

RPS ROUNDUP

13 October 2023



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

It has felt like summertime this week at Roundwood! We are usually debating whether to put the heating on at this time of year, but instead we have been out on the field enjoying the lovely weather that we have had.

Last week we held our first ASPIRE evening for Year 7 parents. It was very well attended and well received. Thank you for the positive comments which I will pass on to Mrs Gray.

The KS3 Scholars' Conference was held last week, run by Mrs Martin and Mrs Gallagher. The students were engaged, enthusiastic and enjoyed the content. Thank you to my colleagues for organising this.

The Open Morning tours for prospective Year 6 students and their parents have begun and are well attended. It was great to meet parents and their children this week as they asked questions after their tour.

Year 10 had a PSHCE day on Wednesday and we enjoyed the wellbeing activities that were put on for them. It was great to go on the walk, featuring various staff pets!

Finally, a mention for our hardworking PTA team who do a wonderful job organising events, second-hand uniform sales and other fundraisers, as well as providing refreshments for parents' evenings. Their efforts raise much needed funds for the school – in 2022/23 they raised over £9,500. We are very grateful for the time and energy they give us so freely. If you can spare any time to join the team, they would love to hear from you. Please email PTA@roundwoodpark.co.uk or see their page on the website [here](#) about other ways in which you can help.

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



What's On

- 13-15 October - Y13 Biology Field Trip
- 16 October - FRANK House Week
- 17 October - Y7 Primary Tea
- 17 October - KS3/4 Exam Support Evening
- 17 October - Y11&13 Exam Stress Workshop
- 19 October - HOUSE MUSIC!
- 20 October - Non Uniform Day
- 23-29 October - HALF TERM
- 30 October - Year 11 Mocks begin
- 6 November - Anti-Bullying Week

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

Concussion:



If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of concussion following a head injury, we would always recommend seeking medical attention. If they are diagnosed with concussion, it is important that you let their form tutor and PE teacher know as soon as possible. This ensures we can monitor their recovery at school and that the protocols for safe return to activity are adhered to.

If you have any queries about this please email our Medical Welfare Officer:

la.harris@roundwoodpark.co.uk

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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RPS Open Evening

Another monumental effort from hundreds of students and all of our staff meant that our Open Evening was, once again, a great success! Over 1500 people attended the presentations in the hall and looked around our school, and we were delighted to welcome them in. The enthusiasm, energy and pride in our school shown by our wonderful students as they showed visitors around, helped out in departments, took part in displays, games, activities and experiments is something that will never fail to bring us pride and joy.

Open Evening is a huge team effort and all involved deserve our thanks and credit, but the coordination and eye for detail always comes from Mr Henshall's PA, Janet Wallis, who ensures that everything runs like clockwork and is done to the high standards we all set for each other. Thank you Janet!

We also want to say another huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to our Head Students Caitlin and Luke, as well as Year 8 student Emma, who took on the mammoth task of presenting across 4 sessions to those 1500 people - as well as a dress rehearsal in front of 200 members of staff! That is not an easy thing to do and they did it so confidently and eloquently, speaking with passion and pride about their school, you're all amazing!

Drama Production - OUR HOUSE

Rehearsals for Our House are going really well so far and we are very proud to be working with such brilliant students. We have also now allocated our super-keen backstage people to their roles and can't wait to have them working with us too. It's a lot of fun and we're very excited to be showing it at the end of January.

There will also be a sneak preview at the Harpenden Christmas Carnival on the 26th November for anyone that can make it! More information to come about that in future editions.

Special thanks go to Mrs Meanti, Miss Dale and Mr Desborough for the amount of time they are dedicating to helping put the show together in an already exhausting term!

Mike Garbutt
Head of Drama



RPS PTA

| Next PTA Meeting & AGM |
Thursday, 2 November,
Here at school, 6.30pm

We would love to see you there!

| Second Hand Uniform Sale |
***Sat 18 November, 12.30-2pm**

School Hall

See our price list here

We are accepting second hand uniform now!

***We are desperately short of helpers to run the sale - please email PTA@roundwoodpark.co.uk if you can possibly spare a few hours between 10.30-2.30 on the 18th**

Buy your HRFC Fireworks Tickets HERE & we will receive 50% of the ticket sales back to the school!

HRFC COMMUNITY FIREWORKS
5TH NOVEMBER 2023

GATES OPEN
4PM



SHOW STARTS
6PM

FAMILY TICKET - £30 (2 ADULTS & UP TO 4 CHILDREN)
ADULT - £10 EXTRA CHILD - £5

FREE PARK & RIDE FROM CHURCH GREEN OUTSIDE CHEF PEKING
50% OF THE NET VALUE OF TICKETS SOLD BY OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GOES TO THEM.

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Year 10 PSHCE Wellbeing Day

Rather appropriately, with it being World Mental Health Day on Tuesday, our Year 10 students had a PSHCE day dedicated to their Wellbeing this week. They had a very busy day with two sessions delivered by outside providers - the fantastic Dr Kathy Weston from Tooled Up Education spoke about managing stress and anxiety; how to be 'brilliant, resilient you!' And our visitor from Herts Young Homeless focussed on the topic of 'Conflict Resolution'. Students also took part in workshops regarding their Emotional Health and the importance of Peer Support, discussing empathy and positive online behaviour. **Take a look at Dr Kathy Weston's resources >>>>**

For an hour during the day they were invited to choose a wellbeing activity that they felt would positively impact their wellbeing. They could choose from a host of activities including; yoga, crafts, Binksy's bootcamp (not for the faint hearted!), football, learn the ukulele! golf, going for a run or enjoying a mindful walk with some loaned staff dogs who have the ability to boost everybody's wellbeing with just one wag!

We'd like to thank all visitors, staff, volunteers and, of course dogs, for contributing to the day's activities and providing our students with an invaluable day of reflection and learning focussed on themselves and what tools they have, can use, or can call on to bolster their wellbeing.



Catering News...

We were visited last week by a representative from i-Pro drinks. The company is supported by Park Run and supports healthy, school compliant, still juice drinks that we stock here at RPS in three flavours: Mango, Berry and Sour Cherry.

They are sold at £1.30 per bottle and make up 1 of your 5 a day. Students were treated to free samples and wristbands when they popped in!



Helpful Info for parents:

On the catering app you may see drink purchases banded in order for us to more efficiently use the tills. The bands can be explained as below:

Blue Band: £1 water still/sparkling, Radnor fruit juice, AJ/OJ, Viva flavoured milk

Green Band: £1.20 Innocent Smoothie, Radnor Fizz

Pink Band: £1.30 i-Pro, Juice burst, flavoured water, Suso spring can

Yellow Band: £1.50 Rubicon Spring, Oasis/Robinsons, Yazoo milkshake

PSHCE@RPS

Our Y8 students are learning about the risks of Vaping in PSHCE lessons this term.



Please follow the link below:

What parents and carers need to know about the dangers of vaping

Please take a look at these resources from Dr Kathy Weston aimed at building our student's resilience >>

My Coping Menu & Smart Reviser

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

HOUSE MUSIC! THURS OCT 19TH



ARENA TICKETS are sold out but you can still see the show! Sign up via **ParentPay** before 1pm on Tuesday, 17 October to receive your link.

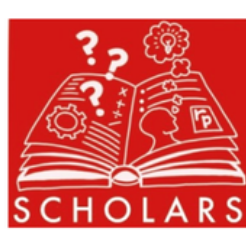
You can also buy **RAFFLE TICKETS** via **ParentPay** until Monday 16 October - there are some amazing prizes! (Raffle tickets will also be sold on the night)

FOLLOW US!



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KS3 Scholars Conference

We ran our annual KS3 Scholars Conference recently; what a fantastic group of students they are! The workshop focussed on the question 'Would you rather be free than safe?'. In groups, and supported by brilliant members of our SLG, they explored and discussed the question. They really inspired us with their deep, broad thinking and passionate presentations.

To become a scholar at RPS, students need to complete our Super Curriculum >> head to our website to find out more [here](#)

Meet our Student Leaders

Meet Clara and Leo...

"Hi, we are your Frank House Captains!

Our main aim is increasing house participation throughout all year groups, we are targeting enthusiasm and teamwork. Following Frank's win of the Charity Cup last year, we only aim to be bigger and better this year. Our House Week is coming up and we've been fortunate enough for it to have fallen in the week of House Music. We've organised the best raffle yet, where you have an opportunity to win two Arsenal tickets, a Tottenham signed football shirt as well as much, much more! Not only that but there'll be cake sales during the week and lots of other fun activities. We look forward to working alongside Lilly and Jack (Learning & Diversity Captains), who we are lucky to be partnered up with, and can't wait to show you everything we're planning for the year ahead!"



Careers Corner



STAHS Law Insight Day -

Sat 4 November 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 young people and professionals within the industry. The event is primarily targeted at Years 10-12, but those in Years 9 and 13 are also very welcome to attend. This event is free and is open to students from all local schools. Please sign up [HERE](#)

Direct Line Group Black Leaders Event -
Wed 18 October, 17.00-19.30

This Work Experience Event for students aged 14-18 is taking place at Direct Line Group's brand-new offices in the City of London. Secure your place ASAP by signing up [HERE](#)

Careermag for Parents & Guardians

In a changing world, job possibilities also change. The options available to students include vocational pathways as well as A Levels and GCSEs, they include graduate schemes, apprenticeships, internships as well as degrees. The possibilities are endless, which is why this magazine is such an important publication to guide you through. To help to plan the route ahead > [Read here](#)

Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

Careers Insight Evening -
Wed, 1 November 18.00

If you would like to find out more about what the RPS Careers Service offers each year group, please complete the following form to sign up > [Click here](#)

VISIT THE CAREERS
PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE >>

[click here](#)





Local live theatre



7-11 November
Watford Palace Theatre

| TREASURE ISLAND |
| Wednesday 18 October 3.30pm |
There's still time to sign-up for the special offer - head to ParentPay!
| Popcorn & drinks provided |

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You will also find lots of information on our website:





District Trampoline & Tumble Competition

Our trampoline squad travelled down the road to SAADI Gymnastics in Redbourn last week for the annual District Trampoline & Tumble Competition. It was another hugely successful afternoon for our squad, winning 41 medals across the apparatus - 18 of which were gold! Extra congratulations to Lowry for being awarded 'Best Overall' and to Lumb, Benfield and Wright for their double golds - fantastic performances from all of you!

We'd also like to say congratulations to Dickens & Qureshi for passing their British Gymnastics Helper Qualification, well done for all your hard work in achieving this - superstars!

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops](#)
- [Free Thermal Imaging Camera Initiative](#)
- [ACE Sports+ Half term Basketball Camp](#)
- [Sports Leadership Award](#)
- [Herts Music Service - Changing Voices](#)
- [The Mud Pack Challenge](#)
- [Harpenden Trust Christmas Appeal](#)
- [The Mayor's Charity Carol Concert](#)
- [Preloved Charity Fashion Show](#)
- [Pop Up Pumkin Farm](#)

Read all about it...

Vol 3

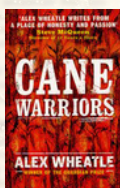
13 October 23

October is the designated month of the year within the UK that celebrates Black History! In light of the celebrations and festivities, Jack and Lilly our Learning and Diversity Captains have come up with a list of four enticing reads about the origins of black traditions and cultures that also raise general awareness of the struggles black people have faced.

Happy reading!



Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatley: This story is inspired by a real-life rebellion in British-owned slave plantations in Jamaica in 1760. (For older children aged 13+)



Wind Rush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah: This is the story of Leonard, who at 10 years old makes the journey with his mother from Jamaica to join his father in England. Leonard is part of the Windrush generation, one of thousands of people and families who were persuaded by the government to help rebuild England after the Second World War and make a better life for themselves. It's a book to make children and adults alike think hard about our history, about racism and the Black Lives Matter movement, about fairness, about politics - and about bravery and unsung heroes.

David Olusoga's latest edition of **Black and British** has been revised and rewritten especially for secondary school children. Olusoga concisely explains the much-overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain and beyond; from the multiculturally diverse society of Roman times and the first

Africans in Britain to the link between the Industrial Revolution and the American Civil War, as well as more modern history such as the Second World War and the Windrush scandal.

Musicals Truth by Jeffery Boakye: This thorough and inspiring selection of 28 songs carefully chosen by Jeffrey Boakye to represent Modern Black Britain isn't just a must-listen playlist - it's a history book in a league of its own, offering a unique new perspective on post-colonialism and exploring Black identity in the UK.



Further reading:

Please also take a look at this amazing article about the importance of reading for diversity >>> [CLICK HERE](#)

FOLLOW US!



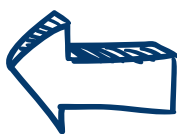
You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 10 House Netball **WINNERS!**

It was an unseasonably hot and sunny day for our Year 10 House Netballers last week, but they all dug deep and displayed some fantastic play. There was a great deal of grit and determination on show to get those precious house points - as well as lots of enthusiastic support! It was a close competition, but congratulations go to **OWENS HOUSE** for taking the top spot this time. Well done everyone!



This is always a brilliant night - and a huge fundraiser for our school charities - it's also a fantastic way to raise awareness for those less fortunate than ourselves. Details coming soon!



ARE YOU READY TO BRAVE THE COLD?

#GTSLEEPOUT2023

Friday 10th November 2023

GT are running a sponsored sleep out to help raise money and awareness for our school charities.

St Albans & District foodbank

WWF

Make-A-Wish

Letters to go out this week to parents/carers!

Fri 10th Nov

Roundwood Park School.

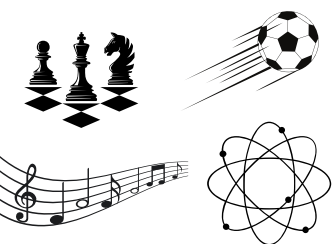
Meet at canteen.

7:30pm - 7am

Year 7, 8 and 9 (plus SLG)

RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our Autumn term clubs are all up and running and seeing plenty of participation which is fantastic! There are so many lunchtime activities to choose from - from plant club to philosophy, or cubing and creative writing, to rugby, Pokemon or African drumming. Or maybe you want to get better at chess? Or Spanish, science or dance? This just the tip of the iceberg...take a look by following the link below.....



Click to see our **AUTUMN CLUBS** programme



Wellbeing@RPS

It was World Mental Health Day on Tuesday so our Student Wellbeing Ambassadors put together a fantastic resource that was rolled out across the school to remind us that everyone has mental health issues that they are dealing with (even successful actors and musicians), that it's ok to ask for help, and that it's certainly nothing to be ashamed of.



They also held a cake sale to raise money and awareness for mental health charity **MIND** - brilliant work from our student wellbeing team.

Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



Residential Trips



October 23 - Y13 Cranedale Centre

November 23 - Y7 Manor Adventures

February 24 - Y11&13 PRE/History Tour Rome

February 24 - Y10 French Trip

February 24 - Yr10 Spanish Trip

May 24 - Y10 History Tour Berlin

June 24 - Y10 Geography South Wales Trip

**JOIN OUR
TALENT POOL
HERE!**

