

RPS XMAS ROUNDUP

19 December 2023

ISSUE 200



Head's Out for Christmas!

Dear parents and carers,

It's been a busy end to the term so we've put together a RoundUp Christmas Special! I really enjoyed our annual Christmas Concert at St John's Church. It was beautifully atmospheric and the singing and musicianship on display were greatly appreciated by parents, grandparents and staff. I would like to thank Ms Dale and the whole music team for helping our students to shine. The following day we were delighted to welcome the senior citizens of Harpenden to our first Christmas party in person since 2019. The Year 12 students organised it very well and the guests have sent us some lovely feedback about how much they enjoyed the entertainment which ranged from trampolining to singing to a tombola and raffle. We can't wait for next year's event.

Many thanks to our fantastic catering team who provided a wonderful lunch for over 1000 students and staff. Once again, it was a lovely occasion and much appreciated by everyone.

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank all of you for your support and I hope that you have some rest over the festive period and have a happy New Year.

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



BACK TO
SCHOOL
THURS 4 JAN!

Students & Staff Christmas Lunch

Another brilliant Christmas lunch with all the trimmings served with a smile to over 1000 students by our incredible Canteen Staff, they're the best there is! Thank you to everyone for the herculean effort it takes to arrange and manage the festive lunch each year - you know who you are and you're amazing!



Dream team



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

To keep up to date on all the latest school news and see what your young people are up to, click the logo links and give us a like or follow on social media:



You will also find lots of information on our website:





RPS KS3 Sports Awards Dinner

Last Wednesday, the PE and Technology departments, with help from some of our Sixth Form students, hosted our annual Lower School Sports Awards Dinner. The evening saw the gathering of those involved in extra-curricular sports from Yrs 8, 9 & 10 to celebrate individual successes, and reflect on the sporting achievements from the last 12 months. With so many students representing RPS in sport, it is clearly impossible to recognise all of them in a formal way, but the PE department would like to thank all students who represent RPS regularly and all of the parents and carers who support their endeavours so wholeheartedly.

Those who took home the winning trophies for 2023 are:

Rising Stars - T. Starkey & C. Upjohn **Unsung Hero** - J. Cheetham

Commitment to Sport - J. Baily / F. Firmin / L. McIntosh / I. Foster / G. Tilly / E. Clement

Most Improved - W. Pegg / T. Devlin / I. Duncan / R. Godwin / S. Hamilton-Watson / J. Rimmer

Squad of the Year - Yr8 Boys Rugby / Yr9 Girls Football / Yr10 Boys Athletics

Recognition Awards - C. Ithier / M. Roberts / I. Wall / E. Wright / P. Brewster / T. Devoti / D. Nijjar

RPS Sports Person of the Year for 2023 is... F. Kenny!

Mr Hunter said..."having been selected in the county football squad this year, he's taking that next step towards high level performance and rounding himself into an exceptional all-round sportsman, all while keeping his feet on the ground. He has high expectations of himself, and others around him, which breeds a positive culture of achievement. He has been an absolute credit to RPS through the last calendar year". Well done from us all!

We also give a huge **THANK YOU** to our fantastic Food Tech students and staff for cooking and serving 200 delicious 2-course meals, making the whole evening a real team effort.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening, there was such a lovely atmosphere in the room as students celebrated the achievements of their teammates and peers, well done to all.

We look forward to more success through 2024! And don't forget you can follow [@RPSPE](#) on twitter for updates on sport across the school.

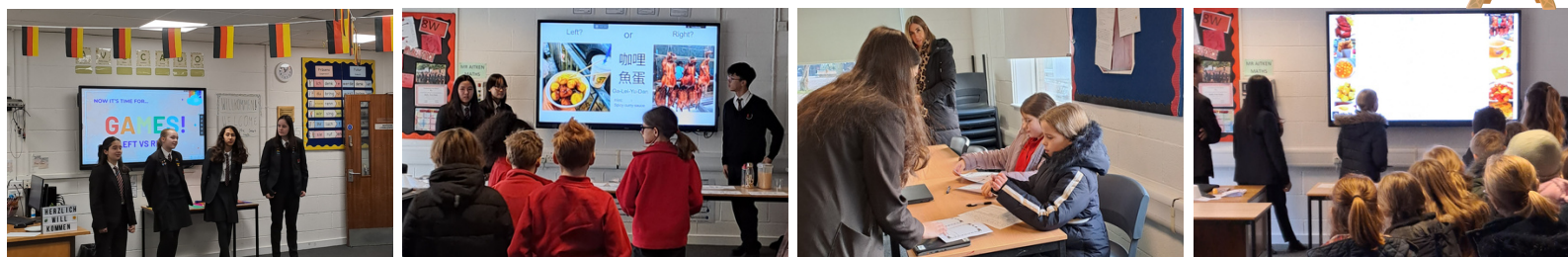


Cooking legends

Primary Languages Fair

On Thursday 30th November we held our bi-annual Primary Languages Fair. Four local primary schools came along and our dedicated Year 9 Language Leaders taught them some Cantonese, French, Korean and German! The lessons were a bit hit, with one young visitor overheard saying "This is the best school trip I've been on!". The primary students learnt a lot but said the games were so fun that they didn't feel like they were learning at all. We are very proud of our leaders this year who put in so much work behind the scenes. Well done to: E. Portlock, F. Shah, J. Cheng, S. Flaxbeard, G. Kenney, M. Davies, S. Khan, A. Yip, L. Cheung, L. Edmondson, E. Broadbent, J. Lee, C. Oates, R. Godwin, J. Chow, A. Dam-Capel and W. Pacholec and we look forward to more fun language events in the new year!

Mrs Robinson



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The RPS Christmas Concert

What a magical Christmas Concert last week!

As always, a lovely event that really marks the start of the RPS festive calendar. Thank you to everyone for coming along, to St John's Church for hosting us, our staff for working so hard in the run up and on the evening itself - but most importantly thank you to our wonderful musicians who are so talented, confident and dedicated to making the performances a true joy to listen to. Thank you Mr Rowlands for taking these fabulous photos, click here to see the rest >>>



[Click here for more photos](#)

Our House Production Update

We are getting really excited about the school production performances at the start of next term! We have been working relentlessly since September and the cast involved have been an absolute pleasure so far. After Christmas we will be hitting the ground running with only 3.5 weeks of rehearsal time left before the performances to the public and some of our local primary schools. We have a lot still to do but are really looking forward to showing the hard work and skill of our young people!



Straight after Christmas we are opening the ticket sales. This will be done through ParentPay and tickets for all will be at a flat fee of £8.00. Please note: ALL TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED BASIS.

The performance dates are **30th, 31st January and 1st February**. Doors will open at **6.15pm** and we will have a variety of stalls and a bar selling refreshments before the show and during the interval. The running time will be approximately **2 hours** (including the interval). The Performance itself will start promptly at **7.00pm**.

Costume & Props Drive!

We are still looking for a number of props and costumes to make it easier on our cast and their families. Please have a dig around and if you have any of the following that you are happy to lend or donate, please get in touch with j.john@roundwoodpark.co.uk We are looking for: mac style beige raincoats / military or security style navy jumpers (with epaulettes and shoulder/elbow patches / XS, S and M sized cocktail dresses / XS and S sized suit jackets / a postal worker's jacket / a clown suit / a dog costume suitable for a young teenager! / 2 matching light coloured suits in S and M / Fold down wardrobe rails

Advertising space for local businesses

Last time around we offered local businesses the opportunity to advertise in our program for the performance run. We would like to do the same again as it proved highly beneficial to all concerned. Program adverts are priced at **£25 for a quarter page**, **£50 for a half page** and **£100 for a full page**. If this is of interest, please contact t.corbett@roundwoodpark.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you at the end of January!
Mike Garbutt on behalf of the RPS cast and crew



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Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

[Click here to see more photos](#)

It was absolutely wonderful to welcome our Senior Citizens' Party back to RPS after a few years of delivering hampers and carol singing door to door out in our community (which was also lots of fun!). We opened the doors last Wednesday and our Year 12 students hosted around 60 fabulous local ladies and gentlemen who enjoyed a fantastic RPS show featuring a routine from our award winning trampette squad, a dance routine, a rousing number by Alfie and band, piano solos from Swathi and Ralph, a beautiful rendition of 'All is Found' by Sophie, the crowd pleasing 'Johnny be Good' by RPS band Strike Free, as well as carols and a sing-a-long led by our choir featuring - Ella, Emily, Aspen, Sophie, Bella, Barney, Herbie, Nell, Eren, Rafi and of course Ms Dale. There was food, drinks, crackers, gifts and a complimentary raffle. Everyone seemed to have an amazing time and we loved hosting them all. **A huge well done and thank you to our Year 12 students who were absolutely superb. They organised everything on the day and couldn't have done more for our guests. They were so kind, polite, patient and entertaining - we are very, very proud of them (and if you have one you should be too!).** Thank you to our Sixth Form staff for their support, especially Mrs Ithier, and to everyone who volunteered to assist - offering taxi services where needed - and of course our brilliant students for their performances. Same time, same place next year?!

Cadbury HOUSE Week!

Another great House Week filled with cake sales and lunchtime activities was squeezed in before the end of term... Well done to everyone for getting involved - the Senior Basketball V Netball match was most definitely a highlight!

Grey-Thompson is next - 22 January!

Superstar Bakers



CLICK HERE!

**CHECK OUT EPISODE 1 OF OUR ULTIMATE
LANGUAGES PODCAST - A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!**
BY ELLA B & JESSICA R YEAR 9

Click >> [HERE](#) << to view the Spring Term PE Extra Curricular Timetable

**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
from us all at RPS!**