

The Durrells - Filmed at Royal Russell!

Those of you who watched the first episode of the new ITV Drama The Durrells may have noticed that the location looked very familiar! Last year, the producers were looking for a period room that could be used to portray the Headmaster's study at Northmere Road Grammar School, where Gerald Durrell spent his early school years. Our 'Douglas Higgins Library', with its intact period features proved to be the perfect backdrop. Royal Russell as a location worked so well that scenes were also filmed along our Cloisters and in our splendid Dining Hall. Further scenes were shot in an original 1930's house in Hurst Way. Filming of The Durrells, starring Keeley Hawes, took place during October half-term. Watch it on catch-up if you can!

Old Russellians, Paul Mathias (at school 1973-1976) and Phil Reynolds (at school 1967-1977) reminisce on Facebook:

Paul remembers The Portrait being filmed at RRS with Robert Denham circa 1975/77. The 1970s posts from O.R.s say that they remember being summoned to Great Hall for the speech scene (just like a real assembly) but they had to do two takes as they were all too quiet!! They were asked to cough, grunt and shuffle around a bit!

