



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 43: September 2023

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

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?



**Sarah (nee Jones) Webster
(class of 1999)**

Sarah writes

“have been working in the digital field since leaving school but have since left London, moved to Devon and become (of all things) a jeweler. I am ‘blessed’

with two boys, 2 and 5, and I feel far too old to be chasing such exuberant mischief makers 😊 I am just about to do a diploma so I guess we are never too old to keep learning!



A photo of Sarah in the chemistry lab appeared in the June newsletter and clearly Sarah has gained some input there to add to her undoubted artistic and creative talents.

YOUR NEWS from around the world?

*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.

CONGRATULATIONS



Following the announcement in the June Newsletter (NL42) we were delighted to receive this wonderful wedding photograph of Lucy Johnson and David Jenkinson, who were married in April of this year.

You may recognise many of those in this picture.

The STAFF INTERVIEW

At last, the long awaited 'staff interview!

Ruth Plowman (September 2012 – present)
Geography teacher & Head of Year.



1. What did you study at University/College – why that subject in particular? I studied Geography at Southampton University. I always had a passion for geography, particularly exploring and understanding the world around us.
2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at University? I loved university! It was the best experience, especially meeting lifelong friends! I would redo the university experience, with the same people, again and again! My geography course was brilliant and stand out memories are from field trips to Berlin and exploring the peat bogs in the New Forest!
3. What made you go into teaching? I was chosen to be an Ambassador for my University Course which enabled me to teach in a Hampshire School. This sparked my interest. I also had the most dedicated and engaging geography teachers at Secondary School.
4. Have you ever considered any other career path? I am a keen baker and perhaps this could lead to a baking career in the future!
5. Why did you choose Roundwood Park School and have you ever worked in another school or any other industry? I trained to be a teacher in London and I chose Roundwood due to its proximity to London and because it is an outstanding school. Roundwood is the only School I have taught in. When I left university, I worked as a teaching assistant and a cover supervisor.
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 enjoy teaching geography because I want to inspire students to travel and explore! I enjoy being a Head of Year, although it keeps me VERY busy! I always want the best for my students.

7. Do you have any moments that stand out that you are willing to share about your experiences at RPS? My first ever form group 8RPI-11M (2014- 2018) will always be a stand out memory. They were some of my favourite students of all time! I adored being their form tutor and it was a pleasure to be a part of their school journey. Another highlight would be being the Head of Year to the current Year 11 students.

8. Clearly you took part in and or organised many visits, field trips or non-curricular activities with the students. Which of these stand out in your mind? I have been incredibly lucky to travel a lot with the school. Many of these have been with Team Geography, where we have visited South Wales, Portugal, Liverpool and Iceland. Of these, Iceland is a particular highlight due to the volcanic landscape and stunning waterfalls. I have also been lucky to visit Russia and have accompanied the Economics department to New York. All of these trips are fantastic and offer our students a great experience. I have also been on an expedition to Malawi, Tanzania and Zanzibar. The highlights being the safari and camping in the game reserves.

9. How do you feel you have made an impact at RPS in any of your roles at RPS? It was a privilege being the Head of Mandela House for 8 years. It allowed me to work with so many enthusiastic students and dedicated staff whilst helping our community. I have been a Head of Year for 2 years and had the privilege to support a fantastic year group, who I will miss lots!

10. What are your passions/hobbies or pursuits in your spare time? I love to travel and explore. So far, I have visited 5 continents and 32 countries. I also love to bake, especially brownies and cupcakes!

11. Given the changes in education over the years, would you, given your time again, go into teaching or another profession? No, I love teaching and working with young people.

12. When students look back on their time at RPS how would you like to be remembered? As a caring, fair and inspiring teacher.

Alumni in the news!

Nothing to report but, future alumnus, Rhys Lawlor (Y9) has competed in the Junior boys at this year's Wimbledon and won a number of matches. You may have watched some of his matches on tv?

Careers News

A VIRTUAL Careers insight evening was held on July 12th. Alumni Angel Ashcroft and Alessandro Algar took part.

If you feel you would like to help out in future with careers or HE advice please get in touch.



Letters to the Editor

1. **"Pip has forwarded this to me and said I need to sign up to the alumni. It's nice seeing what people are up to when she forwards the news and via Facebook etc. as Emma Perryment mentioned. We have a good group of us on there who quite often share photos and reminisce. Pip also said I should fill in the missing head boy /girl from my year which were Andrew Long and myself. Deputy head girl was Louise Buchanan but I'm not sure on the deputy head boy". SK. Always wonderful to hear from our alumni and brilliant that alumni contact each other to join us on the mailing list.**
2. **"You will remember The Trombone. Aaron Littleford (later Ross, now I have no idea) installed himself as the editor (of that issue I think?). I wrote a polemic about wasting paper advocating WRITING SMALLER"! TF. Glad someone remembers!**
3. **Despite being absolutely crap at it I did love my chemistry lessons with you and with hindsight still wouldn't swap it! I hope you are well. SJ.**
Wonderful to hear from such a cheery soul as ever.
4. **I always enjoy receiving and reading your newsletters. I am currently visiting Harpenden (from the US) and I thought I'd pop up to**

Roundwood for a tour, but understandably it was (not) a convenient time. I'll attempt to organize something more formal next time, but wanted to drop you a note. JMD. Disappointing to miss the opportunity to meet up and look around the school but hopefully next time.

Staff Leavers

Jenny Durdey (September 2021 – 31st August 2023). Jenny has led the Art department for many years and has seen and encouraged so many talented young artists.

Anita Davey, Teacher of Maths, joined us on 01 September 2013 and will be leaving on 31 August 2023.

Rhiannon Dowling, Teacher of Maths, joined us on 01 July 2021 and will be leaving on 31 August 2023.

Evie Robertshaw, Teacher of History, joined us on 09 July 2018 and will be leaving on 31 August 2023.

Dan Wilkins, Sports Centre Lettings Assistant, joined us on 01 September 2014 and will be leaving on 31 August 2023.

Julie Jefferies, PA to Head of Sixth Form, joined us on 03 May 2005 and will be leaving on 15 September 2023.

VISITS

Our alumni are dotted all around the country and across the globe but many ask if it would be possible to visit when they are in the vicinity/country!



We are always delighted to see any and all, but please not at once, of our alumni. If you would like to visit please email us and we will see what we can arrange.

PLEASE check in at reception on arrival.



General and further information about news and events that are happening at the school can be found in the fortnightly newsletter Roundup.

<https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/roundup-newsletters/>

STOP PRESS

A chance encounter in a GP's waiting r1984/5oom gave the opportunity to reconnect after, perhaps, 40 years with **Anne Buckley** (1984/5). Anne was always the example I cited (anonymously) of choosing to take a fast track management opportunity in Business rather than going to University; clearly Anne has reaped the long term rewards of her wise decision.



Not wearing a tie or wearing a tie? When I was a boy if.....

There were stocks quite close to my primary school in rural Cambridgeshire and although they have long gone the site is still known as; stocks corner'.

How times have changed!

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