



ROCKPORT
SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS





Rockport School began with a novel idea: the individual happiness of children is the most important factor in their personal and academic development. This was the enlightened vision of Rockport's founder Geoffrey Bing, who first opened its doors as a preparatory school for boys over a century ago. While the school has undergone some changes since 1906, Bing's vision of a childcentred education has remained at the heart of all that we do.

Rockport is now a co-educational school, offering a bespoke education for children aged 2½ to 18. We are proud to be Northern Ireland's only fully independent school, which brings a freedom and a dynamism that allows our young people to flourish. Rockport's beautiful and safe coastal setting affords pupils the perfect environment in which to live, work and grow.



Rockport is an unashamedly small school and this enables our pupils to receive the individual support they will need to thrive academically. Our tailor-made programme means that our teachers are invested in the lives of our pupils for the entirety of their academic careers. Our dedicated team works with parents and guardians to guide children through the important milestones of the curriculum. Whether this is in preparation for 11+, 13+ Common Entrance or through GCSE and A-Level study, we aim to equip all of our children with the skills and knowledge they need to move on to the next stage with confidence.

While we are proud of our academic success, learning is about much more than examinations. Our holistic extracurricular programme teaches our children the resilience, curiosity and adventure which we believe will help them to live full, enriching lives. We encourage all our pupils to learn at least one musical instrument and participate in speech and drama. We promote the written word as a vehicle for self-expression. Our annual declamations and public speaking competition enables all our pupils to showcase their favourite writing on a public platform.

LEARNING & CREATING





CARING

The journey through childhood to teenage years is a voyage of discovery. Each pupil is treated as an individual at Rockport and care is taken to ensure that the specific needs and requirements of each child are met.

Through challenge and new experiences we learn the most and our young people are stretched to reach their full potential. Through all of this, they are supported by teachers, tutors and pastoral leaders, who help them develop into mature, confident, young people. Close links are formed between home and school, and regular and open communication between pupils, parents and school ensures that growth is constant.

Not only do we instil these traditional characteristics in our pupils, we also expect them to live and exemplify what they have learnt and thus mould the lives of those growing up after them.

Rockport is a home away from home. Our boarding community has been at the heart of the school since its establishment. Today, boys and girls of different ages from the local area, from across the United Kingdom and from places many miles away, board at Rockport.

Our caring house parents and boarding staff provide a safe and happy environment, with plenty of structured and well-focused activity, including academic study during evening prep, regular trips and weekend excursions.

Boarding allows an individual to flourish and learn how to be a member of a wider community of friends and peers. Boarding is a place where you can truly understand others by understanding yourself. Boarding is, in every sense, a place where you can learn invaluable skills for life.

SHARING





LEADING

We believe that leadership is the responsibility of all and not the preserve of the few. At Rockport all children learn to lead by giving service to others. Whether this is through our community service projects, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or involvement in Round Square international projects, all our pupils learn to be confident, compassionate leaders by volunteering their time, energy and creativity for the wellbeing of the community.

Active pupil participation helps to make Rockport a dynamic and exciting place to live, work and grow. It is in this way that our young people learn the true value that comes from leadership in the service of others.



PLAYING & EXPLORING

Sport is as good for the mind as it is for the body. We believe this so passionately that Physical Education and Games take place every day.

Our idyllic coastal setting provides the perfect backdrop for exercise. Whether it is rugby on the sports field, tennis on the lawn, netball on the multi-purpose pitch or orienteering across the estate, there are a wide variety of team and individual sports for all.

Rockport is home to the first school-based golf academy in Ireland. It offers a high-performance sport programme coupled with a first-rate international education.

In addition to our onsite facilities, our pupils take full advantage of the neighbouring yacht club, golf course and Olympic standard sports centre. From the earliest age our pupils are taken hillwalking and learn basic navigational skills. In the senior school this progresses into full mountaineering expeditions, with almost all pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

From ballet to badminton, from horse riding to hockey, from shooting to sailing, every pupil is challenged and encouraged to take part in a plethora of sporting and adventurous activities.





We believe it is vital that all our pupils look beyond their natural horizons to explore the world beyond this tranquil corner of Northern Ireland.

As Ireland's only member of the Round Square organisation of schools, our pupils are uniquely placed to participate in service projects, symposiums and student exchanges with other schools worldwide. Not only do our pupils venture outwards, they benefit from a thriving international mix within the school community.

We believe that through these experiences, whether they are excursions on the international stage or friendships formed at home, all our pupils are encouraged to become truly open-minded global citizens of the future.

EMBRACING







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