



Royal
Russell

Russellian 2020





Headmaster's Welcome



My fundamental commitment as Headmaster of this amazing school is to ensure that excellence is embedded in every facet of the Royal Russell experience so that we, as a whole school community, can support each and every one of our pupils to their own successful outcomes.

We all know the challenges that we have faced in this unprecedented year and yet, despite all of the difficulties, the loss, the remoteness of recent months, in this 2020 'Rainbow' edition of the Russellian we aim to celebrate the amazing achievements of our pupils and, as we look back and consider our individual and collective academic successes, or the stunning music and drama performances, or the quality of our sports teams, or the ever widening opportunities for our pupils to excel in so many activities beyond the classroom, there is a great deal to celebrate, particularly as we have seen the values of the Royal Russell community being expressed in the actions and outcomes of our young people, as strongly as ever.

If this year has taught me anything, it is that, however hard you plan, however hard you prepare, you never know quite what to expect... but, of course, in planning and preparing we develop the skills and resilience to be ready to face the unknown with confidence. And, if we reach out and plan together, then we develop those deep connections within our community that help to carry us through.

This strength of community, which has been tested to extremes this year, coupled with the success in our pupil outcomes, and the growth and ambition for our future development, is achieved through the work of a great team and I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Royal Russell Community for providing so much opportunity for our young people to thrive.

Thank you to our Board of Governors for your generosity with your time and expertise and for helping us

to find the right balance in the educational decisions we have made to ensure firstly, that all of our community has been as safe as possible this year and that secondly, every one of our young people is given the opportunity to thrive here at Royal Russell.

It is very reassuring for me to have your guidance and good counsel as the School continues to develop and flourish and also your wisdom and professional advice as we have navigated in uncharted waters through global pandemic, school closure and reopening.

Thank you to the Operations, Office and Support Staff and to the teams from: Administration, Admissions, Catering, Development, Domestic Services, Finance, Grounds, Human Resources, Lettings, Marketing, IT, Maintenance, Reception and Security. A special thank you to Chloe Buswell and Hayley Stenning who have put so much work into bringing this 2020 edition of the Russellian together.

Thank you to the Teaching, Classroom and Technician staff, to the Heads of Department, Housemistresses and Housemasters and to the School Leadership Team for your tireless work on behalf of our young people.

Thank you to our parents and supporters and particularly the 1853 Society, who give so much to enrich the Royal Russell community.

Finally, 'thank you' to our superstar (no, make that mega or giga or tera star) Royal Russell pupils, who have brought so much joy to us as we have supported and guided them on their Royal Russell journeys and who are a source of so much love and laughter in our lives.



My final thoughts come from Ben Okri, who says this in 'A time for new dreams';

“Go out into the world.
Learn for yourselves.
Find out for yourselves.

Question everything.
Seek to know for yourself so that
you may grasp the deeper truths
of life with a strong mind.

Give of your soul.
Don't be afraid to feel,
or to love, or to fail.

Have fun.
Laugh.
Play.
Be inspired.

Be true to yourself without
being mean to others and
most importantly learn the
wonderful art of happiness.”

I hope you enjoy many happy reflections and recollections that this Russellian magazine inspires and I wish you every success in the year ahead.

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster



Public Examination Results



There was a rollercoaster of emotions associated with the examination season this year. The lead up to the release of GCSE, A Level and BTEC results came after a period of significant uncertainty for staff and pupils all over the country.

This year we have once again seen incredibly successful outcomes for our girls and boys in their public examinations.

We all know that this has not been a 'normal' examination

season, but nonetheless these results reflect the hard work that pupils have completed in their time at the School. They also reflect the work of our whole community and confirm, once again, that we are providing an excellent academic education for our young people, alongside all of the additional care and opportunities.



GCSE RESULTS

116 candidates sat for a total of 1021 GCSE awards this year. The overall results below reflect the strong performance of this cohort.

There are some particularly impressive sets of results at the top end of the year group and our top 5 candidates all achieved at least 9 grade 9s!

We look forward to welcoming these talented young people into our thriving Sixth Form.

Congratulations to all our pupils.



A LEVEL AND BTEC RESULTS

This amazing group of Year 13 Students have had to cope with a huge amount of uncertainty as they have prepared for A level and BTEC examinations that were then cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is therefore heartening to see that the overall results for the cohort are very much in line with our recent performance as a School and remain especially strong at the high ability end, with a record 14.7% of A* grades awarded.

Particular mention should be made of our three Oxbridge candidates and veterinary candidate, who have all been successful in achieving the grades required for their places.

We also congratulate Year 14 student, Tim Zhang for gaining his place to read psychology at Oxford University.

Ella Jones A*, A*, A*, A
Theology at Selwyn College,
Cambridge

Megan Driver A*, A, A,
History at Peterhouse, Cambridge

Anna Firth A*, A*, A
Veterinary Sciences at Liverpool

The university outcomes for this group are very encouraging and students will be moving on from Royal Russell to study a wide range of courses including: Architecture, Business, Computer Science, Economics, English, History, Music Production, Maths, Sport and Exercise Science, Film and Television, Philosophy and Psychology at universities including Bristol, Bath, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Leeds, Loughborough, Nottingham, University College London and Warwick.

We also have a small number of students who will be joining apprenticeship schemes and directly entering employment, including Ria Kamdar who has been accepted onto a degree apprenticeship with PWC at Birmingham University.

These results strongly reflect the hard work of our pupils, teaching staff and the Royal Russell community.























Our congratulations to the Class of 2020. We are incredibly proud of them all and look forward to welcoming them back to school as Old Russellians in the future.





University Destinations

All our Year 13 pupils successfully accepted places at their chosen universities, have gained coveted apprenticeship schemes and internships or directly entered employment in their chosen career fields.

	Business and Management Law		Statistics
	Psychology		English and History
	Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership Economics Philosophy		BA in International Hospitality
	Economics with Study Abroad Psychology		Computer Science
	History and Politics Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion		Business Management with Business Experience
	Applied Criminology with Forensic Investigation		Business Management
	Business with Marketing Economics		Business and Management
	Architecture		Music (Production) (BA)
	Accounting and Finance Sport, Exercise and Physical Activity Archaeology and Ancient Civilisations		Computer Science with High-Performance Graphics and Games Engineering
	Architecture Economics and Politics		Veterinary Science Law with Politics
			Media Production
			Photography



Industrial Design and Technology

Geography

Product Design and Technology (with placement year)



Business and Economics

European Law



Materials Science and Engineering



Media Production

Product Design

Media, Film and TV



Computer Science

Sport and Exercise Science



International Hospitality Management

Communication, Media and Culture / International Relations

Media, Journalism and Publishing



Experimental Psychology



Business Management and Entrepreneurship



Architecture



Business and Management

Criminology with Psychology



Computer Science with Industrial Experience

Mathematics with Finance and Accounting



Editing and Post Production



Primary Education (QTS) Foundation Stage / KS1



Management with Marketing

Politics with Philosophy



Foundation Course



Electrical and Electronic Engineering



Politics and International Relations



Computer Science with a Foundation Year



Management and International Business



Music Performance



Mathematics

Environmental Geoscience

Statistics, Economics and Finance

Psychology



Photography



Economics

Law

French and History

Mathematics and Statistics

Accounting and Finance



Business Management

Business Management with Foundation

Tourism and Events Management



Film and Television Production

Physics with Philosophy



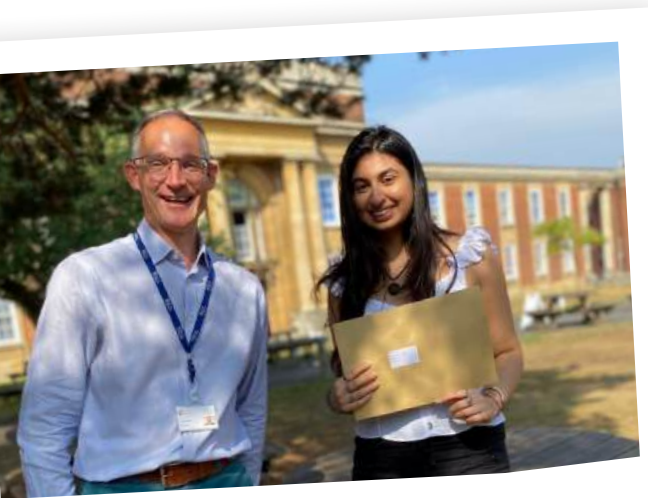
Class of 2020

The Senior Prefect Team have an important role in the leading and running of the School. They are selected each year following an application and interview process where they discuss their successes, contribution to school life and their future aspirations.

The team's influence as role models for our community has been more important than ever throughout this extraordinary year. During the peak of lockdown they

joined the Headmaster to host a special chapel service. They filmed and edited an assembly for parents, pupils and friends to watch from the comforts of their own homes.

One inspiring part of the assembly was when the prefects reflected on their time at Royal Russell and shared their advice to younger pupils within the School.



Nikita Sood
HEAD OF SCHOOL

"The best memories I have from Royal Russell have to be all the moments I spent with my friends, in lessons, during break times, in boarding, times like that. So, make sure that you make those memories with your friends. As many as you can!"



Ali Misaila
HEAD OF SCHOOL

"Having been at Royal Russell from the age of three, it's hard to pinpoint a favourite memory. However, some of my favourite memories would be; the biology field trips in sixth form and the last day of School. Even though we got cut short, I really enjoyed hanging out with everyone on the last day of School.

If I was to give advice to the younger Royal Russell pupils, it would be to ask questions, whether that's asking questions to other people about themselves to build friendships, or whether it's asking questions to staff if you're struggling with work or need help. By asking questions you're able to build relationships that last a lifetime as well as the chance to access more opportunities including leadership roles, joining clubs or otherwise you can always make the most out of Royal Russell."



Jack Gallagher
HEAD OF SCHOOL

"My favourite memories of Royal Russell were definitely the breakfasts in the mornings they were superb and Mr Cufley especially was a top guy. Another memory is the May Ball, I really enjoyed the May Ball it was a great time.

A word of advice would be to speak to everybody, have a chat with everyone as you never know where the conversation can take you, they could become your best mate in life."

"I've had many great experiences at Royal Russell and have made some lifelong friends. My favourite memory would have to be playing football at ISFA. We got to play against many other international teams.

I think the Coronavirus has made me aware to not take little things for granted so if there's one piece of advice

I can give you, I'd say utilise and appreciate everything that Royal Russell will give you. You will be provided with an abundance of opportunities and be supported through any avenue you wish to go down.

But, most of all, have fun, enjoying seeing your friends every day and engage yourself in lessons, these are truly some of the best years of your life."



Imran Kayani
DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL



Erika Ruyendo-Henry
DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL

"As my time in the Sixth Form is coming to an end, I've been reflecting on my Royal Russell Journey and how much I've loved every minute of it. I've been able to make some amazing friends and take advantage of some wonderful opportunities.

To all of you in the younger years, who may just be at the beginning of your

Royal Russell Journey, I say take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way you'll have access to a lot of amazing activities and the chance to be involved in some wonderful things throughout your time at Royal Russell, so make the most of it and don't be afraid to challenge yourself to try something new."

"My favourite memory from Royal Russell is an ongoing one. The people; the people who I've had the absolute pleasure and privilege to work alongside, the people who have stuck by me and supported me from when I first started school in Year 9 to now in Year 13. A lot of these people I know will always be there for me long into the future. School is a place where you can find lifelong friends, and that couldn't be more important.

Advice I would give to younger years who are continuing or

starting their Royal Russell journey would be to give yourself structure. Keep a good social life by finding time for family and friends, for hobbies, keeping relaxed and also staying committed and driven in your education and academics. Keep yourself happy and prioritise yourself and your own wellbeing, but also work hard so you can get the grades that you need to move forward.

I hope everyone is happy and healthy. Stay inside, stay safe, stay positive and treat people with kindness."



Matt Lewis
HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS



Class of 2020



Jada Springer
HEAD OF SPORT

“My favourite memory at Royal Russell is my Netball trip to Manchester with my netball team. It was a great bonding experience and even though we didn’t win we really pulled together to the best that we possibly could.

My advice for you and your future at Royal Russell is enjoy it while it lasts. You’re about to create some great memories with people you will cherish for the rest of your lives and also take every opportunity possible whether sporting or academic whilst you can.”



Charlie Jones
HEAD OF SPORT

“Firstly, just to say a big thank you to all the pupils and staff who have made my Royal Russell experience so special.

My advice to you in the younger years would be to take all the opportunities that come your way to get ahead on your work. My best memories at Royal Russell have come because of Mr Hutchinson, Head of House, I’m sure all the boys in Keable will agree that he has given us some of our best moments at the School. Lastly, stay home, protect the NHS and wash your hands!”



YEAR 11 AND 13’S LAST DAY

At a rather impromptu final Year 11 assembly in Chapel, pupils sang Hymn 264 ‘The spirit lives to set us free’ and on the same day Year 13 came together to look back at their time at Royal Russell. Both Assemblies provided poignant moments of unity just before lockdown and reminded us all what makes Royal Russell stand apart from other schools.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BOARDER

Year 11 pupil Lucas Tan reflects on his experiences boarding in Oxford House.

When you ask me what makes boarding so special, I would say Oxford House has become a big extended family of mine. It is such a unique experience where you have structured routine, discipline and extra-curricular activities in your spare time. I have had the opportunity to participate in various community events such as the 24-hour relay race, Snowball and Halloween night.

During my time at Royal Russell, I have been in charge of the Boarders working team. My role included meeting with the housemaster and Senior Management team to share boarding pupils' feedback on how boarding life can be even more memorable and fun. This has helped me develop myself and learn lifelong leadership skills that I will be able to use in the future.

It can be difficult at times to contact my family in Hong Kong because of the 8-hour time difference and with going to school; however this has made me more independent and I can now take full responsibility for myself in both my daily and academic life.

This year has been very challenging due to the pandemic. After flying home, I started remote learning to connect with teachers and ease myself back into a structured routine.

All I can say about being a Russellian is that it has been amazing!

Lucas Tan
Year 11



Bibienne Yeoh
HEAD OF BOARDING

"I am incredibly grateful for the past two years at Royal Russell. I've definitely made many lifelong friends from different walks of life, cultures and backgrounds. I've been blessed with the teachers I've had and to have been presented with so many opportunities from the School. I will definitely treasure all the memories I've made throughout my time at Royal Russell.

While the school year has been unexpectedly cut short

because of Covid-19, I think this quarantine period should be a time for us to reflect on how we should approach life post-quarantine. We've definitely seen how fragile life can be so we should look towards living life to the fullest – let's take more chances, take more risks, recognise our opportunities and be grateful for even the smallest things in life. In the meantime, I hope everyone stays safe, healthy, indoors and hydrated!"

"I've had so many good memories at Royal Russell, but I think some of my favourites would definitely have to be in the boarding house; making pancakes, watching movies, playing games and making friends with lots of different types of people.

My advice to younger pupils would be to talk to as many different types of people as you can, from different countries, of different ages. You might be surprised what they can teach you and how much better they can make your experience. Just take advantage of as many opportunities as you can and throw yourself into everything as much as you can."



Anna Firth
HEAD OF BOARDING

ROGUE MAGAZINE

The Rogue Magazine is a pupil-led publication created by a team of incredibly hardworking and talented individuals. Rogue's editor Zoya Kirmani describes the creative process involved with working remotely from home to deliver every issue in time for a weekly deadline. Our contributors put so much work into Rogue, from start to finish; it is truly impressive how much they can get done in a week.

On Monday, we send out a call for articles, there is no minimum or maximum, the beauty of not printing is that we can include as many pieces as needed. As the articles arrive, in time for the Thursday deadline, we start to think about the cover and if it needs to accommodate a theme, then the weekend is spent text editing and playing with layout. We finish just in time to publish on Monday then the process starts all over again.

We generally leave it up to our contributors to decide what they want to write, with the exception of our interviews which arise from the popularity of contributions from members of the boarding community. We simply ask that they write what they're passionate about. It can be difficult to know what to write at the best of times, especially when you are given a brief that you don't find particularly engaging. We want to give our writers the opportunity to explore their creativity and an outlet for their thoughts and we have certainly had everything, from informational pieces on the importance of vaccines to one rather passionate article detailing a childhood crush on Tangled's Flynn Ryder.

Lockdown has certainly been a challenge, but it has allowed us the time and opportunity to explore how far Rogue can go. It is hard enough chasing down late articles when you can't physically chase the culprit down the hallway, so, we have really had to finesse our organisational skills and accommodate time for spamming a few people with emails! Once we managed to iron out a few details and solved some problems with the first couple of issues, it was smooth sailing ever since.

Over this, 'experience', shall we call it, I think as a team we have learnt the importance of communication.

As Ella mentioned, a few details had to be ironed out and that was only as a result of working with such a large, unfamiliar team! Of course, because of lockdown, we were unable to have cool meetings in abandoned classrooms as if we were some sort of secret press, so we had to stick to group chats and lengthy email chains, which is very different to discussing and bouncing around ideas in person. This was just something that came with time. After one or two issues were published, we came to settle into a routine where everything fell into place and we became a well-oiled machine that churned out issues, week after week!

I fear this sounds like some silly line in a Disney movie, but I am genuinely very proud of the team. We came from a small group of maybe 7 or 8 writers to a huge collection of almost 25 contributors! We have developed a wonderful dynamic that I seriously hope we can pick right back up in September, with possibly, even more inspired, buzzing young minds.

One of my favourite memories must be, either our little zoom call where I finally got to put a few names to faces and got to know my team members a little better, or publishing our first issue. It took some time for me and Ella to get to grips with the idea that we had actually been bestowed the honour of being the new editors! I stayed up until unholy hours, pulling apart the front cover that I just absolutely had to get right, finishing the last few rounds of text edits and sending a



few drowsy messages back and forth with Ella, trying to crop and re-crop the image sizing so the date and title could fit along the top. Not so much a clear memory; it is a little hazy, but one of my favourites for sure.

Working with Ella has been amazing. We had collaborated multiple times before, we're great friends, always hanging out, looking out for each other and we had often chatted our way through Year 11 maths... it was certainly different, trying to work together through screens, but we seemed to figure everything out pretty quickly. I'd like to finish by saying thank you to Ella. She's been patient with me when I've been a little behind or forgetful, she's helped me brainstorm and develop my ideas, she's kept me motivated and determined, even when times were looking a little rough in the outside world; thank you Ella, sending a huge virtual hug!

ZOYA KIRMANI
YEAR 13



Royal Russell Day



As the Summer Term came to an end, pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends were warmly welcomed to our annual celebration of individual and collective talent and success, Royal Russell Day.

Instead of watching the performance in the Sports Hall as in previous years, our community viewed the ceremony from the comfort of their own homes as the event was made virtual to keep everyone safe.

Viewers were kept entertained by a plethora of musical performances. Our resident Royal Russell Jazz band opened the show with a performance of 'Summertime' by George Gershwin and the much-beloved Monsters Inc theme song. The Junior School pupils who had been lucky enough to resume their learning on site performed a heart-warming rendition of our School's song.

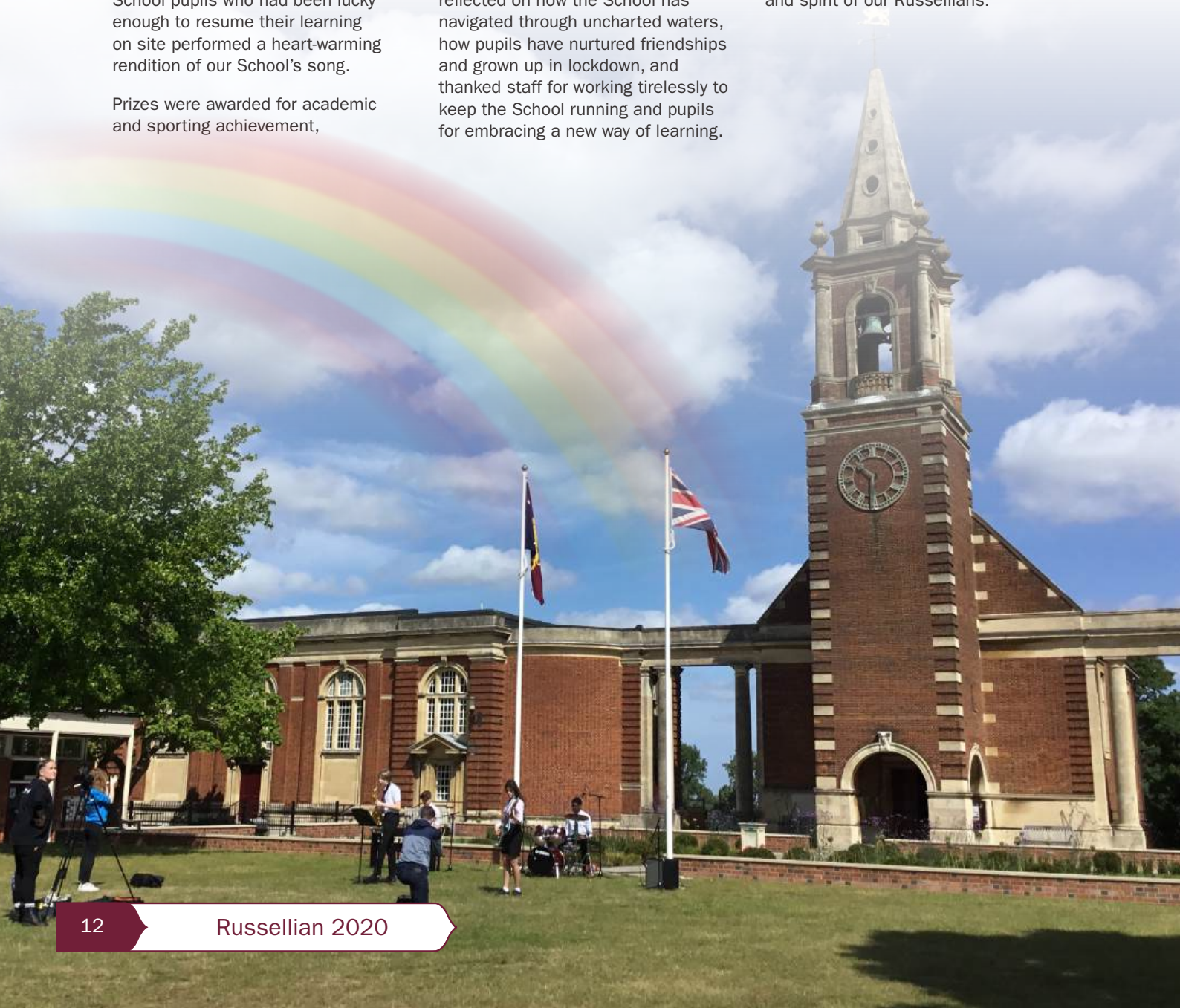
Prizes were awarded for academic and sporting achievement,

co-curricular contribution, effort and good citizenship to pupils in the Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form, and trophies were presented to the winning Houses of the House Activities Cup.

Speeches were delivered by Mr Andrew Merriman (Chair of Governors), Mr John Evans (Junior School Headmaster), Mrs Nathalie Hart (Deputy Head, Pastoral), Mr David Selby (Director of International Relations) and the Headmaster. They reflected on how the School has navigated through uncharted waters, how pupils have nurtured friendships and grown up in lockdown, and thanked staff for working tirelessly to keep the School running and pupils for embracing a new way of learning.

The values of the Royal Russell Community were celebrated through a montage of clips that showcased our pupils' and parents' actions and painted a picture of 'Learning in Lockdown' demonstrating that excellence is embedded in every facet of our Royal Russell experience.

The finale was an explosion of creativity and featured our pupils performing a special rendition of 'Times like these' by the Foo Fighters which perfectly captured the resilience and spirit of our Russellians.





Presented Virtually

SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES - YEAR 11

The Art and Design Prize, The Dual Science Award, The Geography Prize
The Biology Prize
The Business Studies Prize
The Chemistry Prize
The Computer Science Prize
The Design and Technology Prize, The Drama Prize, The English Prize
The English as an Additional, Language Prize
The Food Technology Prize
The French Prize
The German Prize
The History Prize, The Spanish Prize
The Mathematics Prize
The Media Prize
The Music Prize
The Physics Prize
The Physical Education Prize
The Theology and Philosophy Prize

Amber Kennedy
Jemima Earing
Haein Ryoo and Pettiann Bhoorasingh
Anjani Poopalasingham
Calum Firth
Nicholas Solly
Jeannie Ward
Haein Ryoo
Tait James
Anjani Poopalasingham
Mihai Pavel
Luke McCabe
Tommy Zhang
Emma Hourihan
Isabel Leyland
Tommy Zhang and Jack Harris
Liam Smith

SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES - SIXTH FORM

The Art and Design Prize, The Physical Education Prize
The Biology Prize
The BTEC Business Studies Prize
The Business Studies Prize, The German Prize, The Media Studies Prize
The Chemistry Prize, The French Prize
The Computer Science Prize
The Design and Technology Prize
The Drama Prize
The Economics Prize
The Prize for English, The Theology and Philosophy Prize
The English as an Additional Language Prize
The Geography Prize
The History Prize
The Mathematics Prize
The Music Prize
The Music Technology Prize
The Photography Prize
The Physics Prize
The Psychology Prize
The Politics Prize
The Russian Prize
The Spanish Prize

Emily Rickards
Nikita Sood
Gayane Arakelyan
Philip Stoycheff
Anna Firth
Ying Tong Hu
Onyx Knibb
Thomas Hood
Olukemi Eyoma Green
Ella Jones
Ka Hei Fong
Natasha Pons-Chadd
Megan Driver
Fandi Yue
Charlie Eastwood
Anya Lewis
Julia Kaminska
Ali Misaila
Shakira Tayabali
Erika Rugyendo-Henry
Vasilisa Litvinenko
Monika Velasquez



SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE AWARDS FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

	1ST PRIZE	RUNNERS UP
Buchanan	Zoe Spellings	Rosie Ray and Phoebe Middleton
Cambridge	Hlib Minaiev	Henry Steele and Sam King
Hollenden	Erika Ruyendo-Henry	Ria Kamdar and Olukemi Eyoma Green
Keable	Nicholas Solly	Ryan Appadu and Alec Thurbin
Madden	Ata Aslanov	Matt Lewis and Christian Hamilton
Oxford	Rahul Nagar	Arjun Dintakurti and Edward Warner
Queen's	Anna Firth	Cassandra Exall and Rosharna Thomas-Grant
Reade	Erynn Edney	Serena Biju and Jemima Earing
St Andrew's	Toby Stahel	Brynley Smith and Joshua Sargent

JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

The English Prize	Isabella Humphries
The Richard Green Mathematics Prize	Rohit J Nair
The Mathematics Progress Prize	Harry Spriggs
The English Progress Prize	Evan Newman
The Science Prize	Klara Dworakowska
The Blount History Prize	David Bruguier
The Ingrams Geography Prize	Scarlett Keers
The Computing Prize	Charles Hayden de Carbonnières
The Modern Foreign Languages Prize	Isabella Flint
The Stainer Music Trophy	Annalise Luffingham
The Drama Prize	Sarah Wood
The Art Prize	Isabel Gironella
The Design and Technology Prize	Rohan Phillpot



SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

The Shield for Services to MUN	Megan Driver Ella Jones
MUN Delegate of the Year	Dionne Scougul
Most Improved MUN Delegate	Isabelle Bennett
Young Delegate of the Year	James Browne
Best RAF NCO	Cameron Mackay
Best Army NCO	Ethan Edney
Best Army Recruit	Holly Perks
Best RAF Recruit	Lara Flint
Prize for Services to Chapel	Ella Jones
Shield for Services to Drama	Ellie Baker and Sam King
Services to Music	Molly Burson

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS AWARDS

Year 3	Victor Ludorum	Xavier Karelis
Year 3	Victrix Ludorum	Matilda Brinin-Webb
Year 4	Victor Ludorum	Henry Hayden de Carbonnières
Year 4	Victrix Ludorum	Betty Holland
Year 5	Victor Ludorum	Lucas Brown
Year 5	Victrix Ludorum	Lara Stublely
Year 6	Victor Ludorum	Zachary Brennan
Year 6	Victrix Ludorum	Oneli Pelpola

JUNIOR SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP PRIZE

The 1853 Society Cup	Bethany-Anne Reynolds Luke Pritchard
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SENIOR SCHOOL HEADS OF SCHOOL AWARDS

The Miriam West Prize	Megan Driver and Nikita Sood
The Rt Hon Lord Hollenden Prize	Jack Gallagher

JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADS OF SCHOOL AWARDS

Isabella Flint	Sarah Ozeki
Yuta Suzuki	Harvey Wright-Phillips

SENIOR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT

The Andrew Foot Award (1985) for contribution to Boys' Sport	Charlie Jones
The Twyford Shield (1938) for contribution to Girls' Sport	Jasmine Palmer-Garrick

THE HALLWORTH TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Zachary Konopka



SENIOR SCHOOL EFFORT PRIZES

Year 7	Erynn Edney	Aleksei Vorontsov
Year 8	Emily Hayden de Carbonnières	Vrutik Patel
Year 9	Jiya Desai	Sam Stealey
Year 10	Maia Miller-Forkin	Jameson Wang
Year 11	Anna Stone	Luke McCabe
Year 12	Ella Westland	Jack Burton
Year 13	Erika Rugyendo-Henry	Philip Stoycheff

SENIOR SCHOOL HIGHEST MERIT AWARDS

Year 7	Hannah Kaminski	Johan Prinsloo
Year 8	Emily Hayden de Carbonnières	Vrutik Patel
Year 9	Maryam Drammeh	Sam Stealey
Year 10	Katie Hamerton	Lucas Heath-Pampin
Year 11	Amber Kennedy	Oliver Wyndham-Lewis
Highest Merits in the School		Emily Hayden de Carbonnières





Junior School Headmaster's Speech

This year, we welcomed John Evans, Junior School Headmaster, to the Great Hall to deliver his first Royal Russell Day speech (virtually) reflecting on a very different school year.

“ On Royal Russell day, we celebrate all that has been achieved in the past academic year, and there is much that we would choose to celebrate.

Currently, our minds will be filled with our personal reaction to the ongoing pandemic, yet we must stretch ourselves to see both further back and to peer into the not too distant future. The Junior School has been privileged to end the year in, what has mostly been, glorious sunshine and in the spirit of togetherness. We are keenly aware that we are not all back together and that we are missing some of the familiar ingredients of our usual end of year recipe. However, the fact remains that we are more fortunate than many and lucky to have shared each other's company, albeit only fleetingly.

Alongside the thanks that Mr Hutchinson has offered to our community, I would like to offer my thanks to the children and families of the Junior School who have worked so closely with us this year. As well as the wider school community, I would especially like to thank my Junior School colleagues as they have supported me through my first year at Royal Russell. I would also like to thank my own family as, together, we have grown into our new life here on site.

Until a few short weeks ago, I did not realise that I missed, so keenly, the sound of children. The hustle and bustle of learning and being. The quick footsteps, happy voices, shrieking and laughter that make up the aural palate of the Junior School. I knew things were desperate when I even became nostalgic for the noise in the car park. I know we are fortunate to have had these sounds back in our lives; the vibrancy that they have brought has refreshed and renewed us after a long period apart.

There is a temptation to put aside the last months since the site closed to most pupils back in March. To think that it is possible to shrug it off and look forward to better times. Perhaps, that feeling stems from a desire to just go back to the way that things were. Yet, if we choose that route, we will be failing ourselves. We would be failing all of the sacrifices that you have made as families. All of the seemingly endless juggling as we tried to live our lives under new constraints. Rather than aim to gloss over this period, we must look at what we have achieved and the processes through which we have grown.

The purpose of today's event is not just to consider the achievements of our pupils,

but to take stock of and to celebrate our growth. Our growth as individuals and, more importantly, our growth as a community.

I have had constant reminders of growth as children have come back with flowing locks of quarantine hair (and yes, I'll admit to some jealousy on my part), shoes that pinch newly grown toes and shorts that are making an admirable effort to live up to their name. The children have shot up and the effect is more dramatic following our absence. Year 6 pupils look like the Year 7s that they will shortly become and our Nursery cohort look more than ready for their transition to Reception, having easily outstripped the plants whose growth they have been monitoring.

Yet much more than our physical growth, we must reflect on how we have grown within ourselves. How we have grown as people as we have faced new challenges. Whether at home or at school, the enduring memory I will retain of how we have grown is the explosion in our creativity. The collaboration through projects and endeavours that have brought distant pupils closer together.

We have grown in our capacity for love and our ability to care for each other. Our pastoral care has continued and, although we could never replicate the ease of access for a quick conversation that being on site would bring, we have seen the power of communication during this period. I have enjoyed exciting form times and live assemblies. We have come together to raise awareness of kindness and mental health and wellbeing and even taken part in a hard fought Russell's Got Talent show and our inter house athletics 'Homeletics' competition. Our capacity for empathy has been tested, yet found resilient.

Growth means change. And change means that, sometimes, we need to say goodbye. Although it is easy to say goodbye to uniform that has grown too small, or classrooms that we have grown too big for, it is always harder to say goodbye to people we love. At the end of the Autumn term we said goodbye to Roger Davies. Roger was a much loved member of our music family and had taught at Royal Russell for so many years. His passion for teaching guitar and his knowledge of his pupils will remain with us. His wife, Jackie, will know how loved he is within our community.

In the Spring term, we said goodbye to our dear friend, Annalise Luffingham. In her years with us, Annie has left the most indelible mark on the Junior School. She typified the approach to school life that we would wish to instil in all those who come to us. She was brave and forthright, she was caring of others and she filled us with joy. She inspired all of us to do better. Annie and her parents, Tracey and David, will remain part of our family, always. We will always cherish our memories of Annie and are delighted that we can



award her the Stainer Music Cup for her passion and success in that sphere.

Of all of our children, our Year 6 cohort have been through so much together. They have faced adversity and have not ended their time in the Junior School with all of the celebration that we would normally wish. However, in facing this adversity, they have grown. And they have grown stronger for the challenges that they have met. In the poem 'Good Timber', Douglas Malloch, tells us that growing through adversity leads to strength:

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king.

Good timber does not grow with ease:
The stronger wind, the stronger trees;
The further sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength.

By sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

Our Year 6 pupils have grown and have finished the year strongly. They are, indeed, good timber. They have relied on each other and created special friendships and bonds that will endure beyond the Junior School. Whether here at the Senior School or beyond the walls of Royal Russell, what they have learned here will support their future progress.

I know that we have all grown in adversity. That we have grown together and that we have become closer and stronger than we were before. We have supported each other through difficult times and have enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company at times of celebration and joy. We must never forget what we have learned this year, and we have learned so much about ourselves and each other, about the world around us, and we have seen the good timber that is the strength of our community. We look forward with hope, knowing that we have the ability to adapt and thrive in the future.”

John Evans
Junior School Headmaster

ANIMAL FARM



This year's school production, 'Animal Farm' involved over 80 pupils from every year group taking part in a variety of roles, both onstage and off, to produce something truly stunning and special. Pupils demonstrated perfectly the importance of teamwork and cooperation.

This was a brand new version of the story, written exclusively for the school by Mr Irani, Old Russellian and School play Director and Mr O'Gorman, Teacher of Drama. Initial rehearsals required a massive amount of patience and understanding from the pupils to grasp the complexity of the play. Fortunately, we need never have worried: when it mattered, the pupils of Royal Russell stepped up to the plate in admirable fashion and knocked it out of the park!

Their hard work, enthusiasm, talent and commitment were clear for all to

see and they were universally a credit to themselves and the school for the way they behaved and participated throughout the running of the show.

Mr O'Gorman beamed with pride when remembering the moment he watched the first performance, recalling, "I don't think I have ever felt prouder of a cast of young actors and technicians than when I first sat down as an audience member. For me, they epitomised the true spirit of camaraderie and selflessness. I shall never forget being a part of the show and feel honoured by

the care and attention the pupils of Royal Russell took to make sure this was the best production they could possibly make it."

In the end, the success of the production was down to the tremendous effort made by everyone who participated at every level and it is safe to say that this will be a production that they will not forget for a very long time!

ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL

but some are more equal than others





5 NO ANIMAL SHALL DRINK ALCOHOL

1. WHATEVER GOES UPON 2 LEGS IS AN ENEMY

2. WHATEVER GOES UPON 4 LEGS OR HAS WINGS IS A FRIEND

3. NO ANIMAL SHALL WEAR CLOTHES

4. NO ANIMAL SHALL SLEEP IN A BED

5. NO ANIMAL SHALL DRINK ALCOHOL TO EXCESS

6. NO ANIMAL SHALL KILL ANY OTHER ANIMAL WITHOUT CAUSE



Kindness 4 Community

This year's Wellbeing Week came during the middle of lockdown. Our pupils had settled into remote learning and were working hard to engage in their studies despite the uncertainty of the world around them.

One thing that we all saw over the world is that kindness was prevailing even in the most uncertain of times. Despite the situation, communities had come together in a show of support for one another. Not only did this benefit others in our communities, it was good for our own mental health and wellbeing to provide support to others as it helped to reduce stress and improve emotional wellbeing.

With this in mind, we challenged pupils to complete Royal Russell's 'Kindness 4 Community' Challenge and encouraged our pupils to donate

to 'The Rowdown Foundation', a local charity based in New Addington which supports talented children to achieve their goals and 'Off the Record', a local youth counselling charity.

We set pupils daily challenges which were inspired by the following themes:

1. Staying connected

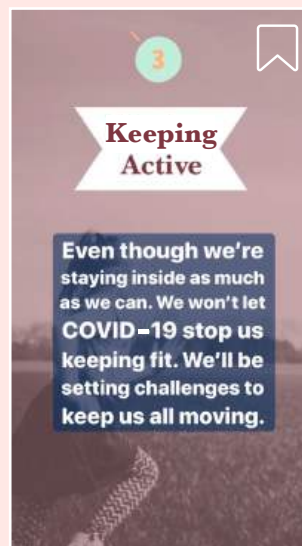
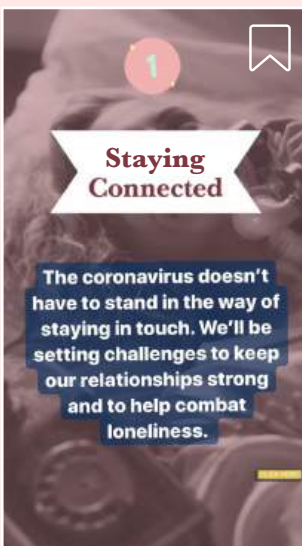
2. Home and community

3. Keeping active

4. Reasons to smile

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many pupils submitting their acts of kindness with the hashtag **#RoyalRussellKindness** to social media. All our pupils improved their own wellbeing whilst creating a real difference to our community and raised over £300 for our chosen charities.

We are so proud of our kind community of parents, pupils and friends.



DAY ONE

1. STAYING CONNECTED

Call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while.

Draw a picture for, or write a letter for, a friend you haven't seen for a while.

Message a friend, saying "I know I can count on you when...".

2. HOME AND COMMUNITY

Make a cup of tea for someone you live with.

Give a hug to each member of your family that you live with.

When you go on your daily walk, smile or wave to people as you pass them at a distance!

3. KEEPING ACTIVE

Complete an at-home workout.

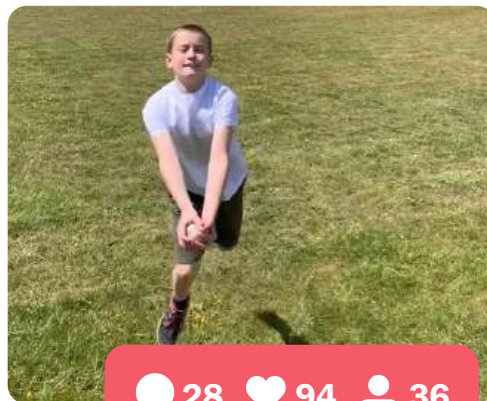
Spend 15 minutes doing your favourite activity in your garden.

4. REASONS TO SMILE

There is always something for which to be thankful. Write down 3 things that made you happy during the day. They can be big or small. It's important to reflect on the good things.

Draw a picture to show 3 things that you are thankful for.

Make sure you balance your media intake with both factual and relevant information, alongside some lighter and more cheerful content.



DAY TWO

1. STAYING CONNECTED

Organise to watch a film with a friend virtually through apps such as Netflix Party.

Arrange with your parents to call a family member you do not live with.

2. HOME AND COMMUNITY

Help at home by completing a household chore.

Help your parents with a job at home.

3. KEEPING ACTIVE

Go for a 30 minute walk with a member of your family.

Go for a family walk.

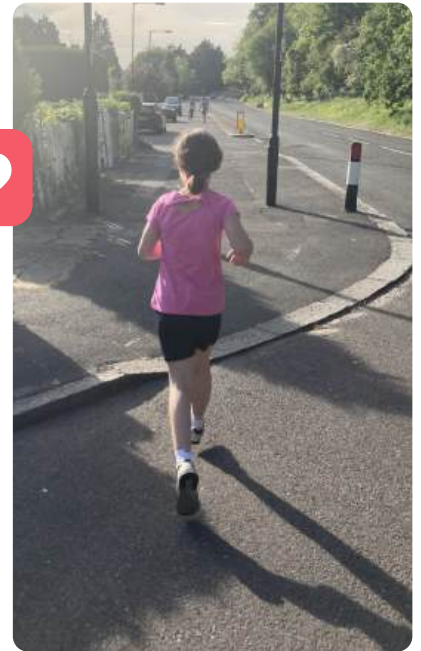
Go for a 5 minute exercise blast, try a free Les Mills HIIT session.

4. REASONS TO SMILE

There is always something for which to be thankful. Write down 3 things that made you happy during the day. They can be big or small. It's important to reflect on the good things.

Draw a picture to show 3 things that you are thankful for.

Read an article about the amazing story of Colonel Tom Moore and his inspirational attitude which caught the nation's attention over the last few months.



#royalrussellkindness

DAY THREE

1. STAYING CONNECTED

Create a quiz competition for you and your friends to complete.

Arrange with your parents to phone a school friend.

Drop another friend a message, saying "One thing I really appreciate about you is..."

2. HOME AND COMMUNITY

Bake something for your family.

Do something for the younger kids in your neighbourhood – place any soft toys/teddies in the windows and in your car. They'll be spotted when children are off on a Bear Hunt!

3. KEEPING ACTIVE

Complete a Joe Wicks workout video.

Go for a ride on your bike.

Burpees are great for all-body fitness – try doing 30 in a day!

4. REASONS TO SMILE

There is always something for which to be thankful. Write down 3 things that made you happy during the day. They can be big or small. It's important to reflect on the good things.

Draw a picture to show 3 things that you are thankful for.

Today's featured story is of a care home which went beyond the call of duty to allow loved ones to visit their elderly relatives in care homes whilst abiding by social distancing measures.

Follow the Happy Newspaper, a platform to share positive news and wonderful people.



19 71 34



DAY FOUR

1. STAYING CONNECTED

Send someone you know a joke to make their day.

Play a board game with your family.

Connect yourself to new music or rediscover a song you haven't heard in ages! (Spotify is great for suggesting new/old!).

2. HOME AND COMMUNITY

Reach out to a friend, family member or neighbour who may be feeling lonely during self-isolation.

Draw or write a thank you card to your parents.

It's Thursday! Clap for the NHS at 8pm and wave to your neighbours!

3. KEEPING ACTIVE

Go for a ride on your scooter.

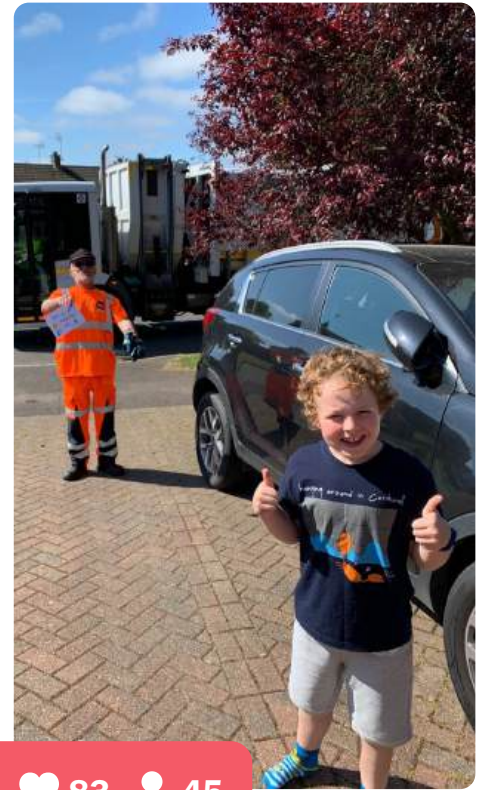
An active mind is important for good wellbeing – tease your brain by completing some quizzes.

4. REASONS TO SMILE

There is always something for which to be thankful. Write down 3 things that made you happy during the day. They can be big or small. It's important to reflect on the good things.

Draw a picture to show 3 things that you are thankful for.

Today's story shares the experience of a COVID-19 survivor as he was released from hospital and his thank you to all the staff that cared for him.



17 ❤️ 83 👤 45



DAY FIVE

1. STAYING CONNECTED

Have a virtual dinner with your friends.

Send a card to a friend, or family member. You can use an online service to do this for you! It's always lovely to receive something in the post.

2. HOME AND COMMUNITY

Water your houseplants/pick some wild flowers from outside.

Arrange a movie night with your family.

You and your parents should cook together! Email us with pictures of your collaborative dish.

3. KEEPING ACTIVE

Complete a Just Dance video on YouTube.

Take part in the 'Junior School Wiggle Challenge'

4. REASONS TO SMILE

There is always something for which to be thankful. Write down 3 things that made you happy during the day. They can be big or small. It's important to reflect on the good things.

Our final featured story is about a young man who set up online sign language learning lessons in an attempt to tackle isolation amongst people with disabilities.





Student Wellbeing Support Group

The Student Wellbeing Support Group is a pupil-led organisation which aims to promote positive mental health at Royal Russell. This year, their kindness and determination to help others was even more crucial than ever as our pupils worked together to navigate these uncertain times. The below message is from the group themselves, as they explain the aims of their organisation.

“ We are a happy, optimistic group who recognise that it's not easy growing up; we want to do everything we can to make things a little bit easier! Random acts of kindness, positive messages of support, holding workshop sessions

with Junior School pupils and providing weekly drop-in counselling sessions are part of what we do.

Pupils in the group also receive mental health support training to help them best support other pupils. The group are carefully overseen by Mr. Porter,

who liaises with the Safeguarding Team to support our community. Mental Health awareness is hugely important at Royal Russell; we are so proud of the Student Wellbeing Ambassadors who do their bit! ”

THE STUDENT WELLBEING SUPPORT GROUP HELPS OUR PUPILS IN MANY AMAZING WAYS, INCLUDING:

- Holding drop-in talk sessions for any pupils of any year group

- Mentoring pupils throughout the school

- Promoting positive mental health through assemblies

- Working with pupils in the Junior School to understand mental health

- We'll be arranging talks from outside professionals

- 25+ Ambassadors, all championing positive mental health at Royal Russell

This group of thoughtful pupils demonstrates the values of our School Motto 'non sibi sed omnibus' meaning 'not for oneself but for all' and we couldn't be prouder to have watched them develop themselves through helping others.

Everyone has a voice. We're here to listen.

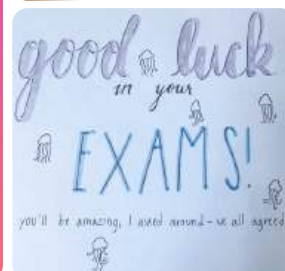


STUDENT SUPPORT DURING LOCKDOWN



We're all thinking of you and wishing you the very best. Stay positive, be kind, and look for the good in every day!

From all RRS teachers and the Student Wellbeing Support Group





Linguistics Olympiad

The seventh year of participation in the Linguistics Olympiad attracted over 130 enthusiasts of language problem solving.

The Great Hall was set up for pupils from Year 6 to Year 13 who, for one and a half hours, were deeply engaged in intense mental activity trying to decipher the meaning of many different languages; working in pairs or teams of friends certainly had its fun moments. It was exciting to engage with familiar or obscure languages, sounds and accents, symbols and writing systems, but at the same time discover peoples, their countries and culture, interconnections and events that made history.

The entertainment was complete, and so was the eagerness to crack the codes. From more familiar European languages like Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian or Ligurian (spoken in Northern Italy), to more exotic ones such as Mongo (spread along the Congo river), Chintang from

Nepal, to very early writing systems like the Idalion tablet dating from the 5th century BC, written in the Cypriot dialect of Ancient Greek and the Cuneiform, invented in Babylon about 5,500 years ago and used for writing several different languages - Babylonian, Assyrian and Sumerian, all tasks were attempted and their variety and ingenuity was again well appreciated. Results from all participants have been centralised for the Inter-House competition and the girls in Queen's have once again managed to maintain their first place.

The popularity of the competition is increasing and this comes as no surprise as it offers a stimulating mental stretch in an original form and a relaxed intellectual atmosphere; it instils valuable life skills such as attention to detail, logical thinking,



perseverance and a real sense of achievement when finally finding the clue and getting to the solution. The tasks at hand can be very challenging, involving top analytical skills at a level comparable with the demands in STEM subjects. This is why participating in the competition is valuable when building up the co-curricular portfolio of activities helpful in university and job applications.

“ Today some pupils from Year 6 went up to the Great Hall and participated in the Linguistics challenge. We had around an hour to get through a pack of sheets. It was challenging but fun, it was like an investigation. We got to use our Russell powers of communication and collaboration by doing the challenge. ”

SARAH AND KALAN (YEAR 6)



“ We think that overall there were some challenges, yet it was really fun. It was engaging to work on, and finding the patterns was both interesting and rewarding. We loved the fact we were learning and decoding the languages without any prep beforehand. By the end of the process we were both exhausted but also thrilled to have had this opportunity. ”

AYA AND KATJA (YEAR 8)



“ This was extremely interesting and I loved it! ”

ISABELLA (YEAR 6)

“ Today's Olympiad was extremely challenging for the Sixth Form with a particularly tough Idalion tablet to decipher. However all the pupils tried their best and enjoyed the morning. Even a team from the Junior School got involved and they found this to be a great experience that pushed them creatively. ”

NIKITA (YEAR 13)



THE CANTERBURY TALES

This Year Royal Russell embarked on a great journey for Charity in our most epic fundraising initiative to date.

The whole school community came together and was inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, an old English story about a group of very different pilgrims who make a journey to Canterbury, each with a tale to tell...

Royal Russell's community is full of similarly different, but kind,

caring individuals, each on a journey and just like the characters in Chaucer's story each have their own tales to share too...

Everyone has their own charity about which they feel strongly, a cause in which they believe in, a person they want to celebrate or raise money in the name of, a

different journey they, or someone they care about, has been on...

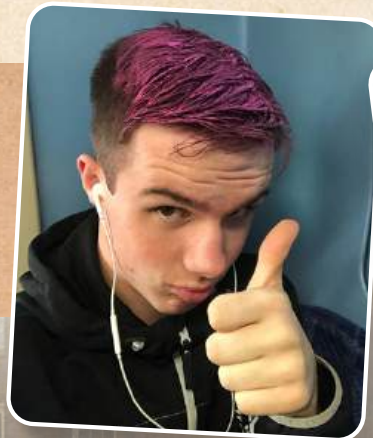
United by the theme of The Canterbury Tales, our community raised money and awareness for a range of charities, and totalled an amazing £34,000. Below is a small selection of highlights from throughout the school year.

This is the story of how we raised a total of £34,000 for various charities throughout the year.

£ 34,000.00

JACK BURTON'S 25K

Jack Burton was so inspired by Professional Footballer Lyle Taylor's fundraising for Cancer Research UK that he ran 25k and dyed his hair pink for the month of October!



24HR SPIN-A-THON

Mr Davies, Mr Parham and Mr Selby came to spin together for a 24 hour spinning class for the whole school to see. They raised money for a charity called Neurokinex Kids, a specialist children's facility at Gatwick to fund bursaries that enable youngsters to access unique, award-winning facilities.



MRS BONNER'S BOXING EVENT

In order to raise money for Cancer Research UK, Mrs Bonner entered the Ultra White Collar Boxing Event despite having never boxed before! She trained for only 8 weeks to be ready to enter the ring for a 6 minute fight.

SWIMMING TO CANTERBURY

Together, our Royal Russell Community made good use of our swimming facilities by pledging to swim the distance to Canterbury and back three times in equivalent lengths of our pool. They completed over 63 miles x 64 lengths which equalled 24,192 lengths.



MRS WONG'S WALKIE TALKIE CLUB

Mrs Wong and Old Russellian Bhoane joined forces to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. They climbed 896 steps over 36 floors at the walkie talkie building in London.



SANTA'S FUN RUN

On a chilly Saturday morning, members of our community came together for a Santa Fun Run in Lloyd Park to raise money for Cancer Research UK. They overcame the extremely muddy and slippery course and although it was tough everyone completed the run with their Santa hats still on!





THE ANTERBURY TALES



LOSING YOURSELF IN A BOOK IS THE ULTIMATE RELAXATION

During the month of March pupils, teachers and friends of Royal Russell were encouraged to recommend books which had helped them to escape into a different world or given them a moment of peace in their busy lives. The sharing of stories fitted the theme of the challenge perfectly as we learned about how reading can help people on any kind of journey.



QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS STALL

Queen's House had a Christmas clear out and sold a collection of clothes and accessories at breaktime. They donated all the proceeds to Project Peru, a refuge for children in Zapallal that provides food, shelter, and support for children and young people on a residential basis.

THE ADDINGTON FOOD BANK

At the beginning of Lockdown, our whole community came together to donate a car full of items for the Addington Food bank.



JORDAN WYLIE'S ROWING DANGEROUSLY

Friend of Royal Russell, Jordan Wylie single-handedly rowed across the most dangerous stretch of water on the planet, the Bab-el-Mandeb. Jordan used the money he raised to build a School in Djibouti for children affected and displaced by war and conflict.



Unfortunately, some scheduled events couldn't take place due to the pandemic but the below is just a small selection of the amazing activities that actually did happen. There were even more stories shared through many initiatives including: Amnesty at MUN, Christmas Carols and Crafts, Egg Painting, Keable Boys Birthday Bash, Madden's £10 challenge and the Pilgrims Way Relay Race.



THE JENNINGS DECENT

Year 12 pupil Sacha Jennings and his brother Zac abseiled the Broadgate Tower. They raised enough in sponsorship to keep a Maggie centre open for a whole day. The Maggie centre provides free practical, emotional and social support for people with cancer and their families and friends.

ODDBALLS!

In November, the Charity 'OddBall's' visited the boys' houses to raise awareness of testicular cancer. Their visit inspired the boys so much that they designed a Royal Russell OddBalls themed bobble hat which they then sold for £10 and donated the profits to the charity. A fantastic stocking filler!



JUNIOR SCHOOL'S FESTIVIES

The Junior School brought festive stories to life in a series of fundraising efforts over the Christmas period. They sang carols for collections at Croydon Night Watch, the Whitgift Centre and at our Christmas productions.





Act of Remembrance

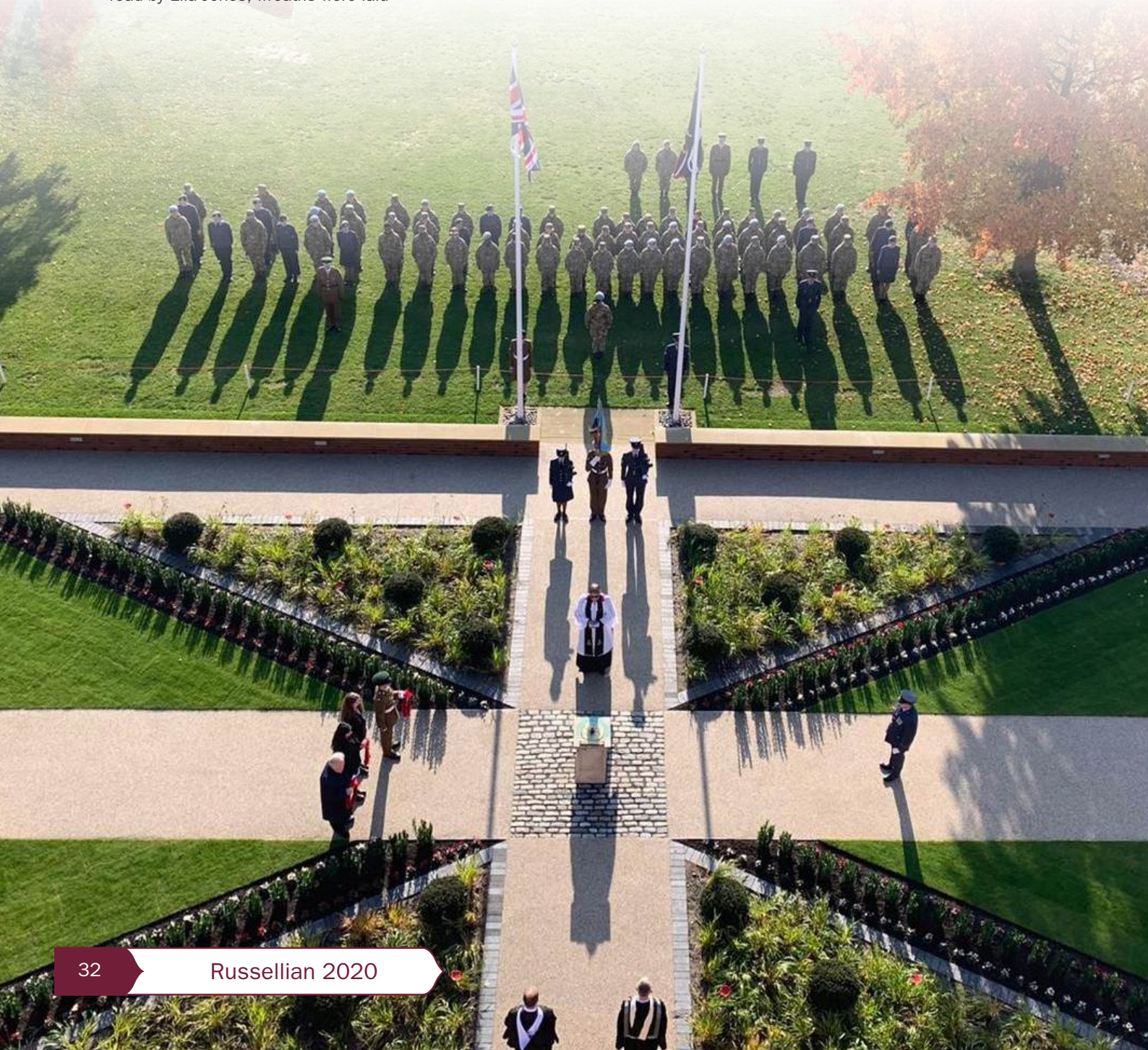
Royal Russell as we know it today owes its name and successes to its rich connection to wartime history which is why every year the School joins together to commemorate the lives and efforts of our Old Russellian soldiers who lost their lives in the war.

Over the course of two days, the School held special services for Remembrance Day. On Sunday, a service was held in Chapel and afterwards in the beautiful new Memorial Garden in Chapel Quad. Following a thought-provoking service, including a moving address by our Director of Operations, Mr Neil Cufley, and a beautiful speech and poem read by Ella Jones, wreaths were laid

on behalf of the Old Russellians, the CCF and the School. The combined choirs contributed to an appropriately reflective and formal occasion with music from Malcolm Archer and the Mozart Requiem.

On Monday, our whole School community gathered together, including all pupils from Nursery to Sixth Form, for a two-minute

silence and laying of wreaths by the Heads of Schools to remember our fallen Old Russellians. We listened to The Last Post and Reveille while poppies streamed from the Chapel Tower. A truly beautiful tribute to our wartime history.





A poem read by Ella Jones

S is for shelter that we go to each night.
C is for curtains to keep out the light.
H is for honey we have in our tea.
O is for oranges that come from overseas.
O is for Olympia, the ship we look after.
L is for lessons and sometimes for laughter.

D is for diary we keep of the war.
A is for Alver, whose voice we adore.
Y is for youth, but we are never weeping.
S is for scrapbooks we're all fond of keeping.

I for incendiaries that drop in our grounds.
N is for noise when our big gun fires.

W is for Wincott, another news reader.
A is for Adolf, of Germans the leader.
R is for ration. Oh give us some more.
T is for torch that we shine on the floor.
I is for Izal. It makes us all splutter.
M is for marg, we wish we had butter.
E is for end of our short little rhyme.
To give you a picture of school in wartime.





Junior School Trips



YEAR 4 ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORER TRIP TO JUNIPER HALL

The Year 4 pupils went on their annual residential trip to develop skills to better explore their environment. First pupils had to use their persistence and resilience whilst climbing up the steep hills into the woods.

Next came communication, collaboration and initiative as they worked in teams to create a waterproof shelter out of branches and trees. They then used their

risk taking skills as they huddled together in the shelter whilst water was thrown over them - unsurprisingly they did get a little bit wet. In the evening, they sang songs around the campfire and toasted marshmallows in the rain!

The next day they learnt even more about maps and using keys. They participated in a fantastic orienteering course. Then they drew their own maps and hid geo-caches for another team to find!

YEAR 5 TRIP TO LONDON DOCKLANDS MUSEUM

Year 5 embarked on an epic journey into London to visit the Docklands Museum. They learnt all about World War II and the trip to the museum provided them with an excellent opportunity to find out what the war was really like. It is truly astounding that the building is still standing given the devastation during the Blitz. An excellent time was had by all.



YEAR 6 KEW GARDENS

Pupils explored the Palm House, conservatories and beautiful grounds of Kew. They saw many plants that they have been learning about. The treetop walk was a highlight and allowed pupils to imagine the height of the emergent layer of the rainforest.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT VISIT THE VINE

Pupil Parliament went on their first school trip to The Vine. The Vine is a local charity run by the Salvation Army, in New Addington, which provides a food bank service to families who need support. They thoroughly enjoyed the rewarding experience and the pupils left feeling more empathetic towards others.



YOUNG VOICES CONCERT

This year pupils were raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust and had their debut at the O2 London arena. They sang their hearts out and performed street dances. Parents were up on their feet thoroughly enjoying the party. It was an incredible experience for everyone involved especially, the pupils.



YEAR 3 TRIP TO ADDINGTON HILLS

Year 3 visited Addington Hills to study the physical and human features. They also used a compass to work out the directions of Croydon, London and other landmarks. They were extremely lucky with the weather. Thankfully, it only rained once. However, this did create many muddy puddles, which the pupils loved, splashing and jumping in.





Junior School Trips

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Year 6 pupils and teachers embarked on an adventure to the Kingswood Centre in the Isle of Wight. Everybody had a fantastic time embracing the exciting and sometimes daunting activities.

From the 3G Swing to the Balance Beam, Nightline to Orienteering the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenges they were faced with, and it was wonderful to see their confidence blossom over the week.

They had a lovely time playing on the local beach as well as exploring the Island, and learning a little more about its history.



YEAR 5 BOWLES

Year 5 travelled to Bowles activity centre in Tunbridge Wells. The pupils took part in a range of activities to build up their confidence. They learnt independence skills through making their own beds and serving food at the dining hall. It was a great opportunity for the whole year group to bond and get to know one another. All had an excellent time as they skied, built rafts, completed high rope challenges and ventured out on night walks to name but a few activities.



YEAR 4 TRIP TO SURREY STREET MARKET

Year 4 visited Surrey Street Market as part of their geography project on St Lucia so went to buy tropical fruit. Each group had £5 to spend. They bought things such as Coconuts, grapes, mangoes, sugar cane, melon, oranges, limes, blueberries, grapefruits, pears, papayas and much more!





EARLY YEARS' VISIT TO THE NEW BUILDING SITE

The Nursery and Reception children had the most wonderful visit to the building site at the Senior School. The pupils were very excited to see the site in action. They gave instructions to make the crane move and lift bricks, saw the digger with its hydraulics and all of the amazing building materials. They were on the lookout for repeating patterns such as stacks of bricks and scaffolding.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT

Year 4 had a fantastic time exploring Hampton Court Palace. The group got to explore the kitchens, chapel and Henry VIII's apartments. They even had a 'digital mission' where the group used iPads to spy on Henry to learn more about his court.



YEAR 1 ZOOLAB VISIT

Year 1 had a very exciting visit from 'Zoolab'. Pupils were introduced to a variety of invertebrates & vertebrates and learned a great deal about them. They met a millipede, a cockroach, a giant African snail, a tarantula, a corn snake and even a scorpion. They were very excited to see and handle some of the animals.





It has been another very successful year for MUN despite the fact that lockdown ended the season early! The highlight this year was our annual conference with over three quarters of the participants coming from schools overseas.

Over 100 of our pupils put on an amazing conference with four days of debate in ten different committees including a Security Council and an International Court of Justice. The MUN Media team live streamed the debates whilst running

two events and producing ten short videos of the conference. The pupils also wrote, edited and published a daily newspaper.

Pupils attended three one day conferences at Reigate, Croydon

High, Benenden, as well as taking a delegation representing Georgia, a Deputy Sec Gen (Ella Jones), a Chair (Dionne Scougul) and three members of the press team (Ella Westland, Zoya Kirmani and Sammie Edwards) to The Hague.

REIGATE MUN CONFERENCE (OCT 2019)

Chairs: Ella Jones
Aaron Bigord
Dionne Scougul
Highly commended delegate: Sam Hacker
Outstanding delegate: Isabelle Bennett
Luke McCabe

ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL MUN CONFERENCE (OCT 2019)

Highly Commended Delegate: Simon Nzewi
Isabelle Bennett

CROYDON HIGH MUN CONFERENCE (NOV 2019)

Chair: Ella Flaherty
Highly Commended Delegate: Simon Nzewi
Sam Hacker

BENENDEN MUN CONFERENCE (DEC 2019)

Highly Commended Delegate: Betsy Latimer-Sayer
Isabelle Bennett
Aaron Bigord
Outstanding Delegate:
Highly Commended Delegation: China:
Betsy Latimer-Sayer
Isabelle Bennett
Poppy Collier-Doyle
Sam Hacker
Aaron Bigord

ROYAL RUSSELL DAY (JUNE 2020)

Model United Nations (MUN)
Shield for services to MUN: Megan Driver
Ella Jones
Cox Shield for MUN
Delegate of the Year: Dionne Scougul
Antrobus Shield for most improved MUN delegate: Isabelle Bennett
John Piggin Shield for Young Delegate of Year: James Browne





MINIMUN

This was another very successful year for MiniMUN, the debating society for Years 6, 7 & 8 ably led by Luke McCabe. Up to 30 pupils met each Wednesday after school to debate a range of topics including an election special. James Browne representing North Korea throughout the year deservedly won the young delegate award.

THE FUTURE OF MUN UNDER LOCKDOWN

The COVID crisis and subsequent lock down has had a dramatic impact on Model United Nations at Royal Russell. Two conferences we were planning to attend, at Haileybury school in March and Dublin in April, were cancelled and then we had to make the difficult decision to cancel our annual conference in October and the THIMUN conference in January 2021 was also cancelled.

So what can we do with MUN with one metre plus social distancing? Well the first step, taken during the summer term, was to see if we could carry on debating but this time online. The first debate – naturally debating the Question of the Global Impact of COVID-19 – was chaired by Izzy Bennett on Zoom. Pupils chose their countries in advance and were sent the resolution by email. Once the debate began the advantages of Zoom quickly became

apparent. No placards were needed, as the participants could all rename themselves the countries they were representing, and could use the ‘raise your hand icon’ if they wanted to speak or vote. Amendments could come in on the chat and perhaps best of all only one person can talk at a time. The debate was a huge success. A number of pupils had prepared excellent speeches and Izzy was able to chair with her usual authority.

If lockdown continues we will continue with both MiniMUN and senior Zoom debates next term. And we can expand the use of Zoom by allowing pupils to break into smaller groups for lobbying before everyone comes together to debate. Nothing will improve the face to face meeting, lobbying, socialising and debating offered by a conference but online debating is not a bad second option!





Headmaster's Breakfast



By the end of their first term, many of our Year 7 pupils had already formed friendships that could last a lifetime, met all of their teachers and settled into daily life at Royal Russell.

However, not all of them will have had the chance to meet the Headmaster yet and so they were invited into his home to spend the morning enjoying a delicious breakfast together.

These opportunities to interact with the Headmaster allow their unique

personalities to shine and provide them all with special moments to remember. Topics of discussion have included; a carnivorous turtle, dogs called 'Coffee' and 'Biscuit' and tales from their first term at Royal Russell.

A hearty breakfast and good conversation sets pupils up for

the rest of the day and allows the Headmaster to get to know everyone as they embark on their Royal Russell journey.

We hope the Year 7s enjoyed the experience and are ready to start their second year now they've settled in.



READE



BUCHANAN



QUEEN'S





KEABLE



MADDEN



HOLLENDEN



ST. ANDREW'S



CAMBRIDGE



OXFORD



Junior School Art & Design Technology

There have been many exciting opportunities and developments in Art and Design Technology in the Junior School. The year got off to a flying start. The Art Room was bustling with pupils making the most of our core Art and DT curriculum, and there was a range of additional opportunities to create and exhibit work. For example, collaborations with the Senior School, Art Club, pop-up art exhibitions in the Foyer, DT cooking workshops, a Christmas Art Competition, Book Week themed Art and DT lessons, and that was all in the first part of the year.

Whilst remote learning brought challenges for Art it has also created some great learning opportunities. Pupils have developed their approaches at home and have learned to create art in new and exciting ways.

We would like to thank all the families who supported pupils to make such ambitious Art and DT work at home during the remote learning period.

Throughout the year, Artists of the Week were selected and rewarded

with a special certificate to recognise their outstanding efforts and positive attitude towards their work.



YEAR 3 ART PROJECT WITH THE SENIOR SCHOOL

As part of Year 3's Art project on The Body, the Senior School's Art Assistant, Ms Lewry and some Year 10 GCSE Art pupils held two clay workshops. Year 3 pupils learnt about Anthony Gormley's sculpture 'field' and made their own clay figure sculptures. Their collaborative installation of clay figures is to be exhibited in the Senior School.



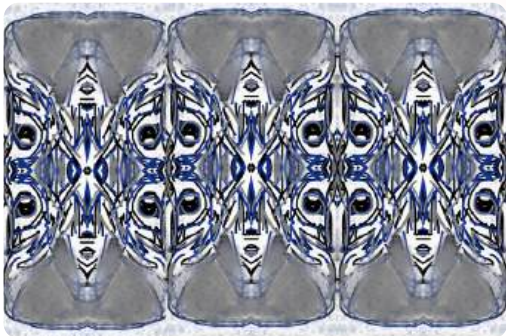
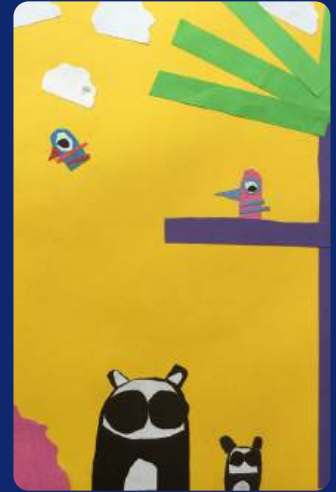
CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION

This year, the Junior School pupils had the opportunity to enter a Christmas Art competition. 25 winners were chosen. The artworks were framed, wrapped up, and hung on our Art Advent Christmas Tree, and one was revealed each day in December. In addition to this, 1 winner and 4 runners up were chosen to feature on the Junior School Headmaster's Christmas card.



BOOK WEEK

For Book Week this year, Art and DT lessons were inspired by books or illustrators. Year 6 created their own initial designs inspired by William Morris. Year 5 made paper cut-out illustrations inspired by Chris Haughton. Year 4 made pop-up book pages. Year 3 learnt how to create illustrations like Emily Mackenzie. Year 2 took inspiration from illustrators in layering drawings over prints. Year 1 made dot paintings in response to the book *The Dot*.



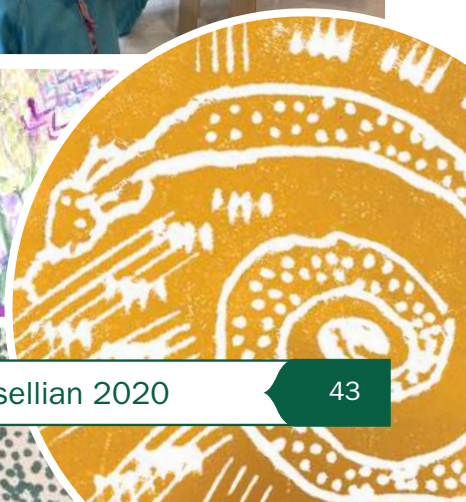
ART AND DT REMOTE LEARNING

Learning and creating continued through a range of remote Art and DT projects. Pupils made the most of the opportunity to interpret tasks in original and creative ways and created a wide range of work. During the remote learning period, pupils demonstrated exceptional resolve and continued high ambition for learning and making in Art and DT.



DT ENRICHMENT PROJECT AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

A group of Year 4 pupils were given an enrichment opportunity to enhance their skills through two workshops in the Senior School DT department. The pupils used CAD to create decoration designs that were then laser cut for them to assemble.





Senior School Art & Photography

This academic year certainly ended differently than planned but that didn't stop our Royal Russell creative energy. Many were empowered to explore new ideas and capture life from a new perspective.

Prior to lockdown key stage 3 pupils had explored a variety of mark making techniques, analysed colour theory and challenged their perception of self. Pupils utilised lino printing, photography, collage, painting and origami, to name just a few of the techniques. The Year 7 Art scholars entered inventive design ideas into the Mayor of London's Fourth Plinth Schools Awards 2020. Art and photography clubs enabled intriguing discussions and collaboration across all key stages.

The Art Department were really impressed by how proactive and brave pupils became during home learning. The ability to problem solve will continue to inform their creative development throughout their lifetime and across subjects.

Royal Russell's Easter Art Challenge was a welcome distraction for families and staff alike, with a mutual appreciation of the thought and care taken to capture our

surroundings. It was great to see how personal the outcomes could become. Working from home and supported by family enabled some learners to truly expand on creative possibilities.

GCSE pupils worked incredibly hard to develop their coursework inspired by nature, reflections and contemporary portraits. Coincidentally the theme for the exam paper 'events' proved to be significant at the time of the pandemic. It was disappointing to miss the opportunity to create a final outcome for the exam and the exhibition postponed. However Year 11 had worked particularly hard to develop their clay sculpted portrait heads, producing a professional and well observed collection of work. Year 10s had the opportunity to meet Stephen Wright at his eclectic installation, House of Dreams. This directly informed their work around the theme of 'collections'.

A select few had the opportunity to work with Year 3 pupils to create

the Gormley 'field' project. The collaborative sculpture is due to be installed on the school site and developed further next year. It was great to work together with the support of Ms Lewry.

A level pupils have had a busy time visiting artists, designers and photographers at the Art in Action talk, Victoria & Albert museum, Museum of London and the Barbican. Personal, explorative investigations were informed by the fashion industry, gender, religion and architecture as well as change and stability for the exam. Photography pupils made a visit to the on-site building developments and responded to the in-house commission to create work for the school site. The artists and photographers worked really hard to discuss and reflect on their work, constantly challenging their perception and creative process.

We are so proud of each and every pupil and their achievements.

GROUP TRIP TO TATE MODERN





Senior School Trips

SKI TRIP

39 pupils spent their February half term in Snowbasin, Utah in the USA. The week started with a day of snowfall ensuring that the already good snow conditions simply improved beyond all expectations, especially as blue skies accompanied the rest of the week.

The group consisted of new and experienced skiers with

more snowboarders than in previous years. It was a pleasure to watch friendships form across different year groups and see the look of happiness and satisfaction on individual faces on the slopes.

Their evenings were spent shopping, swimming and visiting an indoor activity centre.



TATE MODERN

GCSE Art pupils took part in a trip to the Tate Modern to gather resources for their exam titles 'Collections' and 'Events'. Pupils enjoyed their day out and made great headway on their projects.

BOARDERS' VISIT TO CHESSINGTON

Our boarders enjoyed a thrilling day at Chessington World of Adventures. They experienced all the rides, had a walk around the famous zoo and went on a mini safari. A fun day was had by all.



BOARDERS' TRIP TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Our Boarders stepped back in time at the Imperial War Museum. This was an opportunity to rediscover some of the major events in the history of Britain and across the world from the beginning of the 20th century up until now.

An enjoyable educational experience concluded with a stop at the Museum Café and some shopping for souvenirs.



LANZAROTE TRIP

In July 2019 a small group of pupils travelled to Lanzarote.

The first destination on the trip was exploring volcanoes, craters and lava tubes followed by a camel back ride while in the National Park.

During the week, they were also given the opportunity to swim and explore the aquatic wildlife

on the coast at Costa Teguisse. Next, they visited an island off Lanzarote called La Graciosa on our bikes ending up at a beautiful secluded beach. The journey by bike was 'immense' seeing many variations of fish along our travels.

On the final day, they spent the morning screaming around Lanzarote's largest and fastest go-kart track.



YEAR 8 SPANISH TRIP TO BILBAO

38 excited Year 8s headed to an adventure centre by a gorgeous beach near the village of Bilbao for five days of fun. In the water, they were introduced to surfing, bodyboarding and canoeing. On land, they took part in an archery competition and overcame their fears of height in a zip-wire activity.

Pupils spent the third day on a demanding hiking trip to the island of 'San Juan de Gaztelugatxe', a film location on the latest series of 'Game of Thrones'.

To finish the trip they visited the shopping centre and the famous Guggenheim Museum. It was a great cultural and linguistic Spanish experience.





Senior School Trips

GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND

Year 12 Geographers began the trip landing into Keflavik airport during a snowstorm. Thankfully, the weather eased and they were able to drive through the mountains to Hveragerdi and Selfoss. The next few days were spent at the famous seljalandsfoss and Skogar waterfalls, which were flowing despite being encased in ice stalagmites.

Next stop, Borgarnes, where pupils spent the afternoon around farmland measuring the dimensions of kettle

holes to determine whether they changed with distance.

At the end of the trip they visited the open-air geothermally heated pool in Reykjavik and treated ourselves to a 50m pool, slide and dips in the 8 degree and the 44 degree pools.

It was wonderful to experience the sheer beauty that Iceland has to offer and the brutality of its natural elements.



BOARDERS GO ICE SKATING

The boarders enjoyed a festive evening when they travelled to the Tower of London to visit the ice skating rink.

YEAR 9 HISTORY BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

39 pupils travelled to Ypres to visit some of the most important sites of World War 1 where soldiers from both sides of the war rested. Over the two days, they visited museums, cemeteries, memorials and battlefields.

Highlights included exploring the trenches at Sanctuary Wood and finding the names of Old Russellians on the Thiepval Memorial. This commemorates over 72,000 soldiers who died at the Somme.

It was a hugely enjoyable, moving and educational trip.



SPANISH EXCHANGE TO ZARAGOZA

7 excited pupils were welcomed by their Spanish families at the airport where they would be exploring Zaragoza. The group spent the first morning touring their school followed by a trip to the old town where they visited an amazing cathedral.

The weekend was spent doing fun activities, which were organised by their hosts. Next,

they visited the Muslim Aljaferia Palace, which is an incredible building and went to the shopping centre to buy our souvenirs.

This was an extraordinary experience and fantastic opportunity for pupils to practice their Spanish as well as discovering the Spanish family and school lifestyle.



BOARDERS' GO KARTING CHALLENGE

Boarding pupils spent the morning racing each other at one of the best karting circuits in London.



YEAR 8 TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT

Year 8 travelled to Hampton Court where they learnt so many amazing facts and discovered how beautiful the palace was. It had huge kitchens with fireplaces, the dining room walls were draped in lovely man-made silk knittings and the wooden ceilings were amazing to look at. The architecture was incredible. A fantastic day was had by all.



GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO AZORES

Years 7 to 9 geographers set off at the start of half term for a trip into the unknown.

After an early night, pupils spent the day seeing some amazing sites by our wonderful tour guides.

Places included the volcanic crater lakes of Sete Citades, Lava caves, the geothermal pools and the huge waves on the surfing beaches of the North coast. The trip was very educational and interesting.





Senior School Trips

BOARDERS' CLIMBING ACTIVITY

A group of Boarders of mixed ages headed to Purley Way for an afternoon of bouldering. All negotiated the many different walls, routes and overhangs well and, apart from soreness in used muscles, had a great time pushing their boundaries.



YEAR 12 VISIT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The two history classes had a thought provoking experience that expanded their knowledge and insight on their A level History Empire Course.

Two speakers gave interesting and well-presented talks on both Trade and Royal Navy, and even brought in artefacts from the archives, such as ships logs and a photo album, for them to look at.

Overall, the trip was impactful when it came to expansion of pupils knowledge, and our understanding of the topic, with the whole experience being very enjoyable.

BOARDERS' TRIP TO HEVER CASTLE

Boarders had an outing in the Kent countryside at the family home of Anne Boleyn.

They found their way out of both the hedge and water maze without getting too wet, and toured the really well preserved castle, marvelling at the display of weapons and instruments of torture. A lovely day out in the country.



A LEVEL TRIP TO MADRID

A group of pupils travelled to Madrid in order to improve their speaking skills and learn about the Spanish culture. They spent three nights with a host family and participated in language classes.

The next day's activities included taking part in an escape room where they had to work together whilst testing their Spanish skills. The favourite part of the trip was trying the amazing food, especially the churros and tapas.

During the four days they visited several monuments in Madrid including El Palacio Real (the Royal Palace) and El Reina Sofia museum where they saw the famous Guernica painting.



BOARDERS' SKY GAMES

The boarders took part in seven activities, which were designed to test the mind and body. These included Mortar building; Safe cracking and Quick draw pistols.

Teamwork and leadership was important across the activities and the instructors were very impressed by how quickly our pupils mastered the skills.

HISTORY TRIP TO GERMANY

47 eager history pupils boarded a flight to Munich. This marked the beginning of a six-day trip across Germany. After visiting the streets of the Munich Putsch of 1923 the group travelled to the concentration camp of Dachau, which was moving and thought-provoking for everyone involved.

They went to the city of Nuremberg and saw sites such as the Zeppelin field and NSDAP kongresshalle (inspired by the Colosseum of Rome).

The trip was a brilliant experience with an intriguing and entertaining itinerary and reinforced everything that pupils had learned in their lesson.





Inspiring Our Future Workforce

It's always exciting to witness pupils growing in confidence and awareness about themselves, their abilities and aspirations and their understanding of the world of work and to speak with them about how their academic and extracurricular activities feed into their future success.

The Careers Department focuses on providing information and opportunities for pupils to make the best decisions for themselves, whether they are looking at what GCSE subjects to study, sixth form courses to combine or pathways beyond Royal Russell. In 2019/20 we built upon some of the 'best bits' from previous years to deliver a varied programme.

CAREERS BREAKFAST

Our programme covers Finance, Law, Technology, Property and Medicine with over 150 pupils participating, supported by an army of Parents, Old Russellians and local businesses. These voluntary breakfasts provide pupils with a rare opportunity to obtain first hand information from a wide range of employees employed in the same sector or industry but carry out different roles. The informal setting and likeness to speed networking (but slower!) lends itself to pupils warming up to the opportunity and having the confidence to ask questions that they might not ask in a more formal arena.



THE YOUNG REPORTER SCHEME

We introduced a new opportunity for aspiring journalists in Years 10 – 13 this year: Newsquest Media Group, who publish in print and online, run a schools' scheme called the Young Reporter. Our 11 budding writers who took this opportunity, submitted a monthly article for a deadline and required format over a period of 8 months, just as a real journalist might. Their work is their own, independent from teacher, input and completed in their own time. The scheme attracted

over 65 schools last year and we were delighted to have 3 winners in the shortlisted Awards. As well as Young Reporter, we entered a young team into the Mock Law Trials competition who excelled against much older pupils from independent schools across London and we had two groups of Year 12 pupils participate in the social enterprise Wings of Hope. As we go to press, we're waiting for the announcement of winners.



CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Our annual Careers and Higher Education Fair was held just days before lockdown was imposed and pupils in Year 10 and Sixth Form were once again able to explore a wide range of potential pathways, from careers in the army, conservation and law; apprenticeships in investment banking or engineering; to studying a myriad of degree courses at University, to name just a few of our exhibitors.



REMOTE LEARNING

It was a great pity that lockdown and social distancing thwarted our Year 11 work experience programme but a move to remote learning didn't stop us from finding other opportunities for pupils. Congratulations to the Year 11 & Year 13 pupils who took advantage of these including the Young Professional Virtual Work Experience, Bright Network Virtual Internships Programme and special thanks to parents who provided virtual opportunities within their own workplaces.

As we look ahead now to 2020/21, we look at the opportunities that the shift to online and virtual experiences offers us and whilst it can never truly be compared to face to face encounter, it does provide us with an opportunity to go far beyond where we would normally. Now we have a global reach and we intend to use it.



As you look around Millers Pond see if you are able to find some hidden pebbles painted by the children. We hope you are all well and keeping safe!
Lots of love
Funshine Day Nursery xxx





Junior School Music

Junior School musicians enjoyed participating in many varied and exciting performances prior to the period of remote learning.

Highlights of the Autumn Term included the annual Harvest Festival, seasonal choral singing at the Whitgift Centre and the annual Christmas Carol Service. Singers from Years 5 and 6 also participated in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena. This was a spectacular and thrilling musical performance consisting of a combined massed choir from many participating schools.

During the Autumn Term, Royal Russell School was also very fortunate to welcome instrumentalists from The London Mozart Players. Junior and Senior School instrumentalists took part in specialist music workshops and greatly benefited from the musical

expertise of The London Mozart Players. Many pupils across the various key stages in the Junior School also enjoyed the opportunity to listen to performances by these prestigious and professional musicians, when they provided mini-performances in academic classrooms.

Congratulations to Durham House who won the Upper Junior House Singing Competition in the Autumn Term and to Exeter House who were triumphant in the Lower Junior House Singing Competition in the Spring Term.

In addition to the termly Music Café Concerts, Guitar, Drums, Vocal and String Soirées also took place over the Autumn and Spring

Terms. All of these events proved to be a wonderful showcase for our talented young musicians and were very much enjoyed by enthusiastic and appreciative audiences.

Musical performance has continued throughout the period of Remote Learning via delightful pre-recorded Assembly instrumental and vocal performances, and occasional live performances in online Teams Meetings.

Congratulations and thanks to all for another successful and enjoyable year of music in the Junior School.







When looking back on this academic year, the Music Department has enjoyed a great variety of concerts, all performed to an exceptionally high standard. There is still much to celebrate in what we managed to achieve before lockdown commenced.

Once again, the Department put on a good number of events: In the Autumn Term, the Scholar's Concert, Autumn Concert and Christmas Concert all provided entertainment, enjoyment and opportunities for pupils to show their skills and progress.

The Autumn Concert was a great start to the musical year with a fantastic variety of musical styles and ensembles on show, plus a broad range of pupils covering all year groups. In addition to this, our well established rock band 'Rapid Escape' played a couple of numbers, including a song by band member Dhillon Sen, and the school's new band 'Tonality' made a successful debut.

We had a visit from a cellist and French Horn player from the London Mozart players. During their day with us, they visited classes in the Junior School and Senior School, gave masterclasses to some of our pupils, performed a piece written for the day by Alec Thurbin, and also led a rehearsal of our orchestra.

In the Spring Term, we managed to fit in our annual visit to Shirley Methodist Church to perform a lunchtime concert there. We held our showcase concert, where pupils auditioned in order to perform. The performances themselves were a musical treat, and enabled many pupils to display talent that we had not heard before. Pupils 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 a number of instrumental solos.

The Music Dinner, with its theme of Hollywood, turned out to be the finale for the year's live music making (though we didn't know it), and it was a lovely celebration of Swing Band, Choirs and Singers, performing music to a packed Great Hall, as always.



CHAPEL HIGHLIGHTS

The choirs were busy in Chapel during the Autumn Term, contributing to the Evening, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas services as always. It was also lovely to feature the Year 7s at the Carol Service this year, singing the contemporary Carol 'Tonight' together. Very sadly, gales and storms and coronavirus prevented any sung Services at all between January and July!

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

In the Autumn Term, a number of pupils were entered for Music Exams and attained individual successes. We were also really thrilled that Charlie Eastwood gained a place at Trinity College to study music in September 2020.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

The school turned to remote learning a week after the Music Dinner, and with that a large number of high profile events were cancelled. The Spring Concert, the highly popular Guitar and Drums Concert, a full choir trip to Canterbury Cathedral to sing Evensong, and a Music Department tour to Sorrento were sadly called off because of the pandemic. It is a great shame as we consider what

might have been. We were able to enjoy singing, and music from the Jazz Band in the virtual Royal Russell Day event. As we look ahead, there is light at the end of the tunnel as we make plans for music events, either in school or virtually, for the year ahead.

As always, the Music Department cannot run without a large team of people supporting it. Thanks to the brilliant full time and class teaching staff for their inspiration and support to the pupils.

Thanks also to the wonderful team of Visiting Music Teachers for all their work, week by week, to provide tuition and expertise. I would like to acknowledge the support of Henry Kirk in the Chapel, as he retires from his role. He has been a true fan and supporter of the choir's work in particular. I am grateful to the parents for all their support, especially in this challenging year.

Above all though to the pupils. For their brilliance, enthusiasm, leadership and role modelling from the older ones. They are the life-blood of this department and it is a privilege to work with them.

Philip Millward
Head of Music







Junior School Sport

What an amazing year of sport it has been in the Junior School. Despite the disappointment of missing some key events, the fixtures and tournaments that did go ahead resulted in truly outstanding performances from pupils.

Sport has continued to thrive and pupils experienced a wide variety of matches. Creative and fun tasks were completed throughout lockdown and as you will see, there is still plenty to celebrate.

FOOTBALL

A fantastic year of Football was had by all with successes in all age groups for boys and girls.

The U11A boys' team became Champions at the IAPS Nationals for the first time after winning the ISFA Regional and having been runners up in the Surrey Cup. The quality of play was exceptional and inspiring for future years to see.

Unfortunately, a number of other finals and tournaments had to be cancelled including the Croydon Cup and ISFA Nationals. However, we're confident the team would have continued their winning streak.

The U11A Girls' Team performed exceptionally well in the Blackheath Tournament and they came an impressive 2nd place. They then headed off to Barn Elms for the Thomas School's 5-a-side Tournament. At the finals, Lara scored the only goal in the tight match, which won them the trophy and medals.

The U8s enjoyed their first competitive football match in the Upper Juniors. The U9s performed well at the Royal Russell and Downsend Tournaments and the U10s went from strength to strength with their game play and understanding.





NETBALL

The Netball programme has continued to develop and has gone from strength to strength with the introduction of the New England Netball initiative Bee Netball. A programme that enables younger pupils to be active, have fun and play netball whilst learning and developing other important skills. The girls have all played in friendly matches and it has been great to see their progress.

The U11A Netball team had an amazing year; they tried new combinations and finally found their groove. The

girls worked hard on improving their teamwork and developing tactics, which led to a fantastic finish to the season. This included Croydon Schools Tournament champions, IAPS Plate winners, Alleyn's tournament 1st and 37 wins, what a year!

The U10As made significant improvements throughout the year and were rewarded for their hard work by winning the JAGS tournament and not to be out done the U10B team won the Alleyn's tournament.

Another great year of successes.





Junior School Sport

BASKETBALL

Our U11 basketball team, made up of Year 6 boys, performed exceptionally well at the IAPS National Basketball finals. They won every game through to the final where they came up against defending champions Yateley Manor. Finishing second was an exceptional achievement.



SWIMMING

The swim programme has continued to develop and grow with great results.

A group of thirty five pupils headed to South Norwood to compete against eight other schools in the Croydon Gala heats. Royal Russell rose to the occasion doing brilliantly and winning the gala overall.

Individually, congratulations to Alister Gironella for qualifying to the IAPS National swim finals. He ranked 16th in the U10 Butterfly. This achievement does not happen very often so is particularly special.

In the Croydon Schools' qualifying event fifteen pupils made it through to the finals. Unfortunately, these events were cancelled.



CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross-Country squad travelled to the Croydon Schools' event and there were up to 175 pupils in each race. Stanley Moore finished in an outstanding 3rd place, Matilda Brinin-Webb 8th, Shyam Rajanayagam and Ama Amiaka 10th.

The U11 and U10 Girls' Teams and the U11 Boys' all finished as runners up in the team event.

A smaller squad travelled to Reigate for the Surrey Schools' event where Lara Stublely and Thomas Meadows received Surrey Develop invites after finishing in the top 20!





Junior School Sport

HOCKEY

This year, the girls worked hard to develop their skills by playing in as many friendly matches as they could. It has been a real treat to watch their progress and confidence grow.

The U11A girls' team had a solid season, they focused on their formation and goal scoring. Their hard work paid off as they won the Plate at the UKSA and Royal Russell Tournament.

The U9 girls had their first taste of a full pitch play at the Lingfield tournament and the U10s have proved they are well prepared for next year by their great passages of play during their matches.

The U11A boys' team qualified for the IAPS Hockey Nationals for the first time in history and performed well in regular fixtures and tournaments. They only just missed out on reaching the finals at the Royal Russell Tournament.

The U10s team competed well at the UKSA Tournament and benefited from specialist coaching. We look forward to the U8s and U9s developing further.

Another great year with some awesome achievements.



TRAMPOLINING JUNIOR AND SENIOR

The trampoline squad had another fantastic year.

They entered the biggest squad ever into the London Regional Qualifier with some staggering results. At the highest level, they won 3 Elite titles with Grace Scott, Matt Payne and Eivie Lloyd bouncing their way to the top. Our two Elite teams also took 1st place demonstrating our ability to compete with the best.

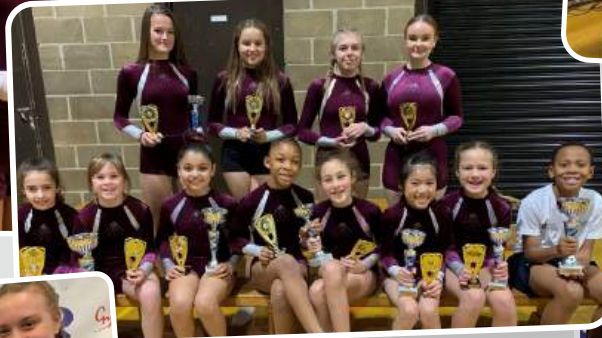
In the U11 section Maria Parbatani, Max King and Oneli Pelpola along with the Novice and Intermediate teams bounced their way to victory. Runners up Sarah Ozeki, Nina Umeh,

U11B team and 3rd placed Isabel Gironella and Izzy Flint all qualified through to the Southern Zonal finals.

The U13 Novice team finished in a credible 4th place with Drew Girton finishing in 8th. The U19 Girls team and U14 Boys Intermediate teams bounced their way to silver, with Tino Khamnei finishing in 3rd and all earning qualification to the next round.

At the Southern Zonal finals qualification to the National finals was very much in our sights. The pupils all bounced brilliantly showing off new skills and routines and proving hard work does pay off.

The U14 Elite team of Eivie Lloyd, Jasmine Rihal, Amy Tree and Shayna Patel finished in second place securing them a place at the National Finals with the U14 boys' Intermediate team of Tino Khamnei, Will Mather and Alex Mazzoni also finishing runners up. The day finished on a huge high when the U19 Elite team of Grace Scott, Anna Stone, Emily Arnold and Amelia James won the event closely followed by the U11 Intermediate team of Oneli Pelpola, Isabel Gironella, Isabella Humphries and Nina Umeh also on top of the podium.





Junior School Sport



SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Royal Russell hosted the Croydon Schools' qualifier and finals where our squad dominated both events. With awesome races, throws and jumps the team were clear winners on both days, leading to Croydon representation at the London Youth games qualifier.

The squad performed brilliantly with improved throws, jumps and spectacular relay races. Making it into the top three spots would mean a place at the London Youth Games finals. After a nervous wait we finished in third! A truly great day. The team received some great comments from the officials. The finals were unable to be held. However, we were delighted with how far the team had come.

GYMNASTICS

After some very talented Year 4 pupils demonstrated complex skills at the Surrey Schools' event the team finished in a very credible 6th place. The U11s also performed lovely routines with improved style and flair to finish in 7th. We hosted a friendly competition at Royal Russell where many pupils experienced their first competition; the Y4s and Y6s won the team event.



BIATHLON

Royal Russell had fun hosting the Biathlon event and it was great to see so many pupils get involved. The qualifying event at Whitgift was a huge success with the squad performing really well despite the wet and muddy conditions.

The Biathlon squad travelled to Nottingham for a hugely successful National Championship. 11 pupils scored the magic 2000 points needed to compete.

There were outstanding performances with 7 pupils finishing in the top 25 in the country! Thomas Meadows finished in 12th place with Henry Hayden de Carbonnières 13th and Alister Gironella 15th. An amazing 16 pupils scored enough points to be selected for the National Schools Biathlon finals, which has currently been postponed until later in the year. We can't wait to see them play!





Senior School Sport



We have seen fantastic developments in Sport at all age groups and ability levels this year, with record numbers of pupils participating. We are competing at the highest level and have achieved many local, regional and national successes.

Our pupils remained committed to sport during lockdown and although they competed in some great Tik Tok challenges they were unable to attend some scheduled matches that were cancelled due to the pandemic. We are so proud of the resilience and determination they showed in their training from home.

FOOTBALL

The football programme continues to grow in popularity and quality of provision. Royal Russell is recognised as a football school Nationally and Internationally with success in National Finals for the last 3 consecutive years. This is down to the improved staff coaching including a full time Goalkeeper coach (A-Licence), Academy strikers coach, position specific sessions, team and individual analysis, Strength and Conditioning sessions, Physiotherapist and excellent facilities. This has led to success in National Cups and Leagues.

The most notable success last season was the U15s reaching both the Independent

Schools' (ISFA) Elgin Final and the prestigious ISFA National Final for the second year in a row! We have had success with players that are released from academies who join our programme and get selected for clubs. These opportunities come from playing for the school in highly competitive weekly fixtures, HUDL League – the highest level of school football in the country, ISFA and ESFA (Elite Schools) Cup competitions. We have a unique program that genuinely develops players within a caring community environment.

This season, our 3rd XI played 16 and won 9. The top scorers were Evian Stennett, Charlie Brennan and Daniel Prefontaine who scored four goals apiece, but the stats never tell the whole story. There were only three wins before Christmas, but six after the break, with no losses. This 3rd XI made it through to the quarter-finals or the semi's in all the cup competitions they entered, usually playing as the 2nd XI. The team showed great development throughout the season with various players providing a selection headache for higher teams,

playing very positive, attractive attacking football. Player of the season was awarded to Charlie Jones. Most improved was Luca Duran.

The 1st XI reached the later stages of ISFA and ESFA Elite, unbeaten in the champions league format. Our U14A team did well in the Elgin League with a small year group, U13s made the quarter-finals of the county cup, U12s made the quarter-final of the ESFA Cup and the U11s were unbeaten all season winning everything they entered. We are very excited to see how these pupils will develop moving into the senior school with our new pupils.

We have employed a Head of Girls' football this season, Head of U13 Lead Phase and U15 Lead Phase coaches and developing links with academies in England and overseas. We continue to develop these areas and spread our recruitment drive to give those boys and girls the opportunity to experience our exceptional football programme.





BASKETBALL

Basketball at Royal Russell continues to grow and develop each year, with increasing numbers of pupils from the junior and senior school playing basketball in PE lessons, extra-curricular clubs and competitive fixtures.

The U11s began the 2019-2020 season with a friendly fixture against Elmhurst School and a fantastic performance by the team led to an impressive 29-0 victory. This outstanding performance was soon followed by the team taking part in the annual IAPS National Basketball tournament held at the Sevenoaks School. The team dominated throughout the tournament and made it through to the finals but

narrowly lost out to last year's winners Yateley Manor.

The U16s team continued to show marked progress throughout the season and were looking to spring-board off the team's success for the last two seasons. The boys battled hard in every game and finished the season in a respectable fifth position.

The U18s team were eager to compete in the new season and despite losing several key Year 13 players from the previous squad and the team consisting of mainly U16 players, the boys stayed competitive in all of the games and managed to obtain victories against DLD College London and St Paul's School.

HOUSE SPORT

The Inter-House competition for sport has been running at Royal Russell since 1936.

The current structure is recognisable since around 1994, with girls being fully integrated by 2000.

The competition runs throughout the school year, during pupils' games afternoons, giving every pupil the opportunity to represent their house multiple times in over 15 different sports.

From football to swimming, table-tennis to athletics and not forgetting cross-country where every pupil across the whole school (and quite a few staff) run around our beautiful grounds, the House Sport Competition is a great team event.

In 2019-20, like so many other things, the competition was sadly cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At that time Cambridge and Reade were the leaders, fiercely pursued by Queen's and Madden. Other houses were planning late pursuits via rounders, cricket, tennis and 'capture the flag'.

Fingers crossed for this year!





Senior School Sport



NETBALL

At Royal Russell we offer an inclusive netball programme that caters for all abilities and have success both locally and nationally. The selected girls in the senior academy (Year 11-13) are on a full time program receiving contact time every day of the school week. This comprises individual 1-1 support, positional workshops, as well as team training. Team training includes technical sessions, personalised strength and conditioning programmes, and video analysis.

Our staff have both National and Super League experience as well as National coaching and umpiring

qualifications up to Level 3 and A Awards, which ensures the delivery of a high quality netball programme, where all players have the capacity to reach their potential.

Our juniors (Year 7-10) follow a similar program with up to 4 sessions a week. We have over 15 netball teams involved in competitive fixtures ranging from ages 7 to 18. We offer competition for A through to D teams and at all age groups and each team has a dedicated coach.

Our U18A team is constantly facing new challenges and reaching more achievements each year. The highlight would be reaching two National cup

finals in the same academic year. We also compete in the England Netball National Schools' competitions where our players have been scouted for various NPL franchises, including Surrey Storm, London Pulse and Saracen Mavericks.

We offer a holistic programme including on court technical sessions and long term player development which is all delivered with state of the art facilities including three newly laid and floodlit netball courts as well as three additional training courts and an indoor court.



Royal Russell





CROYDON SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

A large number of our pupils ran in the Croydon Schools Cross Country championship in Lloyd Park, many of them qualified to run for Croydon at the Surrey Schools event in January.

The U12A boys team consisting of Oliver Stephens (2nd), Ted Stacey (4th), Tom Burghes (9th) and Lorenzo Shone (10th) came first overall out of all the schools competing, the first time ever that one of our boys teams have won this event!

HOCKEY

The Hockey programme embraces sport for all with every child engaging with hockey when they arrive in Year 7. We field inclusive teams from A-C in the lower school with 7-a-side fixtures and once they move into the upper school we field 11-a-side teams all the way up to the 1st team. Our provision allows pupils to play at least three times a week in Games, Club and weekend fixtures but this can be furthered with access to our Strength and Conditioning team. Every individual is given the best opportunity to reach their potential within the sport which is supported by a holistic scholarship programme.

Our coaching team comprises current national league players, international coaches and local club players. Pupils can draw on this wealth of knowledge, skill and experience which ensures the delivery of high-quality training sessions and competitive values in fixtures.

The importance of strong community links is vital for our programme. With our coaches heavily involved in local clubs, we can encourage participation outside school which in turn drives motivation within our school teams.

These links are evident within our fantastic facilities too. Our all-weather full-size floodlit AstroTurf and all

weather multi use games area (MUGA) is at the heart of a local club and allows the school to host junior tournaments throughout the year.

Our junior school programme, in which all our coaches are fully immersed, has pushed our senior school programme to new heights and will continue to do so. Last year, our U11s qualified for the national finals; a fantastic achievement and a great foundation for their future. The early development programme, which has been in action for 4 years, has produced promising teams in the current senior school. In particular, the U12 Girls and U13 Boys challenged for the Surrey Plate last year. Having a strong base of players from our junior school creates an environment which encourages new senior school players to be motivated and engage immediately within a culture of excellence.

Individual success must also be commended. The school is very



proud to have county representatives in the U13, U14 & U15 age groups as well as two individuals looking towards England Hockey Academy & Performance Centre trials.

Bi-annually we organise a tour in Holland involving both junior and senior school groups. This gives them a wonderful experience of learning new skills and a different style of hockey whilst most importantly allowing the pupils to have life changing experiences with friends.

The future of Royal Russell hockey is bright!





Mrs Nikki Snelgrove



Mrs Nikki Snelgrove joined Royal Russell as our new Deputy Head Learning during the school's period of remote learning in June 2020. We interviewed Nikki to find out more about her career so far and her plans for the future of learning at Royal Russell.

WHY ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL?

The reason why I was really interested in the job at Royal Russell was that I was ready for the next step in my career and I wanted to look for a co-educational school. But, 'Why Royal Russell?' was about the locality, being in South London but having this absolutely stunning campus that has a whole host of facilities makes coming to work every day a really pleasant and enjoyable experience.

Royal Russell's diverse community ethos comes across strongly from the start, the idea that we're a family school that's not just local to Croydon but extends across the globe brings huge amounts of strength to our offering to be able to provide so many opportunities to enrich staff and pupils.

Finally, the other reason that I was really interested was the boarding element. I've worked in boarding environments before and I understand that having more time in school enables a variety of enrichment activities and experiences for all.

WHAT DID YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE LOOK LIKE BEFORE ROYAL RUSSELL?

I am one of the more unusual teachers now where I moved straight into teaching from university. I finished my maths degree and transferred straight onto a PGCE course to become a Teacher of Maths. I enjoyed the learning experience within maths. That excitement when you finally get it and I wanted to go back and be able to share that passion with others. I wanted to experience the interest and the excitement from another perspective and prove that actually we can all get there and find a love for maths.

Once I started my teaching career I realised that teaching isn't just about

delivering your subject in the classroom, it's much more about being involved in developing young people. I started getting involved in different co-curricular activities and I found that being involved in these learning experiences massively fulfilling.

I have also worked in others roles within education including; Boarding Housemistress, Head of Maths, and Head of Sixth Form. Moving onto my last six years at Streatham and Clapham High School as Director of Studies and the Academic Director for the last two which meant I had a much wider influence in the learning sphere across the School.

HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING A PARENT AND STAFF MEMBER AT THE SCHOOL?

It was important and exciting for me as a member of the Senior Leadership Team to realise that the school wasn't just for me, it was actually going to be for me and my family. Royal Russell completely fits with my priorities as a teacher, as a learner and as a parent. My son is flourishing in reception and taking full advantage of the opportunities in the junior school and I'm happy to be a part of creating those opportunities for other young people as well as for my own family.

AS FORMER DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AT STREATHAM AND CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS WHAT EXPERIENCES FROM YOUR SINGLE-SEX SCHOOL CAN YOU BRING INTO A CO-EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT?



Teaching in a single sex school and then moving to a co-educational environment, whilst there are some differences, it's largely the same. The approach I gained through teaching girls was to recognise every member of the class as an individual, they just all happened to be female. Each pupil has different motivators and interests and you can pick up that approach and can take it anywhere.

Whatever environment you find yourself teaching in, you have to work with each individual and allow them to make decisions about the subjects and academic paths that are right for them. This process of decision making should be free from any stigma surrounding the perceived male or female dominated subjects. We want to make sure all our pupils are able to do the right subjects for them whether that is in the sciences, arts, languages or humanities. Making sure that those opportunities are available for everyone and there are no closed paths in education is definitely not only happening in single sex schools.

YOU JOINED THE SCHOOL IN THE PEAK OF THE PANDEMIC. WHAT WAS IT LIKE STARTING AT A SCHOOL WITH NO PUPILS?

Really, really unusual! Walking into a school where the only people on site were a skeleton selection of staff keeping the site running was a real learning experience for me. There wasn't the opportunity to introduce myself in the way that I would want to. It was important to me to have conversations with individuals to truly get to know what makes a Russellian. One of my real priorities this academic year is to get to understand what makes this special community work and bring my ideas for academic direction into it.

HOW HAS REMOTE LEARNING CHANGED THE FUTURE OF ACADEMIC APPROACHES?

I think there will be some things that will change radically but the core purpose of education won't change. Education is about supporting our pupils and inspiring them to have a greater understanding of the world around them. However, how we go about delivering this will evolve.

Whilst we wouldn't have ever planned for these changes to happen in such a severe overnight way, remote learning has given us the opportunity to reflect on how we deliver and receive course content and how we engage with young people. We've got so many digital tools we can use to involve pupils in the power of analysis. We can use voice notes, interactive and continuous marking rather than relying on written feedback alone.

WHAT IS ONE PUPIL EXPERIENCE IN LOCKDOWN YOU'D LIKE TO INFLUENCE OUR OFFERING AT ROYAL RUSSELL AND ONE YOU'D LIKE TO KEEP IN THE PAST?

I'd really like to investigate how we can develop the use of feedback in a more interactive way. We can utilise digital tools and look further into how work is produced and how feedback can be shared in different ways and at different stages. Sharing feedback can become a collaborative process that engages pupils in their own learning and how it has developed over a period of time.

Something I'd really like to leave in the past is pupils learning at home



full-time. Collaborative onsite learning is a real must. I think lockdown has highlighted our need as people for connections and for a shared sense of ownership in achieving a goal. Learning shouldn't be an isolated experience. It should be one that enriches, brings passion and enjoyment into our lives and it should be something that is shared.

YOU'RE A CHAMPION FOR 'FEARLESS LEARNING', WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

It comes back to this idea of learning not being easy or straight-forward. Moments of desperation around what we're trying to achieve can be transformative. They help build the resilience needed to keep going and allow us to understand how to improve. Each time we reflect on a learning experience that didn't quite go to plan we start the process of bettering ourselves, each time we attempt something new we're gaining an experience that makes us better. Every time we try something new we're being fearless.

WHAT DOES ACADEMIC SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

You can think about this question in a range of ways. For me it's that buzz and engagement an individual gets during an activity that's happening in a learning space. It's the excitement of seeing the pleasure in someone's face as they're learning and immersing themselves in something new and understanding another piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

I also want our pupils and young people to leave Royal Russell with a great set of qualifications that will

enable them to go onto the next step in their journey. Leaving school with both fantastic qualifications as well as an understanding that the learning doesn't stop there, it doesn't stay in the classroom. We are all lifelong learners and the goal is to continue to develop ourselves and our understanding of the world around us.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF ROYAL RUSSELL'S CURRICULUM LOOK LIKE?

The most important thing for me in the next year is to learn everybody's name and recognise all of the pupils as I walk around the School. There's going to be days where I forget names but building relationships with our parents and pupils is vital. We are all on a shared journey towards successful outcomes together. Supporting one another is going to ground us and keep us working towards the same goals.

I like the word empowerment. The whole point of me being here is to empower teachers and pupils to love what they're doing in the classroom.

It's also really important to recognise there are going to be changes in the world of education over the next few years, because the pandemic has changed how we have accessed pupils and it's made us think about things differently. We can recognise that things are going to change and that there will be times when things feel forced upon us but this summer has shown us that by being proactive and fearless in our thinking we can embrace the unknown.



Campus Masterplan



This year has seen significant investment in our Royal Russell estate and the commencement of our transformative Campus Masterplan.

This autumn sees the exciting culmination of the latest phase of Royal Russell School's development plan, with the opening of a state-of-the-art science building as well as two Replacement Residential Student Accommodation (RRSA) buildings for day and boarding pupils. These exciting projects are the Schools' answer to growing pupil numbers as RRSA has the capacity to accommodate over 300 day and boarding pupils as well as meet the increasing demands for STEM subjects, with a total value of £17m.

The Schools' leadership team and Board of Governors commissioned a feasibility and Masterplan study, which outlined the vision for rebuilding a portion of the Schools' real estate between 2017 and 2025. Providing architecture that would complement the existing historic buildings on the stunning 110 acre site was a crucial goal and led to the appointment of BHM Architects, a practice with a strong pedigree in educational projects to design and project manage both buildings.

The first RRSA project began in 2014, and saw the replacement of two boys' boarding buildings to rehome Oxford and Cambridge Houses and

has been in successful operation for three years. The newest RRSA is home to both Queens and Hollenden Girls Houses and extends the provision of clean, modern, light and warm accommodation and teaching spaces. Royal Russell have brought the comforts of the home to its pupils, many of which come from overseas.

Each house includes TV and games rooms, kitchens and dining areas, quiet study and tutorial spaces, an onsite laundry as well as shower rooms and washrooms. There are also four accessible bathrooms and rooms for visiting teachers to work with pupils during their homework periods. Each pupil has their own space with a locking wardrobe, a large desk and chair, a set of drawers, bookshelves, pin-up space and a reading light next to the bed. The house has under-floor heating and many of the rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

Alongside these major works to create homes from home for Royal Russell's day and boarding community, the School has invested £2.6m in a new science building, providing spacious light and state-of-the-art facilities for the growing cohort of student scientists. The new facilities now provide 12

dedicated science laboratories and classrooms, preparation facilities and student welfare areas for the next generation of Old Russellians. A competitive selection process led to the appointment of CL Architects.

Headmaster of Royal Russell, Mr Chris Hutchison said "the design and construction of the two buildings has added significantly to the Royal Russell community, providing large warm and welcoming houses for our day and boarding pupils and some fantastic accommodation for pupils and their house parents. In addition to creating a stunning environment, our boarding houses were designed to be 'homes from home', where our boarders would feel part of a family within the wider Royal Russell community."

Now that the boarding houses and the science centre are complete planning turns to the design and build of a new Junior School, to replace the current building. This work will take several years to plan and build and it's hoped that by 2025 the new building will be a reality and ready to welcome the youngest pupils to the School.





S10-S12
upstairs





Tenner Challenge



Could you start a business with just ten pounds? That's the challenge our Business Studies pupils were set in February.

Our entrepreneurial pupils were given £10 to get their business ideas off the ground. They sourced their own materials, prepared sales pitches and promoted their own businesses.

We interviewed two teams to find out the secret of their successes:



TEAM SWEET SCENTERS

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH YOUR IDEA?

Team SS: We thought what do loads of people want and have in their houses? We thought soap would work and we could create our own. We then decided to pick essential oils that had antibacterial properties.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY ABOUT THE TENNER CHALLENGE?

Jared: I loved selling the products

Makaziwe: I enjoyed the process of making the soaps.

Jared: My Mum's an aromatherapist and I asked her advice so we went for lemon myrtle, rosemary and lavender. We spent our £10 on soaps and essential oils to make the products.

HOW DID YOU DIVIDE THE WORK?

Jared: I did the selling and Makaziwe did the business plan. We then sold them in Beckenham Park and in our neighbourhood. We had to be quite assertive to sell the products. Jared created a poster to describe the products so people knew what they were buying.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY NEXT TIME?

Makaziwe: We might change the product slightly, focus on more ethical packaging such as tissue or paper packaging instead of plastic.

ARJUN DINTAKURTI

WHAT WAS YOUR BUSINESS IDEA?

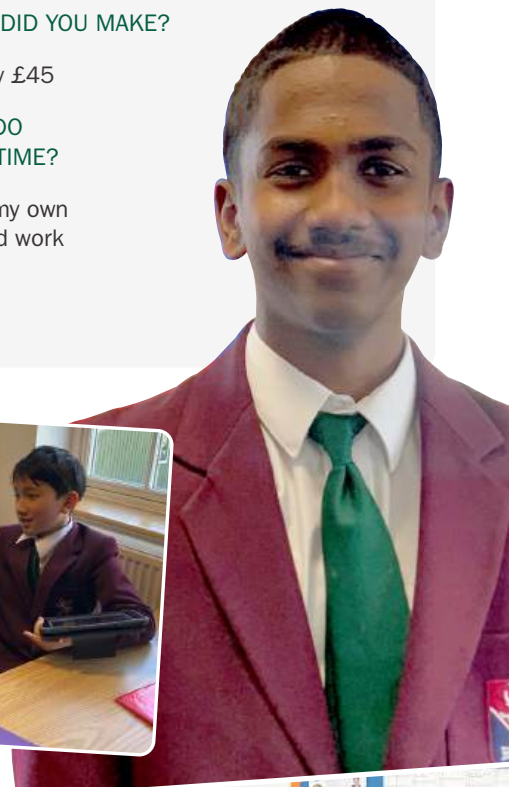
Arjun: Services for the boarding house. I charged £1 for kitchen duties and getting food and £3 for cleaning rooms. This idea had low overheads and I knew people would be interested as people hate kitchen duties and cleaning their rooms! I promoted via word of mouth in house and people started to approach me once they heard about the services.

HOW MUCH PROFIT DID YOU MAKE?

Arjun: Approximately £45

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY NEXT TIME?

Arjun: I did this on my own but next time I would work with a team and advertise more.





Staff Leavers

Below the Headmaster thanks leaving Senior School members for their contributions to Royal Russell.

We would like to thank Lauren Ayers, Curtis Child, Kris Page and Oliver Saunders for all they have brought to our Sport Science Programme and Football enthusiast, Matt Bubb and Head of Hockey Steph Brennan for leading so many teams to success as well as their contributions to the Sport Department.

We also thank Richard Upton for his work in Chemistry and Madelon Schwartz for all her contributions in the Art Department.



We thank George Wheeler for all the expertise, talent and commitment that he

has brought to share with us in the Computer Science department and in Buchanan and Latessa House and we also thank Martin Parham for his inspirational leadership of the Geography department for the last 7 years, which has seen pupils travel all over the world in pursuit of geographical gems. Latterly Martin has been an influential sixth form tutor and a key member of the Cambridge House boarding team.



Henry Kirk has acted as our Chaplain, Head of Theology and spiritual guide since he arrived from Abingdon School in 2012. He has been a huge support to the Royal Russell community and to me personally in this role and we

wish Henry, Carolyn and Bracken every happiness in their retirement.



Mike Callow has been our mathematical guru and inspiration for our further mathematicians for the last 12 years. Mike has also given hours and hours of his time in 1:1 maths support for pupils and with his gentle encouragement of our young cricketers on many Saturday mornings. We also wish him a very happy retirement.



Dan Botting moves to take up his first headship in September. When I appointed Dan 4 years ago, I knew this would be the likely next step for him and, after transforming our teaching and learning structures and embedding our new model of teaching excellence, this promotion is richly deserved. Those lucky enough to have been taught by Dan will know that he is a passionate academic and inspirational teacher. Those of us working closely with him have seen that same deep thinking, thoughtfulness and warmth, combined with the driest of humour, in his leadership of the academic life of the School and I wish him every success at Bobby Moore Academy and beyond.



You may have also heard that David Selby is stepping down from his position as one of our Deputies after 14 years in this role. Thankfully, David is not leaving and will continue to support the School next year as Director of International Development, so I can save the full farewell for the future. On this occasion I would like to record that David has been an absolute rock of support for me personally and for all of the Senior School through all the challenges of this year. His eye for detail, kindness, helpfulness and sheer capacity for hard work has meant that we have been ready to face anything with confidence and he has managed to continue to be the perfect gentlemen through it all. Thank you David.

“Laugh.
Play.
Be inspired.”

Be true to yourself without being mean to others and most importantly learn the wonderful art of happiness.”

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster





Thank you from our Parents

The below responses were from some parents of pupils who were awarded the Headmaster's Award for receiving over 75 merits.

“ Thank you so much we are so very proud of Bella. We could not have done this without the love and support of everyone at Royal Russell. It's been such a great journey. I still remember our first meeting, as you took us on a tour of the school. ”

“ Thank you for the emails re Sofia. It confirms to me, as if I needed, that Royal Russell is and remains the perfect place for her. Please pass on my sincere thanks to you, the headmaster and all the staff on their continuing hard work, that makes Royal Russell such a unique place. ”

“ Please pass on our thanks. We were thrilled to hear that Thomas has been awarded a Headmaster's Award and Thomas was too. These have certainly been different and challenging times. The remote learning system has worked well for Thomas, although he has certainly missed the normal interaction with his friends and teachers. Hopefully by September we will have a little more normality. ”

“ Thank you so much for your email. That is really touching and lovely to receive during these difficult times. Serena has been dedicated to her work so she will be over the moon to hear it has been acknowledged by her teachers, and you.

It has only been possible thanks to the fantastic education she has received. I've been so impressed at the remote lessons that I've been hearing. The teachers have been so uplifting, informative and motivating which can't be easy via a video call. I'd be really grateful if you could pass on our thanks for the academic, and pastoral support she's received which has kept her going. Her teachers (inc. Mr Wheeler and Ms Cripps) have been a constant throughout all this so we never completely felt alone. Thanks again! I hope you are well. Stay safe! ”

“ We are absolutely thrilled to know that Naomi has received the Headmaster's Award.

Naomi continues to work very diligently and shows persistence with her learning, often working way beyond her bedtime to complete the many tasks she is expected to do, with very little help from me, GCSE physics not being my strong point (smile).

Your message and your congratulations have been expressed to Naomi and we look forward to her academic success continuing. ”

“ Thanks for sharing this delightful news. We are very proud of his achievement but are very aware that without the support of his teachers and supporting staff this would have not been possible. Thanks to everyone at Royal Russell for your continued support & encouragement. ”



The background features a stylized illustration of a school building with a large green tree in front. To the left, a flagpole holds the Royal Coat of Arms and the Union Jack. A large, multi-colored rainbow arches across the sky above a white cloud. A white speech bubble is centered in the upper half of the image, containing contact information.

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