



# *Roundwood Park School*

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Learning | Integrity | Friendship | Excellence



*'Thanks for being so in touch with your students  
and helping them on their educational journey'*

Year 10 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.

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.

'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.

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

**Alan Henshall**  
Headteacher



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



## *‘Life’ at Roundwood Park*

*To be successful, to acquire and retain knowledge, to be skilful in what we do, we take pride in our key values:*

### **ENJOY LEARNING**

Developing a passion for creativity and lifelong learning

### **SHOW INTEGRITY**

Demonstrating honesty and fairness

### **NURTURE FRIENDSHIP**

Encouraging teamwork and mutual respect

### **STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Achieving exemplary standards



*'I can only marvel at their good fortune, attending such a great school with such passionate staff.'*

Year 9 Parent

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms sitting at a desk, looking at a computer screen. The boy on the left is wearing glasses and has a wide smile. The boy on the right is looking at the screen with a slight smile. In the background, other students are visible, including one wearing glasses. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom or computer lab environment.

*‘Thank you for the support, care and education  
that you and your excellent team gave my  
daughter throughout her secondary schooling.’*

**Year 13 Parent**

# The curriculum

*Familiarity and confidence with literacy and numeracy, 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.*

**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.





## *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, IT, Expressive Arts, Design Technologies, Separate Sciences and a second language.

The school 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, 3G pitch and extensive playing fields.

There are also thirteen specialist computer rooms and online access to IT 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.





*'It was great to come away from the post-16 evening feeling that whatever she studied will be well taught.'* Year 11 Parent



*‘Thank you to the teachers for their dedicated and diligent teaching and for their care and guidance of their students.’* Year 13 Parent

# Pastoral Care

*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.*

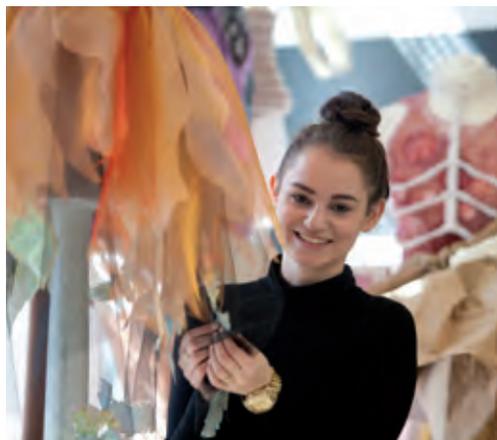
We take the welfare of each child seriously because we recognise that social and emotional wellbeing are prerequisites for good learning. We make it a priority through our pastoral organisation that each student feels known and cared for.

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.





## *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 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 14) 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.

*'Thank you for all the hard work which makes the school a caring and supportive environment.'*

Year 13 Parent



*'My daughter is really loving life at Roundwood  
– thriving, both personally and academically.'*

Year 7 Parent

# *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 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 enrichment week; at this time the whole school is engaged in special activities of some kind.

Every other 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 Botswana, 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.



# Clubs & Extra-Curricular

*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
- Book clubs
- Brass band
- Chamber orchestra
- Chess
- Choir
- Computing
- Concert band
- Creative writing
- Cricket
- Dance
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Fitness
- Football
- French
- Games club
- Geography
- German
- Guitar group
- Home learning club
- ICT
- Ignite (Christian Union)
- Jazz band
- Junior band
- Language Leaders
- Music theory
- NaNoWriMo
- Nerdfighters
- Netball
- PI club
- Reading clubs
- Rotary Club
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Science
- Spanish
- Sports leadership
- STEM club
- Table tennis
- Technology workshops
- Tennis
- Trampolining
- Youth Speaks



*'Thank you for developing my son's sense of personal responsibility.'* Year 9 Parent

# Additional information

## **Governors**

Working closely with the Governing Board 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 Board 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 Board 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Admissions**

Roundwood Park admits 196 students per year into Year 7. All admissions are handled on our behalf by 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.*

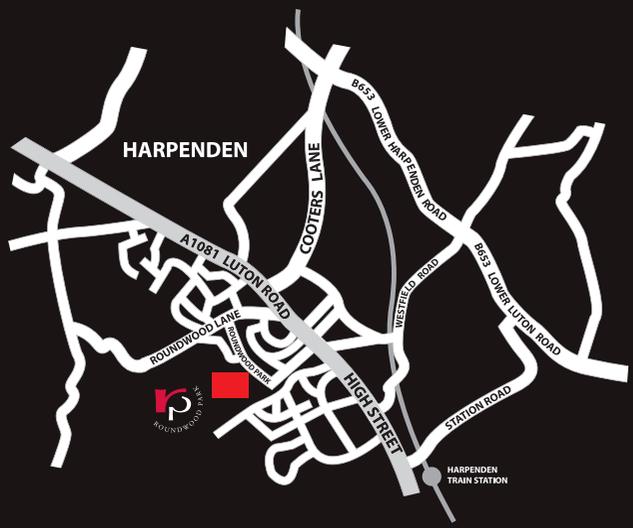
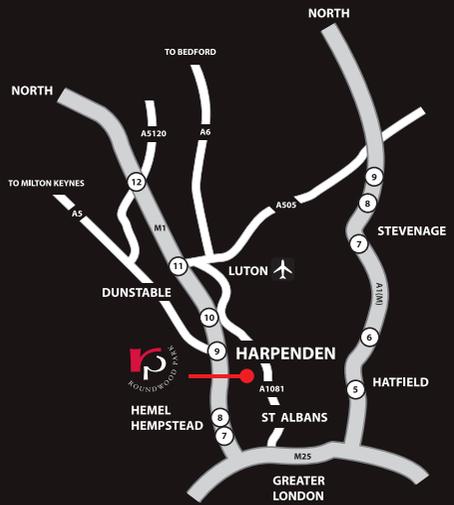




*'A great big thank you to all who have made my daughter's first year a smooth and fun transition from primary school.'*

Year 7 Parent





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