



Newsletter no 31 / Spring Term / 18th May 2018



MAY	Time	Event
Mon 21 st	9.15 -14.00	R5 – R10 School Exams Start (end Friday, 25 th May) Playgroup at Library R3 – R4 to Ulster Museum
Tue 22 nd	9.15 – 15.00	R1 – R2 to Belfast Zoo
Thu 24 th		R4 Hillwalking
Fri 25 th		A2 Study Leave begins
Mon 28 th		Bank Holiday Monday (school Closed except for Boarders)

Examinations

All GCSE and A Level candidates have been fully briefed about the expectations and requirements which they must fulfil during their official examinations. One of the main areas of concerns is the prohibition of phones and smart watches. Please remind your son/daughter that phones and smart watches are **not allowed at all** in the examination room and therefore should be left at home.

JCQ, who oversee all examination boards, has launched an online video, highlighting to candidates that carrying a mobile phone, even if it is switched off, into an examination room, can constitute a malpractice. The link to the video is <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/jcq-video-no-mobiles-in-exams> and it would be helpful if you could ask your son/daughter to view it, so that they can be aware of the penalties faced if they break this rule. To this end, we shall also ban smart-watches during school examinations. A clock will be visible in each examination room for those candidates who have had to leave their smart watch at home. Thank you.

Mrs Rhonda D. Palmer
Deputy Head

GCSE ART

R12 GCSE Art pupils saw the end of their course this week as the visiting moderator came into school to assess their work. In a slight change of format this year, the open viewing for family and friends will run alongside the A-level exhibition in mid-June, date to be confirmed. In the meantime included are some examples of pupil work. **Megan Ashcroft's** stunning oil portrait of her Grandfather displays a maturity way beyond her years. **Cameron Alexander** has created a clever homage to rapper Tupac Shakur with this portrait made entirely from the tape from music cassettes (though some explanation as to what these antiquated objects actually were was needed – naturally, I passed his query onto a more 'experienced' member of staff!) Well done to all!



David Hamilton
Teacher of Art & Design

Summer Scheme

Following the success of last year's Summer Scheme, we are hoping to run a Summer Scheme this year. This is subject to interest. Please email me at lathanasiou@rockportschool.com or speak to me directly if you are keen for your child/children to attend.

We are hoping to run the Scheme for the first three weeks of the Summer holiday, beginning on Monday 2nd July and excluding public holidays. Summer Scheme is open to children from Playgroup-R7. Siblings who attend other schools are welcome. During Summer Scheme the children will take part in a range of activities on site, as well as take trips to our beach and local attractions.

The scheme will run if we have enough interest and will operate from 8.30am until 5.30pm each day. Children must bring a packed lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Booking forms and payment details will be sent by email to all PGR to R7 parents in the next week. If you have any questions, please ask.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

Balmoral Show

The R7s had a great day exploring the Balmoral Show. Everything from fun fair rides to sheep shearing and the chance to see one of the F1 cars. Pupils visited all the stalls and saw all the stands and competed to see who could bring home the most freebies! Weather was superb and a great day was had by all.



C Reid

Head of Faculty



Swimming/Trampolining

Tuesday's afternoon exam will take place from 1.30-2.30pm to allow us to attend our swimming/trampolining lessons at the Aurora. Pupils should come to school on Tuesday dressed in their games kit, as per normal routine. All R6 & R7 pupils should bring their swimming gear with them.

Exam week

Monday 21st May begins exam week for the R5-7 pupils. Please help minimise stress for pupils by keeping as close as possible to normal routines. Pupils should report to their form rooms as usual for registration at 8.45am. It would be a good idea to ensure pencil cases are restocked (to include colouring pencils for completing drawings and diagrams).



Revision has been taking place during lessons to help reinforce the work that has been covered this year. Please encourage your child to read through their notes over the weekend and each evening prior to an exam. No additional homework will be set this incoming week. Clubs will continue as normal.

Suzanne McCartney

Head of Upper Juniors

R7 Hillwalking

Well done to the R7 class for successfully completing their hill-walking in the Mourne. They had a gorgeous sunny day for their expedition.

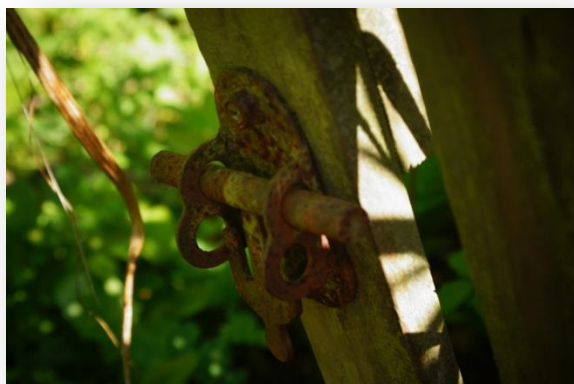


Photography Club

We had depleted numbers this week as the R7 pupils were away hill-walking. However, the remaining R6 pupils were keen to get outside and make the most of our recent good weather. This week we were taking shots in the yard area and the back lane.



Emily Boyd, R6



Peter Thompson, R6



Olivia Anderson-Orr, R6

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

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Netball BBQ and bun sale

Many thanks to all those who helped contribute to the bun sale at the Rockport Invitational Netball tournament. There are still a number of un-named tubs in my room which need collected. A special mention to Mr and Mrs Shiel for the use of their BBQ's and their assistance on the day and thanks to Jack McGimpsey for stepping in to man the BBQ. Also many thanks to Mr Porter for sourcing a BBQ from his golf club. Your help on that day is invaluable and most appreciated.



Miss McConaghy
R9M Form Teacher



Sixth Form Work Experience

Year 13 have mostly found their places of interest to attend for their work experience and this will commence for most of them throughout June, after their AS Exams. Many thanks to parents for their involvement when placing the students. The areas of interest include primary teaching, TV production, Darren Clarke School of Golf as well as a dental practice, we hope they will find their week out in placement very rewarding.

Ongoing Service Projects in School

Many thanks for the ongoing support from sixth form in various classes throughout the school. The mentoring projects will recommence next year to allow them the chance to concentrate on their studies, these duties which include carrying out registration one day each week and also helping out in the Early Years classrooms as well as within the PE department.

Reflection on Sixth Form Experience

'My time in sixth form has added to my experience at Rockport. I will forever treasure the experiences with all my teachers and how they have helped me develop into a better, more confident, outgoing, caring person. I hope to be able to pass on the knowledge, wisdom and help that I have received to others, as they have done for me. My dream is to pursue a career within Airline and Airport Management'.

Timothy Li
Head Boy



Heather McBride
Head of Sixth Form

Officially Summer

If you are new to Northern Ireland, you might be pleasantly surprised that we do have quite nice weather contrary to rumours that it rains ALL the time. Over 15°C is considered almost tropical in NI and with a stretch of over a week with no rain, it must officially be SUMMER!

Another definite sign that summer has begun is that charcoal, lighter fuel, small potting plants, Miracle-Gro, and vest tops are situated near the entrance to every supermarket. All these signs are great things for me as my husband suffers from “I hate the winter” syndrome and constantly threatens to sell up and move to a warmer country. So for now, this sunny spell has placated him and we are staying put. This is also a great thing for me because I am a hoarder and the thought of having to “stage” my home for sale would require an army of people and several industrial storage containers. My husband NEEDS the sun and is the unseasonably tanned gent who catches any ray he can and has been known to sunbathe in January if he can find a spot in the garden with no wind – I have evidence. I, on the other hand, am pasty white, born in County Tyrone with strong ancestral links there and so, have always been a bog dweller (I refer to County Tyrone’s famously beautiful peat bogs). I love the smell of rain and I don’t mind the cold.

Now the rest of us who were either born here or have lived here for over a year will know that the weather can be extremely changeable and that those rumours might actually be true. For now though, I hope you all get to take advantage of this weather and see Ireland in all its fine glory, the hedgerows in particular are bursting with wild flowers.

Judging by the school Facebook pages, the children are enjoying their school surroundings to the max. Beach, forest, river, sea, hedgerows, and lawn adventures abound. My children are racking up over 15000 steps a day at school...either their Fitbits are broken or they’ve attached them to Mr Vance’s dog! Whether the step counter is correct or not I do know that our children spend a huge amount of time outside; this is one of the plus points of Rockport where learning is actively encouraged outside the classroom every single day.

Thankfully this heatwave is to continue at least until Sunday...have a lovely weekend!

Dads’ Day Out – 28th September – Field of Dreams

An afternoon of fun, jest, and competitiveness (for some) waits at Field of Dreams. Clay pigeon shooting is for the accomplished and beginner with all dads, granddads, uncles, and friends welcome. All training and equipment will be provided on site so there’s no need to head out and spend a fortune on unnecessary kit...unless you want to ☺

Thank you to those who have already booked their spot. Further details of cost will be available towards the end of June. Shoot cost £40 approximately. Places are limited so please contact the office to put your name down or email pta@rockportschool.com.

As in previous years the Dirty Duck in Holywood will be booked for a post shoot toast to your achievements. This is not included in the shoot price.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Speech Day – 21st June

Killard School – 26th June

Dads Day Out – 28th September

Carol Thompson

PTA Chairperson