

RPSROUNDUP

30 January 2026



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

It has been an action-packed two weeks! Not only did we finally see the outcome of months of rehearsal and preparations lead to an amazing run of 'Legally Blonde' performances but we have also hosted the 'Vape Brain' sculpture featuring boxes of seized illegal vapes, held Head Student elections, achieved success at the Zonal Trampolining competition in Cardiff and awarded each Year 7 Bully Free Form status!



[Click here for Term Dates](#)

- Thanks to Ms Mooney for securing the 'Vape Brian' sculpture and helping each tutor group to learn about the impact of vaping on their health.
- Congratulations to all of our Head Student candidates who ran a great campaign. From their speeches at the hustings to their videos for the form voting it was evident that they had put their hearts and souls into their campaigns. It was a tight contest and I'm delighted that Ed, Tom, Peggy and Chloe will be leading our Student Leadership Group next year. Well done to all involved.
- Cara-May was excellent in the lead role of 'Legally Blonde' but she had an excellent cast supporting her and a huge amount of help from an amazing backstage team. In particular thanks to Mr Garbutt, Mrs McPhun and Mr Desborough for their months of hard work and preparation!
- Well done to our trampolining squad on securing their place at the National Finals. With all 21 gymnasts qualifying, this achievement is a clear testament to their months of disciplined training. We are grateful to Mrs and Miss Moxham for their dedicated coaching and support.

Finally, congratulations to all Year 7 tutor groups for achieving 'Bully Free Form' status! The quality of their evidence portfolios and the maturity of their presentations were truly impressive. A huge thank you to Ms Mooney, Mrs Cunningham, and our judges for providing the students with this opportunity to showcase their commitment to a kind school community.

Have a nice weekend.

Katie Barter
Headteacher

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

What's On

- 2 Feb - Reading Week
- 2 Feb - Y11&12 Oxbridge Info Eve*
- 5 Feb - House Drama
- 6 Feb - 6th Form Application Deadline
- 9 Feb - National Apprenticeship Week
- 10 Feb - Careers Insight Evening*
- 11 Feb - Non Uniform Day
- 12 & 13 Feb - INSET DAYS
- 16-20 Feb - HALF TERM *virtual
- 23 Feb - Back to School
- 26 Feb - Y9 KS4 Options Evening
- 26 Feb - New SLG Training Day
- 2 Mar - Y11 Core Mock Exams

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

Email Mrs Ithier for more info:
p.ithier@roundwoodpark.co.uk



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Introducing our New Head Students

Hi I'm **Peggy** and I've been at Roundwood since Year 7. I've loved getting involved with every aspect of school life, especially sporting events and House competitions. I'm currently studying Biology, Chemistry and PE. I'm really excited to be a Head Student here at RPS and can't wait to see what we can achieve in the next year! I hope to inspire younger students to take every opportunity that comes their way and make the most of school life. I am approachable and a friendly face around school who people can come to at any time.

Hi I'm **Chloe** - I'm so proud to have the opportunity to be one of the Head Students this year! I have always tried to get involved wherever I can and have made the most of all aspects of school since joining in Year 7, from sports to academics where I am currently studying Biology, Psychology, Maths and AS Further Maths. Alongside the other Head Students I hope to act as representative and a voice for all students whilst being someone who is always there to offer a helping hand. I'm particularly looking forward to being able to get stuck into events such as Sports Day and House Music and can't wait to see what we can do as Head Students this year!

Hi everyone, I'm **Ed**, thank you so much for voting for me! As you may already know I've been heavily involved in many events during my time at school so I'm looking forward to seeing you all at House, school and external events in the coming year. I'm studying Maths, Economics and Business for my A Levels and play many sports for the school. Feel free to come say hi, ask questions or come for a chat if you need anything!

Hello there, I'm **Tom**. It's been wonderful to be given this opportunity. From the moment I arrived [in Year 12], I've felt incredibly welcomed and have really enjoyed becoming part of such a supportive and vibrant school. I am currently studying Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Computer Science. I am extremely proud to be one of this year's RPS Head Students and excited for the opportunities this role brings. I wish to give back to the school by representing student voices, supporting school events and helping to create a positive and inspiring environment. I hope we can work together to make this year a great one for everyone!

We would like to take the opportunity to say WELL DONE to all of our Head Student candidates, what a phenomenally strong field it was! We are immensely proud of all of the students who took part in the process and of how they conducted themselves with dignity, maturity and professionalism. Their love for their school community was displayed in spades and every single one of them would make an outstanding Head Student. We look forward to working with them all in some capacity in our next SLG.

The next stage in our SLG recruitment process is the elections of our House and School Captains. We will announce the full SLG 26-27 before the end of half term.



Careers Corner



Upcoming RPS Events:

10 February, 6-7pm - VIRTUAL Careers Insight Event - All About Apprenticeships

As part of National Apprenticeship Week (9-15 Feb) we will be hosting a Careers Insight session, 'All About Apprenticeships', with guest speakers from alumni who have successfully secured apprenticeships. Please complete the google form if you would like to attend/would like a recording of the webinar > [HERE](#)

25 February - Y9 PAL Assembly

26 February - KS4 Options Evening

2 Feb-7 Mar - National Careers Week

17 March - Y10 Careers Investigators Day

19 March - Sir John Lawes Career Fair

26 March - Y12 Future Options - University vs Apprenticeships

National Careers Week - 2-7 March

Volunteers Needed!

Would you be interested in talking to students about your profession and career path? If so we would love to hear from you - please email us: careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Y10 Careers Investigator Day

17 March

Volunteers Needed!

Could you spend a morning with our Y10 students, answering their questions about your job role from the below listed sectors? Please email us: careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Healthcare/Engineering/Science & Research/Law & Legal/Travel & Tourism/Computing/Environmental & Land/Beauty & Wellbeing

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE EVENTS!](#)

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Legally Blonde The Musical JR

We are still basking in the afterglow of the incredible shows last week! We were all blown away by the talent, dedication, enthusiasm and just plain joy emanating from that stage - and behind it. **HUGE** thanks to Mr Garbutt for his complete and utter devotion to this production and the passion with which he does it. Special thanks to Mrs McPhun and INCREDIBLE student musicians, if you came along you will know how utterly fabulous they were, and to Mr Desborough for orchestrating everything off stage so that everything on stage was perfect.

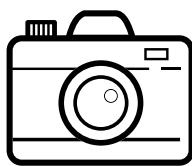
Mr Garbutt has a few words...

"I don't know what else to say other than how incredibly proud I am of all the cast and crew and what a brilliant show it has been to put together. Thank you to every single person involved for their time, effort, contributions, well-wishes and for everyone's support. Thanks also to the legendary parents who stuck around after the show to help us take the set apart after the final show, it made Saturday a much easier day for Mr D and I! We are exhausted, but incredibly proud of what we made and the effect it has had on the school community in the last couple of weeks. There is always a sadness in taking everything apart and returning the school hall to its day-to-day functionality, but it is made a little easier by remembering the bits of magic that we all felt last week. Huge amounts of love and appreciation for all involved".

Our cast and crew have also written some words of reflection and we wanted to share those with you too, it's safe to say some lifelong school memories have been made in the production of Roundwood Park's Legally Blonde The Musical JR

 **CLICK HERE** 

**YOU CAN SEE LOTS
MORE PHOTOS FROM
THE SHOW HERE!**



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Team Maths Competition

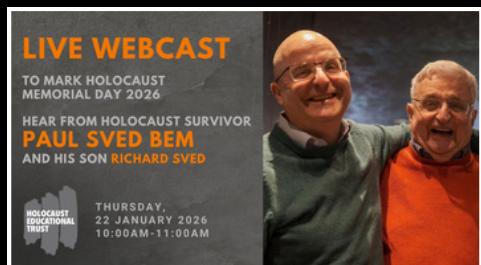
Six of our Year 12 Further Mathematicians recently entered the Ritangle Team Competition, a national mathematical competition for current A Level students. The competition lasted for two months and 1,854 teams from across the country took part. Each week team RPS would meet in their free time to discuss that week's problem, having fascinating debates about what the answer should be. They would then use that week's answer to unlock the following week's question. Their combined mathematical prowess led them all the way to the final stage of the competition.

Congratulations to R Amelines, J Stocks, A Wright, C Smith, L Townsend and D Stacy-St Roas on a very impressive performance!

If you would like to have a go, take a look at some of the questions > [HERE!](#)



Holocaust Memorial Day



Our Year 9 students had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Paul Sved Bem, and engage in a meaningful question and answer session via webcast last week as the Holocaust Educational Trust marked this year's Memorial Day. You can watch a recording of the webcast > [HERE](#)

In addition, Y13 students Harrison and James had the privilege of visiting Auschwitz as part of their studies last year. They wrote [THIS ARTICLE](#) about what they learned, from individual stories to the contemporary relevance of the topic.

You will also find lots of information on our website:





Bully Free Form

We are so proud of our Year 7 students who all achieved their 'Bully Free Form' status this week. They have been working hard in PSHCE lessons and form time, putting together portfolios of work against bullying and spent a morning this week presenting this in the form of poems, raps, role plays, art and more to our official assessors. They all did this with confidence, maturity and a real understanding of the importance of the process.

We would like to say well done to all of them and also say a huge thank you to our assessors - staff, Governors and members of our SLG - for taking the time to support this very important RPS initiative.

SEND Surgery - Monday, 9 February

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.



ART & DESIGN Springterm
Spotlight **WHAT'S GOING ON IN ART**
year 8!!
DAVID HOCKNEY INSPIRED DIGITAL LANDSCAPES

Year 8 have been working exceptionally hard on a home learning these last few weeks and have produced some outstanding digital landscapes inspired by famous Artist David Hockney!! See more of their work on the RPS Art hub!

This term our year 10 students have been starting the Growth and Decay unit of their coursework and we are seeing some wonderful work start to emerge!!! Check out the link here to our school art hub to see more of their work!!

<https://sites.google.com/roundwoodpark.co.uk/rps-art-department?usp=sharing>

[Check out this link to see the RPS gallery and more information about our Art Department](#)

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Short Film Competition, Harpenden](#)
- [Services For Young People - YouthZone](#)
- [Getting on with your Teen/Preteen](#)
- [Family Traveller Live](#)
- [Tutoring Service - Dunstable](#)
- [Apply for Junior Bake Off](#)
- [JP Pro Training Camp](#)
- [Pilates for Teens](#)

Walk Eat Talk Eat

Our Year 12 & 13 food science and nutrition students went on a "Walk Eat Talk Eat" food tasting tour in Spitalfields and Brick Lane recently. Their amazing guide, Eddie Weaver, took them to a range of food producers where our students learnt about the history and cultural influences in the area and got to do some tasting - including a Sri Lankan street food (Kara Pin Cha), Humble Crumble, a Bangladeshi deli, an amazing chocolate shop called Dark Sugars and Bagel Bake (the oldest bagel shop in London). A brilliant day out!



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Trampolining Zonal Competition

Our trampoline squad headed to Cardiff last weekend after qualifying to compete in the BSGA Zonal Championships. All teams performed brilliantly resulting in all 21 gymnasts qualifying for the National Finals in Derby in March. In fact, all 5 teams were crowned Zonal Champions 🎉

A breakdown of the results and achievements:

7-9 Girls Novice Champions - 1st Sienna W, 5th Joanna B, plus Daisy A & Maya B

7-9 Boys Intermediate Champions - 1st Seb F, 4th Finlay A-S, 6th Hugh

7-9 Boys Elite - 2nd Miles M

10-14 Girls Novice Champions - 1st Izzy W, 2nd Kiki U, 5th Molly L plus Lexie W

10-14 Girls Intermediate Champions - 1st Isabel W, 2nd Chloe W, 3rd Izzi T, 7th Demi N

10-14 Boys Intermediate Champs - 1st Tom D, 2nd Teddy S, 3rd Ruan H, 6th

Samuel D

10-14 Boys Advanced - 1st Jamie B

This means we have: 6 Individual Zonal Champions / 4 Zonal Runners Up / 2

Zonal 3rd Placed Individuals / 3 Individual Places Qualified!

Well done to everyone involved - and huge thanks as always to Mrs Moxham, Miss Mullally and Miss Moxham as well the rest of our PE team - legends.

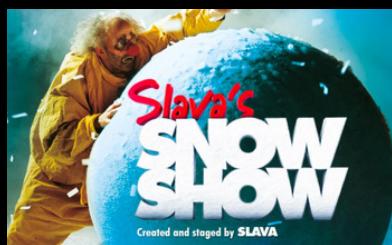


CURTAIN CALL

Local live theatre



The Marriage of Figaro
8-14 February
The Abbey Theatre
St Albans



Thursday 5 February DS2
| 3.30 - 4.45pm |
Sign-up via Parent Pay - £2.50
| Popcorn & drinks provided |

FOLLOW US!



HOUSE NETBALL!

The rest of our annual House Netball Competition played out over these last 2 weeks and we have enjoyed a fantastic show from all of our players - and supporters - no matter the weather (and there has been a lot of weather!).

Huge congratulations to our winners:

SCOTT - Year 7

CADBURY - Year 8

GT - Year 10

And thanks as always to our brilliant PE team Miss Mullally, Miss Ellis & Mrs Porter and amazing student helpers.



Brew Monday



Rebranding 'Blue Monday' RPS style - welcome to 'Brew Monday'. Popcorn, cakes, cuppas and a catch up at breaktime to banish the blues. Thank you to our brilliant Wellbeing team ❤️



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Vape Brain Sculpture

Last week we were delighted to host the 'Vape Brain' sculpture. A work of art designed by 19 year old Milena Melnychenko, and made by her fellow 3D design students from Hertford Regional College in Ware. Made from boxes of seized illegal vapes it is touring schools in Hertfordshire to highlight the impact nicotine dependency has on mental health - and how the flavours and package designs of vapes are aimed at attracting young people.

Every student in the school visited the Vape Brain and our PSHCE lessons were centred around the issue and the dangers they pose to teenagers. You can take a look at our Student Presentation > [HERE](#). You can also read the BBC News Article about the sculpture > [HERE](#). And read about the Hertfordshire Health campaign > [HERE](#)

Read all about it...

Vol 42

30 January 2026

Introducing the National Year of Reading 2026

In all the excitement of the launch of our Whole School Read (have you read it yet?) we only now have time to tell you that the government has designated 2026 as a National Year of Reading – something we absolutely support here at RPS!

This year we will have lots going on to celebrate reading in all its forms, and also to encourage those who are perhaps more reluctant readers so we can help everyone discover a love of reading. Remember that audiobooks, e-books, magazines and newspapers all count as reading!

The National Year of Reading encourages us all to Go All In by reading more about the things we love, to "reconnect

reading with the things that already inspire us – from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time."

This week Year 7 had the opportunity to watch a virtual lesson with author Tom Palmer, who shared how his love of football was fundamental to his journey from non-reader to award-winning author. From football magazines and match reports, via the history of the animosity between Real Madrid and Barcelona, to history and travel writing, his reading led him to becoming an author and the abundance of amazing experiences that he shared with the students.



PARK AWAY

We have recently linked up with [Modeshift](#) who work to support, inspire, and champion organisations to deliver sustainable travel interventions and strategies. We are therefore asking our community to be thoughtful drivers and please **PARK AWAY** to keep the area around our school safer for everyone.



| 2nd Hand Uniform Shop |

| Saturday, 21 March |

1.00pm-2.30pm

PRICE LIST

| Quiz Night 2026 |

| Saturday, 21 March |

SAVE THE DATE!

More info coming soon

Please sign up to:

 [easyfundraising](#)

Select Roundwood Park PTA and the school will receive 'free money' each time you shop online!



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

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STEM Racing

This week we were excited to send two teams to Norwich for the Regional Finals of the Stem Racing UK competition (formally known as F1 in Schools). This year RPS Racing were set to compete in the Professional Class after reaching the National Finals last year. We also had our second team and competition newcomers 'Falcora Racing' competing in the Development Class.

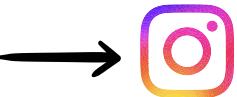
Both teams had a great day and represented themselves and our schools superbly, the amount of time and effort they put into this racing programme is incredible, We want to say a huge WELL DONE to them all. Read their race report here:

RACE REPORT



Thank you to those in our community who have sponsored our teams and to our brilliant staff for being their biggest supporters!

Follow the teams on social media!



RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

Next Thing Education - [LINK](#)

We are delighted to welcome a new camp to RPS this February half term! Next Thing Education offer a tech camp for children aged 5-11. From coding to Minecraft engineering, it certainly seems like it will be a great way to keep your children entertained in the holidays.

What's included?

Bot Builders & Coders
Ingenious Inventors
LEGO Engineering
Minecraft & Expert Engineers...and so much more!



Prices are £39.99 per day or £175 for the full 5 days! There are limited spaces available and filling fast — don't miss out.

Full details can be found on the poster >> [HERE](#)

For queries about our February Half Term Clubs, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us in the Lettings Office - 01582714019

We hope to see you in February Half Term!

Follow us on social media!



NEW

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

Wellbeing@RPS



For a balanced update on both the digital risks and benefits young people are now exposed to, watch the [TooledUp](#) webinar [Digital Risks and Harms Affecting Teens: Tips for Parents](#) where forensic psychologist Dr Aiman El Asam explores the emerging challenges. If you are unsure of your login details contact admin@roundwoodpark.co.uk
Read this week's Newsletter > [HERE](#)

Residential Trips



- [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 - Y9 Euro Space Centre, Belgium](#)
- [June 26 - Y8 MFL, France & Germany](#)
- [July 26 - Y12 Geography, Liverpool](#)
- [September 26 - Y13 Cranedale Centre](#)
- [Feb 27 - Y11-13 Geography, Iceland](#)
- [April 27 - All Years Ski Trip, Jay Peak, USA](#)
- [April 27 - Y8&9, PE, Holland](#)

VACANCIES

- Head of English
- Maths Teacher

Head to our website for more information << [HERE](#) >>