

RPS ROUNDUP

26 April 2024



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the first RoundUp post-Easter. I hope you all had a good break and were able to enjoy the good weather when we got it.

The Year 10s came in straight after the Easter holidays and began their mock exams. Their conduct and attitude were exemplary throughout and we now await the results which will give them excellent feedback on the next steps in their journey towards gaining the GCSE grades they wish to have.

Many students were involved in the silver and gold practice expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award over the Easter holidays. I thank Mr Desborough, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Wallis and the team for the work that they did in organising these events. Congratulations to the students for testing themselves and for showing resilience.

We very much enjoyed our spring concert last night, we have some incredibly talented musicians and it was a delight to hear them play. Thank you to Ms Dale and our music department for hosting such a wonderful event.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Alan Henshall
Headteacher



What's On

- 29 April - Scott HOUSE Week
 - 1 May - Senior District Athletics Meet
 - 1 May - Y12 UCAS Information Evening
 - 2 May - World Challenge Meeting
 - 6 May - BANK HOLIDAY
 - 7 May - Y11 Leavers Day
 - 7 May - Y9 Vaccinations
 - 8 May - Y13 Leavers Day
 - 8 May - Y8 Consultation Eve *virtual
 - 9 May - GCSE Exams begin
 - 10 May - Y8-10 PGL Netball Tour
 - 13 May - A Level Exams begin
 - 13 May - Reading Week
 - 13 May - Y12 Work Placement Week
 - 14 May - Y10 Drama Performance
 - 15 May - Y10 History Trip to Berlin
 - 20 May - Y7&8 Exams begin
 - 23 May - Non Uniform Day
 - 24 May - Sports Day
- Please check our [SCHOOL CALENDAR](#) for all key dates and school events

Bookopoly Challenge

Huge congratulations to our second Bookopoly champ Ben M in Year 7! He has successfully made his way around the Monopoly board, reading 38 books since September. In a challenge set up by our librarians, each property tile on the board represents a different fiction genre or reading challenge with the aim being to introduce students to as many different reading experiences as possible. They earn House Points along the way and gain a certificate and prize when they complete the challenge. Well done Ben!



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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 7 May @9.30am

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expeditions

Year 11 Silver Practice

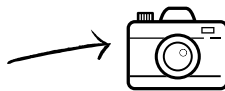
What a week for camping! It started off well at school as our 100 strong DofE team completed equipment checks and had some navigation and route planning training before setting off on their day 1 walk of around 15km to their campsite. After putting up their tents they were on cooking duty over the Trangias before doing the route planning for their day 2 walks. They completed around 18km, doing all of their own navigation as well as battling the elements before more camp cooking and planning for their final day. The weather was really being unkind by this point and we are so proud of our students for showing true RPS spirit and resilience for smiling and getting on with it! They walked back to Nomansland on day 3, around another 18km, leaving behind the campsite that by now represented a monstrous mud bath...

Y12 Gold Practice

A team of Year 12 students were away at the same time completing their Gold DofE practice expedition. Despite horrible storms and rain on the first night they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of exploring the Welsh hills and encountering the many sheep! Although it was tough at times, they stuck together and persevered through the harsh conditions, long distances and ankle-breaking marshes. There were some beautiful landscapes and a lot of overflowing rivers and they are now all ready to take on their Qualifying expedition in the summer.

WELL DONE team DofE, we are beyond proud of you all for persevering in the dismal weather! Huge thanks also to our awesome staff who walked, camped and endured alongside them!

Click here for more photos!



Senior Sports Awards

During our recent whole school assembly, Head of PE Mr Hunter presented awards and gave recognition to our students from our senior sports teams who have performed exceptionally well over the last two terms. This recognition was very well deserved, huge congratulations to them all.



Buy your tickets [HERE!](#)

THE GAME SHOW

Presented by
SCOTT HOUSE

HOSTS OF THE EVENING: Benjamin Norwood and Esmée Gallagher

Place: Main hall
Date: 29th April
Time: 5:30
Purchase tickets on parent pay!!

FESTIVAL

on the field

Click here for tickets to SJL's Festival on the field & we will get a donation!

Next
Second Hand Uniform Sale!
Saturday, 13 July, 12.30-2pm

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

Calling Year 11 parents - if you have any LOGO or PE uniform you no longer need please drop it in to Reception!

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Year 7 Bully Free Form Presentations



Our Y7 forms have spent time in their PSHCE lessons, and in form time, reflecting on what bullying is, the impact it can have and how to prevent bullying of any kind.

Before the break they were given the opportunity to present to our assessors what they had learnt, and to apply to be awarded 'Bully Free Form' status. Their presentations and the application that went with it, included their agreed Form 'Rights' and 'Responsibilities', a signed 'Class Pledge' as well portfolios of anti-bullying poems, posters, advice and diary entries created by the students. The status is expected to be maintained by forms throughout their time at RPS so is not viewed as a 'one-off event'. Well done to all for achieving their Bully Free status.



House Dance



We saw some absolutely amazing routines in our House Dance competition before Easter. If your child took part, ask them to show you their routine, they were all incredible!

Meet our Student Leaders



"Hello Roundwood Park! We are Alfie & Eva, the new Scott House Captains. We are both absolutely buzzing to be in this role, and we cannot wait to get started. Here is a little bit about what you can expect from us throughout the year!

We have our charity week next week, and although it will be a very busy week, we are so excited to see how it turns out. On Monday we are hosting the very first Scott House Gameshow, hosted by our head boy Benji and me, Alfie. On Tuesday we have a Y12 & 13 football tournament, where mixed teams will be going up against each other at lunchtime on the Astro. On Wednesday we have a dodgeball tournament for Yrs7-9 followed by a beat the goalie event against the head boy on Thursday! We conclude our charity week with a day of gratitude, writing notes about things we are grateful for both inside and outside of school.

When it comes to other school events, both of us are willing to get involved in everything, and we are looking to make sure everyone else does the same. We feel like we have a real family community in Scott House, and it is an honour to now help run it, with the incredible Miss Jones. Whether it be House Music, which we both love, Sports Day or anything in between, both of us will support the younger years, give 100% and represent our House and the school to the best of our abilities.

Thank you very much for reading!"

Click here & follow us on Instagram!



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [DSPL Parenting Booklet Summer 2024](#)
- [Family Lives Parenting Groups](#)
- [A parent's Guide to Safety Settings](#)
- [Stanford University Mentor Program](#)
- [Stevenson's Summer Shirt Discount](#)
- [Talking Anger in Families Course](#)
- [Post 16 Advice Evening: SEND](#)
- [Step Up for Health Challenge](#)
- [Harpenden Music Foundation Concert](#)
- [Online Safety Events, Beds Police](#)

Community Fundraiser...

Come along to a Summer 'Gut Buster' Charity Gig...in honour of late RPS parent P Davies and to raise funds for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice and GutsUK. Click for details:



PSHCE@RPS



In PSHCE this term, students are continuing to study the Health & Wellbeing topic. In Year 7 students are focusing on health and puberty, including healthy routines. In Year 8 they are exploring emotional wellbeing, mental health and discovering healthy coping strategies. Year 9 are reflecting on healthy lifestyles, diet, exercise and first aid.

To support your child with any of these topics, and keep the conversations going at home, please use our Tooled-Up website for support >> [CLICK HERE](#)

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:





World Challenge Training Weekend

Our World Challenge teams recently got together for a day in school with expedition leaders in preparation for their upcoming adventure to Tanzania. Everything was covered from kit to itineraries, what to expect, local cultures, wildlife, medical issues as well as what and how to prepare for this exciting trip of a lifetime. They all then headed off to a local scout campsite for a practice run with their tents, tent buddies and how to amuse themselves and each other without any technology! Everyone hiked home in the morning with their full backpacks on to try out the hiking boots and make sure everything was comfortable. They are starting to get very excited - only 3 months to go!

Harpenden Schools Music Association

We took our musicians along to the Eric Morecambe Centre in March to play alongside our local schools in the annual HSMA event. It's always such a lovely day to be a part of and this year was no exception. Well done to everyone, and thank you to those in our community who came along, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



U15 District Cup Finalists

We are very proud of our U15 District Cup Finalists! They worked so hard, consistently and diligently to get to the final. Finishing as runners up to a strong Beaumont side they never gave up and continued to play at the very best of their ability until the final whistle. Well done team - including ace coach, Miss Ellis who is SO proud of you all!



Careers Corner



Y10 Careers Investigator Day - Tuesday 26 March

Before the Easter holidays we invited 18 RPS Alumni, parents and external speakers to come into school to tell students all about their career journeys and current roles. Students were able to attend small informal discussions of their choice, meaning they were really able to interact with employers and gain meaningful insight into topics such as a typical day, average salary, routes into the profession, challenges, rewards of the job etc. We were able to provide a broad range of speakers to talk about a variety of jobs including Graphic Designer, Photographers, Architects, Football Systems Operator, Head of Technology, Head of Sustainability, Finance and Banking, Local Government, Animal Health, and Psychological Wellbeing.

We are immensely grateful to all those who supported this event.

Y10 Work Shadowing Day - Tuesday 11 June

A letter was sent to all parents on 27 March with information and a link to complete regarding this. Please only complete the Google Form once you have all the necessary insurance information available to you. Here is a quick video guide on work shadowing and completing the google form: >> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Top Tips for a Successful Work Shadowing Placement:

1. Speak to parents, friends and relatives about the jobs they do, and find one that is interesting to you.
2. Confirm arrival time and location, be punctual, polite and dress appropriately.
3. Talk to as many people as you can, ask questions, take notes and learn the jargon.



Local live theatre



ROMAN THEATRE OPEN AIR FESTIVAL IN ST ALBANS
See what's on [HERE](#)

CURTAIN CALL

NEXT SCREENING DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

THURSDAY, 23 MAY

| Look out for info to sign up soon |
| Popcorn & drinks provided |




FOLLOW US! →



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Spring Concert



We enjoyed another beautiful concert in school last night. It is always such a pleasure to be uplifted by their incredible music.

From classical melodies to contemporary songs, our talented students dazzled the audience with an array of different styles and ensembles. A special mention must go to S Tai in Year 7 who performed a stunning rendition of Hypnosis on the flute and to our Year 13 students who sadly performed their last concert with us.

Thank you as always to our fabulous Music dept for hosting these events for us all to enjoy, and a huge thank you to our wonderful students, you continue to amaze us with your talent!



RPS Alumni News

New feature!

Author Visit

RPS Alumni Bobby Palmer popped in to see us recently when he was 'on the road' promoting his second book **Small Hours**. He met students and staff in the library before hosting a Q&A session with our scholars. And they certainly gave him a grilling! Asking some brilliant questions and really taking advantage of the opportunity. Huge thanks to Bobby for giving us his time!



Read all about it...

Vol 12

26 April 2024

Reading is such an important part of learning and one of the best ways to extend students' learning is to read from the super-curriculum. Some of our brilliant new Y7 scholars wanted to share some of their book reviews here:

A review by Ellie...For my super curriculum I read **Lioness - My journey to Glory** by **Beth Mead**. I like that it talked about what happened aside from the pitch and not just what we could see for ourselves. It was really interesting to learn about the hardships that she faced and how she overcame them. She inspired me to try different sports and overcome my fears.

PRE Super-Curriculum Reading by **Divyana...** I read C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia- The Lion the Witch*

and the *Wardrobe* in order to understand it as a Christian allegory. I also read *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio which is such a brilliant story that everyone should read. These were just two of the five pieces that I read to complete the PRE super-curriculum. The other pieces included an article about the other minor faiths in the world and an article about calligraphy in holy texts. The final thing that I read was 30 second philosophies which was very short analogies from some of the most famous philosophers in the world. I really enjoyed reading all of these things as they taught what I would not have learnt in normal lessons.

Please see the super-curriculum on our [WEBSITE](#) in order to start your journey to becoming an RPS Scholar!

Are you RPS Alumni?

If you are an ex student or staff member of RPS please join us on LinkedIn where you will find our Alumni updates, news and articles >> [LINK HERE](#) <<

Parent/Carer Teacher Consultation Evenings



We are seeking your views on the current model for our parent/carer-teacher consultation evenings to help with our decision making for 2024-25 onwards. As you know, prior to the pandemic all parent/carer-teacher consultation evenings took place face to face at school. Since 2020 we have adopted a blended approach with some face to face and some online. Please would you complete the following (short) questionnaire to help us with our decision making >> [LINK TO QUESTIONNAIRE](#) <<

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





National Theatre Connections

On Tuesday 16th April, we took a brilliant group of students to Northampton to compete in the National Theatre Connections competition. Our cast performed excellently to the other schools who were there on the day, alongside family and friends who had made the journey to the Royal and Derngate Theatre to support them. It was a fantastic day of performances, workshops and making new friends among the other performers. We have all enjoyed working on our play, Shout, which is about elective mutism and one girl's struggle to find her voice.

Our cast of Year 9, 10 and 11 students were excellent ambassadors for RPS and have been a pleasure to direct - well done to them all!

Sports Day 2024

Our PE Department hosts this year's Sports Day on Friday 26 May. This is a day of House athletics with students leaving lessons to compete through the morning before an early lunch (12:20pm) and then an afternoon on the field together to watch the final events, including the much anticipated relays.

Things to know for the day:

- All students are permitted to attend school in PE kit
- Any additional items, worn for warmth, should mainly be black and/or red
- Students should bring a water bottle that can be filled throughout the day
- Hats should be brought in, in case of hot weather in the afternoon
- Sun cream will be needed and students should re-apply it regularly

Our Sports Day is designed to be a balance of competition and participation, so please emphasise the importance of full engagement to your children. It's always a lovely community event to round out the half-term and we're very much looking forward to it!

NB Parents cannot attend our Sports Day but look out for lots of photos on our social media and in the following RoundUp.

Exam Support

[Guide to Exam Access Arrangements](#)

[Revision Support - students with SEND](#)

[General Exam Information](#)

And don't forget our English Revision website - [HERE](#)

Our Frank House Charity Superstar is at it again, this month Mrs McAlinney is running 63 miles for school charity Make a Wish. So far, she has raised £157 let's see if we can get her to £200!!



YOU CAN DONATE HERE!



Wellbeing@RPS

Follow the link to read the latest Newsletter from TooledUp Education:

>> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Hertfordshire and Mid Essex Talking Therapies are hosting a new 'Menstrual cycle and mental wellbeing' webinar for students aged 16+. Aimed at enhancing emotional wellbeing during menstruation.

>> [Click here to register](#) <<



5 ways to wellbeing



Residential Trips



[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, Eurospace, Belgium](#)

[June 24 - Y12 Biology Field Trip - Yorkshire](#)

[June 24 - Y8 MFL Trips - France & Germany](#)

[June/July 24 - Y10/11 DofE Qualifier](#)

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

[February 25 - Y11-13 Geography, Iceland](#)

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

[April 25 - Football Tour, Holland](#)

WE ARE HIRING!



- Exam Invigilator
 - Humanities Teacher
 - Subject Leader - Spanish
 - Design & Technology Teacher
- All current vacancies are advertised on our [website](#)

NEW

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