



# *Roundwood Park School*

Learning | Integrity | Friendship | Excellence





ROUNDWOOD CELESTIA  
SPORTS CENTRE

*'The whole school seems like one big family, in which the success of the students underlines a mutual success to all concerned.'* Year 7 Parent



# Welcome to Roundwood Park

*A very warm welcome to Roundwood Park School. Thank you for reading our prospectus which is intended to give you an introduction to our school.*



As a school graded 'Outstanding' by OFSTED, we were one of the first schools in the county to convert to Academy status in 2011. Roundwood Park is a school with a strong reputation as an innovative and exciting place in which to learn and to teach. It is a place where traditional values of smart appearance, excellent behaviour and acting with integrity mingle with modern learning and high academic standards.

Our clear definition of the characteristics of the Roundwood Park leaver as a happy young adult who is not only well-qualified, but also a well-rounded individual, means that students leave us with optimism, self-confidence and a desire to change the world for the better.

'Aspire' develops learning habits which, in addition to knowledge, allow our students to become resilient, resourceful and creative as they develop as learners. They develop these habits not only in their lessons but in the many extra-curricular opportunities, sporting and musical events and on trips and visits within the UK or abroad which we offer.

competition and ensures that we are an outward-facing and caring community through the money that we raise for charity each year.

The students and staff of Roundwood Park always offer a warm welcome to visitors and there is always so much going on. Why not visit us to experience LIFE at Roundwood Park for yourself? We are confident that you will be inspired by what you see.

The key to our success lies in our 'Aspire' programme, which builds on the many years of experience of teaching students from Harpenden and its surrounding villages.

'LIFE' at Roundwood Park is greatly enhanced by our vibrant and modern house system which offers a fresh approach to a spirit of friendly

**Alan Henshall**  
Headteacher





*'Without exception, all of our daughter's teachers have been inspirational.'* Year 11 Parent



# 'Life' at Roundwood Park

*To be successful, to acquire and retain knowledge, to be skilful in what we do, all of us need the following habits:*

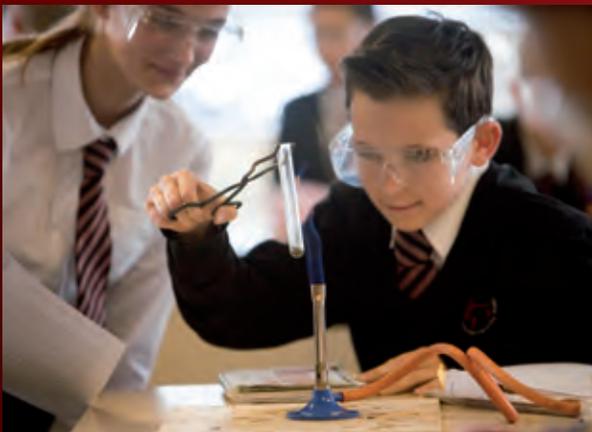


**1. We need to learn to understand:**  
To recognise how we learn, where we are strong and where we need to address our weaknesses.

**2. We need to focus:**  
To enjoy learning, approaching it enthusiastically and with a smile and to have the self-discipline to avoid the many distractions modern life can bring in order to meet deadlines.

**3. We need individuality:**  
To learn to learn independently, as well as with the teacher and with others and to evolve with others; to establish strong friendships and working relationships based on trust and understanding.

**4. We need a life-long love of learning:**  
All of this is about instilling a life-long love of learning so that by the time our students are ready to leave school and move on to the next challenges in their lives they are ready to take on more, adapt and grow as people, not to stand still, or worse go backwards, because learning has become a chore or even a fear.



**L**EARNING  
**I**NTEGRITY  
**F**RRIENDSHIP  
**E**XCELLENCE

**OUR KEY VALUES**  
Here at Roundwood Park we take pride in our key values:

**ENJOYING LEARNING**  
Developing a passion for creativity and lifelong learning

**SHOWING INTEGRITY**  
Demonstrating honesty and fairness

**NURTURING FRIENDSHIP**  
Encouraging teamwork and mutual respect

**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**  
Achieving exemplary standards

# *A challenging curriculum*

*Familiarity and confidence with numeracy and ICT, combined with good communication skills, are essential in today's world. Roundwood Park's expertise in Maths & Computing has enabled us to take full advantage of the new and fast-moving developments in modern technology.*



Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards or digital projectors and all students have regular access to our network of computers and iPads. Roundwood Park's facilities and expertise are also available to the wider community. We work closely with local primary schools to train staff and support the teaching of Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages. Our expertise in languages helps our students to understand what global citizenship means and the opportunities for travel and our International School Award underpin this.

#### **In order to achieve this we provide a curriculum which:**

- Is consistent with the requirements of the National Curriculum but also develops learning habits to last a lifetime.
- Promotes and supports the ability of our students to make the right choices, enjoy, achieve and attain economic wellbeing.
- Promotes and supports "inclusion" at all Key Stages.
- Is perceived by students to be challenging, inspiring and relevant to their preparation for adult life.
- Is broad, balanced and develops knowledge and understanding regardless of ability, gender, ethnic origin or social background.
- Encourages a spirit of enquiry and an ethos where we have high expectations of all our students.
- Promotes a commitment to lifelong learning and learning for life.
- Fosters scientific, technological, sporting, aesthetic and cultural achievement.
- Gives the students a sense of success through their achievements.
- Encourages students to appreciate and admire the achievements of others, both in the school community and in the wider world.
- Provides active and full co-operation between home, school and the community.
- Provides a wealth of cross-curricular activities in terms of clubs, trips, events and performances, which are open to all students.



*Our wide-ranging curriculum promotes a commitment to lifelong learning, supporting the ability of our students to make the right choices and to achieve and attain economic wellbeing.*

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms sitting at a table in a library, reading a book together. The boy on the right is pointing at a page in the book. The background shows bookshelves filled with books.

*Roundwood Park has specialist suites for all major subjects, including ten Science laboratories, an Art block, large Music and Drama suites, modern Technology facilities, Sixth Form Centre, Sports Centre and extensive playing fields.*



# Fulfilling potential

*At Roundwood Park we aim to help every student fulfill their potential by offering the widest possible range of opportunities. The curriculum is subject to constant review to keep abreast of educational developments.*



The first three years, Years 7 to 9, provide a solid foundation of learning in all subject areas, building on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired at primary school.

In Years 10 and 11 all students continue with the essential core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, PE, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) and PSHCE; nearly all students will continue to learn a modern foreign language and are able to select freely from a range of options including the Humanities, Economics,

Computing, ICT, Expressive Arts, Design Technologies, vocational courses, Separate Sciences and a second language. The school has fully equipped suites for all major subjects, including ten Science laboratories, an Art block, large Music and Drama suites, modern Technology facilities, Sixth Form Centre, Sports Centre and extensive playing fields.

There are also thirteen fully equipped computer rooms and online access to ICT facilities throughout the school using the whole school network and Wi-Fi.

The Library is a very important part of the school. As well as a large stock of fiction, reference and information books, it offers newspapers, magazines, a Careers and Higher Education area and access to the school network and the internet. It is open throughout the day and after school and professional library staff are always available to help students find the resources they need.



# Pastoral system

*At Roundwood Park the pastoral system is designed to provide a caring and a disciplined environment to help all students achieve their academic potential and develop as considerate and responsible young people.*



We take the welfare of each child seriously because we recognise that social and emotional wellbeing are prerequisites for good learning. We make it a priority through our pastoral organisation that each student feels known and cared for.

All our students are members of a tutor group and pastoral care is organised through a year system. We want them to feel very much part of their tutor group, their year group and the whole school. The Form Tutor oversees the personal and academic welfare of students and is the first point of contact for them and their parents. The work of the tutors is co-ordinated by Heads of Year and senior leaders who can deal with more serious issues.

Our pastoral assistants make an important contribution to our pastoral provision and the school counsellor is available for confidential consultations. The school nurse is available by appointment to support students with confidential health or personal concerns. We regard Year 7 as a foundation year in which the Form Tutor's role is to ensure that students settle quickly into their new environment. In Years 7 and 8 the tutors deliver a pastoral programme through a tutorial period once a week.

In Years 9 to 11 this is replaced with a Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) course which is taught by a specialist team rather than the tutors.

Sex education provides factual information to enable students to develop responsible attitudes towards their own sexuality and towards relationships and to encourage the development of a moral perspective.

Parents meet their children's teachers and tutors at Parent Consultation Evenings and Performance Reviews but are encouraged to contact individual staff if they have particular concerns. Parents are kept up to date throughout the year and have an annual full written report.





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*'Thank you for helping our daughter to become the well rounded, caring, hardworking young woman she has become.'*

Year 12 Parent



# The Sixth Form

*Roundwood Park has one of the strongest and most successful Sixth Forms in the county. We have an impressive record of achievement, with the majority of our students going on to Higher Education, including a large number who go to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.*

The outstanding success of the school's two year A Level programme is recognised throughout Hertfordshire and beyond. Matching students' academic and vocational needs to relevant courses is central to our work. Our collaboration with Harpenden's Sir John Lawes School and St George's School has further enhanced the subject options for our students. The introduction of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has broadened our curriculum opportunities.

A full and varied Sixth Form leads to a successful and well-rounded young adult who is then able to move purposefully on to the next stage, whilst recognising that education is for life, not solely for results.

As students move through the Sixth Form and witness the challenges of entry into Higher Education, employment, training or gap years, they are assured of expert guidance from experienced subject staff and tutors. Opportunities available are continually reviewed. As well as serious study, we encourage our students to take an active involvement in school and community life.

There is a student leadership group led by Sixth Formers and all post-16 students are encouraged to accept responsibility for areas of school life and to help in the pastoral care of younger students.

We regard our students as important representatives and role models for the school and unfailingly they represent us well. A wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities are available (see page 15) including community and sporting activities.

Members of the Sixth Form have a purpose built Common Room, study area and computer suite for their exclusive use. At Roundwood Park School we offer a dynamic and challenging experience for all our Sixth Form students.

# *Trips & school visits*

*Roundwood Park School organises numerous visits and field trips which support national curriculum studies and extra-curricular activities.*

Trips and visits include a day at the Ironbridge museum in Shropshire, where students explore the origins of Britain's Industrial Revolution, a week's residential Geography field trip in South Wales and a Year 7 residential trip in the UK. There are numerous one day trips to theatres, museums, art galleries and places of special interest.

All students studying languages have regular opportunities to use the languages taught in the countries where they are spoken and sometimes such trips create cross-curricular possibilities – such as trips to France and Belgium to visit the war graves and a trip to Berlin as part of a study of World War II.

In the summer term students participate in activities week; at this time the whole school is engaged in special activities of some kind.

Every year during the Easter holiday there is an extremely popular ski trip to European destinations or the USA. Over the past few years senior students have had the opportunity to join expeditions to countries such as Ecuador, Tanzania, Mongolia, Borneo and Zambia. Inevitably an extra charge has to be made for some activities and in cases of hardship the school may be able to help.

Details of the charging policy are available on the school website.

Service to the community is a key component of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which is very popular at Roundwood Park. Our annual Christmas party for the elderly of Harpenden, organised by Year 12 students, is also a highlight.

Our students are proud of their school and to that end we have a growing Alumni Association.





*'Roundwood Park is such a great school.  
I could not wish for anything better.'* Year 8 Student



*'Roundwood is a school that helps you to achieve your potential.'*

*'This is a school that helps you to be the best at what you love.'*

Year 9 Students



# Information

## Extra-curricular & Houses

*There are many interhouse competitions throughout the year including House music, Dragon's Den, Maths challenges and Ready Steady Cook, as well as House charity weeks.*

*Roundwood Park offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, which are open to everyone. In most of the sporting activities there is the opportunity for students to experience competition by playing in the schools' district events.*

### SCHOOL CLUBS INCLUDE:

- Art
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- BBC School Report
- Brass band
- Chamber orchestra
- Cheerleading
- Chess
- Choir
- Christian Union
- Comics club
- Computing
- Concert band
- Crafts
- Cricket
- Dance
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Fitness
- Football
- French
- Geography
- German
- Guitar group
- Home learning club
- ICT
- Jazz band
- Junior band
- Minecraft club
- Music theory
- NaNoWriMo
- Nerdfighters
- Netball
- Pi club
- Reading clubs
- Rock School
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Science
- Spanish
- Sports leadership
- STEM club
- Table tennis
- Technology workshops
- Tennis
- Trampolining

# Additional information

## SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Working closely with the Governing Body is an important feature of the way we work. The governors, who are all trained volunteers, have a key role in setting the direction and ethos of the school. They are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the school meets the law's requirements. They do this by creating, and keeping under review, a policy framework that allows the Headteacher and staff to remain firmly in control of the day to day running of the school. In practice, although the Governing Body and its main sub-committees meet twice every term, governors find that a valuable and enjoyable part of the job is visiting during the working day to develop their understanding of the school and to talk with the staff and students. The Governing Body is representative of the school's key stakeholders: staff, elected parents and the local community (mainly local people with particular skills and knowledge to contribute). We encourage you to join our team – details are available from the school office.

## HEALTHY EATING

A cafeteria system operates at breaks and lunchtime where students can choose to pay for a snack or a meal from a wide range of hot and cold dishes and we encourage students to eat healthily. All meals meet current nutritional standards. Some students prefer to bring a packed lunch and a few who live very close to the school choose to go home for lunch. We operate a cashless catering payment system and a daily spending limit can be set up if you so wish.

## ATTENDANCE

The school regards regular attendance as vital to students' progress; student absences are promptly and thoroughly followed up. We only give permission for absence in term time in exceptional circumstances and we do not authorise absence for holidays. We ask parents to organise dental and medical appointments out of school hours where possible.

## WORSHIP

School assemblies are often of a Christian but non-denominational character. The school is not affiliated to any particular religious denomination. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from PRE and assemblies by arrangement with the school.

## UNIFORM

We believe that high standards of dress reflect high standards in other areas. The school's uniform helps promote a sense of belonging to the distinct community which is Roundwood Park. It has been chosen to be smart, practical, readily available and reasonably priced.

## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Most students live within easy travelling distance of the school and walking or cycling is encouraged. Public buses run from several local villages to the Harpenden area. Full details are available from our Reception.



### ADMISSIONS

Roundwood Park admits 196 students per year into Year 7. All admissions are handled on our behalf the Local Authority at Hertfordshire County Council and in accordance with the published rules explained in the County Handbook. The Handbook is distributed via primary schools and is also available from the Schools' Admissions Officer on **0300 123 4043**.

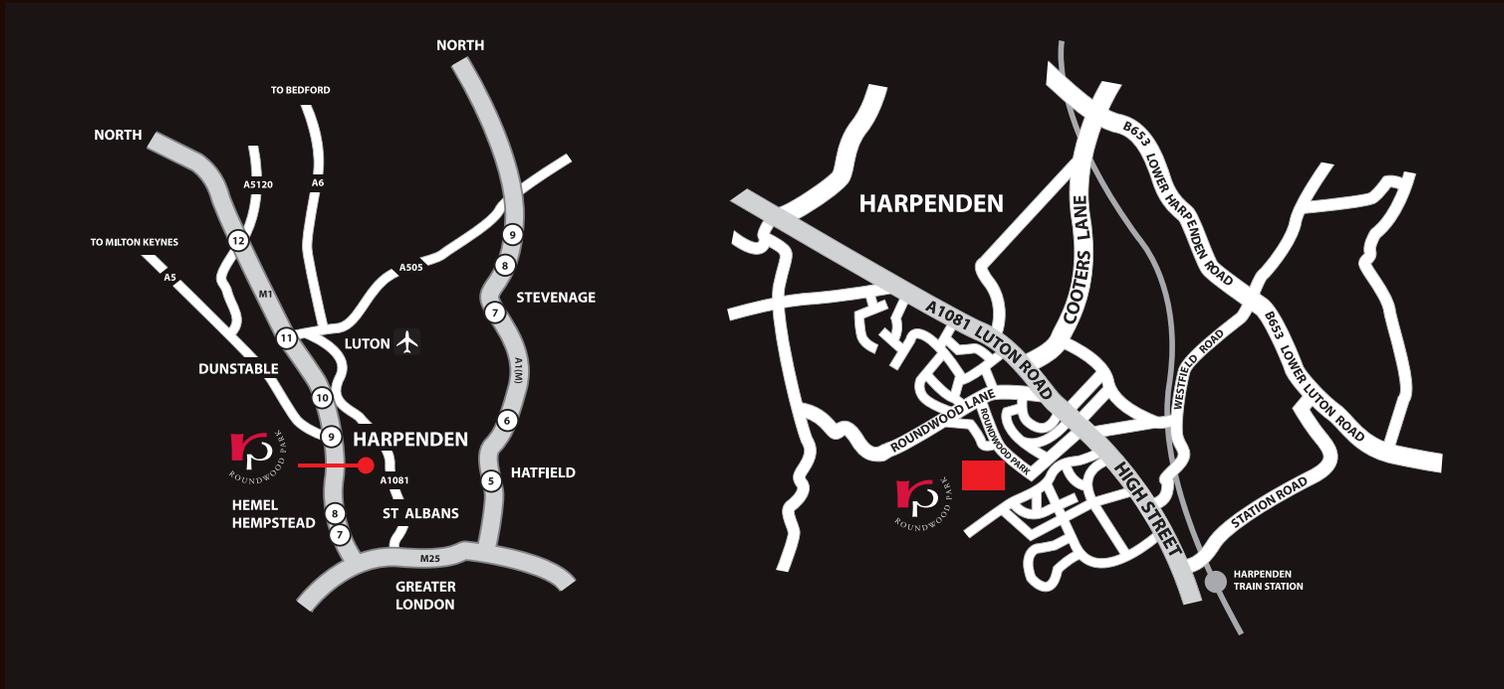
### OPEN DAYS

In the autumn of each year our Open Evening gives parents and prospective students an opportunity to visit the school to meet staff and students and to see our outstanding facilities in action. We encourage parents to make daytime visits to the school to see students at work. Please contact Reception on **01582 765344** to make an appointment.



*'It's the independence, self worth, work ethic, care for others, team play - all those Aspire aims. She is so happy. Thank you for equipping her so well.'* Parent





**Roundwood Park School**

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