

Information for Parents and FAQs 2021

Who we are

We are a Family School and embrace and support our whole community
We are passionate learners and pursue excellence in all that we do
We are ambitious for ourselves and recognise the rewards of effort, collaboration and commitment

What we do

We provide an outstanding, academic, 3 - 18 co-educational experience as the family school of choice in South London.

How we feel

We feel nurtured and supported within our happy community
We celebrate our diversity and inclusivity
We enjoy our international family connections
We feel proud to be Russellians

What we believe

We believe in the School's motto 'Not for oneself but for everyone'
We believe in ourselves and each other and recognise the value of integrity and respect
We believe in the adventure of learning, discovery and play

Our Values

We nurture intellectual, social, physical, creative, cultural and moral development, encouraging an enjoyment of learning and the pursuit of academic excellence within a safe and stimulating learning environment

We offer a broad curriculum and co-curricular programme, for acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes in preparation for a fulfilling and successful future

We promote spiritual and moral values through Christian principles, emphasising honesty, integrity, generosity and a respect for other people and the environment

We enhance self-awareness and self-confidence, enabling pupils to develop their leadership skills; to value their own and others' efforts and achievements and to develop a sense of care and responsibility for the School community and for wider society

Frequently Asked Questions

How long has the Headmaster been at the school?

The Headmaster is beginning his 10th year at the school.

He is absolutely committed to continuing to make Royal Russell the family school of choice in South London and is very excited about future development projects in the curriculum, on the estate and opening our first international schools in South Korea and China.

What measures do you have in place to ensure the safety of pupils under the current situation?

We have made many adjustments to our routines to ensure that staff are able to maintain social distance from pupils as much as possible and that children are operating within their Year Group 'bubbles'.

We have encouraged hand washing and issued face masks for pupils and staff to wear in transition between classes.

How will you ensure my child will settle well?

The School's motto '**non sibi sed omnibus**' (Not for oneself but for everyone) is at the heart of our ethos.

Being kind and good to one another, being warm and open hearted are characteristics that are actively recognised and promoted.

Royal Russell prides itself on giving bespoke pastoral care to all pupils and their families. All pupils are members of a House and these are run by an experienced and sympathetic Housemaster or Housemistress, and a Deputy, alongside a Tutor team.

The Tutor Group is usually 10 – 12 pupils and meets every morning with the Tutor who is responsible for the academic and social well-being of this small group. We pride ourselves on how our staff develop firm, meaningful, nurturing relationships, which enhance pupil's progress in all areas. Within the regular email and telephone conversation between school and home, we aim to establish warm friendly relationships with parents.

What do you do if my child gets ill or has an accident?

We look after them in the Health and Wellbeing Centre where we have a nurse on duty 24-hours a day.

Can you explain the House system?

All pupils are a member of one of nine single sex houses.

Each house has a physical building which is the pupils' 'home' whilst they are at School.

Each house has a Housemaster/Housemistress and team of tutors who support the pupils.

The vertical structures within the houses provide many opportunities for role modelling and leadership which is a very valuable part of the Royal Russell experience.

What are the benefits of co-education?

We believe that the diverse range of learning approaches in a co-ed classroom brings richness to the learning environment. Many of our feeder Schools are co-ed and the Royal Russell environment is the natural extension of that experience.

Why do you separate boys and girls in Houses?

Pastorally, girls and boys have different needs and we feel that it is important that they have their own space so that they can be supported separately.

What is the ratio of boys to girls?

About 43% Girls 57% Boys.

Do children go on many school trips?

Usually a huge range and variety! COVID-19 restrictions mean that we are not currently operating any trips, but typically we run local, national and overseas trips. Some are subject specific, others are recreational.

Recently we have held a Ski Trip to Canada and USA, MFL Trips to Spain and France, a Battlefields Tour, History Trip to Germany, Geography to Iceland and a charity trip to Uganda.

What is the food like – do the children have a choice?

All meals and snacks are included in the fees. We believe in the importance of a healthy diet. All our children eat lunch in our dining halls where they can choose from a full range of hot food with meat and vegetarian options, pasta, jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings, fresh vegetables, fruit, dessert and water or squash served every day. All food is prepared from fresh ingredients, every day by our team of 32 chefs and assistants and Our Catering Manager is always pleased to meet with parents to discuss individual dietary needs.

What areas do you have pupils coming from?

Most pupils travel within a 45-minute radius of the school in all directions including Bromley, Dulwich, Clapham and more locally.

With our excellent connectivity through London Tramlink, many pupils travel to East Croydon station and then take the Tram to the school stop at Coombe Lane.

In our last travel survey, 64% of the Senior School pupils used the tram to get to and from school.

Do you run a bus service?

Yes, mornings only, from Clapham and Dulwich at an additional cost of £420 per term. The buses are run by [Mayday Travel](#).

Are children issued with any IT Equipment?

Yes - iPads are issued to Year 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10 and 11 this year.

Where do I buy uniform?

[Hewitts](#) in for School Uniform, online or in-store and [Dreamsport](#) for Sports kit.

What sports do you offer?

Netball, Hockey, Tennis, Cricket and Football are the main team sports for girls.

Football, (3 x National Champions in the last three years) Hockey, Basketball, Cricket & Tennis are the main team sports for boys.

We have won National titles for boys and girls Trampoline.

A host of other activities are available and we have an amazing cross-country course around the grounds.

Why do you only offer sports scholarships in football, hockey and netball?

We only have elite programmes in these sports, with specialist coaches and these are the areas where we have chosen to focus. In time, we hope to be able to extend this provision to more sports.

What time does school start and finish and what time do the clubs run until?

The School Day begins with registration in house groups at 8.15am.

Teaching runs through to 3.50pm and voluntary activities usually run from 4.00pm to 5.30pm, but these can vary widely in time commitment.

A full activity timetable is published at the beginning of each term.

Academic

GCSE and A level results

Recent GCSE Results – showing a steady improvement in our A* and A grades

New number grade	Aug 2013	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Aug 2018	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	Old letter grades
	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	
	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	
9						6.7	14.6	20.5	A*
8	12.3	23.4	15.4	17.5	19.2	27.3	34.7	36.8	A*
7	36.2	37.8	37.8	39.8	42.8	50.9	53.3	56.7	A
6	61.8	73.8	71.3	68.9	72.1	72.1	73.7	76.8	B
5	86.6	94.5	96.1	91.9	95.5	90.8	89.5	93.0	C
4					99.8	94.4	95.8	99.7	C
3	95.3	99.2	99.3	99.1	100	98.8	98.8	100	D
2	98.4	99.9	99.9	100.0	100	99.9	99.6	100	E
1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100	100	U

<https://www.royalrussell.co.uk/senior-school/gcse-results-2020>

Recent A level & BTEC Results – showing a strong performance in our A* and A grades

	Aug 2013	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Aug 2018	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	
	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	Results	
	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	cum%	
A*	9.7	13.1	12.0	12.0	10.4	10.3	13.9	23.0	A*
A	34.8	41.1	42.6	42.6	31.6	36.3	44.8	54.4	A
B	68.5	73.3	69.9	69.9	60.2	64.1	68.2	80.2	B
C	92.1	91.9	90.0	90.0	85.1	86.6	89.1	94.8	C
D	98.5	98.7	98.0	98.0	98.9	95.8	97.0	99.6	D
E	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.6	100.0	100	E
U	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	U

What languages do you offer?

French, Spanish, German and Japanese at GCSE and A level.
All pupils study French and Spanish in Year 7.

How do you challenge the brightest children?

We aim to stretch and challenge our pupils in all subjects and in all lessons. This is achieved in a number of ways, for example, through the nature of the tasks we set, the quality of questioning, and the types of extension work available.

There is also a wide range of co-curricular activities at the School and we strongly encourage our pupils to get involved with those in which they show particular interest and talent. Model United Nations, for example, encourages the development of public speaking, critical thinking and communication skills, and the Combined Cadet Force develops leadership skills. Opportunities exist to sample new foreign languages like Italian, Russian and Japanese. If media and performance appeal, then it is possible to undertake editorial work on the School Newspaper, produce films with Media Studies, coach juniors in sport, stage manage and direct in Drama, and perform in a wide variety of musical events.

We offer high achieving pupils in Year 10 'Philosophy for Schools' seminars to develop their thinking skills, and we invite them to listen to visiting speakers at our Sixth Form lectures on topics of relevance and interest.

Tutors and Teachers carefully monitor the performance of high achieving pupils at the School to ensure that they have the best opportunities to achieve the university place of their choice. Oxbridge seminars are offered to our highest achieving pupils in Year 12.

For our Gifted and Talented pupils, we provide a wide range of programmes and courses such as Stretch and Challenge, High Achievers Programme, Thinking skills and Public Speaking Days, Philosophy Courses and the Linguistics Olympiad Competition.

Are pupils streamed/setted by ability?

Pupils are mainly taught in the same class in Year 7 and 8
'Banding' is used in Year 7, 8 & 9 for Science, Maths and Languages
Full setting is introduced in Year 10 onwards

What additional support can you offer pupils with learning difficulties?

This is best discussed on an individual basis with our Head of Learning Enrichment, Mrs El-Asmar kelasmar@royalrussell.co.uk
1:1 support is available and we also offer the Curriculum Assisted Programme (CAP) which allows for flexibility in the number of GCSE's taken in Year 10 and 11, if appropriate.

How much homework will a Year 7 and Year 9 pupil be expected to do each night?

Year 7, 20 – 30 minutes

Year 9, 30 – 40 minutes

All home learning tasks are set on the School 'Firefly' portal and available for parents to view at home.

What are the school's strongest subjects and why?

The School has great strength across many different subject areas.

Our recent Oxbridge candidates have chosen to study, Maths, Psychology, History, Politics and Theology.

If the school has to go in to lockdown again are you able to offer online classes?

All lessons in the Senior School are currently being broadcast live online and recorded using MS TEAMS.

We will continue to offer this if we had to go into full or partial lockdown again.

Admissions and Entrance

How many pupils in Year 7 and Year 9 and how many classes?

In Year 7 there are a maximum of 96 pupils (4 classes of maximum 24 pupils)

In Year 9 onwards there are a maximum of 120 pupils (5 classes of maximum 24 pupils)

How many applications do you get for how many places in both Year 7 and Year 9?

In Year 7 about 250 applications for 96 places.

About half of the Year 7 intake will be from the Royal Russell Junior School, leaving about 55 external places available.

In Year 9 about 60 applications for up to 24 places.

Do children automatically transfer from the Royal Russell Junior School to the Senior School?

We expect children to transfer from the Junior School to the Senior School, but this is not automatic.

Assessments take place in Year 3, 4 & 5 and pupils are offered places at the end of Year 5. Some pupils will be required to sit the entrance exam along with external candidates.

What is the 11+ application process?

This year we will be using the ISEB 11+ tests for our Year 7 Entry Exam.

<https://www.iseb.co.uk/Schools/General-information/Common-Pre-Tests>

The tests take place over two days on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 January 2021 although they can also be arranged to take place in the candidates own school.

The key features of the tests are:

- they cover verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, English and mathematics
- they are online and adaptive to the ability of the candidate
- they are in a multiple-choice format
- they take about two-and-a-half hours to complete (English 25 minutes, mathematics 50 minutes, non-verbal reasoning 32 minutes, verbal reasoning 36 minutes)
- the four tests can be taken together or at separate times

[This short video](#) from ISEB explains how these test work in further detail.

Data from the tests will be supplemented by a full reference from the feeder school and we are also planning to interview all candidates, either remotely or in person.

What is the 13+ application process?

13+ candidates will sit papers in Maths, English and Reasoning at the School on Tuesday 5 January 2021.

We will be able to offer some of these candidates the chance to sit papers in their own school, if COVID-19 restrictions limit the number of candidates we are able to welcome onto the School site.

Data from the tests will be supplemented by a full reference from the feeder school and we are also planning to interview all candidates, either remotely or in person.

What are our entry standards?

We are academically selective and recruit from national average upwards.

Most pupils joining us have a minimum [standardised score](#) of 110 for literacy, numeracy and reasoning.

What is the Entry Requirement for the Sixth Form?

Grade 6 awarded in 6 subjects (36 points) including Maths and English at GCSE or equivalent. We usually expect at least a Grade 7 in subjects pupils are choosing for further study at A level. Current school reports and predicted grades form an important part of the assessment. All candidates are interviewed and either an unconditional offer or an offer subject to GCSE Grades is made.

Do you interview all applicants?

Yes, we feel this is a very important part of our selection process.

What scholarships and bursaries are available?

In the Senior School we offer Academic, Art, Music, Drama and Sport Scholarships at Year 7, 9 and Year 12. Scholarships are awarded up to 35% of the fees for exceptional candidates. A Limited number of Bursary applications are considered on an individual basis. Funding is awarded to pupils according to their performance in the entrance assessments.

Academic Scholarships are assessed through the results of the entrance assessments. For art, music, drama and sport, we usually invite pupils to an assessment day at the school in November. This year this will not be possible, so we will consider applications initially based on the information provided on the Scholarship Forms, which should be completed [here](#).

Do you have a sibling policy?

Yes - we always look at siblings first as part of our entrance process. If we feel that siblings will thrive in the Royal Russell environment, we will always offer a place. Siblings receive a 5% discount on the fees.

What are the fees?

Day Pupils Year 7 – 13	£6437.00 per term
Boarding Pupils Year 7 – 13	£12,723.00 per term

How do I pay the fees?

The annual fee is split into three termly instalments. We require fees termly in advance by bank transfer or by debit or credit card. Our preferred payment method is Direct Debit and we have a 10 monthly or termly scheme available.

Can I arrange a tour?

We are not currently running live tours of the School and hope to be able to do so as soon as current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

What happens next?

If you would like to be assessed for entry to the School, please complete the online registration form by Friday 13 November, 2020.

<https://www.royalrussell.co.uk/admissions/registration>

All Scholarship and bursary forms must be completed and returned by Friday 13 November

<https://www.royalrussell.co.uk/admissions/scholarships-and-bursaries>

A reference from your current school will then be obtained and pupils will be invited to attend one of our examination days, or arrangements will be made with the current school to sit the assessments.