

RPS ROUNDUP

2 February 2024



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

It's show week! The production of "Our House" has been performed to enthusiastic audiences this week after months of hard work and preparation by the students. It was awesome! Chloe E was excellent in the very demanding lead role but she had an excellent cast around her and a huge amount of help from a backstage crew of very high quality. Well done to all of them! This amazing opportunity to be part of something magical has been brought to them by the tireless Mr Garbutt, the technical know-how of Mr Desborough and a large number of our colleagues performing roles ranging from selling drinks to providing props. Thanks to all our staff and also to the parents and grandparents for their lovely comments and appreciation! By the way, if anyone wants to buy the front half of an old Mini, please let us know!

Have a nice weekend!

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



Oxbridge Offers

We could not be more proud of these Year 13 students, who have each secured an offer to study at either Oxford or Cambridge in September. After submitting applications last October, they have undergone a gruelling round of interviews and tests to chase their dreams, and their determination and resilience has paid off. Huge congratulations to them all!

#proudrps



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

2 Feb - 6th Form Application Deadline
2 Feb - Y10 Spanish Trip
5 Feb - Reading Week
5 Feb - SLG Elections Evening
5 Feb - National Apprenticeship Week
6 Feb - Y13 Parent Consultation (Virtual)
9 Feb - Y10 French Trip
12 Feb - DoFE Parent Meeting
13 Feb - House Leader Elections
14 Feb - KS4 Options Evening
Please check our [SCHOOL CALENDAR](#) for all key dates and school events

Letters Home

Measles Letter from the Director of Public Health > [READ HERE](#)
Measles Information Flyer > [READ HERE](#)

Have you ever considered becoming a Parent Governor?

The only requirements are that you must be the parent or carer of a child at the school, and have an interest in our development and continued success.

More info >> [HERE](#) <<

Application closing date

Tuesday 6 February @9.30am

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Our House - School Production

Wow! What a week! We're not sure we could feel any more proud of the students involved in the show frontstage and back after this week. We will all be dining out on some wonderful memories created for a long, long time. They were phenomenal!

As you can imagine, it is far from easy to manage everything that is involved in putting on a large school production, and there are so many to thank across the school from ticketing, to props, to lighting and so much more. Particular thanks must however go to Mr Garbutt who pours his heart and soul, as well as any sleep he may have wished for in the last few weeks, in to our school productions! Ms Dale and Mrs McPhun, who expertly guide our musicians, Mr Desborough for all things tech, Miss Burke for being a total legend and Miss Jones and the 6th Form team for their make-up skills. There are so many more and we thank them all - you're AMAZING!

We also want to thank you, our wonderful RPS community. Not only did you come and support our students and watch our show - you gave genuine, and very loud, standing ovations! In addition, the parents of our cast and crew - you have been so supportive, we really couldn't do it without you!

In the end, these performances come together, due to sheer hard work, commitment, and dogged determination from every single person involved over weeks and months. We are delighted that our audiences got to see our show working so brilliantly and for our students to be able to shine so brightly - we are very, very #proudrps.

Our House is over and out...until next time!



More photos will
be on our
website soon!



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](#)



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Playing Out St Albans District](#)
- [Fit and Fed - February Half Term](#)
- [Harpenden Tae Kwon-Do](#)
- [St Albans Symphony Orchestra Concert](#)
- [Carers Support Group Information](#)
- [GCSE Science Revision Workshops](#)
- [GCSE Maths Revision Workshops](#)
- [GCSE English Revision Workshops](#)
- [James Marshall Foundation Newsletter](#)
- [The Hospice of St Francis - Bubble Rush](#)
- [Town Council Snow Angels](#)
- [Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charity](#)

RPS PTA



Sat 2 March, 7.30pm

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

Sign up and choose to
support RPS PTA



Click here

£1,850 raised
so far!

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Sat 23 March, 12.30-2pm

School Hall

[See our price list here](#)



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of
information on our website:



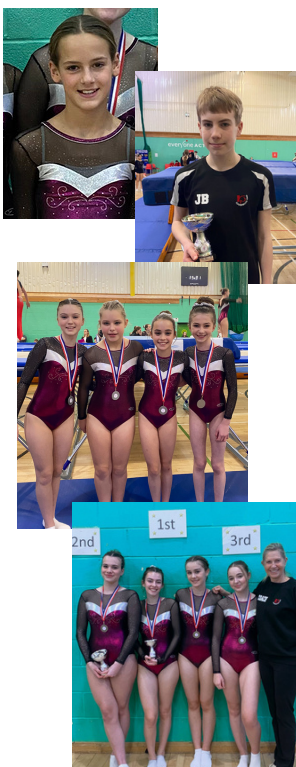


Zonal Trampoline Success

Our trampoline squad had another fantastic performance at this year's Zonal competition in Solihull. They work so hard and it's always amazing to see it all pay off at these big events. 12 of our bouncers have qualified as 'individuals' for the National Finals which will be in Telford in June, so huge congratulations go to - E. Lowry, D. Nijjar, E Gallagher, J Benfield, O. Lawes plus E. Roberts, E Day, M Davies, K Upjohn, C Upjohn, C Wilmot & R Hutchinson.

In addition, 7 teams qualified - 5 of which go there as Zonal Champions, and the other 2 teams finished in 2nd place.

This all means we are taking a record number of 30 gymnasts to the Nationals this year! Our thanks once again go to Mrs Moxham and Miss Mullally for their dedication to our squad.



Music Trip to the Southbank

A group of our music students thoroughly enjoyed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique last week at the Southbank Centre.



Careers Corner



NHS's Future Heroes Careers Event - 7 February - University of Hertfordshire
This event is a great opportunity for students aged 14-18 to come along and speak with NHS colleagues and others about the different careers and routes into a clinical and non-clinical career in health and social care. >> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Mercedes Benz Technician Apprenticeship Open Evenings - 6/7/8 February

The Mercedes-Benz Technician Apprenticeship scheme is the most coveted vehicle technician apprentice programme in the UK. >> [CLICK HERE](#) << to find out more

HOP into Construction - 22 February Oaklands College

There are two sessions, drylining and groundworks >> [CLICK HERE](#) << for more information

Oaklands College Open Days

Welwyn's Campus Open Day is on Tuesday 6th Feb, 5pm-8pm [CLICK HERE](#)

St Albans Campus Open Day is on Thursday 8th Feb, 5pm-8pm [CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

National Apprenticeship Week

5- 11 February - Download [The Parents' Guide to National Apprenticeship Week 2024](#)

National Careers Week - 4- 9 March

If you would like to come in to talk to our students about your career and industry, during this week, please email us at careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Y12 Future Options - University vs Apprenticeships Day - 21 March

Y10 - Careers Investigator Day - 26 March
We are looking for volunteers from lots of different industries who can spend the morning talking to small groups of students about their jobs. Please email us if you are able to help - [here](#)

CURTAIN CALL

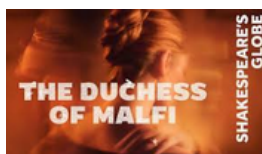
Phillip Pullman - Book of Dust



**Thursday 15th February
3.30pm-6.00pm**

**| Head to ParentPay to sign up |
| Popcorn & drinks provided |**

Local live theatre



The Duchess of Malfi
17 February - 14 April
Sam Wanamaker Theatre

FOLLOW US!

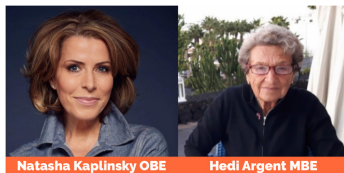


You will also find lots of information on our website:

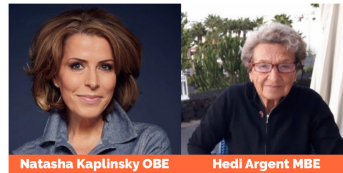




Holocaust Educational Trust
Survivor Webcast 2024



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Survivor Webcast 2024



Holocaust Memorial Day Webcast

On Tuesday 23rd January, in a special live event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, our Year 9 students watched a live webcast interview with Natasha Kaplinsky OBE, and survivor, Hedi Argent MBE, hosted by the Holocaust Educational Trust. With the number of survivors becoming fewer and frailer, it was a wonderful privilege for our students to be part of this very special live event. Following the interview, the students were given the opportunity to ask questions via a live feed.

To read more about Hedi's life experiences click >> [HERE](#) <<

And if you would like to watch the webcast click - >> [HERE](#) <<

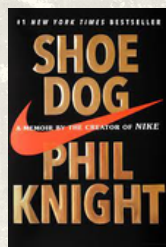
Read all about it...

Vol 8

2 February 2024

Year 11 students were busy reading over Christmas and here is a selection of their recommended reads:

'Shoe Dog' by Phil Knight. This book is a memoir of the creation of Nike, written by the co-founder Phil Knight. The book captivates readers by telling the stories of the challenges he faced in creating the brand that is now so famous all around the world. It shows the perseverance of Knight when creating the brand and the dedication and resilience of Knight makes the book very motivational to everyone who reads it.



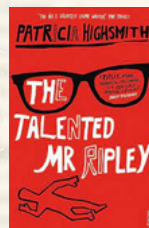
Over the break I read **'The Perks Of Being A Wallflower'**. It is immediately interesting because it is structured

quite differently to usual books, by addressing the reader and telling the story entirely through letters.

This makes it extremely engaging and it was greatly emotionally

impactful, it's now one of my favourite books.

'The Talented Mr Ripley'. This is a gripping novel about identity and morality with a protagonist that's both charismatic and also greatly disturbed. A really good read, I enjoyed it. It is for older readers.



The book I read was **'Mythos - The Greek Myths Retold'** by Stephen Fry. The book talks about what the Ancient Greeks believed to be the creation of the world and how everything came to be in the modern world.



Young Carer?

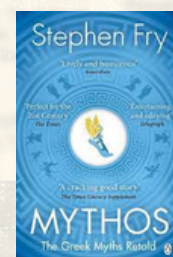
Does your child help to look after a member of your family who has an illness, disability, or who takes drugs or alcohol? If so, your child is a young carer.

A young carer is someone under the age of 19 who does things that would normally be done by an adult. Often, this means they undertake jobs to help a family member meet their daily need, such as cooking meals, going shopping, making sure someone takes their medicine or providing someone with emotional support.

We know that looking after a loved one can be hard and that students who are young carers may need extra support in school to enable them to flourish. We are therefore asking families to get in contact with us through admin@roundwoodpark.co.uk if they feel their child meets the criteria above, or who has already been assessed as a young carer, so that we can provide support and advice where needed.

If you would like to find out more about Young Carers, please take a look at the [Herts Young Carers website](#) or the [Beds Young Carers website](#).

It talks about how Greek Gods and entities were born and the stories surrounding their lives, but retold in a factual (as far as this can be considered factual) and comedic way. I enjoyed reading this book, as it increased my knowledge of Ancient Greek history, whilst also being engaging to me, the reader.

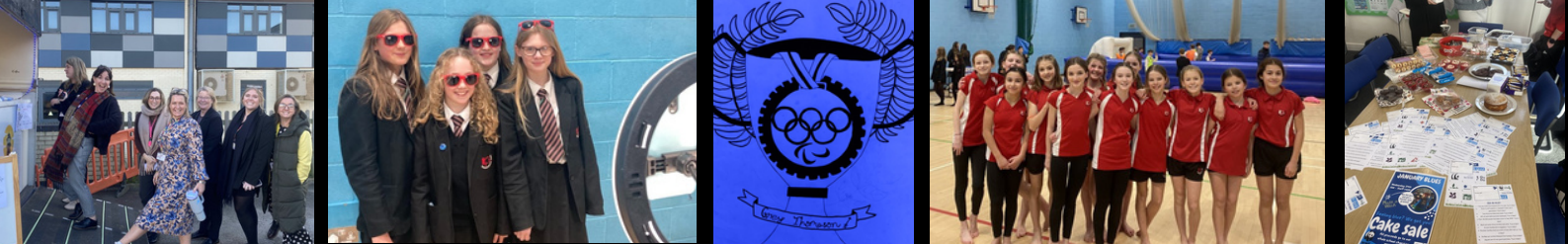


FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





GT House Week

What a brilliant, busy, fun-packed House Week we had for GT!

It was such a community celebration with everyone involved across all Houses, all year groups and all staff. A massive well done to Miss Mullally and her GT Team, you're all awesome!

The events included:

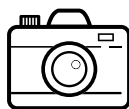


- Cake sales everyday for students - adapting quickly with the changeable weather and making sure everyone who wanted a cake got one!
- Cake and fantastic fun quizzes for our staff - and we're not at all competitive!
- The brilliant January Blues Fete - banishing any remaining January blues, the fete had everything from live music to an inflatable football arena. As well as lots of fun stalls such as speed stacking, beanbag toss, tin can alley, henna tattoos, photo booth and much more. It was brilliant!
- A student organised Futsal competition for Sixth Formers
- A visit from the Corbiere Crepe van to round the week off on Friday for staff and students - they were delicious!
- A change of pace with another well attended mindful Yoga Class for our Sixth Form students

As well as the event GT ensured we all remembered that one of the reasons we hold our events is to raise awareness for our school charities. Click on the WWF logo to see the 'Nature Newsflashes' that were shared during the week...

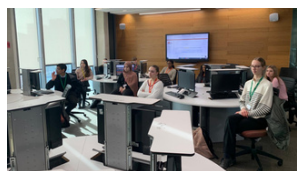


Click here to see more photos!



Year 12 EPQ Trip

Last week our Year 12 EPQ students enjoyed a trip to the Bedfordshire University Library to spend time researching their individual projects. The EPQ is an Extended Project Qualification designed to help students develop the research skills necessary for degree-level study, and is highly-prized by universities. We'd like to thank the wonderful staff at Bedfordshire Uni who shared their valuable research expertise, and our students came away with lots of new ideas to add to their projects!



PSHCE@RPS



Students have all been 'Living in the Wider World' in their PSHCE sessions this half term.

Students in KS3 have specifically been exploring different types of careers and reflecting on their skills in preparation for future employment. Year 9 students have also been focusing on the issue of 'Fraud' in their form time sessions to prepare themselves for the wider world. In Year 10 we have been discovering how the government uses money raised by taxes, and how spending decisions are made. In Year 11 students have been finding out how politics works - and how they could become future political leaders!

Click [HERE](#) for a great resource on supporting your child with Money Matters.

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

Residential Trips



[February 24 - Y10 French Trip](#)

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

[March 24 - Y13 CERN, Geneva](#)

[March 24 - Trampoline Squad - Finals](#)

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

[March 24 - GOLD DofE Night Walk](#)

[March 24 - Y11 DofE Expedition](#)

[May 24 - Y10 History Tour Berlin](#)

[May 24 - Y10 DofE Expedition](#)

[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](#)

[July 24 - Y12 Geography, Liverpool](#)

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

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Girls Into Computing

Last week a group of Year 9 computer scientists attended a 'Girls into Computing' event held in St Clement Danes School. They enjoyed using HTML to create their own webpages on their favourite foods and cities, and even developed their own security systems for a diamond vault using their skills to program a BBC MicroBit. They had a great day!

Bebras Competition

Every computer science student at RPS participates in the annual Bebras competition. Congratulations to Jack H, Henry M, Lana R, Sriyohme S and James S who each won best in school in their category.



Bold Voices Ambassador Programme

As you know, this academic year Roundwood is taking part in the Bold Voices Ambassador Programme. This is an eight month online programme for students and staff to build the knowledge and skills to run projects challenging gender inequality and gender-based violence within their school communities.

As part of this programme Bold Voices is running two parent and carer webinars to ensure that parents and carers feel equipped to carry on this conversation at home.

The second webinar, 'The Digital Divide: Tools for talking about Online Sexual Harassment with our Teens' is an introduction to the issues of online sexual harassment facing our teens today and how to bridge the digital divide and talk about these tricky topics at home.

It is taking place on Thursday 7th March 2024, 6pm-7:30pm and can be booked through the Roundwood Park booking link: [HERE](#)

If tickets sell out, there will be a waiting list, so please do return your tickets if you can no longer attend the event. The recording will be sent to those on the waiting list and will be made available for the whole school community to watch for one month afterwards.



Wellbeing@RPS

Upcoming Events with TooledUp Education:

Parent Q&A: Navigating The Teen Brain and the Parent-Child Connection

Dr Gauri Seth - March 12 - 12:30 GMT

The Menopause, the Brain, and How to Support the Family System through the Lens of Connection

Dr Gauri Seth - March 15 - 12:30 GMT

CLICK HERE to read the latest TooledUp Education Newsletter

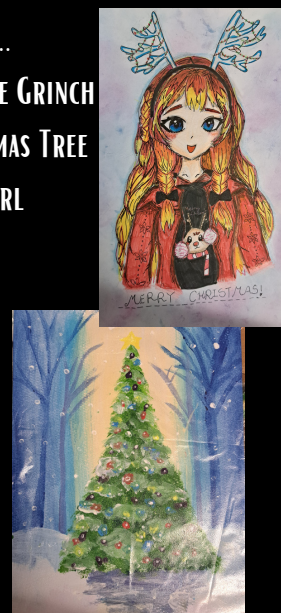
Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION!

A HUGE WELL DONE TO...

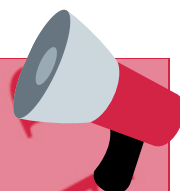
- 1: A GODEFROY 8GT THE GRINCH
- 2: E LEWIS 7M CHRISTMAS TREE
- 3: S TAI 7GT MANGA GIRL



WE ARE HIRING!

- Cover Supervisor
- Maths Teacher
- Head of Year
- Design & Technology Teacher

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



>>> Click to see our **SPRING CLUBS** programme <<<