



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 18 / Spring Term / 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Jan	Time	Event
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-12.00 Dep: 13.30 / Return 16.30 16.00-18.00	PGR to Hollywood Library Minor A & Inters (A) at Regent House R10-6 <sup>th</sup> Form Parent Teacher Consultations, Sports Hall
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	12.00-16.00 16.00-18.00	R11 Art to True Colours Exhibition R11-12 Parent Teacher Consultations
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dep: 16.30/Return 22.00 approx	R11-R12 Drama to Blood Brothers, Grand Opera House
Feb	Time	Event
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	Depart 14.40 Return 16.30 approx	R8-10 Rugby Team v Lagan College (A)
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	morning 15.30	School Class Photographs R11-12: GCSE to A Level Transition Meeting, Centenary Building
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30-12noon	Rockport Open Day

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Life's A Beech:** Some good news for those who come to school on the train or walk from Seahill. We are pleased to report that the Beech Walk is open again following some running repairs which were carried out this week. Walking up (and down) Rockport Road brings its own challenges, especially when the light is poor, underscoring our policy of driving slowly aimed at parents, staff and visitors as well as our constant reminders to all pedestrians who need to carry a torch and to wear something bright.

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**Parking Mad:** And those traffic issues really only get started when you get into the school grounds proper. As pupil numbers have risen, parking around the Jackson Building to drop-off the younger children to Early Years has become a real challenge and often poor (or downright bad) parking has caused mayhem, typically when a 55-seater coach has been trying to leave the school campus. Some quick-thinking individuals have discovered that it is better to fork left towards the sea and go behind the main building to drop off. Please try to avoid blocking the area between the Jackson Building and New Beatty, an area which is already a bottleneck.

**Morale Victories:** Spirits were very high in both junior Netball and junior Football camps this morning (Friday) despite having suffered defeats yesterday. The boys lost by the odd goal away to an impressive Kilcooley Primary, while the U12 girls lost only 2-1 to St Columbanus College, despite being a year young. Great stuff.

**MORE to Come:** By now you will (or soon will) have received a letter from our parents who kindly give of their time to coordinate the MORE campaign, accompanied by the following introductory note from me: I cannot emphasise enough how pleasing and gratifying it is for all of us here at Rockport that initiatives to create improvements to our school are being created, led and driven by you, the parents.

*As I said on Speech Day, our School is entering an exciting new phase in its growth and development. Much work has been done already in order to broaden our unique reputation across the rest of the UK and Ireland, as well as throughout the world. In the process, we have attracted many new pupils from both home and abroad, an effort resulting in a 20% increase in the school population over the past 5 years. Our plans for future development therefore focus on enhancing both the opportunities and facilities for all our pupils and include equipping the school to effectively meet those exciting challenges which lie ahead. We know, however, that major developments simply cannot be supported from the annual fee income alone and, to that end we are fortunate indeed to have such generous parents, alumni and friends of the school. That generosity has already resulted in the provision of an impressive 3G sports facility and a Sixth Form Centre and it is gratifying indeed to know that there exists in the parent body a further desire and appetite to do even more. The proposed project to create a new dining facility is one which will benefit all of our children for years to come and I am pleased to give it my full support. On behalf of the School, thank you once again for all **your** support.*

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent-teacher interviews provide an important opportunity for you to engage with the teachers regarding your son/daughter's academic development. Please plan to attend:

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	4-6pm	Sports' Hall	R10 and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	4-6pm	Sports' Hall	R11 and R12
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	4-6pm	Sports' Hall	R5, R6 and R7
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	4-6pm	Sports' Hall	R8 and R9

Please remember that these meetings should be restricted to 5 minutes each. Should you require a more in-depth meeting with a teacher, this can be arranged through the school office.

Early Years' parent teacher interviews will take place during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> February by appointment with the class teacher.

## **GCSE to A Level Transition Meeting – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 3.30pm**

R11 and R12 pupils and their parents are invited to attend an A Level Options Meeting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 3.30pm in the Centenary Studio. The focus of this meeting will be on the provision at Rockport and how subject choices are determined. An information guide for A Level subjects will also be distributed. Please plan to attend.

**Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer**  
**Deputy Head**

## **DofE Change of Dates**

There has been a slight change made to the dates which were published on the spring term calendar. The DofE practice expedition will be from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March for the Bronze group and from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March for the Silver group.

**Heather McBride**  
**Teacher of Business Studies**

## **R5 parents**

Could all R5 parents please make an appointment to meet with me in the R5 classroom re their child's progress. There is a timetable on the R5 Noticeboard (outside the classroom) and I would appreciate if you could select a time which suits. Many thanks.

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

## **GCSE Drama 'Blood Brothers' trip to Grand Opera House**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

GCSE Drama pupils (R11 and 12) will be attending a performance of 'Blood Brothers' this coming Wednesday evening. Please see arrangements for travel and pick-up times below:

- **4.30pm** – pupils depart school via coach to Belfast
- Dinner in Fratellis at 5.15pm (pupils bring own money for dinner)
- **9.45pm**– pupils depart Opera House via coach and return to school

**Pupils should be picked up from school at roughly 10pm.** Please let me know if you are making alternative pick-up arrangements for your child e.g. collecting them at Opera House after the show, [mcarr@rockportschool.com](mailto:mcarr@rockportschool.com)

**Melanie Carr**

**Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama**

## **Netball**

Well done to all of the girls playing matches this week and in particular there was a sterling performance from the Minor B team against a strong U13 St Columbanus team.

Dates and times of matches against Regent House (Minors & Inters) and Bloomfield Collegiate have to be confirmed. The girls will need to inform their parents of the times as they are finalised.

## **Football**

The Junior boys had a nail-biting match against Kilcooley PS on Thursday at Bangor Aurora. There were lots of goals but Rockport finally lost 4-3. Mr McIlveen is very pleased with their performance. Well done!

**Mud**

I don't know why it comes as a shock to me that after 8 years at Rockport my children still come home with half a forest and layers of mud all over their clothes and shoes. I'm not talking about the odd skite (spellcheck says that's not a word but I'm pretty sure in County Armagh it is) of muck either! Nope, it's dirt that requires forensic measures of plastic covered car seats (I don't do this by the way, I'm not that bonkers), and a power washer. As I drive into Rockport surveying the front lawn for any of my kids, I'll see one jump off a tree or come from behind a bush with a broad smile and a uniform destroyed. A sign of a productive day, besides the curriculum, of rugby, football, cross country, den making, tig, hide and seek, puddle jumping, and whatever else they get up to on a daily basis. Fairy non-bio is just not cutting it!

**Taking it Easy**

The Spring Term for the PTA is traditionally a quieter affair. With Winter and Summer Terms being event busy, we like to give you a break for a few months☺. The rest of the school, however, marches on, filling each day with adventure, exploration, and discovery. Check out Twitter and Facebook to keep you updated and informed on what exciting journeys your children are on.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Easter Bunny – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 9.30am**

**Colour Run – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 3pm**

**Carol Thompson**  
**PTA Chairperson**