



# ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI

## Newsletter 41: March 2023

[www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni](http://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](mailto:alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk) or [b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

### ALUMNI NEWS

#### Professor Penny Cook – now Assistant Dean

Penny Cook, Professor of Public Health, has been successfully appointed as Associate Dean: Research and Innovation for the School of Health and Society.

Penny joined the University of Salford in June 2012 to teach on the successful MSc Public Health, and was made Professor in 2013. Alongside teaching, she is currently completing an NIHR-funded 'community alcohol health champions' project (Communities in Charge of Alcohol, CICA), which is looking at how the communities can support each other with alcohol advice and whether communities can influence local alcohol licensing decisions.

She also leads a research team investigating the impacts of alcohol exposure during pregnancy, and associated Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), in

collaboration with the National FASD Clinic. Her research recently made news headlines with the shocking findings that this under-recognised condition may



affect 2-4% of children in the UK. She currently leads an NIHR funded project to test a parenting intervention for caregivers of children with FASD.

Research in other areas of public health include physical activity and the health benefits of greenspace. Her research on health and nature overlaps with a long-standing hobby—as an amateur ecologist, where she has co-authored books on ecological methods and studying invertebrates.

Penny will take up her new role from 1 October, with Professor Ben Light remaining in post until that date.

### **Dr Tim Ebbels now Professor at Imperial College.**



**Tim Ebbels** is Professor of Biomedical Data Science and Head of Bioinformatics in the Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction at Imperial College London.

Tim gave a public lecture on Wednesday 18 January 2023, entitled -Metabolism Meets Machine Learning: Computational Metabolomics .

For the last 25 years, Professor Tim Ebbels has worked to extract more useful information from metabolomics measurements. From early work devising an “expert system” for drug toxicity assessment, through projects in environmental toxicity and molecular epidemiology, his team have been instrumental in developing some of the major tools used in modern metabolic science. In this lecture he will tell the story of this journey, crossing disciplines from physics to the exciting modern world of data rich biology. A key theme will be how the unique confluence of AI and high-throughput molecular measurements is enabling new discoveries in a variety of biological and biomedical problems.

### **RPS sporting success – Trampolining**

Trampolining coach, Mrs Pauline Moxham writes “We had another bumper year at the Regional trampoline competition yesterday.

4 teams were Regional champions, 1 team in 2nd.

17 individual medals with 5 Regional champions C. Upjohn, O Lawes, T. Dickens, E. Lowry & I. Glennie .

23 gymnasts will progress to represent the Eastern region at Zonals in January

*Do we have any more alumni or ex-staff that have written books, films or other media.? Please let us know.*

### **Senior Citizens' Christmas Event**

*For the past two years, due to Covid, we have not been able to invite Senior Citizens into school for the Christmas party, so we devised a plan to take the party out into the community. Our Year 12s and the choir visit the care homes and the residents who we would normally invite, and take gifts, cards and our Christmas wishes to them. It has been very different, but still a lovely event. This year we hoped to run the party as is traditional, but after speaking to the care homes we found that most are still shielding. It seemed unfair to invite those who are not shielding, and therefore able to get out and about, and not include those who would benefit most. We therefore took the decision to run the event as we have done the past two years which will include everyone. Hopefully next year we can go back to hosting the traditional Roundwood Christmas party.*

### **DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?**



The last assembly

**Andrew Gardner** writes “You know, it winds my wife up no end, but I still reflect back that 6th form were some of the best years of my life: so much freedom, so much to look forward to ahead, life was simple,

and (dare I say) the work was pretty easy!”

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

*We would be delighted to hear from any of alumni that would like to feature in the next or future editions of these alumni newsletters.*

Previous ‘alumni of the month can be viewed on past Newsletters on the alumni site.

### **The Art of Chemistry and cakes!**



Fond memories of Friday after school Chemistry & Cake in the 6<sup>th</sup> form Common Room were resurrected when hearing from **Martha Jones** (aka The Dancing Queen) in early January.

Martha is alive and well and is now one of the many involved in the Nursing profession performing an essential and invaluable role within our aging community in Gloucestershire.

...and what of Fitzbillies Chelsea buns!! Someone emailed to say the place had burnt down some years ago!



### **Alumni to the rescue!**

**Ben Rankin and Alecs Cvetkovic Cvetkovic join the Careers Insight evening, to talk about their careers and career paths on Media and Publishing, on Wednesday 12th October.**



also had alumni Megan Green (RPS 2005-2012) and Bobby Palmer coming into school on

**Wednesday 7th December to present to the Y11's as part of the Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps PSCHÉ day.**

**Alumni Richard Harris, Andrew Mill and David Pankhurst in school in mid-November helping with the Y12 mock interviews.**

### The STAFF INTERVIEW

**The staff interview: Helen Hyam**  
2022. Art teacher/tutor from April  
2004 - present

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

*I studied Fine Art at University of Herts but also studied Furniture and Product Design at Kingston Poly when I was 18 I did like the course although the dissertation at the end on Graveyard monuments was a bit grim.*

2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at University/college? *Riding my bike trailing a wire installation constructed with tights, wire and yellow beak shapes!*
3. What made you go into teaching? *I did not like school particularly (walked out a lot) or drew things. I thought I might make a happier place for students and I like all the Art equipment but certainly not for the pay!*



4. Have you ever considered any other career path or worked in another industry? *I have painted murals/freelance artwork and worked at a cattery. I am probably a full-time artist.*
5. Why did you choose Roundwood Park School and have you ever worked in another school? *I worked at a junior school supporting with Art and at an after-school club. The Art Tech job was advertised and I really wanted it and applied twice!*
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 really enjoy working 1:1 with students on screenprinting. I also enjoy displaying work, especially GCSE, which can be shown off with mounting and reactive techniques.*
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7. Do you have any moments that stand out that you are willing to share about your experiences at RPS? *I have especially enjoyed being a sixth form tutor and my sixth form tutees. Cooking bacon butties in studio 3 and stinking out the department (most were vegetarians). My sixth formers were heavily supported by cakes, bacon and sweets. We did have fruit Fridays. Dressing up in the department and walking through lessons and staff had to guess the artist.*
8. How do you feel you have made an impact at RPS in any of your roles at RPS? *There are more holes in the wall where I have hammered in nails. As a sixth form tutor I think I have made tough times fun. Maybe you should ask them!*

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



time? Art, Painting, keeping sketchbook diaries. I drew my way around Mongolia and Fiji and last year to South Africa. Epic trips on the school World Challenge expeditions. I also enjoy swimming and a lot of horse riding.

10. What forms of art are you especially keen on? Sixth Form in general and all the Owen's house forms. I have tutored such a lot of exciting and inspiring students who were about to go out into the world.

11. Given the changes in education over the years, would you, given your time again, go into teaching or another profession? No! I would do the same.

12. When students look back on their time at RPS how would you like to be remembered? The kind one that brightened your day

*and as the students did to me sometimes.*



*I love working in my department, supporting colleagues who are my friends. We have been through many challenges; trips, cancelled trips, damaged artwork then fixed, open evenings, Covid at school and blowing up ceramics! No day is ever the same.*



### Letters to the Editor

1. Some information for you. 72/73 Head Boy was David B... and 79/80 Head Boy was Mark B.. and Head Girl was Annette G... CC. Thank you so much for helping to update our incomplete Head Boy/Head Girl records. Hopefully more will respond.

2. Let me explain: living in the Yukon there isn't much call for a jacket and tie. But I thought I should dress the part for the interview. Standing in front of the mirror I realized it had been a few years since I last tied a tie. Thinking about it brought me back about 18 years to the sixth form common room and memories of you teaching me to tie a proper Windsor knot. Arguably one of the more important life lessons Roundwood gave me.



Can't tell you if I got the job or not, but one of the panel members did complement me on the tie! AQT. Yes, *guilty as charged. Full Windsors and cakes and No Smoking probably before any chemistry!*.

3. So sorry to hear about Betty Wolfenden. I have so much to thank her for - she took apart a lot of my maths knowledge and built it again with rigour. I didn't like it initially (I thought, why am I being taught the basics again) but soon realised .....JG. Yes. *Betty was a giant at RPS.*

4. Love the regular updates, although they make me feel very old! My son is doing chemistry GCSE, so I think about you often as I remind myself how to calculate atomic mass. Good times. Education is definitely wasted on the young. BG. *Fond memories.*
5. I would love to arrange a reunion for my year group and host it at Roundwood. Have other former students done this? JC. *Many reunions take place across the country and often in pubs and homes but so far we have not been able to arrange any such gatherings in school but we are looking into it.*
6. Thanks for all the newsletters and have a happy, peaceful Christmas.NR. *Thank you kindly. Currently we are hoping to update 'in house' but if that fails I will make contact.*
7. Jaimi Barbakoff was in my year Brian... Class of '96! I think she married an actor from Casualty and has 2 boys. AA. *Many thanks for this.*
8. Yes, that's Jami! She was in my year 89-96. She's now married to the actor who played Dr Ethan in Casualty. Happy Christmas! RK. *Ok it is official now. Thanks.*
9. Thank you for another newsletter. Jaimi Barbakoff was in my years at Roundwood, finishing sixth form in 1996. Hope this helps! Best wishes & Happy Holidays. MS. Great another confirmation.
10. Thank you for continuing to do this, it's lovely to still feel a little connected after all of these years. AL. *Thanks and my pleasure and wonderful to keep in touch and hear from so many truly wonderful alumni.*

## Staff Leavers

**Mrs Michele Darvill**, Jan 2000 - March 24 2023, School's Examinations Officer.

**Mrs Jenny Doig**, September 2002 – December 2022. School Counsellor.

**Susan Crook**, January 2020 – December 2022. Teacher of English

**Cristina Fenn**, September – December 2022. Teacher of Spanish.



**Head Boy & Head Girl records** HB, 62/63, 61/62, 60/61 HB Christopher Woof, HG?.

## **WEDNESDAY VISITS**

Over the years the school has undergone many transformations but some corners remain almost unchanged!

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

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

Best wishes to all our readers      **BMLS** (editor)