



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 22 / Spring Term / 2nd March 2018



	Time	Event
Sun 4 th	14.30-17.00	R12 GCSE DRAMA REHEARSAL , Tucker Hall
Mon 5 th	9.00-12.00 10.00	R1-R2 to Hollywood Library (Darren Clarke Schools Golf League) Rockport vs Our Lady St Patricks @ Hollywood Golf Club
Wed 7 th		R5-R7 Toytastic Day
Thu 8 th	8.40 Depart – 11.30 Return 11.00	R4 Visit to Caterpillar R1-R2 Air Ambulance Visit
Fri 9 th	10.00	R6-7 Tag Rugby Blitz Select Team, Londonderry Park

Headmaster's Headlines

The Least from the East: Although it has been great that we have managed to keep the whole school open this week and not just for the boarders, I do feel a bit sorry for the children that the snow that has brought so much fun (but also closed so many schools) has simply passed us by. The long-reaching fingers of the *Beast from the East* seem to have straddled much of North Down and, despite the added arrival of *Storm Emma*, we have suffered only minimum disruption. That said, I am conscious that I have an easier commute than many: many of our staff come a long way through difficult terrain to be here for the children and for that I am very grateful.

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Storming Emma: Speaking of grateful, thanks also to our school Marketeer Mrs Thompson who boarded the last flight (and one of the bumpy few) out of Belfast City to Heathrow yesterday in order to attend the annual British Boarding Schools' Workshop. Over the weekend Emma will meet (and introduce Rockport to) boarding school agencies from places like Cambodia, Columbia, Malaysia, Mexico, and Vietnam; many of whom may be surprised by the sight of so much snow in London in March. I hope they bring a coat.

Head of Upper Juniors: Congratulations to Mrs McCartney who has just been appointed Head of Upper Juniors. She will coordinate transition from Early Years and track progress into and throughout Key Stage 2; generally providing leadership and vision for all things R5, R6 and R7, an important area of the school for which, I know, she has great plans.

Head of Sixth Form: We also congratulate Mrs McBride on securing the role of Head of Sixth Form. This is another very important post which will be vital in the delivery of our school development plan and will encompass not just pastoral issues but much, much more, including things like managing A Level choices and transition from R12, monitoring academic progress, managing UCAS applications and Careers Guidance.

George Vance
Headmaster

R12 GCSE Drama Rehearsal

Please note that there is a GCSE Drama Rehearsal scheduled this Sunday from 14.50 to 17.00 in the Tucker Hall. Please wear warm clothes and bring a snack.



Melanie Carr

Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Session

There will be an afterschool session for silver DoE on Thursday 8th March. It will run from 4pm till 5pm.

This is a compulsory session and will be an opportunity to run through final instructions before the practice expedition the following week (15th – 17th March). We will be checking that all tents are intact so if students are planning to use their own tents, they should bring them in.

Equipment lists are being sent home with students on Friday 2nd March, this will give plenty of time for all students to ensure they are prepared for the expedition.

Katie Megarry & Sophie O'Hara

Silver Duke of Ed Leaders

A screenshot of the Cool for School Photography website. The top section is purple and white, featuring the company logo and contact information: Telephone: 0294 32 338794, Email: info@coolforschoolphotography.com. Below this is a photo of a group of people and a form with fields for 'CLIENT NAME', 'CLASS', and 'PHONE'. The 'PHONE' field has a note: 'School/Work/Club/Class phone'. There are two main sections: 'Order Online' and 'ORDER THROUGH SCHOOL: COMPLETE THE PROOF FORM BELOW'. The 'Order Online' section lists steps: 1. Go to coolforschoolphotography.com, 2. Enter Code, 3. View your Photos. The 'Why Order Online?' section lists benefits: 1. Customise a range of products, 2. Customise your prints e.g. B&W, 3. Customise individual and family photography, 4. Free school delivery on online orders (weekdays). The 'ORDER THROUGH SCHOOL' section includes a barcode, a QR code, and a form for 'Return Order to School by (Class/Event)', 'Order Name', and 'Order Price'. Below the form are payment options: 'Please tick payment type' with checkboxes for 'Cash - Cash Please Only', 'Card - Complete online and pay', and 'Cheque - Photo prints to be paid for by school'. At the bottom, there is a note: 'Schools are unable to accept orders after the closing date; late orders must be placed online. Photos are available online after the school closing date.'

Cool For School Photographs

If you would like to order your photos through tschool, please send in your order forms to the school office by Monday, 5th March. You can also order the photographs online. Please follow the instructions on the form.

R1/R2 Trip to Hollywood Library - Monday 5th March

R1 and R2 are off to the Library on Monday morning. There will be no games so children should wear everyday uniform. Don't forget Library cards, as well as Rockport backpacks to carry all the books!

Uniform

We have been talking to the children the importance of wearing the correct uniform to school. Please support them with this by discouraging colourful bobbles, clips, hats etc. We are proud of our school uniform and want to ensure we wear it correctly. If you have any queries about uniform requirements, please speak to a member of staff.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

R1 & R2 Visit from Mrs Cunningham the Vet – People Who Help Us

Mrs Cunningham came with Basil her wonderful dog to talk to the children in R1 & R2 about being a vet. Mrs Cunningham showed the children her uniform and some of the medical equipment she uses in her clinic. Mrs Cunningham showed us how she does a check on the dogs health that come into her clinic. Basil was so well behaved and very patient with every child. Thank you Mrs Cunningham.



Claire Williamson, R2 Teacher

R1 & R2 Visit from RNLI – People Who Help Us

Mary, a volunteer from the RNLI came to visit R1 and R2 today. She talked to us about safety at the beach. She showed us different flags and what they mean and explained what 'SAFE' stands for. We got to try on a helmet, jacket and a lifejacket. We saw the lifeguard bear and talked about his uniform and saw the big waterproof trousers the volunteers wear when out on the lifeboat.



Michelle Ellitott, R1 Teacher

Onwards and ‘Upper’wards

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the post of Head of Upper Juniors. This is an area of the school that I have worked in for a considerable length of time and yet I never cease to be amazed by the level of enthusiasm these children have for learning and the sheer ‘buzz’ they create on a daily basis inside the classroom and around school. It is that zest for life that I want to promote and further enhance through all aspects of the children’s learning experience at Rockport.

Over the coming weeks and months, small but significant changes will begin to take place. I intend to build upon the excellent work already happening in Key Stage 2 and I can assure you that meeting the needs of our children will, as always, be my driving force. I would greatly welcome your continuing support as we embark on our new and exciting adventure, onwards and upwards, together. Let’s do this!



Toytastic – Wednesday 7th March 2018

This month R5,6 & 7 pupils will be taking part in a ‘Toy Stories’ creative writing competition. As a means of introducing the idea to the children and in a bid to get those creative juices flowing, we are going to a ‘Toytastic Day’ on Wednesday 7th March.

A full day of toy-based educational activities has been planned - these tasks will take the place of normal lessons, games and prep. The day will end with Toy Story, the movie (4-5.30pm), although pupils may be picked up at 4pm if required.

Pupils should come to school in normal everyday uniform – not games kit. They should bring a toy to school – an ‘old favourite’ preferably. If staying for the movie, they may bring a snack and one drink (not fizzy).

Any parent who would like to get involved and still has an ‘old favourite’ at home, please get in touch before Wednesday smccartney@rockportschool.com

Head Lice

Please be aware that there is a case of head lice in the Upper Junior section of the school. We would ask parents to carefully check their children’s hair and treat it if necessary please. Thank you.

Friday Assembly

In addition to joining the seniors for whole school assembly on Monday mornings, the R5,6 & 7 pupils will have an Upper Juniors assembly in the Tucker Hall every Friday morning at 8.45am. All pupils should be in school in good time for registration prior to this.

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

Snowmageddon

Well except Rockport! I live just outside Comber and when the snow came in on Wednesday I thought I should collect the children early thinking Rockport would be the same. I emailed their teacher who informed me everything was running as normal. And it was. It was like a line had been drawn across North Down refusing to accept snow! Yesterday the weather worsened and ice formed on top of Strangford Lough. Snow drifted in swathes across the roads around us, so we decided to collect early at 1.30pm. Again we battled the white outs and blizzards from our home to Comber. The main roads from Dundonald were slow and fairly clear, but as soon as we got to the end of the Ballymoney Road there were green fields, and clear bone dry roads...again North Down had said no to snow. A friend described it as going through the wardrobe from Narnia!

Today our roads are even worse so we have decided to stay at home...but I have a funny feeling it might be Spring at Rockport!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Bunny – Thursday 22nd March – 9.30am

Colour Run – Friday 13th April – 3pm

Belfast Marathon – Monday 7th May

**Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson**