



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 32 / Spring Term / 25th May 2018



MAY	Time	Event
Mon 28th		Bank Holiday (school closed except for Boarders)
Tue 29th	9.30 start 12.30 start 13.00 start	R8 Girls Tennis Team v Friends School, Lisburn (A) R8 & Junior Boys Tennis Team v Bangor Grammar (A), return 16.00 R8 & Junior Girls Tennis Team V Strathearn (A)
Wed 30th	13.30 start	U12 & Junior Girls Tennis teams v MCB (H)
Thu 31st	13.30 start	Tennis Finals - Front Lawn (all day)
JUNE		
Fri 1st		Sports Day
Sat 2 nd	10.30-12.00	Rockport Open Day

ROCKPORT SCHOOL, Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 0DD, UK

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Company Reg No: NI007054 Registered Charity No: XN48119

Ski Trip 2019

Last week pupils received some information about next year's school ski trip. It has proved very popular and nearly all places have been filled. If you are interested in letting your son or daughter take part, please get in touch with Mr McIlveen smcilveen@rockportschool.com as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



21st May 2018

Dear Parent,

Ski Trip 2019

I am pleased to announce our plans for the Ski trip to take place from the 23rd February – 2nd March 2019 next year. Rockport School has enjoyed 3 extremely successful skiing holidays and the event is now a regular addition to the school calendar. It is also pleasing to note that students from years R7-R14 are able to participate.

We will be travelling to the wonderful French resort of Les Menuires, situated in the heart of the Belleville valley (the largest of the three valleys) located in the stunning French Alps.

We will be staying at the family run hotel Club Hotel Skilt, which is a ski out hotel located just 50 metres from the nearest ski lift.

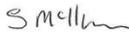
The cost of the trip will be **£1000.00**

This includes flights, transfers, medical and travel insurance, full board accommodation, ski hire, 6 x 4 hours of tuition and a 6-day lift pass, in resort representation, and ski breakage insurance.

I have arranged with the school Bursar to administer a payment plan that will allow you to spread the cost over three instalments. The first deposit of **£250.00** to be paid no later than the **15th June 2018**, the second payment of **£400.00** to be made no later by **14th September 2018**, and the final payment of **£350.00** to be made no later by **16th November 2018**.

If you would like to reserve a place for your son/daughter on the trip please return the reply slip along with a **£250.00** non-refundable cash or cheque deposit to Mr McIlveen. Please make cheques payable to Rockport School and please be aware that payment deadlines must be made.

Kind Regards,



Scott McIlveen
PE Department
smcilveen@rockportschool.com

**SKI TRIP PLACE RESERVATION
PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN WITH DEPOSIT -**

I would like to reserve a place for my son/daughter (please print)

Pupil's full name as it appears on passport	Date of Birth

Please give details of you child's ski experience eg Complete beginner/ Intermediate /Advanced

Signed Parent/Guardian _____

Open Day: Despite the school closing for the Bank Holiday on Monday (except for full boarders), next week is still a 5 day week, ending as it does with our final Open Day Saturday morning, 2nd June. We expect all pupils to be in from 1015-1200 that morning and staff will brief them in the days ahead on which activity to come prepared for. Thank you in advance for your support.

Rockport School

Sports Day 2018

Friday 1st June



Front Lawn

10:30 Playgroup/ Reception – R4 Races

&

The popular parents 'Tug o' War'

11:30 Tea & Coffee

Refreshments for pupils in classrooms

11:45 Presentation of Prizes

12:00 Lunch for whole school

Main track

12:30 Year 4 – Year 12 events start

15:00 'Pimms' & 'Rockport Iced Coffee' with strawberry tarts

15:15 Presentation of Prizes in the Sports Hall

Sports Day - Guest Speaker

This year we are very fortunate to have the current Commonwealth Gold medallist gymnast Rhys McClenaghan to present the sports awards. Our pupils are really looking forward to meeting an elite athlete close to their age!!!

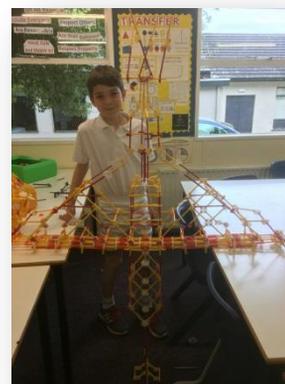


Rhys McClenaghan is a Northern Irish artistic gymnast competing internationally for Ireland and Northern Ireland, and domestically at both the British and Irish national championships. He won the gold medal on the pommel horse at the 2018 Commonwealth Games beating the reigning Olympic and two-time World Champion, Max Whitlock.

Gail Holland
Head of PE and Personal Development

K'Nex Club

After our bridge building last week it was our tower building this time round. Points awarded for rigidity, design and aesthetics. It was a close competition this week with our resident professional Finn McCartney seeing off stiff challenges from those wishing to steal his crown. It's all taken very seriously and has been known to get fiercely competitive, with the odd (and sometimes lengthy) dispute over points awarded! Somewhere in the future maybe some of these talented pupils will be building the Northern Ireland to Scotland bridge!!



Colin Reid (resident engineer supervisor)

Don't forget sun cream...

The summer has arrived and we are all looking forward to spending lots of time outside for playtimes and also lessons. It is really important that children wear sun cream to school which is applied before they arrive in the morning. This offers protection during the school day. If you would like us to reapply throughout the day, please send your chosen sun cream to school, clearly labelled with your child's name. School sun hats are available from the uniform shop.

Busy weeks ahead

The next few weeks are set to be very busy. A list of these events, dates, times and uniform requirements will be sent home with your child. There will also be one displayed in the Early Years building to keep you right 😊

Sports Day - Friday 1st June 2018, 10.30am on Front Lawn

Early Years Sports Day will begin at 10.30am (sharp) on Friday 1st June on the front lawn. The Prize Giving will take place at approximately 11.30am. R4 will then join the Senior Sports Day from 12.30pm. School will run as normal after Sports Day.

Uniform Reminder

Playgroup/Reception

White shorts, white polo shirts, white ankle socks, trainers or plimsolls and green Rockport sweatshirt.

R1-R4

Whites, as above, with school blazers.

Open Day, Saturday 2nd June, 10.30am-12pm

It's Open Day next Saturday and we would love to show off as many of our pupils as possible! Children should meet in the Jackson Hall **from** 10.15am. Collection no later than 12pm.

Declamations, Friday 8th June, 10am

You are warmly invited to our Early Years Declamations which will take place on Friday 8th June at 10am in the Jackson Hall. Tea and coffee will be available in the Jackson Hall from 9.30. Children should wear their summer uniform with blazers.

Playgroup Declamations, Friday 15th June 2018, 9.15am in Playgroup Building

Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to our Playgroup Declamations on Friday 15th June.

Summer Scheme

Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest in our Summer Scheme. Please email me at lathanasiou@rockportschool.com or speak to me directly if you are interested in your child/children attending.

Lynn Athanasiou
Head of Early Years

R1 & R2 Trip to Belfast Zoo

R1 and R2 had a fascinating educational talk followed by a wonderful trip round the zoo seeing all their favourite animals. With the sun shining on us we had lunch at the top and a play in the park.



M Elliott, R1
C Williamson, R2

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Science Fair 7th June

Any pupils who have not yet returned their permission slip and money to their form teacher should do so by Tuesday morning.

Photography Club

This week we finally got a lovely sunny afternoon to head down to the beach.



Emily Boyd, R6



Valerie Hüper, R7



Valerie Hüper, R7



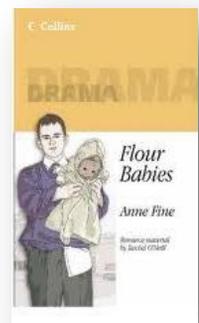
Olivia Anderson-Orr, R6



Finn McCartney, R7

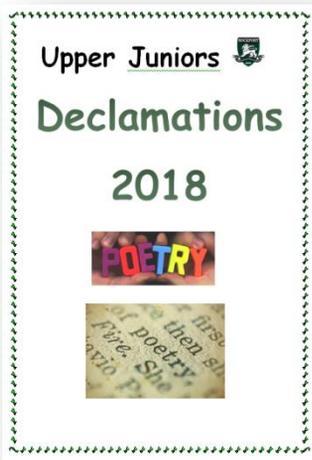
R7 Flour Babies Week – advance notice

During this incoming week R7 will begin reading the play *Flour Babies* by Anne Fine. The following week will be our Flour Babies Experiment. Pupils will be given details of how to prepare themselves so that they can come to school fully organized on Monday 4th June.



Lost Items

A number of pupils are missing items of uniform and/or games equipment. It is possible that some of this property has already made its way to the wrong home. Please check that your child only has items belonging to them. In particular, we are still trying to locate a few lost tennis rackets and a blazer. All are named.



Declamations

Our annual Declamations competition has been scheduled to take place on Friday 7th June. All R5-R7 pupils have now received their booklet containing this year's selected poems. We have been reading through and discussing these during our English lessons. Each pupil should now choose one poem to focus upon and prepare. The extended weekend provides a good opportunity to get this underway.

Suzanne McCartney
Head of Upper Juniors

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On Monday 14th May Rockport hosted the **largest** one-day netball tournament in Northern Ireland!

Fifty teams (600 girls) participated with both Primary schools and post-Primary schools taking part. The weather was very kind to us and the atmosphere of healthy competition mixed with pure enjoyment was palpable! Feedback from the schools has been amazing and once again Rockport was showcased to teachers, parents and pupils from all over the Province.

This couldn't happen without the 'team' of teachers, parents and most importantly, the pupils. I revel at the skills our girls display during this tournament whether it is keeping score in a complicated format, helping with catering, or just simply welcoming others to their school! I can't count the number of visiting teachers and parents who complimented our girls on their good manners and helpfulness. We are extremely proud of them.

Next year we will be celebrating the **25th** year of the tournament – it only seems like yesterday when I started this with a handful of local schools and now we have a waiting list! Thank you to all of my 'team' and a huge 'Well done' to the girls!

Gail Holland
Head of PE and Personal Development

Sixth Form Projects

I would like to congratulate our year 13 boys Ben, Johnny and Jordan on their continued hard work helping out with the Early Years PE department. In January they asked if they could use some of their free time to help out within the school. Mr. McIlveen was eager to use their PE skills delivering the varied sports programme to the Early Years. The younger pupils have enjoyed getting to know our sixth form pupils throughout the year.



Housekeeping

I would like to remind all sixth form pupils that when they are in school for an exam or for study that they should wear their school uniform. The study room will be available for use until the end of the exam period, therefore those in school should use this area to study, taking the normal breaks at break time and lunchtime, A level teachers will be available for support throughout the exams.

Reflection

This week we have some reflecting comments from another Year 14 Student.

'I am so pleased that I made the decision to stay and complete my A levels at Rockport. I get more one-to-one attention and I have been given more opportunities that I wouldn't have experienced in others schools. I really enjoyed my Round Square trip to South Africa and will miss the support and guidance. It has always been my dream to pursue a career in Dental nursing and I am delighted to have obtained a place on this course'.

Ashleigh Riddell
Year 14 Prefect



Heather McBride
Head of Sixth Form