



ROCKPORT



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 35 / Summer Term / 9th June 2017



June	Time	Event
Mon 12 th		R10 to Big Bang Exhibit at Ulster University
Tue 13 th		Small Sailors and Regatta
Wed 14 th		Rockport Tennis Finals
Thu 15 th	12.15 13.00 15.00	Speech Day & BBQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strawberry Tea, Front Lawn • Speeches & Prize Giving, Sports Hall • PTA BBQ, Back Lawn
Fri 16 th		R8 Gordonstoun Team leave (return: Mon 19 th June)

Headmaster's Headlines

No Horseplay: I was pleased to learn earlier this week that **Sophie Naysmith** (R10) has been successful in the Regional Italian Equestrian Championships in Rome. Sophie's competitive spirit and effort against 54 other riders in her class earned her third place and a bronze medal. Well done, Sophie.

No Deuce: Our boys' tennis teams have been covering themselves in glory this term and recording victories against nearly all-comers. Victories recorded this term against Regent House (4-2), Bangor Grammar (4-2), Coleraine Grammar (4-2) and Larne Grammar (6-0) were followed by a creditable draw against RBAI (3-3). Even though we did not eventually progress from the group (RBAI went through on a count-back of games won), it is clear that the extra practice on our new synthetic courts is clearly paying off.

Golf Handicaps Slashed: Well done to Rockport elite squad members **Jack McNulty** (R10) and **Molly O'Hara** (R8) who continue to impress with their efforts on the golf course. Jack shot a creditable 72 gross in the Intermediate Scratch Cup at Headfort last weekend before going on to come first in the Men's Single Stroke Competition. Against some stiff competition, Molly finished in 6th place in the European Championships at the Gullanne Club in East Lothian. As a result, Jack's Handicap has been cut to 10 and Molly to 6. Great stuff.

Silver Duke of Ed: Spare a thought for our R11 pupils who battled manfully against yesterday's heavy rainfall in the Mourne Mountains as they set off again this morning (and tomorrow) to complete their qualifying expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Silver). I am told that they have overcome all challenges by discovering those hidden reserves they didn't know they had. There is more in you than you think.

Stretching the Canvas: I was really pleased to see so many people attend the launch of our *Stretching the Canvas* initiative in Clandeboye Estate last night. The aim of this initiative was to inspire our students to perhaps remind them that it is possible to have a career in the creative industry. Many thanks to all the staff and pupils concerned but especially parent Brian Nixon and Old Rockportian Chris Fetherston whose continued support of visual arts throughout Ireland has made this whole thing possible. We are also indebted to the internationally renowned artists who have given up of their time to mentor our students throughout the year: Colin Davidson, Susan MacWilliam, Miguel Martin and Jane Butler.

George Vance
Headmaster

Forthcoming Events

•Speech Day: Thursday 15th June 2017

Speech Day is the most formal occasion of the school year we would be grateful if parents could impress this upon their children and encourage suitable, neat and tidy appearance and attire. Please ensure that girls' hair is neatly tied up (unless in Year 11 or above) and that they wear only one pair of plain stud style earrings; all others should be removed. Boys' hair styles must be neat and tidy, with no extreme styles and hair not too long on top. All shoes should be clean and polished.

Uniform for Speech Day:

Early Years R1-R4	R5-R7	R8-R12	Sixth Form
Boys White Shirt Tie Blazer Shorts Grey school socks	Boys White Shirt Ties Blazer R5&6 Shorts & grey school socks R7 Trousers & dark socks	Boys White Shirt Ties Blazer Trousers and dark socks	Boys Blazers shirts and ties trousers
Girls Stripped Summer Dress Blazers Plain white ankle socks	Girls White open neck blouse Blazer Kilt Plain white ankle socks (NOT trainer socks)	Girls White open neck blouse Blazer Kilt R8-R12 Plain white ankle socks (NOT trainer socks) or R10 upwards green opaque tights	Girls Blazers shirts and ties skirts

The programme for the day is as follows: Parents are invited to join the Headmaster and staff on the Front Lawn for Strawberry Tea from 12.15pm. Please be seated in the hall by 12.55pm. Speeches will begin at 1pm followed by the presentation of awards. Please join the PTA and staff for a BBQ and Jazz at the Pavilion from 3pm until approximately 5.30pm.

•Summer Concert – Wednesday 21st June

Champagne and canapés will be served on the front lawn from 6.15pm. Please be seated in The Sports Hall for the concert to begin at 7pm.

2017/18 Fees in advance

As in previous years a discount will be available to any parents who wish to pay next year's fees in full in advance by 30th June. Please contact the Bursar if you wish to avail of this option.

**Mr Russell Hannah
Bursar**

R5 – R7 Fun Day to Tayto Park, Monday 19th June

On Monday 19th June we will be having our annual fun day for R5 to R7. This year we are going to Tayto Park. Pupils should come to school in casual clothes and bring money. Amount is up to parents. We recommend no more than 20 euros and pupils will be responsible for their own money. No money is required for the rides as this is included in the entry ticket. Pupils will also receive a hot lunch which is also included in the entry ticket. Cost for the day is £25 including entry, lunch and the coach. Permission forms will be distributed next week and must be returned to the form teacher by Wednesday 14th June. Pupils will be back at school by 4pm and should be collected at 4pm although a supervised 'prep' session will be available.

R8 – 12 Fun Day Portrush

The R8s to R12s will be heading to Portrush on their fun day on Monday 19th June. Cost is £12 per pupil. Pupils can wear casual clothes and can either bring their own lunch or get a lunch in Portrush. Boarders will be given cash to get lunch in Portrush. Pupils can bring their own money to spend in Portrush.

The bus will be leaving school at 9am, so pupils should come to school as for normal registration. Pupils will return by 4pm when they should be collected although there will be a supervised 'prep' for those wishing to stay until 5.30pm.

Please let form teachers know whether or not your child is attending this trip and £12 will be added to your bill. Any queries please contact creid@rockportschool.com

**Colin Reid
Head of Faculty**

Lost Blazer

A pupil in R6 has lost his blazer. It is named and has been missing for a few weeks. Could parents please check their child's blazer over the weekend to ensure they have not taken it by accident. If found, please return it to the school office asap. Many thanks.

Lesson Fees

Please ensure to pay outstanding lesson fees ASAP. We are approaching the end of the academic year and a number of bills remain unpaid.

Summer Concert Rehearsal

Rehearsals will be taking place throughout the next week, so please be sure to bring your instrument and music to school on Monday if you are performing at the concert.

R5/R7 Dance – Costume Requirement

- R5:**
- Girls** – bright coloured leggings and T-shirt, (a funky tu-tu, worn over the leggings, is optional), trainers
 - Boys** – bright coloured T-shirt, light grey tracksuit bottoms (or any exciting colour other than black!), trainers
- R7:**
- Girls only** – Bomber jacket (any colour), bright coloured T-shirt, black leggings, baseball cap, trainers, plenty of fake medallion chains/bling etc

Melanie Carr
Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Early Years' Parents

Small Sailors' Morning- Tuesday 13th June 2017

Thank you parent volunteers! Mrs Toland will meet you in the Marquee at approximately 9.20am. Sailing will commence as soon as the school arrives at approximately 9.40am! The running order will follow the youngest first through to the oldest sailors last. The event should be finished by 1230pm.

Thank you for returning your consent forms. All pupils from Playgroup to R4 are invited to attend Ballyholme where a number of fun pirate/sailing themed activities will entertain the pupils throughout the morning. We have the use of a large indoor area.

Normal drop off and collection times at Rockport apply. Pupils will be transported to and from Ballyholme Yacht Club by coach with the teaching staff. **Pupils should bring a packed lunch.** Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend to see their child/grandchild sailing. The Rockport PTA are once again kindly giving their time to provide tea and coffee with light refreshments during the morning. The PTA have also provided the Small Sailors with a face painter for the morning. (Thank you Mrs Thompson!)

All pupils may come to school in **warm outdoor clothing** with pirate apparel if they choose. They should each bring a small clearly named rucksack with their packed lunch and extra socks and footwear that will get wet (crocs/wetsuit shoes are perfect). **They must have a waterproof coat and a hat and gloves.** Rockport School will provide waterproof over trousers for each pupil. Buoyancy aids will be provided by Ballyholme Yacht Club.

Our youngest Rockport pupils in Playgroup and Reception will sail first, immediately after arrival at Ballyholme. This must be with their own parents. Those not sailing will have fun on dry land with staff. We encourage pirate themed fancy dress for these pupils, placed over warm outdoor clothing.

From approximately 1030 onwards the slightly older pupils in R1 through to R4 will have the opportunity to have a taster sail of 20-30 minutes in Ballyholme Bay. The pupils will be taken out in Laser Bahias with an instructor and another volunteer adult. The ratio of adult to child will be 1:1 in each boat.

Safety is a priority and it must be noted that weather conditions on the day may dictate whether this activity can happen. Ballyholme's Chief Instructor Steven Magee will make the final decision.

Hopefully the sun will shine and the winds will be light. However, if the weather is inclement we will proceed to Ballyholme and entertain the pupils in the yacht club environment. Teaching staff will have activities available to cater for this possibility.

Regatta - Afternoon, Tuesday 13th June 2017

Racing will commence at 1345. Regatta Competitors should come to school in school sportswear (no Jack Wills, Supreme or any other brands) this is a school event!

They should attend early lunch and then meet Mr Moody at the front of school by 1225sharp for coach transportation to Ballyholme Yacht Club.

After racing and the presentation of medals, pupils will be returned to Rockport by coach at 4pm. Any parent wishing to collect their child at Ballyholme, please be available at 3.50pm for collection. Many thanks.

Dawn Toland

dtoland@rockportschool.com

EARLY YEARS

Small Sailors , Tuesday 13th June 2017

Please ensure you read all the information above. Drop off and pick up at normal times.

Speech Day, Thursday 15th June 2017

R1 to R4 are required to attend Speech Day. Playgroup and Reception are not required to attend but may do so with parents. All staff attend this event so there will be no afternoon classes for Playgroup and Reception. Children should be picked up from the Jackson Hall at 12pm.

A reminder that everyday Summer uniform should be worn – with blazers. Boys should wear **white polo shirts**.

We look forward to see you all at this special event and at the PTA barbeque after!

Lynn Athanasiou

Head of Early Years

Sports Day

Again the weather was kind to us on Friday 2nd June for the major event of the sporting calendar!

Early Years started proceedings with fantastic competition and fun with proud medal winners taking their places on the 'podium'!



All age groups competed for the Victor and Victrix Ludorum awards and results are as follows:

Trophy for Minimus Victor Ludorum	Matthew Thompson
Trophy for Minimus Victrix Ludorum	Penelope Brammer
Buckley Cup for Junior Victor Ludorum	Jamie Anderson -Orr
School Cup for Junior Victrix Ludorum	Sophie Gordon
Liddle Cup for Middle Victor Ludorum	Christian Simms
School Cup for Middle Victrix Ludorum	Abi Toland
Bodenham Cup for Senior Prep Victor Ludorum	Ben Lally
Rose Cup for Senior Prep Victrix Ludorum	Olivia Dixon
ORC Cup for Senior School Victor Ludorum	Rob Salters
ORC Cup for Senior School Victrix Ludorum	Jessica Moffett/Paula von Kempis

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Old Rockportian Henry Clark for presenting the prizes and delivering an inspirational speech to our pupils. It brought a very successful end to a wonderful day!

