



NEWSLETTER

Roundwood Park Alumni Association [*Old Roundwoodians*]



19 January 2012 :

Issue 01

Dear Alumni

Welcome to the long awaited first edition of the *Old Roundwoodians Newsletter*.

In this edition we hope to give you a taste of some of the changes and continuing success stories of life at your 'old' school.

We would welcome comments and contributions from all our readers/alumni.

Please e-mail alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk

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- Academy status
- Return of the House system.
- How the school has changed
- Sports news
- Alumni news - Where are they now?
- Staff news - Gone but not forgotten.
- Essential links

ROUNDWOOD PARK SCHOOL ACADEMY

RPS has continued to move with the times and in so doing has undertaken a significant building and renovation programme resulting in improved facilities and opportunities for both staff and students. The number of staff has continued to increase as has the range and variety of subjects taught. The school has achieved a number of special status awards and is now an Academy and no longer under the control of the local authority.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system has been reinstated after a group of Y7-10 students attended an inspiration talk by the former GB athlete, Derek Redmond, at the University of Herts. Following proposals from the Student Voice [formerly the School Council], the students opted to adopt a 'House System' as a defining legacy in this, the London Olympics, year. Spearheaded and driven by Michelle Rooney this initiative has been sensationally taken up and thoroughly absorbed by both students and staff. There is an increasingly heightened sense of 'belonging' and competitiveness amongst the houses with students across all the years fully supporting, initiating and taking part. Each house has a Staff Head and Sixth Form House captains and vice captains. Every form has form captains and every form has arranged competitive events. Billy Allison and Rory Slader, the two Sixth Form sports prefects have worked tirelessly to organise events on alternate Wednesday afternoons and have organised a dozen competitions before Christmas. All students have house badges which they proudly display on their uniforms. Staff have also organised competitions and in all other events these have been popular spectacles with a great deal of audience appeal. The end of summer Term Sports day is expected to mirror the Olympics with opening ceremony of supporting nations, medal ceremonies and perhaps House 'anthems'.

The SCHOOL WEBSITE

Information about all aspects of the school, the departments, events, school policies, staffing, facilities picture galleries and more can be found at www.roundwoodpark.co.uk
SPORTING THE CHANGES AT RPS!

Following years of campaigning the school now has, at last, a new and large Sports hall which will hopefully enable students to reach even greater heights and afford them, and the local community, with bigger, better and more sporting opportunities.



Mr Alan Henshall addressing students, staff and invited guests before guest speaker Mr Mike Atherton OBE [former England Cricket captain] formally opened the building.

Present at the opening were also 3 former Head Teachers.

From left to right

Mr Haydn Luke

1980-1997

Mr Nick Daymond

2004-2010

Mr Andy Cunningham

1997-2003

Mr Alan Henshall

2010 - Present

Following the extensive building and internal relocations to the school over the years it was fitting to see the 4 major 'architects' of a vision for a better school environment all present at the latest addition to Roundwood Park.



THE CHANGING FACE OF THE SCHOOL

In recent years the school has undergone a fairly significant programme to redevelop and improve the facilities from the addition of new building to the strategic siting of sign posts!

Some of the changes over the last decade include.

- Enlargement of canteen seating area.
- Construction of a bus turning circle and relocation of the JMI playground.
- Humanities extension
- Sixth form and Modern Foreign Languages building
- New science labs and prep room in old Sixth form Area.
- Internal restructuring of the Library
- New covered open air canteen area
- Erection of new Mathematics and Music building
- Refitting of several ICT suites
- Relocation and refitting of Geography to the old maths building
- Relocation of New Reception and new administration block.
- Improved notices and new signposting

- Improved landscaping and illumination over the site.
- Refitting of science labs ongoing.
- Improved car parking and site security

To our many ex-students who left more than 5-6 years ago there will be significant visual changes as shown on the following photographs.



The new Sports hall



Sixth Form & Modern Foreign Languages building



New Maths Building



The new Reception

SPORTS NEWS

Harpenden Hockey Club

For many years RPS was *the* feeder school for HHC with many school boys and girls finding their first taste of competitive league hockey on a weekly basis. Now running 5 mens, 3 womens teams as well as a mens super Vet, a mixed team and a flourishing Junior programme. The Club is still heavily populated with 'Old Roundwoodians with Paul Nash [President], Fraser Tant [Club Captain] and James Evans [Fixture Secretary] to name a few as well as the many team and squad players. Read about the Club's progress and match reports in the local press or visit their web site.

<http://harpendenhc.hitshockey.co.uk/>

N.B. In a previous life the Dr Smith was a regular 3/4th team player, Club secretary and a level 1 umpire!

Staff v Old Girls Netball

In the mid-Autumn term a team of ex-RPS girls were invited to play a staff team. This was a close and tightly fought match with the younger legs coming through with a clear victory.

Player of the match English rugby international Sarah McKenna. Catherine Croft (super shooter and ex-pupils, now playing for the staff was a close 2nd)

Ashleigh Byrne and Victoria Chellew are playing in the local Luton league as part of Wyvern Grangers – a team made up of ex and current RPS students and staff (Michelle Rooney and Emma Ellis).

Badminton – international coaching for staff

Fri 18th November 2011 ex student Emily Westwood (now training full time with England Badminton) delivered a staff CPD session on badminton skills and games.

ALUMNI NEWS – Where are they now? Some recent contacts from those post university.

Julia Dowsett [1992] After gaining a BSc [Biomedical Sciences] and an MSc [Public Health Nutrition], Julia works as a Nutritionist with Enfield council.

Chris Bob John [2007] Has recently started a PhD studentship in plant science at Cambridge University.

Fraser Tant [1991] After a long and successful career Fraser is Head of Marketing for International Food & Grocery marketing Co. He is also Club captain for both Harpenden Hockey and Harpenden Cricket Clubs.

Dominic Kiernander [1994] After graduating in Dentistry and working in Harpenden, Wales and Australia, Dominic has settled in Cornwall where he has a dental practice in Truro and is currently studying for an MSc in Clinical Dentistry (restorative) and supervises/lectures part-time at Peninsula school of medicine and dentistry.

Richard Dillon [2000] Richard studied medicine at Oxford [BA] and UCL[MBBS] and now works at Guy's Hospital where he is special Registrar in Haematology. He is also completing a Ph.D.

Magnus Dillon [2003] After studying medicine Magnus is now an Oncologist at the Royal Marsden hospital.

Tom Slater [2004] After leaving Sixth Form, Tom went on to study a number of qualifications in 'building and construction'. He is now a project coordinator for a Construction company.

Imran Shahryar [1996] Following 4 years at SOAS, Imran completed an MSc. In Developmental Economics and is now in Sierra Leone on an ODI fellowship for Ministry of Finance in Sierra Leone.

Megan Whewell [2007] Megan graduated in 2011 from UCL with a 1:1 in Natural Sciences MSci (Major: Astrophysics, Minor: Science Communication) and now works at the National Space Centre in Leicester as a Presenter in their Education Department.

!

Peter Barker [1997] After completing his Ph.D. in statistics, Peter spent some time in USA with AstraZeneca but now works for Verizon.

David Hickey David works as a Technical Manual Engineer for Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Rachanda Shafei Rachanda is currently studying Law at Buckingham University after changing from Mechanical Engineering and then working as a production assistant on Harry Potter films before completing an internship with a Law firm.

Charlotte Hannigan [nee Maudave] After leaving in 1999, in Y9, Charlotte went to Barcelona and attended the last 2 years of American High School and received her American High School Diploma. Then she moved to the USA and gained a BA in Economics with minor in Spanish Literature at Haverford College near Philadelphia. Charlotte then moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked at Georgetown University for 5 years, and received my Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies (in Ethics) while working full time. After working in the Centre for Intercultural Education and Development she moved to her current position at the Institute of International Finance. The IIF is the world's only global association of financial institutions.

Ruth Kelliher Ruth studied Physics at Leicester University and now works as a CM developer for Logica.

Laura Wrigglesworth Having completed her Art & Design foundation course, Laura has changed her career direction and is currently studying for an Executive PA qualification whilst working locally in administration.

Tim Ebbels Dr Ebbels is now a Senior Lecturer within the Biomolecular Medicine section of the Department of Surgery & Cancer.

<http://www1.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/people/t.ebbels/>

Chris Tyler Chris is a practising osteopath following graduation from the British School of Osteopathy last summer. He lives locally and has offered special rates!

Sarah Anne Bateson [nee Johns] Sarah left after Y11 in 1990, studied Art & Design in Hertfordshire, is now married and a pre school practitioner.

Ashley Tomlins. After completing his degree in Aberystwith with a year in Canada, A period in Brussels for his Masters in International and diplomacy Studies at D'Europe College in Brussels, the bilingual Ashley is now working as a consultant at the Policy & Strategic Enterprise Directorate at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Sam Jones. After Loughborough and a year in industry, Sam is now working for Apple.

Philippa Kennedy. Following her graduation in Biology from Bristol in the summer 2011, Pip is intending to go into International development. She is currently working in London before embarking on a number of essential voluntary placements to India or Africa to work on sustainable agriculture projects News Update – November 2011

Laura Wrigglesworth Having completed her Art & Design foundation course Laura has changed her career direction and is currently studying for an Executive PA qualification whilst working locally in administration.

Simon Redford Simon remains in Harpenden working in the financial services sector. He has since retired from his playing career and managerial commitments at Harpenden Hockey Club.

Sarah Marshall Sarah has now working as a Junior School teacher in the county. She lives in Wiltshire.

Christianne McQuillan Living locally and married with young children. She works as a dental technician.

Adam Binnie Now a senior reporter for the Watford Observer.

Danny Jefferies Now a project manager for Screwfast Foundation.

Adam Jefferies Currently working as a graduate tax accountant.

David Royston Following a stint at Rothamsted Conference centre, David is currently self employed and living in Harpenden.

Karen McHale [nee Perryment] Karen is married with two young children and more local than you think. Always one that is good with figures and she can now be found in the RPS Bursar's office!

Jenny Kendall [nee Barlow] Jenny is a Y2 teacher at a local primary school.

Kieran Nunn qualified medical practitioner and now working in Edinburgh following Glasgow and qualification at Kings, Guys and St.Thomas' in London.

Sarah Lawrence [nee Binnie] Now a senior Launch Manger at T-Mobile.

Ben Lawrence Now working for the Metropolitan Police.

Gareth Cash Now working for Sky after graduation from Nottingham and working on the university radio station.

Rachelle Shafei Now study neurology at Nottingham university following medical qualification.

Nina Sloan [nee Langford] Living in the north of England with her husband successfully pursuing her medical career.

Charlotte Smith Alive and well and probably still the life and soul of the part out there in Sicily!

Lingerr Senghor Now studying for her Masters in English Literature at the University of Virginia following graduation magna cum lauda at Carleton College, Minnesota, with a BA in English Literature.

Claire Crews. Our youngest Alumna, following her 1 year stay in Y11, is now back in the USA and studying at Warren-Watson College.

STAFF CHANGES

Over the years many teachers and support staff have worked at the school and contributed to the fabric of the school. Each in their own way will have contributed to the education and welfare of the many youngsters that have attended. It is possible that you may wonder if your 'old' teachers etc are still at school or what they are doing now.

Mr Jack D Passmore – Former physics teacher and Head of Science. Retired at age 55. He is well and as sharp as ever.

Ms Christine Hood – retired from teaching in ???? but continues to visit occasionally. She remains active in her role working for the NUT.

Mr HB Luke. Perhaps one of RPS's most articulate and knowledgeable Head Teachers! Having retired in 1998???? he has since completed an MSc in ???? and now lives somewhere on the south coast.

Mr Ken Jones. Former Head of English and affectionately known as 'Ken the word'. He lived locally for many years and maybe has emigrated to New Zealand where he has family?

Mr Harold Clayton. Former RE teacher and master of 'the assembly'. A truly thoughtful and kind man. He retired long ago.

Mr Roger Beard. The PE master always seen with a clip board and never with a pen!. Long since moved to another teaching post. Unheard of since.

Mr Eddie Clarke. Another PE master of considerable experience and skill. An accomplished hockey player and manager in his spare time and now somewhere on the south coast.

Mr Robin Grant. Former physics teacher and Head of Science. He went part time before retiring from teaching altogether in 2007.

Mrs Gill Curtis. Popular physics teacher who left many years ago to take up a Head of Science post in another local school.

Mr Steve Draper. Former Head of History. Left in the 80's and not seen since.

Mrs Janet Ridpath. Former Head of Expressive Arts and Drama enthusiast. Retired many years ago and still lives in the region.

Mrs Trenchard. Senior librarian. Now retired in the last few years. Incredibly helpful and dogged in her determination to keep the library and all 'her' books on the shelf!

Mr Mike J Hoppe. Senior tutor and ex-head of PE. A long standing favourite with all with special responsibility to oversee junior school transfers into Y7. Great sense of humour and always scrupulously fair. He says 'I spend a lot of time on holiday'!

Mr Roy Patterson. Former Deputy Head in his last few years at RPS and renowned Maths teacher for always wearing a lab coat to protect his suits from chalk dust!. Retired in ?????. Now living in Australia with his family.

Mr Len Larby. A Loyal and long serving servant who built up the technology department. He spent considerable time on the water in boats and encouraging pupils to sail. Alas he passed away a few years ago. His children were all educated at RPS and his wife also worked on 'cover' for many years.

Mrs Terry Halford. Ex-Head of ICT. A stickler for perfection and good manners; she was a most well respected individual in all respects. She retired in ??????

Mr J Trevor Cole. A well liked and respected Geographer who eventually led the dept before leaving in ?? He was a dynamic and enthusiastic teacher who was keen on surfing and other sporting pursuits.

Ms Helen David. English teacher who moved to RPS to take up Head of Sixth Form [after Mrs Judy Munton ibid.] Immensely popular with everyone this English eccentric left after 3 years in ???? to take up another teaching post in the wilds of North Yorkshire.

Mrs Judy Munton. Another stalwart of RPS. A well respected Geographer who was also Head of Sixth Form for a period before retiring at the same time as Mr Luke in ?????. Both her children attended RPS . She remains local and divides her time up with many activities and commitments not least as a JP.

Mrs Glenys Metherell [now Newman] . Former science and A'level chemistry teacher and latterly Head of Sixth form. Alternative medical practitioner, Lay preacher and somewhere in three counties.

Mrs Rebecca Glover Ex Head of Sixth form and PE teacher. Currently Deputy Head in a grammar school in Yorkshire. A talented and dynamic individual with a great sense of humour. She has two children and a dog!

Mr Adrian King. Head of PE at a school in Edmonton, London. Local and running the Kings soccer school.

Mrs Vicky King [nee Beard] now teaches Drama at Beechwood school.

Mr Tim Saunders left RPS to become Head of PE at Richard Hale school in Hertford and he is still there!

Mr Jon Kinrade. Recently married and now living and teaching in the Isle of Man. Responsible for increasing the football and basketball provision in the school and introduced the PE G&T scheme.

Ms Fiona Frazer. Married with two children, currently living and teaching in South Hertfordshire – Responsible for building up GCSE and A-Level numbers in PE

Mrs Lynne Gibbs. Senior science technician has moved to join a number of our ex-staff at the St Albans school.

Mrs Kaye Cartwright. Formerly in charge of Domestic Science/cooking/Home economics who left for promotion but has now retired from the profession but still lives in the county.

A WORD FROM THE UNDERGRADUATES!

We are in contact with many of our students who are still at university/studying and we look forward to hearing from them when they are not communicating by facebook on the Roundwood Park wall.

" I do miss Roundwood Park a lot, I had such an amazing time at that school. I made some life long friends and I look back at time at school fondly and I think a lot of that was down to the teachers, especially in 6th form. I know my brother loves it there and I think is having a similar experience to what I was able to enjoy. All hail Roundwood"

MYSTERY PICTURE

This picture was taken in 1984/85.

Can you help us identify these students – some are unavoidably obscured!
Claire, Jordan, James, ?, Lisa, Alison,
Louise, ?,?, Neil



Where are they now?

ALUMNI IN THE LOCAL PRESS – happy days

In September the Herts Advertiser reported that Alumna Jennifer Barlow was married to Jonathan Kendall in St Albans Cathedral in August 2011. We wish them every happiness.



Reported Alumni matches include marriages include Ben Lawrence & Sarah Binnie and also Jonathan Benson and Anna Williams.

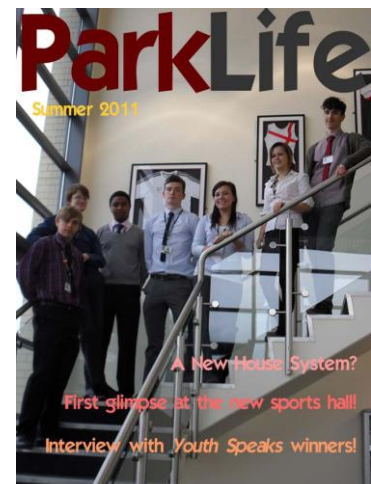
STAFF LATEST

Ms Linda Graham joined RPS in May 1993 as Deputy Head and as a Maths teacher and will be retiring in the summer. A popular, dynamics and feisty character who will be missed and difficult to replace!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

The weekly school 'Roundup' list current news for parents
http://www.roundwoodpark.herts.sch.uk/parents/roundup_newsletters/

The students compile and publish the school magazine called 'Park Life' and this contains the views and interests of the student body.
<http://www.roundwoodpark.herts.sch.uk/students/parklife/>



Get in touch

This is just a review of some of the developments and recent contacts made with the school. I do hope you enjoyed reading this first copy of the RPS Alumni newsletter.

We welcome all your comments and suggestions for future issues.

Please tell all your friends who are ex-RPS students to get in touch via the links/contacts below.

There are also lots of opportunities for you to get involved with the school, from speaking to students about your own career experiences to working with our staff on some exciting aspects of their courses.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

BMLSmith

['Retired' from teaching in July 2010 after somewhere between a ¼ & ½ a century but now in school on Wednesdays in the Alumni office]

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