



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI

Newsletter 20: September 2017

4www

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



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PLEASE forward this newsletter to ex-Roundwood friends and encourage them to make contact to be added to the mailing list.

Keeping in touch – tracing new alumni / contact details?

PLEASE inform us if your contact details (email) change also if you would prefer us to use a personal rather than a work email. Please email us or use the link to update details and also to indicate any preferences. <http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>

Memory Lane: Remember any of these ? I wonder what they are all doing now? If you are on here please let us know.





1990 athletics Back row, left to right:

Sarah Taylor, Sarah Sill, Rachel Carter, Zoe Rogers, Kerry Evans, Tamsin Jackson-Robbins, Claire Richardson.

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Helen Taylor, Janine Thompson, Melisa Mileham, Jackie Kirk, Nicola McMorrough, Jo Hudson, Julia Wise.

Hopefully still involved in sports.



1993 L6th year group photo.

All 3 photos courtesy of Claire Richardson.



The ‘ex-staff’ interview 2017; Michelle Rooney (July 2002 – 2017)

PE, dance and House system ‘supremo’.

1. What did you study at University – why that subject in particular?

I completed a B'Ed Secondary Physical Education Hons degree with QTS at De Montfort Uni, Bedford. I was inspired by my PE teacher at school, Kendra Lowe, I was

passionate about sport and have always enjoyed being with people so PE teaching was a perfect fit.

2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at university?

I think Uni helps you find your passions and points you in the direction your life will take. The friendships you make are for life and the memories irreplaceable. A personal highlight was winning the BUCS national cup with the netball team when I was club chair, listening to Helen Elkington (GB Swimming coach) inspire me with her lifelong passion and a term abroad coaching in NYC.

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3. Did you, or have you, ever considered any other career path?

Not at all - I was a naturally bossy child and used to arrange gymnastic shows on the patio for family when I was 4 and then try to get them involved. If I wasn't involved in sport now I would like to be involved in photography or Cadbury chief chocolate taster.

4. Why did you take up teaching as a career?

Being at school is all I have ever done, sounds dull I am sure to some, but I have had a fab time. I was particularly fortunate to have numerous exceptional teachers who made school an exciting and interesting place. Those teachers possessed a passion for the subjects that they taught and genuine care for the students with whom they worked. They inspired me to play with ideas, think deeply about the subject matter, take on more challenging work, and ultimately pursue careers in teaching. I have worked with many staff like that at RPS over the last 15 years and its been a joy to watch colleagues inspire students the way I was inspired at school. My father told me if I found a career I loved, I would never work a day in my life. I was lucky I found teaching and almost everyday is a good day.

5. Why did you choose Roundwood Park School and have you ever worked in another school?

After Uni I travelled for 12 months and on my return knew I wanted to live and teach in Herts, Beds or Bucks to be near family. RPS was an outstanding school, great students and a young, fun PE department of 4 that worked hard and enjoyed life. It seemed like the perfect fit. I was on interview with 7 others and didn't think I stood a chance, but it looks like it was my lucky day. While I was looking for employment I was doing supply at Ashley Cooper school in Hemel and the day before my interview at RPS they offered me a job. I really enjoyed my time at Ashley Cooper, but I definitely made the right choice joining RPS. In 2006 I was given a sabbatical and spent 10 months travelling. I completed work experience in China and Australia and on my return worked for 8 weeks in a Sports college in Luton. Those experiences were so rewarding but on my return to RPS made me appreciate the community I was already part of.

7. You became enthusiastic about the House system and you are seen as being responsible for promoting and pushing it forward. Why?

I was tasked with working with student voice to leave a legacy at RPS from the London 2012 Olympic games. This was an idea that came from students and it always bothered me that inter year group friendships were not as strong at RPS as I thought they should be. A house system is about developing a community, creating role models and leaders, fostering pride and health competition. It's also inclusive and celebrates the outstanding talent that we have at RPS. The winners of the quiz and the spelling bee get the same recognition as the sports stars and musicians. We take an active interest and support in each other and I believe that cannot be a bad thing. The house system offers something for everyone if you choose to engage and give back to our community.

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8. What do/did you most enjoy about your many roles (teacher, dept head, House leader) at RPS?

House music is always a buzz, but the 1st time it took place will always be special. It was so wonderful seeing the camaraderie and encouragement the older students gave to the younger years and the competition element is always taken the right way. The 1st whole school house assembly in the sports hall the year before was also a landmark event at my time at RPS. It was disheartening that we had no whole school assemblies and the academic year finished without a real celebration of the exceptional work that has gone on at RPS. The whole school assembly is a perfect way to seal off the year, wish everyone health and happiness and good luck for the summer.

In 2012 we won a competition for Wenlock the London 2012 mascot to visit us so we changed the way we ran sports day. That was definitely a highlight and the yardstick I judge every sporting event we host to. We also received a Gold sportsmark for the 1st time from the YST when I was head of PE, an indication that we were doing some really great things.

I have loved teaching twilight GCSE Dance and I am always very emotional watching their performance evening knowing the blood, sweat and tears that has gone into the preparation. I am always astonished by the talents our students have, the way they act on feedback and want to do well. For some dance was their escape, their passion and some students have gone on to dance at Uni and professionally. It was a privilege to help them on their way.

As a teacher I enjoy seeing students achieve small milestones, a new personal best, the first time they lead at a festival, when they finally get something they have struggled with. I have always watched out for our more vulnerable students, especially since I have adopted my own children and I believe some time and positive encouragement can really make the difference. The best part of my week is always the phone calls home on a Friday to parents of children that have done nothing exception but just got on with it, done their best and had a smile on their face. I believe its these little things that make a massive difference. As a tutor my 1st form will always be my favourites. We started on the same day, all of us nervous and learned what to do together. We had a special bond as a group and it makes my day when they pop back 10 years after leaving year 11 to show me how well they are doing.

I have also worked with some of the best netball teams RPS has ever had. I push them really hard and they always rise to the challenge. As a PE teacher you spend more time with your teams than anyone else so you get to know them well.

9. If you have to pick out one thing that you most enjoyed here, what would it have been?

Working with the SLG since the launch of the House system has been amazing. I truly believe that each SLG learns to be better year after year from their predecessors. I have enjoyed working with them as a team change the fabric of the school, giving students a voice and developing our community.

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If I had to pick out 1 individual event it would have to be the Barbados trip in 2013. That was a cracking tour, great kids, amazing culture and a wake-up call when it came to Netball and cricket squads, who smashed us!

I also get a real buzz when I hear back from past students. It's wonderful to see how well they are doing, dream jobs, starting family's and having adventures.

11. You took a sabbatical some years ago and travelled. How, why and where?

Over the 10 months I was away I visited China, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. We live in a small world and the best experience of my life have involved travel. I would recommend anyone to fill their life with stories, new faces, new cultures and experiences not thing. Lewis Carroll in Alice in Wonderland wrote "*The best gift you could give her was a lifetime of adventures...*" and ultimately that's way I am leaving Roundwood. I want to start my children on their lifetime of adventure.

I did get the opportunity to visit schools along the way and it made me very humble on my return to RPS. We are so lucky to have the opportunities presented to us at RPS, dedicated staff, supportive parents, great facilities and young people who will go on to change the world.

12. Do you have any special moments that stand out that you are willing to share about your experiences at RPS?

Sportsday 2012 a lad in year 8 at the time ran the 200m and was still running the bend when the other 6 runners finished. As staff we were concerned about the reaction of the school to this young man being so far behind but RPS never lets us down. The whole school stood up and clapped him home cheering like he was breaking a school record. His house followed him up the home straight encouraging him and it moved me to tears. That lad became a hero and I still use that story when trying to inspire my classes.

13. You will always be seen as a kind, thoughtful and cheerful individual but how do you feel you made an impact at RPS?

That's a very nice thing to say but a really tough question. I genuinely care about young people and enjoy what I do, if you don't then you shouldn't be teaching. Teaching is a privilege not a profession and I think that helped keep things in perspective. You don't set out to be noticed you just want to the best you can for every child. I have always had an interest in our disadvantaged students, the invisible middle that haven't always had the best start in life. When

you feel like you are making a difference, passing on a passion and improving someone self-esteem why wouldn't you be cheerful.

14. Do you have any hobbies or leisure commitments that you enjoy or can share?

I am an Olympic Games Geek! I went to my 1st games in Barcelona in 1992, was lucky enough to be at Rio last summer and have already started making arrangements for Tokyo 2020. For our honeymoon we went to the Athens games and when I travelled we went to Beijing, but nothing beats a home games and London 2012 was very special.

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I still play netball and chair the local league. I enjoy attending showcase sports events, everything from boxing to polo, rugby and diving. I enjoy film, reading and photography but since the arrival of our young family nothing beats a weekend in the sunshine with them climbing trees or going swimming.

15. Given the changes in education over the years would you, given your time again, go into teaching or into another profession?

Yes – Best job in the world and don't let anyone tell you differently.

16. When students look back on their time at RPS how would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered much taller than I am!

I would like to be remembered as a teacher who genuinely cares about her students, but at the same time had high expectations for them! I know that I am a fun, fair teacher and I hope to be remembered in this way. A teacher who motivates a passion for the love of learning and an adventure for life!

I feel so grateful for the opportunity to have worked at RPS, the lifelong friendships I have made and the memories that will stay with me long after I am forgotten.

Wednesday visits

If, as many have suggested, that you would like to look around the school again PLEASE email b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk to arrange a time that suits you for a visit.

Alumnus of the Month: September 2017:Scott Baxter [2005]



After leaving Roundwood, Scott went on to Nottingham Business School to gain a degree in Business Studies with Financial Management.

Following graduation, Scott joined Huxley Banking and Financial Services in London as an IT development consultant. Scott progresses through the company as a database recruitment consultant, senior then principal business intelligence consultant to his present role as Principal Consultant where he is responsible for the recruitment of a variety of specialisms; Digital, Data Analytics, Business Change, Senior Appointments and QA.

Alumni Grapevine

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David Amende [1980]



David joined RPS in 1977 and went on to gain a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College London. After a number of managerial positions, David set up and ran his own company, Amende Associates Ltd for several years before returning to his current position as Project Manager for Black & Veatch.

Andy Bourne [1982]

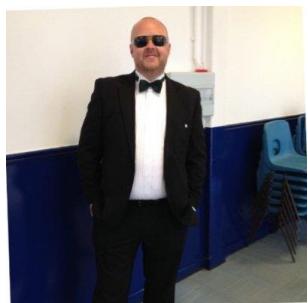


Andy gained a BSc in Electronic & Systems Engineering from Essex University, a post graduate diploma in Engineering Management from Bristol University and then an MSc in Systems Engineering from UCL. After a number of senior positions at TfL, Andy is now Director and Consultant of his own company that specialises in working with railway businesses.



David Biswell [1984]

David is a sales executive at JMS Plant Hire in Harpenden.



Leigh Coot [1988]

After a career in banking and finance, Leigh has switched to the education sector where he is now Director of House and a maths teacher at Longdean school in Hemel Hempstead.



Paul Cogan [1989].

Paul is regional sales manager at Honda UK in Taunton, Somerset. Paul attended Oaklands College and gained a BTEC diploma in Business & Finance and then to Anglia Ruskin University (Cambridge) gaining a BA in Business Studies.



Kathryn (nee Taylor) Long [1990]

Kathryn is the Team Manager at the Drug Safety & Pharmacovigilance at Key People.

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Vitina Guagenti [1991].

Vitina joined RPS and then moved to Sandringham school. She gained a HND in water based leisure studies then a BA hons in Maritime Leisure Management from Southampton Solent University. After a career in recruitment and business, Vitina is currently HR Business partner at Whitbread.



John Ruffle [1994].

John is a Senior Manager at Deloitte UK . John gained a BA in International Studies at Leeds University and a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants from the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



Leah Sill [1997].

Leah gained a BSc hons from Brunel University in Sports Sciences. Having worked in the retail sector for many years. Leah is currently a Supply Chain Analyst at Tui.



Jon White [1999]

After a degree in Business economics at Leicester University, Jo qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Following a number of senior positions , Jon is currently Financial Controller of 'Pets at Home' in Cheshire.



Sarah Ainger [2000]

Sarah gained an honours degree in Management Studies from the University of Manchester and then went on to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. Sarah then followed a career in Financial management and analysis. She is currently working for BP as a Senior Performance Analyst.



Sara Stephens [2001]

Sara studied dentistry , gaining a BDS at Bristol University and a Masters degree in clinical dentistry and orthodontics at UCL and then FDS at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. Sara is a practising orthodontist in Soutj London and a Consultant Orthodontist at Croydon University Hospital.



Marco Solari [2004]

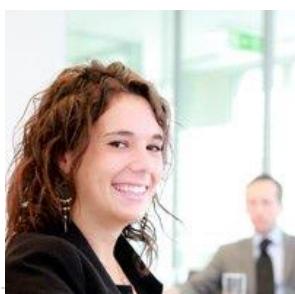
Marco gained a degree in Philosophy & Film Studies at the University of Kent. After working as an administrator for the Medical Research Council, Marco is currently an Operations Executive at the Guardian and News Media Group in London.



Dave Westwood [2005]

Dave gained a BSc in Computer Science at Loughborough University and then satyed to complete a MSc in Finance & Management. He has made a career in Busienss and finance and is currently an Assistant Vice President in Trading & Risk at Deutsche Bank. He is also an accomplished badminton player and is Coach to the Herts schools

Badminton Association.



Rachel Ferguson [2006]

Rachel is a Senior Planning Executive at Metropolitan (housing with care & support). After a BA in Geography from Cambridge University, Rachel gained an MA in Planning & sustainability fron Kingston University.

**Matthew Lloyd [2008]**

Matthew gained an e-business BSc in Business and Commerce from the University of Liverpool. After a number of varied appointments , Matthew is currently an IT Technician at PVM Oil Associates in London.

**Charles Tomlin [2009]**

Charles is the Branch Manager at the Garage Door Company in Bedfordshire.

**Alex Price [2010]**

Alex is a graduate civil engineer at Jacobs in Inverness. After Alex gained an MEng from Heriot Watt university he for Carillion and Glasgow City Council before joining Jacobs.

**Emily Westwood [2011]**

Emily is an aspiring physiotherapist working at Spires health Group and BMI Healthcare following work experience at the Luton & Dunstable hospital. From 2013-17, Emily was a regular GB International badminton player.

**Amran Bhandal [2013].**

BA joint honours graduate in German & Spanish. Amran has completed marketing internships in Barcelone and in Berlin.

The youngest Tomlins ties the knot.

Helen Tomlins [2012] married Dean Millerchip in June 2017..

They met whilst both working in Vietnam teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). They will both be studying for their Master's degrees at York University.

Helen's brothers, Ashley 2006[] and Neil [2008], both attended RPS and her/their mother remains a long serving stalwart of the school as the school's Examinations Officer.



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Staff Departures



Donna (nee Phillips) Bozier

(Sept 2002-July2017). Teacher of Biology, PSE.



Sue John (Sept 1996-July 2017).

Teacher of Maths.



Aaron Hughes (July 2016- July 2017) Teacher of Computing.



Michelle Rooney (Sept 2002- July 2017) Teacher of PE (former Head of Dept.) , Drama and i/c House system.

Brenda Gillon (Sept 2004- July 2017). Teacher of RE and Head of dept.



Dr Jonathan Tuck (Jan 2008 – July 2017). Maths teacher (former Head of Dept) and Data manager.

Gina Salmon (Sept 2014 – July 2017) Teacher of Maths

Ellin Robinson (Sept 2012 – July 2017) Teacher of Drama.
Ishika Kahn (Sept 2015 – July 2017) Teacher of Art & Design.
Teresa Smith (Sept 2016-July 2017). Teacher of Economics.

NEW LOOK WEB SITE – please take a look.

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The old site has been revamped and we hope you can find the Alumni pages easily.

Go to 'About us' at the top left then click on ALUMNI on RHS top of the grey box. We hope to rectify the few glitches that persist!

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Please contact us to **BE ADDED** to our/your Alumni Listings or to **UPDATE** your existing profile.

PLEASE email us at

b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk with a synopsis of what you would like to appear along with a photo (linkedin?)



STOP PRESS

- ❖ Mrs Kaye Cartwright, former cookery teacher from the 1980s, is alive and well and she and the editor meet up annually over lunch to 'catch up' and discuss 'old times'.
- ❖ Mrs Danielle (nee Kieth) Naylor is fine and well and recently seen with her two children in Wheathamsted.