



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI

Newsletter 38: June 2022

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



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

Editorial comment- contact

**PLEASE ensure we have your current email address.
PLEASE encourage fellow ex-RPS students (alumni) to get in touch.**

Please give us your feedback on any items contained within or if you wish on any topic that relates to your time here or fellow classmates or staff.

alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk or b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Wednesday Visits

As SARS Covid 19 restrictions have been widely lifted at the behest of our government, then Wednesday visits will take place once more. Mask wearing is no longer obligatory but would advise bringing one with you.

Please email or contact the school to make arrangements for a suitable date/time.



RPS Site Security

A new security layout and system is being introduced to the site premises. This will involve perimeter fencing, secure gated entry, a new one-way vehicle access and secure staff/visitor access.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

TikTok Women's Six Nations Rugby

Manager Simon Middleton's Red Roses were too strong for all of their opponents, scoring 45 tries and conceding just four during the campaign.



Middleton rang the changes for the trip to Italy in Round 2 but there was no drama in Parma as Lydia Thompson's hat-trick helped fire her side to a 74-0 victory.

Sarah McKenna (Class of 2007) opened the scoring after three minutes before Thompson got her first try and then, after the wingers had got things started, the forwards got in on the act as Lark Davies, Shaunagh Brown and Alex Matthews bundled over.

In the second half, Vicky Fleetwood, Emma Sing on debut and Emily Scarratt all scored while **McKenna** completed her double and Thompson rounded off her hat-trick to cap a dominant display.

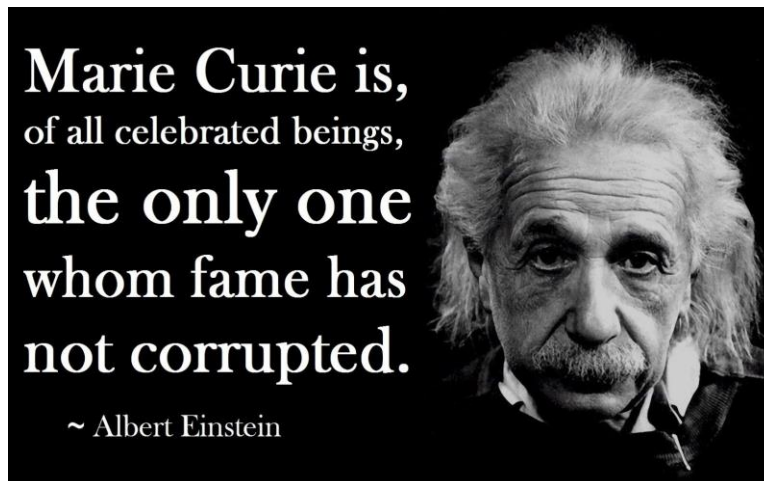
DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

*In the past the Newsletter has featured an 'alumni of the month of issue' to showcase the range of career **direction and locations that our alumni have pursued since leaving us.***

Please write to us!

We would welcome content and a photo from any of our alumni on whatever they choose to write about.

Science Ambassadors



The Science department has established noticeboards on both floor levels in the science block to promote and celebrate the role of all those that studied Science A levels and went on to develop their careers in science or other fields. The promotion of girls in Science was especially prominent.

Editorial memories. Part 2.

My earliest recollections of life at Roundwood Park began with an interview in the evening at the chair of governor's house. I recall the Head Master, Haydon Luke, the Chair of Governors (forgot his name), the County Science advisor (forgot his name too) and possibly the Head of Science (Jack Passmore). I recall with some horror the prospect of attending teacher training on a part time basis but that was overruled by the County Science advisor – nice man!



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My first days were working with a light teaching load under the guidance of the Head of Chemistry (Tom Curran) and also the Head of Science (Jack Passmore). Tom was very helpful and turned out to be a font of knowledge on all manner of subjects and he excelled at cryptic crosswords and stealing other people's coffee mugs. Jack gave me a handwritten folder of lessons for Y7 & 8 which itemised what was to be taught, how long it would take, details of practical exercises and homework to be set. JP would sit in the physics prep room, with his pipe and listen to me and any sounds from the adjacent lab; he often came in to listen and invariably said



that I sounded b****y boring. JP was an enigma; no one spoke out in his lessons or played



up. Basically, he did not take prisoners; be they students or staff. I recall teaching o level physics and giving the students multiple tests on assorted topics. Every answer, as instructed by JP, was to be written out 10x and the next time 100x. I recall one Y12 girl, Louise(?), who complained that she could not complete her Geography assignment or other homework as she has several thousand Physics

corrections to complete for the following day! I think she was let off! On another occasion I had a new Y12 boy in the class who became unruly and difficult and to the best of my rather inexperienced way I gave him a hard time and all was quiet. Later JP tells me about this individual who assaulted a teacher at his previous school

and I should be careful! Having been invited to speak at Jack's funeral in Germany, I recounted many of these recollections to his many friends in Germany and as many Germans spoke fairly good English it was clear by their reactions that they understood; my German was certainly not up to the task.

*The 'red' portrait at the top was painted by the talented **Ellie Bultitude** (class of 2011) and kindly presented to her 'old' form tutor!*

The STAFF INTERVIEW

Mrs Sue Wilkins
Year Head, Business (and previously ICT) teacher
(2004 – present)

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

After working in the industry for many years I did a conversion course to gain my teaching qualification.

2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at University/college?

This was many years ago but learning with other trainee teachers was enjoyable and supportive.

3. What made you go into teaching?

When working in the industry I spent a lot of time teaching staff IT systems and decided on a career change and never looked back! I wanted to make an impact on a



young person's life both academically and emotionally of which I hope I have done with many present and past students.

4. Have you ever considered any other career path or worked in another industry?

Working in the industry before coming into teaching gave me great grounding in my teaching practice where I could make links with topics and the real world. When I was at school I wanted to be a police officer but quickly decided it was not for me!

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

I worked in Further Education for a while and enjoyed both adult education and working with SEND students. I applied for a job at RPS as it was my local school and where my children would eventually attend. I did not expect to get the job but 18yrs later I am still here!

6. What aspects of your job at RPS do you especially enjoy and if you have to pick one thing that you most enjoyed what would it have been?

I think seeing the students prosper as they travel through the year groups and when they leave having a plethora of life skills and qualifications for their futures.

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

Gaining outstanding in our last Ofsted visit was an amazing feeling showcasing our hard work was recognised fully. Being a house

leader and raising a vast amount of money for our charities supported fully by some wonderful students.

8. How do you feel you have made an impact at RPS in any of your roles at RPS?

I always have the perspective that there is always something good in a student and you just have to find it so I would hope that my impact has been supporting students to reach their true potential for their next steps in life, this could be both from an educational aspect or a more personal well being one.

9. What are your passions/hobbies or pursuits in your spare time?

Recently I have taken up golf and love the personal challenges it brings. To spend four hours in the fresh air with no phones or interruptions is very good for your well being. I also enjoy gardening and following my beloved Arsenal football team.

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

The only other profession I may have gone into is to become a Child Psychologist as there is so much these days affecting a young person's mental health. I am so interested in the impact of situations and challenges that affect young people and if the strategies and techniques are implemented at a young age it will help them so much later on in life.

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

I would like to be remembered as being firm but fair and always a supportive member of the teaching staff.

Do contact us if you have any request for a particular member of staff.

General RPS information

More RPS news can be found on the fortnightly and now new look 'Roundup' newsletter on the school website

<https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/RoundUp-170-29-April-2022-1.pdf>

Careers Convention

A huge **thank you** to all those that have responded.
Work shadowing/placements is next on the agenda for



Letters to the Editor

1. Yes, I've had lots of responses for the video and it's looking really good- we're going to show Wendy it tomorrow. So, thank you very much for helping me with it! CS
2. Thanks for the email- unfortunately I am away that week so wouldn't be able to attend. Apologies. LP *It is always best to keep us informed.*
3. I hope all is well with you. I have no problem being featured on the notice board. I studied both Biology and Chemistry at A-level. DL *Many thanks for giving us your permission.*
4. Here's the doc and the source URL for my image is...AM *Thanks for the info.*
5. Yes, I closed that email account - please send to...CA *Good to tell us.*
6. Happy birthday. JI-K. *Yes, another year older but wiser too?*
7. Thanks for sharing all this new for Roundwood and the community - I always learn something interesting. MH. *Many thanks to you as always good to hear.*

The Wendy Miller (2004-2022) Tribute.

The Sixth Form café was run and managed by Wendy for many years and has left an indelible impression on so many students that sought refuge and comfort and so many wonderful drinks and snacks.

See the tribute compiled by the students. Thanks to all those students, staff and alumni that contributed to this

<https://www.kindeo.com/group/opm8fmkn2c7wh73>

Staff changes

Ms Sarah Timberlake (July 2016 - June 2022). Achievement Mentor.

Mrs Martina Mansfield (June 2014 - July 2022) Assistant Head and English teacher.

Kate Cohen (Sept 2021 – March 2022). Cover Supervisor.

Janet Titman (Apr 2016- Mar 2022). Science Technician.

WEDNESDAY VISITS

The situation at school, as in the country, is potentially ever changing as further guidance is directed.

Should you wish to visit please contact us.

Please bring a mask which you may wish to wear or if requested.



If you would like to visit please email me and I will see what we can arrange.

STOP PRESS

Mrs Margaret Jarvis or **Miss Todd** as she was known then, worked at RPS from 1976-78 as a biology/human biology teacher.

Dean Smith is alive and well and hoping for no more Sahara sand days or wet weather as he and



his team continue with his flourishing window cleaning business.

The **Southdown Football Pundits Association** continues to meet regularly to discuss and assess the merits of the Mancunian FCs impact on global soccer.



Any comments/memories/photos (GDPR?) of your time with us or your recent news will be greatly appreciated by all our readers.



A Jubilee decorated post box in Harpenden.

Best wishes to all our readers

BMLS (editor)