



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 17 / Spring Term / 19th January 2018



Jan	Time	Event
Mon 22 nd	Depart 13.35 Return 16.45 approx.	Netball Minor A & Inters v Regent House (A)
Tue 23 rd	14.00-16.00	R11 @ Agenda Holywood Tea with GV
Wed 24 th	Depart 10.45 Return for lunch	Junior team v Bangor Academy (A)
Thu 25 th	All Day Return 16.15 approx or pick up @ Aurora 15.45	R10 Planetarium Minor B v St Columbanus @ Aurora
Fri 26 th	15.30	R10 GCSE Option Meeting, Centenary Studio

Headmaster's Headlines

Champ for Dinner: Great to see that **Ben Beaumont (6L)** who was part of the successful team from Bangor Golf Club that won the 2017 Irish Junior Foursomes Championship has been invited to attend the *Golfing Union of Ireland Champions Dinner* on Friday evening at Carton House in Co Kildare. Great effort, Ben: enjoy!

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Dechlan Dares Down Under: With nary a thought of a shark or a Portuguese man o' war, **Dechlan Carr-Robinson (R6)** competed in the 400m novice class of the Albany Ocean Swim, Western Australia, during the Christmas holidays. This was Dechlan's first ocean swim competition and he finished a very creditable 9th in the class of 20. Great job, Dechlan!

No Snowflakes Here: Having grown up along this coastline, I know that a snowfall is a rare enough phenomenon and, when it does arrive, it rarely lies. Even then, on the odd occasion that it does (lie), it doesn't tend to stick around for too long. On Tuesday evening, the snow did at least settle long enough for the boarders to have great fun snowballing on the front lawn. This was especially good news for those of our overseas students who have never seen snow up close before, but even the boys from Kiev (whom I suspect just might have) seemed excited by the event.

We will only ever consider closing the school for our day pupils in exceptional circumstances, but in any case, any premature chat of school closures affecting us was quickly dispelled when I looked outside at 0600. The snow had gone as quickly as it had arrived. I do know, however, that many parents and members of staff *did* have to brave the elements and negotiate some very difficult conditions to get here on Wednesday morning and for that we are extremely grateful.

George Vance
Headmaster

R10 GCSE Options Meeting

A meeting to discuss GCSE Options with Year 10 pupils and their parents will take place in the Centenary Studio on Friday 26th January at 3.30pm. Please plan to attend. At this meeting, your son/daughter will be given a "Straw Poll" letter and a GCSE Subject choice booklet to help inform their decisions. This meeting will be followed up by parent-teacher consultations on Monday 29th January (please see below for further details).

Parent-Teacher Consultations

The following arrangements have been put in place for parent-teacher consultations:

Date	Time	Venue	Year Group(s)
Monday 29 th January	4.00-6.00pm	Sports' Hall	R10, 6 th Form
Tuesday 30 th January	4.00-6.00pm	Sports' Hall	R11, R12
Monday 5 th February	4.00-6.00pm	Sports' Hall	R5, R6, R7
Tuesday 6 th February	4.00-6.00pm	Sports' Hall	R8, R9

We request that consultations should be limited to 5 minutes each, so that queues can be avoided if possible. However, please bear in mind the fact that some teachers may have two classes of pupils to see each night.

Open Day

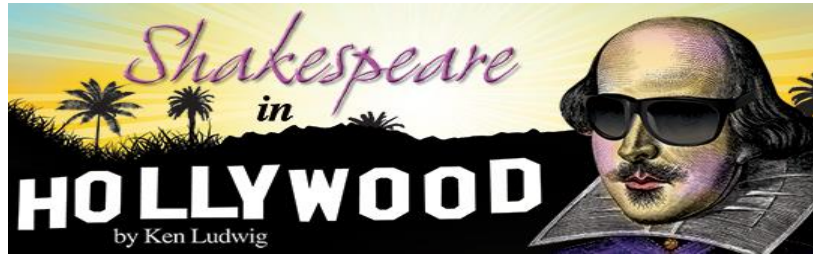
Please note that our Open Day is scheduled for Saturday 3rd February from 10.30 to 12.00. Pupils should be dropped off no later than 10.15 and may be collected at 12.00. We expect all pupils to attend; they are our best ambassadors for the school! Please feel free to mention the date to any friends or family who are considering a new school.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

R10 Planetarium Trip

R10 will be going to the planetarium on Thursday 25th January. We will leave school at 9:30am and will return by the end of the school day. Please ensure that all permission slips are returned by Monday 22nd January. Students will need to bring a packed lunch.

Miss Sophie O'Hara
Teacher of Physics and Chemistry
100 Form Tutor



RDS Rehearsal Schedule

*Please note ALL remaining full cast rehearsals each Wednesday and Thursday from 17th January will take place between 4.10pm-7pm in the Tucker Hall (supper will be provided).

Show dates:

Wednesday 7th February

Thursday 8th February

Ticket information will be in the Newsletter next week.

***Extra Rehearsal- Saturday 3rd February**

We will be having a full cast rehearsal during our school open morning between 9.30am-12.30pm.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Tickets for this year's RDS performance of *Shakespeare in Hollywood* will be available from the school office on Monday. Tickets are **free** and there will be an opportunity to make a donation on both evenings. Seats are limited for each performance, so please secure your tickets as early as possible.

Performance dates:

Wednesday 7th February at 6.30pm

Thursday 8th February at 6.30pm

There will be a matinee performance on Wednesday morning for pupils in **R6 and R7**.

R1 and R2 Trip to Hollywood Library

Monday 5th February 2018

Change of date

Please note the change of date for R1 and R2 trip to Hollywood Library.

Threadworms

A case of Threadworms has been reported in the Early Years Department. This is a very common problem, particularly in young children, and is easily spread, so it is important that you keep an eye out for symptoms and treat appropriately.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Threadworms/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Boarding – Half Term Break
Friday February 9th – Monday 19th February 2018
Departures and Arrivals

Many thanks to the parents who have been in contact already. Please could all remaining parents forward departure and return details for boarding students to either houseparent jcoates@rockportschool.com or gmcgimpsey@rockportschool.com

Advance warning is most helpful when coordinating airport transfers.

When booking flights or arranging collections, please note **Boarding closes at 3pm on Friday 9th February 2018**. Flight departures should be before this time and collections from the Boarding House should be by 3.15pm

The Boarding House **re-opens for arrivals from 6pm on Sunday 18th February 2018** to allow pupils to arrive and settle in before the first school day Monday 19th February 2018. Please note returning pupils should have eaten their evening meal before arrival as only a light snack is provided on this evening.

Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding
dtoland@rockportschool.com

Snow Day

I noticed on Tuesday over social media that lots of people were hoping for a “snow day”. My children were hoping for one too. Unfortunately for them their dad is determined and quite agricultural and would think nothing of taking them in the tractor to school if he had to.

I don't remember having a snow day or a day off school because of snow as such, growing up as snowball fights and slip sliding about walking to school seemed to be normal during winter. I do remember, however, pouring water over the paving at the front of our house to get a good thick layer of ice built up for sliding on. That ended well...front tooth broken in half:/.

Colour Run

Yes it's back! It was such a huge success last year that the teachers can't wait to throw coloured powder over pupils again this year. We'll be sending out information with confirmation slips soon so keep an eye out in your children's schoolbags for these.