Results for trophies are as follows:

Name	Medals
Senior School Boys	
Romeo Grevet	100m Bronze
Christopher McGowan	800m Bronze
James McKissick	Hurdles Bronze
Mark Simms	800m Silver
Angus Salters	High Jump / Long Jump Bronze
Miles Cunningham	Shot Bronze High Jump/Long Jump Silver
Adam Onas	Shot Gold
Cameron Alexander	100m / Shot Silver
Jung H Yoon	400m/200m Bronze Hurdles Gold
Charles Bonazza	Hurdles/200m/400m Silver 800m Gold
Rob Salters	100m/200m/400m Gold Long Jump/High Jump

Senior School Girls

Anna Thomson	Shot Bronze
Amber Allen	Hurdles Silver
Scarlett Gibbons	Hurdles Gold
Helene Von Franckenstein	Long Jump/200m Bronze
Megan Ashcroft	High Jump /Shot Gold
Anna Beattie	100m/shot Silver High Jump Bronze
Paula Van Kempis	200m Silver 100m/Long Jump Gold
Jessica Moffett	100m Bronze High Jump Long Jump Silver 200m Gold

Senior Boys

Matt Lavery	200m Bronze
John Wilson	Hurdles /100m Bronze
Rory Strain	Long Jump Silver
Alex Hook	400m /High Jump Bronze Shot Gold
Louis Bonazza	Hurdles/100m/200m/400m/High Jump Silver Long Jump Gold
Ben Lally	Long Jump / Bronze Shot Silver
	Hurdles/100m/200m/400m/High Jump Gold

Senior Girls

Saorla Van Heerden	Hurdles/100/200 Bronze
Louise Leonetti	400m/Long Jump Silver
Abigail Morrison	High Jump Silver
Tabitha Allen	High Jump Bronze Long Jump Gold
Georgia McKissick	Shot Silver High Jump Gold
Elliana Scott Harrison	Shot/400m Bronze 100m/200m Silver
	Hurdles Gold
Olivia Dixon	Long Jump Bronze Hurdles Silver
	100m/200m/400m Gold

Middle Boys

Ignacio Lecubarri	Shot Bronze
Jamie Nevin	Hurdles/Bronze Long Jump Silver
Ronan Jordan	100m Bronze Hurdles/High Jump Silver
Luciano Albarengo	100m/200m Silver
Samuel Wright	200m/Long Jump Bronze
	High Jump/Shot Gold
Christian Simms	High Jump Bronze Shot Silver
	Hurdles /100m/200m/Long Jump - Gold

Dev Race

Middle Girls

Claudia Simms
Clara Waterworth

India McNellis
Bernadette
Abi Toland

Dev Race

Dev Race Boys

Junior Boys

Teddy Geddis
Peter Thompson
Matthew Thompson
Louis Scullion
Jamie Anderson - Orr

Junior Girls

Eva Hill
Connie Waterworth
Emily Tweed
Mimi Thompson
Tara Curry
Niamh Devlin
Penelope Brammer
Sophie Gordon

Hurdles/High Jump /Long Jump Bronze
100m/200m/shot Bronze

Long Jump/High Jump Gold
Shot Silver Hurdles Gold
Long Jump Silver 100m/200m Gold
Hurdles/100/200/High Jump Silver
Shot Gold

Bronze Charlie Fox Silver Evie Brammer
Gold Charlotte Sittlington

Lucas Liang Silver Stephen Bremner Gold

Shot Silver

High Jump Silver

Long Jump/75m Silver

75m/Long Jump/High Jump/Shot - Bronze

75m/Long Jump/High Jump/Shot - Gold

75m Bronze

Shot Bronze

Long Jump Bronze

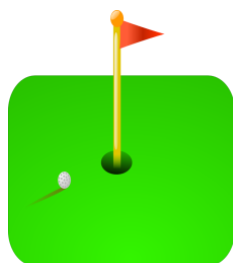
High Jump Bronze

High Jump Silver

Shot Silver

Long Jump / 75m Silver

75m / Long Jump / High Jump/ Shot Gold



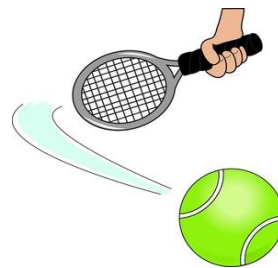
Golf

Well done to all of our golfers who played in the Texas Scramble at Bangor Golf Club where feedback from the members has been fantastic, complimenting on our pupils' good behaviour and enthusiasm.

Our elite golfers have been competing in many competitions over the past few weeks in European events and handicaps continue to drop (covered in Mr Vance's comments). Following on from the success of our girls, the elite boys will be taking on B.R.A and OLSPK on Monday 12th June and Tuesday 13th June at Royal Belfast Golf Club. Good luck boys!

Tennis News

Well done to all of our tennis teams this term – they have all played exceptionally well and results, although varied, are very encouraging considering the ‘big hitters’ that we are up against!



Tennis results

Boys

Inters

Rockport v Bangor Grammar School

Rockport won 4-2

Rockport v Regent House

Rockport won 4-2

Juniors

Rockport v Coleraine Grammar

Rockport won 4-2

Rockport v Larne Grammar

Rockport won 6-0

Rockport v R.B.A.I.

R.B.A.I won 3-3

(count back of games)

Group decider for semi-final!!!!

Minors

Rockport v Bangor Grammar School

BGS won 4-2

Rockport v Regent House

Rockport won 4-2

Girls

Inters

Rockport v Belfast High School

BHS won 4-2

Juniors

Rockport v Grosvenor

Grosvenor won 5-1

Minors

Rockport v Strathearn

Strathearn won 5-1

Rockport v Glenlola Collegiate

Glenlola Collegiate won 4-2

Special mention must go to our Junior Boys team as they just missed out on a place in the Ulster Schools Semi Final by a count back of games and also the Inter Boys who were undefeated.

We hope to play all of the internal tennis finals on Wednesday 14th and pupils are already signing up for positions as line callers and ball boys/girls! Let's hope for good weather!

Sports Day

Sports Day was a fantastic extravaganza of athletic and stamina prowess. From our littlest babies attacking their assault course, refusing their assault course, choosing someone else's assault course because their's had a spider on it to the powerful grit and speed of the inter house relay races. Having children in both the early years and junior sports days meant I got to watch children of all ages fighting for a position on the podium. Cheering each other on, screaming for their house and clapping wildly as lines were crossed and new personal bests achieved. It was excellent and the atmosphere electric. Next year a few of us have decided to watch Sports Day in style....set up a table, crank up a barbecue and crack open the champers:)

Stretching the Canvas

Last night I had the privilege of attending Rockport School's art exhibition "Stretching the Canvas" in the Ava Gallery at Clondeboye Estate. To say I was impressed is an understatement. The sheer talent and diversity shone through with the use of a wide range of materials and subjects. What struck me the most was the bravery of these young people to show their emotions, display intimate memories and create thought provoking, comforting and sometimes shocking pieces of art. I thought their work was simply extraordinary. I know that it has been an exceptional year for these students, being mentored and nurtured through this unique scheme in conjunction with Visual Artists Ireland. I know that so many people have been involved with this project. It really did blow me away. It was also a privilege to listen to Colin Davidson RUA, explain his work, his processes, and how he views this creative world. "Art always leaves a piece missing for you as a viewer to fit the last piece in, whatever that may be."

Dates for your diary:**Small Sailors – Tuesday 13th June**

It's fun at sea and on land for the Early Years Small Sailors Day at Ballyholme Yacht Club. We'll be all hands on deck providing hot chocolate, tea, coffee, sweets and refreshments for all the mums and dads coming to join in.

Speech Day & BBQ – Thursday 15th June – 3pm

After the tear jerking speeches and congratulations of Speech Day you'll be ready for a relaxing glass of something cold on the front lawn. We will be providing a BBQ, donations bar, refreshments with bouncy castles and face painting (kids only ☺). We hope you'll join us and fingers crossed for some beautiful sunshine.

If any parent would like to give us a helping hand manning the bar, barbecue or refreshments we would love to hear from you on pta@rockportschool.com

Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson