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proud members of



A unique opportunity

THE GOLF ACADEMY
ROCKPORT SCHOOL

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Welcome to Rockport

We are the only school of its kind in Northern Ireland; an independent Preparatory and Senior School for both day and boarding pupils, from ages 3-18.

We offer flexibility and a genuine promise that the individual child's needs are at the forefront of our educational provision.

Our ethos is simple but effective - provide an equal sporting opportunity to all pupils and allow enthusiasts a platform to take their sport to as high a level as possible.

The Rockport School Golf Academy is a unique opportunity combining golf with academic studies. It's perfectly situated in a wonderful location on the County Down coast and surrounded by first-class golf courses.

Open to UK and international pupils with Golf Scholarships available.



The first school
based golf academy
in Ireland.

Flexibility to pursue individual talent.

"The idea of a Golf Academy at Rockport is great news for Ulster Golf! I wish it had been there for my son when he attended the school."

David Feherty
(Former PGA Golfer & NBC television reporter)



Beautiful Northern Ireland a perfect golfing setting

It's no secret that when it comes to golf, Northern Ireland is a force to be reckoned with. Home to world famous golf courses and producer of a trio of golf champions, our country has a population that loves and appreciates golf.

Quite simply Northern Ireland is the perfect setting to savour everything golf!

Rockport School is ideally situated on the beautiful shores of Belfast Lough with the country's finest golf courses, virtually on our doorstep.

We're proud to be building our Academy on the unique reputation and success of Northern Ireland golf.

Rory McIlroy developed his game at one of our prestigious partner clubs, Hollywood Golf Club and still maintains close and regular links for practice with both Hollywood and Bangor.

Why choose our Golf Academy?

Golf has never been more popular and as a business, social and life skill, learning the basics or developing a more serious approach enables Rockport pupils to establish golf as part of their future.

The Golf Academy offers a great opportunity for aspiring young champions as well as those wanting a quality academic education with flexibility to pursue their individual talent.

The programme extends beyond simply playing: modules on golf etiquette, rules, course management, green-keeping, caddying and physical health and fitness are an integral part of it.

The Golf Academy Structure

Our Academy partners with several outstanding clubs on the school's doorstep and pupils at different stages benefit from the expertise of the Professionals at Bangor, Holywood and Blackwood Golf Clubs. A special partnership has also been in existence for many years with the Royal Belfast Golf Club and 'home' fixtures are played there.

Beginners

At this level an introductory coaching module is delivered using the excellent indoor and outdoor facilities at Blackwood Golf Centre, delivered by Debbie Hanna PGA Professional.

Pupils from the age of 3 take part in beginners level with a combination of fun activity with golf basics such as, set up and shape, swing, driving, chipping and putting.

For those children at a more advanced stage course play is included and fine tuning the essential skills.



Nurturing talent from
the age of 3.

Development Squad

Pupils with an aptitude to progress further will be eligible for inclusion in the Development Squad, where Stephen Crooks, PGA professional at Holywood Golf Club delivers a programme that includes in depth tuition and practice, covering:

- Putting and green reading
- Chipping, pitching and wedges with distance control, trajectory, spin, length of swing, weight distribution
- Bunker play
- Short and long iron play
- Driving
- On course, mental work, routines, etiquette, rules, games, etc.

The Development squad is restricted in numbers and focuses on improving the skills of pupils with potential. Progress will be closely monitored and documented.

Elite Squad

Members are under the guidance of Stephen Gordon, PGA Professional at Bangor Golf Club, on a weekly basis plus additional time to meet the demands of tournament schedules.

At this level, players will be working on course management and the mental/psychological approach to the game.

Having their own coaches by this stage, a broader view of golf and the wider industry will be covered throughout the year, enhancing their experience and knowledge of the game in general. This squad is open to Fifth and Sixth Form students, or younger pupils who show particular talent.

Elite squad members will be able to opt for Golf as their major sport every term.

There will be an expectation on fitness standards and, at all times, commitment to academic studies will be required.

Golf Scholarships

We encourage children to fall in love with the game of golf! Our young talented golfers are dedicated, enthusiastic and great ambassadors for the school.

We aim to make this possible for talented young golfers wishing to join the programme through bursary and scholarship support. Applicants will be assessed and awarded on the basis of golf ability and potential, coupled with academic standard. The assessment will be determined in conjunction with the golf professionals.

Awards are available to Northern Ireland, UK mainland and international pupils at varying degrees to cover the golf tuition as a minimum and also bursary support for academic tuition.

An annual Golf Talent Identification Day will be held for the identification of potential golf scholars.





Success is in our DNA.

As part of our Academy all children from the age of three play golf as a timetabled PE sport.

This is testament to the commitment made to nurturing talent from a young age and supporting them through their golfing journey.

Success is celebrated and our young people have the desire to compete and represent Rockport at the highest level, both nationally and internationally.

Bangor Golf Club

Overlooking Belfast Lough and the Antrim Hills, the course reflects the character of the county with its undulating parkland course. Stephen Gordon uses the V1 golf video analysis system, the no.1 swing analysis system in golf, allowing him to analyse the player's golf swing and compare it to the best golfers in the world.



Hollywood Golf Club

Set high in the Hollywood Hills of County Down, and just a few minutes from Rockport, the club enjoys breathtaking views of Belfast Lough and the Antrim Coast. Hollywood is an 18 hole undulating parkland course and is well known as the home club of world golf star, Rory McIlroy. Professional, Stephen Crooks, manages a high quality coaching programme.



Blackwood Golf Club

Regarded as one of the finest golf centres in Northern Ireland. It is ideally located a short distance from Rockport and its purpose-built coaching facilities are unmatched with Par 71 and Par 3 courses, a floodlit covered driving range, outdoor practice areas and putting green and new indoor coaching facilities. Debbie Hanna and her coaching team manage the Rockport Beginners programme.

Royal Belfast Golf Club

Located adjacent to Rockport on the shores of Belfast Lough, R.B.G.C. was founded in 1881 and is the oldest golf club in Ireland. The School enjoys an historic and close association with Royal Belfast.