



THE PARK TIMES

MEET THE EDITORS

WHAT DO WE DO?

We are your communications Captains for the year. A big part of our role is to create the Park Times and with these issues we wanted to be inclusive to contributions from across the school to create a magazine that appeals to everyone. Although we have made some changes to the magazine, we will be continuing the open-door policy from last year so that you can email us if you are interested in writing for the next issue or have opinions on the magazine. Thank you so much for reading and we hope that you enjoy!

Our emails are:

13lynchf@roundwoodpark.co.uk

13merceri@roundwoodpark.co.uk



My name is Fiona Lynch, I'm in year 13 and I am doing A levels in Drama, English Literature and Psychology. After sixth form I want to do acting because of my love of theatre and film.

Hi, I am Issy Mercer, and like Fiona, I'm in year 13. I am currently studying economics, biology and maths. Next year I am planning on going to university to study economics, and after that I have no idea!

THE SLG



LEARNING

Abi and Aimee organise and run the RPS University Challenge and encourage student involvement in insights, take-over days, language leaders, maths and sport leaders. They also make Thought of the Week and were heavily involved in Year Six Induction Day.

SPORTS, CLUBS AND PARTICIPATION

Charlie and Laurence coordinate the different houses' extra-curricular sporting activities and sports clubs run by students. They also run the clubs and societies information and fayre at the beginning of the year and maintain them. They also organised a really fun sports day.



DIVERSITY AND WELL-BEING

Amy, Alex and Charlotte support and shape the anti-bullying and well-being work of the school. They have done this through a really successful anti-bullying/well-being week, running presentations to sixth form and responding to student issues that arise through the student reporting/ self-referral systems.

COMMUNITY AND EVENTS

Jasmin and Lotty improve our sense of community by coordinating and presenting events including House Music, Senior Citizens Party and RPS Acts of Kindness, as well as helping out with Open evening, post 16 evening, parents consultation evenings.



ENVIRONMENT

Seb and Tabby improve the school resources and premises. They organise the sustainability learning, work and recycling in school by buying new recycling bins and reducing the amount of plastic used in the canteen. Also, they lead Remembrance Day and input into the sensory garden

CHARITY

Antonia, Rob and Sadie coordinate the charity activity of the school by supporting all Houses' charity weeks and develop a relationship with the four elected school charities [including their annual election]. They ensure that the charities work is shared with all students, and they are aware of the impact of their fund raising.



Net Zero by 2050: a Policy Response with Bim Afolami

With the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reporting we now only have 12 years before a global rise in temperature of 1.5C causes the impacts of climate change to become irreversible, it's clear political action is required now, at both a national and international level.

The UN Climate Action Summit (commencing in New York on Monday 23rd September), along with the students from around 185 countries striking for climate on Friday 20th September, highlight the global demand for more political action toward climate change. So, when Harpenden and Hitchin's MP, Bim Afolami, invited us to his own Climate Conference held at Rothamsted Research on Friday 20th September, we felt the responsibility to represent not only the students of our constituency, but more widely the members of our generation across the globe.



Also invited to the event were academics, company CEOs and scientists in the field, all bringing their own expertise on the three main topics of discussion: energy, ecology and economy. Bim made sure to welcome everyone as we arrived at the Rothamsted Conference Centre, shaking our hands and discussing the importance of the event with us. Along with the four of us in Year 13, there were around six students from The Priory School in Hitchin attending the event, all personally invited by Bim to get a student perspective on an issue that will predominately affect our generation.

The day then got underway, starting with Chair Baroness Brown of Cambridge introducing the magnitude of the issue of climate change, detailing the societal and behaviour changes that will need to be made for us to make progress. Dr Ben Caldecott, the Founding Director of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme, was the keynote speaker, giving an interesting talk on how to tackle the inevitable economic risks that follow the transition into cleaner consumption. The three experts of the main discussion areas then gave a brief introduction: Dan Meredith, the Senior Manager at E.ON, spoke about energy; James Bell from Rothamsted Research spoke on Ecology; and Bim himself spoke about the economy. We then got to split up and choose which breakout session we wanted to go to of the three subject areas, all involving a Q&A with a panel of five other specialists in each field. This was our opportunity to really voice our opinions on what policy ideas Bim should take back to parliament – and we didn't hold back.

The day then concluded with each topic chair feeding back to everyone what was discussed in their breakout session. With final words from Bim as he summed up what he would take back from the event, it seemed the beginning of a possibly more productive national agenda when it comes to growing global issues like climate change.

By Sadie Singer

Making a difference

The impact our actions are having on the environment are no longer invisible to us – it's forced in front of us by the media, and it's clear we need to make changes. That's easier said than done, right? I know what you're thinking: How do I do it? Where do I start? Why should I? Does it matter? Starting small is the best way to tackle this monstrous issue... So here are my top tips.

First and foremost – **recycle**. It's quick, easy and product packaging explains what can and cannot be recycled. Give the packaging a quick rinse and pop it in the mixed recycling bin. If your area doesn't recycle certain products, take a few minutes, once a month, to take them to the recycling centre.

Go **vegan**. Ok, I know, going vegan?! What about turkey at Christmas or *bacon sandwiches*??? **Fun fact 1 – the meat industry is responsible for 51% carbon dioxide of global emissions - 1 cow produces 150 gallons of methane per day (that is a LOT of farts!)** I'm not saying cut out all meat products, but have 2-3 days a week where you have vegetarian/vegan days. Give it a go – you never know, you might enjoy it and its great health benefits, such as reducing your chances of obesity and cancer.

Say no to single-use. Buy a nice, water bottle – it's cheaper than buying disposable ones when you're out and about and many places top them up for free. Use a flannel instead of make-up wipes – they're gentle and washable, so don't go into landfill. Try reusable sanitary products – in the long-term, they're cheaper *and* comfier. Use bars of soap – they're zero waste and create eco-friendly bubbles... although make sure you don't use the same one as your nan.

Seek out alternatives. Many vegan products are naturally sourced, so are safer and have less chemicals than typical household products. They're normally cruelty free (**fun fact number 2 – look out for the cruelty free bunny!**) and have refillable or 100% recyclable packaging.



And finally, the easiest things:

- Turn the lights off and open the blinds – otherwise why else would we have windows?
- Use public transport or walk/cycle – it's good practise for the zombie apocalypse!
- Save water by showering – baths are boring.
- Sign petitions – you're making a positive change without leaving the sofa – score!
- Switch off electronics instead of leaving them on standby.
- Take reusable bags to the supermarket and put loose fruit/veg in the trolley.
- Replace plastic toothbrushes with bamboo ones – they're much more sustainable.
- Buy plastic/glass Tupperware pots – they're so much easier to use than sandwich bags.

And perhaps the bigger things, but they're not impossible.

- Avoid palm oil – they're one of the biggest industries contributing to deforestation.
- Avoid plastic straws – buy your own reusable one or don't use them at all – up to you.
- Buy biodegradable washing-up liquid and chemical-free washing powder – they're much kinder to both the environment and your skin.
- Support your local organic food companies, who are dedicated to sustainable projects, using reusable and eco-friendly products and have tasty, healthy, wholesome foods.
- Invest in renewable energy sources, like solar panels.

Here at RPS, we try to tackle the worst issues, like the excessive use of single-use plastic in the canteen. But more needs to be done, especially in the home, to help our planet stay alive. Be the person who starts a ripple.

ROUNDWOOD PARK VS ST COLUMBUS



By Alex Birch (1st Team Captain)

RPS vs St Columbus kicked off the season the 2019/2020 with a bang on the 11th September. Players representing years 11-13 with 6 senior debutants including 4 year 11 starters.

RPS fought hard with only 5 hours of training together as a squad against the all-boy rugby specialising school. The team sheet consisted of 4 year 11s, 3 year 12s, 13 year 13s and a make shift front row was ready to play.

RPS went in to the game as clear underdogs having not reached the second round of the NatWest tournament for the last 2 years. Roundwood started the game by winning the coin toss and chose to kick off. After a promising start and a missed penalty by Columbus, Roundwood had the chance to get points on the board first. A line out from the Columbus 22 allowed RPS to have possession deep into their oppositions' 22.

After a successful lineout and maul this gave Roundwood a platform for the backs to attack. A crash ball followed by a few forward carries allowed the room for the backs to hit 10, then straight to 12, followed by a lofted miss pass to the winger who ran the ball home for RPS. 9 converted the try and RPS became 7-0 up. Only a few minutes after Columbus hit back from a penalty conceded by RPS. After a valiant attempt by RPS to keep Columbus out defending for minutes on their try line. Eventually Columbus scored but missed their conversion.

Soon after Roundwood come back earning a penalty from Columbus and kicking to the corner. After a successful lineout Roundwood gained the ball. After picking and going, gaining very few metres Roundwood hit back with a try from a pick and go ending with a stretch for the line, the ball just touching the line. A conversion from 9 made the game 14-5 to RPS. After the high tension rest of the first half where Roundwood score again swiftly followed by a Columbus try meaning the half time score was 21-12.

The second half started off the same as the first ended with a high tempo start Roundwood started making mistakes. Compounding error upon error Columbus made easy ground. Soon after they entered the 22 they scored making it a close game. Soon after Roundwood still made errors and after one missed tackle Columbus scored again taking the lead by 3 points. Roundwood hit back with an excellent line break unfortunately giving a forward pass 5 metres away from the try line. Soon Columbus regained the ball and marched up to the Roundwood 22. After winning the ball back and an unfortunate fumble by RPS Columbus pick the ball up and score the ball under the posts making it a 10 point lead with 5 mins to go. RPS fought back into their 22 but soon after lost the ball Columbus kicked the ball into touch from a scrum and ended the game.

A good start from the boys and hoping the season progresses further ending on a with a clash against ST GEORGES in December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

27TH SEPTEMBER - INSET DAY

26TH SEPTEMBER - OPEN EVENING

30TH SEPTEMBER TO 6TH OCTOBER - OWEN'S HOUSE CHARITY WEEK

30TH SEPTEMBER - HOUSE MUSIC SIGN UP

18TH OCTOBER - SHOEBOX DEADLINE

7TH TO 23RD OCTOBER - HOUSE MUSIC REHERSALS

25RD OCTOBER - HALF TERM AND NON-UNIFORM DAY

23RD OCTOBER - HOUSE MUSIC

25TH TO 29TH NOVEMBER - HOUSE RUGBY WEEK (Y7-10)

11TH TO 15TH NOVEMBER - ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

29TH NOVEMBER - OCCASIONAL DAY

HOUSE POINTS

61

55

47

53

40

46

51