

# RPS ROUNDUP

10 November 2023



## Head's Up

STAFF CHOIR AT HOUSE MUSIC  
(WE LIKE TO GET INVOLVED TOO!)

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to this week's Roundup. As I write, the Year 11s are sitting their mock examinations. We have all been impressed with their punctuality, readiness and focus. We hope that this will bear fruit in their results which will help teachers to give highly focused, highly individualised feedback in lessons and at parents' evening.

We are in the midst of our anti-bullying week this week, with a particular focus on celebrating the diversity of our school. On Tuesday, I was fascinated to see the map of the world set up by our wellbeing captains, Ife and Zoe, our curriculum captains, Emily, Mia and Jiya, our learning and diversity captains, Jack and Lily and also our BTEC students. Students were invited to place stickers on countries which formed part of their heritage. Although the UK was completely obliterated with stickers, it was great to see that we have students from all continents, barring Antarctica, in the school. At the moment, as a school, we are taking part in a programme celebrated in Hertfordshire called "Great Representation". This programme seeks to celebrate diversity in curriculum and staffing and improve the life chances of all of our students and all those seeking to, and already, working here.

Today we welcomed John Howie, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, who joined us in our Remembrance Service. Many thanks to him for giving up his time once again. See page 5 for more information and photos.

I hope that you all enjoyed the careers insight event last Wednesday evening. It was well attended and well received. Thank you for the positive feedback.

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall  
Headteacher



## What's On

- 13-15 Nov - Yr7 Manor Adventures Trip
- 15 Nov - World Challenge Meeting
- 15 Nov - Yr12 Future Options Day
- 16 Nov - Geography Quiz
- 16 Nov - Yr10 PSHCE Day
- 20 Nov - Quality of Life Survey launch
- 21 Nov - Yr11 PSHCE Day
- 22 Nov - Yr10 Parent Consultation (virtual)
- 23 Nov - Yrs9/10 House Benchball
- 23 Nov - Yr13 Psychology Revision Trip

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

## Sport & Activity Survey

TAKE SURVEY

In the coming weeks, the PE department will be sharing a survey link on google classroom. We'd ask that students fill out this survey fully and honestly. Our School Sport Partnership has commissioned this survey to establish physical activity and engagement levels across schools in the St Albans and Harpenden district. The data gathered will be useful to us as we continue to understand the habit and behaviour trends of our students, so that we can do our best to support them. We will not be analysing individual data, simply trends and overall percentages. Thank you in advance.

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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You will also find lots of information on our website:





## HOUSE MUSIC

[Click here for more photos!](#)



Oh what a night! The Alban Arena was bouncing and possibly the loudest it has ever been! The performances were all absolutely phenomenal, we were blown away (again) by the sheer talent of our students - whether they were singing, dancing, conducting, playing instruments, hosting or helping backstage - they were all brilliant. We didn't envy the Judges' job and although it was all very close, our **WINNER of House Music 2023 was CADBURY HOUSE!**

We'd like to give HUGE thanks to everyone who makes this event happen, too many to mention and you all know who you are - THANK YOU! Same time, same place next year? See you there!

[Click here to watch a recap!](#)  
Password: Housemusic2023



[And here for RPS Band 'Strike Free'!](#)

[And here for a medley of the performance pieces!](#)



FRANK HOUSE would like to say a MASSIVE thank you for everyone's fundraising efforts during House Music week. The Raffle, as well as other events in school, raised an incredible **£2,400** for our school charities!

## Yr13 Medicine Prize

WOW!!!

6 Year 13 students, all of whom are aspiring to go into the world of medicine or biomedicine, recently entered a national 'science in medicine' competition. It was run jointly by Imperial College London and the British Heart Foundation. The team - made up of Tara, Stefano, Sophia, Fionn, Sehar and Jack - came up with a novel way to deliver drugs to the site of an ischaemic stroke in the brain. Their clever use of liposomes to deliver the drugs to the precise location has great potential, when coupled with external ultrasound pulsation, to break open the liposome upon reaching the site of the blockage, releasing the drugs. We were thrilled to be 1 of only 10 schools nationally to reach the final, out of 157 entries! The final was nerve-wracking, but we were thrilled to be the only state school who had made it this far! After presenting to a panel of 20 specialist doctors and professors from Imperial College, our team were declared joint national winners! The group won a cash prize for the RPS Science Department (thank you!), as well as mentoring sessions for each of them, as they begin applying for degrees in medicine and biomedicine. Our science department and all the teachers want to say a massive well done on collaborating so well and taking huge risks. You smashed it on the national stage, represented the very best side of RPS and we are so proud of you!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THEIR BRILLIANT ENTRY](#)



## RPS PTA

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

School Hall  
[See our price list here](#)



**Still accepting donations!**

**ONLINE SALE!**

Read [HERE](#) if you are unable to make the sale in person

**| Christmas Trees! |**

**| Buy a locally grown Xmas Tree |**

**| Collection/Delivery on 8/9 Dec |**

**| Prices from £48\* |**

**\*£10 donated to the school**

**[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)**

**| Next PTA Meeting |**  
**Thurs 25th Jan via Zoom**

For details email:  
[pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

**FESTIVAL**  
on the field

**Click here for tickets & we will get a donation!**

**PARKING - PLEASE READ** - we have received a number of complaints regarding inconsiderate stopping or parking along Roundwood Park. Please do not stop or park on zig zags or double yellow lines.



**FOLLOW US!**



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Yr13 Biology Field Trip

[Click here for more photos!](#)



Just before half term our Yr13 biologists enjoyed a weekend of fieldwork in North Yorkshire. They covered a range of our **ASPIRE Learning Habits** as they conducted their research...

**RESPONSIBLE LEARNERS:** Our biologists set Longworth traps overnight to investigate the feeding relationships in the North Yorkshire woodland. They constructed their traps, including warm bedding and food for their potential visitors! The next morning the traps were checked, any small mammals were investigated and released back to their habitat. They also set up a wildlife camera to see what visitors frequent the area overnight!

**FOCUS:** After a long day completing field work, the Year 13 biologists spent the evening examining the invertebrate samples they collected in a Mayfly Nymphology session. They used microscopes and completed scientific drawings to scale using graticules.

**COLLABORATION:** Our biologists braved the rain and wind to investigate sand dune succession on the North Yorkshire coast. They were finding out how the distribution of species changes as you move further inland.

**ORGANISE:** They launched into their freshwater ecology session, collecting a range of invertebrates and investigating abiotic factors such as pH, oxygen saturation and turbidity.

They also took the opportunity to have a picnic in the glorious Yorkshire sunshine!

## Bold Voices Ambassador Programme

This academic year Roundwood is taking part in the **Bold Voices Ambassador Programme**. This is an eight month online programme for students and staff to build the knowledge and skills to run projects challenging gender inequality and gender-based violence within their school communities.

As part of this programme Bold Voices is running two parent and carer webinars (30 November 2023 and 7 March 2024) to ensure that parents and carers feel equipped to carry on this conversation at home.

The first webinar, 'Starting the Conversation: Tools for tackling misogyny with teens' is an introduction to the issues of gender inequality, misogyny and gender-based violence our teens are facing and how to bridge the gap and talk about this tricky topic at home.

It is taking place on Thursday 30 November 2023, 6pm-7:30pm and can be booked through the Roundwood Park booking link: [HERE](#)

If tickets sell out, there will be a waiting list, so please do return your tickets if you can no longer attend the event. The recording will be sent to those on the waiting list and will be made available for the whole school community to watch for one month afterwards.

## PSHCE@RPS



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

Please follow the link below:

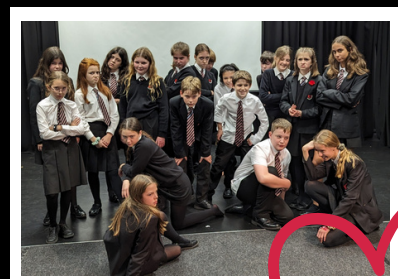
**What parents and carers need to know about the dangers of vaping**

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](mailto:s.mooney@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

Everyone's having a great time creating the show! You're going to LOVE it!!



**TICKET INFO COMING SOON!**

## NOTICE - School App

Please note that, due to circumstances beyond our control, our school app will no longer be maintained after 1 December 2023. We know that this may be disappointing news but our website is regularly updated and you can also sign up to our social media channels to find out what we are up to.

Click the icons below to follow us on X (Twitter), Facebook or Instagram.

**FOLLOW US!**



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Make a Noise!



More photos will be on our socials next week!

There has been such a lot going on this week for our 'Make a Noise' week! On Monday there was a fabulous art exhibition, showing student pieces created in honour of their own culture and heritage. On Tuesday students added a pin to a map of the world indicating their heritage, as well as painting beautiful images and flags on their hands. On Wednesday there was an amazing fashion show where students dressed in their traditional clothing and shared poetry and traditional foods, a truly wonderful event celebrating the many cultures represented here at RPS. Thursday was about forgiveness and learning from hurtful things we all have said and done, saying sorry and also forgiving yourself is a way to heal and move on. Today there was a really fun Treasure Hunt with clues scattered throughout the school with students running around trying to solve it and gain prizes! As always, our fantastic Canteen was on board, serving the most delicious themed food throughout the week, from Indian to Mexican, Italian and African fayre. It's been brilliant!

## Alumni: Art & Textiles Students

We have been fortunate enough to have two recent graduates visit to talk to our Y12 & 13 students about their fashion courses and first steps into the working world. It was wonderful to see them and hear their journeys...

**Holli J studied BA Hons in Fashion Communication and Promotion at Nottingham Trent University.** She talked to students about her course content and experiences during her 3 years as a student at Nottingham Trent. She showed students mood boards, module work and final outcomes including a printed magazine, social media work and website design. She also talked about first career steps working with Shimmering Ivory and managing social media, communication and visuals for this design house, what it's like to work for a real client and how Fashion Communication and Promotion can work towards building and supporting a brand. Holli studied Art Textiles, Art Photography and Media when attending RPS Sixth Form.

Some of Holli's & Martha's work



**Martha Wigley Studied BA Hons in Fashion Design at Nottingham Trent University.** Martha has studied all aspect of the fashion process throughout her 3 year course. She showcased her work to our students and talked through her experiences on the Fashion course. Martha won a number of competitions during her Degree and was sponsored by Vivienne Westwood for Graduate Fashion week. Martha designs using CAD and understands the fashion process right through to designing, sourcing materials and making collections. Her first career steps include work for Tamaam Couture and supporting their London Fashion Week show. She is currently working for Good Squish and is involved in designing for their expanding product range.



## SEND Surgery



We would like to offer you an opportunity to meet with Hollie Hall, our SENDCo, to discuss any SEND concerns you have about your child.

Surgeries take place termly and appointments are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Please note, this is an initial discussion and not a review meeting. If your concern is urgent, please contact us directly.

Please sign up for a 15 minute appointment via the google form link [HERE](#)

Read the RPS Christmas Lunch info [HERE!!!](#)

## RPS & Harpenden Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal



"Spreading a little happiness"

Every year, we create boxes of presents to send to children in undeveloped countries all over the world so they can have presents for Christmas.

We are always trying to get more people involved and get more boxes sent to those who don't get the benefit of treating themselves this Christmas.



### How to get involved?

- Buy a £3 shoebox from the PE office at breaktime from **Friday 3rd November**
- Fill the box with presents (remember to indicate on the front of the box what gender/age it is for)
- **Do not** include any food, drink, medicine or sharp objects.
- Return to the sports hall by **Monday 27th November**

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Remembrance at RPS

We held our remembrance service this morning and were honoured to have John Howie, the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, join us and lay a wreath in our school on behalf of His Majesty the King. An impeccable 2 minute silence was observed by our whole community before the Last Post was beautifully played, huge thanks to Tom V for that. Each year we ask our House Leaders to create a thoughtful design on a cross for each Form that we place in our remembrance garden and, as usual, the designs were creative and truly beautiful. We must pay tribute to our chamber choir for their moving rendition of 'True Colours' as part of our service as well.

**Lest we forget**

Please sponsor our  
Sleepout Heroes!



DONATE 



### GT SLEEP OUT

FRIDAY 10TH NOV 2023

As you might know, GT are running a sponsored sleep out to help raise money and awareness for our school charities.

Please sponsor the brilliant and very brave 100 people (staff and students) taking on this overnight challenge.

**SPONSOR US AT** 

[www.justgiving.com/page/gtsleepout2023](http://www.justgiving.com/page/gtsleepout2023)

**DONATE** 



IT'S TONIGHT! GOOD LUCK!

## Careers Corner



### Escape Studios Open Day

**Saturday 18 November 10am - 1:45pm**

Discover degrees in Animation, Games and Visual Effects (VFX) designed with an impressive range of industry partners. Book your place for the next open day on Saturday 18 November > [HERE](#) <

### Insight into Deloitte

**Wednesday 15 November 5pm - 6:30pm**

Young Professionals will be hosting their first event of the year with Deloitte; this virtual webinar will be held via Zoom so you can join from anywhere in the country! The evening will give you an insight into what Deloitte do and what a career at such a huge global firm can look like. They will be sharing tips on how you can succeed in your future, and we will be hearing from top professionals who will be sharing their personal insights to a Big 4 firm. Sign up > [HERE](#) <

### Make the Future Yours - Issue 8

Issue 8 of Make the Future Yours was published recently. Features include 'All at Sea?', 'The Fire Service', 'Sandwich Degrees', 'Esports', 'What would you tell your 15-year-old self' and 'Engineering - a great career'. There is also an article on eight unusual courses to study! Read it > [HERE](#) <

### Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

**Y12 Future Options Day 1**

**Wednesday 15 November**

A letter will be going out to all Y12 parents this week with more information regarding this event. Students will need a device for the whole day.

**Y13 Provider Access Legislation (PAL) Talk from Lauren Christy @SKY**

**Friday 17 November**

**MBDA WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YRS10-13**

> [CLICK HERE](#) <



# CURTAIN CALL



**Local live theatre**

**It's Panto Season!**



**Peter Pan**  
8-31 December  
Alban Arena



Our next theatre screening is to be announced...but can you guess the theme?!

**| SAVE THE DATE |**

**| Thursday 14 December 3.30pm |**

**| Popcorn & drinks provided |**



**FOLLOW US!**



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Year 7 House Netball **WINNERS!**

It was Year 7's turn for House Netball last week and it was another great event with fantastic effort from our players - and superb (and loud!) support from the sidelines! Congratulations go to **OWENS HOUSE** for taking the top spot again - they're on a roll! Well done everyone and thank you as always to our fantastic PE dept and all our Sixth Form helpers.



## Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Harpenden Trust Christmas Appeal](#)
- [Dacorum & St. Albans Community Fire Safety Newsletter](#)
- [Children & Young People: Health & Well-Being Survey 2023](#)
- [National Sleep Helpline Info](#)
- [County Youth Training Choir](#)
- [St Albans City FC Education Player Programme](#)
- [Big Harpenden Christmas Jumper Swap](#)
- [EBSA parent coffee morning](#)
- [SEN parent coffee morning](#)
- [Friends of Kinsbourne Green Common](#)
- [Supporting Links FREE Workshops](#)
- [Harpenden Choral Society](#)

## Read all about it...

Vol 4

10 November 23

### One School, One Read

Each year, as part of our celebration and promotion of the power of reading, we endeavour to share a story as a community. This year's One School, One Read novel is the powerfully short and incredibly beautiful 'Blue Book of Nebo' by Manon Steffan Ros. It was originally published in Welsh so is a novel in translation.



