



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

17 January 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

At the beginning of the week we received news of successful Oxford and Cambridge offers for two of our Year 13 students. Congratulations to Ella Jones, Theology and Megan Driver, History and Politics at Cambridge and also to Year 14 student, Tim Zhang who secured a place to read Psychology at Oxford. We are delighted with these offers which reflect the hard work of the individuals and the staff who have been supporting them. Congratulations also to Ms Tovey and the Sixth Form Team who have now sent all of the UCAS forms for our Year 13 cohort. A huge range of conditional and unconditional offers have now been received and it is great to see the positive effect this is having in motivating the Sixth Form students.

Following their 1:1 interviews with senior staff this week, Year 11 pupils and parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers at their Parents' Evening on Tuesday 21 January to discuss their progress and to plan for the important GCSE examinations ahead.

Year 9 pupils and parents started looking forward to their own GCSE courses with an information evening on Thursday, where the structure of the GCSE Options were explained in preparation for the Parents' Evening on Tuesday 4 February.

Year 10 Geography students are completing their fieldwork on a trip to Dorset this weekend and Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art students enjoyed a trip to the Tate Modern on Thursday.

I was delighted to welcome John Russell, 7th Earl Russell and great-great-great-grandson of John Russell, 1st Earl Russell, to the School on Wednesday. The 1st Earl was the first President of the School and gave his name to the School.

Congratulations to Becky Birchall, Matt Lewis, Tom Hood and Terri Mcfarlane on their challenging and entertaining performance for their final Year 13 Drama examination this afternoon.

At Assembly this afternoon I talked about kindness and read an open letter from Lucy Alexander on the devastating impact of unkindness on her family. Harrowing though it may be, there are important messages for pupils, staff and parents in this letter which concludes with: "Please always be kind, for you never know what is in someone's heart or mind."

I have no doubt that Royal Russell is a caring and kind community, but as next Monday, the third Monday in January, is sometimes referred to as 'Blue Monday', I thought it would help all of the Royal Russell Community to have an extra focus on kindness. I specifically challenged the pupils today to make a special effort to show kindness to their families and to each other on Monday as a warm up for a 'Kindness Day' which we will mark later this year.

I mentioned 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' by Charlie Mackesy in my newsletter last term and recommend it to you all. It has been described as 'soothing balm for the soul in these turbulent, polarised times' and includes some wonderful reflections on kindness and friendship.

I look forward to supporting our fixtures against Alleyns and St John's Leatherhead tomorrow and to joining the Oxford and Cambridge Pilgrims' Way Relay. This is a 24 mile run linked to our 'Canterbury Tales' fundraising challenge. The boys and staff will run loops around school from midday on Saturday until the same time on Sunday. The aim is to run more than 133 miles, the length of the Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury, raising money for the men's mental health charity, CALM.

With best wishes,

**Chris Hutchinson**  
Headmaster

# Lord John Russell's great, great, great Grandson visits the School!

The seventh Earl Russell, John Russell, visited Royal Russell on Wednesday to meet with the Headmaster and to tour the School with the Director of Operations, Neil Cufley.

Earl Russell is a freelance professional photographer specialising in Political, News, Event and Conference photography, Charity Commissions and Landscapes. He has also stood for Parliament and has been a local Councillor here in South London.

This was Earl Russell's first visit to the School and comes some 160 years after his great, great, great, grandfather, First Earl Russell became our first President, giving his name to the School.

We hope John Russell enjoyed touring the School and sharing its rich history with our Director of Operations.



# Boarders' Go-Karting

A group of Boarders enjoyed their first round of Karting this year. Once registration was complete, all the Boarders got suited and booted ready to race.

They all had the chance to go round the circuit several times and show off their impressive driving skills. It was a great afternoon enjoyed by all.

The second round of Boarders go this Sunday!



## Safeguarding Corner

The use of cameras on desktops and mobile devices have made it possible to look at each other's life. This week click [here](#) for an interesting article from the BBC.



Mrs Nathalie Hart,  
Deputy Head Pastoral

# Canterbury Tales Progress

‘We all have a tale to tell’

Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

**£10,413.61!!**



## Walkie Talkie Climb!

On Saturday 29 January, we will be climbing the Walkie Talkie! To support the Canterbury Tales Challenge, Old Russellian Bhonae Tayli and I will be climbing 896 steps, over 36 floors in the Walkie Talkie to help raise money for seriously ill children at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Every pound counts and gives the 619 seriously ill children who arrive at Great Ormond Street Hospital every day the best chance to fulfil their potential.

Will you help us reach our target of £500?

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/julie-wong2>

Mrs Wong



## Forthcoming Events - Check Firefly Regularly for Details!!

A Pilgrim's Way Relay

Staff Bake Off Competition

Canterbury Run

Bike Run to Canterbury Cathedral

Cathedral Choir

Croquet for St Christopher's

Canterbury to School three-day Walk

Fringe Event

Buchanan Sofa Surf Sleepover

24 hour Spin Class

Cake Sale

Sport v King's Canterbury

The Big Tea Party

Canterbury Hostelry Tour

Thirty Mile Walk

Restless Triathlon

**The Grand Finale!**

**Sunday 14 June 2020**

# QUIZ NIGHT

Take the Challenge on Our  
Quiz Night.



Great Hall  
Saturday  
8th February  
7.30pm

Tickets £10. Table  
snacks provided.  
Tables of 10 people  
max. Doors open at  
7pm. Licenced bar  
available or BYO.

Tickets on Wisepay or email  
[mel@bruguier.net](mailto:mel@bruguier.net)

# From the Sport Department

## Football

### U18A

The first football fixture of 2020 was against Repton School and had it all! There were four seasons of weather conditions, quality, mistakes, bravery, commitment and the attitude to work for each other throughout the entire fixture. The performance embodied our school motto.

The first half was a battle with each team trying to put their stamp on the game. Direct ball, set plays and lots of second balls was the passage of play. 0-0 half time.

The second half was a different affair. Royal Russell had more possession, but gave away a free kick 25 yards from goal which led to the opening goal. 1-0.

A change of shape, and the introduction of Jack Gallagher and Braiden Hall made an instant impact, as Kilae Crockwell moved to a more central position. It was Kilae who proved to be the key to unlocking the Repton defence. Imran Kayani drove a cross to Kilae, who poked it in to make it 1-1, with 8 minutes remaining.

A draw for many was the result, however Royal Russell now in the ascendancy, had other ideas. Aaron Ibe swung the ball again wide to Imran, who found Kilae with two defenders on him in the box. Kilae controlled the ball before mesmerisingly, tip toeing his way through the defenders and calmly slotting the ball into the top corner. 2-1 with a minute to go. All 3 points owed by a resilient 1st XI.

Well done to all involved and thank you for all your support.



## U18A

The 1st XI were hosting the prestigious Corinthian Casuals 1st XI - recently on TV with their adventures to Brazil, and the rich history of the club being the oldest club in the country (Corinthians 1882).

The School's XI squad were set up to travel around the country showing independent schools how to play football. However, on this occasion we were able to repay the complement with an impressive display. Clinical finishing by Head boy Jack Gallagher scoring 2, Deputy Head boy Imran Kayani scoring 2 and Dan Prefontaine making the final score 5-1. In true Corinthian spirit an award was given to recognise a player representing the ethos and qualities of the Club on and off the pitch, this award went to Imran Kayani.

## Netball

### U15A

A great start for the U15A netball team at a friendly tournament last Thursday at Lingfield High. Although we only won two matches, they were competing against the year above. They showed excellent versatility and extremely strong team work, which produced some fantastic combinations and excellent decision making. Our squad of 11 included two U13A players who certainly held their own and contributed to some great results.

Well done girls keep up the hard work.

### U14A

What a sensational match the U14A team had on Wednesday night against Bromley High. They played to an extremely high and consistent level with positive teamwork and exceptional shooting, leading through the entire game. The final score was 24-16. The continued commitment and hard work is clearly showing, a great game to watch and a deserved win.

Players' player went to Beth Long, and Coaches' player to Amy Tree.

### U14B & C

The U14 Bs and Cs also welcomed Bromley High to Royal Russell. Two tough fixtures, but the girls were resilient throughout and showed periods of good play. Player of the matches went respectively to Stefania Findlator for the Bs, and Emily Ton in the Cs.

## House Sport

There have been some excellent performances from our athletes this week in both badminton and swimming.

Especially:

- David Lang (C), pretty much untouchable in any format of badminton.
- Lara Flint (Q) in the 25m intermediate freestyle
- Eryn Cornick (H) in the 50m inter backstroke and the Queen's inter freestyle relay team
- Uliana Glukhova (Q) in the 50m senior girls' breaststroke (40.30)
- Cameron Leishman (C), also in the 50m breaststroke, but senior boys' (37.39)

All set new school records. Good stuff.

# House Tables

Girls' House Competition	Buchanan	Hollenden	Queen's	Reade
Junior Netball	25	14	27	32
Intermediate Netball	31	24	14	29
Senior Netball	14	24	25	35
Junior Hockey	14	31	24	29
Intermediate Hockey	28	26	23	21
Senior Hockey	31	8	21	32
Senior Table Tennis	20	8	16	12
Senior Volleyball	8	12	20	16
Junior Table Tennis	8	20	16	12
Junior Indoor Athletics	14	29	27	31
Intermediate Table Tennis	16	8	12	20
Intermediate Indoor Athletics	32	24	16	40
Junior Badminton	12	20	16	8
Junior Swimming	14	21	28	35
Intermediate Badminton	12	20	16	8
Intermediate Swimming	25	18	35	20
Senior Badminton	8	20	16	12
Senior Swimming	8	12	16	20
<b>OVERALL POINTS</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

Boys' House Competition	Cambridge	Keable	Madden	Oxford	St Andrew's
Junior Football	19	20	35	18	13
Intermediate Football	32	17	22	27	7
Senior Football	32	19	23	13	18
Junior Basketball	37	34	34	13	17
Intermediate Basketball	29	37	22	38	9
Senior Basketball	31	17	10	32	15
Senior Table Tennis	20	12	16	8	4
Senior Volleyball	20	12	16	4	8
Junior Table Tennis	20	4	16	12	8
Junior Indoor Athletics	26	19	28	18	17
Intermediate Table Tennis	20	12	16	8	4
Intermediate Indoor Athletics	12	27	13	29	28
Junior Badminton	12	20	16	4	8
Junior Swimming	18	19	35	17	16
Intermediate Badminton	12	4	16	20	8
Intermediate Swimming	21	35	7	25	24
Senior Badminton	12	20	4	8	16
Senior Swimming	35	8	13	28	12
<b>OVERALL POINTS</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>

# Key Diary Dates

Friday 17 January

Year 12 and 13 Spanish Exchange Trip to Madrid Departs

Sunday 19 January

Boarders Go-Karting Activity

Sunday 19 January

Pilgrims Way Relay Oxford & Cambridge  
Canterbury Tales Challenge

Monday 20 January

'Elevate' Study Skills Presentation

Tuesday 21 January

Year 11 Parents' Evening: Great Hall

Thursday 23 January

Senior School Challenge Day

Friday 24 January

Sixth Form Party: Junior School Hall



For all our latest news...

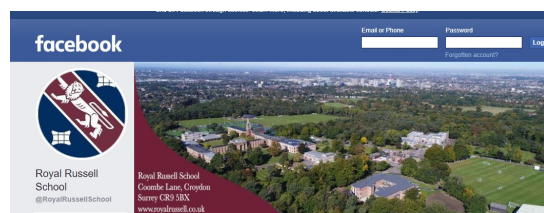
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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen