

RPS ROUNDUP

15 September 2023



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a lovely start to the term, albeit a very hot one. As I walk around the school, I can see that students have settled into their lessons really quickly and they look very smart, whether they have been wearing PE kit or school uniform. I have also been struck by how well the Year 7s have started the year. As I said to their parents last night at the Year 7 parents' evening, they seem very proud to wear the uniform and are slowly finding their way around the site. The fact that so many of them had their photo taken on day one by their parents or carers tells us what a big moment it was in their lives that they have become secondary school students. It was great to see many familiar faces in the audience and also good to meet all the parents who are new to Roundwood Park. We welcome you to our community.

You may have read in the press about RAAC, which has become known as "crumbly concrete". Further to my previous letter, last Friday an engineer commissioned by the Department for Education visited our school and, we are happy to say, they found no evidence of any RAAC in our buildings.

In a busy first fortnight we had the excellent group "Bold Voices" come in to work with our Year 8 students. The session concentrated on ensuring that students use respectful language when it comes to gender and avoid the stereotypes that can lead to a negative culture in society. Read more on page 4.

Today we are saying farewell to Julie Jefferies, who has been an outstanding Roundwood Park colleague for the past eighteen years, most recently providing admin support and arranging events in the Sixth Form. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike and we wish her well in her retirement.

We have welcomed the following new colleagues this term:

Sandra Deeble – MFL	Ioana Gherghin – Maths
Charlotte Norwood - Maths	Kevin Norwood – Humanities & Head of Year 12
Helen McPhun – Music	Jacqui Restick – Art
Katie Sanders – HR Assistant	Alice Townend – History
Gareth Wind – Maths	Emilie Vin D'Arc – Psychology Trainee
Becky Roberts – Student & Family Support Worker	
Paula Ithier – Sixth Form Events & Admin Assistant	

Have a nice weekend.

Alan Henshall
Headteacher

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |



What's On

18-22 September - Wilberforce House Week

18 September - Yr10 Photographs

20 September - Yr9 House Netball

21 September - Yr11 PSHCE Day

21 September - MFL Support Evening (KS3)

25 September - House Leadership Day

27 September - House Music Sign-Up!

27 September - Yr9 Healthy Choices Talk

28 September - RPS Open Evening*

*school will close at 12.20

29 September - INSET Day

2 October - MFL Support Evening (KS4)

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

Letters Home

[FAQs Regarding Uniform Strike Card](#)

[RPS Open Evening - 28 September](#)

[Uniform & Appearance Strike Card System](#)

[Attendance](#)

Communication

Please read the protocols for contact between parents/carers & staff at RPS
> [CLICK HERE](#) <

Please do not reply to emails sent from the 'Roundwood Park School' email address.

To contact the school use:

admin@roundwoodpark.co.uk

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





ECO Schools Green Flag!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that after two years of hard work by our amazing climate action students, we have earned the Eco-Schools Green Flag! Our students have launched and managed a huge number of initiatives and campaigns such as 'A Day in the Dark', ECO Week, a summer Bikeability programme, ECO competitions, their reduce car idling campaign, Fairtrade Fortnight, attendance at Climate Change Summits, Biodiversity Day, the creation and upkeep of our Science Garden, welcoming speakers in to their Club and learning all they can to make our school a greener, more sustainable place to be. They've been supported by a number of members of staff and we'd like to say thank you to them all, but in particular to Miss Mooney and Mr Hambridge. We can't wait to see what our Climate Action Students do next! We are beyond proud of them all.

You can read more about their journey to the Green Flag here

> [CLICK HERE](#) <

Year 12 Information Session

It was wonderful to welcome so many of our Year 12 parents into school on Monday evening to share guidance on helping their young people thrive during the step up to sixth form study. After a presentation in the hall from Mrs Gallagher, parents enjoyed being students for a short while when they met with form tutors in their classrooms!



Back to school! ↗

To Infinity...and Beyond!

How big is infinity? Are there different infinities? If so, how can we determine which infinity is larger? These questions and many more were addressed in a lecture to our further mathematicians by former student Euan T. Euan has been busy studying advanced mathematical concepts as part of his course at Imperial College and was kind enough to give up his time to let our current students get a taste of university-level mathematics. The further mathematicians handled themselves well despite having never encountered this topic before, taking part in discussions on how to justify whether the set of natural numbers $\{0,1,2,3...\}$ is smaller than the set of real numbers.



Key Stage 5 Mathematics Coordinator Mrs Roberts said, 'We are so lucky to have the privilege of teaching students like Euan at Roundwood Park in the first place. To then have them come back and share their knowledge with the next generation of further mathematicians is something that makes our school a very special place indeed. What a fascinating lecture on infinity!'

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [BeeZee Bodies September Timetables](#)
- [Rothamsted Park Skatepark Appeal](#)
- [Harpenden Town FC Season Tickets](#)
- [Constellations at The Abbey Theatre](#)
- [DSPL7 Parenting Support Timetable](#)
- [Monkey Music Teacher Training](#)

RPS PTA

LINK

Or here

Race Night

sign up here



Saturday 7 October

It's going to be a fun evening!

£5 a ticket

MORE INFO > [HERE](#) <

PTA@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Sat 11 November, 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!



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Staff HOUSE Tug-of-War

The first staff House event of the school year is always Tug-of-War - and it is always taken very seriously! The gloves come off (or rather they go on for a stronger grip!) and our seven Houses battle it out for House Points and bragging rights. Huge thanks to all of our staff for taking part, and to PE who organise us - we always have a good crowd of students cheering on from the balcony and they love seeing us all getting involved! Congratulations this year go to **Miss Mullally's GT** for their first ever staff Tug-of-War victory!



Meet our Student Leaders

Meet Alex, Tom & Sofia...

"Hi everyone, we're your new Sustainability Captains and we're looking forward to planning more incredible events for the school this year. With help from the SLG, the Climate Action Group and Miss Mooney, we've been able to complete many successful events, like the 'Day in the Dark', during which we raised money for the NEA charity. We've also been lucky enough to attend the Hertfordshire Youth COP where we made new promises that the school will strive to achieve. Working with the Climate Action Group we have also been successful in winning the Eco Award and the school has been awarded a Green Flag for its efforts. This year we are looking forward to doing more days in the dark, house music, more exciting assemblies, implementing new ideas, and making further improvements to the school"



Careers Corner



STAHS Law Insight Day - Saturday 4 November 2023 from 09.30-15.30 at STAHS

This careers event will be an opportunity to learn about the study and careers pathways for law and students will have the opportunity to hear from a range of students and professionals within the industry. Read more [here](#) or sign up [here](#)

Student Placement Opportunity - The Village Surgery

For those considering a gap year or would be interested in a few hours a week after school, over the past few years the Village Surgery has employed prospective medical students in an administrative role, helping them to gain the experience of working for the NHS that medical schools are often looking for. Please email your interest and cv to anita.mixides@nhs.net

'Tech The Future' Event with PwC, Experian, Capgemini, The RAF & Bloomberg! 20th September, 5pm - 6:30pm

If you're interested in hearing more about life and the different careers at the companies involved, this event will serve as a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into these global businesses and ask any questions you may have to some of the world's top technology professionals. Find our more [here](#) or sign up [here](#)

Free Resource for Prospective Medical School Applicants - [CLICK HERE](#)

Hertfordshire Constabulary - Do you know a young person with an interest in policing? [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

From 18th Sept - Y11 Guidance Meetings to start this week. Further information to follow.

18th Oct, 6:30pm - Careers Insight Evening - What do I need to know about the Careers Service@RPS Webinar - Booking form to follow.

CURTAIN CALL

NEXT THEATRE SCREENING

COMING SOON!

Each half term our Drama Dept screens a National Theatre Production that all students are invited to attend - date & production will be announced soon!

There will be an offer to pay for the year or you can choose to pay event by event
Popcorn and drinks will always be provided!

Local live theatre

2-7 October
The Queen Mother Theatre Hitchin

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Bold Voices Workshops

We were delighted to welcome speakers from 'Bold Voices' in to school this week to run a workshop with our Year 8 students and then also after school with our staff. Bold Voices are an award winning social enterprise bringing school communities together to learn, discuss and tackle gender inequality and cultures of gender-based violence. We will be working closely with them this year and running more training sessions across the school as we improve and enhance our culture and understanding of gender inequalities. We are also taking part in the Bold Voices Ambassador Programme this year which involves staff and 6 student ambassadors from Years 11, 12 & 13. The chosen students will run two projects over the coming year to raise awareness within the school community and create positive change.

More information to follow re. student applications next week!

Read more about Bold Voices on their website > [HERE](#) <



Read all about it...

Vol 1

15 Sept 23

'One School One Read'

It's coming back soon! This is an exciting time where the whole community comes together and reads the same book. Across the school, we will be discussing issues raised in the novel and there will be many ways to get involved. We will be revealing the title of our chosen book for the year soon, watch this space...

However, sadly, we don't have many copies to loan. We would love to have a stack in the library so that as many of our students can borrow it as possible, so this year, we are asking for you to donate a book. If you feel that you would like to do this please go to ParentPay and donate £6.20. We will put a sticker in each book with your family name on it to say thank you for your voluntary donation.

Did you know?

It has been proven that reading for pleasure is one of the most important factors in a child's cognitive development...

> [READ MORE HERE](#) <

Recommended Read

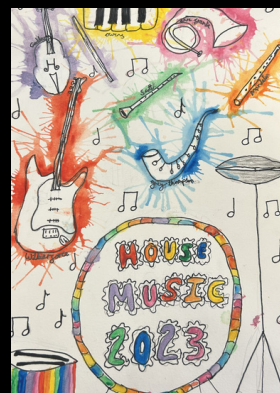
Sabotage on the Solar Express by M.G Leonard & Sam Sedgman

Harrison Beck travels to Alice Springs, Australia to meet the famous inventor of the Solar Express, the winner of a competition to invent the train of the future. However, soon after boarding, Hal and his friends Marriane Reza (daughter of tech billionaire August Reza, who set up the competition), his uncle Nat and Boaz Tudawali (who invented the Solar Express) discover that the train has been sabotaged. The group races to discover who the saboteur is and to prevent the destruction of the Solar Express. I highly recommend this for mystery fans.

By Samuel in Y8

HOUSE MUSIC!!

IT'S BACK!!!
SIGN UP IS AT
BREAKTIME ON
WEDNESDAY 27
SEPTEMBER!
SAVE THE DATE
- THURSDAY
19 OCTOBER!



PSHCE@RPS



This term, KS3 & KS4 students are studying 'Health and Wellbeing' with a focus on **resilience**.

We are following the new [Bounce Forward Programme](#), teaching our students practical strategies on how to be more **resilient**.

Visit our website for more info > [HERE](#) <

KS3 Parents Information Evening 6.30pm 21 September

As a part of your child's education, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) education programme. PSHCE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

Sarah Mooney (Head of PSHCE) will outline the curriculum and then offer time for you to view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home.

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

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





New House Leaders!

Well done and welcome to our new House Leaders from Yrs 7 & 12 - our House Leaders work closely with our Yr13 Senior Leadership Government (SLG), Heads of House and Miss Tatts - Head of the whole House system. Training for new Leaders will take place on 25 September. Visit our website to meet our Heads of House and find out more about our House system >> [CLICK HERE](#)



Miss Tatts



IT'S WILBERFORCE
HOUSE WEEK NEXT WEEK!

WILBERFORCE HOUSE WEEK

18-22 September

CAKE & SWEET SALES
EVERY BREAK TIME!

YR 7 FAMILIES
QUIZ NIGHT!
FRIDAY

Treasure Hunt

MOVIE & PIZZA
NIGHT!
WEDNESDAY

Wishing Tree

Spelling Bee!
Tues lunchtime

FORM QUIZ ???

ARTWORK COMPETITION

Charity Themed Bake-Off
TUES 3.30-5.30

Wellbeing@RPS

Visit our Wellbeing partner website 'Tooled Up Education' and see what events are coming up to support you and your family...you will need to sign in with the information provided by the school > [Visit Tooled Up](#) <

Sign up for Tooled Up's Dr Kathy Weston's Wednesday Wisdom > [HERE](#) <

Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



Residential Trips



October - Y13 Cranedale Centre
November - Y7 Manor Adventures
January - Y10 German Trip
February - Y11&13 PRE/History Tour Rome
February - Y10 French Trip
May - Y10 History Tour Berlin

RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs Fair

It was a busy afternoon last Friday when our Extra-Curricular Clubs Captains Daisy, Aaron and Dylan, along with help from the rest of the SLG, hosted a Clubs Fair for our Year 7 and 12 students. All of the extracurricular activities offered at RPS were represented, and hopefully, some new hobbies or interests have been discovered! Click below to see the full clubs timetable. These clubs are a great way to meet new friends, learn new things - and most importantly HAVE FUN!



Click to see our [AUTUMN CLUBS](#) programme

WE ARE HIRING!



- Catering Assistant
- Art & Design Teacher
- Cover Supervisor

All current vacancies are advertised on our [website](#)