

RPS ROUNDUP

3 October 2025



[Click here for Term Dates](#)

Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy fortnight we have had since I last wrote to you. Open Evening last Thursday was a real highlight and an opportunity to share our Roundwood Park community with potential new families.

Subject staff put on a great display of their work and students were able to share their real love of the subjects and their school. We had over 300 wonderful guides showing families around. It's been a delight to receive feedback complimenting the guides on the way they conducted the tours with pride and shared their own Roundwood Park experience.

Last week we held our Year 13 and Year 12 parents' information evenings and this week it was the turn of Year 11. All were well attended, we hope you found them informative.

Year 7 have just returned from their Norfolk Lakes trip, which I hear was fun packed with a huge variety of outdoor activities, team building and an opportunity to get to know their new forms and make new friends. Thanks to Mrs Cunningham, tutors and other staff who worked so hard to make this trip a successful experience for them.

We are very proud of our extra curricular clubs with over 80 on offer. I am deeply grateful to the staff and students who give up their time to run these activities, and it has been a real pleasure to speak to students who are already benefiting from them. This week I have had the opportunity to see a number of these clubs in action from Flute Choir, to Chess and Games club to Rugby and Girls football. There really is so much on offer. If your child has not had an opportunity to take part in any of these activities yet, please do encourage them to do so. The timetable is on our [website](#).

I hope you have a good weekend.

Katie Barter
Headteacher



What's On

- 6 Oct - Diversity Forum
- 9 Oct - Senior Maths Challenge
- 11 Oct - Costa Rica Training Weekend
- 13 Oct - Reading Week
- 14 Oct - Y7 Primary Tea
- 14 Oct - Y9 'Knife Angel' Trip
- 15 Oct - TooledUp Education Talk
- 20 Oct - OWENS House Week
- 21 Oct - House Music
- 23 Oct - Y11 Drama Performance
- 24 Oct - Non Uniform Day

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

Notice to parents

We would like to inform you of some temporary changes to policing in Harpenden Town over the next 2 weeks. Following recent incidents of antisocial behaviour in the town centre, the police have been granted a dispersal order. This gives them additional powers to move individuals away from certain areas or to disperse large groups of young people when necessary. We have already spoken to all students about this during assemblies, but we also wanted to make sure you are aware of these changes to local community policing.

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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Y7 in Norfolk Lakes

More photos →



Our Year 7 students visited the Norfolk Lakes School Activity Centre for 3 days this week and as soon as they got there they embarked on a whole host of activities - climbing, archery, dodgeball, rifle range, rounders, scrambles across obstacle courses, collaboration on the blind trail, mastering the low ropes - and getting very wet in giant kayaks or simply jumping in the lake! It didn't stop there - there was indoor caving, low ropes, orienteering, initiative exercises, aeroball and lots more! They had a brilliant time and were able to really bond as a year group. They made new friends, gained many new skills and worked on their respect for others, their resilience, taking responsibility, as well as their ability to manage risk.

We must pay huge thanks to our amazing staff who accompanied the trip, keeping everyone safe and ensuring there was lots of fun!

Please note we have lots of lost property at the moment so please ask students to pop to Reception and pick up their missing items! Named items will be returned to the student but many of the items do not have names!

Thank you

DofE Thanks & Volunteering

All of our DofE expeditions are supported by an amazing leadership team and we want to take some time to thank the key staff who volunteer and give up their weekends and holidays.

Mr Stowe has been a consistent presence on every expedition this year, supporting Silver and Gold teams - perhaps his biggest achievement was taking some students from not knowing what a grid reference was to perfect mountain navigation. His experience has been key to our ability to offer the expeditions we do - and his dry sense of humour never fails!

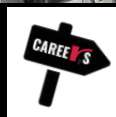
Miss Darby has also been an incredible support on expedition and in training the teams. From organising the tracking of teams, to overseeing the Silver teams on expedition she is integral to what we have done.

Our community volunteers, including Mia Jewell, Charlotte Howie and Josie Wallis, have trained groups and acted as assessors this year, bringing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Mia and Josie are former Gold Participants at RPS and Charlotte an RPS parent. **We would love for parents/carers who can navigate, maybe know a bit about DofE or did it at school, or just enjoy the outdoors, to volunteer! Please get in touch for a chat if you can give us a day or a weekend next year.**



If you are interested in volunteering - and we really do need more help! - please send an email to DofE@roundwoodpark.co.uk and we can provide more information. Our students are all great and it really is a wonderful thing to do!

Careers Corner



Upcoming Events:

Friday 3 October

Y13 PAL Assembly - Guest Speaker - Renee Ramsey-Nicol, Computacenter

Thursday 23 October

Y12 Future Options Session 1

Thursday 6 November

Virtual Insight Evening - Green Careers

Wednesday 19 November

Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps

Thursday 20 November

Oaklands School Explorer Trip

Weds & Thurs 3 & 4 December

Y12 Future Options Session 2 - Mock Interviews

Upcoming Open Days:

Oaklands College

St Albans Campus - Saturday 18 Oct

10am - 3pm - Register [Here](#)

Welwyn Campus - Saturday 11 Oct

10am - 3pm - Register [Here](#)

Please follow this link to view a host of careers events and opportunities:

>> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Harpenden Peace Day

Our Brass Ensemble performed at the Peace One Day concert in Harpenden last week. They played La Paix (Peace) and La Réjouissance (Rejoicing) from Music for the Royal Fireworks by Handel - and they sounded absolutely beautiful! Always a fantastic occasion that sees local primary and secondary schools come together to showcase readings and musical recitals to celebrate the International Day of Peace



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Year 9 House Netball

Year 9 kicked off our round of House Netball Tournaments this year. And what a glorious September day for it! There was such a great atmosphere, with lots of students and staff on the sidelines in support, and some brilliant play on the courts. Well done to all of our players and huge thanks to our awesome PE team.

The results were as follows:

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



French Department Update

It's been a fantastic start to the year in the French department at RPS, with students across all year groups showing real enthusiasm and commitment.

Year 7 have settled in brilliantly, full of enthusiasm as they get used to using their knowledge organisers and French phonics.

Year 8 are focusing on the perfect tense and the topic of holidays – we've been so impressed with their positivity and the risks they're taking with their language.

Year 9 are exploring free time and friendships. They've shown excellent engagement, making great use of prior knowledge from earlier years and building on it confidently.

Year 10 have made a smooth transition into the GCSE course and are working hard from the outset.

Year 11 are focused on speaking practice and preparing brilliantly for their upcoming mock speaking exams.

Year 12 have hit the ground running with their first two A Level topics: La famille en voie de changement and Le septième Art.

Year 13 are honing their essay-writing skills on No et Moi and finalising titles for their Independent Research Projects.

We are delighted to welcome our new French language assistant, Benedicte, who will be working with our A Level students every week. Students are so lucky to have this amazing opportunity to practise their speaking skills regularly in small groups.

Thank you to all the Y7 parents who came to our KS3 languages evening earlier this month, and for joining in so enthusiastically with the workshops. We really appreciate your support for your child's language learning journey.

We're really pleased to see students across the school displaying such strong ASPIRE learning habits, and we look forward to an exciting year of trips and activities to further enrich their linguistic and cultural journey.

If you have any questions about your child's French learning, please contact their class teacher or Mrs Robinson (KS4) or Mrs Phillips (KS3 & 5)

HOUSE MUSIC!

TUESDAY 21 OCT

More info coming soon!



Second Hand Uniform Sale

Saturday, 8 Nov, 1-2.30pm

School Hall

See our price list here

PLEASE DONATE – if you have any good quality, laundered uniform you no longer need please drop it in to Reception ahead of the sale! Also sports shoes/shin pads/skins/winter coats/walking boots

Community Fireworks

Sunday, 2 November



Click here to get your tickets!



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Drama Update

It's a brilliant, busy and creative time in our Drama department at the start of the school year. One of the highlights so far has been Alex coming in from world renowned theatre company Complicite earlier this week to run a 3 hour session on devising techniques with our GCSE and A Level drama students. He spoke so highly about being with us and how amazing our young people were to work with. He said they had a high energy and were fully committed to a morning of creating amazing theatre work! We all really enjoyed it and it will benefit us hugely, none more so than our Y11 students who are currently in the middle of creating their devised pieces - ready for showing to friends and family on the 23rd October. Complicite is one of our A Level practitioners and they are progressive, inventive and hugely influential. It was incredible to have them come along to work with us.

KS3 Scholars Conference

Yesterday, our fantastic KS3 Scholars took part in our Big Questions Conference, debating queries such as "Should under 18s be allowed to vote?" and "Should certain books be banned?". The students researched their arguments using University of Oxford resources, before having a spirited debate about the issues. A great morning was had by all!



Meet our Student Leaders

Hi everyone! We're your new Curriculum Captains, James, Jenny, Emily and Jack. We can't wait to see what this year has in store and we haven't wasted any time getting started on our goals for this year! We've already been working hard to build on our predecessors' work on reforming the scholars system, and this year we can't wait to introduce an all new 'mini EPQ' for the younger years. This should be a great way for students to get a taste of what an EPQ is like before selecting their A levels, and also looks great on a university application.



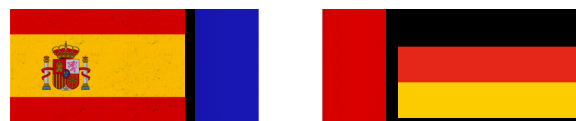
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Complicité



LOOKING FOR YR9 LANGUAGE LEADERS!



WHAT DOES AN RPS LL DO?

- Our Year 9 Language Leaders help promote languages in our community
- We teach primary school children at our Languages Fairs
- We also run other fun activities to promote languages in our school

WHY SHOULD YOU DO IT?

- It's fun!
- You'll meet new people
- You gain leadership skills
- Lots of our ex-Language Leaders are in the Senior Leadership Government (SLG) - as it looks great on applications!

SIGN ME UP!

If you would like to apply, please write a short email (in English) stating:

- Why you would like to be a Language Leader
- What you do now that proves you have a love of languages

Send your email to Mrs Robinson
la.robinson@roundwoodpark.co.uk
 by **Monday 13 October 2025**



You will also find lots of information on our website:





KS3 House Leader Training

Our KS3 House Leaders spent a couple of hours yesterday in their annual training and teambuilding session. They celebrated their achievements so far and we welcomed our newest Y7 leaders to the team! With enhanced roles for 25-26 our HLs will prepare regular communications for their Houses and assist our Y13 House Captains with House Assemblies.

They shared a fun packed time coordinating with members of our SLG and across the KS3 year groups on how they want to make their mark within their respective Houses. They were all fully engaged and really motivated and it was great to see! We can't wait to see what they achieve this year - well done team!



RPS Open Evening

We would like to say another **well done** to our wonderful student speakers Joe, Eleanor & Molly for their part in our Open Evening. They spoke with pride, enthusiasm and confidence - together with our new Headteacher Mrs Barter, they made a fantastic team! Our student helpers were also absolutely superb. Whether guiding families, conducting experiments, cooking, trampolining, acting, playing games, making music and much more, they were all brilliant - thank you.



Vol 36

Read all about it...

3 October 2025

It's Black History Month!

This year's theme is **Standing Firm in Power and Pride** and pays tribute to the resilience, strength and commitment to positive change and progress, within the black community across the globe.

In our library we are honouring the incredible contributions made by black people from all walks of life. This will include authors and their soaring stories, individuals who always stood up for what was right, no matter how difficult the journey, in our biographies and non-fiction titles that delve into an evolving Black History.

All of our Year 7 classes will also have a library lesson, which will showcase the life story and works of the award-winning author Malorie Blackman OBE, who embodies all this year's theme represents, with a dedication and unwavering determination to find and cement her voice in the world of Young Adult literature, alongside other truly inspiring authors.



Information Evenings

We have been delighted to see so many families in school for our information evenings over the last couple of weeks. Presentations and information from the sessions have been emailed home in most cases. The Year 11 documents can be found on our website >> [HERE](#) <<

For all things
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RPS Production - Legally Blonde the Musical

We have been having such a blast getting to grips with Legally Blonde over the last couple of weeks. The amazing cast is already working really hard and we are about to engage with the hoard of students who said they wanted to help with all of our backstage roles. It is likely that around 150 students will be helping me put this show together alongside our brilliant dance captains, music department and tech crew.

Rehearsals are underway and there are some very exciting plans afoot in order to create a real buzz around it. The cast is awesome so far and most of them turned up to rehearsals having already learnt the songs and some of their lines which makes the whole process even more fun.

We will all be committing ourselves to a huge amount of extra hours as the days draw shorter and there will be a lot of excited but tired people involved! Please help us by putting our performance dates of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd January 2026 in your diaries. Ticket information will be with you next half term. We can't wait!

Mike Garbutt - Head of Expressive Arts



RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

October Half Term

We are starting to plan ahead for October Half Term (WC 27th October) and it is set to be yet another busy one!

We have camps booked in for: Showtime Circus, Mad Science, APEX 360, ArtShed, Watford FC Trust, Mini-Chef Academy, and Harpenden Cricket Club.

visit the links to find out more and sign up!

For any enquiries at all please feel free to contact the Lettings Office on 01582 714019 or email us at lettings@roundwoodpark.co.uk

RPS Sports Centre Team

Follow us on social media!



>>> [Click for our AUTUMN CLUBS programme](#) <<<

Wellbeing@RPS

TooledUp Education

View their weekly newsletter >> [HERE](#)



Parents and Carers talk about self-harm and recovery

Please join us at an information session to learn more about self-harm and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery

Our guest speaker will be a clinician who works at *HPFT CAMHS

Where: Online over Zoom.

When: Tuesday 7th October, 7pm to 9pm

* Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

For more information or to book your place:
Call: 01992 58 69 69
Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
Go online: www.carersinherts.org.uk/events



Residential Trips



January 26 - KS4 Spanish, Madrid

February 26 - Y10/11 French, Opal Coast

February 26 - Y10-13 PRE & History, Rome

February 26 - Y10 Comp Sci, Disneyland

February 26, Y12+13 Business, New York

March 26 - Y13 CERN, Switzerland

VACANCIES

- Head of English
- English Teacher (Mat Cover)
- Exam Invigilators

For more information visit our website << [HERE](#) >>