

RPS ROUNDUP

18 September 2026



Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you and your families had a fantastic summer. We have had a great start to the term; walking around the site, it is clear how quickly students have settled back into school routines and lessons while looking very smart. They are adapting well to their new huSH phone pouches, too.

Our new Year 7s have made a great first impression, wearing their uniform with pride, finding their way around, and bringing real enthusiasm to the new opportunities on offer (they really loved the enrichment fayre finding out about all the clubs on offer). A warm welcome also goes to our new Sixth Formers; you are fantastic additions to the RPS community, and we hope you thoroughly enjoy your time here.

This year, we are holding parent information evenings for all year groups. It has been lovely to meet with Year 7, 9, 12, and 13 parents so far, and we look forward to welcoming others in the coming weeks to share key updates and details on upcoming year group events.

We are also celebrating some impressive results this term, with official figures to be shared once published by the government. On A Level results day, it was wonderful to see so many of our students secure their university places, while others landed highly competitive apprenticeships. Well done to all of you, please do stay in touch and let us know how your next steps unfold.

I would also like to welcome our new staff members: Katy Finnis (Maths), Rozeena Beg (Business), Michael Slaney (Science), and Fozia Ahmed (Art).

Finally, last Friday we marked RPS's 70th birthday with a fantastic cake made by our canteen team. We hope you enjoyed the special edition of Roundup, and we look forward to more celebrations as the year progresses.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

Katie Barter
Headteacher



What's On

[Click here for Term Dates](#)

- 24 Sept - Open Evening* 12.20 finish
- 25 Sept - INSET - closed to students
- 28 Sept - Y10 Parents Info Evening
- 28 Sept - Curriculum Week
- 30 Sept - Y11 Mocks Info Evening
- 1 Oct - KS3 House Leader Training
- 1 Oct - KS3 Scholars Conference
- 5 Oct - Diversity Forum
- 5 Oct - House Music Rehearsals Begin
- 6 Oct - ASPIRE/Mindset Session
- 7 Oct - Y7-9 Flu Vaccinations
- 7 Oct - Senior Maths Challenge
- 12 Oct - Reading Week

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

Letters and Notices

- [Protocols for contact between parents and staff at RPS](#)
- [RPS Behaviour Curriculum](#)
- [Open Evening](#)
- [Non Uniform Days](#)
- [Key Information Letter](#)



Herts County Council Consultation

Read more about:
[Transport for Hertfordshire 20mph consultations](#) >> [HERE](#) <<

| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





Costa Rica Expedition

In July, three teams of Year 11 and 12 students set off on an unforgettable three-week adventure across Costa Rica.

Each team followed their own self-chosen route, fully immersing themselves into the Costa Rican culture, local cuisine, and varied landscapes. They all took part in challenging cloud forest treks, and were rewarded with spectacular views and plenty of wildlife sightings. Humid, hot and muddy rainforest treks through dense and thriving jungle also challenged our teams! They tackled steep mountain trails, river crossings, and slid down muddy trails. Camping in remote locations, students carried all their own gear and took responsibility for cooking, shopping, and cleaning. They also enjoyed a day of remote kayaking along untouched shores around Golfito Bay, with one group paddling alongside pantropical spotted dolphins! Everyone enjoyed an incredible day trip snorkelling off the paradise 'Isla del Caño', where they swam alongside reef sharks, turtles, and hundreds of colourful tropical fish.

Throughout the trip, Costa Rica's incredible wildlife was a constant presence - every species of Costa Rican monkey was seen (and heard, those howler monkeys are LOUD!), toucans, hummingbirds, sloths, coati, scarlett macaws, snakes, woodpeckers, spiders, geckos, lizards, the list goes on. A particular highlight for everyone was the sea turtle conservation work on the remote Osa Peninsula, where students built and maintained hatcheries and took part in night patrols. They watched Green and Olive Ridley turtles lay their precious eggs and relocated them to the hatcheries for protection against predators.

It was an incredible experience for both students and staff, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Our next expedition will depart in 2028!

Y13 Biologists Research in Yorkshire

Our Year 13 Biology students recently returned from a fantastic field trip to North Yorkshire, where they developed their fieldwork skills and put their A Level knowledge into practice at the Cranedale Centre. They approached the trip with a fantastic attitude, embracing every opportunity to get involved and learn more about the ecosystems around them.

Over the course of the trip, students investigated ecological succession in the sand dunes, explored freshwater ecology and developed their fieldwork skills through setting small mammal traps. They also enjoyed fantastic weather at Filey Bay while completing their Ecology Core Practical, tackling all of the required skills with confidence and making the most of the stunning North Yorkshire rocky shore.

The Yorkshire sunshine provided the perfect backdrop for a busy and rewarding few days of fieldwork and our students demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork and a genuine curiosity for the natural world. Well done team.

Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Harpenden Gang Show - 77!](#)
- [Luton Sea Cadets Open Day](#)
- [SASO Concert](#)
- [Jigsaw Performing Arts Schools](#)
- [BeeZee Youth Wellbeing Programme](#)
- [BeeZee Families: A Healthy Lunch](#)
- [HRFC Marquee Hire](#)
- [The Brickery - Lego Themed Cafe](#)
- [The Brickery - Birthday Parties](#)
- [Hertfordshire Chamber Orchestra](#)
- [The 4:15 Service](#)
- [Johnsons The Cleaners](#)
- [VACANCY: Markyate Mini Bus Driver](#)



It was our birthday last Friday! RPS opened its doors to students at 8.50am on 11 September 1956. We plan to celebrate throughout the year, with curriculum events, assemblies, themed House activities and a summer term cream tea - but we started it off with a fabulous birthday cake (huge shout out to our catering team!) and a nostalgic look back over the decades in our birthday special newsletter.



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You will also find lots of information on our website:





Drama Awards

The Drama department started this year in style; a 'red carpet' celebration of all the incredible work and efforts from our wonderful Drama students. 25/26 was a fantastic year for our department, with our production of Legally Blonde, our entry for the National Theatre Connections event at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton, a theatre trip to see The Woman in Black, lunch time Drama Clubs, our new Director's Club, House Drama, as well as all the brilliant work created by our students every day in their drama lessons - a year to celebrate for certain!

Our Drama Celebration evening took place on Wednesday 9 September, where we awarded and celebrated over 130 RPS students for their hard work and brilliance in all areas of Drama. We were delighted to award so many Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond badge winners, followed by our new award, The Drama Hall of Fame, Gold medal winners. We ended the evening with our Trophy winners and runners up, awarded to students for outstanding performances in 6 different categories.

Our invited guests were a wonderful audience, but our exceptional award winners really made the evening so special - clapping and cheering for one another was a lovely thing to see and hear, and one of the reasons our students flourish through their drama participation.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, and to the exciting projects that will be a part of 26/27. Well done and congratulations to all our award winners - keep up the excellent work this year!

Claire Casey - Drama Department

Staff & Parents Diversity Forum

We are excited to invite you to our first Staff and Parent Diversity Forum of the school year.

The first meeting will be taking place on **Monday 5 October at 5:00pm** in Meeting Room 1 (enter through Main Reception).

This event is an opportunity for our community to come together to discuss, learn, and share ideas on fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all our students and families.

Why Attend?

- Engage in meaningful conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Share your thoughts, experiences, and suggestions on how we can improve our efforts as a school.
- Connect with parents, carers, staff, and other community members committed to creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

We believe that every voice matters, and your insights are crucial in shaping our school's approach to diversity. Whether you're new to these conversations or have been involved for years, your participation will help us grow and strengthen our community.



Careers Corner



Welcome to RPS Careers!

At RPS we run an in-depth careers programme across all year groups that allows students to learn and understand more about the world of work and enterprise. We host a number of events throughout the year for which we seek volunteers. If you are interested in helping with mock interviews, CV writing, or maybe giving a talk about your career, please complete the google form >> [HERE](#) << Thank you!

Oaklands College Open Days

St Albans Campus – Saturday 17 October 2026, 10am–3pm – Register [Here](#)

Welwyn Campus – Saturday 10 October 2026, 10am–3pm – Register [Here](#)

Discover Your Future at Generation Dacorum! | 30 September 2026

Generation Dacorum is an exciting FREE careers event where young people can meet local employers, discover future job opportunities, and explore different pathways into work and further education. Find out more >> [HERE](#) <<

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE CAREERS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES!](#)



ALUMNI:

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are extremely proud of Isla who has secured a place to study at the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School! Isla is exceptionally talented and we are delighted that she is following her dreams.



We will miss her very much, and we wish her all the very best of luck - we will certainly be following her journey!

GOOD LUCK ISLA!

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





DofE Gold Expedition

Last month, 20 Year 13 students travelled to the Lake District to complete our Gold Duke Of Edinburgh qualifying expedition. Our trip began by travelling 4 hours up to the bunkhouse where each team prepared for the upcoming days, confirming routes, checking kit and feeding ourselves up with a few hot dinners before we had to rely on our dehydrated meals. On day 2 we set off together on a practice hike where we finished at a castle by Lake Windermere and took in the spectacular views.

The next morning was an early and chaotic start for all teams - especially ours! We boarded the mini bus and watched as each team got dropped off at their starting point and headed off on their journey. Over the next few days, 3 groups took on the challenge of climbing Helvellyn, a 950m peak, making it the second tallest mountain in England. Many highs and lows were experienced over the course of the 4 day expedition, including two members of our team becoming injured, being stuck on a never-ending footpath of fog and lastly many false summits conquered!

The highs, however, made all the lows worth it, especially when we bumped into the other teams along the way and got to chat about what we had experienced and how things were going. Our highest moment was seeing all of the staff at our end point ready to take us all to McDonalds!

None of this would be possible without the amazing volunteers and RPS staff who gave up their time to support and guide us on our expedition, thank you from all of us - **Rosa, Emilia and Evie**



Sixth Form Update

I would just like to congratulate all of our students and newcomers for the brilliant start back they have made in our Sixth Form. Their attitude, dress code, lanyards and phone use have all been brilliant - keep it up! The Sixth Form team has been really impressed and are very proud! **Mrs Tweeddale**



CONCUSSION



If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of concussion following a head injury, we would always recommend seeking medical attention. If they are diagnosed with concussion, it is important that you **let us know** - please email our Medical Welfare team on medical@roundwoodpark.co.uk and advise their form tutor and PE teacher as soon as possible. This ensures we can monitor their recovery at school and that the protocols for safe return to activity are adhered to.

We also recommend that if your child plays regular rugby they complete the RFU Headcase concussion training for age grade players. Access that > [HERE](#) < In addition, we recommend that parents/guardians complete the course specifically designed for them, you can access that training > [HERE](#) <



| 2nd Hand Uniform Shop |

Saturday, 7 November

Please donate any unwanted, laundered uniform by dropping it into Reception

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the items we can accept & and our price list

Please sign up to:



easyfundraising

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



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



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:



For all things sport follow RPS PE on Instagram

@RPS-PE



click here





House Update!

At the end of the summer term we announced our House Cup winners...

THE HART CUP (awarded for the most House Points)

After a 9 year wait for Mr Rowlands ❤️ FRANK HOUSE ❤️ won the HART CUP - by only 1 point! In fact, there was only 1 point between the top 3 Houses! A huge well done to FRANK - it happens to be their House Week right now, with a week full of tuck shops, dodgeball and Formula 1 in schools events! Keep an eye on socials 👁️👁️

THE CHARITY CUP (awarded for Charity focus)

Miss Garner's ❤️ OWENS HOUSE ❤️ won the CHARITY CUP! Their fantastic House week was full of new, innovative fundraising events that brought together the RPS community. They have raised not only funds, but vital awareness of our amazing school charities. Well done Owens! 🏆

House Art

At the end of last term we had our annual House Art Competition, this year with the theme 'Seven Houses, Seven Masterpieces'. Our students blew us away with their team work, embodiment of our school and House values and outstanding creativity and extraordinary ideas and outcomes! We saw students across all year groups work together to create what is arguably our best House Art winners yet! Joint 1st place went to CADBURY and WILBERFORCE with 2nd place going to OWENS. These masterpieces are now proudly up around the school in our House blocks! Well done to all who took part!!

Follow our House system
on Instagram! >>>



See all of the
entries
HERE!

Staff House Tug-of-War!

The first Friday back at school means one thing - staff House tug-of-war! Congratulations and well done to all teams, the usual level of competition and enthusiasm was brilliantly maintained! We think our new Year 7 students watching from the balcony thoroughly enjoyed it too!

Maximum points go to joint winners FRANK & SCOTT - well done!



HOUSE MUSIC! THURSDAY 22 OCT

SAVE THE DATE!



Reach

New School Charity!

Through initiatives, events and activities linked to our very active House System, RPS supports three school charities - one international ([Mercy Ships](#)), one local ([Essex & Herts Air Ambulance](#)) - and we are very excited to announce our new national charity partner - [REACH!](#) Our partners are with us for 3 years, and then we ask students to suggest and vote for a new one. This year it was the turn of our national charity to be replaced and we are delighted to announce that Reach has joined the RPS family. Find out more by watching the video below, from James and his mum:



<< click here

Please give **REACH** your
support & follow their page >>



FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of
information on our website:





Maths Alumni Speakers

Carrying on with our brilliant programme of Maths Alumni Speakers for our Y12 Further Maths students at the end of last term, we welcomed Joe Edwards (2025 leaver). Joe managed to secure a highly sought after degree apprenticeship at Leonardo and came in to talk to the students about the kind of projects he has been working on (including the Typhoon fighter jet!) as well as giving them invaluable advice on how to apply for Degree Apprenticeship programmes. Joe's talk was so professional, we could not believe he has only been out of school for a year!

Next we welcomed back Robert Flaxbeard and Ausra Holbrook (also 2025 leavers), who came in to talk about various things they are doing in their degrees, including Fourier Analysis and 3D moments, as well as what their first year at uni has been like. Robert is studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge and Ausra is studying Physics with Astrophysics at Warwick. It was so great to see how they have thrived in their first year.

Lastly, we welcomed back Scarlett Orr (2019 leaver) who came in to talk about how she got started in her career in aerodynamics in F1. She is currently working at Cadillac and it was brilliant to hear about all the interesting things she gets to be part of having joined a fairly new F1 team.

We would like to give huge thanks to Mrs Roberts for organising this brilliant Maths Alumni programme.



presents **2026-2027**

Music Concerts

TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

MONDAY 1 MARCH
A LEVEL RECITAL EVENING

TUESDAY 9 MARCH
GCSE RECITAL EVENING

TUESDAY 23 MARCH
HSMA SPRING FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 22 APRIL
SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY 13 JULY
KS3 MUSIC SHOWCASE

Read all about it...

Vol 52

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Supporting the National Year of Reading

In the library we are always looking out for the best new fiction and non-fiction books to entertain and inform our students, as well as regularly replacing old favourites that get worn out through repeated readings (did you know that some of our books have been read over 100 times!). With so many amazing books out there we always have a wishlist on the go with titles aimed at

Year 7 to Sixth Form, from the latest bestsellers to books which support our Scholars programme, classics and dyslexia-friendly reads. If you would like to help us ensure that there really is something for everyone in the school library by purchasing something from our list, please click on the image below >>





Bringing the theatre to us!

Sign up for this year's Drama Dept theatre screenings now on ParentPay....

CATERING AT RPS



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS TERM'S MENUS
>> [HERE](#) <<

FOLLOW US!




You will also find lots of information on our website:



OUR ECO CODE

- P**romote carbon neutral modes of transport to school
- I**ncrease & safeguard local biodiversity
- C**ontribute to the protection of endangered species
- K**ickstart environmental action through student led activities
- G**ive to environmental charities
- R**educe wastage of energy & resources within school
- E**ncourage environmentally minded thinking through awareness & education
- E**valuate our actions to identify areas where environmental sustainability can be increased
- N**aminate eco-warriors to contribute the environmental improvement of our school

PICKGREEN



SPARE THE AIR

TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE

Leaving an engine running whilst idle results in up to 10x more contaminants inside the vehicle than outside it.

ECO Schools Green Flag Award

**READ OUR AWARD
FEEDBACK HERE**

We are delighted to share that we have once again been awarded with our Eco Schools Green Flag - this time with Merit! We are very proud of our Climate Action students and Sustainability Captains who work so hard, along with Miss Mooney, to ensure we are all thinking about, and taking action to reduce, our impact on the world around us.

Initiatives like the 'Stop Idling' campaign, our annual whole school 'Day in the Dark', our increased recycling facilities, bird boxes, bug hotels, wild garden with a new pond, tree planting, introduction of our Eco Code, are all making huge strides towards a greener RPS. Well done Climate Team!

RPS SPORTS CENTRE & LETTINGS

Inflatable Parties @ RPS:

Did you know we offer inflatable parties here at RPS Sports Centre? Last academic year we had a whopping 235 inflatable parties! We cater for children between the ages of 2-12 years old with the party lasting for 2 hours, including time in our dining room for food and drink. Packages start from £235 / Suitable for 30-40 Children / Saturday or Sunday **View photos and find out more on our website >> [HERE](#) <<**

Music Den - Due to demand Music Den have added additional slots for Piano, Guitar and Drums here at RPS. To book your FREE taster e-mail: info@themusicden.co.uk

TEAM NEWS!

Goodbye & Good Luck Kam!

Kam first joined us as a sixth form party host alongside his studies before returning for two years after University. Kam has been a deeply valued member of the team, and his hard work, humour and willingness to get stuck into anything will be sorely missed by us all. We're incredibly grateful for everything he's done for RPS and we wish him all the very best for his new adventure Down Under!



Meet the team - welcome to our new crew!

We are delighted to share our Sports Centre & Lettings team for this academic year. We welcome 14 new recruits who will be starting this month, if you see them during your visit please give them a very warm welcome! Tom and Alex bring their experience as Shift Leaders whilst they continue their studies. We are looking forward to a busy and successful year!

**CLICK TO
ENLARGE**



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

Follow us on social media! →



Wellbeing @RPS



You can support our PSHCE curriculum at home by using the fantastic tools provided by TooledUp Education to promote and assist conversation around tricky topics.

At the moment, Year 7 are focussing on managing change and their transition into secondary school. Take a look at the resources >> [HERE](#) <<

In Years 8 & 9 we are discussing risk, personal safety, drugs and alcohol. Useful resources on these topics (including vaping, nicotine pouches & energy drinks) can be found with this link >> [HERE](#) <<

You can see the KS3 & 4 Curriculum Map for PSHCE >> [HERE](#) << and much more about our PSHCE programme >> [HERE](#) <<

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



Contact Reception if you are unsure of your Tooled Up Education log in details.

Residential Trips



- November 26 - Y10/11 MFL, Hamburg
- January 27 - Y10 Maths & Computer Science, Disneyland Paris
- February 27 - Y11-13 Geography, Iceland
- April 27 - All Years Ski Trip, Jay Peak, USA
- April 27 - Y8&9, PE, Holland

VACANCIES

- Learning Support Assistant
- Cover Supervisor
- Medical Welfare Assistant

FIND OUT MORE:
<< [HERE](#) >>

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