

RPS ROUNDUP

14 July 2023



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

Last week we enjoyed the Year 13 Ball, held in the beautiful surroundings of Hatfield House. Everybody who attended had a lovely evening as we said goodbye to this excellent year group. See you all on results day!

On Tuesday it was our Achievement Evening where many students received awards that recognised their outstanding perseverance and resilience which have brought them great success. Congratulations to all the award winners on their achievements. There were also many other students who were unlucky not to be there for their own achievements this year.

Yesterday we welcomed our new Year 7s as they came for their secondary transfer day. They showed a great sense of community as they got to know their new classmates and their kindness is already shining through. We are looking forward to welcoming them full time in September.

As this is the last RoundUp before the end of term, we are saying farewell to several members of staff. Jenny Durdey has given sterling service to the school for 22 years. She has led the art department through many changes of personnel and courses and she leaves it in a healthy position with students able to choose art, textiles or photography as they progress through the school. We will miss Jenny as she moves onto the next phase of her life. Evie Robertshaw leaves us as she has attained a well-earned promotion to Head of History at Katherine Warington School. We are glad that she is staying as a near neighbour as her impact on the school has been immense, most recently when Mrs Upton was on maternity leave. Anita Davey is leaving us to relocate to Cyprus. We wish her well and thank her for her work in maths, particularly this year, where she took on a leadership role within the department. Rhiannon Dowling also leaves us in maths and we thank her for her work here over the last two years. Dan Wilkins from our lettings team is leaving, after giving us sterling service at often very anti-social hours. He has been a large contributor to the income that the school has generated from our sporting assets.

I hope you have a happy summer holiday and that all of our students get some rest before the autumn term. On behalf of the staff, thank you for all of your support this year and we will see you again in September.

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



What's On

- 15 July - PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
- 19 July - Year 10 Day Trips
- 20 July - Non-Uniform Day
- 20 July - Last day of term - 12.10 finish

Please check our [SCHOOL CALENDAR](#) for all key dates and school events

Notice

Change to INSET dates 23-24:
Added Tuesday 5 December 23
Removed Monday 3 June 24
 See all school term dates >[HERE](#)<

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |





Achievement Evening

We had a wonderful celebratory evening at school on Tuesday as we invited students, staff and parents in to school for our year-end awards ceremony. Certificates and trophies were given from each faculty to those students who have given their best, excelled or persevered in the face of a host of adversities throughout the school year. The evening was punctuated with performances from our school band, Strike Free, wonderful singer Sophie, as well as our creative writing competition winners Rose and Isabella who read their fabulous pieces for us all to enjoy. Some of our key awards - the Alviar Cohen Award went to R Flaxbeard, our top sports awards were presented to G Francis, I Turner and J Palmer, pastoral awards were given to M Jones, M Fountain, A Wade, O Rogerson and M Sparshott. **A huge well done to all of our award recipients!**

A huge 'Thank You' to our PTA

We'd like to say a huge thank you from the school to our fantastic PTA for all the hard work they have put in over the last few years with 2nd hand uniform sales, quiz nights, support at school events, Christmas tree sales, firework ticket sales etc. We're looking forward to their new Race Night event later this year! The support of our PTA - and you! - has enabled a major refurbishment of our library, the purchase of a new school minibus and we are already benefiting from their current fundraising efforts for extra PE equipment.

Our DofE Silver Expedition

by Tegan, Flora, Phoebe & Ruby C

During our Silver expedition we hit a few obstacles, which luckily, we were able to find solutions for. One of these obstacles was to do with our aim - at first, we had a vague plan, with no real idea on what to video (as we intended to video our experiences on DofE), but after some thought we soon made a detailed plan. This plan included tips on walking up hills, how to keep comfortable with boots and Trangia safety. However, on the first day, we discovered that the camera we wanted to use wasn't turning on, so instead of giving up on our aim, we turned our tips and tricks into a DofE journal.

In order to keep our spirits high during our walking, we chose to sing songs (especially getting up those steep hills!). However, after a while we got a bit tired of the few sentences we could remember from each song. We learnt to persevere when going up these hills, and making sure to take breaks when we felt we needed one. By prioritising our energy levels, we were able to walk faster and enjoy the walking more. Since our practise expedition we knew that rest breaks and snack breaks were essential!

Overall, we had a good time and benefitted a lot from completing DofE, learning how having lots of determination affects your experience positively.

Photos



THANK YOU!

Photos

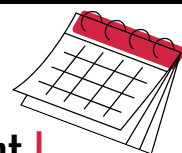


Headteacher's Award 23

Huge congratulations this year go to I Turner!



RPS PTA



| Race Night |

Saturday 7 October

A fun evening to socialise with those in our RPS community
£5 a ticket

MORE INFO > [HERE](#) <

PTA@roundwoodpark.co.uk

| Second Hand Uniform Sale |
TOMORROW! 15 July, 12.30-2pm

School Hall

[See our price list here](#)

We are accepting second hand uniform now!

Scan the code to sign up to easyfundraising and raise money for our PTA at no cost to you!



To keep up to date on all the latest school news and see what your young people are up to, click the logo links and give us a like or follow on social media:



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Year 13 Prom

Wednesday 5th July was certainly an evening to remember for our Year 13s as they celebrated their Leavers' Ball at Hatfield House. The surroundings were beautiful and the sun shone as we gathered at the Rugby Club to board our carriages (coaches!) to the venue. One of students certainly showed up in style as they arrived in a beautiful big tractor!

When we arrived at the venue there was the opportunity for some lovely photos in the garden and Dough and Deer's specially modified Landrover got cooking the most delicious pizzas. Their garlic bread drizzled with honey, being a firm favourite amongst the staff and the "Pettyroni" pizza was a clear hit with the students!

The students all looked absolutely stunning in their outfits and it was so lovely to see them being able to let their hair down after the hard work and long hours they have put in to revision these past few months. The most lovely moment came at the end when every student, along with teachers, formed a huge circle to link shoulders and sing 'Angels' together, further demonstrating what a friendly and cohesive group they have become in their time at Roundwood.

A special mention must go to the prom committee Aiden, Ella and Loxley, overseen by our fabulous former Head Students, Zak and Charlie - and of course our very own Mrs Jefferies. The evening would not have been what it was without their hard work, meticulous attention to detail and amazing organisational skills. I was extremely proud at the end of the evening when the manager commented on what a great group of students we have and how well they had behaved throughout the evening. Their conduct really was impeccable and the smiles on all of their faces as they celebrated the end of their time at Roundwood Park School was truly priceless. It was a lovely send off for what has been a wonderful year group.

May I take this opportunity to wish them all a fantastic summer and all the very best for the next chapter of their lives and we shall look forward to seeing them on results day on Thursday 17th August.

Mrs Bridgman



More Photos



Careers Corner



Elstree Screen Arts Academy

On Tuesday 11 July our Y8 students had a very interesting assembly from Elstree Screen Arts Academy. ESA has joined forces with ScreenSkills (The UK's industry-led skills body) and the National Film and Television School to open a UK Centre of Screen Excellence at ESA. For further information please [click here](#).

STEM Careers Insight Evening - Weds 12 July

A big thank you to RPS Alumni Alessandro Algar and Angel Ashcroft, as well as parent Omer Al-Ta'an for taking the time to talk to us about their career paths. If you missed the careers insight evening and would like a recording please email us [here](#).

Roundwood Park Careers Parent Survey

We would like to ask all parents if they could please take 5 minutes to complete our Careers 2023 Parental Feedback questionnaire - please [click here](#).

INVESTIN - Career Experiences in London

There are just a handful of places left on these immersive Summer Career Experiences. Shadow doctors in a London hospital; trade the stock market in a London skyscraper; explore supercars with Formula 1 engineers; argue a human rights case in the Supreme Court; and much much more!

Register [here](#) for ages 15-18, and register [here](#) for ages 12-14

T-Level Placements - Insights & Questions Answered - Thurs 27 July, 5pm

As a parent of a school student, we know it can be overwhelming to think and plan for their next steps. Pearson's Early Talent team are happy to discuss T-Levels: the new, government-backed, career-focused qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds. From the structure of a typical programme and understanding the industrial placement to the progression opportunities available; tune in to hear some hints, tricks and expertise. [Click here](#) to register.

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RPS Athletics - making history!

Our Year 9 and 10 girls' athletics squad has had a truly amazing season. Having won the St Albans & Harpenden District Championship as well as the Hertfordshire County League Final, they qualified through County and Regional rounds of the ESAA National Track and Field Cup, making it to the national final in Chelmsford which was last weekend - it was a huge success for us to get there - the first time we have ever qualified! Our fabulous girls achieved many personal bests on the day, securing excellent team points - as well as displaying true RPS team spirit and togetherness.

We can hardly believe it ourselves but the girls finished in **third place** behind Guildford High School and Southend High School for Girls. An absolutely incredible achievement by an exceptional group of female athletes. We are so, so proud of them all! Third best in the whole country!!

Squad: I Turner, C Ithier, R Owen, M Robinson, E Clement, L Martin, R West, L Watson, L Stansfield, A Grenier, K Wall, K Iweka, S Renwick, M Wall, A Murat.

We would like to thank our incredible PE department and volunteer coaches at school for their complete dedication to all of our students, to the girls for their effort, commitment and focus as well as their hugely supportive families - we couldn't do it without you. **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

See their names in the paper! > [CLICK HERE](#) <

Annual Creative Writing Competition

This year, as every year, this competition brought out the very best writers of our lower school. Thank you to all of the students who entered and for all your creativity. The themes for this year were; history in the making, a moment of kindness and practice makes perfect. It's always amazing how these themes can be interpreted and made into precisely 200 words!

The winners this year were chosen by Mr Henshall and awarded with their prizes in assemblies. Congratulations to first place winner Rose G 8W, second place Isabella T 9O and third place Chris R 8GT. Well done to these students!

In addition to the overall winners the House winners are;
1st Owen, 2nd Grey Thompson, 3rd Frank,
4th Wilberforce, 5th Cadbury.

Thank you to Mr Henshall and the English Department for judging the competition.

Read the winning entries >> [Click here](#)



In addition, I Turner recently pole vaulted her way to a PB of 3.65 and **WON the NATIONAL SCHOOLS title** - for the second time!



SPOTLIGHT ON PSHCE

We're very excited about our revamped PSHCE programme for next Autumn. We will have a big focus on developing our 'resilience' as a school. You can help support your child at home using some tips from Dr Kathy Weston from Tooled Up Education > [CLICK HERE](#) <

Take a closer look at our NEW PSHCE programme > [HERE](#) <

We've also bought into 'Bounce Forward', an independent charity that provides expertise in psychological fitness. Their training and resources will help us to support our young people to lead mentally healthy lives.



[CLICK HERE](#) to view some useful FAQs on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

If you have any queries please get in touch with our Lead PSHCE teacher: s.mooney@roundwoodpark.co.uk

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277



292



308



334



320



324

HOUSE News

We held our annual end of year House assembly yesterday - where the whole school gathers in the Sports Hall and we celebrate all of our House events and achievements, tot up the Points and award the House Cups...

Charity Cup

Following presentations by our Yr9 House Leaders earlier this week, judges Mr Henshall, Mrs Tatts & Mr Desborough decided that the House who had raised the most awareness, while being fantastically innovative in their charity campaigns, was....



FRANK HOUSE!

Hart Cup

The Hart Cup is simply awarded to the House that has the most House Points at the end of the school year...it's always close but this year it was very tight at the top - so much so we've had a draw! What are the odds of that?! So, our winners of the Hart Cup this year are...

OWENS & SCOTT!



Year 6 Transition Day

We welcomed our new Year 7 students into school yesterday. We hope they had a great time - they were certainly well into the spirit of RPS House events at their afternoon rounders tournament! They also spent time with their Form Tutors, had their first RPS lunch and got to make new friends.



We look forward to seeing them all again in September!

Meet our Student Leaders

Meet Lilly & Jack...

Hello everyone! We are delighted to have been given the role as your new Learning & Diversity Captains for the 23/24 academic year and are thrilled to be working amongst you to make your experience at RPS the best it can be! Freddie, Summer, Samah, Ella AND Verity have left us massive shoes to fill but we are absolutely keen on working to our best ability as school captains. We have just recently concluded our exciting and engaging Pride Week celebrations, and we're very grateful for the participation from the student body! Keep your eyes peeled for updates surrounding exciting work that we have coming up with our very own RPS Scholars in The Park Times. Our ultimate goal as your new learning and diversity captains is to shed light on the beauty that can be found in learning while also celebrating the differences we share!



JUST GIVING YOUNG FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

Y7 RPS student Harry heartbreakingly lost his little sister Emily to a brain tumour last year. Ever since he has been raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity and has raised over £12,000 so far! Harry has now been shortlisted for 'Young Fundraiser of the Year 2023! Please vote for him!

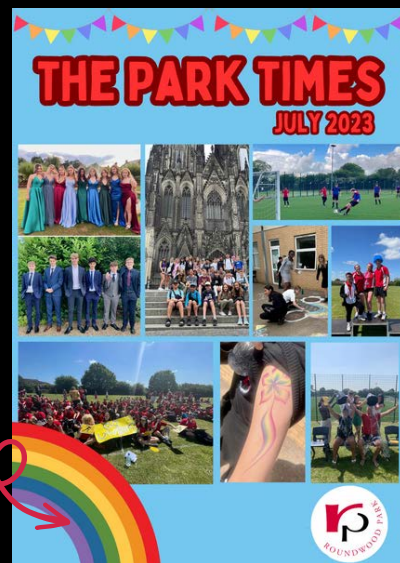
PLEASE VOTE HERE!

SAVE YOUR OLD SCHOOL SHOES!

We'll be collecting old shoes for charity in September so please hold on to them!

NEW EDITION OUT NOW!!!

CLICK HERE!



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RPS Music Visits Roundwood Primary School

A number of our students recently showcased their musical prowess through a captivating performance at Roundwood Primary School. The event not only highlighted the students' musical abilities but also gave Year 6 an opportunity to have an instrument taster session. It was a resounding success, and we are very proud of the incredible talent and dedication of our students - we also look forward to welcoming the Year 6 students we met to Roundwood Park in September - they clearly showed some musical talents of their own!

Watch here



Trampoline Squad Awards Evening

Our Trampolining Squad had a lovely evening out together at Godfrey's Fish & Chips earlier this week as they celebrated an outstanding year of success!

Ms Moxham & Miss Mullally recognised the following bouncers for particular achievements:

Best Newcomer – Clara U Club Commitment – Izzy G

Most Improved – Maisy D Best Effort - Izzy W & Izzy T

Best Performance – Anna R-W, Jemima Q & Tom D

Teams of the Year – Yrs9-10 Girls Novice – Jemima Q, Izzy T, Rosie W & Chloe B
Yrs11-14 Girls Novice – Ellen G, Izzy G, Evie S & Anna R-W

The team also said goodbye and good luck to Ellen who has been a key member of the squad for many years achieving huge success at numerous National Finals. She was thanked for her hard work and commitment to the squad. All of the RPS trampoline family will miss you.

From your Chair of Governors

As we rush towards the end of term I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, students and staff for making RPS such a wonderful community to be a part of. The last few years have been particularly challenging and will continue to impact on us all for several years to come. As a Governing Board, we have just completed a review of our 5 year strategic objectives. Thank you to all of you for helping us by completing a survey or talking to us in person. Ensuring the school has a Strategic vision is one of the 3 key responsibilities of the of the Governors. We work closely with Mr Henshall and the senior leadership team to identify the key areas of focus for the next five years, ensuring that RPS keeps developing and improving to support our school community. I hope you all have a restful and happy summer break, Heather Bayne (Chair of Governors)

Sixth Form Induction Day

We loved having our potential new Year 12 students at RPS for the day last week! They spent the day finding out more about life in the Sixth Form and having a taster lesson of each of their chosen courses. It was great to see so many new faces, and to welcome back our Year 11s.



