



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

14 February 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Tuesday evening was one of the highlights of the week with the auditorium full of anticipation for the 'Showcase Concert', our solo recital evening. We were not disappointed as performance after performance showed the amazing range of talent within the music department. My congratulations to all those who took part and especially to those doing so for the first time.

Congratulations also to Phoenix Courtney-Bennett who played so beautifully in our assembly this afternoon.

In our Library 'Russell Talks' programme, the Junior Russell Talk was given by Alan Raouf-Mairuf, who spoke to Year 6 about the Novel Coronavirus and Josh Endacott presented the Senior Russell Talk on 'Why people are never satisfied with what they have'.

The quiz bowl competition for 2019 – 2020 concluded on Wednesday lunchtime with rounds on logos, music and the news. The lead has swapped throughout the competition and, Buchanan House were once again victorious, managing to regain their grasp on the quiz bowl trophy for the second year in a row.

On Wednesday evening, a packed Auditorium of pupils and staff enjoyed the Royal Russell 'ROSCARS'. Congratulations to Ms White, Ms Groves and all of the Media Team for an excellent evening of entertainment and to the winners:

Best GCSE Editing	Calum Firth
Best A Level Editing	Rush Shefik
Best GCSE Cinematography	Sophie Stretton
Best A Level Cinematography	Matt Lewis
Outstanding Contribution	Charlie Jones
Director of Print	Daniel Prefontaine
Best Video	Philip Stoycheff

We have an amazing range of exciting trips and learning experiences taking place over half-term. Yesterday a group of 10 pupils studying Spanish travelled to Zaragoza with Ms Conde for the first part of their exchange visit and very, very early on Thursday morning the Ski trip set off for a week in Utah, USA. Thank you to Mr Davies, Mr Selby and Ms Faulkner for running this amazing experience.

Our GCSE Historians travelled to Berlin and Munich with Ms Worsfold, Mr Hutchinson, Ms Young and Mr Dureau for 5 days of historical exploration and an immersion in German culture.

A group of 20 Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils travel to the Azores today with Mr Grindrod, Ms Allison and Mr Buckley to experience the amazing physical geography of these islands.

At Assembly, I congratulated Emily Hayden de Carbonnieres and Vrutik Patel who are the first pupils to be awarded Headmaster's Certificates for achieving over 75 merits

The Royal Russell Community is still struggling to come to terms with the terrible news, that we received this week, the death of Year 6 Pupil, Annalise Luffingham. Year 9 Pupil, Lara Flint shared some thoughts with us this afternoon on Annie's wonderful love for learning and we held a moment of silent prayer for Annie and her family. We also gave thanks for the friendship and joy that Annie brought to share with the Royal Russell community.

I wish you all a restful half term break.

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster

Safer Internet Sketch

As part of this year's safer internet day, a group of the senior school digital leaders wrote and performed a short sketch for the Lower Junior School.

During Wednesday morning's assembly, Conor Morris, Emily Hayden de Carbonnières, Roan Ecott and Toby Cascarini taught pupils about screen time. They performed a dramatic sketch and allowed time for questions afterwards, they shared their knowledge about the positive aspects of devices, but cautioned that we should all make sure we don't spend too long on our devices, and that we should take time to enjoy other activities too.



The younger students definitely enjoyed having some of the 'big kids' join them and they took away a very important message.

Well done to all the digital leaders who took part!

Ms Clarke

Teacher of Science



Junior Russell Talk

Prospective medic, Alan Raouf-Mairuf in Year 12, spoke to 33 Year 6's in this week's Junior Russell Talk about the Novel Coronavirus.

Alan focused his talk on the facts we have about the coronavirus and dispelled some of the myths from the media.

The Year 6s were clearly well-read on the topic and were very keen to learn more - they had LOTS of questions!

Mrs Tovey

Head of Sixth Form



Senior Russell Talk

Josh Endacott presented the Senior Russell Talk this week with a thought-provoking look at "Why people are never satisfied with what they have".

Josh had researched the idea thoroughly and had found that, according to Alex Lickerman MD, "One's happiness set point is determined primarily by heredity and by personality traits ingrained in us early in life, and, as a result remains relatively constant throughout our lives".

Josh also explained that our satisfaction lies in the seeking of new and better things, rather than the acquisition of them. Josh ended his presentation with a motivational video reminding us that the power to feel satisfied lies within our own hands and that being grateful for what we already have is key to this.



Music Showcase 2020

Two weeks ago, over forty pupils, covering all year groups, auditioned to take part in the annual showcase concert. The auditions themselves were a musical treat, and enabled many pupils to display talent that we had not heard before. It was very tough to decide who to invite to perform in the concert.

The concert itself was a great success, and all the pupils clearly flourished as a result of having a solo spot in the auditorium. A large audience enjoyed a wide range of performances, which included many singers, and also a number of instrumental solos. It was really encouraging to see some promising and confident performances from Year 7 pupils, and some really mature solos from our sixth formers. Pupils in Years 8-11 also displayed a wide range of talent.

There are a number of music events taking place after half term, and into the Summer term, many of which are detailed on the next page.

Mr Millward

Head of Music





Forthcoming Musical Events

Wednesday 26 February

Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel, 7pm

Thursday 5 March

Lunchtime Concert, Shirley Methodist Church, 1pm

Saturday 7 March

Music Dinner, Great Hall, 7pm please email
vrees@royalrussell.co.uk for ticket Information

Monday 23 March

Spring Concert, Auditorium, 7pm

Thursday 2 April

Rush Hour Concert, A10, 5pm

Thursday 23 April

Clare Martin Masterclass, Auditorium, 7pm

Canterbury Tales Progress

‘We all have a tale to tell’

Spreading Love on Valentine’s Day ♡

Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

£14,103.88!!

This Valentine’s day, Royal Russell is focusing on giving back and spreading love to those who need it most.

Common Room Crafts

The Senior School common room is being decorated for Valentine’s to share positivity and appreciation.

Teachers have been busy filling out hearts with the names of the colleagues they’d like to recognise and why.

Blue Cross Mufti Day 2020

Our tale this time...

the Blue Cross provide help and care for, often unwanted, animals who have either been neglected by their owners, or for pets whose families simply don’t have the funds to care for them.



14th Feb 2020

This Valentine’s Day I recognise that there are things about people in our community that are amazing and that make a big difference to school life



We are Royal Russell
Our mental health matters

On Ye Bike!!

From Friday 1 May 12.00 noon to Saturday 2 May 12.00 noon we will be holding a 24 hour Spinathon!

Mr Selby, Mr Davies and Mr Parham are attempting to complete a marathon 24-hour cycle Spinning Classand they’d like you to join them.

The challenge is being undertaken under the instruction of Old Russellian, Luke Turner, whose personal training company, transform2fit, is based at The Sandilands Club.

All the details can be found on the Canterbury Tales Challenge page on Firefly.

We have 3 bikes set aside to allow 3 people to join us for any of the 30 minute slots; all we ask of you as you sign up is that you raise/donate a minimum of £10.00 which will be split across our three charities.

For those of you who do sign up, we will be in contact next half term to give you the full details and to confirm your place.

It promises to be a terrific event – a lot of effort and, hopefully, just as much fun to raise much needed funds for three very worthy causes. Many thanks for your support.



MMA Boxing

Firstly let me introduce myself, I am Ms Bonner, the new Head of Business BTEC.

Please can I tell you about the next crazy event I am participating in as part of the Canterbury Tales initiative.

My Tale:

The charity I am supporting is Cancer Research. I am lucky enough that no immediate family have suffered from cancer, but I have worked with students and teachers who have and I feel it's a worthy cause to raise money for.

Fortunately, I am able to train and fight to raise awareness too, as, for the suffers, sometimes the fight is too hard. I want to raise funds for the charity who uses trial drugs to help fight this awful disease. Please click [here](#) for my Justgiving link.

My Challenge:

I am taking part in an Ultra White Collar Boxing event where I will be trained to box at a level to take part in a 6 min fight. I have never boxed before so it's a completely new skill to learn in 8 weeks in order to be confident enough to enter the ring!

The event itself: you have to be 18 or over to attend and it's a black tie event where tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).



I also have the idea of auctioning off my stage name, music I come out to in the ring and the type of boxing shorts I wear on the night. All of which would be great to get RRS involved as it's also a sport I know a few students also participate in. I hope to show that women can box, not just men.

I have practiced MMA style sports before so I have some skills that are transferable but as I haven't done this for 4 years I may be slightly rusty to say the least!

If anyone is in the area and wants to support a colleague/teacher at the event, it would be brilliant to see you there, cheering us on. When purchasing a ticket, please state you are supporting ELLIE BONNER. Thank you!

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

Cake Sale

Sport v King's Canterbury

The Big Tea Party

Canterbury Hostelry Tour

Thirty Mile Walk

Restless Triathlon

24 hour spin class

The Grand Finale!
Sunday 14 June 2020

2020 Trinity Schools' Book Award

Since the start of the school year, selected pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 have been taking part in the 2020 Trinity Schools' Book Award. The theme for the shortlist of books this year was : "Stand Up, Speak Out".

Pupils have enjoyed reading books covering a wide range of issues including racism, disability and climate change and have participated in discussions and activities focusing on these important themes.

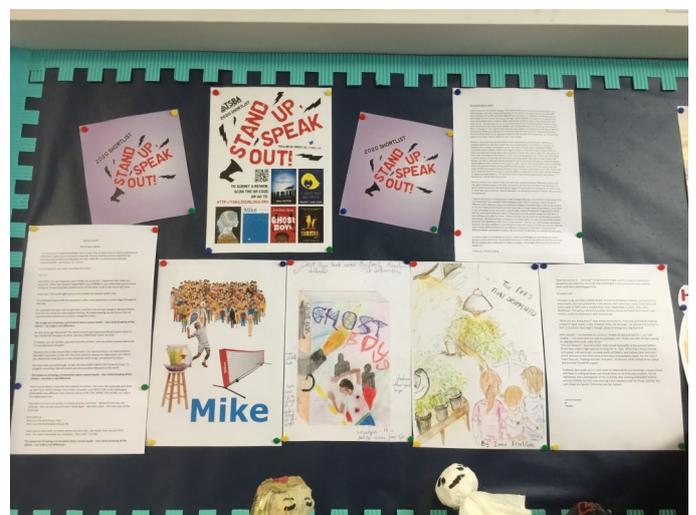
All those taking part have had the chance to enter a competition to produce a creative response to one of the books they have read. The following pupils have been chosen by the Library staff and English department as school winners : Tea Maria Gabara, Aya Clarke, Priscilla Obeng, Jessica Patel and Erynn Edney.

Congratulations and well done to all those who have taken part. Two of these entries will now go forward to the main TSBA competition and be judged against the entries from all schools taking part in the scheme.

A small group of pupils will be travelling to City of London School next month to attend the Award Ceremony where prizes will be awarded to the TSBA competition winners and to the author of the most popular book on the shortlist.

Ms Colyer

Librarian



Quiz Bowl 2020

Wednesday lunchtime saw the culmination of the 2019 – 2020 Quiz Bowl.

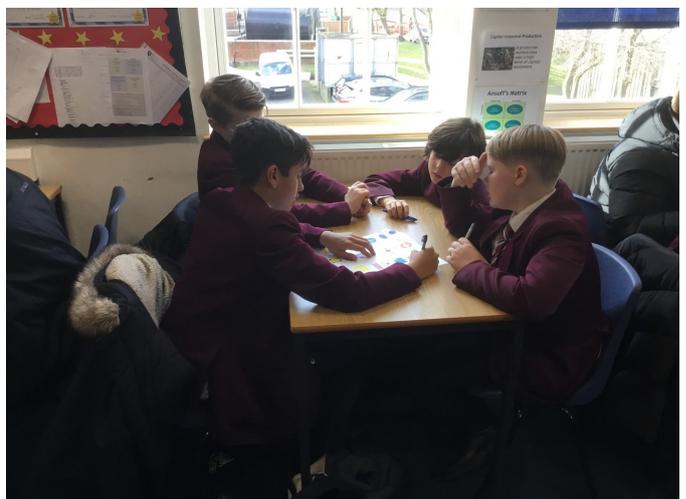
After a strong performance in rounds on logos, music and current news, Buchanan House are once again victorious, managing to regain their grasp on the Quiz Bowl Trophy for the second year in a row.

Buchanan House has been represented this year by Georgia Pocheliev, Caitlin Baron, Lara Davis, Jiya Dasai, Eleanor Von Gerard, Tara Odedra, Hannah Sinclair, Mia McCann and Dixie Evans, well done girls.

A huge congratulations to all those involved, representing your House and gaining valuable points for the overall activities cup.

Ms Faulkner

Teacher of Business Studies



Roscar's 2020

This Year's Roscar's got off to a flying start with our hosts Matt Lewis and Charlie Jones warming up our excited and expectant audience. The first Roscar of the night was presented to Calum Firth for Best GCSE Editing for his excellently constructed music video and the Headmaster awarding Sophie Stretton with the Best GCSE Cinematography award for her beautifully shot story of a couple falling in love on Brighton Pier. However, the night wasn't dominated with GCSE work as Year 13's infamous Rush Shefik took home the prize of Best A Level Editing with his 'Power' inspired video featuring exciting mirrored edits and a slick monochrome aesthetic. The Roscar for Best A Level Cinematography was awarded to Matt Lewis for his gripping drama featuring the ever talented, Terri Mcfarlane.

This year, the Roscars celebrated the hard work and commitment of a single student who surpassed expectations in his lesson contribution, coursework, commitment and positivity during the many extra-curricular tasks he has undertaken. The Media department awarded Charlie Jones with the Outstanding Contribution award for all of the hard work he has devoted to the department over the past year.

A new award was created this year to showcase the fantastic print work the students have completed; the Director of Print was awarded to Daniel PreFontaine for his edgy and skilfully executed film marketing campaign. The final award of Best Video was presented to Philip Stoycheff for his post-modernist music video that featured the creative use of both an analogue and digital camera to tell his love scorn story.

All Year 13 and Year 11 coursework pieces were showcased and the audience was also treated to a montage of Year 10 and 12 moving image work. A heartfelt thank you goes to the diligent 1853 Productions crew of Year 10 and 12 Media students who filmed and live edited the occasion along with lighting, stage managing, sound and video ensuring the event ran smoothly and professionally. Congratulations to all winners at the Roscar's 2020, and to all students in Media who worked so hard to complete exciting, imaginative and outstanding work this year.

Ms Groves

Media Technician



Royal Russell Presents

JAZZ

An Evening with Claire Martin OBE



With the Nikki Iles Trio - A Tribute to Tony Bennett and Bill Evans

Thursday 23 April : 7.00pm : Auditorium

Multi-award winning vocalist and Linn recording artist Claire Martin has been a tour de force on the UK jazz scene for over 30 years and brings together a trio of some of the finest musicians on the scene today; Steve Watts - double bass, Matt Home - drums led by celebrated pianist and arranger Nikki Iles.

Claire will be singing some classics from the Great American Songbook alongside stylish re-workings of the Tony Bennett/Bill Evans songbook repertoire. Claire has enjoyed worldwide critical acclaim and gained many awards including winning eight British Jazz Awards and in 2018 she was the proud recipient of the BASCA Gold Badge Award for her contribution to jazz. Nikki Iles was the BASCA Gold Badge winner for 2019 and is one of the most in-demand pianists of her generation.

'Worldclass' THE TIMES

Tickets are £17.50, plus booking fee. Please click [here](#) to book

Student Leadership Recruitment

On Wednesday, the Headmaster launched the student leadership application process for 2020.

This was followed by a 'meet the Senior Prefect' Event in the library on Thursday, where the Year 13's currently in post shared the highs and lows of their leadership experiences.

It was fantastic to see so many Year 12's interested in taking on further responsibility and we look forward to receiving their letters of application shortly after half term.

Ms Tovey

Head of Sixth Form





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From the Sport Department

Football

U15A

Last Friday, the Under 15 team travelled to Manchester for their semi-final Match against a strong Manchester Grammar side.

Royal Russell started the brighter of the two teams and took advantage in their second attack, when the Manchester Grammar defender handled the ball in the box, giving Royal Russell a penalty three minutes into the game. Bobby Moore, the Royal Russell captain took the shot kick and stroked the ball into the bottom corner, sending the keeper the wrong way. Manchester Grammar looked to reply quickly with some great work down the wings, but the centre half pairing of Sam Charvet and Amir Mohamed Faruk were able to deal with any aerial threat that came their way. 1-0 lead at half time.



Manchester started the second half like they finished the first, with plenty of the ball but no threat on the Royal Russell goal. Royal Russell worked incredibly hard throughout the game, and were rewarded when Louis Saville's 30 yard, long range effort flew into the top left hand corner, leaving the Manchester goalkeeper stranded. 2-0 to Royal Russell. Toby McKimm was called upon in the final few moments and earned his 9th clean sheet of the season so far.

Royal Russell are in the Final for the second time in a row, and they will play our neighbours Whitgift at the Pirelli Stadium, Burton Albion Football club on Thursday 19th March for a 18:00 Kick off. We look forward to your continuing support and making Royal Russell history.



U18A

A long journey down to the windy countryside of Somerset, to play our 5th HUDL league fixture against Millfield School. A poor start resulted in 1-0 down in 9 minutes. An injury to Jack Henry Francis added to the misery, but the introduction of Anthony James drove the team to claw their way back into the game, despite numerous chances, none were converted.

The second half sparked a change of shape, with renewed enthusiasm. Despite lots of possession and territory the efforts were all lost. Millfield went 2-0 up, after a long direct ball went over our back four, and led to a great strike from 20 yards out. We next travel to Shrewsbury to redeem our league on 12th Feb.

U18C

After the 3XI finally found their pitch, they slowly found their way into the match against a very physical and vocal Millfield team. 0-0 at half time. There was optimism in the second half, as a gusting wind and a slight slope worked in our favour. Daniel PreFontaine curled an 18 yard effort, which slotted into the bottom right hand corner. Dan scored again, to wrap up the game, ending with a royal Russell 2-0 win.

U18C

Masquerading again as the 2XI, but now with added depth, the 3XI's cup run in the London Schools continues after a bruising encounter with Forest School. 0-1 down at half time, with at least 2 decent penalties turned down and several good chances spurned, the team waited until the last quarter to first pull level with a tap in from Rezo Tateishvili after any number of good drives including efforts from Kai Neil-Gray, Daniel PreFontaine and Charlie Jones. Then with the full time whistle only minutes away, Captain Charlie Jones glanced a header into the corner of the goal, just out of the despairing hands of the Forest keeper. Final score 2-1

Netball

Sutton High School

Away

This week saw Royal Russell U12's play a block fixture against Sutton High School on Tuesday evening, with teams ranging from A-D. This was a fantastic opportunity for girls that do not normally play in school fixtures to experience some competitive matches. The A team played strong netball from the off, with a quarter time score of 5-0. The Girl's then continued to stretch their lead, again not letting Sutton score a single goal. We started to get complacent in the third quarter, mistakes starting to creep in, however we were able to stretch the lead further. The last quarter saw us play with 5 players, Sutton managed to score 3 goals. With a final score of 22-3, the girls should be very proud of how they played, it was an excellent preparation and a confidence boost for their Surrey finals in March. Congratulations to Naia Bueno-Goti for player of the match.

The B team had a lower scoring match, however they also played strong netball and should be pleased with their performance, another win 7-3, player of the match was awarded to Romy Stephenson.

The C team displayed some excellent passages of play, with excellent defensive skills being shown. The fourth quarter the girls went down to 6 players, however this did not show in their performance, they managed to get a 9-1 victory, with player of the match awarded to Lucy Payne.

For most of the D team players this was one of their first games this year for Royal Russell. This did not show in their performance as they had control of the ball for the majority of the match, they showed excellent defensive skills and great enthusiasm throughout.

Home

On Wednesday, Sutton High School returned the favour, and welcomed our U14 A, B, and C teams. Despite the cold weather, the girls put on a fantastic display of netball. The A team started strong, and managed to pull away from the off set, winning 15-4, with POM being awarded to both Beth Long and Becky Hubbard. The C team matched this result, with another win. Despite only playing with 6 players, they bagged a 2-1 win, with Poppy Clements being awarded POM. The B team unfortunately didn't quite get the result they were after, after a poor start. However, they pulled it back in the final quarter – 10 more minutes and the game would have been there's! POM was given to Nadra Webb!

Well done to all the girls who represented Royal Russell this week in netball.

Key Diary Dates

Monday 24 February	Year 10 Business Studies “Tenner Challenge” Begins
Wednesday 26 February	Sixth Form School Photograph Day
Wednesday 26 February	Chapel Ash Wednesday
Thursday 27 February	CCF RAF Flying at RAG Benson
Thursday 27 February	Year 12 Parents’ Evening : Great Hall
Friday 28 February	Year 12 Maths Conference
Friday 28 February	Year 10 Study Skills : Auditorium



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Royal Russell School

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Royal Russell School

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