

RPS ROUNDUP

8 December 2023



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

I just wanted to thank all of you for the role you played in our Ofsted inspection last week. The Ofsted inspectors were incredibly impressed by the level of response to the Parent View questionnaires and took the time to read some of the extremely positive comments that you made. Thank you so much. We look forward to sharing the report with you in January.

I also want to pay tribute to the students. They really worked hard to show the inspectors how much they enjoy being at school, as well as enjoying the challenge of learning at our school. I couldn't be prouder of them. Finally, I also want to pay tribute to our magnificent staff. The support staff and teaching staff of Roundwood Park School are wonderful all year round. Ofsted inspections are a necessary part of our school system but they can also be stressful for staff. It was good to see our staff enjoying showing the inspection team what they can do.

On Friday we found out that we were the South East Region Comprehensive School of the Year in the Sunday Times Parent Power Awards. We were pleased that we were chosen, not only for our results but also for our ethos of kindness and excellence. To get this recognition for our students, our staff, governors and parent body is a truly lovely end to the year. We have received some lovely comments about this from parents – thank you very much.

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



Inter School Debate

Last week we were delighted to host the annual local inter-school debate. It was a great event that showcased the incredible debate skills in all of our local schools. Well done to our RPS students who performed brilliantly and made us very #proudrps



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

- 11 December - Yr11 Mocks Results Day
- 12 December - RPS Xmas Concert
- 13 December - RPS Sportspersons' Dinner
- 13 December - Senior Citizens' Xmas Party
- 15 December - Ys7-11 Xmas Lunch
- 18 December - Sixth Form Xmas Lunch
- 19 December - Last Day - 12.10pm finish
- 4 January - Back to School
- 9 January - Yr12 Future Options Day 2
- 10 January - Y12 Primary School Visit
- 11 January - Y11 Algebra Award

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

**RPS SENIOR
CITIZENS'
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Wed 13 December

MORE INFO HERE!



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





HOUSE Rugby

We enjoyed a great week of House rugby last week, with year groups 7-10 battling it out on the pitch for those all-important House points. We mostly saw blue skies but it was a very muddy affair, and we were all seen donning rugby boots and wellies to go and offer our support! There were some outstanding skills on show from all of our players with great, competitive play. Apologies for the state of their kits, but they did have fun!

Using the results from each year group, and some basic maths (1st=7 points, 2nd=6 etc), the overall results were...

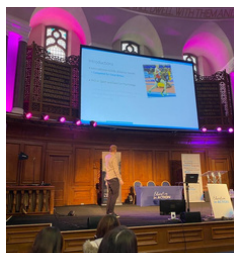
- 1st Mandela (20)
- 2nd Scott (18)
- 3rd GT (17)
- 4th Owens (16)
- 5th Wilberforce (15)
- 6th Cadbury (14)
- 7th Frank (11)



Huge thanks to our fantastic PE Dept who work so hard to make sure these brilliant events happen no matter what, creating those special school memories that last a life time.

Psychology in Action

Our Year 13 Psychologists were in Westminster last week for the 'Psychology in Action' live event, where they enjoyed lively discussions, interactive sessions and inspirational stories that showed them psychology beyond the classroom (driverless cars, anyone?!), as well as a special session on examination success. A special shout-out goes to Evan and Yvie for asking Professor Veronica O'Keane some excellent questions on memory!



Speak Your Mind

It was a tense debate for those participating in the recent 'Speak Your Mind' event at St Albans Cathedral. Amidst hundreds of sixth formers from Harpenden and St Albans, our Year 12 Politics students questioned the panellists on the threat/benefit of AI. They were also thrilled to meet and get a photo with Daisy Cooper, MP for St Albans.



RPS PTA



| 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!

PSHCE@RPS



In Year 8, students are currently studying Identity, Prejudice & Discrimination.

One of the areas we look at is self worth. It would be great if you could talk to them about this at home. This is a useful article from TooledUp Education >> [HERE](#) << and there's a link to supporting document "Your Wellbeing Journal" >> [HERE](#) <<

Our Year 9 students are focussing on Relationships. In support of our learning, TooledUp Education has compiled a list of books for children and young people of all ages which celebrate families of all shapes and sizes. Please take a look at that >> [HERE](#) <<

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

FOLLOW US!



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Young Enterprise Trade Fair



The Young Enterprise Trade Fair took place at the Harpenden Christmas Carnival last week. Our two teams, Aurora Candles and Apollo, both had really successful events, with Apollo making £300 from sales of their greetings cards. Aurora absolutely smashed it by making almost £1000 from their candle sales ensuring that, for the fifth year running, an RPS team won the whole thing! Well done all of you.

Black History Month Poetry Competition

Congratulations to our fantastic poetry winners - [CLICK TO ENLARGE...](#)

MY COLOUR IS BEAUTIFUL
By JESSICA L 9F

I've finished my work.
So I hop on the bus.
I sit on the black side.
And I don't make a fuss.

My legs are aching.
And my back is sore.
It's just got me thinking.
I ain't putting up with this no more.

My voice ain't heard.
And my face ain't seen.
Why are you judging me
because of the colour of my skin?

Somebody approaches.
And gazes down at me.
They think they have dominance.
'Move!' they shout expectantly.

But I ain't budging.
Not moving from this seat.
I'm glued to the ground.
I sit there stubbornly.

My legs are aching.
And my back is sore.
It's just got me thinking.
I ain't puttin' up with this no more.

My voice ain't heard.
And my face ain't seen.
Why are you judging me
because of the colour of my skin?

You locked me up in chains.
You tugged me out of the bus.
But I wasn't finished.
I'd had enough.

Protests had started
and marches and rows.
The bus boycott had begun
you can't stop me now.

My legs were aching
and my back was sore.
It got me thinking.
I ain't puttin' up with this no more.

I didn't budge that day
coming home on the bus.
I was tired and sick
of this world being unjust.

Because my colour is beautiful
no different to yours.
I am Rosa Parks
and I changed the law.

With one single act out of the ordinary.
I stood for my rights and I made history.

KATHERINE JOHNSON
By THE CLASS OF 7C

Space is often called 'the final frontier' but many at NASA have sought to conquer it. Creola Katherine Johnson used her mathematical genius to calculate orbital mechanics as a NASA employee.

In choosing this career path she was battling prejudice both as woman and as an African American.

Everything that she has done through her work has changed humanity. NASA nicknamed her the 'human computer' due to her expertise.

Calculations for space missions plotted trajectories and flight paths for missions to the moon and beyond.

Educated at West Virginia State College, she left school at 14 but attended courses and earned a mathematics degree.

Astronauts that she worked with include Alan Shepard and John GLENN.

No gender barrier held her back and she regularly impressed her male bosses.

Discrimination in the workplace meant that she could not use the bathroom and has to travel across town instead.

Specialist knowledge of analytical geometry helped to propel her to promotion in her job.

Pragmatic and showing perseverance, she was quoted as saying "I didn't feel my segregation, 'I knew it was there, but I didn't feel it."

Aerospace technology was her area of expertise until her retirement in 1986.

Changing the views of both colleagues and people in America about the capabilities of women of colour.

Even though she battled a range of social and cultural issues, she earned praise and Barack Obama gave her the Presidential Medal of Praise in 2015.

Careers Corner



The final **HOP Careers Webinar** of 23 will take place on Thursday 14th December, 4:30 – 5:30pm. In this session they will be talking to an award winning and critically acclaimed Film Director, Michael Head. Michael will talk about the pathways into becoming a Film Director and his own career that has seen him gain a variety of credits for acting, producing and directing in both theatre and film. This webinar may appeal to any students interested in learning more about careers more generally in the TV/film and creative industries. Full details available >> [HERE](#) <<

DHL Apprenticeships

The apprenticeships roles at DHL Supply Chain have now gone live. These are for a September 2024 start date and there is a range of programmes available across the UK. Further info >> [HERE](#) <<

HOP into Apprenticeships & T Levels: The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair

24th Jan 2024, 5:30pm

This free event will be hosted on Zoom and will cover:

- T Levels, Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeships.
 - Programmes offered by local training providers and colleges.
 - Local vacancies available for talented young people seeking their next steps.
 - More about the skills and training provision being offered within Hertfordshire.
- Please reserve your place >> [HERE](#) <<

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!

Robin Hood
6 December – 3 January
Campus West, WGC

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

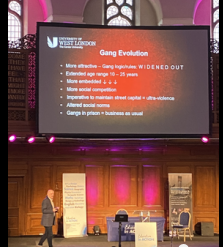
| Head to ParentPay |
| Thursday 14 December 3.30pm |
| Popcorn & drinks provided |

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Sociology in Action Conference

The Year 13 Sociology students had an excellent day recently at the Sociology in Action conference in London. Students had the opportunity to listen to a number of highly regarded academics such as Professor Simon Harding talking about gang culture and crime and Finkelstein discussing the rules of politics. Perhaps the most exciting session though was having an opportunity to listen to the legendary Professor Ann Oakley, a highly regarded feminist writer, discussing gender inequality in society today. Our day was complete when we managed to get a photo with the legend herself!

Read all about it...

Vol 6

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One School, One Read Update

The current rankings of readers by House are:

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. Cadbury | 5. Scott |
| 2. GT | 6. Frank |
| 3. Mandela | 7. Owens |
| 4. Wilberforce | |

There is still plenty of time to read the brilliant novel and there's all to play for with the rankings. Why not get in to the library and check out a copy to read over the holidays?

Don't forget to fill in the Google Form via the tile on RMUnify when it is done and add to your House points.

And, remember that we'd love to see photographs of the novel on its travels. Be sure to share them with us! Here's a picture of the book in Belgium over weekend.

Nebo in Brussels!



It's Reading Week!

Reading is so important for learning. We understand that all students need to be able to read fluently and with confidence in all subjects. This will ensure that they can cope with the demands of reading in exams and across the curriculum. So, we ensure that students have a broad diet of regular reading in our Reading Weeks. Expect reading from all subjects as home learning in the next week.

Recommended Read for Parents:

Stolen Focus by Johann Hari

This book is an exploration of reasons why our ability to pay attention is deteriorating. It is not happy reading by any means but a real eye opener as to the reasons that focusing in the modern world can be so tricky.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH REMINDER!



Years 7-11 - Fri 15 Dec

Sixth Form - Mon 18 Dec

The canteen will be closed at breaktime on these dates!!

REMEMBER!

No other food or drinks will be available on 15 December - 6th Formers & those not having a Christmas option will need to bring a packed lunch

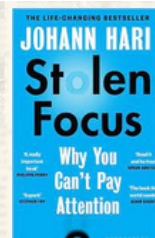
Christmassy hats and accessories welcome!

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Alternatives to Uni Group](#)
- [Community Fire Safety Newsletter](#)
- [Learning British Sign Language](#)
- [Neurodiversity Support for Parents and Carers in Hertfordshire](#)
- [Harpenden Choral Society Carols](#)
- [Redbourn Community Group Vacancy - Chair of Trustees](#)
- [Redbourn Community Group Vacancy - Services Coordinator](#)
- [RPS Veterans 5-a-side League](#)
- [Python Programming and Robotics lessons @ Katherine Warington School](#)

Lots of members of Roundwood staff have read it and we think you would all love it too >>>>>



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Utilita Girls Cup Tournament

The Utilita Girls Cup is one of the country's largest national football competitions, which culminates in an exciting final at Wembley Stadium in front of thousands of fans before a major national final.

Last week our U13 girls' football team headed off to compete in an early stage of the tournament held at Watford FC's fantastic training dome facility in London Colney. They had a great day, coming second in their group with 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. They played some fantastic football with lots of great ball movement and some superb goals scored! They fought hard but missed out on a place in the final after losing the semi-final. What a brilliant experience for them all!

Admissions Consultation 2025-2026

Following a change to administrative parish boundaries across Hertfordshire, Roundwood Park School is consulting to amend its admission arrangements for 2025/26 to ensure our admissions Priority Area accurately reflects these changes.

Currently the parish of Ridge sits within the St Albans/Harpenden Priority Area and the parish of South Mimms sits within the Priority Area for WGC/Hatfield and Potters Bar. These parishes have now been amalgamated to form a new single parish of "South Mimms-Ridge". For 2025/26, the governing board are proposing to remove the existing parish of Ridge from the admissions Priority Area for Roundwood Park School. The newly amalgamated parish will be fully incorporated into the Priority Area for WGC/Hatfield & Potters Bar. This change will only impact upon students applying from the parish of Ridge.

Our proposed admission arrangements can be found [here](#).

The consultation is open between 10 December 2023 and 20 January 2024. To respond, please email admissions.consultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk

RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our Climate Action Group meets on Wednesday lunchtimes and this week students have been making beautiful Christmas cards out of recycled material. We think they look amazing, and good for the planet too. Win win!



Wellbeing@RPS

Upcoming Events with TooledUp Education:

December 13, 2023 - 17:00 GMT

Girls and Puberty: Expert Q&A

Professor Charlotte Markey > [CLICK HERE](#) <

January 18, 2024 - 13:00 GMT

Parental Separation and Divorce: Q&A

Dr Reenee Singh > [CLICK HERE](#) <

January 23, 2024 - 19:00 GMT

**Raising a Detective in the Digital World:
A Talk for Parents**

Dr Kathy Weston > [CLICK 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](#)

[May 24 - Y8/9/10 Swindon Netball Tour](#)

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

[June 24 - Y9 Science Trip Eurospace, Belgium](#)

[June 24 - Y12 Biology Field Trip - Yorkshire](#)

[June 24 - Y8 MFL Trips - France & Germany](#)

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

WE ARE HIRING!

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

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