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Community Fire Safety Team Newsletter](#)
- [Rothamstead Tennis Court Relaunch](#)
- [TV Programme - take part!](#)
- [CSAIS Summer Vaccination Clinic](#)
- [Design a Skateboard!](#)



TSUNAMI GIRL ART COMP

A message from author Julian Sedgwick:

Thank you to everyone who took part in the summer art competition. As a writer it is incredibly exciting (and moving) to see your book inspire visual responses. I was really impressed with the images in the shortlisted entries ... and the faithfully rendered Japanese kanji! Well done everyone... [READ MORE HERE](#)

OVERALL WINNER
THE WAVE : S NADIGER 8F



MANGA STORY: H HUNT 7W

SAKURA TREE:

E WOOLDRIDGE & S DA SILVA



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MFL Rhineland Trip

Our Year 8 students who were lucky enough to head off to Germany last week had a jam packed few days! They spent time exploring the towns of Boppard and Rudesheim, and enjoyed a guided tour of Markesburg Castle. They had a day in Cologne where they visited the cathedral, then the chocolate, sports and German history museums before a little trip to Haribo HQ! They rode the stunning cable car down into Koblenz and took in another museum (Romantikum) before a lovely cruise on the Rhine. They also managed to squeeze in a spot of 10-pin bowling and plenty of ice cream from the Eiscafe!

MFL Paris Trip



It started early at school on Monday and before we knew it we were swept into the bus and on our way to Paris. The smooth waters meant a nice and relaxing ferry ride that gave us time to buy things and relax. After about 10 hours of hard miles we arrived at our destination at 8:30pm French time. After a long day it was time to settle in.

Day two was probably the hardest day, both physically and mentally. So much to see in so little time. The highlight for me was the boat ride, though it was a bit noisy at times!

The next day we visited the snail farm where we got to handle some of the snails, it got a bit slimy. After that we enjoyed a nice day out at the Palace of Versailles, it was full of culture and history.

On Day 4, the best day of the trip (as voted by the students), we went to Parc Asterix, a theme park. We were left to our own devices and tried to go on as many rides as possible or soak up the atmosphere playing all the games.

On the final day, it was another early start and we said goodbye to the hotel. On the journey we stopped to see a very interesting chocolate factory and a French supermarket where souvenirs were bought.

Overall, when we weren't out and about we had a great time back at the hotel, playing some heated games of football on the Astro. We also managed to fit in completing our French diaries. During our stay the food wasn't half bad, but many might disagree! I believe this trip was a huge success. **By Euan R 80**



[Click for lots more photos of both trips!](#)



RPS ANNUAL PRIMARY LANGUAGES FAIR

On Monday we welcomed the Grove Junior School, Redbourn Primary School and Roundwood Primary School for our annual Summer Languages Fair.

Our wonderful Year 9 Language Leaders put the young students through their paces in French, German, Spanish and British Sign Language through expert teaching and lots of games.

The visiting teachers commented on how confidently the lessons were delivered and how much the primary students had enjoyed themselves.

We'd like to thank our Language Leaders for all of their hard work this year. We have been impressed with their fresh ideas and enthusiasm!

Current Year 8s - watch out in the new school year for how to apply for this fun and prestigious position!



SCIENCE TEACHER ROAD TRIP!

Mr Jacquinot is taking on an epic cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats for one of our school charities, The St Albans & District Food Bank this summer!

Good Luck!



Sponsor Here!

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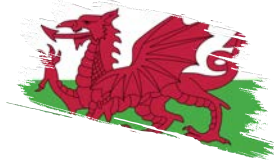


You will also find lots of information on our website:





Geography Trips South Wales



Our Yr 10 Geography students headed off to sunny South Wales last week to conduct important fieldwork as part of their GCSE studies. They spent time on the beaches and bays of Swansea, Oxwich and Three Cliffs as they conducted their experiments and gathered data. They also looked at the need for regeneration in Swansea's city centre - as well as taking time out for a bit of fun and some beach art and mini golf. Thank you to all of our staff members who spent a tough week on the beach!

Liverpool & Formby Beach

Our Yr 12 Geography students have also been away conducting experiments - in fact they're not back until later today. They've been in Liverpool and on the beach at Formby studying marine processes and the biodiversity of the dunes, as well as looking at the regeneration of Liverpool's city centre. They've also had time for fun hanging out with The Beatles, having a fabulous tour of Anfield and getting dressed up for the infamous end of trip Geography quiz!



more photos

Scholars Journal

Throughout the year, our scholars have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate each month in workshops. These have been delivered by staff and students have thoroughly enjoyed the amazing array of subject content that was delivered. We have considered the next steps for human evolution, pondered the safety of the home in Gothic children's literature, explored our own family heritage, debated the ethics of the insanity clause and puzzled over the language of philosophy among many other things.

Some scholars have submitted work to our inaugural Scholars Journal which is attached here. It is a compendium of work that has been completed as part of the super-curriculum in order to become a scholar, or as exploratory work. All of this incredible work has been done independently for the sheer love of learning. Please enjoy reading it at your leisure. You can find it > [HERE](#) <

It is an absolute pleasure to work with the RPS Scholars. The summer holidays are upon us and it is a great time to complete the super-curriculum and join the scholars in the new term. Please see all the information on how to become a Scholar > [HERE](#) <

RPS' INAUGURAL CHESS COMPETITION!

We held our first Chess Competition after school last week. 40 students took part, right through Yrs7-13, and the competition was fierce! We watched some brilliant play and fantastic wins. Huge congratulations to our winner

J. TIBBET

Well done and thank you to School Captains Daisy, Dylan and Aaron plus our Scott House Captains for all their help.



W/C 31st
JULY



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here!



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Science - Euro Space Centre Trip

During enrichment week, the science team took over seventy year 9 students to the Euro Space Centre in Belgium. Whilst there, students got to mimic the training given to astronauts, including experiencing the acceleration of freefall, walking on the surface of the moon and Mars using exoskeletons and VR headsets, and taking on 3G in the much feared 'rotor' to mimic the acceleration felt at take-off! They also enjoyed applied science lessons on what would happen to the human body if exposed to the vacuum of deep space, and took part in a space quiz, all in an amazing setting. The students conducted themselves well on the trip and did RPS proud - we will certainly aim to return next year!



More photos



Musical Achievements

Congratulations to the following students on their Music exam results:

PIANO

O Mellor - Grade 5 - Pass
I Mellor - Grade 6 - Pass
E Phillips - Grade 7 - Merit
M Gache - Grade 7 - Merit
S Nadiger - Grade 3 - Distinction
S Nadiger - Grade 4 - Merit
D Gaches - Grade 6 - Merit

CELLO

A Wake - Grade 8 - Merit
R Flaxbeard - Grade 5 - Merit

TRUMPET

O Gaches - Grade 4 - Merit
T Starkey - Grade 3 - Merit
M Jones - Grade 2 - Merit

FLUTE

S Flaxbeard - Grade 3 - Merit



Years 8 & 10 Interhouse Sport

We've had two fantastic days of inter-house sport this week with brilliant displays of support, enthusiasm and attitude from all of our students as they battled to win precious House Points!

Year 8 winners - **WILBERFORCE**

Year 10 winners - **MANDELA**



Wellbeing@RPS

Take a look at the latest TooledUp Education Newsletter > [HERE](#)

With the 6 week break coming up don't forget about the resources available on our Wellbeing page on the school [website](#). Also take a look here > [Student Helplines](#)

[Childline](#) and [YoungMinds](#) are also both excellent platforms for accessing support over the summer holidays.

Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



Residential Trips



13-15 Oct 23 - [Yr13 Biology, North Yorkshire](#)

13-15 Nov 23 - [Yr7, Norfolk Lakes](#)

17-21 Feb 24 - [Yrs11&13 PRE/History, Rome](#)

15-18 May 24 - [Yr10 History, Berlin](#)

View our Residential Trips Proposals for 2023-2024 > [HERE](#) <

JOIN OUR TALENT POOL!

Visit our [website](#)



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER FROM US ALL AT RPS!

