

RPS ROUNDUP

19 January 2024



📷 Photo thanks to Richard Washbrooke

Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

Last week all of the Harpenden Headteachers attended the Gang Show. This amazing show has been running for over 70 years now and it seems to get better every year. We all enjoyed the performances from students who attend schools across the local area and left feeling very entertained and, in my case, relieved not to have been called up on the stage! Well done to all of the students who were involved as well as the team who run the show. We are in awe of what you do every year.

Our Post-16 Information Evening was held on Wednesday. It was great to see so many Year 11s with their parents and carers and hearing what subjects they were interested in taking in our Sixth Form. The reputation of our Sixth Form means that we have a lot of students visiting us from other schools wishing to join us in Year 12 too. We enjoyed showing them around our school and hope that they will be submitting applications shortly.

I would also like to pay tribute to Dr Brian Smith in this issue. He has been running our Alumni Association for 12 years following many decades of service to the school as a teacher and as Deputy Head of the Sixth Form. He has attracted a hugely loyal following, entertaining and interesting people with his alumni newsletters and keeping in touch with a wide range of people. We thank him for all that he has done for us over the years and we hope that he will be an engaging, if infrequent, contributor to our alumni newsletter in the future.

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall
Headteacher

#proudRPS

We are obviously delighted with the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. We would like to thank our community for your wonderful messages, they have been an absolute delight to read and share with staff and students.

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |



What's On

- 22 January - GT Charity Week
- 23 January - 6th Form Morning Tours
- 24 January - Music Concert Trip
- 24 January - Yr11 PSHCE Day
- 25 January - Yr11 Consultation Eve (Virtual)
- 25 January - Yr11 Chemistry Olympiad
- 26 January - Yr10 German Trip
- 27 January - Zonal Trampoline Competition
- 29 January - Oxbridge Info Eve (Virtual)
- 30 January - 6th Form Morning Tours
- 30/31 Jan & 1 Feb - School Production
- 31 January - Yr9-11 Maths Challenge
- 2 February - 6th Form Application Deadline
- 2 February - Y10 Spanish Trip
- 5 February - Reading Week
- 5 February - SLG Elections Evening
- 5 February - National Apprenticeship Week

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

CLICK THE LOGOS TO READ
THE REPORT / NEWS ARTICLE



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 8 HOUSE Netball WINNERS!

It was a chilly but glorious day for our Year 8 House Netball Tournament earlier this week. There was lots of great play from all teams - and some fantastic support too! Well done to everyone involved.

1st Cadbury
2nd Owens
3rd GT
4th Mandela
5th Wilberforce
6th Frank
7th Scott

Huge thanks as
 always to our
 awesome PE
 team!



Our House Update

Things are really 'motoring' along now! We have most of our set made and ready to put in place this weekend. Showtime is getting very close, and we're very excited!!!

Grab your tickets NOW via ParentPay - only £8.00 each

As a reminder: 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) and the performance itself will start promptly at **7.00pm**.

Costume & Props Drive!

We are still looking for a number of props and costumes so if you can help please get in touch with j.john@roundwoodpark.co.uk We are looking for: Beige or grey raincoats/fedora or trilby hats/bold coloured umbrellas/a graduation or law type gown and magistrates wigs.

Advertising space for local businesses

Last time around we offered local businesses the opportunity to advertise in our programme for the performance run. We would like to do the same again as it proved highly beneficial to all concerned. Programme 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 soon!

Mike Garbutt on behalf of the RPS cast and crew



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Harpenden Trust Winter Newsletter](#)
- [St Albans & District Foodbank Info](#)
- [Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops](#)
- [FREE Family Support for Fussy Eating](#)
- [DSPL7 Parenting Booklet 2024](#)
- [Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law's Annual Essay Competition](#)
- [St Albans & Dacorum School Jobs Fair](#)
- [Thompson's Art Gallery, Harpenden](#)
- [Playing Out Flyer](#)
- [Rotary Photography Competition](#)
- [ESBA Coffee Morning](#)

PSHCE@RPS



Wednesday 24 January

Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps

Year 11 students will have another PSHCE drop down day next week and it will focus on their 'Next Steps'. Including thinking about their employability and how they might go about creating a CV.

We have guest speakers from a range of industries coming in to speak to them about their different career paths and students will have an opportunity to practice interview skills.

In addition, and in support of all of the Post-16 information they've received this week, more guest speakers will talk to them about their Post 16 pathway options.

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

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Post-16 Information Evening

It was wonderful to see so many current and new families in school on Wednesday night for our Post-16 Information Evening. It was a great event with lots of involvement from our current Sixth Form students who we'd like to say a huge thanks to, their input really adds a valuable perspective to a very informative evening. Well done all, as parents/carers you should be very proud them - we are!

If you have a child in Year 11 and were unable to attend, or didn't get around all of the subject talks or marketplaces, please explore the **Sixth Form section** of our website where you will find subject videos/presentations/course info and more, as well as the Sixth Form Prospectus, entry requirements & Application Form. If you still have queries, please email sixthformadmissions@roundwoodpark.co.uk or if you have queries about local colleges or alternative post-16 options you can email careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk. In addition, access a copy of the slides from the evening >> **HERE** <<

SEND Surgery - Wednesday 14 February

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. Should your concern be urgent, please contact us directly.

Please sign up for a 15 minute appointment via the google form link **HERE**



Careers Corner



Army Work Experience by Jake D in Yr11

Jake recently spent a week gaining experience of what it's like to be in the army, this is what he had to tell us about it... "During the 5 day residential trip, we got up to a number of activities led by serving members of the Armed Forces. We were issued a wide range of military clothes, cooking equipment and other bits needed (including a dummy rifle) before learning how to effectively attack the enemy as a group and how working together can dramatically improve our results. We had lessons on basic military skills such as cooking in the field, field craft, patrols and command tasks before we went into the wooded training area and set up camp. We did some patrols around the area to establish a presence and then waited for the cover of darkness to conduct reconnaissance on the "enemy" and formulated a plan to attack the following morning. The next morning, we used all the skills we had been taught to eliminate the 'enemy'.

My advice is that if you are considering joining the Armed Forces or even have a small interest in what they do, you should 100% apply to go along to a session like this. I made friends and learned valuable new skills that will help me in life and for the Armed Forces. I cannot recommend it enough!



Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps -
Wednesday 24 January

Y9 Oaklands College Talk (assembly) -
Wednesday 24 January

CURTAIN CALL

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 15th February
3.30pm-5.30pm

| Head to ParentPay to sign up |

| Popcorn & drinks provided |

Local live theatre

She Kills Men
January 26 - February 3
Abbey Theatre, St Albans

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 12 Careers Day

Last week our Careers department hosted a day of mock interviews for our Y12 students. 16 employers from various sectors and with many years of interviewing experience volunteered to quiz and question our students, encouraging them to talk about themselves, express their strengths and practice marketing themselves to a third party. This was a first time experience for many of our students and some were more nervous than others. However, under the guidance of our wonderfully empathetic interviewers, all started to come out of their shell and felt that it was a very worthwhile experience. Feedback from the employers has been extremely positive; the students were polite, well-presented, engaging, very accomplished, articulate and "bright young things". They thoroughly enjoyed meeting our students and all have said they wish our Y12 students all the best with their future endeavours. Thank you to all of the employers who gave up their time, we are extremely grateful.

Read all about it...

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Reading Aloud

It is widely understood that reading aloud to small children has its benefits. As the National Literacy Trust point out, 'There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.' Yet, we tend not to read aloud to older children.

If you were to visit our classrooms, you would notice how much older children also

love being read to. There is a real joy and pleasure in listening to a good story.

And, of course, it aids fluency and understanding. If you find that your child is reluctant to read, maybe try reading together and reading aloud.

You can find out more about the benefits of reading aloud by following these links:

- [Literacy Trust](#)
- [BBC](#)

The Blue Book of Nebo Update:

We now have almost 100 students that have read The Blue Book of Nebo. Many copies were loaned out over Christmas but they have now been returned. It's definitely time to go in a grab a copy.

There's still plenty of time for students to read it and fill in the Google Form to contribute House Points! And don't forget you can join in too!

RPS PTA



| Next PTA Meeting |
Thurs 25 Jan via Zoom - 7.30pm

For details email:
pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk



Sat 2 March, 7.30pm

| [Click here](#) for more info |

| Second Hand Uniform Sale |

Sat 23 March, 12.30-2pm

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



Residential Trips



[February 24 - Y10 French Trip](#)

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

[February 24 - Yr10 Spanish Trip](#)

[March 24 - World Challenge Training W'end](#)

[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](#)

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GT House Week

There is SO MUCH going on next week for GT's HOUSE WEEK! Their focus is on banishing any January Blues by offering a host of fun, mindful, and delicious treats for mind, body and soul...

NEXT WEEK

MONDAY 22ND – FRIDAY 26TH JAN

FEELING BLUE?
GT HAS GOT YOU!

Cake sales every day

Yoga class

Futsal competition

January Blues Fete

Friday in sports hall. Stalls, live music and the arena

Corbiere Crepes and Cakes

Grab a crepe from the van on Friday lunch!

GT HOUSE WEEK 2024

Yrs7-9 - Sign up now on ParentPay for the Fete on Friday. Deadline 24 January!

Sixth Form only - Sign up for Yoga has been sent to students via google classroom.

All Students - come and support your House on Thursday as our Y12&13 boys go head to head in a Futsal tournament.

And don't forget your cash or card to grab a cake at breaktime and then treat yourself to a delicious crepe from the van on Friday!

All events will also raise funds awareness for our three school charities...

Make-A-Wish
UNITED KINGDOM

St Albans & District foodbank

WWF

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

As part of our continual commitment to provide outstanding education and be 'A Place to Flourish', we regularly undertake reviews of our departments. This year, as part of this process we want to ensure that we take into account parental views, alongside student and staff views. If your child studies **MUSIC** as part of their curriculum then we would like to hear from you. Please use the questionnaire >> [HERE](#) << to give us fair and accurate feedback on your perceptions of Music at Roundwood Park School.



Wellbeing@RPS

TOOLED UP
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

Upcoming Events with TooledUp Education:

January 23, 2024 - 19:00 GMT
Raising a Detective in the Digital World: A Talk for Parents

Dr Kathy Weston > [CLICK HERE](#) <

January 26, 2024 - 12:00 GMT
A Guide to the Mental Health of Children and Young People

Dr Meinou Simmons > [CLICK HERE](#) <

Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



WE ARE HIRING!

- Cover Supervisor
- Medical Welfare Assistant
- Library Assistant
- Sixth Form Student Support Officer & Learning Mentor
- Maths Teacher
- Design & Technology Teacher

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

RPS Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our new term clubs programme is in full swing with around 60 different clubs to join. Everything from Philosophy, Dance to Artful Maths and Spanish. There's also our very popular and active Climate Action Group and Warhammer team. See the full timetable below....

NEW

Click to see our **SPRING CLUBS** programme

