



## ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 32: December 2020

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[www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni](http://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 our mailing list.***



**PLEASE** inform us with your correct/preferred contact details. Changing jobs often means a change in email address. Please email us or use the link to update details.

<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>

### Editorial comment

As countries across the world struggle to control the rate of infection of Covid-19, so the inevitable constraints apply across the UK as we all take precautions to minimize infection until the vaccination programme is well and truly established.

RPS continues to carefully monitor and ensure that essentially safety measure are constantly assessed and enforced.



During this time, we must thank all those, many of whom are RPS alumni, for their endeavours and crucial services offered to the general public during this time and not without great risk to themselves. The essential services are too many to mention but I am sure we are all extremely grateful and wish them a safe journey through this pandemic.

### Open Evening 2020



The 'vast' sports hall

Previous Open Evenings were a wonderful opportunity to visit, listen, watch, question and mingle with both staff and students as well as with other prospective parents and pupils but no more! In order to get a realistic impression of the school and what it has to offer please take a look at this virtual tour.

<https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/virtual-open-evening-2020/>



## Recollections; the life and present times of an Alumnus - David Amende



1977



2017

Some words as promised

### Schools

I was born in 1961 and was at junior school in Hale on the south side of Manchester before we moved to Cardiff in 1973, where I studied Welsh and, moving to Harpenden in 1977, was able to carry on with Welsh lessons and take Welsh O-level at RPS. Probably not on the syllabus now? I joined RPS in the 5th form (Year 11) and took my A-levels in June 1980. I was part of an Oxbridge group run by the headmaster, Mr Turnbull, and stayed on for the Autumn term, taking the Cambridge entrance exam before leaving RPS in December 1980.

### Work

I worked at CW Plant Hire for 2 weeks then started my student apprenticeship at GEC Turbine Generators based in Rugby from January to August 1981 along with Graham Keen from RPS. I then read Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London. I worked for GEC in the summer holidays then worked as a Project Engineer for an acoustics company in Staines. I moved to the Midlands in 1987 and worked in materials handling and the water industry as a Project Manager. I now live in York and am still managing engineering projects, mostly in the process industry.

### Family

I married in 2003 and we have 3 children who are currently at senior school.

### Teachers at RPS

The teachers that I remember were  
Mr Anderton – Chemistry

Mr Larby – Metalwork

Mr Chaudoir – Geography

Mr Fox – PE? (Geography)

Miss Clubley – Deputy Head  
Mr Turnbull - Head Teacher  
Mr Lucas (Maths Head of Dept)  
Mr Passmore (Physics)  
Mrs Knights  
Mr Ivor Jones (Physics)  
Mr Jones (English Head of Dept)  
Mr Clayton (Humanities)  
Mr Evans (Maths)

Mr Riddick (RE)  
Mr Curran (Chemistry)  
Mrs Hiscocks  
Mr Draper (History)  
Mr Nichols (History)  
Miss Fryd (French)  
Miss Hood (Biology)  
Mrs Barnett (Biology)

Jack Passmore made a lasting impression – I can still recite the definition of an Ampere. We had to write out these obscure definitions at top speed in every lesson while Jack popped in and out of the Science Prep Room for a smoke.

We had Mr Curran for A –level Chemistry, there were only 4 in the group

In Maths we had access to the computer at Hatfield Polytechnic and used to send shoe boxes of punched cards to run programs; we would get a print out of the results the following week. In later years we had a BBC micro. We were shown TV programmes on an enormous TV which stood on stilts and was connected to a top-loading VHS.

#### Sports

The Nicky line ran past the school and every now and then a train would rumble past, making cricket matches slightly more interesting for me.

#### Before health & safety...

Pupils were allowed to drive to school in the 6th form. I used to cycle from Barlings Road and would sometimes get a tow up the hill across the common from Robin, who drove a Beetle. Once I'd passed my driving test I would be a passenger for Chris who had a Triumph Herald but hadn't passed his test and we would explore the pubs of Hertfordshire during "driving lessons". I made a sail and would "wind surf" around our housing estate on a skateboard. Robin and I cycled to Knebworth Festival to see Led Zeppelin. We managed to get in without tickets, and without telling our parents where we were. I think that we got home around midnight. Robin and I built a snowmobile from scrap with a lawnmower engine connected to a steel paddlewheel at the rear. Fortunately, we had no snow and it was never used. We also experimented with exothermic chemical reactions and made several loud "pops" in the fields down Beesonend Lane.

#### After School

Someone's mum worked for Which magazine in Harpenden and a few of us would go after school to carry out food tests. I remember being paid to eat boil in the bag cod fillets. I've not found a better job in the intervening 40years!

David. Many thanks for sharing your memories of your time at Roundwood.

**We would be delighted to hear from others who would like to share their reminiscences'.**

## New addition to the Porter family.



Mr **Andy Porter** (Head of Humanities & Geography teacher;2004) writes .... Becks (PE ,2004) and I are thrilled to welcome our baby girl, Ava Elizabeth Porter into our family. She was born with a bang on bonfire night (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>) at 9:45, weighing 8lb 6oz. It was a challenging birth, but Mum was an absolute super hero.

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We are enjoying the cuddles and facing the challenges of raising a little one. Needless to say, we very much look forward to bringing her in to school at a more suitable time.

**We all wish them well.**



**Scientia** – The science dept. has now started to publish its own newsletter and is created and edited by Mrs **Shakeela Rashid** (2013 - present). It is circulated to all staff.

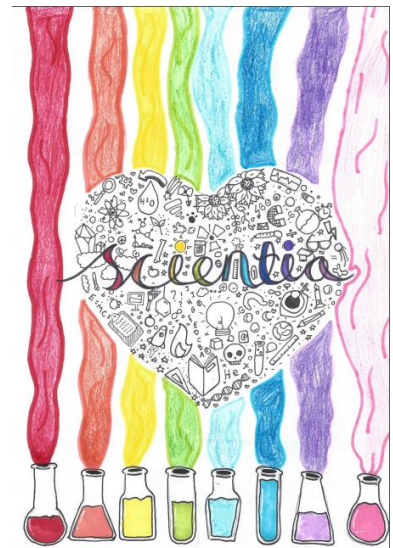
Scientia showcases just some of the wide range of events which have taken place this year, as well as the exceptional talents of Roundwood students. In addition, there are helpful revision strategies and some taxing logic/mathematical problems.

Mrs Rashid writes

I have been teaching for 7 years, but I have been a registered osteopath for the past 22 years, and I am still practising. I am also a mother and a free thinker. One of my most important tasks is teaching my students to think critically, and for themselves; to be confident of their opinions when it's backed up with scientific data. If I can accomplish this, then I am happy.

More RPS news can be found on the fortnightly 'Roundup' newsletter on the school website

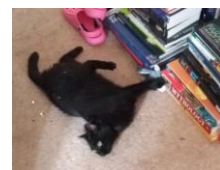
<https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/roundup-newsletters/>







1. Gwen Cogan wrote to request that we send out information to help Alviar- which we certainly put out on the website.
2. "HI IT'S ME! It's been AGES since I last messaged you and even longer since I was at the school. Time marches on in such a aiggin' way doesn't it". EH. Yes, but how could I forget you.
3. "I visited WebMD and thought that you would be interested in the information below". RM. Thanks but wary of such links!



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Many thanks to all those that wrote in and apologies for any that we received after publication.

## Staff changes

**Mrs. Baljinda Lidder.** (Jan.2015 – Dec. 2020) Head of Chemistry is leaving at Christmas.

**Mr. Mohammad Umar.** (Mar. – Dec. 2020). Acting Head of Inclusion.

**Ms. Monika Donaghue.** (Jun. (2019 – Nov. 2020). Teaching assistant.

**Mr. Stuart Thurgood.** (Jan. – Dec. 2020). Computer Science teacher.



## Memorabilia

As many of us that have been privileged to teach, advise and help so many young and talented individuals, there are many occasions when we look back and wonder.

Sometimes we are helped on the way – remember?

## STOP PRESS

**Coming soon; Staff interviews with Mr. Andy Porter and also with Mrs Caroline O'Coy.**

With many people WFH and with too many suffering under the current economic circumstances, we will all feel for those that have been unfortunate to have been affected.

Let us hope that the future will bring better times for all.

We wish good health and fortune to everyone and to all our alumni.

**CONTACT** – PLEASE send in any information relating to your time with us or your recent news. The news & views you provide, along with any photos, are greatly appreciated by all our readers.

Please email us with a synopsis of what you would like to appear along with a photo (linkedin?) Please email [b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

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Ed. *BMLS*