



# ROUNDWOOD PARK SCHOOL

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A place to flourish



*"The passion and commitment you give to the students is remarkable."* Year 11 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.

Roundwood Park is a school with a strong reputation as an innovative and inspiring place in which to learn and to teach. It is a place where traditional values of smart appearance, striving for excellence at all times and acting with integrity combine with kindness, research-based learning and high academic standards. Roundwood Park is a place to flourish.

Students reach their potential here because they learn in a happy community where their contributions are valued. Our clear definition of the characteristics of the Roundwood Park leaver as a young adult who is not only well-qualified, but also well-rounded, 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 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 that we offer.

Our sense of community 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, raising both money and awareness for our school charities each year.

The students and staff of Roundwood Park offer a warm welcome to visitors and there is always so much going on. Why not visit us to experience Roundwood Park for yourself? We are confident that you will be inspired by what you see.

**Alan Henshall**  
Headteacher



# A place to flourish

## POTENTIAL

We help every student to love learning for life, to follow their passions and to reach their full potential

## EXCELLENCE

We deliver a rich education that stimulates curiosity, values diversity and offers challenge

## KINDNESS

We ensure our school is a happy place to learn, teach and work by caring for the wellbeing of ourselves and each other

## INSPIRATION

We provide a creative and inspiring learning and teaching environment where students feel confident and able to express themselves

## INTEGRITY

We take, and expect, a principled, honest, and sustainable approach to everything we do

## COMMUNITY

We are an inclusive school at the heart of our community, working in partnership with our families and actively encouraging a community spirit in our school





*"Your staff embody how rounded Roundwood Park School really is; academics are incredibly important but being responsible for young people goes above and beyond grades."*

**Year 10 Parent**





*“Our daughter has absolutely flourished academically at Roundwood Park, her confidence in her own ability has soared and we couldn’t be more proud.”* **Year 8 Parent**

# Learning at Roundwood Park

At Roundwood Park School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which reinforces our core purpose of enabling our students to flourish.

## Our intention is to:

- promote a commitment to lifelong learning through our ASPIRE framework
- provide the depth that enables students to master the key knowledge and skills essential for each subject
- provide a rich variety of learning experiences that will challenge and inspire all students regardless of their ability, gender, ethnicity or social background to achieve their full potential
- encourage a love of learning by providing a variety of engaging activities, enabling all students to develop their intellectual, creative, moral, social, physical and personal skills to the full
- encourage a natural curiosity, a spirit of enquiry and an ethos where we have high expectations of all our students
- develop creativity and innovation whether its applied in the arts, design or the sciences which results in scientific, sporting and cultural achievement
- enable our students to become confident, articulate and responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society
- prepare our Roundwood Park Leavers for the next stage of their education or training



# Fulfilling potential

At Roundwood Park we encourage every student to fulfil their potential and love of learning by offering the widest possible range of opportunities and experiences during their time with us.

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.

Whilst students in Years 10 & 11 continue to study core curriculum subjects, they are also able to select from a range of options to take at GCSE.



In support of all core learning, we offer a super-curriculum, open to all students, to enable them to follow their passions and achieve mastery in the subjects that they are most passionate about.

We are proud to offer a 'Blended Learning' approach which makes use of digital technology (such as Chromebooks) routinely in day-to-day lessons by our students, alongside more traditional approaches.

The new possibilities that this brings to our students, the infinite ways it can engage them, as well as the ability for us to provide differentiated and individualised teaching strategies, are some of the huge benefits of the programme.

The school has specialist areas for all major subjects; including Computer suites, Science laboratories, an Art block, large Music and Drama studios, modern Technology facilities, Sixth Form Centre, Sports Centre, 3G pitch and extensive playing fields.







*"My daughter comes home happy every day with stories about all of the exciting things she's learnt."* **Year 8 Parent**



*"I am impressed at how much your staff care, how well they know our children and their words of wisdom and kindness to help us move our children forward to their next chapter in life."* **Year 11 Parent**



# Student Wellbeing & Pastoral Care

As a school we value the importance of personal wellbeing and the environment we create is one of kindness, support and care.

We recognise that good physical, social and mental health are prerequisites for students to be happy in school, so that high quality learning can follow. We therefore make sure that all students are supported in their development and are helped to realise their full academic and personal potential. In addition, safeguarding is given the very highest priority. It is of paramount importance that all our students are safe and well cared for.

Our students are all members of a Tutor Group or 'Form' and pastoral care is organised on a Year Group basis. Form Tutors oversee the personal and academic welfare of students and are the first point of contact for them and their parents/carers. Tutors are supported by Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers.

The school's lead on Mental Health & Wellbeing works alongside the pastoral team, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing throughout our school

community, providing early help, support and signposting to the relevant wellbeing services for those who need it. A school counsellor is also available for confidential consultations when necessary.

In addition, we have a team of Achievement Mentors who support the engagement and development of our young people who need to overcome barriers to learning, such as social, emotional, and learning needs. They work in close partnership with students, staff and parents to ensure all students have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop. Parents meet their children's teachers and tutors online or in person, at Parents Consultation Evenings but are encouraged to contact individual staff if they have particular concerns. Parents are kept up to date throughout the year and receive written reports regarding their child's progress.

## SEND@RPS

At Roundwood Park School, students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) are welcomed into our community and staff are dedicated to ensuring that they achieve exceptionally well.

We are committed to removing barriers, giving all students access to a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum. This approach enables them to not only achieve well academically, but also to develop as individuals to acquire the learning habits of a Roundwood Park Leaver, instilling a life-long love of learning.

We are very proud of all our students and their achievements and regularly celebrate their successes in order to raise self-esteem and encourage our vulnerable learners.





# Student Life

## HOUSES

At Roundwood Park we have a thriving House System that really brings us together as a community – as well as promoting some healthy competition! We have 7 Houses that each have a member of staff as 'Head of House' and, perhaps more importantly, we have nominated and elected House Leaders from each Form and House Captains, who are members of our Sixth Form. We run a rich and varied programme of House events for students to participate in; ranging from enterprise, community and charitable work, to musical, dramatic, sporting and artistic activities.

## THE LIBRARY

Our Library is at the heart of the school, and as well as its large stock of books, reference materials and many other resources it offers a place for wellbeing and reflection and is the home of various wellbeing clubs. Display areas showcase topical themes and books throughout the year as well as providing a platform for student-driven projects and initiatives.

## CATERING

We have a vibrant and welcoming school canteen where our catering staff produce a wide range of nourishing food for students and staff. All of our dishes are freshly prepared on site on a daily basis and seasonal menus are created in-house and are nutritionally carefully balanced. We provide a wide selection of Halal and vegetarian choices and also offer vegan and gluten free options.

## COMMUNITY

We value both our local and the wider community and give back where and when we can; whether this be by raising money for our school charities or collecting items to donate to various charitable initiatives, putting on music concerts, throwing Christmas parties for our local senior citizens or by being proud to share our 3G pitch with our local community.

## PTA

We have a fundraising committee run by parents and carers of children at Roundwood Park School, raising money to enhance the school environment and our children's education. There is an established events calendar that is well supported, providing fun and relaxed events, such as Quiz and Comedy Nights for our community and a biannual Sponsored Walk for our students.

*"Thank you to all the teachers on my son's school trip; they were all extremely caring, helpful and made it such a wonderful experience for him."* **Year 11 Parent**



*"Both of my daughters have had tremendous support outside the classroom; helping each of them to grow into well-rounded, confident young women. They were nurtured both in sport and performing arts - hobbies that I'm sure will stay with them for life."* **Year 11 Parent**





# Enrichment

## TRIPS & VISITS

At Roundwood Park School we offer our students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of visits, field trips and excursions that support national curriculum studies and extra-curricular activities. Trips and visits include short day trips to places of interest as well as multi-day residential trips within the UK, Europe or even further afield.

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; from visiting London and its museums and other attractions or a trip to the zoo, to trying activities such as climbing, caving, karting, water sports or even horse riding.

We also run a popular ski trip to the USA and we work with sustainable school travel specialists World Challenge, which has given the opportunity for senior students to join expeditions to countries such as Botswana, Ecuador, Tanzania, Mongolia, Borneo and Zambia.

We support the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and student participation in this programme is very popular at Roundwood Park.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We offer a wide range of daily extra-curricular activities that are open to everyone. We are proud of the variety of the opportunities we offer throughout the school week at lunchtime or after school, and we are confident that there is something for everyone whether you be sporty, musical, artistic, linguistic, enjoy a debate, science, technology, creative writing, reading or just wish to meet with others who share your interests such as our Pride drop in or climate action group.



*All of our extra curricular clubs and groups can be viewed on our website.*

# Our Sixth Form

Roundwood Park Sixth Form is special. Not only do we have an impressive record of achievement, but our enrichment, leadership and community-based opportunities provide students with much more than just a strong academic platform.

Our students gain a breadth of experience that supports competitive applications to university, apprenticeships and employment. We are proud and confident to say that the role models in our community are our Sixth Form students; they work alongside our exceptional team of staff to drive improvements, leading initiatives and providing opportunities for inclusion across the board. The Sixth Form students are at the heart of what we do, from presenting in assemblies, mentoring younger years, tutoring students at GCSE and running extra-curricular clubs in subjects they are passionate about.

Whether the students are studying four A levels or following Level 3 BTEC courses, each has an opportunity for leadership, excellence and friendship. We welcome applications from students currently attending any school.





*"The care, consideration, time and effort put into my daughter has been mind-blowing; with the outcome of this energy being shown in the outstanding A Level grades she achieved."* **Year 13 Parent**



# Meet our Alumni



## Ralph Adams-Hale

### Professional Rugby Player, Saracens RFC

My time at Roundwood Park School was great. I spent 7 years there and graduated in 2015. Though I am now a professional rugby player, Roundwood was excellent in supporting and helping me achieve my academic aims - preparing me fully to be able to successfully apply for and complete a degree alongside my rugby.

The school also embraced my sporting side, developing me physically and supporting the start of my career with bespoke flexibility catering to my needs.

I've made lifelong friends and look back at my time at Roundwood with great joy.



## Emily Pearson

### MEng Mechanical Engineering, Durham University

I loved my time at RPS (2010-2017) and it prepared me for my future in so many ways. The environment not only gave me the support I needed and developed me as an independent learner, but it pushed me to achieve my potential.

Whilst academic development has been important to my future, it was through the many extracurricular opportunities that I developed lifelong skills, attitudes and behaviours. Leadership roles at school gave me the confidence and experience to seek them out at University and beyond.

One of my proudest achievements was returning to RPS as Durham University's Team Principal of the Solar Car Society and bringing our solar car with me. It was wonderful to give something back to the school that has given me so much.



## Gina Whiteing

### BA (Hons) Dance & Musical Theatre, Bird College, Conservatoire for Dance & Musical Theatre

Throughout my time at Roundwood Park (2014 - 2019), I not only developed crucial academic skills but I also gained many friends for life. The help and support I had from teaching staff gave me the confidence to get where I am studying today.

One aspect that I cherish is the balance between academic and practical subjects. One of my favourite subjects was Food and Nutrition, which I studied at GCSE level and this gave me many important life skills.

My passion for dance and musical theatre was always nurtured and I was able to set-up and run my own dance club. This gave me a great insight into dance teaching and leadership responsibilities, which also helped me to inspire some of the younger students.



Please follow us on social media to keep up with all of the wonderful activities, opportunities and initiatives that embody life at RPS.

*Find us on:*



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Also follow our PE Department  
@RPSPE

Please also visit our website for lots more information on our school -  
[www.roundwoodpark.co.uk](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk)





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