



Roundwood Park School

A place to flourish



“I wanted to let you know how great RPS has been for my son. He has thrived here. I really couldn’t be more proud of him or more pleased with his school experience.”

Year 11 Parent

Welcome to Roundwood Park

A very warm welcome to Roundwood Park School. This prospectus offers a glimpse into what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Widely recognised for an innovative and inspiring educational environment, Roundwood Park successfully blends traditional values - such as high standards of appearance, academic excellence, and personal integrity - with a culture rooted in kindness, evidence-informed teaching, and a drive for excellence. Our school is a place where students are truly able to flourish.

Students reach their potential at Roundwood Park because they are part of a supportive and happy community where every individual is valued. The vision for our students goes beyond academic success. Graduates of Roundwood Park leave not only with strong qualifications but also as well-rounded young people - optimistic, self-assured and motivated to make a positive difference in the world.

Our success is driven by our 'ASPIRE' programme, which draws on years of experience in educating young people from Harpenden and the surrounding area. 'ASPIRE' develops learning habits essential for lifelong success. Students are encouraged to be resilient, creative, and resourceful - skills developed

both in the classroom and through a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including extracurricular activities, sports, music, and trips both within the UK and abroad. In addition, our curriculum fosters responsible and reflective learners, which helps students to develop critical thinking, self-awareness and accountability - skills that enhance academic success, personal growth, and a lifelong love of learning.

Our vibrant House System further strengthens our sense of community. Offering a modern, engaging approach to friendly competition, it fosters a culture of support and generosity, with students actively participating in charitable efforts throughout the year.

Visitors to Roundwood Park consistently comment on the welcoming atmosphere as well as the energy of our students and staff. Why not visit us to experience Roundwood Park for yourself? We are confident that you will be inspired by what you see.

Katie Barter
Headteacher



**"Roundwood Park School
is 'a place to flourish'"**

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Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish



POTENTIAL

We help every student to love learning for life, to follow their passions and to reach their full potential

EXCELLENCE

We deliver a rich education that stimulates curiosity, values diversity and offers challenge

KINDNESS

We ensure our school is a happy place to learn, teach and work by caring for the wellbeing of ourselves and each other

INSPIRATION

We provide a creative and inspiring learning and teaching environment where students feel confident and able to express themselves

INTEGRITY

We take, and expect, a principled, honest, and sustainable approach to everything we do

COMMUNITY


We are an inclusive school at the heart of our community, working in partnership with our families and actively encouraging a community spirit in our school

"Kindness is at the heart of the success of the Southeast Comprehensive of the Year, Roundwood Park School in Harpenden."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE
2024

COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
SOUTH EAST



"Perhaps the most telling thing about Roundwood is its modesty – it presents itself as a typical, inclusive comprehensive. But make no mistake, it is one of the very best. The outcomes it delivers, and the confident, capable young people it produces, speak for themselves."

Year 9 Parent



"My children have thrived at RPS, it's such a welcoming, inclusive school that offers something for everyone. Our biggest accolade goes to the PE Department which has offered them many opportunities to compete at different levels in the sports they love. Thank you RPS!"

Year 11 & 13 Parent

Learning at Roundwood Park

At Roundwood Park School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, as well as a robust PSHCE programme, which reinforces our core purpose of enabling our students to flourish.

Our intention is to:

- promote a commitment to lifelong learning through our ASPIRE framework
- provide the depth that enables students to master the key knowledge and skills essential for each subject
- provide a rich variety of learning experiences that will challenge and inspire all students regardless of their ability, gender, ethnicity or social background to achieve their full potential
- encourage a love of learning by providing a variety of engaging activities, enabling all students to develop their intellectual, creative, moral, social, physical and personal skills to the full
- encourage a natural curiosity, a spirit of enquiry and an ethos where we have high expectations of all our students
- develop creativity and innovation whether it is applied in the arts, design or the sciences which results in scientific, sporting and cultural achievement
- enable our students to become confident, articulate and responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society
- prepare our Roundwood Park Leavers for the next stage of their education or training

"The school provides remarkable support for pupils' personal development. Pupils develop self-confidence and a secure understanding of the world around them."

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Fulfilling Potential

At Roundwood Park we encourage every student to fulfil their potential and love of learning, by offering the widest possible range of opportunities and experiences during their time with us.

The first three years, Years 7 to 9, provide a solid foundation of learning in all subject areas, building on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired at primary school.

Whilst students in Years 10 & 11 continue to study core curriculum subjects, they are also able to select from a range of options to take at GCSE.

In support of all core learning, we offer a super-curriculum, open to all students, to enable them to follow their passions and achieve mastery in the subjects that they are most passionate about. The super-curriculum is independent 'stretch and challenge' work. When students have completed their chosen tasks in a given subject they will become a Roundwood Park Scholar.

We are proud to offer a 'Blended Learning' approach which makes use of digital technology (such as Chromebooks) routinely in day-to-day lessons by our students, alongside more traditional approaches. Some of the huge

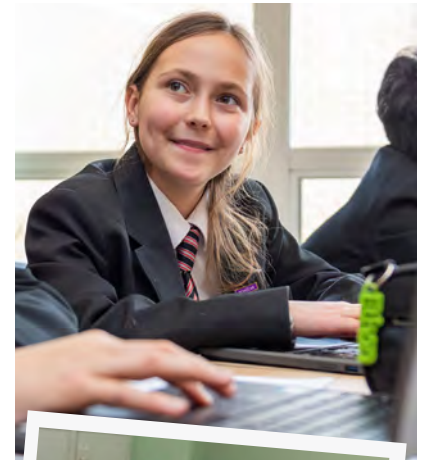
benefits of this programme are the possibilities that it brings, the infinite ways it can engage students, as well as the ability for us to provide differentiated and individualised teaching strategies.

The school has specialist areas for all major subjects; including computer suites, science laboratories, an art block, music rooms, drama studios, modern design technology facilities, Sixth Form Centre, Sports Centre, 3G pitch and extensive playing fields.

We are dedicated to delivering a careers programme that raises aspirations and helps every student reach their full potential. We guide students in making informed choices by offering tailored, impartial advice and exposing them to a wide range of career options and industries. Our goal is to support their decision-making at every stage and prepare them for success in the world of work, whatever path they choose.

"The 'super-curriculum' inspires pupils to complete extra learning outside school. They become 'scholars' and wear their scholars' badges with pride."

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"Our daughter joined the Sixth Form in Year 12 and was immediately made to feel welcome by the students and teachers. As well as encouraging her academically, I feel that RPS has given her so many opportunities for all-round growth, including volunteering, overseas trips, making speeches and so on."

Year 13 Parent



"Roundwood has long been a standout asset to Harpenden and the surrounding areas. It was, in fact, the reason we chose to move back to the town—having experienced the school myself, alongside my two brothers and two sisters, I knew the quality it offered."

Year 7 Parent



Student Wellbeing & Pastoral Care

As a school we value the importance of personal wellbeing and the environment we create is one of kindness, support and care.

We recognise that good physical, social and mental health are prerequisites for students to be happy in school, so that high quality learning can follow. We therefore make sure that all students are supported in their development and are helped to realise their full academic and personal potential. We were awarded the highest grade in the Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark and this is testament to the high importance we place on this. In addition, safeguarding is given the very highest priority. It is of paramount importance that all our students are safe and well cared for.

Our students are all members of a Tutor Group or 'Form' and pastoral care is organised on a year group basis. Form Tutors oversee the personal and academic welfare of students and are the first point of contact for them and their parents/carers. Tutors are supported by Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers.

The school's lead on Mental Health & Wellbeing works alongside the pastoral team, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing throughout our school community, providing early help, support and signposting to the relevant wellbeing services for those who need it. A school counsellor is also available for confidential consultations when necessary.

In addition, we have a team of Achievement Mentors who support the engagement and development of our young people who need to overcome barriers to learning, such as social, emotional, and learning needs. They work in close partnership with students, staff and parents to ensure all students have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop. Parents meet their children's teachers and tutors online or in person at Parents Consultation Evenings but are encouraged to contact individual staff if they have particular concerns. Parents are kept up to date throughout the year and receive written reports regarding their child's progress.

SEND@RPS

At Roundwood Park School, students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) are welcomed into our community and staff are dedicated to ensuring that they achieve exceptionally well.

We are committed to removing barriers, giving all students access to a broad, balanced, and enriched curriculum. This approach enables them to not only achieve well academically, but also to develop as individuals to acquire the learning habits of a Roundwood Park Leaver, instilling a life-long love of learning.

We are very proud of all our students and their achievements and regularly celebrate their successes, in order to raise self-esteem and encourage our vulnerable learners.

School Life

HOUSE

At Roundwood Park we have a thriving House System that really brings us together as a community – as well as promoting some healthy competition! We have 7 Houses and each has a member of staff as ‘Head of House’ and, perhaps more importantly, we have nominated and elected House Leaders from each Form and House Captains, who are members of our Sixth Form. We run a rich and varied programme of House events for students to participate in; ranging from enterprise, community and charitable work, to musical, dramatic, sporting and artistic activities.

LIBRARY

Our Library is at the heart of the school, and as well as its large stock of books, reference materials and many other resources it offers a place for wellbeing and reflection and is the home of various wellbeing clubs. Display areas showcase topical themes and books throughout the year as well as providing a platform for student-driven projects and initiatives.

CATERING

We have a vibrant and welcoming school canteen where our catering staff produce a wide range of nourishing food for students and staff. All of our dishes are freshly prepared on site on a daily basis and seasonal menus are created in-house and are carefully balanced nutritionally. We provide a wide selection of Halal and vegetarian choices and also offer vegan and gluten free options.

COMMUNITY

We value both our local and the wider community and give back where and when we can; whether this be by raising money for our school charities, collecting items to donate to various charitable initiatives or volunteering at them, putting on music concerts, throwing Christmas parties for our local senior citizens or by being proud to share our 3G pitch with our local community.



PTA

We have a fundraising committee run by parents and carers of children at Roundwood Park School, raising money to enhance the school environment and our children's education. They run regular second hand uniform sales and have an established events calendar that is well supported, providing fun and relaxed events, such as the infamous annual Quiz Night for our community and a biannual Sponsored Walk for our students.



"As a Roundwood alumnus myself, it is testament to the current leadership and staff that those high standards of teaching and education have been maintained. With our children in Year 10 and 6th form we have nothing but praise for a school which continues to excel."

Year 10 & 12 Parent



Enrichment

TRIPS & VISITS

At Roundwood Park School we offer our students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of visits, field trips and excursions that support national curriculum studies and extra-curricular activities. Trips and visits include short day trips to places of interest as well as multi-day residential trips within the UK, Europe or even further afield.

All students studying languages have regular opportunities to use the languages taught in the countries where they are spoken and sometimes such trips create cross-curricular possibilities – such as trips to France and Belgium to visit the war graves and a trip to Berlin as part of a study of World War II.

In the summer term students participate in Enrichment Week; at this time the whole school is engaged in special activities of some kind; from visiting London and its museums and other attractions or a trip to the zoo, to trying activities such as climbing, karting, water sports or horse riding.

"Pupils' experiences at this school are exceptional."

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We also run a popular ski trip to the USA and we work with sustainable school travel specialists, which has given the opportunity for senior students to join expeditions to countries such as Botswana, Ecuador, Zambia, Mongolia, Borneo, Eswatini and Tanzania. Our next expedition will take place in 2026 as we take students on a three week adventure to Costa Rica.

We support the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and student participation in this programme is extremely popular at Roundwood Park.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We offer a wide range of daily extra-curricular activities that are open to everyone, many of which are student-led. We are proud of the variety of the opportunities we offer throughout the school week at lunchtime or after school, and we are confident that there is something for everyone whether you be sporty, musical, artistic, linguistic, enjoy a debate, science, technology, creative writing, reading or just wish to meet with others who share your interests such as our Pride drop in or climate action group. Students can also spend time in our Wellbeing Hub to relax, chat and feel supported. All of our extra-curricular clubs and groups can be viewed on our website.



Our Sixth Form

Roundwood Park Sixth Form is special. Not only do we have an impressive record of achievement, but our enrichment, leadership and community-based opportunities provide students with much more than just a strong academic platform.

Our students gain a breadth of experience that supports competitive applications to university, apprenticeships and employment. We are proud to say that our Sixth Form students are wonderful role models in our community; they work alongside our exceptional team of staff to drive improvements, leading initiatives and providing opportunities for inclusion across the board. The Sixth Form students are at the heart of what we do, from presenting in assemblies, mentoring younger years, tutoring students at GCSE and running extra-curricular clubs in subjects they are passionate about.

Whether the students are studying four A levels or following Level 3 BTEC courses, each has an opportunity for leadership, excellence and friendship. We welcome applications from students currently attending other schools.



"Sixth-form students are excellent role models for others."

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"Roundwood Park has been outstanding for both of my children; they have loved it. Inclusive and supportive with a fabulous teaching team, there is an incredible community spirit that is truly special."

Year 10 & 13 Parent

Meet Our Alumni



OLLIE PAWLACZEK

Junior Performance Design Engineer at Red Bull Powertrains

I left Roundwood Park School nearly ten years ago (2008-2015), but the foundations that RPS gave me have stayed with me throughout my journey to becoming an engineer in Formula 1. RPS not only provided the academic foundation I needed to pursue engineering but also gave me opportunities that built my confidence and shaped my personal skills. I had many supportive teachers who encouraged me to aim high. Those early experiences helped me believe in my potential and set me on the path to achieving my goals.

SIMRIT BHANDAL

MBChB Medicine and Surgery, University of Leeds

My time at RPS (2010-2017) is one that I will always cherish. It was where I built the foundation for the person I am and what I have achieved to date. Not only did RPS allow me to reach my academic potential, pushing me to achieve grades I would never have dreamed imaginable, but its breadth of extra-curricular opportunities also helped shape me into the person I am today and have been paramount in allowing me to succeed since. After finishing at RPS, I studied medicine at the University of Leeds where I continued to play netball competitively and have since been working as an NHS doctor. I loved my time at RPS, and will always be grateful to the school and its amazing staff for helping me to believe in what I can achieve, improving my confidence, leadership skills and more.





SOPHIE DARBY

BSc Computer Science, University of Dundee

I truly loved my time at Roundwood Park School (2010-2017). RPS not only gave me a strong academic education but also encouraged me to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and trips that allowed me to experience life outside the classroom. An invaluable opportunity was being Frank House Captain. The role greatly increased my confidence in public speaking and my ability to lead a team. I left RPS as an independent, resilient and determined student ready for university to study Computer Science.

After graduating, I decided to pursue a career in teaching and RPS were happy to facilitate me as a trainee teacher. Once qualified, I was lucky enough to secure a permanent teaching position at RPS. The opportunities haven't stopped there as I am now Head of Computer Science and IT! Many of the teachers who helped me as a student are now my colleagues and continue to support me in my development.

My experience at RPS is far from over and I hope to continue to give back to the school that has enabled me to achieve and be where I am today.

Follow us on Social Media

Keep up with all of the wonderful activities, opportunities and initiatives that embody life at Roundwood Park School.

Click the links below and follow us on:



Facebook



Instagram

You can also take a look at past editions of our bi-weekly newsletter 'RoundUp' to get a feel for life at RPS.

Follow all things RPS PE on:



Instagram

Please also visit our website for lots more information on our school:

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk





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Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3AE

T 01582 765344

E admin@roundwoodpark.co.uk

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk

