

RPS ROUNDUP

24 November 2023



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

As the Autumn moves on, the school is a very busy place. In addition to the excellent anti-bullying and culture themed week a fortnight ago, it was my great pleasure to take part in our Remembrance Ceremony. Although we reported on this in the last issue, I wanted to pay tribute to the students who decorated the crosses and took part in our competition. I am in awe of the work of all of them!

Last Monday we had our Competitive University evening. Our students were very impressive as they underwent one mock interview after another. We are starting to hear about students getting university interviews so fingers crossed for all of them.

On Tuesday we had our highly successful Citizenship Day for Year 11. It was an excellent day and I wanted to pay tribute to Sarah Mooney, who does such a great job in producing high quality materials and making sure the day runs smoothly. In addition, this year she and the team had great help from our governor, Mark Franklin. We really do appreciate the work that he, and all the other governors, put into Roundwood and for making it a better place each and every year.

Finally, we are doing a series of wellbeing assemblies this week. In them, we talk about the benefits, but mainly the harms, that can be done by too much time spent on mobiles. We are trying to further educate our students about how to manage the algorithms on social media platforms. We are concerned that when a young person watches content which is harmful, the algorithm pushes more such content their way. Our assemblies help our students to prevent that happening to them in the way they manage their platforms. I would urge you to have conversations at home about these assemblies and allow them to talk to you about them. If you have any concerns or questions, you can contact us via our Heads of Year or our safeguarding team.

Finally, this is our last RoundUp before our long weekend. I hope that you manage to get some time off too, and that our students use it to have a break from their studies and recharge their batteries.

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



What's On

27 November - House Rugby Week

28 November - Staff House Bake Off

4 December - SCHOOL CLOSED

5 December - SCHOOL CLOSED

6 December - Reading Week

6 December - CADBURY House Week

6 December - Y12 Physics Cambridge Trip

8 December - Yr11 Mocks Results Day

12 December - RPS Christmas Concert

13 December - RPS Sportspersons' Dinner

13 Dec - Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

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

>> PLEASE READ <<



We are unfortunately continuing to receive feedback from the crossing patrol serving Roundwood Primary School, that a number of our students who cycle to school ride through the crossing point whilst he is in the road stopping traffic for pedestrians to cross. **Please speak to your child/ren if they cycle to school** and explain how dangerous this is for both them and the pedestrians. Thank you.

We also need to ask parents/carers to please refrain from using the Primary School's Carpark **at any time**. Please do not enter either school grounds at the end of the school day and find somewhere to safely park and wait for students away from the site. Thank you.



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 7 Trip to Manor Adventures

Last week, our Year 7 students embarked on their first residential trip at RPS! We visited the Norfolk Lakes School Activity Centre for 3 days.

The students took part in a whole host of activities: giant canoeing, caving, climbing, archery, orienteering, initiative exercises, obstacle courses, blind trail, rifles, aeroball and the Manor Olympics!

The students had a brilliant time and were able to really bond as a year group. They gained many new skills and worked on developing their self-confidence, their self-esteem, their respect for others, their resilience, taking responsibility, their ability to manage risk and their social skills. We hope they also gained new interests!

Highlights include racing against other teams in the giant canoes, jumping into the lake, getting incredibly muddy on the obstacle course, playing games in the caves, climbing to new heights on the climbing wall and competing against teachers in archery and rifles.

With special thanks to Mrs Manton for helping to organise the trip and to the staff that attended.

The students were fantastic, what a brilliant year group!

[Click here for more photos!](#)

Geography Quiz

We were delighted to host the annual Harpenden Schools GA Worldwide Geography Quiz last week, welcoming around 100 students from local schools St George's, The King's and Sir John Lawes. Well done to everyone for taking part, and congratulations to our RPS winners!



Year 13 Careers Talk

Last Friday we were delighted to welcome Lauren Christy, a Talent Manager from Sky Studios Elstree, as she came in to speak to our Year 13 students about her career and the many job roles available in the creative industries. Lauren spoke about Sky's apprenticeships for school leavers and graduates, as well as their future talent programme, skills shortages in the creative industries and the

growing gaming and virtual sectors. She gave students tips and advice as to what they can do now to prepare, including work experience opportunities for under 18s.

Take a look at Sky Careers >> [HERE](#) <<



RPS PTA

| 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](#)

| PTA Christmas Social |

| Wed 13 Dec, Old Cock Inn |

| 8pm - all welcome! |

| Next PTA Meeting |

Thurs 25 Jan via Zoom

For details email: pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk

FESTIVAL
on the field
[Click here for tickets & we will get a donation!](#)

SEND Surgery



Wednesday 22 November 2023

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](#)

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Years 10 & 11 'Citizenship' PSHCE Days

Our Year 10 students had an invaluable PSHCE day last week. They heard all about law and crime in the UK, taking part in a magistrates court mock trial to really put their learning into practice. They also received training in basic First Aid and were shown how to perform life-saving CPR. Thank you to Rhys Hibbert, a volunteer for the NHS Trust, for delivering this training.

Year 11's day was first focused upon improving their community, and understanding the different ways in which a citizen can contribute to its improvement. They discussed issues faced by communities before focusing on our own local area. They were given the role of Harpenden town planner and tasked with coming up with an idea for a new sustainable community near our school. Prizes were awarded to the groups with the best plans, best community name and most innovative ideas.

They also had a session discussing how public money is raised and spent, how decisions are made and why opinions differ on spending. They looked at how public money is divided into funding for essential services and how decisions are made about the allocation of funding both locally and nationally. Their final session had the aim of understanding the United Kingdom's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the wider world.

Year 12's Future Options Day



It was Year 12's first Future Options Day of the year last week, a program where we encourage students to consider, research and connect in preparation for their future choices. The day focussed on considering strengths and competencies, writing CVs, thinking about social media and 'personal branding' as well as looking at job adverts and how to make a strong job application. Huge thanks to our guests speakers - Chris Eccles from E4S for telling students what it is employers are looking for, and **RPS Alumni Richard Harris** for giving our students tips on CV writing and transferable skills. Thanks also to Sarah Pascaru from Social Jooce, who delivered the personal branding and social media session. We were delighted to hear Chris comment "Your students are lucky to be in a school where ASPIRE skills link so well with the skills employers are looking for - it will stand them in good stead if they remember to showcase those skills when applying for jobs!"



PSHCE@RPS



The PSHCE focus for Y7 students at the moment is their 'Bully-Free Form' project. It would be great if you could talk to them about this at home. There is a useful resource to use with them linked in: Parent support "Treating friends and classmates kindly" from TooledUp >> [HERE](#) <<

THANK YOU...

Huge thanks to our school governor, Mark Franklin, for planning and delivering such a fantastic sustainable communities session to Y11, providing the resources and prizes for our students. It is great to hear from students' feedback that they really enjoyed the session and many were inspired so much so they are considering a job in planning!

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



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You will also find lots of information on our website:





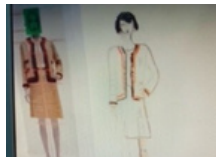
Remembrance Artwork

Each year to accompany our Remembrance Day tributes, we launch a House Art Competition on the theme. Every year we are astounded by the skill, creativity and quality of the entries we receive - and this year was no different. These are photos of the winning designs - the poppies cascading from a soldier's hat, created by Ruby in Year 8, was the well deserved overall winner. The details are incredible, huge congratulations Ruby.

Please take a look at all of the entries >> [HERE](#) <<

V&A Fashion Illustration Workshop

Our Year 12 and 13 students took part in a Fashion Illustration workshop hosted by the V&A last week. The event was held after school and students listened to a curator talk on the current Gabrielle Chanel Fashion Manifesto exhibition. She talked about key features of the exhibition and the history of Chanel, both her fashion design and the development of the infamous Chanel Number 5 perfume. The talk was followed by a workshop where Illustrator Erin Penton did a live webcam demonstration of Fashion Illustration inspired by a number of Chanel garments. Students worked in pencil to create a number of illustrations. The pace was fast and fun, we all really enjoyed it! Students will be developing this skill further throughout their course.



Careers Corner



Virtual Work Experience with Medic Mentor Years 10-13

Medic Mentor has crafted a 6-month medical and 4-month dental e-learning work experience programme that lets students set their own pace. From structured teaching to direct interaction with healthcare professionals, the programme ensures students don't just watch procedures but also understand the broader roles in the medical and dental fields. Sign up >> [HERE](#) <<

HOP Webinars

Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) is holding the following webinars:

- Careers in a Leisure Centre
Thursday 30 November, 16:30-17:30
- Careers in Visual Merchandising
Tuesday 5 December, 16:30-17:30pm

Please register for either of these webinars >> [HERE](#) <<

ETrust Residential Insight into University Courses - Y12 Students only

ETrust have announced that dates have been confirmed for two residential 'Insight into University Courses' for summer 2024. For the full list of courses and requirements, please see the course descriptions >> [HERE](#) <<

You can select and apply for up to three courses, but ETrust can only allocate one course per student. Click >> [HERE](#) << to apply.

Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

Y12 Future Options Day 2 - Tuesday 9

January 2024 - Would anyone like to volunteer to assist with our Y12 Mock Interview day? If you can help please email us at careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Y11 Post 16 Advice Evening - Wednesday 17 January 2024

Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps - Wednesday 24 January 2024

CURTAIN CALL

Local live theatre

It's Panto Season!

Beauty and the Beast
9-30 December
The Eric Morecambe Centre

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:





GT Charity Sleepout

WOW!! >>

£3385!

On Friday 10th November, an amazing group of students and staff took part in the annual GT Sponsored Sleep Out. We braved the very cold temperatures and slept rough, on cardboard, to raise money and awareness for our whole school charities, WWF UK, St Albans & District Foodbank and Make A Wish UK. Every year the students involved comment on how eye-opening this event is to some of the situations many people are faced with.

A huge thank you to Miss O'Coy, Mrs Rymill, and the Food Tech students, who prepared a delicious soup for the event. As usual, once we had fed the sleepers, the leftovers were dropped to DENS, who are an organisation fighting homelessness and helping to rebuild lives. A very fitting and purposeful end to our evening. We are also very grateful to Waitrose in Harpenden who very generously donated food items to help feed our students and staff at the soup kitchen and to keep them warm through the night with hot chocolate.

Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who took part, or sponsored us through the JustGiving page. GT House is totally overwhelmed by the support and donations, with the overall total currently at £3385. The money we have raised will make a huge difference to so many people.

Miss Mullally Head of Grey-Thompson House

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [AT Society Christmas Concert](#)
- [Stockwood Illuminated](#)
- [Herts Parenting SEN Children Through Separation](#)
- [Herts Within My Reach Programme](#)
- [EBSA Coffee Morning](#)
- [Harpenden Christmas Carnival](#)
- [Chess Club at RPS](#)
- [Efroc Spring TEAM Chess Championship](#)
- [Christmas Fayre at St Nicholas Church](#)
- [Alban Federation Teacher Training](#)
- [Harpenden Rotary Young Photographer Competition](#)

Read all about it...

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One School, One Read Update

So far, 46 people have read The Blue Book of Nebo. Cadbury House is in the lead with the most readers in school. Students should remember to complete the Escape Room quiz when they have read it in order to contribute to the House Competition. There is a long way to go as we have the whole year to get as many of our community reading the book as possible. Students can also collect an 'I've read it' badge from the Library for doing so.

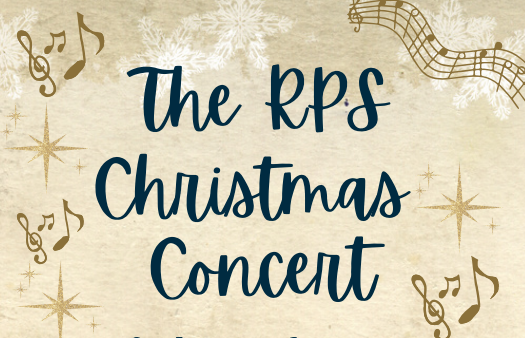
Nebo in Iceland! →



We were so pleased to see that many parents are joining in too. We loved the picture of The Blue Book of Nebo which had made its way to Iceland recently. If you take the novel to unusual or far-flung places, please send us a picture of it so we can share its journey!

Benefits of Reading

Doctor Kathy Weston of TooledUp fame and friend of Roundwood Park School recently shared this blog in her newsletter. In it are plenty of reiterations about the benefits of reading for mental health and academic progress.



The RPS Christmas Concert

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER, 7PM

TICKETS ARE CURRENTLY ON SALE TO PERFORMERS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO NON-PERFORMERS FROM FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER - LOOK OUT FOR AN EMAIL WITH DETAILS COMING SOON

There are plenty of hints and tips for motivating reading at home as well as advice on the ways to support your child at home with reading. Please take the time to explore by following the link >> [HERE](#) <<

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





RPS Trampoline Squad Regional Success

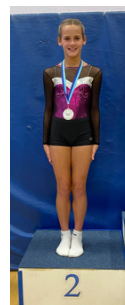
They've done it again! It was the East Regional Competition in Hitchin at the weekend and, after taking our biggest squad yet, the RPS team once again came away with a whole host of trophies.

The headlines are: 4 teams are Regional Champions!

3 teams placed 2nd!

5 individuals are Regional Champions!

Huge congratulations to every single gymnast, they were all incredible, and this means that 18 individuals and all 7 teams have qualified to represent the Eastern Region at the Zonal Championships in Birmingham this January. Huge shout out to Mrs Moxham and Miss Mullally too who work so hard with our trampolinists - thank you.



HOUSE Chess Tournament



We had almost 30 students participate in our now annual House Chess Tournament after school last week. It was a very intense affair, with the final showdown resulting in a stalemate, leading to a 3-minute bullet game - which had all the tension and drama of a penalty shootout! Well done everyone, particularly our finalists, William & Suleiman. William ended up taking the win for **Mandela!**

RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs

Year 7 students experiencing Art Textiles...

It's been fun running a Year 7 Art Textiles club

where students are creating patchwork applique samples embellished with images using photo transfer onto fabric techniques. Ben, Lara, Joanna, Saskia, Lulu, Isabelle, Olivia, Sophie, Lara, and Rose are working brilliantly with our Sixth Form students Heather, Tegan, Zaynab and Jemima. They are learning sewing machine skills and the applique technique. We will look forward to showcasing their finished work in the near future!



Wellbeing@RPS

We have been holding Wellbeing Assemblies for all year groups this week.

The general message has been about taking control of the content students view on social media and learning how to manage phone usage to support positive mental health.

You can read the slides we shared with students >> [HERE](#) <<

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

June 24 - Y9 Science Trip Eurospace, Belgium

May 24 - KS3&4 Swindon Netball Tour

April 25 - All Yrs Ski Trip Jay Peak, USA

WE ARE HIRING!

- Design & Technology Teacher

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

Click to see our **AUTUMN CLUBS** programme