



SIXTH FORM AT ROCKPORT SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM AT ROCKPORT SCHOOL

In September 2015, Rockport launched its first 6th Form. This marked the natural completion of the School's progression and pupils now have the opportunity to avail of a Rockport education which extends from Nursery to A Level. The small, nurturing environment of Rockport, coupled with excellent teaching and wonderful opportunities afforded to our students all help mould and create young people who are well equipped for university life and adulthood.

THE SIXTH FORM - WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

As Northern Ireland's only independent school, Rockport remains committed to its traditional goals. We are an academic school, with a fine record in terms of exam results, and the pursuit of academic rigour – but we are also a school which prides itself on bringing out the very best in all our pupils, whatever their abilities, talents and interests.

Rockport is unashamedly a small school; our size means that every pupil knows everyone else – young and old – and our class sizes are much smaller than at other schools. This familiarity and the level of one-to-one attention that each pupil receives, within the classroom and beyond, is an invaluable way for pupils to excel at A-Level. Specialist teaching in a broad range of subjects enables all pupils to have the right combination of A-Levels for all Higher Education courses, in the UK and overseas.

But, above all, Rockport is a living community. Although most are day pupils, our boarding school heritage fosters the close relationships that bind both staff and pupils together. The school's enormously busy programme ranges from national sporting success to quality performances in the arts, together with outward bound schemes. Each boy and girl has the opportunity to participate in the widest possible range of challenging options and our pupils emerge as extremely confident and well-rounded young adults.

Our membership of the Round Square association of schools gives our pupils an unparalleled opportunity to participate in a host of challenges, exchanges and service projects around the world.



CURRICULUM



The Sixth Form experience at Rockport is about exploring a new intellectual landscape and offers girls and boys two years of rich stimulus in the classroom, a wealth of experience and opportunity outside it, and an ideal preparation for life after school.

The range of academic disciplines is broad and the curriculum is designed so that every pupil will be able to follow their own interests and to move onto whichever chosen path of Higher Education they wish to follow.

A-Level subjects offered: †

English Literature	Digital Technology
Mathematics	Music
Art & Design	Physical Education
Business Studies	Biology
French	Physics
Chemistry	Spanish
Geography	Moving Image Arts
Health & Social Care	

† Other A-Level subjects may be available on request but will be dependent on viability.

†† Business Studies is offered as a vocational qualification and complements and supplements A-Level courses. It is equivalent to one A-Level.

Teaching styles are committed, enthusiastic and individual. Sixth Formers will know their teachers well, not just from the classroom but because every member of staff contributes outside it. Individual revision and help sessions are readily available for Sixth Formers.

The Sixth Form is not just about learning in a narrow academic sense; it is about finding oneself and learning self-reliance, how to work independently and how to handle new challenges.

THE ENVIRONMENT - LIVING & WORKING AT ROCKPORT

Rockport is a boarding school in which the majority of boys and girls are day pupils; we are proud of the fact that all pupils benefit from being part of the dynamic boarding community with all the extra-curricular, sporting and cultural dimensions that go with a boarding ethos. Day pupils (who make up seventy-five percent of the school) and boarders are kept busy during the day, and there is a myriad of activities on offer in the evenings and at weekends, available to all.

Sixth Form boarders live in separate parts of the main House, in attractive accommodation, designed with both home and university in mind. Where possible, Lower Sixth pupils share twin-bedded rooms and Upper Sixth Formers occupy single study bedrooms.

All Sixth Formers – boarders and day pupils – are based in the Sixth Form Centre, a recently refurbished area with a convivial Common Room where girls and boys can chat and relax, and a quiet study room. All Sixth Formers have their own desk area. The study room is supervised by supportive members of staff who take an active interest in the studies currently being pursued by the Sixth Formers.

For Sixth Formers, the emphasis is on independence, openness and maturity; a preparation for university and an environment in which to grow.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the entrance criteria for Sixth Form?

The rigorous nature of A-Levels means there is a GCSE (or equivalent) standard that is required for pupils to move into the Sixth Form – usually having a B grade (or 7) at GCSE in the subjects to be studied at A-Level. However, the school retains its proud tradition of selecting pupils on their individual merits, not just the narrow parameters of academic achievement.

Will Rockport get bigger as Sixth Form expands?

Having Sixth Formers inevitably means that there are more pupils around the school, but this growth will be slow and incremental and will in no way alter the unique teacher-pupil relationships that have served Rockport so well in the past.

Will I fit in if I haven't been at Rockport before?

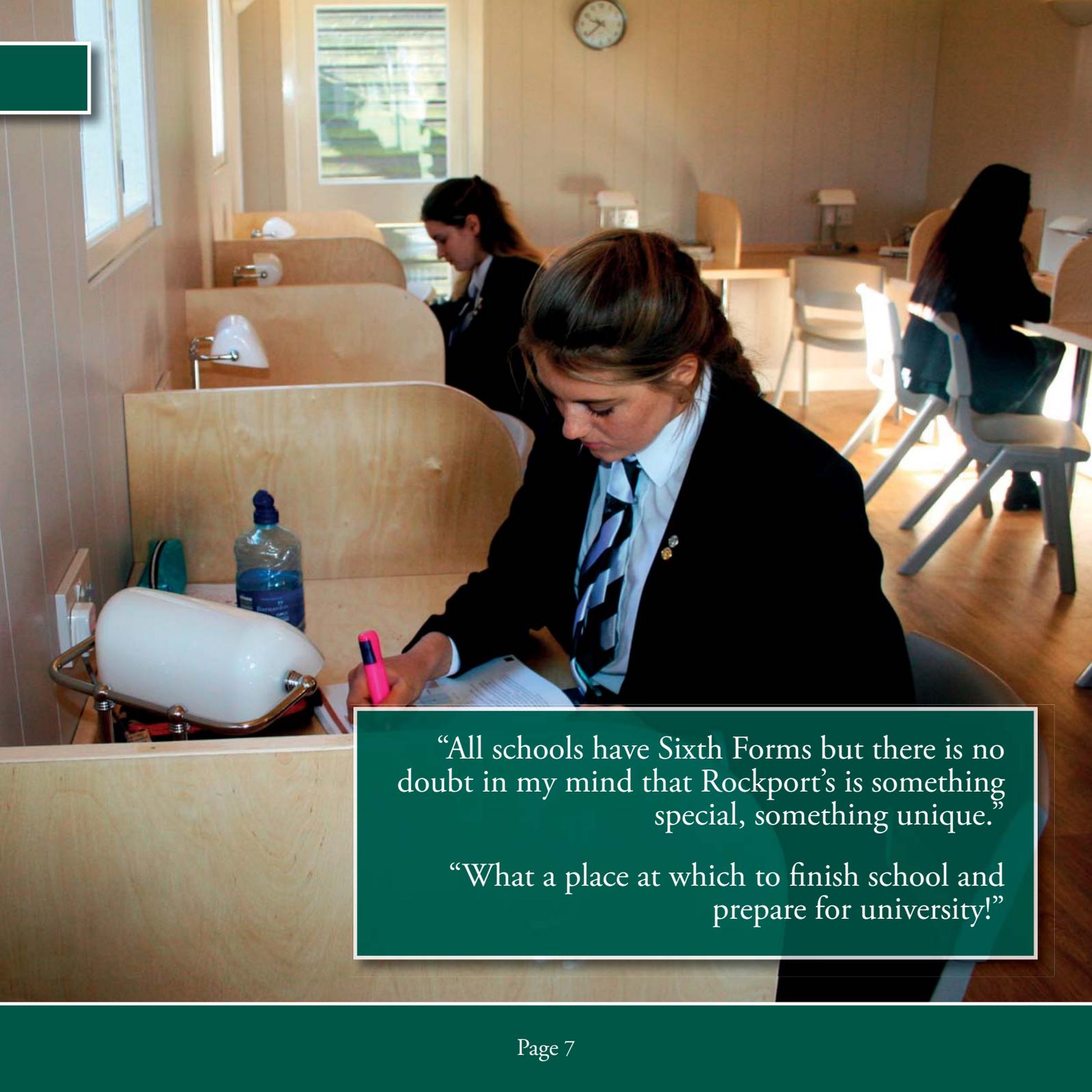
Rockport is a small and very welcoming place, and this is has always been the school's success. New pupils quickly feel as if they have always been at the school and there are always a number of overseas pupils who are also 'new' to Rockport.

How much independence do Sixth Formers have?

The Sixth Form years are a natural stepping stone to life at university and this is reflected in the semi-independent nature of A-Level study at Rockport. Sixth Formers are responsible for their own learning but structure and early staff intervention will enable important academic thresholds to be crossed. Sixth Form day and boarding accommodation also acts as preparation for independent living in Higher Education.

How do I apply?

Application should be made as soon as possible and all prospective pupils will invited to visit the school, to meet current pupils and staff, and to be interviewed by the Headmaster.



“All schools have Sixth Forms but there is no doubt in my mind that Rockport’s is something special, something unique.”

“What a place at which to finish school and prepare for university!”



ROCKPORT SCHOOL

Craigavad, Holywood
Co. Down, BT18 0DD
Tel. +44 (0)28 9042 8372
Fax. +44 (0)28 9042 2608
Email. info@rockportschool.com

