



THE PARK TIMES

DECEMBER 2023





CONTENTS

Overview.....	3
A word from the editors.....	4
Clubs and Events.....	5
House Music.....	8
Charity.....	10
Make a Noise week.....	15
Whole school read.....	17
Current affairs.....	18
Local community.....	20
Spotlight on a Historical Figure....	23
Celebration.....	24
Subjects Page.....	25
New Year's resolutions.....	26
Xmas facts.....	28



OVERVIEW

Welcome back to a new edition of the Park Times! It has been some time since we last updated you all on RPS events. We want to welcome the new year 7s and year 12s and hope you are fully settled into the RPS community. This has been a jam-packed term full of music, charity and other exciting events since June!

HOUSE MUSIC

The event we were all waiting for...House Music! This event has been an RPS favourite and recurring success for many years. It is special not just to show off our phenomenal music students but for the sense of community and House values that are expressed throughout the whole event. Our students stepped up and made their Houses proud. Congratulations of course to Cadbury for their win, and congratulations to everyone involved and for stepping out of your comfort zone to represent your House! See page 8 for more details on the big night.

FRANK HOUSE WEEK

The Frank House Captains, Clara and Leo, ran a successful House week in October. The week involved compiling and sending another set of warrior packs to hospital patients. Break times were chaotic with bake sales and of course House music rehearsals! A raffle was held at House Music in which all proceeds were donated to our school charities and the viewers had the chance to swap a tin (sorted by students at the food bank) for a cake.

CULTURE WEEK

RPS has been keen on spreading cultural diversity within its community. The curriculum, diversity and wellbeing captains teamed up to organise a culture week within our school full of activities and events originating from varying cultures. This week was combined with make a noise week and anti-bullying week to promote positive thinking and spread awareness within our school community. Our fabulous canteen staff made food from around the world each day.

Finally, we would like to congratulate those who received their A Level and GCSE results in August, and well done for everyone's hard work this term. Enjoy your well deserved break.



A WORD FROM THE EDITORS



Hey everyone!

We are back again with our penultimate edition of the Park Times! We are Jess and Caitlyn, the Communications Captains of the SLG, meaning we are in charge of writing the Park Times and overseeing the House System social media page. The Student Leadership Group (SLG) is a group of elected students in year 13, who help run events and lead houses throughout the year. We want to welcome the new Year

7s and 12s to the school, and update you on the last few months that have been jam-packed with fun and activities! We hope you have enjoyed the run up to the Christmas holidays, and have some restful time off!

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CCCCCCCCCCCC

Puzzle Answers

To June's edition

Anagrams

- psychology
- memory
- behaviour
- learning
- disorder

Quick quiz

- Mid to late 20s
- 7-9 words
- 4 lobes

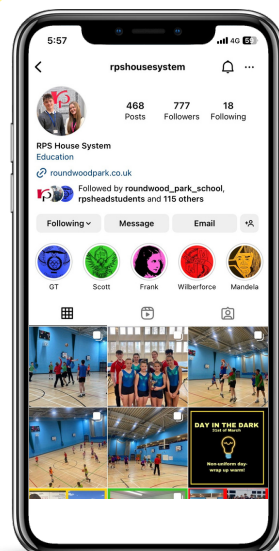
If you have any ideas, improvements or suggestions, be sure to email the Editors at our email address below.

parktimes@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Another reminder to follow us on Instagram, which we, as Communications Captains, oversee to find the latest House updates and news. Click on the link below to take you to the RPS House System Instagram Page.



Click here



CLUBS AND EVENTS



INTERHOUSE NETBALL

OUR YEAR 7S CONTINUED THE INTERHOUSE TRADITION PLAYING NETBALL. IT WAS A VALIANT EFFORT FROM ALL FORMS BUT OWENS TOOK THE TOP SPOT OVERALL!

SCHOOL TRIPS

THE YEAR 12 AND 13 FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION STUDENTS TOOK PART IN A FOOD HISTORY TOUR ON BRICK LANE IN LONDON. THE TOUR IS CALLED 'WALK EAT, TALK EAT' AND THEY VISITED A RANGE OF EATERIES WITH A GUIDE AND EVEN SAW LONDON'S FIRST EVER BAGEL SHOP!



YEAR 7 TRIP

TO INTEGRATE THE YOUNGER STUDENTS COHESIVELY EACH YEAR, THE STUDENTS TAKE A TRIP. THIS YEAR THEY VISITED MANOR ADVENTURES WHERE THEY DID TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES, ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES AND LEARNT VALUABLE SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE. THE STUDENTS SETTLED NICELY INTO THE CAMP AND MADE A PERFECT START TO THEIR RPS JOURNEYS.



REGIONAL TRAMPOLINING

THE TRAMPOLINING SQUAD COMPETED IN REGIONALS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. THE STUDENTS DID THE SCHOOL PROUD AS PER USUAL, WITH 3 TEAMS BECOMING REGIONAL CHAMPIONS AND 18 INDIVIDUALS QUALIFYING FOR THE EASTERN REGION AT THE ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!



YEAR 7 HOUSE RUGBY

THE NEW YEAR 7S PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY IN HOUSE RUGBY WITH MANDELA HOUSE ENDING ON TOP AFTER A CLEAN SWEEP OF WINS! PARTICIPATION WAS AMAZING AND STUDENTS MADE THEIR HOUSES PROUD WHILE GETTING INTO THE RPS SPIRIT AND COMPETING FOR THE WIN.



HARPENDEN PEACE DAY SERVICE

THE EXCEPTIONAL A LEVEL MUSIC STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE HARPENDEN PEACE DAY SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL RENDITION OF 'TRUE COLOURS'.

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

RPS, AS YOU KNOW, FOLLOWS A GREEN SCHOOL LIFESTYLE AND FOCUSES ON EDUCATING THE STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A GREEN LIFESTYLE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET. OUR CLIMATE ACTION GROUP HAS BEEN WORKING HARD GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT BY MAKING CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL.



FOLLOW [RPSHOUSESYSTEM](#) AND [ROUNDWOOD PARK SCHOOL](#) ON INSTAGRAM TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL OUR EXCITING CLUBS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL!

SPRING EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

TIMETABLE

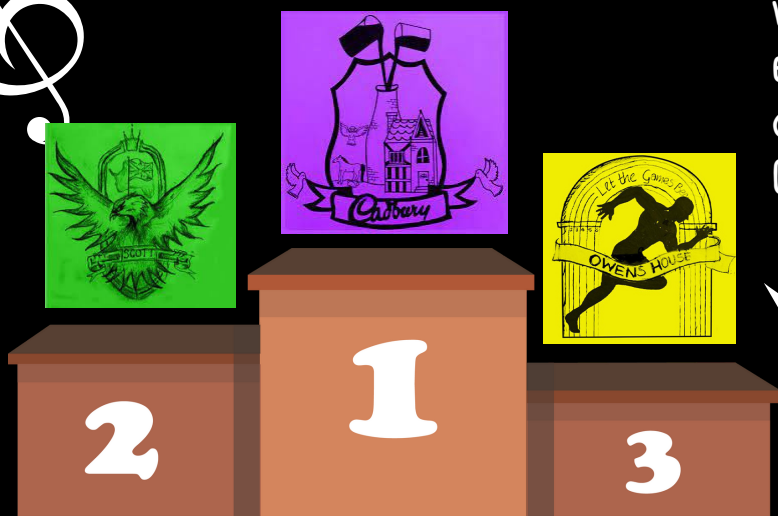
Day	Lunch Time				After School			
	Subject	Location	Year group	Run by:	Subject	Location	Year group	Run by:
Monday	Philosophy Club	Hum 2	Yrs 7, 8 & 9	PRE Dept	Youth Speaks	E6	By Invitation	English Dept
	Dance Club	Dance Studio	Year 7	Year 9 Students				
	Senior Netball	Sports hall	Seniors + Yr 11	ZMU				
	Bookclub	E3	Years 10 & 11	LMA				
	Dance club	Dance studio	Year 7					
	Year 7 football	Astro	Year7					
	Glee Choir	MU2	All years	Music Dept				
	Homework Club	Learning Support	All years	M Elliott				
	KS4&5 Creative Writing	E4	Yrs 10, 11, 12 & 13	English Dept				
	Computer Science Club	IT2	Yrs 7 & 8	CS Dept				
	KS3 Creative Writing Club	E1	7, 8, & 9	EBU				
	Cubing club	M1	All	Year 10s				
	Animation club	IT2	All	Keane Dowden (Y10)				
Economics Drop-in	BS2	Year 13	EWI					
Tuesday	Book Babbble	Library	Year 7	K O'Brien				-
	Flute Group	M2	All years	Music Dept				
	Year 10 basketball	Sports hall	Year 10		Cooking	Food Tech	Yr 8	CCO/HJA
	Dance club	Dance studio	Years 8-10		Textiles GCSE Enrichment	Art2	Yrs 11 & 12	GJe
	Table tennis	Old gym	KS3					
	Year 10 football-boys	Astro	Year 10					
	Girls football	Astro	All years					
	Homework Club	Learning Support	All years	M Elliot				
	Textiles GCSE Enrichment	Art2	10	GJe				
	Young Enterprise	Library and BS2	Y12	MDe				
	LGBTQ+ Pride drop-in sessions	Studio 8	All years	G Bulpitt				
	Artful Maths	M3	All years	Maths Dept				
	Wednesday	Training concert band	MU2	All years	Music Dept	Squad Trampolineing	Old Gym	Squad
Trampolineing		Old Gym	All	PMO	Bookclub	Library	Years 7, 8 & 9	English Dept
Board games/chess club		M2	All	Maths Dept	KS3 Astro club (2nd half term only)	SL6	KS3	JJA
Year 7 basketball		Sports hall	Year 7		Drama National Theatre Connections	Studio 1	All years	MGA
Squad Trampolineing		Old gym	Sqaud	PMO + ZMU	KS3 Book Club	E7	Year 7, 8 & 9	English Dept
Year 8 football-boys		Astro	Year 8		Astroclub	SL6	KS3	Mr Jacquinet
Netball		Outside courts	Years 8 and 9					
Year 8 Drama Club		Studio 1	8	Y10 & MGA				
Climate Action Group		HU9	All years	Geography				
Problem Solving Club		M3	Yrs 12/13	VPr				
SPACE- Explore faith and life		HUM 2	All years	A Davie				
Spanish Club		ML7	All years	MFL Dept				
Thursday		Concert Band	MU2	All grades 3+	Music Dept			
	Homework Club	Learning Support	All years	Music Dept				
	Pokemon Club	Bus. 2	All years	Keshav	Art GCSE Enrichment	Art 3	11	EBA
	Rock School	Practice rooms 4,5,6	All years	Music Dept	Dungeons & Dragons Club	Library	All years	S Humphrey & N Jupp
	Year 9 football-boys	Astro	Year 9					
	French Club	MFL	KS3	MFL Dept				
	Kinoklub	MFL	KS4	MFL Dept				
	Sqaud Trampolineing	Old gym	Sqaud	PMO				
	D&T CAD/CAM	T1	Year 8	SHI				
	Thursday Typing Club	E1	Invite Only	LS (EBU)				
	Open Studio	Art1	All years	JDU				
	Doff Drop In	M3	Yrs 10,11,12,13	JTh, LJa, CGo				
	Economics Drop in	BS2	Year 12	EWI				
	GCSE PE Drop in	PE1	GCSE	EEL				
	String Group	MU1	All years	Music Dept				
	Warhammer Club	SL2	All years	CRO				
	Girls rugby	Field	Years 8-11					
	GCSE PE Drop in	PE1	GCSE	EEL				
	Plant club	HUM1	All years	PRE Dept				
	Debating Club	E5	All years	English Dept				
Friday	Drama National Theatre Connections	Dr1	Year 9 & KS4	Drama Dept				
	Science Club	SL8	Yrs 7, 8 & 9	Science Dept				
	Bass Broup	MU1	All	Music Dept				
	Year 8 Basketball	Sportshall	Year 8	MHU				
	GCSE Dance Practice	Dance studio	GCSE	PE Dept				
	GCSE PE Trampolineing	Old Gym	GCSE	ZMU				
	1st XI Football	Astro	1ST XI	JCO				
	German Club	MFL	KS3	MFL Dept				
	Music Theory Club	MU2	All	AGr				
	D+D Club	Tech	7 8 9	ALI				
	Warhammer Club	Art3	All years	CRO				
	KSS History Book Club	Hum 5	Yrs 12,13	KBA				
	Homework Club	Learning Support	All years	M Elliott				
	National Theatre Connections	Studio 1	All years	Drama Dept				
	Economics Drop in	BS2	11	EWI				
Year 7 Netball	Outside	Year 7	EEL +RPO					

HOUSE MUSIC

House Music is one of RPS's largest House events, attracting mass levels of participation. It showcases not only the great array of musical talents of RPS, but includes anyone who wants to sign up for the choir piece and attend rehearsals. Each year the event grows to new levels. The night opens with a spectacular number from singers to dancers and ends with an emotional performance of 'Thank You for the Music', getting the audience on their feet.



The staff choir performed 'Hold Back the River', with Ms Dale as conductor, which was as entertaining as usual. The SLG brought all their energy to the stage, with songs through the decades, with everything from the Head Student's solo of 'Since You've Been Gone' by Kelly Clarkson, to '24K Magic' by Bruno Mars.



Cadbury House rose to the top this year, taking the title from Frank House (winners of last year). Their performance piece was a particular standout with Emma performing a spectacular number by Whitney Houston, with a meaningful choir piece. Scott House were also successful this year, taking the title of Best Choir Piece performing 'Valerie', and Esmée and Lauren winning the Conductors' Award.

A word from the Cadbury Conductors ...

Taking on the role of Cadbury House conductors this year, our aim was to enthuse our choir and have fun while striving for an idea that set us apart - an idea to hopefully lead us to victory.

Our idea came to spread the message that 'music is for everyone', through incorporating sign language into our choir piece to carefully construct a performance to express the lyrics both visually and verbally aiming to include as many people as possible. We had to create the balance between getting all the actions and signing in time and getting our message across which presented a challenge. After considering many different options, we finally decided, in the spirit of House Music, singing would take the forefront of the performance, with the choir signing the pre-chorus, and a group of year 12 girls signing the penultimate chorus for inclusivity. Eliciting a heart-warming moment of endearing reactions from the audience, we introduced our choir using sign language to obtain our message clearly, giving the choir the confidence to execute an incredible performance; well done Cadbury House!

Our win wouldn't have been possible however, without the winning performance from Emma (year 10) performing 'I have nothing' accompanied by the beautiful dancing from our two talented year 8s along with the band who worked to pull everything together. Everyone there contributed to a wonderful night which we think made Mr Hamilton's year!

By Eloise and Lucy

As usual House Music 2023 was a success, arguably the RPS event of the year. It brought joy, emotion but above all showed the outstanding talent and commitment of students throughout the year. We are so proud of everyone that took part and congratulations to Cadbury House! Finally a massive thank you to the SLG for helping the event run smoothly, Heads of Houses for all the preparation for the lead up to the event, but above all Mrs Tatts, without whom this event would not have been possible!



Steal My Girl

One direction

1.57

-0.34



WILBERFORCE

WILBERFORCE HOUSE WEEK

18-22 September

CAKE & SWEET SALES
EVERY BREAK TIME!



MOVIE & PIZZA
NIGHT!



WEDNESDAY

YR 7 FAMILIES
QUIZ NIGHT!

FRIDAY



Spelling Bee!

Charity Themed Bake-Off

TUES 3.30-5.30

Tues lunchtime



FORM QUIZ

TREASURE HUNT



ARTWORK COMPETITION

HOUSE WEEK

Wilberforce House Week ran from 18th-22nd September and was jam-packed with lots of fun activities, from the cakes sales, to a movie night.

SPELLING BEE **CAKE SALES AND SWEETS**

HALAL



BAKE A WISH



There were 8 competitive teams going head to head in a battle of baking. Congratulations to the winning group (their cake seen on the right)

A number of students competed in the animal themed spelling bee, inspired by WWF. It was a tough competition with incredible talent and great judging from Mrs Hill and Miss Harris.

Cake sales saw lots of bakes from various years, being very busy every break time. House Captains and House Leaders packaged up lots of bags of sweets, including ones that are Halal. Thank you to everyone who brought in a cake or bought one from the stands.

MOVIE NIGHT



Our successful movie night was kicked off with popcorn, snacks and drinks whilst watching Zootropolis and finished with lots of pizza and smiles.



QUIZ NIGHT



At lunch time the students wrote their wish on a piece of paper. Wilberforce House are displaying these wishes on their house board, so make sure to look out for that in the New Year!

WISHING TREE



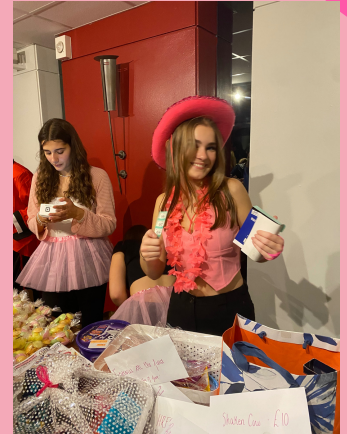
FRANK

HOUSE WEEK

Frank House Week ran from 16th - 20th October, falling on House Music this year. Frank added to the House Music success with their raffles and auctions!



Thanks to the generous donations from House Music, in their campaign "A Can For A Cake", Frank were able to go to the Food Bank with some Year 12s and SLG members to sort all of the goodies (see pg 13).

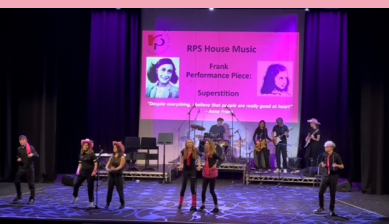


Clara and Leo (the Frank House Captains), with help from the year 8 house leaders, made beautiful hampers and bags of sweets using generous donations to sell in a raffle on the night of House Music.



Whilst on the subject of House Music, a congratulations is in order to Frank House for a spectacular performance all round!

Along with the hampers raffled off, a signed football shirt was also up for grabs, bought as a silent auction. A huge congratulations to Leo and Clara for a very successful House Week!



Be sure to look out for Frank's Positive Pebbles, which they are repainting soon...

GT SLEEPOUT

'SLEEPING ROUGH IS NOT A LIFESTYLE'



The infamous annual GT Sleep Out took place on Friday 10th November 2023. Our heroic students, and staff braved the cold once again to raise vital funds and awareness for our school charities while making memories in sleeping bags with supper from the soup kitchen and games around the campfire.

We are so so proud of the 100 students who slept out in the cold and thanks for all the support from the Roundwood Park Community

£3500

We can now reveal we have raised an astounding £3500 for The St Albans and District Food Bank! See page 13 for details about this amazing charity.



Mr Garbutt serving soup in the kitchen that the wonderful Food Tech staff provided



The SLG Sixth Form members who braved the cold



We also would like to thank Waitrose Harpenden who donated the goods to feed us and keep us warm. Here is an image of Will (one of the GT House Captains) during the night.


A huge thank you to the Food Tech team who made the hearty soup, all the teachers who braved the cold with the students, but above all Miss Mullally whom without, this event would not have been possible.

WHO USES FOODBANKS?

39% SINGLE MALE HOUSEHOLD

13% LONE PARENT HOUSEHOLD

12% SINGLE FEMALE HOUSEHOLD

HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISABILITY 

64% Of respondents have a health condition

1/3 Households are affected by mental health conditions

50% Include someone with a disability

ECONOMIC STATUS/HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

2/5 Households are receiving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

78% Of households are classed as being severely food insecure

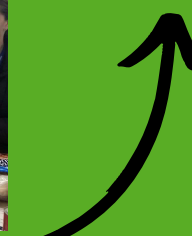
1/6 Households have someone in work or receiving income from employment

WHAT DOES RPS DO FOR THE FOOD BANK?

Our Charity Captains Erin, Ella and Zara have worked closely with the St Albans and District Foodbank (one of our three school charities) throughout the year, to help those in need. They have organised food drives, like the Frank Charity event during House Music, and visited the Foodbank to sort out the donations they received. Finally, the total end of year funds raised are split between our three charities. Last year RPS raised a total of £8,667 for the Foodbank, which is expected to grow this year!



Keep on the lookout for the next foodbank visit date on the 19th January, likely aimed at year 12.



A Big

THANK YOU



Roundwood School

for supporting St Albans & District foodbank.

Your donations make a BIG difference to local people in crisis.

Total weight donated: 395Kg which will help provide about 855 meals

St Albans & District foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network.



Registered Charity Number: 1158917 | Registered in England and Wales

CULTURAL 'MAKE A



NOISE' WEEK



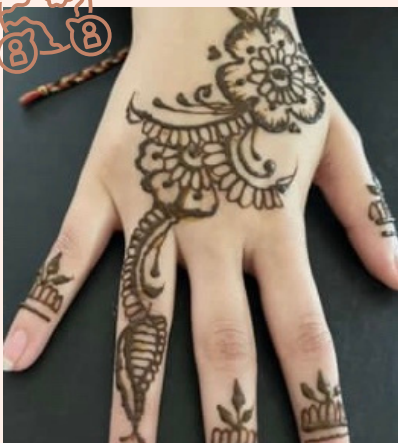
The curriculum, wellbeing and diversity captains organised 'Make a Noise' week at RPS which combined anti-bullying, cultural diversity and wellbeing week in order to spread the importance of, and promote, community as a way to celebrate the diversity within our school.



There was a range of events held throughout the week that helped to educate students on cultures from around the world. This was important as the RPS community is growing in diversity each year and everyone at RPS should feel included and celebrated.



The canteen staff created a range of amazing meals each day of the week from different areas of the world. These included jollof rice, katsu curry and more! Then, the captains set up an around the world food market in the Sixth Form common room with more foods from different countries.



The library had henna hand painting and a map of the world in which students placed a sticker on their country of origin to represent their heritage. It was amazing to see the diversity found within the school. Students were able to further create 'sorry papers' with regrets, kind messages and photos to further encourage the spread of kindness and bravery to stand against bullying.



The most heartwarming event of the week and new bookmark event at RPS was the fashion show. It was amazing to see some of our students dressed in their cultural dress and walk in a fashion show in the common room in front of their peers in order to celebrate their culture and heritage.



The fashion show was opened by some performances by students.

These included an African drumming performance by year 7 students and a spoken word by I Calixte-Barnett who performed his personally written poem called 'Skin'.



Our deputy head boy putting in an amazing shift after a really successful culture fashion show!!

Here is a short introduction to 'Skin' by I Calixte-Barnett

SKIN.

You see it all begins at 8 years old

Being taught that you're different and that life will just be that touch harder.

What do you mean the skin on my back defines me,

What do you mean being black defines me.

I grew up seeing colour, but not seeing MY colour, not realising that the colour of my skin speaks the words my mouth doesn't have the opportunity and privilege to say.

Not realising that the colour of my skin is the beacon of sound that breaks all silences.

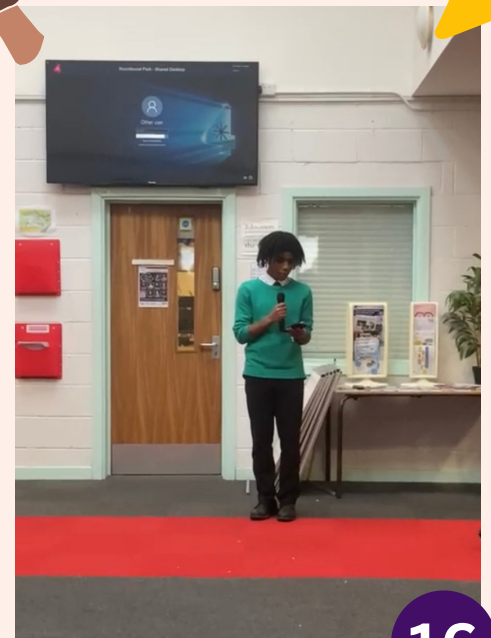
Not realising that the colour of my skin will be the first thing people notice when they look at me

I hear the jokes,

condescending laughs, and verbal racial abuse.

Subconsciously I ignored it because they were my friends

Allowing my ancestors' pain and suffering be erased with all meaning because they were my friends-



[Link to the full poem](#)

WHOLE SCHOOL READ...



THE BLUE BOOK OF NEBO

MANON STEFAN ROS

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 mam 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 found notebook – the Blue Book of Nebo.



PICK UP YOUR COPY IN THE LIBRARY!



THE 2023 COP 28 CONFERENCE WAS HELD ON THE 12TH OF DECEMBER IN DUBAI. THE MEETING SETTLED AN AGREEMENT THAT SIGNALS THE "BEGINNING OF THE END" OF THE FOSSIL FUEL ERA BY LAYING THE GROUND FOR A SWIFT, JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION, UNDERPINNED BY DEEP EMISSIONS CUTS AND SCALED-UP FINANCE.

CONFLICTS IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE CONTINUE TO GROW. THE PALESTINIAN MILITANT GROUP THE HAMAS LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON ISRAEL ON THE 7TH OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR. MORE THAN 14,000 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA HAVE BEEN KILLED IN AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAELI MILITARY IN RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO THE HAMAS-RUN HEALTH MINISTRY IN GAZA.



GLOBAL CURRENT AFFAIRS



TWO-TIME EMMY AWARD WINNING ACTOR WHO STARRED IN BROOKLYN 99, ANDRE BRAUGHER HAS DIED OF LUNG CANCER AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH THE DISEASE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

THE STRICTLY COME DANCING FINALISTS OF 2023 INCLUDE BOBBY BRAZIER AND DIANNE BUZZWELL, ELLIE LEECH AND VITO COPPOLA AND LAYTON WILLIAMS AND NIKITA KUZMIN. THE FINAL TOOK PLACE ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER, WITH ELLIE LEECH WINNING THE GLITTER BALL!





REMEMBRANCE DAY



Every year RPS honours those who fought for our freedom on remembrance day. This involves a two minute silence followed up by a performance of the 'Last Post' by one of our students. After the whole school ceremony, SLG members, SLT and house leaders gather to lay poppy wreaths and plant crosses designed by students throughout the school. We were honoured to welcome John Howie, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to lay a wreath on behalf of His Majesty the King. The ceremony was concluded with readings of poems from the head students and Mr Henshall, and a beautiful performance of 'True Colours' by some of our music students.



Remembrance day is celebrated on the 11th of November each year as it marks the Armistice of the first world war. It is important to discuss as it is a significant occasion that is observed in many countries around the world. It serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by people in times of war. We observe this special day to honour and pay tribute to those who selflessly served their countries, protecting our freedom and values.



OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

WINTER 2023

Beauty & The Beast

Starring BGT's Francine Lewis, and returning actor Josh Handley, Beauty and Beast is being performed at the Eric Morecambe Centre .

4TH NOVEMBER – 24TH FEBRUARY

The all new adventures of Peter Pan

Coronation Street legend, Chris Gascoyne will star as Captain Hook, alongside Cbeebie's Maddie Moate as Tinkerbell, and St Albans favourite Ian Kirkby as Mrs Smee, in 'The All New Adventures of Peter Pan' this pantomime season.

9TH DECEMBER – 23RD DECEMBER

Jack & the beanstalk

With stunning sets, hilarious comedy, and breath-taking special effects, Jack and the Beanstalk promises to be the ultimate pantomime adventure that you and your family will remember for years to come.

7TH DECEMBER – 23RD DECEMBER

9TH – 30TH DECEMBER

Winter Reads

Choose from a range of reading challenges, for all ages, to be entered in a prize draw for chance to win.

8TH DECEMBER – 31TH DECEMBER

Father Christmas visits Wardown Museum

A magical Christmas experience awaits the whole family, to listen to a festive story from Mother Christmas, meet the whimsical elves, and receive a special gift from under the tree when you meet Father Christmas. Plus you'll be treated to milk and cookies in their cozy cafe afterwards.

8TH DECEMBER – 31ST DECEMBER

Polar Bear Trial

In the Natural History Museum at Tring, go on your very own polar expedition around the galleries to find 12 lost polar bears hiding among their displays. Plus on your adventure, you'll discover what animals live with polar bears in the Arctic, which is suitable for ages 5+, with tickets to be purchased for £1 from the shop on the day.

Be sure to take advantage of all the exciting activities taking place in your local community this Winter!

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise is a national charity that allows young people to start and run their own business, equipping them with team work and problem solving skills for life. Each year, Roundwood Park is lucky enough to have two teams (Apollo and Aurora) partaking in this battle of business!



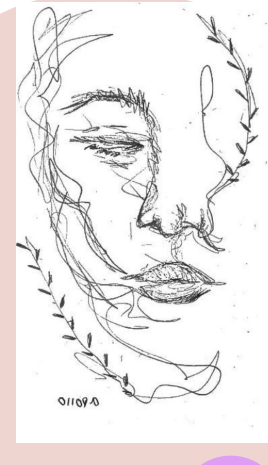
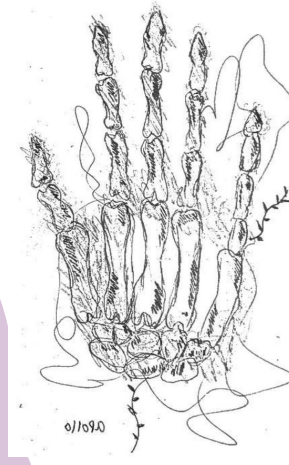
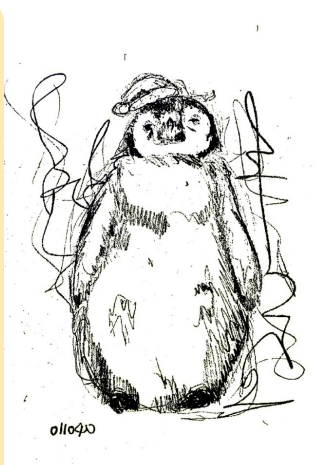
Images of Apollo during recent Harpenden and Ware Trade Fairs

"Hi we are Apollo, an award winning Young Enterprise team, currently we are selling water bottles and reused cotton tote bags with designs from an up and coming artist in our team: I Calixte-Barnett. Our reusable tote bag is suitable for any occasion and perfectly fits our commitment to sustainability and reducing unnecessary consumption. Our bottle was the first step in creating a range of products which are replacing single-use counterparts, with unique design features."

Visit their [instagram](#) to find out more and check out their website!



CHECK OUT SOME OF THEIR AMAZING TOTE BAG DESIGNS BELOW!



ALL ABOUT AURORA

a branch of Young Enterprise



WHO ARE WE?

We are Aurora Candles, a branch of Young Enterprise from RPS! We chose to name our company after the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), since we were inspired by the natural beauty all around us. Our candles have been designed to appeal to the senses, with wellbeing in mind, through eye-catching designs and fragrances tailored to create different feelings, that give our customers the me-time they deserve.

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR...

Since launching in September, we've had the opportunity to participate in lots of events and activities, notably social media competitions and most recently a Regional Pitch to the Young Enterprise panel. We've loved taking part so far and are keeping our eyes out for more YE competitions to come.

Beyond this, we are proud to be able to say that we have designed and produced our entire line of candles ourselves. The team have got together to source and research materials, make prototypes, and make the final product in preparation for trade fairs and pre-orders!

Our first trade fair was the Harpenden Christmas Fair, where we were presented awards by the Mayor!

"BEST TRADE STAND"
"BEST OVERALL COMPANY"

It was a great afternoon for all the team, and we're beyond excited to share what's in store for 2024 soon!

WHAT IS YOUNG ENTERPRISE?

Young Enterprise is a National charity organisation that motivates young people in the UK to succeed in their future careers, equipping them with the work skills and knowledge they will need. Sustainability is a focal point, and they strive to build a sustainable future for the new generations and society at large.

Each year two teams at RPS are lucky enough to participate!

more than
lights

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS!



[auroracandles.uk](https://www.instagram.com/auroracandles.uk)



www.auroracandles.uk



[auroracandles.uk](https://www.tiktok.com/@auroracandles.uk)



SPOTLIGHT

ON A HISTORICAL FIGURE

SAINT NICHOLAS

Some believe that the true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus'

words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man.

Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



"THE GIVER OF EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT AND HAS CALLED UPON US TO MIMIC GOD'S GIVING, BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT OF OURSELVES"

In December 1773, and again in 1774, a New York newspaper reported that groups of Dutch families had gathered to honour the anniversary of his death. The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas).

CELEBRATION

THIS EDITION'S CELEBRATION, COMMEMORATES:



THE SPORTSPERSONS' DINNER IS CELEBRATED EACH YEAR AND AWARDS ARE PRESENTED BY THE PE DEPARTMENT TO COMMEMORATE STUDENTS ON OUTSTANDING SPORTING COMMITMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT. THIS YEAR, F.KENNY WAS AWARDED THE HIGHEST ACCOLADE OF LOWER SCHOOL - SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR!

A TEAM OF YEAR 13 STUDENTS RECENTLY ENTERED A NATIONAL 'SCIENCE IN MEDICINE' COMPETITION RUN BY IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON AND THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION. AFTER PRESENTING TO A PANEL OF 20 SPECIALIST DOCTORS AND PROFESSORS, THE TEAM WAS ANNOUNCED JOINT NATIONAL WINNERS! WELL DONE TO THOSE INVOLVED!



WE ALSO WANT TO CONGRATULATE THOSE WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR MOCKS AND ALL THE YEAR 13S WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO SEND UCAS APPLICATIONS OFF!

BRIEF HISTORY OF HANUKKAH

ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS'

Hanukkah is celebrated from the 7th of December to the 15th of December. In the year 168 B.C.E., the Syrian King Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem. The Syrians desecrated the Temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time. Antiochus also abolished Judaism, outlawing the observance of Shabbat and the festivals, as well as circumcision. Altars and idols were set up for the worship of Greek gods, and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death.

On the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev in 168 B.C.E., the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus. A Jewish resistance movement – led by a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees – developed, resisting the cruelty of Antiochus. The head of the family was Mattathias, an elderly man. His son, Judah, became the chief strategist and military leader of the resistance. Though outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters miraculously won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively.

Hanukkah, which means “dedication,” is the festival that commemorates the purification and rededication of the Temple following the Greek occupation of that holy place.



MANY MODERN JEWISH FAMILIES CELEBRATE BY LIGHTING THE HANUKKAH. ONE CANDLE PER NIGHT OF HANUKKAH IS LIT, LIKE HEBREW IS READ, FROM RIGHT TO LEFT. PEOPLE MIGHT ALSO PLAY DREIDEL GAMES AND EAT CERTAIN FOODS LIKE SUFGANIYOT (SIMILAR TO JELLY DONUTS) AND LATKES (FRIED POTATO PANCAKES).

THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL

According to the legend, when the Maccabees entered the Temple and began to reclaim it from the Greeks, they immediately relit the ner tamid, which burned constantly in the Temple and has a parallel in our synagogues to this day. In the Temple, they found a single jar of oil, which was sufficient for only one day. The messenger who was sent to secure additional oil took eight days to complete his mission, and miraculously, the single jar of oil continued to burn until his return. The rabbis of the Talmud attributed the eight days of Hanukkah to the miracle of this single jar of oil.





SLG New Year RESOLUTIONS

Erin - To be able to do a handstand

Katie - Start going on runs

Emily - Go to the gym more often

Evan - Eat my 5 a day everyday

Ife - Drink more water

Daisy - Run multiple times a week

Sienna - Do my duolingo everyday

Jess - Pass my driving test

Caitlin - Get a better sleep schedule

Clara - Make homemade food rather than Deliveroo

Connie - Learn to cook healthy meals

Dylan - Begin a healthy diet

Ella - To do the splits

Issy - To run once a week

Mia - To be more hydrated

Zara - To be able to cook a roast before uni

Will - Spend more time with the dogs

Luke - Improve my sleep schedule

Jack - Try to read most days

Thomas - Get my 8 hours of sleep a night

Caitlyn- Take more photos

Niamh - To take better care of my hair

Polly - Spend more time outdoors

Zoe - Go to sleep earlier

Alfie - Eat less chocolate

Aaron - Practice the drums every day

Abdullah - Organise my work better, create timetables

Alex - Reduce procrastination

Alice - Exercise more often

Esmée - Go on more runs

Hal - Start a new skincare routine

Izzy - Travel to lots of new countries

Jiya - Read more books

Lauren - To be more organised

Leo - Do more exercise

Lilly - Book a driving lesson

Luca - Learn how to juggle

Paisley - To start hardcore revising for exams

Sofia - Drink less coffee

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SLG!**

10 FUN Christmas FACTS

1 SANTA'S NAME COMES FROM THE DUTCH VERSION OF SAINT NICHOLAS: SINTER KLAUS

2 "WHITE CHRISTMAS" IS THE BEST SELLING SINGLE OF ALL TIME

3 ALL THE GIFTS IN THE SONG "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" WOULD EQUAL 364 GIFTS

7 THE MOST REQUESTED SONG WHEN CAROLLING IS 'JINGLE BELLS'

4 MISTLETOE'S NAME COMES FROM "MISTELTAN" WHICH TRANSLATES TO "LITTLE DUNG TWIG: SINCE IT IS SPREAD BY BIRD DROPPINGS"

5 EVERGREEN TREES ARE EDIBLE!

6 35 MILLION TREES ARE PURCHASED EACH YEAR FOR CHRISTMAS

9 FROSTY THE SNOWMAN CAME TO LIFE IN 1950 WHEN GENE AUTRY FIRST SANG THE POPULAR SONG

10 3 MILLION CARDS ARE SENT EACH YEAR

8 THE TALLEST CANDY CANE WAS 51 FEET





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OFFER THE PARK TIMES OR ANY
SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ARTICLES,
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