

RPS ROUNDUP

24 April 2026



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Easter. Well done to all those who completed their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition over the Easter holidays. It was fantastic to see over 120 students successfully planning and navigating the Chilterns; they showed incredible spirit, learning new skills and no doubt demonstrating great resilience. I hold fond memories of completing my own DofE expedition at school, so I know how much this experience stays with you! A heartfelt thanks goes to Mr Desborough and the entire DofE team including staff, parents and alumni who so generously give up their time to make trips such as this happen.

The Year 10s have come back straight into their mock exams. Their conduct and attitude have been exemplary so far. We await the results which will give them the required feedback on the next steps in their journey towards gaining the GCSE grades they wish for.

Thanks to Mrs Casey, Head Students and Mandela House captains for organising and leading our annual 'Roundwood's Got Talent' which took place last Wednesday. A huge well done to Talulah in Year 7 for her winning performance.

Last Thursday was a truly special occasion as we hosted our annual Year 14 Award Evening. It was so lovely to welcome back the Class of 2025 to collect their certificates and subject prizes. Seeing our former students and their families again was fantastic. The students were delighted to see their 2025 Destination Board in the hall foyer. When you next visit the school, please do take a moment to look at it; it is a proud testament to the diverse and exciting paths our leavers have embarked upon. I would like to thank the Sixth Form team for their excellent organisational skills and congratulate Robert F, the very well-deserved winner of the Head of Sixth Form Award.

Have a lovely weekend.

Katie Barter
Headteacher



What's On

[Click here for Term Dates](#)

- 27 Apr - Scott HOUSE Week
- 30 Apr - Spring Concert
- 4 May - **BANK HOLIDAY**
- 6 May - Y11 Leavers' Day
- 7 May - GCSE Exams begin
- 7 May - Junior Maths Challenge
- 8 May - Y13 Leavers' Day
- 11 May - A Level Exams begin
- 11 May - Reading Week
- 11 May - SLG Curriculum Week
- 18 May - Wilberforce HOUSE Week
- 19 May - Y11 Work Shadowing Day
- 19 May - Y7 & Y8 Exams begin
- 22 May - Sports Day
- 23 May - Gold DofE Practice Expedition
- 25-29 May - HALF TERM**
- 1 Jun - Back to School

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

Smartphone Survey

An email was sent home to all RPS families this week, we would be very grateful if you could spare 5 minutes to complete a short survey regarding their use of smartphones [HERE](#). Your feedback will directly inform our wellbeing programs, and how we address digital citizenship within our whole school community.

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

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You will also find lots of information on our website:





Netball Tour

What a weekend! We took 50 of our KS3 & 4 netballers to sunny Swindon last weekend for a fabulous few days of netball and adventure at the PGL site in Liddington. We had the best time with lots of new memories made.

Not only were the girls playing lots of games, they were also enjoying the giant swing, climbing wall, abseiling, zip lining, archery and the legendary silent disco!

Tour awards were also presented:

- 2 teams PGL Netball Champions (Year 8 & Year 9)
- 2 teams PGL Runners Up (Year 8 & Year 10)
- Players of Saturday: **Reeves, Wright, Dyer, Zahreddine, Roberts, Neville and M Rye**
- Players of Sunday: **Wing, Animashaun, Murphy, Hall, Dickens, Merritt and Monti Pellerini**
- Overall players of the tournament: **Williams, Firmin, Hawkins, Hunt, Jackman, Ayres Rocha, Roberts and Devlin**
- Legend of the Tour: this had to go to **Hamilton-Watson** for her enthusiasm, passion and energy all weekend!



We would like to thank the girls for being outstanding all weekend. And thank you to the amazing staff for giving up their weekend to support this trip, we couldn't do it without them.

HEAD TO PE ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE DETAILS & PHOTOS >>



German Film Competition Winners!

You may remember our students' successful entries into the inaugural 'German Film Competition for Schools', launched by Harpenden's German Town Twinning Association, the Friends of Alzey. We are delighted to share that **Seb F & Ernest H**, both from Y8, were awarded the winners trophy for their short film entitled 'Darf ich.....vorstellen?' (May I introduce.....). Seb and Ernest, introduced 'Jeff', a character with a practical solution to every problem. The three independent judges were very impressed with their use of the German language, the film techniques they applied and the students' originality.

In addition, RPS secured the Runners Up spot too with **Poppy D-C, Hatice D and Grace M** (also from Y8) introducing 'Gracies' Zauberschau' in a lively magic show.

Harpenden's Deputy Mayor, Kirsti Wenn, presented the students with their certificates and prizes at a ceremony in Harpenden's Town Hall. Well done all!



Careers Corner



Upcoming RPS Events:

- 14 May - Y10 West Herts College PAL Assembly
- 19 May - Y10 Work Shadowing Day
- 16 June - Y8 PAL Assembly

Call Out for Work Experience Placements!

If you or your organisation may be able to offer any of our Y12 students work placements during the week 29 June-3 July, please contact us on careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk. We are especially looking for placements in dentistry, medical, finance, engineering and media. Thank you.

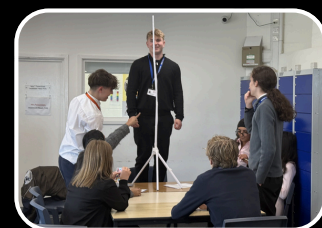
Reminder - Y10 Parents - Please complete the **GOOGLE FORM** by 27 April for the work shadowing day.

Reminder - Y12 Parents - Please enter work placement details into Unifrog by Monday 27 April. Watch info video **HERE**

CLICK HERE FOR MORE EVENTS!

Year 12 Careers Activities

Our Y12 students have had a busy couple of weeks in terms of Careers support as we welcomed Alison Moore from the University of Hertfordshire, who delivered an interactive talk on 'What Course, What University'. They then took part in a mock Assessment Centre, having a go at psychometric, numerical and verbal reasoning tests before getting creative in various team building tasks. Lastly, this week they went on a trip to Brunel University of London to visit their University & Apprenticeship Fair.



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DofE Silver Practice Expeditions

121 Year 10 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition over the Easter holidays! They successfully planned and navigated hikes across the beautiful Chilterns, learned new camping skills and mastered the art of cooking on a trangia.

Thank you to our volunteer DofE leadership team - which includes staff, alumni and parents from our community, you're all brilliant and we couldn't do it without you! If you would like to volunteer to help on our next DofE expeditions - we have Silver Qulaifications coming up in June - please send an email to m.desborough@roundwoodpark.co.uk



MORE PHOTOS HERE >>

Senior Athletics Championships

Our senior squad took to the track on Wednesday with fantastic results, including the breaking of two District records!

Our girls team finished in joint 1st place, and the boys in 3rd, so overall we finished 2nd behind a very good Sandringham team. Well done to everyone, they all played their part in a fantastic day of athletics.

Huge congratulations to our Individual Champions:

- Turner** (hurdles)
- Kenny** (hurdles & triple jump)
- Moseley** (100m)
- Martin** (200m)*District record
- Wright** (300m)
- West** (triple jump)
- Davies** (discus)
- Girls relay (**Turner, Owen, Iweka, Martin**) *District record



In addition, we would like to add a huge thank you to those students who competed in an RPS No. 12 vest for the last time this week. It's been an absolute joy to watch, support and guide them through the years. Their quality and their attitude to the track will be much missed.

House Dance

We held our annual KS3 House Dance competition recently and it was fantastic to see so many students involved! They all performed brilliantly and everyone enjoyed the show. The results are as follows:

- 1st Frank
- 2nd Cadbury
- 3rd Wilberforce
- 4th GT
- 5th Owens
- 6th Mandela & Scott



Tickets on sale via ParentPay now!

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Family Lives Workshops Summer Term](#)
- [Meningitis Research Fundraiser](#)
- [Sustainable St Albans Street Party](#)
- [Children's Wellbeing Workshops](#)
- [Managing Emotions Workshop](#)
- [Calling All Young Entrepreneurs!](#)
- [Luton Made: Vauxhall Free Exhibition](#)
- [Coram Family Lives Workshop SEN](#)
- [Jigsaw Arts - Performing Arts](#)
- [Arriva New Mobile App for Students](#)
- [BeeZee Families Lifestyle Programmes](#)

Please refer to the letter sent home **HERE** for more information. The deadline is Friday 1 May.

Have you ever considered becoming a **School Governor?**

GOVERNANCE@RPS

You don't have to be an expert in education to be a school governor

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role

Make a real difference and give back to your community

ROUNDWOOD PARK

Spring

CONCERT

THURSDAY, 30 APRIL

START 7 PM / REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

MAIN SCHOOL HALL

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Class of 25 Celebration Evening

It was wonderful to welcome our class of 2025 back into school last week to celebrate their post 16 achievements and have a catch up on life since they left RPS. We congratulated each and every student as we awarded them with their A Level and BTEC certificates while we enjoyed music from Owen B on the piano, an incredible rendition of 'Once You Lose Your Heart' by Sophie P and a couple of brilliant numbers from school rock bands Fusion and Offset.

We enjoyed hearing from our 24-25 Head Students, Benji and Eloise, and it felt like old times as they welcomed everyone to the event. Our heads of department presented an award for each subject, recognising not only exam success, but skills and attributes of our Roundwood Park Leaver, such as resilience, curiosity and motivation. Well done to all of our winners.

Then came the special awards, for those students who have made a profound and lasting impact on our school:

- Sixth Form Endeavour Award:** Mohammed H, Rachel G & Lucy B
- Head of Sixth Form Award:** Robert F
- Liana Hoyland Shining Star Award:** Alfie H
- Governors' Award:** Ruby W

[MORE PHOTOS HERE >>](#) 

Well done to all of our students, now Alumni, it was absolutely wonderful to have them, and their families, back in the building. We wish them all the very best for their shining futures ahead and look forward to seeing them back at RPS for a visit, or maybe a careers event, they are welcome anytime!

Meet the SLG

Hi everyone, we're your new Extra Curricular Captains: **Amber, Edie-Bo & Leo!**



We're really excited to introduce some new ideas this year to help encourage more students to get involved in extracurricular activities and make the most of everything on offer. With the [new summer timetable](#) just launched, it's a great opportunity for everyone to try something new, develop skills and have fun outside the classroom.

We're currently preparing for Sports Day and are looking forward to making it a really inclusive and energetic event that everyone can enjoy. Alongside this, we hope to promote a wider variety of clubs, celebrate student achievements and make sure there's something for everyone, no matter your interests.

In our roles, we want to focus on increasing participation and creating a positive and welcoming environment across all activities. We'll be working closely with staff and students to ensure clubs are engaging and rewarding.

We're really looking forward to the year ahead and can't wait to see more of you getting involved!

Don't forget to give our SLG a follow on our House System Instagram page!  

House Basketball

We played the rest of our House Basketball tournaments before the Easter break and they were all enjoyed with a lovely level of friendly competition - and lots of enthusiastic support!

Our Year 7 winners were: **SCOTT HOUSE**

Year 8 top spot went to: **MANDELA HOUSE**

Year 9 winners were: **SCOTT HOUSE**



Well done to everyone for getting involved, and huge thanks as always to our awesome PE team.

Young Carers Offer

From 1 April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council will be bringing support for young carers in-house, when the young carer contract with Carers in Hertfordshire comes to an end, integrating it fully within the council's services.

The existing Carers in Hertfordshire contract for adult carers will remain in place.

Work has been ongoing with young carers, families and professionals to make sure the change is smooth, and the support will continue and stay very similar. This includes assessments, help with managing caring responsibilities, regular reviews, ensuring the voices of young carers inform the support they receive, and support in preparing for adulthood.

A new [Young Carers webpage](#) has been developed in collaboration with young carers and their families and includes information about the support available, team contact details, and 'a Day in the Life of' form to register a young carer online so that we can ensure they can get the support they need.

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Gym & Dance Display

Just before Easter we held our annual Gym & Dance display here at school. It was a beautiful action packed hour of gym and dance covering lots of styles and with students of all ages. It was an absolutely joy to watch!

Huge thanks to Mrs Moxham, Miss Mullally, Mrs Porter & Miss Moxham for all of their hard work in organising this wonderful event.



GB Tumble Sensation!

Hollie G in Year 8 recently represented GB at the European Championships in Portugal, and was a sensation! She helped the junior GB tumblers to an amazing silver medal, and finished in 4th place as an individual! We are extremely proud of you Hollie and can't wait to see what's next!



IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL FRANK HOUSE EVENT - BATTLE OF THE BANDS! - STUDENTS CAN SIGN UP NOW!



THANK YOU!

| Quiz Night & Raffle |

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Quiz Night, and /or bought a raffle ticket. Together we raised a fantastic **£3,000!**

| 2nd Hand Uniform Sale |
Saturday, 11 July

SAVE THE DATE!

ONLINE SUMMER SHIRT ORDERS

We would like to offer you the opportunity to order summer shirts online - pls email pta@roundwoodpark.co.uk with size/quantity and choice of fitted or loose. Cost is £3 per shirt.

FOLLOW US ON OUR NEW INSTAGRAM PAGE!



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

Inter Schools Debate Competition

We took part in the annual Harpenden Inter Schools Debate competition at St George's School recently - with fantastic results! Year 8 students **Mimi R** and **Effie D** won their round and the award for 'Best Junior Debate Team', while **Lucia K** and **Grace McG** won their round in the Intermediate category - which was really impressive as they were up against students in an older year group. We're really proud of them all, well done!



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Y8 STEM Workshop

Our Year 8 scientists had a fantastic day as the charity, SmallPiece, visited us to deliver a STEM workshop last week. The session focused on AI robotics, and students learned how to code and interact with their team's robot in order to complete tasks and challenges - such as mastering a maze and scoring goals in a mini game of football. The teams were then tasked to create and produce a marketing package for a company they would create and how AI robots would operate within their business. Students presented their pitch to the room and they were all brilliant! They spoke so confidently and passionately about their project. Although difficult, our visitors did manage to choose a winning team, so extra congratulations go to **Jensen P, Josh F, Daniel H and Matthew H.**

We are grateful to SmallPiece for delivering this workshop, and to our science team for arranging these experiences for our students, they are exactly the kind of days that spark a lifelong interest in engineering!

Let's Go Zero!



We were thrilled to welcome **Let's Go Zero** to our Climate Action Group meeting yesterday. In a session dedicated to reviewing our sustainability journey and sparking new ideas for the future, we had the chance to show off the amazing work our community is doing, specifically:

- ♻️ Our Waste Recycling Campaign, with our new recycling bins
- ☀️ Our annual 'Day in the Dark' to reduce energy consumption
- 🌻 Our School Garden, which is becoming a thriving hub for local biodiversity

It's not just about what we've done, though - it's also about where we're going, and we have some great ideas and plans, watch this space!



Read all about it...

Vol 46

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Carnegies Shadowing Group Kicks Off!

The shortlisted books for the Carnegies Medal for Writing were announced in March, with the chosen books covering a variety of themes including identity, belonging, relationships, and the meaning of home. At Roundwood Park our Shadowing Group has officially kicked off with a bang! There were plenty of strong opinions being shared as we dived in to a discussion on the first book this week. The Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved book awards for children and young people. Shadowing gives students a unique opportunity to engage with outstanding books and experience a national book award from the inside as they are invited to read, discuss, and review the books, helping them to develop reading for

pleasure, critical thinking, and confidence in sharing their opinions. After we have read and discussed all the books, we will add our vote to those of the thousands of other reading groups in schools and libraries across the UK for the Shadower's Choice Award, which is as coveted by the authors as the Medal for Writing.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of the RPS winner in the lead up to the official Medal ceremony in June. We can't wait to see if we agree with the judges' choice!



You can find out more about The Carnegies > [HERE](#)

Pi Competition Pie-ing!

Year 7 students got a brilliant surprise in assembly recently when they learned the prize for winning their form time Pi challenge, was to to 'pie' their maths teacher!!! Well done to 7C and to **Amber B, Jake W & Millie B** for stepping forward to deliver the pies! Thank you Miss Hawkins, Mrs Wall and Mr Hubbard for being such good sports!



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Roundwood's Got Talent

Mandela House hosted our annual talent show last week and wow, what an evening! 16 acts went through from the auditions to perform and show off their incredible skills and expertise - we had singers, dancers, drummers, harpists, pianists, jazz and rock bands. They were all absolutely fantastic, and made things very difficult for our Head Student judges!

The event takes a lot of planning and organisation and we want to say a huge thank you to our new Mandela House Captains, **Wilf and Izzy**, who worked so hard to make sure that this was our biggest and best RGT yet. Thank you also to Head of House, Ms Casey, and to the brilliant **Indi** in Year 8 who is our resident lighting, sound and all round technical genius!

And now to announce the winners....

3rd place - Rhianna B (Y10)

2nd place - Jazz Band - Fusion (Y10&11)

OUR WINNER! - Talulah M (Y7)



Well done to you all, we're already looking forward to RGT 2027!

RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

We were delighted to welcome **Mahjong League of the UK** to RPS recently where over 100 people took part in a competition. We hope to host the event again soon!



There is now less than 5 weeks until May Half Term and we are set for another bumper week of activities ranging from Circus Skills to Art:

APEX Multi-Sports are in the Primary School and offer a wide range of activities including Nerf Guns! They are offering an extra date on Thursday 21 May as the Primary School have an INSET Day. [BOOK HERE](#)

Art Shed are also in the Primary School and have some exciting new projects including their space inspired "Life on Mars" painting! [BOOK HERE](#)

Showtime Circus return with their holiday camps which are jam packed full of fun, including a full schedule of new activities, warm-ups, dance, poster designing and of course, the Showtime Showcase Finale! [REGISTER HERE](#)

Watford FC offer a great opportunity to develop Football skills for a wide range of ages and abilities! [BOOK HERE](#)

Finally, we have the amazing **Mini-Chef Academy** run by Caroline, children get to learn basic cookery skills in a fun and safe environment, be sure to keep an eye on their Facebook page - Harpenden Mini Chef Academy.

There will be **NO Pay & Play** that week but it will return in the summer holidays.

Bank Holiday Closures: 4 & 25 May

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

Follow us on social media! →



NEW >> Click for our **SUMMER CLUBS** programme <<<

Wellbeing@RPS



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

Exam Stress Webinar

If your child is approaching key qualifications or end-of-year assessments, this period can feel particularly busy and at times, stressful.

TooledUp is hosting a webinar, **Dealing with Exam Stress**, where Dr Kathy Weston and teacher and examiner Patrick Cragg share advice and strategies to manage both your own and your child's stress and help you feel prepared and ready to face exam season. Contact the school if you are unsure of your login details for TooledUp.

Residential Trips



[June 26 - Y9 Euro Space Centre, Belgium](#)

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

[June 26 - Y10 Geography, South Wales](#)

[July 26 - Y12 Geography, Liverpool](#)

[September 26 - Y13 Cranedale Centre](#)

[November 26 - Y10/11 MFL, Hamburg](#)

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

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

[April 27 - Y8&9, PE, Holland](#)

VACANCIES

- Governance Professional / Clerk to the Governing Board
- Science Teacher

More information
<< [HERE](#) >>