

The History of Royal Russell by Julia Powell



Julia Powell, correspondent to the Old Russellians, very kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk on the history of the School, in the Library at lunchtime on Wednesday 2nd December. Having worked at Royal Russell for 35 years (retiring in 2005), Julia spoke about the important people and events which have shaped the school over the past 162 years.

Julia invited pupils to help complete a timeline which highlighted key points in the school's history, from its origins as a charity set up to provide for the orphans of the Warehousemen, Clerks and Drapers Livery companies, to the opening of the all weather sports pitches by David Weir in 2013. We also learnt about past headmasters and headmistresses and of the 70 Old Russellians who died during the First World War. The only triplets to serve in World War 1 were also Old Russellians - the Jones brothers - and amazingly, all three survived.

The talk was well attended, especially by year 7 pupils, who were keen to learn about life at the school 160 years ago. They are very grateful that school no longer starts at 6.30am and that cleaning duties do not feature on the current timetable!