We feel that it explores many of our school values through the themes of kindness, community and having integrity at all times. We also feel that the protagonist's story is really inspirational. Even though we only released the title just before half term, over 30 of the Roundwood Park community have read the novel already and are proudly wearing their badge and collecting house points along the way.

Be sure to get involved whether you are a student or a parent! Here's the blurb to whet your appetite:

Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mum have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living. Despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan must take on adult responsibilities. And they each have their own secrets, which emerge as, in turn, they jot down their thoughts and memories in a notebook - the Blue Book of Nebo.

Roundwood Readers have said:

- It's a precious tale of a mother and son with breathtaking moments.
- The characters felt so real to me.
- What a belter of a book!

**SAVE THE DATE**

# The RPS Christmas Concert

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH**  
**TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER, 7PM**

**FURTHER DETAILS COMING SOON!**



### Guitar Workshop

Yrs7&8 got to hear all about the electric guitar during a music workshop last week. If you are interested in learning electric guitar or bass follow the QR code >>



**FOLLOW US!**



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Yr12 Artist Jacob V

[Visit the gallery's website](#)

Year 12 student Jacob V (Jacob V Jordan) has moved on from exhibitions in Harpenden to showcasing his work in the Zari Gallery in London! At the age of 16, to have a body of work that a London gallery is confident to show and add to the catalogue is absolutely unprecedented.

Jacob is an abstract-expressionist artist living in Harpenden. His work is about "cognitive dissonance" and how this mental conflict between a person's values and behaviours can cause emotional unease. His work focuses on varied subject ideas that he has experienced or become interested in. He abstracts the ideas to give them a personal perspective on the subject. He starts with several layers of acrylic painting the broad and basic structure that he can envisage. Works can take months to create due to the drying time of each layer. Once happy with the overall structure Jacob will impasto with a palette knife thick oil paint to really express areas of interest. He will come back to his work to review and add oil pastels to areas that seem compelling. Jacob enjoys painting on large surfaces and has also worked in ceramics constructing raku firings and using the school kiln. He is inspired by politics, history and events and experience he has lived. Art is a way for him to express how he views the world. Jacob is a very modest young man, but his accomplishment is huge, and the school and our Art department are very proud of Jacob and can't wait to see what comes next for this extremely talented young man.

His exhibition is named 'Beyond Brushstrokes: Evoking Emotion in Dual Mediums' and will be at the gallery until 16 November, go and see it if you can!

## RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs

Warhammer Club introduces students to the Fantasy Warhammer realms! Most of our members enjoy battling in the far future within the Warhammer 40000 universe. Students build and paint models and then go on to build armies to battle each other in a variety of tabletop games. Last week we had our first after school 'pizza and play' session of the year. A fun evening of painting models, playing games and eating pizza. As many are new to table top gaming we set up some battles and introduced new rules so students could build knowledge and develop their gaming. If you would like to know more and get involved, come to Science Lab 2 at 13:30 on a Thursday!



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

## Wellbeing@RPS

Head over to the Tooled Up website and take a look at the 'A-Z of Frequently Asked Questions' from parents and how Tooled Up can help >> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

There's also a great article on there with advice on how to achieve 'Stress-free Mornings with Teens' >> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Take a look at the parent webinars that are coming up in November including an 'ADHD Conference', 'Understanding Girls', 'Help! I feel like a Failure as a Parent' and 'Supporting Young People Who Self-harm' >> [CLICK HERE](#) & sign up to attend <<

Click here  
to read  
more about  
our 5 ways  
to wellbeing



## Residential Trips



[February 24 - Y10 French Trip](#)

[February 24 - Y11&13 PRE/History Rome](#)

[February 24 - Yr10 Spanish Trip](#)

[May 24 - Y10 History Tour Berlin](#)

[June 24 - Y10 Geography South Wales Trip](#)

[May 24 - KS3&4 Swindon Netball Tour](#)

[April 25 - All Yrs Ski Trip Jay Peak, USA](#)

## WE ARE HIRING!

- Minibus Driver
- Caretaker
- Deputy Site Manager

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

