

RPS ROUNDUP

17 October 2025



[Click here for Term Dates](#)

Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

It's that time of year when our House events really kick off, and the highlight of our House calendar, House Music, is just around the corner! It's been an absolute delight this week watching each House practice their choir and performance pieces. I love seeing students from all year groups working together: learning a song, mastering harmonies, and picking up a few dance moves along the way. Even the staff choir has been hard at it, though Mrs McPhun definitely has her hands full with us! I'm not sure we'd ever win a competition but we're giving it our best shot.



This week, our Year 9 students engaged with the vital 'Lives not Knives' campaign. They attended the powerful Knife Angel drama production and visited the stunning, and sobering, Knife Angel sculpture visible in Welwyn Garden City this month. This incredible artwork, crafted from over 100,000 knives and blades confiscated by the UK police, was a fantastic complement to our PSHCE programme. A big thank you to Ms. Mooney for arranging this important visit.

We also welcomed Dr Kathy Weston from Tooled Up to share valuable advice on helping students manage exam stress. It was wonderful to see so many parents from Years 10-13 attend this popular evening. We hope the advice shared proves useful to your son or daughter.

There is so much to celebrate and share once again, so enjoy this edition of RoundUp and have a great weekend.

Katie Barter
Headteacher

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

- 20 Oct - OWENS House Week
- 21 Oct - House Music
- 23 Oct - Y11 Drama Performance
- 24 Oct - Non Uniform Day
- 3 Nov - Back to School
- 5 Nov - Y11 Mock Exams Begin
- 6 Nov - Careers Insight Evening*
- 8 Nov - PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
- 11 Nov - Anti Bullying Week
- 14 Nov - GT Sleep Out
- 17 Nov - GT House Week
- 19 Nov - Y10 Parent Consultation Eve*
- 24 Nov - House Rugby Week

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

Notices

Another reminder that those without a school parking permit or Blue Badge are not permitted past the main school entrance during the times directly before or after school. Please also do not block local residents' driveways and do not stop on the yellow lines - especially the zig zag lines outside the school gates. Thank you.

Please take a look at an update sent from HFL Education > [HERE](#)

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Knife Angel

Our Year 9 students had a PSHCE trip on Tuesday this week to find out more about the 'Lives Not Knives' campaign and visit the incredible Knife Angel that is visiting Welwyn Garden City at the moment. They firstly watched an incredible Skin Deep Theatre Production whose key messages of knife crime, the dangers of carrying a knife, drugs, grooming and exploitation, gangs and County Lines directly supports the PSHCE scheme of learning on peer influence, substance use and how gangs function. The event was been made available to all Hertfordshire schools by Hertfordshire Constabulary and Welwyn Hatfield Council. The students were respectful and engaged throughout the visit, with many of them signing up to become an Anti-Violence Ambassador > a scheme run by Hertfordshire Constabulary for young people to pledge their support against violence and knife crime.

The Knife Angel statue itself is quite a sight to behold. Standing at 27 feet high, the sculpture has been crafted from more than 100,000 knives and blades confiscated by the UK's 43 police forces. It will be there until the end of October, do go along if you get the chance.

PSHCE across the year groups this half term...

Year 7 - the focus has been on resilience

Year 8 - the focus for Year 8 has been drugs & alcohol

Year 9 - peer influence, substance use and gangs

Year 10 - careers as well as relationships & sex ed

Year 11 - the focus has been on next steps and careers

Year 12 & 13 - the focus has been on forming respectful relationships



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Traffic Light Arts Half Term Camp](#)
- [St Albans Community Showcase](#)
- [Halloween at Church Farm](#)
- [Good Shepherd Clubs - Half Term](#)
- [Activate Clubs](#)
- [Barracudas Activity Camps](#)
- [The Brickery Halloween Competition](#)
- [The Art Shed Holiday Camps](#)

Careers Corner



Upcoming Events:

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 - Mock Interviews

RPS Virtual Careers Insight Evening - Sustainability & Green Careers - Thursday 6 November, 6:30pm

Let's empower the next generation to shape a greener, more sustainable future! We have three guest speakers, Alumnus Isabelle Hardern and Esther Batt, as well as Disha Takle from Nesta, talking about their 'green' careers.

Please complete the form if you would like to either attend the webinar or receive a recording > [HERE](#) < Please also see The Parent's Guide to Green Careers Magazine > [HERE](#) <

Please follow this link to view a host of careers events and opportunities:
>> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

Tumble Champion!

We are unbelievably proud of Hollie for winning 2 gold medals at the recent Tumbling Championships. Hollie firstly took the U13-14 crown - winning by 1.9 marks over the 2 runs. By winning the National Age group, she qualified for the Junior Championships and with PB after PB she secured the Gold Medal and was crowned British Junior Women's Champion (13-16)! Hollie is 12! Absolutely unbelievable! Huge congratulations from us all at RPS, well done Hollie.

British
Gymnastics



Watch Hollie's winning tumbles here >>

FOLLOW US!



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Tumble & Trampette Competition

The RPS trampolining squad had a very successful day at the recent District Trampette and Tumble Competition at SAADI gymnastics in Redbourn. The squad came home with 42 medals across the competition - more than any other squad competing! This included an impressive 12 gold medals winners and 8 medals for highest overall scores.

As well as a triumphant team display, we had some fantastic individual results - D Allen got the highest trampette score with K Upjohn, and I Wall got the highest tumble score. In addition, K Upjohn had the highest overall score across both apparatus. We also had two double gold medal winners: J Benfield and S Ferris.

Congratulations to everyone who competed and thank you to the squad members and staff who helped with the organising and judging. It was a great day!



RPS Alumni



What is trustworthy machine learning? Is there a way we can 'trick' neural networks with adversarial examples? These questions were explored in a fascinating talk by RPS Alumni Euan Turner, delivered to our Y13 Further Maths students. He showed how tiny, invisible changes to images can completely alter computer interpretation - even mistaking cars for a smiling minion! Students tackled the university-level maths confidently, using input gradients and asking thoughtful questions. Euan, in his final year at Imperial College, also shared advice on writing strong personal statements, offering feedback to the group and individuals. He then spent an hour with Year 12 Further Maths students, offering guidance on A Levels, university choices, and introducing different methods of calculating distance. Euan also made time to support Y12 students with their coding project on boids, helping them explore new possibilities using his coding expertise. Our students are lucky to learn from such a committed and accomplished alumnus. As Euan prepares for doctoral study, we look forward to welcoming him back - as Dr Turner!

Meet our Student Leaders

We're the new Charity Captains — Noorulain, Arianne, and Hannah! This year, we're really excited to be working with our new local charity, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, and we can't wait to support the amazing work they do in our community. We've already had a fantastic start to the year with the Charity Cup, and a huge congratulations to GT for taking home the win! It was great to see everyone getting involved and showing such enthusiasm. Make sure to keep an eye out for Owen's raffle for their House Charity Week - it's a fun way to get involved and help raise money for our amazing charities. Furthermore, for all the latest updates and upcoming charity events, don't forget to check out our new Charity Board around school. Thank you so much for all your support!



Click here & follow us on Instagram!



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:



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!



Please sign up by sending an email to the PTA to keep up to date and/or volunteer!
pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk



Open to students in all year groups

A4, flat image (nothing 3D)

Incorporate the school logo in a creative way

Entries should be handed in to Art 1 in the Christmas Card entry box - ensuring full name & form is written on the back

Deadline is Monday 3 November

The winning design will be this year's Christmas card from our Headteacher!



Costa Rica 2026 Training Weekend

Our three True Adventure teams headed to Braid Wood camping grounds last weekend to meet their True Adventure expedition leaders, get to know each other a little more, practice some safety scenarios and enjoy a beautiful hike in the Chilterns. They were in charge of shopping, cooking and cleaning for their team mates as they camped - and coped! - in quite chilly conditions.

Upon return, True Adventure ran an expedition planning session where the teams were able to select all the things they would like to do and experience in Costa Rica - some have chosen whale watching and salsa, others ziplining and a cooking class. All will take part in a 5 day trek involving both hiking and kayaking, and all will take part in a local environmental project. The excitement levels are rising!

Read all about it...

Vol 37

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RPS is committed to fostering a culture of **reading for learning**, which is why we hold a dedicated **Reading Week** once every half term. This initiative sees all subjects set specific reading tasks, highlighting the value of reading across the entire curriculum. This cross-curricular approach is crucial because it helps students recognise that reading is a fundamental tool for success in all areas of life and learning. When students engage with varied texts from historical sources and scientific articles to mathematical problem descriptions, they develop subject-specific literacy skills and a deeper understanding of content. This moves reading from being just a subject to an essential skill, one they'll rely on constantly after leaving school. Reading builds resilience

because students need to focus for longer periods of time: a skill which is vital for future success. And, by extracting, interpreting, and synthesising information from complex academic texts, they enhance both comprehension and critical thinking skills. They develop the ability to evaluate sources, distinguish fact from opinion, and articulate ideas effectively due to increased exposure to diverse academic vocabulary.

We encourage you to support this ethos at home by emphasising the connection between reading and everyday life. Encourage your child to read widely about topics that genuinely interest them,

whether it's the news, history, coding, or cooking, showing them that reading



presents **2025-2026**

Music Concerts

- TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
- MONDAY 2 MARCH
A LEVEL RECITAL EVENING
- THURSDAY 10 MARCH
GCSE RECITAL EVENING
- TUESDAY 24 MARCH
HSMA SPRING FESTIVAL
- THURSDAY 26 MARCH
SPRING CONCERT
- TUESDAY 14 JULY
KS3 MUSIC SHOWCASE

Sign-Up Now!

GT SLEEPOUT 2025

Fri 14th Nov
Roundwood Park School
 Meet at canteen.
7:30pm - 7am
Year 7, 8 and 9
 (plus SLG)



ARE YOU READY TO BRAVE THE COLD?

Friday 14th November 2025

is the gateway to self-directed learning. By working together, we can ensure our students not only become proficient readers but also confident, independent, and engaged lifelong learners.

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Art Trip to Borough Market

It was a very rainy day but we still had a wonderful time taking our GCSE & Textiles Year 11 students into London to visit the famous Borough Market and Tate Modern recently. They were immersed in the vibrant colours and textures of the market, where they took amazing photographs to support their mock exam unit, before we headed to the Tate where students explored the multitude of ways that artists create and present work. [Here](#) is a selection of some of their wonderful photos!

UPDATE to the Super-Curriculum Programme!

The way students earn a Scholars badge is changing! Each task will now have a number of points attached to it and students need to complete enough tasks to earn 50 points. These can be earned across any subject. In addition, in KS4 and KS5, there is the opportunity to 'Build Your Own Scholars', whereby students can mix and match with the existing super-curriculum or come up with their own tasks that better fits their aspirations e.g. to research medicine. Once the points have been earned, students will complete a Google Form and meet with Dr Duffy to discuss their fantastic work - before being awarded with their Scholars badge by Mrs Barter! Head to our website to find out more > [HERE](#)



RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

Socatots St Albans

We are delighted to welcome a new booking - St Albans Socatots will start on Sunday 9 November from 09:45-10:25am.

Sessions are run by coach Shianne and children can establish coordination, continue bilateral engagement, increase balance and dexterity, explore colours, numbers, and letters, and initiate ball control. It is a great way for youngsters to develop and learn football!

You can book a free taster session [HERE](#)

Check out our social media pages for all of the fantastic camps we have running during October Half Term!

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

Wellbeing Week

Next week our SLG Wellbeing Captains are hosting a number of events and initiatives as part of our Wellbeing Week:

On **Wednesday** in the Wellbeing Hub there will be bracelet making and on **Thursday** Mindful Colouring. On **Friday** students will be invited to draw and write messages in chalk on the basketball court.

Students have also been invited to apply to be a **Wellbeing Ambassador** during assemblies this week. The deadline to apply is **3 November**.

Follow the RPS House System to find out more



The Wellbeing Hub is also opening to offer Exam Support Groups, starting on 3 November. Exam support drop ins will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - on Tuesdays everyone is invited to drop in if they need a chat, to sit quietly or complete a mindful activity.

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

- Music Teacher

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