



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

13 November 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

In this week of National Remembrance we gathered on Sunday to commemorate Old Russellians who died in the service of their country at our Remembrance Service held in Chapel and afterwards in the beautiful Memorial Garden in Chapel Quad. Following a short service with a small number of representatives of the School and CCF, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Old Russellians, the CCF and the School. The occasion was significantly lifted by the brilliant bugle playing of the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' by Sam Stealey and some wonderful solo singing from Adam Court, Ophelia Humphreys-Elvis and Mr Bell with accompaniment from Mr Ford. Thank you to all of the CCF Cadets and Officers who were on parade to make this such a special commemoration.

On Wednesday, the whole School community stopped to observe two minutes of silence at 11.00am. Staff, Sixth Form pupils and representatives of each year group in the School gathered for our Act of Remembrance. Poppies streamed from the Chapel tower whilst crosses were planted and wreaths were laid by Heads of School, Ava Barton, Tegan Beveney, Zoya Kirmani and Isabelle Bennett.



A short video of our Act of Remembrance is available [here](#).

Today is the closing date for applications to join the School in September 2021 and, as part of our recruitment cycle for new Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 pupils, we hosted our final successful virtual open evening for prospective pupils and families this week. Thank you to Year 12 pupils, Amber Kennedy, Sam King, Ellie Baker, Shiraz Kirmani and to Mr Edwards, Mr Allen, Ms Worsfold and Mrs Mawer for helping to make this such a successful evening.

Our musicians are busy preparing for our virtual Autumn Concert which will be broadcast via YouTube on Monday 23 November. Look out for the link which will be sent out next week.

I was pleased to welcome pupils from Madden Year 7 to breakfast on Tuesday along with their tutor Ms Blaquiére. We learned something new about each other including DJ skills, emerald green, the antics of various family pets and skills in piano, football and hockey. The boys were obviously on top mathematical form at the Junior Maths Challenge as, combined with Year 8, they were the winners of the competition run by Mrs Smith and the Maths Team on Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday and Friday our Year 11 GCSE Drama Students have been performing their examination assessment pieces in the Auditorium and it has been wonderful to see these groups supporting each other through some challenging scenarios. The quality of the final pieces is testament to their hard work and also the guidance of Ms Cripps, Ms Davenport and Mr Edwards.

The Library Talk delivered this week was by Year 13 pupil Betsy Latimer-Sayer who spoke to a group from the Sixth Form on, 'How influential is the Military Industrial Complex?' This afternoon, the Library is hosting a Year 7 Linguistics Workshop run by Ms Sava and Mr Stanley.

At assembly this afternoon, I thanked pupils for their positive response to the challenges of the new national restrictions and for their understanding in the additional changes to routine that we have needed to make.

It remains crucially important, for the safety of the whole Royal Russell Community, that we do all we can to promote a covid safe space in which to live and learn - both here on site and at home. Thank you to all our families for your understanding, support and vigilance around:



On World Kindness Day, I asked all pupils and staff to consider sharing [a random act of kindness](#) and to think about the impact that this can have on both friends and strangers, particularly when we are not able to enjoy the company of one another as freely as usual. Grace Scott, our pupil head of the Student Well-being Support Group (SWSG) added to this message at our assembly. As a result of her excellent work in this area, I have asked Grace to join our Senior Prefect Group.

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster



Year 7 Headmaster's Breakfast

On Tuesday morning, Year 7s from Madden House were welcomed to the new dining marquee to start their day with a delicious breakfast with the Headmaster

They enjoyed getting to know each other and the Headmaster better.



Year 7 Queen's Charity Presentation

Congratulations to the Year 7 Queen's Girls whose presentation won the House charity competition. Each year group were tasked to create a presentation championing a charity close to their hearts. Year 7 presented a very compelling and insightful presentation about Meningitis Now, a UK based charity that is working towards a future where no one in the UK dies from meningitis and everyone affected gets the support they need.

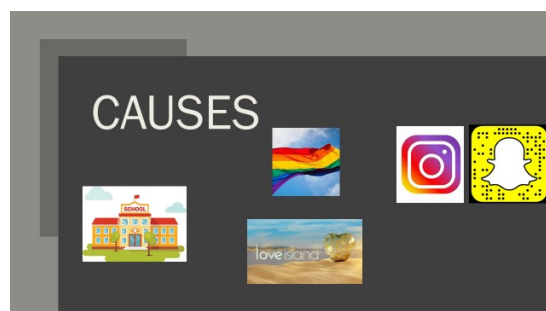
Thanks to the girls' fantastic presentation, Meningitis Now will be Queen's official charity this year. Congratulations girls, we can't wait to see the fundraising efforts this will inspire!



Russell Talk - Mental Health

Grace Scott gave a talk in the Library on Thursday about the pressing issues surrounding mental health issues that we see today. The overwhelming statistics are hard to ignore and it is clear that something needs to be done to address this.

She talked about the different ways in which mental health issues can be improved through exercise or positive words of encouragement in public places and how there is still a very long way to go. It was very informative and a real eye-opener.



WHY ARE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES INCREASING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

By Grace Scott

What is being done to resolve these issues?

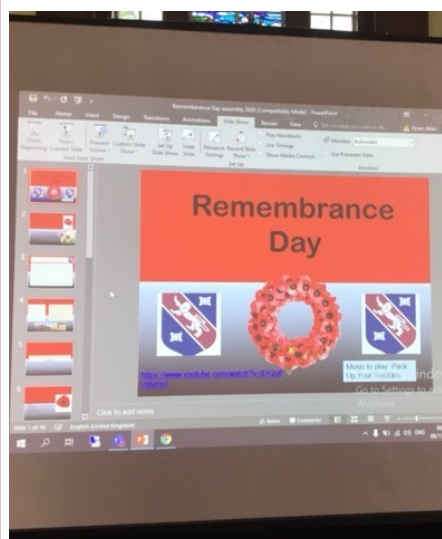


Year 7 Remembrance Chapel Service

On Monday, Harry Dawes, Sarah Wood, Kalan Sharma and Louise Mawer spoke to Year 7 about the importance of remembering the soldiers who fought in World War 1. Remembrance Day, commemorated on 11th November, is a day to remember the brave individuals who have fought and died in wars. It is their bravery that allowed us to be free in our country, and to live as we do now. Harry, Sarah, Kalan and Louise spoke of the School's origins and connections with WW1 and listed names of Old Russellians who lost their lives in both of the World Wars. Remembrance Day, thus, is a constant reminder of their self-sacrifice and the cost of freedom that we all enjoy. Given these unprecedented times, together we came up with a list of ways our school can help support the Royal British Legion: buy a poppy, download a free fundraising pack from the British Legion's website, or take part in a sponsored walk/run. Donating to the cause not only benefits the charity itself; it can be deeply rewarding for you too.

Well done to the Year 7 orators who spoke with eloquence, precision and clarity.

Miss Young
Teacher of History



From the Music Department

Well done to our Remembrance performers: Ophelia Humphreys-Elvis sang Mendelssohn's 'Oh Rest in the Lord', Adam Court sang 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke, and Sam Stealey played 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' on the bugle. Thank you also to Mr Bell for singing, Mr Ford for playing the piano and to the Headmaster for singing a lovely solo.



Autumn Concert

Autumn concert filming is well underway; well done to all the soloists who have been up to record pieces this week, and a big thank you to Ms Groves and the media team who are recording and editing the show.

We will be broadcasting on Monday 23rd November via the school's YouTube channel - more details to follow next week.



Kaylah Black, Year 10

Music Co-Curricular

Our 'bubble bands' and 'bubble choirs' are having lots of fun looking ahead to Christmas. Pupils are still most welcome to join the relevant groups.

Here's a reminder of the schedule:

Group	Staff	Day/Time	Venue
Year 7 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Monday 1310	A10
VI Form Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Monday 1600	A21
Year 11 Choir	Mr Bell	Tuesday 0810	A10
Year 8 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Tuesday 1310	A10
Year 10 Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Wednesday 1600	A21
VI Form Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Thursday 0810	A10
Year 7 Instrumental	Mrs F Griffith	Thursday 1310	A21
Year 9 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 1310	A10
Year 11 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 1600	A10
Year 9 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Friday 0810	A10
Year 10 Choir	Mr Bell	Friday 0810	Chapel
Year 8 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Friday 1310	A10

Madden House Triumph in the Junior Maths Challenge 2020

In a well-fought competition, eighteen House teams from both Years 7 & 8, undertook a range of mathematical puzzles in the Junior House Maths Challenge held on Thursday 12th November. The competition was held in two year-group bubbles, with the pupils enjoying "afternoon refreshments" during the competition.

In the overall competition Hollenden House took third place, Queens House took second place and the Madden team of Joshua Worrell, Anxo Garcia Missan, Aarush Sharma and George McCaclinching overall victory.

Congratulations to all participants and a big thank you to Mrs Smith for organising the competition.

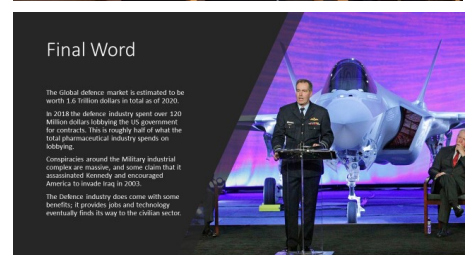
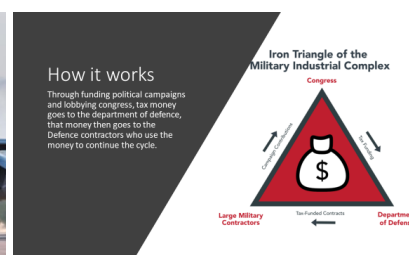




Russell Talk - How influential is the Military?

This week Betsy Latimer-Sayer delivered an insightful talk into how the Military Industrial Complex functions, such as the astronomical amount of funding that goes into the department of defence.

information included the global defence market being worth up to \$1.6 trillion, and various conspiracies surrounding the Military Industrial Complex including the believed assassination of President Kennedy. All of these demonstrated the power and potential danger that the complex holds in the world today and the lengths that those in control will go to in order to uphold its fundamental structure.





AUTUMN CONCERT



Kaylah Black, Year 10

***To be broadcast virtually on
Monday 23 November 2020***

From the Sport Department

Football

Year 8 Tournament

As the A team players were away 'on International Duty' it was time for domestic rivalries to resume between Chelsea, captained by Will Caldwell, Leicester, led by George Bullock, Manchester City, skippered by James Dalton, and Manchester United under the control of Chris Doble.

It was Chris Doble and Man Utd who opened their accounts after only 3 seconds of their opening fixture against City! However, normal service was restored by City as they ran out 3-2 winners.

In the 2nd round, Jack 'Vardy' Taylor scored a screamer, only to have it disallowed because the game was restarted incorrectly. Some students were finding self-officiating quite a challenge, but we got through!

In the next round of matches George scored from well inside his own half and it was good to see quite a few players improving their skill levels especially when striking the ball. However, George couldn't prevent Leicester from losing 6-4. At the end of the first half of the season, United led City on goals scored, Chelsea were 3rd and Leicester were in the relegation spot. Time for a transfer window!

In honour of the recent US elections we decided to do it US draft style. Leicester were allowed to select any 1 player (except captains) from any team. George chose Chukwuemeka Okonkwo. The other captains then made their choices and the season resumed.

In Leicester's goal, Danush Punitharajah 'Schmeichel' was keeping his team in games and Will's Chelsea were much improved; the introduction of Seb Laidlaw in defense made a significant difference. After the final round City were 4th, Chelsea remained third, Leicester were 2nd (again on goals scored), but the runaway winners were Chris Doble's Manchester United.

On another pitch the remaining Year 8 footballers competed in a separate tournament where they showed some great movement and body shapes unopposed to start with. When this progressed into the possession based game there was some really good play being shown with some great angles and body shape being created by Sebastian Stretton. Oliver Stephen's was breaking through the defensive team too with his passing game. This finally progressed into the game at the end where both Goalkeeper's, Lorenzo Shone and Thibault Hardy were in fine form.

Aarush Sharma was running the show finding great pockets with his clever movement and receiving on the half turn excellently. Malakhi McKenzie expertly finished well twice from the right to give his team the overall win for the afternoon.



Year 9 Tournament

Year 9s tournament continued last week's theme and the U14 B's and C's went into a Champions League format. The players decided that they would have Champions league tournaments every other week whilst on the other week they would go on 'international duty' with their teams (B & C's) to work on certain aspects of their game.

The tournament had some entertaining games starting with a 3-0 win to Real Madrid against PSG with captain, Louis Le Gaillard, proving his player picks were strong. Barcelona also got off to a great start with a 2-0 win against Liverpool with Captain Archie Sullivan-Martin and Kenneth Peskett combining well on numerous occasions.

Barcelona continued their fine form winning 3 out of their first 4 games with the help of 'the rock' at the back, Toby Cascarini, helping them to 3 clean sheets in 4 games.

The tournament when right down to the wire with Juventus looking strong with their attacking play coming through Alessandro Torre, Valentino Khamnei and Henry Kingston looking a threat whilst goalkeeper Lennon Hill was doing his job at the other end.

The table finished as follows:

1. Barcelona - 15 points
2. Real Madrid - 13 points
3. Juventus - 13 points
4. Liverpool - 9 points
5. PSG - 7 points

These points will now be tallied up for when the players return from international duty the following week. With 1st place taking 10pts, 2nd 8pts, 3rd 6pts, 4th 4pts and 5th 2pts.

Looking forward to seeing what transfers are also on the horizon for the teams.

Please check www.royalrussellsport.co.uk for team news and training details.

Strength & Conditioning

Following a superb effort on the cross-country route with everyone beating their personal best, Year 10 enjoyed some strength and conditioning training and fitness testing.

However, no one has been able to beat Mr Brennan's 60



Key Diary Dates

Monday 16 November

Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 17 November

Year 7 Oxford Breakfast with the Headmaster

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 7

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Year 8

Wednesday 10 March 2021

Year 9

Tuesday 2 February 2021

Year 10

Thursday 10 December 2020

Year 11

Thursday 21 January 2021

Year 12

Thursday 25 February 2021



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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen