

RPS ROUNDUP

15 February 2024



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

We have reached the end of a momentous half term in which lots of things have happened; beginning with the publication of our Ofsted report in January, the school production, trips to France and Spain, and ending with the SLG elections and an upcoming trip to Italy.

Congratulations go to all of our new school captains and house captains and a special congratulations to our new head student team led by Benji, Eloise, Bella and Eddie. All of these students ran excellent campaigns and thoroughly deserve their new positions. We know that they are going to be a fantastic SLG for the coming year.

I hope our students get some rest over half term and we look forward to seeing everyone back and refreshed on Monday 26 February.

Alan Henshall

Headteacher



Bookopoly Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Scarlett T in Year 7 for being the first ever student to complete our Bookopoly Reading Challenge. Not only has she read 38 books since September but she has read them in her second language! She has shown amazing enthusiasm and determination throughout, well done Scarlett, you're a superstar! (Find out all about the RPS Bookopoly Challenge on page 4).



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

- 16 Feb - INSET Day
- 26 Feb - Back to School
- 26 Feb - Y11 Core Mock Exams begin
- 28 Feb - Y12 Gold DofE Info Eve
- 29 Feb - Y9 Consultation Eve (Virtual)
- 1 Mar - Rotary Club Tournament
- 1 Mar - Y12 Apprenticeships Fair
- 4 Mar - National Careers Week
- 4 Mar - Mandela HOUSE Week
- 4 Mar - Deadline for Y9 Options

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

SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2024 Hertfordshire Secondary Schools' Inter-District Swimming Championships will be held on Friday 22nd March, 2024 at Watford Woodside Pool.

Entry for consideration is made by swimmers (not the school), you can enter >> [HERE](#) << Selection is based on times (from Swim England Rankings or submitted times if needed).

The deadline for entry for consideration submission is **Friday 1st March, 2024** and Swimmers selected will be informed by Sunday 3rd March, 2024.

Full details of the gala >> [HERE](#) <<

PE Department



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 10 & 11 Trip to the Opal Coast

Last Friday a sleepy group of Year 10 & 11 students set off for a French adventure. First stop was a Second World War Museum where we learnt about the War from the French perspective. Then on to our accommodation in the countryside, complete with ducks, cats, goats and sheep!

Day two saw us headed to Boulogne-sur-Mer for a market challenge. The students were given a small number of euros and had to buy sandwich fillings which they later used to construct *le sandwich le plus français*. The teachers were very impressed with their bartering in French! That afternoon we went to an artists' workshop and created wonderful things in clay and paper, rounding off the day at a bakery where the *boulangier* shared his passion for his *metier* of breadmaking.

On day three we headed to a Maritime Museum where we learnt to mend nets and heard of the hard life of a fisherman, finishing by tickling rays in the touch tank! The afternoon was spent in Le Touquet, exploring the local shops and then on to the ramparts at Montreuil-sur-Mer for a walk overlooking the French countryside.

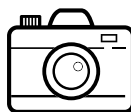
On the morning of day four we visited a local school. Our students met French students of a similar age, had tours of the classrooms and swapped ideas in both languages. This experience really boosted their confidence when they realised how much they can say in French!

Enormous thanks go to Mr Seymour, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Brooke and Mrs Capel for caring for our students on the trip, to Ms Manton and the site team for all their help and especially our students, who really did us proud. We received so many compliments about how they conducted themselves and how well they spoke French.

Nous sommes fiers de vous!

Mrs Robinson

Click for more
photos!



PE ANNOUNCEMENT

MICRO SHIN PADS: We've become aware of 'micro shin pads' hitting the football market. Along with many other schools, we don't feel these do the job of a proper shin pad (to protect the shin and brace shin bones). We will not allow students to wear these for lessons or school fixtures and would appreciate parents helping us to police this stance. Shin pads are on our kit list for football lessons and we would expect our students to have proper shin pads for football activity. Shin pads should be large enough to protect the majority of the shin, as they have done for many years. Many thanks, PE Department



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [St Albans Gymnastics Club](#)
- [Nexus Fostering](#)
- [Public Health Nursing Newsletter](#)
- [Herts Parent Carer Webinar](#)
- [Herts Young Homeless Youth Summit](#)
- [Feb Half Term MMR Clinics](#)
- [Revision Strategies for SEND students](#)

New PTA
logo!



Sat 2 March, 7.30pm

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



Tickets now
available on
[ParentPay](#)

£2 for 1
ticket or
£5 for 5!

| [Click here](#) for more info &
to see the amazing prizes! |

FESTIVAL
on the field



Click here for tickets &
we will get a donation!

FOLLOW US!



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information on our website:





Year 10 Trip to Madrid

Our Year 10 Spanish students jetted off for a few days in the sunshine last week as they spent time immersing themselves in the Spanish culture of Madrid. They had a jam-packed few days experiencing as much as possible every day - they were also treated to a little winter sunshine which went down well with everyone!

On the first evening, our students enjoyed working with local chefs to cook a traditional three-course meal - a real treat for the staff who said it was delicious! They explored some true Hispanic culture, having a tour of Las Ventas Bullring and then experienced an authentic La Tablao Flamenco Show. It wasn't all play, as they spent time in language lessons with locals, interacting with them and really putting their language skills in to practice.

There was more food and fun as they indulged in tapas at San Miguel and made the most of the sunshine in the Plaza Mayor before enjoying the space of El Retiro Park - recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a green oasis in the heart of the city.

They also took a visit to the fascinating Museum of Illusions which is full of mind and eye-tricking exhibits & installations before indulging in more local food with a trip to the famous Churros cafe, Chocolatería San Ginés, said to be the best in Madrid!



Click for more
photos!



Careers Corner



Y10 Careers Investigator Day - Volunteers needed Tues 26 March!

The purpose of the Y10 Careers Investigator Day is for students to learn about different jobs and business sectors with a view to developing their understanding of the world of work. The emphasis is very much on the job and the sector, rather than on any particular company.

We are looking for volunteers, from all different sectors, to come in and deliver approx 6 talks of 10 mins duration to small groups of students, with time for Q&A following each talk. Please email careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk if you can help and are available from 09:30-12:20 on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

West Herts College - Spring Open Days

Hemel Hempstead - Saturday 2 March
9.30am - 12.30pm
Watford - Saturday 9 March
9.30am - 1pm
Book your tickets >> [HERE](#) <<

As part of the **Hertfordshire Careers Hub** we are once again participating in their annual Apprenticeship Survey. We would really appreciate your help in completing this short survey to share your thoughts generally about Post-16 options for your child. The survey responses are useful for us as a school to identify how we can improve careers education and knowledge of the different pathways available for all students. Complete the 2024 survey >> [HERE](#) << It will remain open until 31 March. Thank you.

Upcoming School Career Services Dates:

Y12 University V Apprenticeships Day,
London - 1 March
National Careers Week - 4- 9 March
Y12 Careers Convention, SJL - 19 March
Y12 Future Options Day 3 - 21 March

CURTAIN CALL

Save the Date

OUR NEXT SCREENING WILL BE
ON THURSDAY 14 MARCH 24!

DETAILS ANNOUNCED SOON

Local live theatre



Steel Magnolias
1-9 March 2024
Abbey Theatre, St Albans

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of
information on our website:





DofE First Aid Training

Last week we were delighted to welcome Piers from Simply First Aid in to school to spend three hours with every one of our 200 Duke of Edinburgh Award students, contributing towards the necessary first aid training required as part of the DofE expedition syllabus. Students were able to try out various skills and procedures, such as applying bandages, slings, recovery positions and resuscitation on the dummies, to really put their learning into practice and hopefully give them the confidence and knowledge needed to respond appropriately in an emergency situation.

Visit our website to learn more about DofE at RPS [HERE](#) and letters sent home regarding all of the upcoming DofE events [HERE](#).

PSHCE@RPS

Keeping with the theme of 'Living in the Wider World', students in KS3 have specifically been exploring different careers using 'Unifrog' this week in PSHCE. As a school we subscribe to Unifrog so that our students can explore jobs, careers and industries, as well as all of the 'next steps' and careers information it has to offer.

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

Read all about it...

Vol 9

15 February 2024

A literary Valentine's Day...

RPS staff celebrated Valentine's Day in a literary style this year with a 'Blind Date with a Book' event arranged by the Library and Wellbeing Committee. Staff donated a favourite book along with a short note revealing just a few secrets about the plot. Books were wrapped and tagged ready for the plots to be perused and the books chosen. Staff were delighted with the selection which ranged from biography to thriller to romance specially chosen for the day. It is going to become a regular event in the RPS calendar!



So What is the Bookopoly Challenge?

The Bookopoly book challenge was developed to introduce our KS3 students to the many different genres that our fiction collection supports. Each property tile represents a different fiction genre or reading challenge with the aim being to introduce them to as many different reading experiences as possible.

Students can play it like the game of Monopoly throwing a dice to randomly select a genre or work their way round the board sequentially.



RPS LIBRARY PRESENTS

BOOKOPOLY

A reading challenge for house points

Students earn House Points for completing a set of genres and there is a special prize for anyone completing the whole board in a year. It was developed in house using our knowledge of what our students like to read and the latest trends in YA literature.



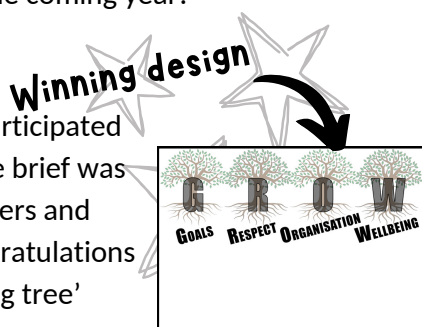
Our New Head Students!

Our Head Students' Elections culminated last week in an evening of passionate, confident speeches from all of our candidates, to an audience of governors, staff, House Leaders and our current SLG. We listened to an exceptional group of young people share their ideas for improvement and their commitment to our school community. It was truly uplifting and we're very proud of them all - they will all take on roles within our SLG for the coming year, details of which will be in the next edition of RoundUp.

For now, we would like to say an enormous CONGRATULATIONS to our Head, and Deputy Head, Students - Eloise, Benji, Eddie and Bella. We really look forward to seeing what you can achieve in the coming year!

Design Competition

Massive thank you to all the students who participated in our recent graphic design competition. The brief was to create a design that could be used on posters and work books in the Achievement Centre. Congratulations to J Collins who created this fantastic 'growing tree' which will now be used in the dept.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge



On Wednesday 31 January, we had 110 students partake in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, testing their mathematical skills and problem-solving. The top scoring 50% of students that partake in the challenge nationally achieve either Bronze, Silver or Gold and we had 80 of the 110 achieve one of these! Furthermore, of all the students across the UK that undertake the challenge, around 8,000 of the very highest performers partake in the follow-on Kangaroo round of which we had 19 students qualify. Even more amazingly, R. Amelines in Yr10 qualified for the follow-on Olympiad round of which only around 1,500 of the very highest performers are invited to. This is an incredible achievement and we're extremely proud of our students. Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge!

WE ARE HIRING!

- Sixth Form Student Support Officer and Learning Mentor
- Deputy Headteacher
- Assistant Headteacher KS5
- Maths Teacher
- Head of Year
- Design & Tech Teacher

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



Wellbeing@RPS

Cultivating Good Gaming Habits: Tips for Parents

Does gaming feel like a battleground in your home? Have a look at this article on TooledUp Education for their top 10 tips to help ensure that gaming is a fun and beneficial part of your child's life and not a source of conflict.

>> [READ IT HERE](#) <<

County Lines - Protecting Your Children From Exploitation...

FREE online event discussing the crucial topic of protecting children from county lines exploitation.

You can sign up >> [HERE](#) <<

Click here to read more about our 5 ways to wellbeing



Residential Trips



[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](#)

>>> Click to see our [SPRING CLUBS](#) programme <<<