 4.30pm.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM TO BE WORN

Please do attend this event with your child. It is a special event in our calendar, and truly marks the start of the Christmas gigging season for the music department.

Melanie Carr

Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Hollywood Festival Winners

Could all singers who won cups, medals and certificates please bring them into school on Monday for a photograph to be taken on Tuesday at break time. A full list of winners will be published in this newsletter next week. Many thanks.

Catherine Hunter

Peripatetic Music Teacher



Netball

Congratulations to Georgia McKissick, Tabitha Allen and Saorla Van Heerden on being selected for the Under 13 Future Development Squad. Clara Waterworth is also first reserve which is a great achievement as she is a year younger. Well done girls!

Our Minor, Junior & Intermediate netball teams will be starting their school league fixtures in December and into January 2018.



Swimming Gala - 30th November 2017

WHERE?

Aurora Leisure Centre

TIME?

8.30 am - Report to VC & Form Teachers

Boarders to leave Rockport at 08.10 (*Boarding staff to accompany*)

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Wear school tracksuit.

Bring:

- Towel
- Swimming gear
- Swimming cap (House colours)
- Green Rockport sweatshirt / hoodie or tour jacket
- Bottle of water / energy snack

All pupils return to school at 12:15. Lunch at 12:45.

Gail Holland

Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty

Feeling Thankful

Rockport School held its annual Thanksgiving celebration this week and if you were lucky enough to get a ticket (we were sold out a week in advance) you truly had a chance to experienced the spirit of Rockport. We were treated to a wonderful meal, followed by sumptuous puddings and finished the evening in style with a spectacular firework display.

Saying thank you and being thankful are two very different things. The former is part of being mannerly, the latter is said to be the secret to a life of happiness. In this spirit I would like to say I am thankful for Alan Greene and his fantastic kitchen staff for preparing the Thanksgiving meal. I am thankful for the delicious puddings created by Rockport parents. I am thankful for Ian Shiel, his team of hardy fire-starters and fire marshals for creating an amazing firework display for our children and their families. I am thankful for our PTA team and volunteers who as ever work diligently behind the scenes to ensure these events take place. And finally, I am thankful for you, our Rockport staff, children and parents for continuing to support these events.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Saturday 25th November - Kildare Shopping Trip Glenraig Primary PTA
- Thursday 21st December - Santa's Visit

Cait Hall
PTA