

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

Congratulations

I start this half-term newsletter with congratulations to all of the Royal Russell community for the success of this first half of term. Pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard in some testing circumstances to ensure the best possible progress with online learning and I am deeply grateful to everyone for the positive and purposeful approach that has been adopted.

On my calls with pupils and colleagues this week I have, unsurprisingly, detected some tiredness and screen fatigue and I urge everyone to take the opportunity that half-term presents to switch off for a while, unplug and enjoy some rest and relaxation.

I know parents will understand that I have asked teaching staff to put an 'out of office' on their email accounts for the half-term week. If there is a need for emergency contact, please phone the School Reception, with the caveat below.

School Reception Closure over half-term

We will be completing some essential IT maintenance on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February that will affect all of our IT systems including our phones. Therefore the School Reception will be closed on Monday and Tuesday and will re-open at 9.00am on Wednesday 17 February.

Second Half of term

We are awaiting a number of announcements from the UK Government about plans for the second half of term which we are expecting on Monday 22 February. It is possible that there will be some outline information and updates released next week and, if this is the case, I will share the headline announcements with you.

At this point, we plan to offer our online provision for all pupils from Monday 22 February and continue with the supervision of the children of critical workers here on site.

The second half of term is six weeks long with our Easter break starting on Thursday 1 April. I hope that we will see the return of some pupils to the site in that time and I will keep you fully informed as plans evolve.

Director of Music

I was delighted to be able to complete our selection process for our new Director of Music this week and I am very grateful to the group of pupils who helped form part of the interview panel. Feedback from the candidates was that this was a highlight of the process, so my special thanks to Victor Ayodele, Anjani Poopalasingham, Alec Thurbin, Beni Cousin, Elspeth Gardiner, Issy Bennett, Michael Johnson, Amber Lukes, Ellie Von Gerard and Sam Stealey.

I look forward to announcing this new appointment when the formal recruitment process has been completed.

Senior Assembly

At our assembly this afternoon and with Valentine's Day on Sunday, I reminded pupils about the opportunity to say 'thank you' to those who have been looking after them and supporting them, particularly through this testing start to the year.

I also introduced An adventure for Annie, an exciting opportunity to get creative, get outdoors and to remember the amazing life of Annalise Luffingham who sadly passed away from meningitis in February 2020. I would encourage you to support this adventure if you can.

Valentine's Day

At my update assembly with pupils on Monday I shared a love poem from John Agard. 'Hippo Writes a Love Poem to his Wife'

Oh my beautiful fat wife Larger to me than life Smile broader than the river Nile My winsome waddlesome You do me proud in the shallow of morning You do me proud in the deep night Oh, my bodysome mud-basking companion.

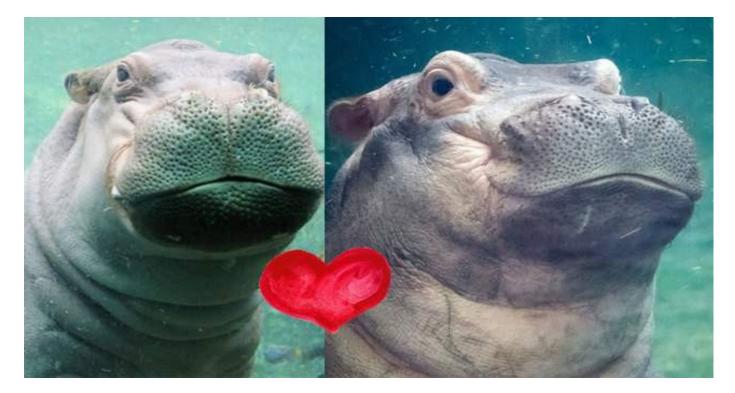
There is a suitable reply 'Hippo Writes a Love Poem to her Husband'

Oh mu lubby-dubby hubby-hippo. With your widely-winning lippo My sumo-thrasher of water Dearer to me than any two-legger How can I live without Your ponderful potamus pout?

For the record, I ought to say that this is not a poem that in anyway refers to Mrs Hutch! My best wishes to you all for a restful half-term week.

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Chris Hutchinson



Step Challenge

		HOUSE								
		_	_				_		_	
		В	C	H	K	M	0	Q	R	A
YEAR	7	8,782	10,600	24,233	5,942	13,516	10,754	15,002	14,226	10,432
	8	13,617	1,006	8,917	11,038	5,340	20,249	16,908	14,447	3,251
	9	1,652	1,842	18,690	12,048	5,831	4,174	13,352	1,044	10,096
	TOTAL	24,051	13,448	51,840	29,028	24,687	35,177	45,262	29,717	23,779
		7TH	9TH	1ST	5TH	6TH	3RD	2ND	4TH	8TH

Average Number of Weekly Steps Taken by Students w/s Monday 1st Feb 2021

In Year 7 Hollenden were first, followed by Reade, then Madden. The Hollenden girls also had the highest average in the competition!

In Year 8 Oxford remained first, followed by Queens, then Reade.

In Year 9 Hollenden remained first, followed by Queens, then Keable.

Top 10 Highest Steppers (In units of 10,000 steps)

Amy Tree (111k), Jasmine Rhial (107k), Uliana Tokolova (100k), Ravi Durjan (97k), Maisy Main (76k), Stanley Harrison (68k), Jack Low (63k), Woody Wyatt (58k) and Jason Lu with Vaisaali Mayooran (57k).

Year 7 Assembly

Top 3 Girls and Boys–Half Term Merits

Top Three Girls

- 1. Isabella Flint 7R Queen's (24 merits)
- 2. Avani Virdi 7S Hollenden (22 merits)
- 3. Louise Mawer 7S Buchanan (21 merits)
- Top Three Boys
- 1. Anxo Garcia Missan 7Q Madden(45 merits)
- 2. Shailen Mistry 7Q Cambridge (23 merits)
- 3. Charles Hayden de Carbonnières 7 St Andrew's (19 merits)

Alejandro Christou 7P Madden (19 merits)

Top Girl and Top Boy

Louise Mawer 7S Buchanan (6 merits)

Arthur Leake 7P Madden (8 merits)

Online Superstars!

FPN

Year 7—Rohan Philpot, 7P, deserves a special mention as he has maintained an average of 95% for work completed throughout this half term. He has additionally submitted evidence of dishes created in his spare time.

Mia Harrison comes close in second with an average of 87%.

Max Graham has over five merits for grades over 90%.

Amber stuart, in 7S has also gained over 90% for all of the work she has completed.

The following notable achievements show evidence of pupils Klara Dqorakows effort in their own time.



In our recent French lessons, year 7S pupils have been working on free time activities and have designed some posters about what they like to do and how often. Well done to the class for their great contributions.

Bravo Ama Amiaka, Anthony Yau, Avani Virdi, Charlie Holland, Isabel Gironella, Jason Lu, Joshua Worrell, Kalan Sharma, Lauren Silvera, Marin Singh, Matilda Welsh, Mia Hughes, Michael Chiu, Thomas Scarles and Vaisaali Mayooran.

Rohan Philpot

Daisy Ding

Maisie Main



Online Superstars!

ART

They have been creating research pages on the art movement 'Fauvism'



Year 7 TP: A Right Royal Scandal!

It is 1000 BCE. According to the Tanakh (Old Testament), Israelites have been freed from slavery and are now peacefully settled in the land of Israel. God's promises appear to be coming true: they are united and in the Promised Land, they have a strong military which keeps them safe from other nations, and Israel's economy is improving. They have a beloved king, King David, who is seen as a 'Messiah' (saviour). The Israelites even have the Ten Commandments and a Temple in Jerusalem, so they can obey God and keep a positive relationship with Him.

Despite this, we learn in 2 Samuel 11 that King David has been up to mischief. Despite being a role model to Israel and seen as a servant of God, David gets distracted by...a woman! What happens next could have dire consequences for Israel...

Year 7s had to break the news to the nation! The very best articles went above and beyond! A huge well done to the whole of Year 7 for engaging so well with this task and tackling challenging theological concepts (some of which are studied in A Level Religious Studies!).



Our King The Murder

Our king has betrayed us. He has killed an innocent man and slept with his wife. He has broken many of the Ten commandments and deserves to

One evening King David saw a woman bathing and sent out for someone to find out something about her. The man came back and told him that her name is Bathsheba and is the wife of Uriah the Hittite but this didn't stop him

Our King still slept with her and got he pregnant. He has broken two of the ten commandments. He was jealous of Uriah for having Bathsheba as his wife and committed adultery for sleeping

David made Uriah Stay another night that day. They ate and drank together and David made Uriah drunk. That night Uriah didn't come home. Instead he slept on his mat with his master's

The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. He had arranged to get Uriah killed. THis is breaking the commandment do not murder as David is aranging to kill Uriah.

Anxo Garcia Missan

We interview We interviewed a citizen called Abraham and this is what he said " I don't think we can trust the king anymore. He has killed an innocent man. We need to get him off the throne and have someone loyal and trustworthy to be our king." ved a citizen (

David has already been punished by his first born son being killed. But will that be the end of It. Will we all be punished like what happened to the Egyptians when they sinned? Will we get life long punishments like what happened to Adam and Eve when the ate the apple? Or will it just be the death of David's son ?

Now no one trusts the king but what will happen to us? The army won't listen to him so we will be under attack. We will have riots in the stre in the streets

ew king to overthro



THE OLD TESTAMENT BANUEL 11

Year 8 Assembly

Top Students

8P – No L1's

Andrews, Beatrice	Hollenden	8P	McCann, Mia	Buchanan	8P
Bueno-Goti, Naia	Reade	8P	Obasuyi, Olivia	Queens	8P
Croffie, Ava	Hollenden	8P	Patel, Jessica	Buchanan	8P
Dalton, James	Madden	8P	Punitharajah, Danush	Keable	8P
Gardiner, Elspeth	Hollenden	8P	Smith, Nichola	Queens	8P
Haig, Hartley	St Andrews	8P	Vorontsov, Aleksei	Cambridge	8P
Knolles, Amy	Queens	8P	Ward, Isabelle	Reade	8P
McCallister, George	Madden	8P	Williamson, Max	Madden	8P

8Q – No L1's

Bebawi, Milo	Keable	8Q	Patel, Shayna	Queens	8Q
Cousin, Benedetta	Hollenden	8Q	Payne, Joseph	Oxford	8Q
Dunn, Olivia	Reade	8Q	Stacey, Ted	St Andrews	8Q
Gammell, Mia	Buchanan	8Q	Venkatasami, Joseph	Oxford	8Q
Haley, Tallulah	Hollenden	8Q	Walker, Emily	Hollenden	8Q
Nadeem, Izza	Reade	8Q			

8R – No L1's

Alao, Toni	Buchanan	8R	Howe, Patrick	Oxford	8R
Aspland, Zara	Queens	8R	Javaid, Alveena	Reade	8R
Bradbury, Luca	Oxford	8R	Kirmani, Natasha	Reade	8R
Bullock, George	Oxford	8R	Mayaki-	Queens	8R
Chen, Michael	Cambridge	8R	Netherway, Emily	Queens	8R
Doble, Christopher	St Andrews	8R	Olarewaju, Loni	St Andrews	8R
Edney, Erynn	Reade	8R	Peng, Rain	Oxford	8R
Emerson, Ben	Keable	8R	Spellings, Zoe	Buchanan	8R
			Stretton, Sebastian	Keable	8R

8S – No L1's

Buckingham, Elena	Hollenden	8S	Portman, Matias	Oxford	8S
Jotangia, Kayan	Cambridge	8S	Prinsloo, Johan	St Andrews	8S
Kaminski, Hannah	Hollenden	8S	Robinson, Caitlin	Buchanan	8S
Mangaru, Kesmia	Reade	8S	Steele, Katie	Hollenden	8S
McDowall, Jamie	Cambridge	8S	Taylor, Jack	Oxford	8S
Mittal, Akshat Prakash	Keable	8S	Tokolova, Uliana	Hollenden	8S
Mullen, Thomas	Cambridge	8S	von Gerard, Eleanor	Buchanan	8S

Top Girl and Boys

- Elspeth Gardener
- Maanik Manchanda
- Aleksei Vorontsov
- Lorenzo Shone
- Ted Stacey
- George Bullock

Stars of the Week

Tutor Group Mentions

- Year 8 Keable tutor group has shown excellent teamwork this half term, supporting one another to aim high and gaining lots of merits in the process.
- **Year 8 Reade** for getting a huge amount of merits, all being at tutor time, having their cameras on and just generally being BRILLIANT.

Special mention – Keable group

- Year 8 Keable tutor group has shown excellent team work this half term, supporting one another to aim high and gaining lots of Merits in the process.
- Last week saw a triple achievement: Danush P reached the golden 50 Merits mark, Lorenzo S gained a Merit for every lesson on Friday, and the whole tutor group gained over 40 Merits in total.
- Milo B made amazing progress in his report this half term, while new student Akshat M is gaining Merits in many subjects, despite the barrier of starting a new school in a new country all online.
- The whole group contributed to Wellbeing Day with lots of positive ideas and outcomes on ways to have fun off screens. And this week Danush chaired our first student-led Form time, with a presentation on his Food Tech project leading to a fascinating and at times competitive discussion of the different projects.

Year 8 Languages special mentions

- For increasing their spoken Spanish in lessons and exceeding expectations answering in lessons: Mia Gammell, Tallulah Haley, Izza Nadeem, Lorenzo Shone, Kayan Jotangia, Jamie McDowall
- For consistently outstanding and creative contributions to online lessons this term in Spanish and French : George Bullock, Elspeth Gardiner, Abraham Kawa, Amy Knolles, Nichola Smith, Uliana Tokolova, Joseph Venkatasami, Aleksei Vorontsov
- French Y8 Superstars (sorry no work as the music presentations are videos):
- Beatrice Andrews and Kayan Jotangia consistently good work and effort over this half term. Très bien!

The following students in 8S2 and 8P2 achieved over 90% for the amazing Ethical research projects they presented to classmates last week.

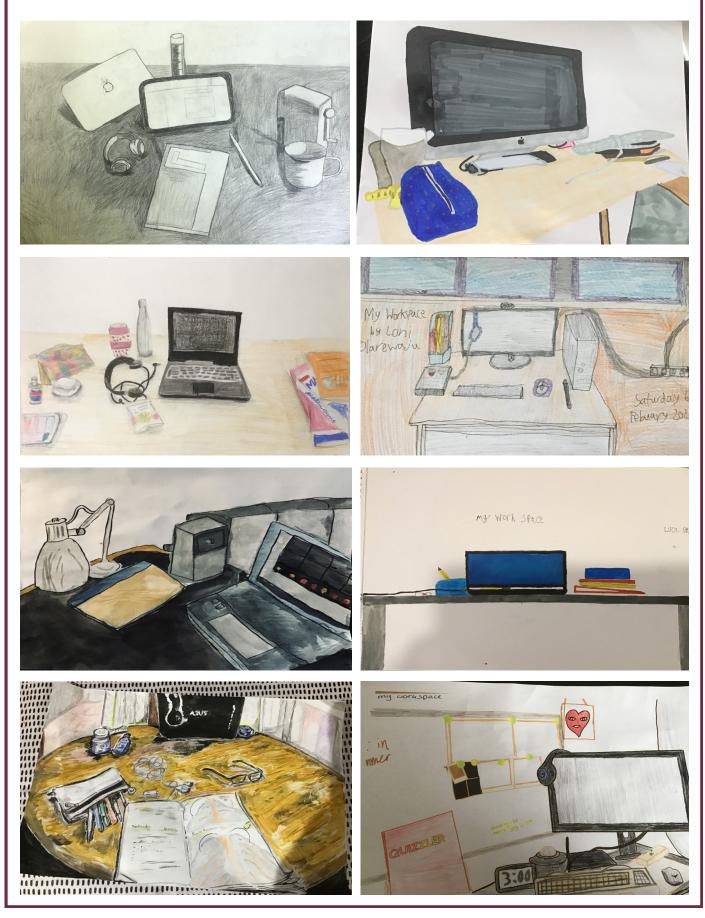
- Johan Prinsloo The value of locally sourced products.
- Eleanor Von Gerard Genetically modified foods.
- Hannah Kaminski Should net fishing be banned?
- Thomas Mullen The effects of net fishing on the environment?
- Jasmine McCann Benefits of being a vegetarian.
- Elspeth Gardiner Organic farming.
- Isabelle Ward Benefits of being a vegetarian.
- George McCallister Genetically modified ingredients
- Jessica Patel The significance of bees.
- Mia McCann Benefits of being a vegetarian.
- Aleksei Vorontsov Genetically modified ingredients.

History

Lorenzo Shone deserves a special mention for consistently going above and beyond in History.
He has been absolutely fantastic.

Year 8 - 'our personal environment'

This week, Year 8's Art project was to create a piece that represents their personal environment. Take a look at the calming spaces below.



Linguistics Olympiad

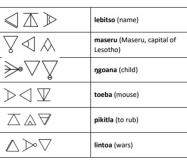
Special arrangements were made to hold the Linguistics Olympiad on line this year. Over a dozen enthusiasts enjoyed taking part in a virtual competition on Monday 1st February, whilst a few joined a second session on Friday after lessons. All participants received the puzzles in editable PDF format via email and spent up to two hours trying to crack the codes.

Q1.2. Below is the Ogham spelling of the Irish for 'I love you':

Write down the Irish for 'I love you' in its Roman alphabet transliteration

The earliest form of writing in Ireland (Ogham) provided an excellent visual start. The African continent revealed a wealth of languages: Kabyle, the national language of Algeria, distantly related to Arabic and Hebrew but written in Roman script; Waama (also called Yoabu), which is spoken by 120,000 people in Benin (West Africa) and has its own writing system that uses the Roman alphabet; Ditema tsa Dinoko, a recently invented writing system designed to reflect southern African mural art. Next challenge was Filipino, the official language spoken by virtually everybody in the Philippines and the 4th most commonly spoken language in the USA, with 1.6 million speakers.

Longgu took us all the way to North-East of Australia, in Guadalcanal, one of the Solomon Islands. The final stop was closer to home as Winnie-the-Pooh came to the fore. The popular children's book has been translated in over 30 languages; we got to look at the Latvian version to solve the last puzzle.





This year has also seen an entry at Advanced level.

Arthur Heath (Y12), who has been attending the Linguistics Club for 5 years, put a lot of effort and enthusiasm into a two and a half hour closely supervised session to decipher some challenging encrypted language problems. This time the languages were not revealed, but the variety of tasks was impressive: from a pictorial script to a numerical system, a language at two points in its history or one spoken by a farming people noted for their sophisticated music.

Despite the constraining circumstances, we were thrilled to be able to hold the Olympiad for an 8th consecutive year. We hope to welcome many more enthusiasts to next year's competition. In the meantime, why not stretch your mental abilities with Linguistics!





Year 10 Spanish - fiestas y festivales

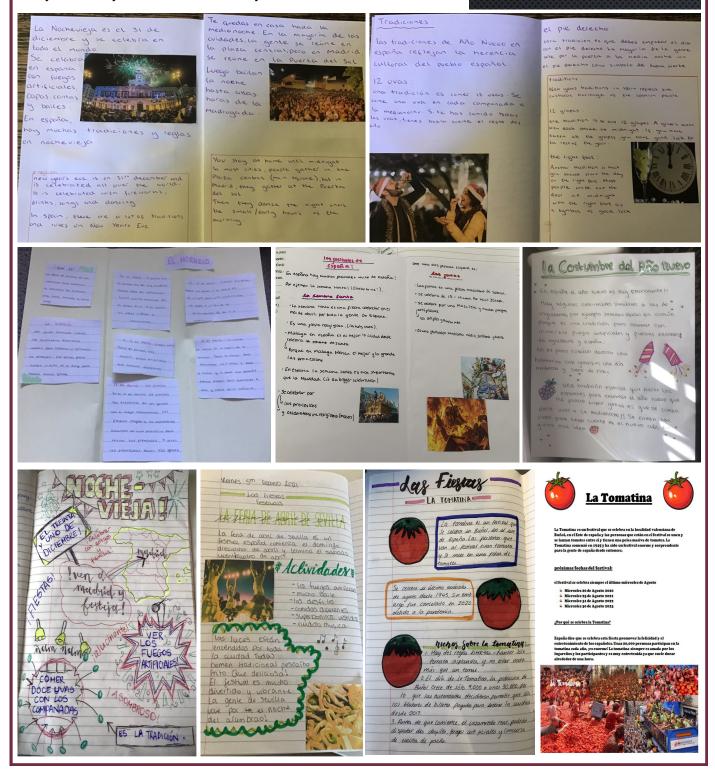
Year 10 have been learning about Spanish customs and festivals, such as the annual tomato throwing festival La Tomatina, and the tradition of eating 12 grapes for each sound of the clock as it counts down to midnight on New Year's Eve. (Don't try either of these at home!).

Here are some of the leaflets made by the top set, using high level Spanish and cultural phrases to learn about this iGCSE topic. The prize winners who demonstrated the best Spanish in their own words were: Poppy Clements, Jiya Desai, Lara Flint, Amber Lukes, Emily McCann and Tara Odedra. And closerunners up: Stefania Findlator, Thomas Lang, Ayo Phillips, Ella Smith, Sam Stealey, Emily Ton, Amy Tree. It was definitely a colourful lesson!

¿Qué es Las Fallas de Valencia ?

Las Fallas de Valencia es una fiesta tradicional en valencia. Esto es muy viejo y Proviene de una tradición carpintera. Se lleva a cabo

del Primero al diecinueve de marzo. Es el comenzó de la primavera. Hay premios a los mejores modelos.



From the Sport Department

PE @ Home























From the Sport Department

PE @ Home

























Netball Shooting Masterclass with Keira Rothwell





Key Diary Dates

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 8	Wednesday 10 March 2021
Year 10	Thursday 11 February 2021
Year 12	Thursday 25 February 2021



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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen