

RPSROUNDUP

14 November 2025



© Richard Washbrooke Photography



[Click here for Term Dates](#)

Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have been thinking about Remembrance. The entire community came together to honour those who gave their lives in service to our country by observing a two-minute silence which ended beautifully with the playing of the Last Post by one of our Head Students, Tom V. We were once again honoured to welcome Dr John Howie, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire who laid a wreath on behalf of His Majesty the King. Afterwards our House leaders and members of the Student Leadership Government (SLG) gathered for a short remembrance service which included poems and readings by staff and the SLG. House Leaders also laid their beautifully decorated crosses.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting several students who have recently been awarded a scholar's badge. It was wonderful to hear about how they have taken their learning beyond the classroom and independently pursued the subjects they are passionate about. I have really enjoyed finding out just how much they have gained from completing these independent tasks. If your child has not yet completed a scholar's task and you think they would enjoy the challenge, please check out the resources on the school website, [HERE](#).

Today we look forward to the GT Sleep Out with students and staff signed up to take part. We will be sending them our best wishes and hoping the rain isn't quite as heavy as the forecast - students will be sleeping under shelter but this will still be a huge challenge, we think they are brave and brilliant!

Have a lovely weekend.

Katie Barter
Headteacher

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

- 14 Nov - GT Sleep Out
- 19 Nov - Y10 Parent Consultation Eve*
- 19 Nov - Y11 Careers Day
- 24 Nov - House Rugby Begins
- 24 Nov - Y13 Mocks Exams Begin
- 28 Nov - School Closed** Occasional Day
- 2 Dec - Diversity Forum
- 3 Dec - Y12 Careers Day
- 5 Dec - SLG Applications Open
- 8 Dec - KS3 Flu Vaccinations
- 9 Dec - Christmas Concert
- 10 Dec - Senior Citizens' Xmas Party
- 10 Dec - Sportsperson's Dinner
- 12 Dec - Y11 Mock Results Day
- 12 Dec - Head Students Closing Date

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

*virtual

Artificial Intelligence

Following on from the letter sent home to parents recently (read it [HERE](#)), please access further information about AI at the sites below:

- AI Chatbots: [What parents need to know](#)
- AI Chatbots and Deepfakes: [New Developments Parents need to know](#)
- AI Use: [Supporting Children's use of AI](#)

FOLLOW US!

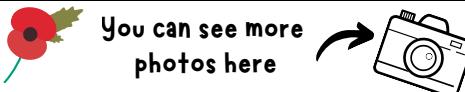


You will also find lots of information on our website:





Remembrance At RPS



We held our Remembrance Service on Tuesday morning and were once again honoured to have Dr John Howie, the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, lay a wreath on behalf of His Majesty the King. Following our whole school 2-minute silence, The Last Post was played beautifully by Head Student Tom V, huge thanks to him and well done to all students for observing the moment so respectfully.

Each year we ask our House Leaders to create a thoughtful design on a cross for each Form that we place in our remembrance garden and, as usual, the designs were creative and truly beautiful. We listened to poignant poems and readings from Mrs Barter, Mrs Tweeddale and members of our SLG, along with a resonating speech from Dr Howie on the relevance of remembrance for young people today, as well as a moving musical backdrop from Oscar T on his guitar.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you for buying poppies for our students to proudly wear on this occasion. We raised an incredible £1321 this year, thank you.



Climate Change Conference

Last week's Year 13 RPS Climate Change Conference was a huge success as students gathered to watch mini documentaries created by our A Level Biologists. A wide range of topics was covered, including carbon emissions, dendrochronology, and the use of modern technology - including the use of drones for reforestation. Fantastic efforts Year 13!

Language Leaders

This month we said 'thank you, arigato, merci' to our outgoing Language Leaders who have completed a year of service. They have been amazing and have passed on the love of languages to so many in our school community.

'Danke, gracias, дякую' to A. Scholey, A. Farnhill, A. Larkins, E. Wilson, I. Wright, T. Marke, I. Hedge, L. Karchenko, C. Wilmot, K. Woolvaardt, S. Farnhill, E. Commandeur, K. Martin and I. Pickford-Cook.

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 9 Language Leaders next term as we work towards our first Primary Language Fair in December.



FOLLOW US!



Careers Corner



Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 19 November

Oaklands School Explorer Trip

Thursday 20 November

Y11 Navigating Your Next Steps

Weds & Thurs 3 & 4 December*

Y12 Future Options – Mock Interviews

Monday 8 December

Y11 Assembly – RPS Sixth Form

*Volunteers Needed!

If you could help with our Y12 mock interviews between 10:45am-3:20pm on Wed 3 December and/or 08:30am-1:20pm on Thurs 4 December, please email careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

THANK YOU!!

What's On:

West Herts College Open Days

Hemel Hempstead

Saturday 15 November, 9.30-12.30

Watford

Saturday 22 November, 9.30-1.30

Book your place in advance >> [HERE](#)

All about T Levels

A webinar for parent/carers to enable them to understand T Levels will take place on 20 November at 3.30pm. The webinar will include guest speakers and information around content to help families feel confident in T Levels as an option. Sign up >> [HERE](#)

Students: Would you like to become a **Member of Youth Parliament?**

For more information
>> [CLICK HERE](#)



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

>> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

You will also find lots of information on our website:





House Music 2025!

Just before half term we enjoyed the epic annual event that is House Music! The Alban Arena was once again bouncing to the beat and there were smiles on everyone's faces as students and staff sang, played and danced the night away. We were blown away (as always) by the sheer talent of our students - whether they were singing, dancing, conducting, playing instruments, hosting or helping backstage - they were all brilliant. We didn't envy the Judges' job and it was all very close, but, our overall **WINNER of House Music 2025 was...**

WILBERFORCE!!

Huge congratulations to Miss Hawkins and her Wilberforce team for lifting the trophy in her first year as Head of House!

We'd like to give **HUGE** thanks to everyone who makes this event happen, too many to mention and you all know who you are - **THANK YOU!**

[Click here to watch the show!](#)
Password: HouseMusic2025!

**Click here for
more photos!**



© Richard Washbrooke Photography



OWENS HOUSE would like to say a MASSIVE thank you for everyone's fundraising efforts during House Music week. The Raffle, as well as other events in school, raised over **£1,600** for our school charities!



GT HOUSE WEEK!

Lots of activities are planned to raise awareness and funds for our amazing school charities. There'll be sweet sales every breaktime, a House Leader team event, and a take over of register and read. We also have the big fete on Wednesday in the sports hall > £3.00 for entry into the inflatable football arena! On Friday students can buy a crepe from Corbiere Crepes!

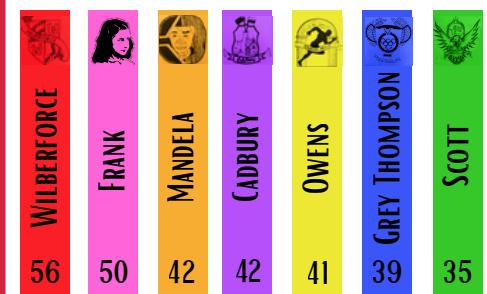
*Please note that due to the update in our mobile phone policy these events will need to be paid for in CASH or with a physical BANK CARD



LINK TO SPONSOR



HOUSE POINTS CURRENT TALLY



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Memorial Trees

The Science Faculty's garden gained two very special additions on Wednesday, November 8th, thanks to a helping hand from some of our Year 13 students. The students planted a pair of memorial trees, an Acer tree honours the memory of Alviar Cohen, a much-loved former student who passed away in 2021. As well as a Magnolia tree which commemorates Janet Titman, our wonderful former science technician who sadly passed away in 2022.

Both trees stand as beautiful, permanent tributes to two cherished members of our school community.

Restart A Heart

Harpdenen Community First Responders came into school just before half term to offer a 'Restart a Heart' training session for staff. The session covered cardiac arrest, and a reminder of how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator. You can find out more about the 'Restart a Heart' campaign [HERE](#)



Meningitis Awareness Campaign

Harpdenen-based mum Kate has been working with our Sixth Form and talking about her own daughter Sophia's experience of meningitis in her first year at the University of Manchester - and she would rather nobody else had to go through this. Sophia never refused a vaccine including the meningitis (ACWY) vaccines offered at school in Year 9. She didn't know that there was another really important vaccine (Meningitis B) that it is wise to have before going to university. 90% of cases of meningococcal bacterial meningitis in the UK are Meningitis B and yet UK teens are not routinely vaccinated against this at school or at the GP. This vaccine needs to be paid for and arranged privately with pharmacies. Kate now volunteers for the charity Meningitis Now to raise awareness and they are currently campaigning to get the Meningitis B vaccine included as part of the NHS offering to teenagers. It has been offered to babies since 2015 but there is no current plan to offer a booster in Year 9 like the other meningitis vaccines, so those babies will not be protected either by the time they go to university.

Kate discussed some examples of students that were not so lucky and that had sadly died or experienced life changing after effects of meningitis. While this is shocking, she stressed that it is relatively rare and that students need to go and enjoy themselves but take with them these important messages:

- Meningitis and septicaemia are life-threatening medical emergencies
- Make sure you know the signs and symptoms to look out for to protect yourself and your friends
- Check your vaccines are up to date and consider adding MenB to your list

Find out more about the campaign [HERE](#)

FOLLOW US!



Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Harpdenen Christmas Carnival](#)
- [Harpdenen Choral Society Concert](#)
- [St Cecilia's concert, St Albans Cathedral](#)
- [St Nicholas Christingle Competition](#)
- [St Nicholas Christmas Festival](#)
- [Harpdenen Gang Show](#)
- [Kings Chamber Orchestra Concert](#)
- [Supporting Links FREE Courses](#)

SEND Surgery 25 November



We would like to offer you an opportunity to virtually meet with Mrs Robson, our Deputy SENDCo, to discuss any SEND concerns you have about your child.

Surgeries take place termly and appointments are offered on a first come, first served basis.

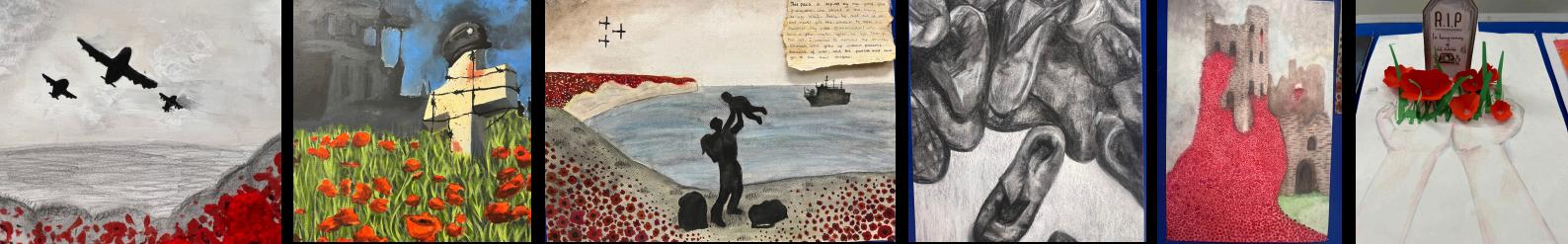
Please note, this is an initial discussion and not a review meeting. Should your concern be urgent, please contact us directly.

Please [click here](#) to sign up for a 15 minute online appointment.



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Remembrance Art Competition

Each year to accompany our Remembrance Day tributes, we launch a House Art Competition on the theme. And each year we are astounded by the skill, creativity and quality of the entries we receive. Thank you and well done to all of our students who entered this year, in particular congratulations to our outstanding winners:

1st - Izzy G, 9M

2nd - Zanthy G, 10W

3rd - Erin O'B, 10W & Elana W, 10F

Best Newcomer - Eddie D, 7M

Commendation - Sebastian F, 8F

See photos of all artwork here



| Christmas Trees |

| Buy a locally grown Xmas Tree |
| Collection/Delivery on 5/6 Dec |
| Prices from £48 |



*£10 donated to the school

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

*select Roundwood Park School when prompted

Read all about it...

Vol 38

14 November 2025

Whole School Read Incoming!

Excitement is building in the library, it is nearly time for our 'Whole School Read' initiative and we cannot wait to share the book we have chosen this year with the whole school community - students, staff and parents.

The aim of the Whole School Read is to promote reading for pleasure, while also highlighting social issues that could affect the lives of our young people. This year's book is highly topical, with one reviewer describing it as "gripping, moving, tense and twisty".

Clear some space in your diary to dive in - you won't want to put it down!

Last year we had a wonderful response to our request to

donate copies of the book for us to share and we are hoping that you will support us again. We want as many students as possible to have access to the book, and we would love to arrange an exciting visit from the author. If you would like to support this, [please go to ParentPay where we are asking for a £6.00 donation towards the cost of the books](#). If we reach our target of book numbers, any additional funds will be used as a contribution to the author visit, and other promotional activities.

Thank you in advance!



| Wreath Making |

| Wednesday, 26 November |

| Join us from 7-9pm |

| £40 includes all materials |

Mince pies! Mulled wine!

Christmas tunes!

Email: pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Please sign up to:



easyfundraising

Select Roundwood Park PTA and the school will receive 'free money' each time you shop online! There is a special bonus offer if you sign up in November!



Please sign up by sending an email to the PTA to keep up to date and/or volunteer!

pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





NEW! Young Enterprise Teams

New Young Enterprise company, **BranchOut**, is on a mission to inspire children to put down their screens and reconnect with the great outdoors. Founded by a passionate group of students, BranchOut aims to promote healthier, happier lifestyles by encouraging young people to enjoy nature through fun and engaging activities. Their first product, an interactive map, offers random, simple outdoor challenges designed to make getting outside both exciting and accessible. From short walks and scavenger hunts to nature-based games, the map provides endless opportunities for children to explore, play, and discover the world around them. BranchOut believes that fresh air and real-world adventures can make a huge difference to wellbeing, creativity, and community spirit. You can meet the BranchOut team and see their interactive map in action at the upcoming Harpenden Christmas Carnival where they will be sharing more about their mission and inviting families to join the movement towards a more active, screen-free lifestyle.



Adventure is calling!

W: yebranchout.com I: @officialbranchout TT: official.branchout X: off_branchout

Turning Routines into Roots

Hi Roundwood community! We are **RELEAF**, one of this year's Young Enterprise teams, and we are excited to announce that our product - a mindfulness habit tracker - is coming soon! You will be able to buy our book at the Harpenden Christmas Market on the 23rd November (12pm-6pm). Please follow our website and social media to find out more:



W: releafye.com, I: @releaf.ye



BOYS HOUSE RUGBY!
Week Commencing 24 November
Monday - Year 8
Tuesday - Year 7
Wednesday - Year 9
Wednesday 3 December - Year 10



plus
Students should come to school in kit - including clean layers to travel home in!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Tues 16 December: Years 7-11
 Wed 17 December: Sixth Form
 £4.00pp Pay by: Tues 28 Nov
 Read more [HERE!!!](#)

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Can you help make our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party extra special? If you can donate any new, unopened items such as candles, biscuits, mince pies, chocolates etc to make hampers for our guests to take away we would be extremely grateful! Please send in donations with students, or drop off in Reception, before Tuesday, 9 December.

THE RPS SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY IS BACK!
Wed 10 December
[MORE INFO HERE!](#)



FOLLOW US! →



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Anti Bullying Week

A host of lovely, inclusive events have been taking place throughout this week in recognition of Anti Bullying Week. Our student-led activities have included drama workshops, friendship bracelet making, refreshing the messages on our 'positivity pebbles', creating a path of kind words and messages and today, a fabulous display of anti bullying photographs taken and submitted by our students. A huge well done to our Wellbeing Captains and the rest of the SLG for creating such an uplifting timetable of events and spreading the message of kindness across RPS.

Year 10 Music Trip

We took our Year 10 music students to a concert at the Royal Festival Hall last week and they had such a great time. The wonderful London Philharmonic Orchestra played everything from a Brandenburg Concerto by Bach to Mission Impossible! It was a fantastic day out.



RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

BOUNCY CASTLE PARTIES AT RPS SPORTS CENTRE

Let us entertain your child and their friends! We have three fun and exciting Bouncy Castles that all offer something different. We cater for children from 2-12 years. Your party will last for 2 hours, this will include 1 hour 15 minutes of play time on the castles and then 45 minutes in a dining facility for food.

Obstacle Course & Bouncy Castle Party:
up to a max of 30 children - **£235.00 (Inc VAT)**

Obstacle Course & Bouncy Castle Party:
up to a max of 40 children - **£265.00 (Inc VAT)**

Obstacle Course & Bouncy Castle Party with Sports Arena:
up to a max of 40 children - **£295.00 (Inc VAT)**



OFFER - a saving of **£30.00** is applied if you book the 5-7pm slot (Saturday only).

For more information, or any enquiries at all, please contact the Lettings office on: **01582714019** or email: lettings@roundwoodpark.co.uk

RPS Sports Centre Team

Follow us on social media! →



>>> Click for our **AUTUMN CLUBS** programme <<<

Wellbeing@RPS



Take a look at November's webinars on the ToolledUp website > [HERE](#)

Read this week's Newsletter > [HERE](#)



Sign up for this **Bold Voices** webinar by emailing h.semple@roundwoodpark.co.uk to receive your free code & link

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 Science, CERN, Switzerland](#)

[April 26 - KS3/4 Netball Tour, Swindon](#)

[June 26 - Y8 MFL, France & Germany](#)

[Feb 27 - Y11-13 Geography, Iceland](#)

[April 27 - All Years Ski Trip, Jay Peak, USA](#)

VACANCIES

- We currently have no vacancies

Join our talent pool << [HERE](#) >>