

Royal  
Russell

Russellian 2022



# Headmaster's Welcome

My fundamental commitment as Head of this distinctive family school is to support our pupils to their successful outcomes and to ensure that excellence is embedded in every facet of the Royal Russell experience and, whether we consider our individual and collective academic successes, or the stunning music and drama performances, or the quality of our sports teams showing the depth and breadth of our provision, or the ever-widening opportunities for our pupils to excel in so many activities beyond the classroom, this has been a hugely successful year where 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.

This year has not been without its challenges and sadness, and we have lost, loved ones, colleagues and friends including, Jeremy Lloyd Jones, Sailor Court and Nick Smith and yet, out of these moments of sorrow there have been some genuine moments of joy, particularly in the way that members of our immediate and our wider community have come together and supported each other within the Royal Russell Family.

We have also celebrated a unique Platinum Jubilee and reflected on the shining example of 'non sibi sed omnibus' that Our Patron, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth set for us in her life of service. The sad news of her death in early September left many of us feeling emotionally disorientated and so the magnificent response of the whole School, as we gathered together to pray and to pay our collective and personal respects, was both grounding and uplifting. In the darkest days of her reign, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. She reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – that we are a people of hope who care for one another. In 2002, as part of her Golden Jubilee address, the Queen gave this advice, which remains absolutely relevant for 2022 and beyond. "Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."

I love seeing our pupils showing our school values by being Ambitious, being Open, being Distinctive and being Courageous and I often challenge our pupils not just to be successful, but to think about how that success can be achieved together,

not just to be good but to do good within the Royal Russell Family and beyond,

In the Summer Term I enjoyed the amazing outdoor production from Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils in their interpretation of 'Who we Are?' They tackled their five chosen themes of: racial discrimination and prejudice; gender stereotyping; LGBTQ+ inclusivity; global warming and the refugee crisis with a brilliant balance of humour and gravity which was both impressive and humbling, at the same time they also managed to focus on empathy and compassion.

Relationships define communities and I know that this is a School where empathy and relationships really matter. The Bantu word 'ubuntu' loosely translates as; 'a person is a person through other people' and Archbishop Desmond Tutu clarified this further saying

"Ubuntu speaks of the fact that my humanity is caught up and inextricably bound up in yours. I am human because I belong. It speaks about wholeness; it speaks about compassion"

And wherever I have looked this year, I have felt the same sense of empathy, compassion, genuine generosity and joy in shared experiences. I have seen this when I have met the fantastic new Year 7 pupils at the start of the year, I have seen it when I spent 6 hours on a Year 8 supporters bus to West Bromwich Albion, when I have enjoyed time with the Year 11 and Year 13 pupils as they have negotiated both the public examination season and their end of year Prom, and I have seen it more recently when I have witnessed the brilliant mutual support of Year 6 pupils in their production of 'High School Musical'



These shared feelings, these successes in pupil outcomes and this ambition for our future development is achieved through the brilliant work of an outstanding team and I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Royal Russell Staff and Governors and every member of our Royal Russell Community, for providing so much opportunity for our young people to thrive.

We wish all of our leavers, pupils, staff and families every success on their future journeys and, with 'ubuntu' in mind, my words of guidance for them, and for all of us come from Maya Angelou who said:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Chris Hutchinson  
**Headmaster**

# Public Examinations Results

## GCSE

In all that we do as a School, we aim to instil our Russellian values in all our young people. They are: Ambitious, Open, Distinctive and Courageous.

After a tough time in preparation for this group, particularly when they were studying through lockdowns in Year 10, I am delighted to report an excellent set of GCSE results for our Year 11 cohort.

115 candidates sat for a total of 1069 GCSE awards this year and we were delighted for the pupils who received straight grade 9s. Nearly 80% of grades awarded to our pupils were at grade 9 - 6 (A\*-B equivalent).

The pupils should feel a great sense of collective achievement and we hope that all pupils reflect on how well they have dealt with the difficulties they have faced and look forward excitedly to a bright future.

The results achieved by the pupils reflect the hard work they have put in to their studies at the School; particularly during the rigorous examination season during the Summer Term. They also reflect the expertise and dedication of the Royal Russell staff team, including all of the academic, administration, operations and support staff and, of course, the huge commitment of our Royal Russell parents and families.

Many of the pupils on results day were excitedly discussing the opportunities of the Sixth Form and were looking forward to joining their new academic courses in September.

We are always proud of our pupils, and whilst we congratulate them for the academic qualifications they have been awarded, we are even more proud to see them as they contribute both to our community and the wider world.



## A LEVEL

This amazing group of Year 13 pupils have had to cope with a huge amount of uncertainty as they undertook their first public examinations this year, with GCSE examinations for their cohort cancelled due to Covid. The results which they have achieved are testament to this cohort's hard work and resilience and we could not be more proud.

The overall results are very strong from a high performing year group and individual success is evident at all levels of the ability range both within our A Level and our BTEC programmes.

Our congratulations go to all pupils, many will go on to study at some fantastic Universities.

The UCAS outcomes are very encouraging indicating the sound advice given to each individual candidate by the Sixth Form Team. Pupils will be moving on from Royal Russell to study a wide range of courses including: Architecture, Business, Computer Science, Economics, English, History, Creative Music Technology, Maths, Medicine, Dentistry, Sport and Exercise Science, Film Production, Illustration and Psychology at universities including; Bath, St Andrew's, Edinburgh, Manchester, King's College London, Royal Holloway, Loughborough, Nottingham, and University College London.

We also have a small number of pupils who will be joining apprenticeship schemes and directly entering employment, including Sam King who starts an apprenticeship in Digital Marketing with Google. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 and we look forward to seeing their future endeavours and how they will impact the world.



# 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.



Sport Management



Automotive Engineering with Placement



Mechanical Engineering



Economics with Accounting  
Investment and Financial Risk Management  
Mathematics and Finance  
Business Management, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Film and Drama Diploma



Design



Digital Marketing Apprenticeship



Medicine  
Physics  
Biochemistry  
English  
Psychology  
Chemistry  
Level 3 Personal Training



Level 3 Personal Training



Media & Communication



Computer Science  
Natural Sciences



Business Management



Filmmaking



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

International Social and Public Policy with Politics

Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence

Psychology with Criminology



Bioengineering

Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying

Materials Science and Engineering (with placement year)



Fashion Marketing



Business Management and Marketing

Sport Science and Management



Marketing Management

Economics

Environmental Science

Film Studies and Hispanic Studies

Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Biochemistry

Computer Science

Dentistry

Mathematics and Statistics with Professional Placement



Animation



Psychology

Psychology, Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience

Criminology and Psychology

Economics

Law with International Relations with a Year in Industry

English

Economics





Economics (BSc)



Sports Management with Placement Year



Global Design Engineering



Architecture



Chemistry  
Linguistics  
Computer Science  
Mechanical Engineering  
French and Spanish



Illustration  
Journalism



Jewellery and Objects  
History



Geography



English  
Theology and Religion



Architecture



Financial Mathematics



Physics with Foundation Year  
Financial Economics and Banking  
Economics



International Relations and Politics



Marketing with a Year in Industry



American Studies  
Fashion Management  
Economics  
Law  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Psychology



Sport and Exercise Science  
Sociology  
Engineering and Physical Sciences with Foundation Year  
Medicine  
Economics  
Natural Sciences  
International Media and Communications Studies  
Modern Languages with Business  
Film and Television Studies



Sport Management  
Film Production



Agricultural Business Management with Foundation  
Biochemistry with Professional Experience  
Meteorology and Climate with a year in Oklahoma



Bioengineering with a Year in Industry  
Business Management  
Urban Studies



Computer Science  
Economics and Management  
Philosophy and Theological Studies



Business Management (Marketing)  
Creative Music Technology  
Business Economics with Foundation Year  
International Business Management  
Economics with Foundation Year  
Economics



Psychology with Neuroscience  
Psychology  
Product Design (with an industrial placement year)  
Business and Management Studies  
Computer Science



Language, Culture and Communication with Intercalated Year



Music Production, Performance and Business with Foundation  
Psychology



Business and Management with a year in industry  
History

# Class of 2022

This year's Senior Prefect Team rose to the challenge of uniting our community after a turbulent year for education globally. They applied themselves with focus and vision, championing pupils voice on the environment, diversity, mental well-being and academic support, to name a few. Their proactive approach helped to drive forward initiatives and ensure pupils felt heard and that the School continues to look forward.

Each member of the prefect team played a vital role in the production of assemblies, meeting with the School's Senior Leadership Team, working with extra-curricular groups and undertaking important day-to-day duties. It was great to see the full range of prefects showing an active involvement in assemblies. Updates from the Heads of Boarding reminded our community that the School is home to many pupils and that life within the gates goes on beyond Monday to Friday!

The Upper School Team have reflected on the diverse skill set within the Heads of School, and how each Head brought a different talent to the table. Luke, for his

businesslike diplomacy, hyper-efficiency and ability to scrutinise; Amber, for her cheery attitude, approachability and skill for fostering a team-like ethos; Anna, for her forensic organisational skills, commitment to her tasks and passion for encouraging pupil voice; Shiraz, for his calm demeanour and legendary Victory Cup announcements. The next set of prefects will undoubtedly continue to build on the legacy set by the Heads of School.

Congratulations to them for their achievements, the School is very proud of their hard work and wishes them all the best in their chosen universities.

**Luke McCabe:**

A\* A\* A\*, University of York, History

**Amber Kennedy:**

A\* A\* AA, University of Nottingham, Natural Sciences

**Shiraz Kirmani:**

A B B, Bard College, US

**Anna Stone:**

A A A, University of Lancaster, Natural Sciences



## YEAR 11'S LAST DAY

Year 11 pupils enjoyed their last day before they left for study leave. The day started with a croissant and hot chocolate breakfast in the Dining Hall which was followed by year group photos on Cambridge Slope before a final assembly and exam briefing led by Ms Lloyd-Quinnell, Head of Year and Ms Faulkner, Exams Officer and Teacher of Business.

Farleigh Golf Club was the perfect venue for the celebration of our Year 11 pupils in July for their Prom Night. A beautiful sunset across the golf course welcomed the very well turned out, suited and booted, who arrived to mocktails, a delicious buffet, photobooth, an excellent DJ and casino tables. A huge thank you to Mrs Tree, Estates Administrator, who worked tirelessly making the decorations for the function room, which emulated the 'Casino Royale' theme brilliantly.



## YEAR 13'S LAST DAY

On the last Friday before Half Term, Year 13 enjoyed their Summer Ball to celebrate the end of their Royal Russell journey. The pupils had their final lessons before their exam briefing and Chapel Assembly, followed by a BBQ lunch with Leavers Hoodies and Yearbooks. The pupils dressed to the nines to dance the night away. We wish them all the best with their exam results and future endeavours.



# Royal Russell Day

As the academic year came to an end, it was extremely exciting for the Royal Russell community to be able to join together again, and in person, for the annual celebration of the individual and collective talent and success of all pupils on Royal Russell Day.

Royal Russell Day is the largest event of the year and is a celebration of all the fantastic learning, hard work and community activities. This year, it was fantastic to be able to celebrate in the Sports Hall again, following the last few years where the event was held virtually. There was a buzz of excitement as parents and pupils came onsite, whilst others prepared to speak or perform in front of a live audience. For those that couldn't make it in person, the event was also live-streamed on YouTube.

The event began with the Royal Russell orchestra playing the Thunderbirds Theme Tune, following fantastic performances from the Chamber Choir, Jazz Band and Swing Band. Parents and staff particularly enjoyed reminiscing during a fun rendition of *Wannabe* by Spice Girls. The Junior School

also performed a fantastic scene from their musical production of 'Wizard of Oz' as well as performances from the Junior School Choir and Drum Jam.

Following this, was a warm welcome from Headmaster, Mr Chris Hutchinson, as well as an address from Mr Andrew Merriman, Chairman of Governors. They both reflected on all the hard work put in by pupils and staff over the year, and how it has contributed to a resilient and kind community. Pupils were excited to take to the stage to collect their awards, as the Senior School Academic Prizes were read out.

Headmaster of Junior School, Mr John Evans, delivered a speech before the Junior School Academic Prizes were announced, followed by Year 6's extract from their

production of 'High School Musical'. Pupils across the School received further awards for their sporting achievements, co-curricular contributions, effort and good citizenship. Trophies were also presented to the winning Houses of the House Activities Cup and prizes were handed out to the Heads of School for their commitment and hard work.

All the awards given out are representative of the collective effort, expertise and inspiration of the Royal Russell community. They are also reflective of the School's values, to aspire to be Ambitious, Open, Distinctive and Courageous. The event culminated with performances from our Junior and Senior School Choirs and ended with a powerful rendition of Katy Perry's *Roar*, a perfect song to celebrate the courage and achievements of all pupils.



## SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES - YEAR 11

The Art and Design Prize	Poppy Clements
The Biology Prize	Ravi Durjun
The Business Studies Prize	Archie Moore
The Chemistry Prize	Kirill Derevytskyy
The Computer Science Prize	Ashwin Singh
The Design and Technology Prize	Ella Smith
The Drama Prize	Emily McCann
The Prize for English	Iris Nuredini
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Xinyue Dong
The Food Technology Prize	Stefania Findlator
The French Prize	Cassandra Exall
The Geography Prize	George Mills
The German Prize	Derek Humphries
The History Prize	Archie Moore
The Mathematics Prize	Meenachey Niranjana
The Media Studies Prize	Poppy Clements
The Music Prize	Omar Nesbeth-George
The Physics Prize	Meenachey Niranjana
The Physical Education Prize	Thomas Lang
The Religious Studies Prize	Ayomide Phillips and Nadra Webb
The Spanish Prize	Cassandra Exall

## JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

English Award	Amy Joughin
The English Progress Award	Haresh Osborn
Richard Green Mathematics Prize	Charlie Gao
Mathematics Progress Award	Lily Worwood
The Science Prize	Rayaan Zubair
The Blount History Prize	Gabriel Foynes Fitzsimons
The Ingrams Geography Prize	Sasha Harari
Computing Prize	Henry Hayden de Carbonnières
Modern Foreign Languages Prize	Marie-Louise Goossens
Stainer Music Trophy	Ayra Umar
Annalise Luffingham Trophy	Taymar Black
Drama Prize	Arthur Main
Art Prize	Elowen Day
DT Prize	Joshua Muscat

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP PRIZE

1853 Society Cup	LJ Lottering
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## SIXTH FORM PRIZES

The Art and Design Prize	Emma Yao
The Biology Prize	Amber Kennedy
The BTEC Business Studies Prize	Dmitrii Shilkov
The BTEC Media Prize	Zac Jennings
The Business Studies Prize	Basim Barkat
The Chemistry Prize	Amber Kennedy
The Chinese Prize	Weichen Sun and Chun Hin Wong
The Computer Science Prize	Calum Firth
The Design and Technology Prize	Ollie Olsen
The Drama Prize	Ellie Baker
The Economics Prize	Ziling Lyu
The Prize for English	Katie Pietroni and Ellie Baker
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Emil Gasanov
The French Prize	Luke McCabe
The Geography Prize	Thea Savva
The German Prize	Alena Goliana
The History Prize	Basia Molicka
The Japanese Prize	Helen Cai
The Mathematics Prize	Chengjie Hong
The Media Studies Prize	Louisa Carney
The Music Prize	Victor Ayodele
The Photography Prize	Louisa Carney
The Physics Prize	Sacha Jennings
The Physical Education Prize	Tom Jones
The Politics Prize	Luke McCabe
The Psychology Prize	Chloe Tong
The Religious Studies Prize	Wendy Smith
The Russian Prize	Anastasiia Link
The Spanish Prize	Luke McCabe

## SENIOR SCHOOL EFFORT PRIZES

	Winners (Girls)	Winners (Boys)
Year 7 Effort Prize	Ava Barton	Nicholas Thurbin
Year 8 Effort Prize	Isabella Flint	Anxo Garcia Missan
Year 9 Effort Prize	Isabelle Ward	Daniel Petkov
Year 10 Effort Prize	Emily Hayden de Carbonnières	Vrutik Patel
Year 11 Effort Prize	Cassandra Exall	Ashwin Singh
Year 12 Effort Prize	Amber Knibb	Ted Jenkins
Year 13 Effort Prize	Louisa Carney	Luke McCabe

### SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT PRIZES

Year 7 Junior Victor Ludorum	Rocco Langley
Year 7 Junior Victrix Ludorum	Danniella Brown-Bennett
Year 8 Junior Victor Ludorum	Charlie Holland
Year 8 Junior Victrix Ludorum	Ama Amiaka
Year 9 Intermediate Victor Ludorum	Ethan Shanu
Year 9 Intermediate Victrix Ludorum	Olivia Obasuyi
Year 10 Intermediate Victor Ludorum	Justin Cho
Year 10 Intermediate Victrix Ludorum	Emily Hayden de Carbonnières
Senior Victor Ludorum	Louis Saville
Senior Victrix Ludorum	Anna Clery

### SENIOR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT

Calum Firth	Lucia Hart
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### JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS AWARDS

Y3 Victor Ludorum	Khiyan Patel
Y3 Victrix Ludorum	Yasmin Nile
Y4 Victor Ludorum	Daniel Stubley
Y4 Victrix Ludorum	Molly Netherway
Y5 Victor Ludorum	Xavier Karelis
Y5 Victrix Ludorum	Chloe Godfrey
Y6 Victor Ludorum	Harry Payne
Y6 Victrix Ludorum	Rubie Locke

### THE HALLWORTH TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Hallworth Trophy for Sportsmanship	Mina Park and Sam Hubbard
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### SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

The Shield for Services to MUN	Luke McCabe
MUN Delegate of the Year	CJ Coleman-Benjamin
Most Improved MUN Delegate	Henry Steele
Young Delegate of the Year	Archer Stephen
Best RAF NCO	Nicholas Solly
Best RAF Recruit	Adrian Wong
Best Army NCO	Yasmin Williams
Best Army Recruit	Toby Cascarini
Shield for Services to Drama	Sophie Stretton and Hamzah Mughal
Services to Music	Victor Ayodele

### SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE AWARDS FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Buchanan Citizenship Prize Winner	Rosie Ray and Ellie Baker
Buchanan Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Katie Hamerton
Cambridge Citizenship Prize Winner	Jason Lu
Cambridge Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Danylo Bavorovskyy
Cambridge Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Henry Steele
Hollenden Citizenship Prize Winner	Rebecca Burton
Hollenden Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Rebecca Haines
Hollenden Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Maryam Drammeh
Keable Citizenship Prize Winner	Alec Thurbin
Keable Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Freddie Emerson
Keable Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Jasper Thompson
Madden Citizenship Prize Winner	Miles King
Madden Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Ted Jenkins
Madden Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Anxo Garcia Missan
Oxford Citizenship Prize Winner	Ho Chun Wong
Oxford Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Ishe Hunidzarira
Oxford Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Tom Gibbs
Queens Citizenship Prize Winner	Lolita Chow
Queens Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Isabella Flint
Queens Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Quynh Hoang
Reade Citizenship Prize Winner	Lucia Hart
Reade Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Anoushka Selvon-Bruce
Reade Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Chloe Shields
St Andrew's Citizenship Prize Winner	Loni Olarewaju
St Andrew's Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Joseph Margaritis
St Andrew's Citizenship Prize Runner Up	Ethan Edney

### SENIOR SCHOOL HEADS OF SCHOOL AWARDS

Anna Stone	Shiraz Kirmani
Amber Kennedy	Luke McCabe

### LONG SERVICE AWARD

Ellie Baker, Max Newark-Symonds, Anna Stone

### JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADS OF SCHOOL AWARDS

Head of School Shield	Mina Park, Arthur Main, Rayaan Zubair, Taymar Black, Sasha Harari, Henry Hayden de Carbonnières,
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# Junior School Symposium

This year, Royal Russell Junior School launched its first symposium event. We are extremely proud of all the wonderful specialist opportunities that the children at Royal Russell receive, and as such, a symposium is a coming together of all these specialist fields, to celebrate and enjoy learning in new and creative ways.

The symposium this year had the theme of the Platinum Jubilee. It was wonderful to see pupils from Nursery to Year 6 enjoy practical and exciting learning opportunities, culminating in various events and to also invite parents from each phase of the School to share with

the children the learning that had taken place. Opportunities for children included visits for the Early Years to see farmyard animals, STEM activities for Year 5 and 6 pupils, baking opportunities for Year 3 and 4 pupils, musical and drama performances and competitions, artwork displays,

a parade depicting the last seven decades and exhibits of artwork created over the week.

There was a huge sense of celebration, not simply within the Jubilee theme but the celebration of memorable learning that took place.



# HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Within the space of a year our school community have come together to celebrate the reign, and mourn the loss, of our late Patron, Queen Elizabeth II. It has been a strange time of processing various emotions for many of our pupils and staff; some of those in our school community could recall how they celebrated Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee in 1977, others had the pleasure of meeting her in person at a special event, and some of the youngest among us had simply known her as a Royal grandmother. Despite the differences in people's connection to The Queen, it was evident that there was a unified respect for a monarch who had been a consistent presence throughout our lives and an expectant hope for a future built upon her legacy.

The day after the news was announced, the School gathered in Chapel Quad for an Act of Remembrance for Her Late Majesty The Queen. All pupils from Reception right through to Year 13 and staff joined together for reflection and prayer. The Senior School choir performed the National Anthem which was followed by a minute's silence.

Her Majesty visited Royal Russell on four separate occasions during her reign and Graham Moseley, Director of International Relations at Royal Russell, recalls The Queen's visit to Royal Russell in 2003:

"I was very impressed by her memory; she remembered that on her last visit to Royal Russell it had been on a very snowy day. "Indeed, it was your Majesty," I said to her.

It was like talking with my grandmother. I knew that the Royal visit had been in preparation for some time and the Lord Lieutenant had been for various meetings at the School to plan the precise timings of Her Majesty's schedule. One hour had been allotted to visit both the Junior and Senior schools, but I remember Her Majesty overran by 15 minutes because she had spent a lot of time talking with our young people."

Old Russellian, John Wilkinson shared his amusing memory in The Times about her visit to the School, two years before she became Queen, when he was 11 years old during his French lesson:

"Qu'est-ce que c'est?" asked the princess. "Oh! mademoiselle princess," replied a

flustered Wilkinson. "A smiling response came: 'Non!' was the reply. She wasn't 'mademoiselle'. 'Je Suis madame princesse. Je suis mariée a Phillip...' At which point, in lowered tones I was sent back to my desk."

Royal Russell is proud to have enjoyed Royal Patronage from its foundation, and Her Late Majesty has inspired generations of Russellians through her life of duty and service, her example of kindness and her success in bringing communities together across the world through common aims. We have confidence that her legacy will be honoured, and her values upheld by the pupils, staff and community at Royal Russell for many years to come.





# Senior School Drama

What a year it has been for Drama in the Senior School, with a rich and varied programme created for pupils who had been disadvantaged by the pandemic. Theatre was back, with successful performances such as 'Who we are', 'Medea' and 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Alongside the productions, there were the regular theatre trips, most notably a trip to see 'The Prince of Egypt' in London's West End with 90 Year 7 and 8 pupils. The Theatre Society, led by Mrs Pepperdine, Teacher of English, ran numerous successful trips across the year to see the likes of 'The Lion King', 'Cinderella' and 'Bring It On' to name a few.

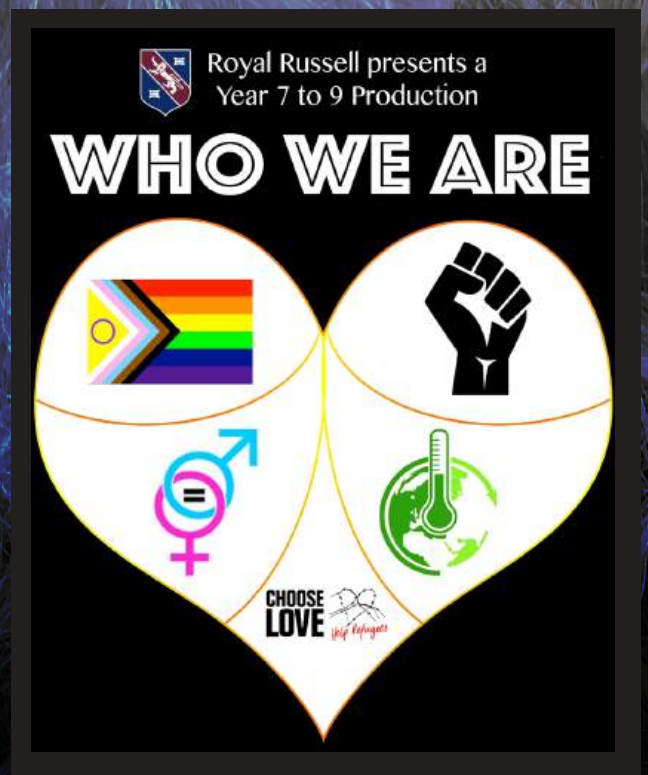
The department staged the classic Greek tragedy, 'Medea', which involved pupils from Year 10 - 13. In Ben Power's powerful adaptation of Euripides' classic tale, our pupils told the riveting tale of a mother so consumed with rage and heartbreak that her husband left her for another woman; she does the most heinous thing a mother could do. Staged in the round, audiences were immersed in this powerful and gut-wrenching show. Ellie Baker in the title role was astonishing. The whole cast and crew wowed audiences for three nights, who were very moved by what they saw.

"It has been one hugely successful year for Drama with a lot going on! And 2022-23 will be no different. We look forward to another exciting year, welcoming new and returning audiences."

Mr Valerio, Director of Drama.



An original production created by pupils from Year 7 – 9, exploring some very important socio-political issues. This was an original production created by the pupils, exploring some very important socio-political issues. The pupils created a play that explored racial discrimination, gender stereotyping, LGBTQ+ inclusivity, global warming and climate change and the refugee crisis. Staged as an open-air performance on Cambridge Slope and surrounded by the beautiful campus of the School, the production balanced humour, pathos and hope and the audience were highly touched by its thought-provoking messages and prevalent themes.



In conjunction with the Music department, was Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast', the first musical production to be produced at Royal Russell in a number of years. The buzz surrounding this musical was electric! The musical involved over 100 pupils taking on the roles of stage performers, musicians and stage crew. What followed was a very intensive rehearsal period to put on a musical of a gargantuan scale and the final product was an astonishing success! Running for four nights towards the end of March, the performances wowed audiences and all involved did a sterling job to make this musical a huge success. Well done to Sophie Stretton and Hamzah Mughal who were fabulous in the title roles.

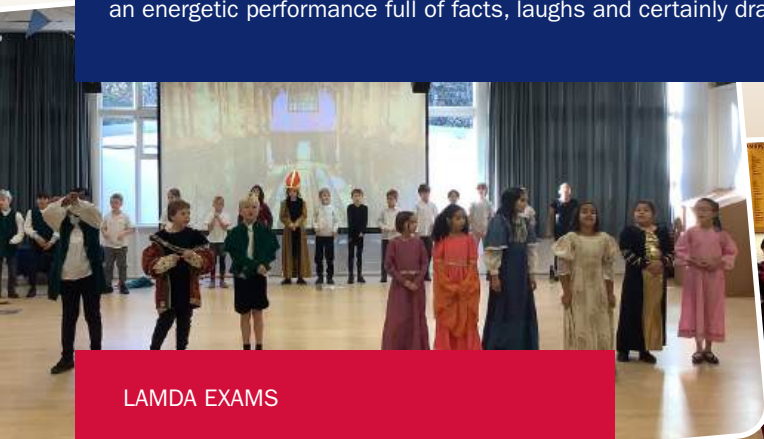


# Junior School Drama

It has been another exciting and jam-packed year in the Junior School Drama department. It has continued to be a place of energy, creativity and diversity. A huge well done to everyone for their hard work over the past year, and it will be exciting to see what the next academic year will bring!

## JUNIOR SCHOOL DRAMA

Year 4 performed their assembly, 'Henry VIII and His Six Wives' to parents and Year 3 pupils in the Hall, with the other year groups joining virtually on Microsoft Teams. It was great to do a live performance with an audience at last. The children were proud to show off their hard work as they gave an energetic performance full of facts, laughs and certainly drama!



## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

In the Autumn Term, some of our youngest members of the Junior School took to the stage to perform their Christmas Nativity, 'The Inn-Spectors'. Full of catchy songs, punchy jokes and some fabulous acting, it was thoroughly enjoyed by our audience and a wonderful way to end our first term of the year.



## LAMDA EXAMS

In the Spring Term, a large group of children from across Year 5 and 6 took on the task of completing their first ever London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams. For these exams, the children had to learn and prepare two separate monologues as well as discuss their performances with the examiner. An external LAMDA examiner came into school to judge our pupils' acting abilities and was nothing short of amazed with their wonderful performances. All the children who took exams were not only incredibly successful with passing, but we had an outstanding nine merit grades and fifteen distinction grades awarded to our budding actors.



## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Summer Term was a very busy one for the Drama department. We had a mixture of celebrations for our Upper Junior House Drama Competition, which focussed on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of our very exciting Junior Symposium Week. A selection of children from Year 3-6 represented their Houses, as they spent the day devising and then performing their own original pieces of drama based on the Jubilee celebrations. We were lucky enough to be joined by Mr Valerio, Director of Drama from the Senior School, who adjudicated the event, sharing knowledge and wisdom with our young performers. As well as this, we were treated to some beautiful musical interludes from the Music Department.



## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

A real highlight for our Year 6 pupils was of course their incredibly successful end of year performance of 'High School Musical'. For eight short days, our Year 6 pupils were released from their normal timetable to learn about all things related to the theatre! They attended several exciting workshops which included but weren't limited to; marketing, costumes, props, choreography, programme-making, trailers and even stunt moves! On top of all this excitement, the children were working incredibly hard in rehearsals to ensure they were ready for the show nights. With two separate casts, heaps of songs and tricky choreography, this was a huge undertaking but our pupils used every Russell Power they had to put on this simply stunning show. We were delighted to be able to welcome back a live audience for the first time in two years, who were amazed with the level of professionalism that our talented Year 6 pupils portrayed throughout the performances.



# Inclusion and Diversity Group

Royal Russell's Inclusion and Diversity group have been working hard this year to highlight and celebrate our pupil body's similarities and differences. The group have focussed on a variety of diversity areas such as ethnicity, religion, gender, disability and LGBTQ+. The aim of the group has been to inform the School about special events, identify social constructs and barriers and to act as ambassadors for championing an inclusive culture at Royal Russell.

To continue to work towards our mission statement, the group have produced several resources and led on a variety of whole school activities including workshops, talks and a film screening. The group have been a regular feature of school assemblies; presenting for LGBTQ+ History Month, World Day for the Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, International Women's Day, Transgender Day of Visibility and Autism Awareness and Acceptance week to name a few. The group

have also created tutor time resources and have led workshops on several topics. One of which was for Deaf Awareness Week and featured some insightful and thought-provoking content about those with hearing loss and featured a session on British Sign Language. In addition, the Inclusion and Diversity group have introduced the Royal Russell Rainbow group, which acts as a safe space for our LGBTQ+ pupils to come together as a community. The group is open to any pupil from Year 7 to 13 who

identifies under the LGBTQ+ umbrella, but also to their friends and allies. The Rainbow group meets weekly and allows pupils to share their experiences, talk about anything that is worrying them, learn more about the issues that affect the LGBTQ+ community and meet with other pupils who identify as they do. The group has had a very positive start this year and we look forward to welcoming new members when we return in September.

**RAMADAN KAREEM**  
BY MARYAM DRAMME & NADRA WEBB

**YEARLY RAMADAN**

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims will not eat or drink during the hours of daylight. This is called fasting. Children are not expected to fast until they reach puberty, usually around the age of 10.

Ramadan celebrates the month the Quran (the Muslim holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The actual night that the Quran was revealed is a night known as Laylat al-Qadr (The Night of Power).

**MECCA**

Mecca is one of the most sacred places in Islam. It is where the Prophet Muhammad was born and received his first revelations from Allah.

**EATING**

During Ramadan, it is common for Muslims to have one meal before dawn (Suhoor) and one meal after the sunset (Iftar). The most common snack to break the fast is dates as it's filled with vitamins and it is what prophet Muhammad broke his fast with.

**CELEBRATION**

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast).

During Eid al-Fitr Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family. Muslims will also give money to charity at Eid.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

UNITED NATIONS

**WHEN?**  
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 1966, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMED 21ST MARCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

**WHY?**  
ON THAT DAY IN 1960, POLICE OPENED FIRE AND KILLED OR INJURED PEOPLE AT A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN SHARPEVILLE, SOUTH AFRICA, AGAINST THE APARTHEID "PASS LAWS". THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION SIGNALES THE STRUGGLE TO END THE POLICY OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE UN'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESOLVE ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

**APARTHEID:**  
A POLICY OR SYSTEM OF SEGREGATION (SEPARATION) THAT ANY DOCTRINE OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY IS SCIENTIFICALLY FALSE, MORALLY CONSIDERABLE, SOCIALLY UNJUST AND DANGEROUS AND MUST BE REJECTED TOGETHER WITH THEORIES THAT ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE HUMAN RACES.

**UN'S PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY**  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY REITERATES THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS AND HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING OF THEIR SOCIETIES.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HONOUR THE DAY?**

- WATCH A FILM FROM A DIFFERENT COUNTRY.
- RESEARCH A COUNTRY OR CULTURE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR HISTORY.
- READ A BOOK FROM AN AUTHOR WHO COMES FROM A DIFFERENT COUNTRY TO YOU.

**DEAF AWARENESS WEEK**

**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HEARING LOSS?**

Types of hearing loss

- Sensorineural
- Mixed
- Conductive

**ATTEND OUR PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP.**

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE NEEDED!**

**WHEN: MONDAY 9TH MAY**

**TIME: 13:10 - 13:50**

**WHERE: HOLLENDEN CONFERENCE ROOM**

EARLY LUNCH PASSES AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

**WINDRUSH DAY**

Windrush day is celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to mark the migration of nearly half a million Black Caribbeans travelling from their homeland to the UK between 1948 and 1970, in search for a better life for their families.

Windrush day also acknowledges the contribution of the British Caribbean community to the UK. People such as: mechanics, carpenters, tailors, nurses and missionaries came, in order to settle and help rebuild Britain after the Second World War.

Since being in the UK, people of the Windrush generation have faced many trials and tribulations by the government, other citizens and much racism but have prevailed and successfully raised families here despite the odds.

**Facing deportation after 50 years**

# Restless Triathlon

On Sunday 24th April, Royal Russell hosted the Flight Centre School Triathlon, a unique sporting event for young children which raises money for charity. Over 800 pupils from the local area came together in teams of four to swim, cycle, and run to raise money for Restless Development and many other great causes.

This year, Restless Development had an exciting opportunity for the fundraising to go twice as far. As a non-profit global agency, their work supports the collective power of young leaders to create a better world. All the money that the triathletes fundraised this year was matched pound for pound by the UK government, supporting the Power Up Appeal and ensuring more girls go to school, get their education and build their careers. The Schools Triathlon fundraising facilitates Restless Development to work closely with communities to ensure that marginalised girls are enrolled or re-enrolled into school, stay in school, and move up into higher education or build their careers.

The School was super proud to be supporting the Power Up appeal and the teams of four included many from Royal Russell Junior and Senior School. The enthusiastic participation of the

competitors was matched by brilliant support from parents and staff. Together with their friends and family, they enjoyed a day accompanied by music, stalls, and thousands of spectators cheering them on at every point. Pupil volunteers also helped on the day, and all were impressed by the enthusiasm and maturity shown by them as they guided competitors through the different stages of the competition. Special thanks also to the large team of Royal Russell boarding pupils who helped to dismantle the running and cycling course at the end of the day.

The total funds raised through sponsorship of the race came to an amazing £18,744 for Restless Development and the School's chosen charity.

The following was featured in Restless Development's Newsletter: 'A huge well done to the Royal Russell pupils who took

part in the Flight Centre Schools Triathlon held at Royal Russell. The day was great fun, and it was lovely to see such brilliant teamwork.

A special mention should go to your top two fundraisers: Prisca and Sam who went above and beyond with their fundraising and were our top fundraisers.'

If you want to find out more about how your support helps Restless Development, please contact [schoolstriathlon@restlessdevelopment.org](mailto:schoolstriathlon@restlessdevelopment.org) to receive occasional updates. Or follow them on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to keep up to date with our latest successes.

Thank you to all competitors, supporters, volunteers and the Royal Russell Staff Team who made this such a tremendously successful event.



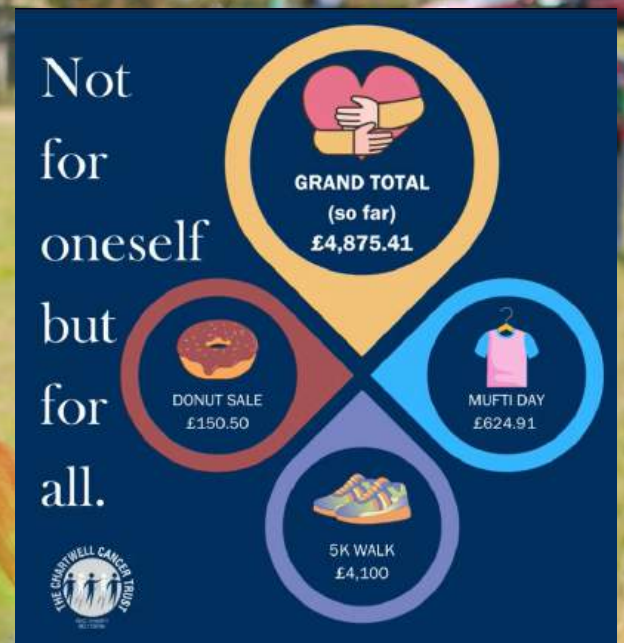
# Chartwell Cancer Trust

Year 12 pupils have been leading fundraising activities for the Chartwell Cancer Trust. The charity raises funds to make improvements to cancer care for patients, families and medical staff across South London, North Kent and East Surrey, aiming to change the lives of both adults and children suffering from cancer and leukaemia. The pupils helped with marshalling the Chartwell's 5K Summer Walk held in Lloyd Park in June, alongside other pupils from Croydon College.

Funds raised from the event at the time of this article came to over £4,000 and an additional £150 was raised by the pupils themselves selling irresistible Krispy Kreme doughnuts to pupils during a lunchtime break. Jo Bennett from the

Chartwell Cancer Trust and the Trustees of the Charity have expressed their delight and gratitude at having the support of Royal Russell pupils and families and hope to build on this experience for the future.

The School also raised over £600 for multi-day, and is proud of all the hard work from pupils and thankful to everyone who contributed to the fantastic fund-raising efforts



# Safety & Wellbeing Day

During Mental Health Awareness Week and the Junior School held a Safety and Wellbeing Day. The children took part in a wonderful variety of activities designed to improve their mental wellbeing and inform them of some important safety information.

The activities ranged from Wellbeing in the Forest to E-Safety lessons, from swimming to first aid. There was a real buzz around the School and the children threw themselves into the day with their usual vigour and enthusiasm.

It was fun to be in the woods and in a healthy environment. We made sculptures out of soil.  
*Freya E - Year 5*

I really enjoyed our time in Forest School. I found it very relaxing when we did the mindfulness session and closed our eyes to listen to the sounds. We made flags by hammering leaves onto cloth.  
*Isa - Year 5*

During our team building session we played a cup stacking game. I enjoyed communicating with people I don't usually play with. It was fun because we had to figure out how to do it ourselves and we used our initiative. It helped us understand how it felt to work together and be part of a group.  
*Nathan - Year 4*



In Drama, we were given different problems that children could have, and we had to act out how to solve them. I really enjoyed solving the problems.  
*Caleb - Year 3*

I enjoyed the First Aid session where we learnt about Dr ABC which stands for danger, response, airways, breathing, circulation.  
*Luke - Year 6*

In PSHE we talked about loneliness. If I saw anyone who was lonely, I would help them by adding them to our game.  
*Sienna - Year 4*

In Art we made animal zentangles and had to draw shapes and patterns in the animal outline. It was fun and relaxing.  
*Callie - Year 3*



# Model United Nations

In October, ten Royal Russell pupils attended the 25th Reigate Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, representing Kenya and Pakistan. Luke McCabe and Anastacia Allan skilfully chaired the Special Political Committee and Health Committee respectively.

Our pupils had the opportunity to debate on topics such as The Question of Afghanistan, The Question of the regulation of cryptocurrency or The Question of maritime security. This was a great experience, particularly for new delegates and a great way to start our MUN season. Congratulations to Meenachey Niranjana who received the award for Highly Commended Delegate, representing Pakistan in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.



## HAILEYBURY MUN CONFERENCE

Our final conference of the year was another success for our pupils and for Royal Russell at the Haileybury MUN Conference in March. There were twelve delegates across five different committees (Special Political, Environment and Ecology, Disarmament and International Security, Economic and Social and Human Rights) represented Congo, Cuba and Cyprus. Charlotte Mawer and Katie Hamerton were Guest Chairs in the Disarmament Committee and Special Committee on Youth and Health respectively. Well done to Luke McCabe for winning the award for Distinguished Delegate in the Special Political Committee representing Cuba, to Anastacia Allan with the Award for Distinguished Delegate in The Economic and Social Committee representing Congo, to CJ Coleman-Benjamin with the Award for Highly Commended Delegate in the Economic and Social Committee representing Cuba, to Urusharman Hemanth with the Award for Highly Commended Delegate in the Disarmament and International Security Committee, representing Congo.





## HABERDASHER'S BOYS MUN CONFERENCE

Over a weekend in March, eight Royal Russell pupils attended the Haberdasher's Boys MUN Conference, representing Australia and The United Arab Emirates. Our pupils had the opportunity to debate on topics such as The Question of returning cultural artefacts, The Question of preparing for future pandemics, The Question of the Security Council reform and The Question of literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa. This was an enjoyable event for all, experienced and first-time delegates. Congratulations to Anastacia Allan who received the award for Best Delegate, representing the UAE in the Health Committee.

## 39TH RRSIMUN CONFERENCE

After two years of uncertainty and challenging circumstances, being able to host our 39th RRSIMUN Conference in October 2021 was truly wonderful. With 21 schools attending from seven different countries and more than 300 delegates representing 42 countries and 55 awards won, this was another successful conference. Across the seven Committees, topics such as The Question of measures to create job opportunities for refugees, The Question of target setting to mitigate the climate emergency, The Question of the regulation of social media, The Question of anti-Semitism and The Question of reform of the International Criminal Court (ICC) were thoroughly debated and high-quality resolutions were passed. Our team of MUN officers did a fabulous job and were a credit to the School with their commitment, professionalism and care. Congratulations to our Heads of Secretariat for their phenomenal work, Rosie Ray and Thea Westley, the Heads of Media for their creativity, Max Newark-Symonds, Ellie Baker and Ella Nighy, the Heads of Press, our own agents of the Quill, Sacha Jennings and Becky Ward, our brilliant Presidents of the Security Council, Anna Stone and Nicholas Solly, our equally talented Presidents of the General Assembly, Hamzah Mughal and Anastacia Allan and finally Luke McCabe, rich of seven years of MUN, as a delegate, Head of Mini MUN, Chair and our superb Secretary General and Head of MUN.



# Politics Economics Business

The Business and Economics pupils embarked on a journey in the Spring Term of 2022 to improve their awareness of topical issues.

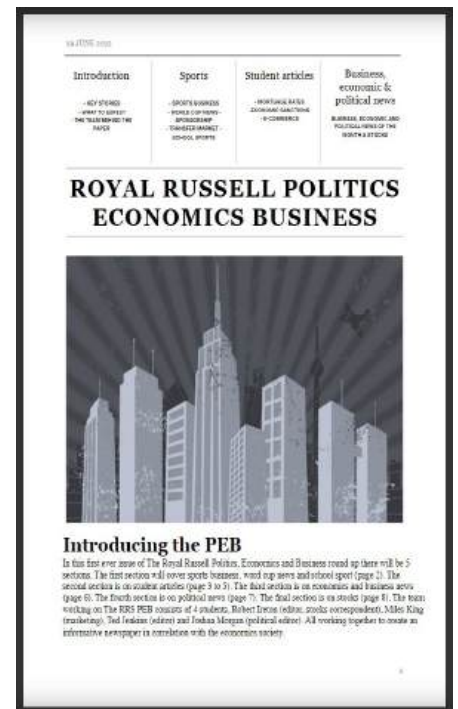
The pupils conceptualised the idea to create a club focussed on two distinct areas:

1. An Economics society that meets bi-monthly to discuss topical economic issues. The pupils developed a constitution detailing the governance structure of the society, and a yearly schedule of activities that involves collaborating with faculty, other schools and external speakers.
2. Create and publish a magazine twice per term. Business and Economics pupils sought to develop their writing skills through authoring a series of articles based on topical issues grounded on research. These articles were used as the premise of the Politics, Economics and Business (PEB) magazine, which is geared towards the social sciences, and a source of information for KS4 pupils who are intrigued about Business, Economics and Politics while equally enhancing their

practical understanding of these subjects. As budding economists, business leaders and contemporary minded politicians, the Year 12 founding pupils of PEB sought to enhance their leadership skills by collaborating with faculty and pupils from other departments and institutions.

The PEB is therefore a pupil-led initiative that is being supervised by the Business and Economics staff of Christine Mitchell, Louise Dye, Katherine Buadi and Steve Whiteley.

You can view the latest magazine on the School's website.



# Year 2 Seaside Workshop

In June, Year 2 were transported back in time and visited a Victorian Seaside! They spent the morning making souvenirs, such as shell trinket boxes, decorating ceramic mugs, making flags and cork boats, writing postcards and train tickets and counting old pennies to spend at the seaside. They found out about how people may have travelled to the seaside before the invention of cars and explored some old cameras that people used to take photographs!

In the afternoon, they pretended to be Victorians and boarded a train bound for the seaside resort of 'Croydon-on Sea'. Once there, they were able to spend old pennies on playing games, a puppet

show, having their fortune told, visiting a souvenir shop, fish and chips, the café or having their photograph taken by the photographers. The day finished with having a Punch and Judy show. They learned how

mischievous Mr Punch was and how he liked to trick Judy! It was an amazing day and fun was had by everyone (including the adults!).



# Junior School Art & DT

It has been a fun-filled year in Junior Art & Design Technology (DT) with exciting themes running across the School from Bread Making to Architecture and Street Art. It has been a pleasure to see the creative successes of the children not only in the classroom but also through extra-curricular opportunities and events such as the Jubilee Symposium, Bird House Design Competition and the recent Year 4 trip to Tate Modern.

Early Years Foundation Stage pupils (EYFS) have enjoyed experimenting with a range of different materials and processes whilst learning about line, shape, colour and pattern. They have learned basic weaving techniques, mixed colours using ink powders and created natural tools using sticks and leaves. A particular highlight has been the collaborative Union Jack handprint artwork produced for the Jubilee and creating a large-scale abstract painting using only their feet! It's always a fun-filled learning experience in Early Years and we look forward to seeing their creative skills progress.

Year 1 have learned about mechanisms and levers in DT by creating a moving picture depicting the nativity scene. They then built on their knowledge of mechanisms and structures by creating moving vehicle toys using a chassis, axles and wheels. They then finished the year looking at wildlife and specifically mini-beasts, creating large-scale drawings of their favourite insects around the School.

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about Boats in our recent STEM project. They designed and created vessels using recyclable materials. In addition to building a waterproof structure, the children also had to ensure it could float and carry a load.

The children collaborated well with one another and used their reasoning to find solutions to challenges along the way.

Year 3 had the fantastic opportunity to work with the Senior School this year on a cross-curricular project about The Body. Inspired by Antony Gormley's Field installation, the children produced a large series of small figure sculptures using pinch-pot, scoring and joining techniques. We were visited by the ceramic's specialist from the Senior School, along with several helpful Art Scholars. The sculptures are now part of a larger installation in the Senior School which can be visited by all. It was such a brilliant and valuable learning experience as well as the perfect introduction to Installation/Land Art.

Year 4's highlight of the year was our wonderful trip to Tate Modern. We visited the world-famous gallery whilst learning about the colourful Pop Art movement as part of our Summer Food Project. We explored the exhibitions together with the support of class teachers and parent volunteers, scouring the gallery for famous artworks and trying out different drawing techniques in the Turbine Hall. The children were overjoyed to be back in a gallery after a long break from such important experiences.

Year 5 have shown incredible perseverance throughout our recent Money Containers project, in which they were provided a creative brief to make a sewn and decorated purse or wallet using fabric and fastenings. Their resilience and independence throughout one of our most challenging topics was impressive and the outcomes from all children were wonderfully unique.

Year 6 started the year off with Food Technology, learning about healthy diet choices and branding, before designing their own bread and baking it with the support of their class teachers. The children enjoyed tasting the different types of bread and delicious flavour combinations, as well as collaborating in groups to perfect their dough. It was fun to take on a new challenge and to have a new skill to take into their Senior School years.

Another highlight for Year 6 was the fantastic Portrait gallery they produced in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations. Each child selected an image of the Queen and transformed it with patriotic colours and messages, building on our use of typography and colour theory from our Street Art project. Each portrait showed a unique side to the Queen and together they were a true celebration of her reign.





# Senior School Art

Year 12 photography pupils started their A Level with a very practical photography session around London. They took to the streets to explore interesting viewpoints and perspectives in architecture and views of everyday street-life, starting their journey at the recently modernised area of London Bridge, moving on to explore the smells and tastes of Borough Market and concluding at the iconic structures of Barbican.

The 'Art in Action' conference proved to be an inspirational event this year, with the opportunity to meet and speak to artists. The ceramicist, Kate Malone, offered guidance to artists, stating: "You don't have to have a lot, work makes work and draw from your mind."

The photographer, Simon Norfolk, introduced us to his climate change project, 'Project Pressure', which visually

outlines the retracting line of the glacier with dramatic outcome.

We also enjoyed a thought-provoking visit to the Bethlem Hospital gallery, viewing artwork created by artists responding to difficult personal issues and uncomfortable subject matter. The visit inspired a series of abstract mixed-media paintings informed by our own discussions about mental health and wellbeing.

Year 10 GCSE Art pupils had the chance to work together with Year 3 pupils to respond to the Antony Gormley Field project, an installation located in and around both the Junior and Senior school sites. Gormley's incentive was straightforward: produce several little figures and bring them to life by giving them eyes, so they can look back at us.



# Art & Photography Exhibition

During the last week of week of term, we hosted an Art and Photography Exhibition, showcasing fantastic displays of work from Year 11 and Year 13 pupils.

A private viewing was held on the first night, and it was a fabulous evening filled with admiration. We are tremendously proud of the fantastic work te pupils have achieved within their GCSE and A Level

courses. Guests commented on how professional the exhibition looked, with some guests keen to purchase some of the work. The exhibition also ran concurrently on Royal Russell Day for parents and

pupils to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who attended the exhibition and well done to all the pupils for showcasing their artwork.



# Junior School Trips

## CHAPEL VISIT

Year 4 pupils were extremely fortunate to be greeted in the School Chapel by Mr Moseley, Director of International Relations of the Senior School. He explained to the children the history of our Royal Russell Chapel, followed by an interesting explanation of the Easter story. The children displayed their Russell Powers of curiosity, asking lots of questions and Mr Moseley's answers displayed his great depth of knowledge on the subject.



## HAMPTON COURT

Year 4 pupils brought history to life this week with an amazing day trip to Hampton Court Palace. During their visit to Henry VIII's home, they explored the Tudor kitchens, asked interesting questions in the Chapel Royal, wondered at the tapestries in the Great Hall, marvelled at the paintings on display and bravely ventured into the 'haunted corridor', but fortunately we did not encounter the ghost of Catherine Howard this time!

They also explored primary sources of information by participating in a hands-on experience, led by Tudor Alice. The pupils handled 500-year-old artefacts from King Henry's life to make informed judgements about the life and reign of King Henry VIII.



## FRYLANDS WOOD

Year 4 pupils travelled to Frylands Wood for an amazing adventure in the glorious sunshine. They quickly settled into their cabins and then participated in three fun activities – archery, grass sledging and shelter building. Year 4 had built up quite an appetite by this time and had a fantastic BBQ tea, with waffles, cream and chocolate sauce for dessert!

After tea and a few games, the pupils had a superb campfire, singing songs and telling stories, before they toasted their marshmallows and then went to sleep in their cabins.

In the morning, they had a choice of bacon sandwiches, cereals and toast for breakfast before commencing on another exciting day of activities. The pupils lit their own fires, took part in an orienteering course and completed the photoshop challenge! These activities were followed by wraps for lunch, before travelling back to the School. It was a fabulous few days, where the children used all their Russell Powers and created wonderful memories.

## BRITISH WILDLIFE CENTRE TRIP

Nursery were lucky enough to visit the British Wildlife Centre on a beautiful sunny day. The Centre has over 40 different British wild mammals and owls. It was an excellent opportunity for the nursery children to learn about Britain's own wonderful wildlife.



## BRIGHTON SEA LIFE CENTRE

In June, the children in Foxes and Squirrels classes ventured on a coach to the Sealife Centre in Brighton. They were ready to learn about lots of sea creatures to tie in with our 'Under the Sea' topic and to enjoy a delicious Royal Russell picnic on the beach. Reception left school, with parents waving them goodbye in the glorious sunshine. However, it was not to last. As the coaches neared Brighton, the sky changed, the lightening flashed, and the rain came down – in bucketloads!

The children hurried from the coach to the Sealife Centre with hoods up and jumping over enormous puddles!

Despite the rain, the day was a resounding success with colourful clownfish, magical seahorses, glowing jellyfish and over 5,000 other creatures to see. The children explored rock pools and were given the opportunity to stroke a starfish. They also saw the Rainforest Adventure and took an underwater journey through the glass tunnel and were surrounded by sharks and turtles. A highlight of the day – after being unable to visit the beach and dip their toes in the sea – was seeing the children jump up and over virtual waves. The rain did its best, but it could not stop the enthusiastic and curious Reception children having, in their words, “the best day ever”!





# MUSEUM OF LONDON

## TRIP TO MUSEUM OF LONDON

Pupils entered a History competition where they were challenged to produce a fact file about a famous London landmark. The winners of the competition went on a terrific trip to the Museum of London and had an amazing time! They learnt lots of new things as they travelled around historic London, visiting various times in history including The Great Fire of London, World War II, The Victorians and many more. The children were extremely well behaved and had a wonderful time.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP

At the beginning of April, 68 children, parents and staff set off to Heathrow for the eagerly anticipated (and highly overdue) Royal Russell Family Ski Trip to the Italian Alps. Bags packed and Covid passes at the ready, they all boarded the plane to Milan. The journey to Sestrière was quite lengthy due to the last-minute change to our arrival airport, but it was thoroughly worth the wait as we arrived at a picturesque resort after a fresh snowfall.

The week was jam-packed with plenty of skiing, some tumbles (no breaks!), laughter, and some amazing moments of pride and accomplishment. Each afternoon, we returned to the hotel for hot chocolate and cake, and a chance to catch up with friends and family after a busy day's skiing.

Evenings were action-packed with après ski activities such as a treasure hunt, a pizza night, bingo, and a disco! The end of the week was filled with much jubilation as our ski instructors awarded the children with their ski badges reflecting the ski level they had achieved. It was such an incredible week and one which won't be forgotten.



## BOWLES RESIDENTIAL TRIP

On a bright March morning, 53 pupils from Year 5 arrived at the School, excited and raring to go on their Bowles Adventure. After a short journey to Bowles, the children went to their dorms to face their first challenge – putting a sheet on a duvet!

After unpacking and a yummy lunch, the activities commenced. Rock climbing, skiing and high ropes, provided opportunities to test the children's limits and take risks. Each child set a target and aimed to achieve their best. Whilst some children raced around the high ropes and ascended the climbing wall like Spiderman with no fear at all, others were facing genuine fears. Encouragement and supportive words from their teammates helped them to overcome their fears and the smiles from ear to ear told the story of how proud they were to achieve goals they thought were impossible at first.

There were also many opportunities for the children to use their teamwork skills and Russell Powers of collaboration and communication; from raft building in the pool, to blind rope challenges. The children guided each other over obstacles and used their initiative to solve puzzles.

In the evenings, the children had great fun exploring in the dark. On the first night they took part in a treasure hunt finding clues across the whole site. On the second night the children went on a night walk and learnt about nocturnal activities in the countryside – one group even saw two young bucks fighting in the field. Others learnt about the solar system and used their senses to identify the sounds. Some groups went down Big Al's Cavern, where they had to go through underground tunnels, in the pitch-black darkness! Not for the faint hearted!

The children demonstrated such kindness and consideration to all, and we are proud of how they looked after one another in all aspects of the trip. They have come back full of pride and self-confidence, knowing that they have achieved great things and made lasting friendships too.



# Junior School Historical Days

## ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DAY

Year 4 enjoyed an amazing Ancient Egyptian day. They dressed up in fabulous costumes and learnt all about everyday life, Pharaohs and Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. The children read hieroglyphics to help solve a treasure hunt. Pharaoh "Bob" was mummified, with his insides placed in canopic jars before a grand funeral procession with musicians, priests, and professional mourners, he was finally laid to rest in his wonderfully decorated sarcophagus. The children played an ancient Egyptian board game with a 20-sided Egyptian dice and measured objects in cubits - the measurement the Ancient Egyptians used to build the pyramids. The children had the opportunity to ask interesting and informative questions and have learnt so much in just one day!

"I liked mummifying Bob. My favourite bit was taking part in the funeral procession and being a body bearer. I learnt that Tutankhamun's heart was missing!" *Mateo*

"I really liked all the acting, and I enjoyed being Nut – the Goddess of the Earth" *Anastasiia*

"I liked marching in the funeral procession; I was a servant picking up all the Pharaoh's stuff" *Izzy*





## ANCIENT MAYA DAY

In Year 5, the children studied Ancient Maya and celebrated this with a themed day. They arrived at school in a flurry of vibrant colours and feathers, wearing wonderful headdresses, in preparation for being transported back in time to the era of the Ancient Maya.

After a brief introduction to set the scene, the children went straight to work; carrying out their own research to complete a quiz, playing a tactical game of 'Bul' and hunting jaguars, monkeys and wild boar with spears. The children also performed a play about the creation story, played a heated game of 'Pok a Tok' and handled artefacts. However, the highlight of the day had to be the gruesome human sacrifice. As the youngest and freshest blood, Miss Holman, Class Teacher, suffered her fate as we all watched in trepidation as her beating heart was ripped out of her body and tossed to Zayan to offer it to the Gods. Fortunately, she lived to tell the tale! The children had a fantastic day and learnt a great deal.



## WORLD WAR II DAY

World War II Day got off to a great start in Year 5, as the children arrived dressed as evacuees complete with suitcases, gas masks and name labels attached to their coats. During the day, the pupils took part in a range of activities including writing a diary entry as an evacuee, making carrot biscuits and learning about rationing. They also created a cypher wheel in order to decode secret messages and took refuge in an air raid shelter when the siren sounded. The children engaged brilliantly and threw themselves into the activities with their usual enthusiasm and gusto.



## VIKING DAY

The day began with a retelling of the Viking creation myth, examining who the vikings were, where they came from, why they came to England and exploring some of their other renowned exploits. Year 3 pupils then compared the home life of Viking children from 1,200 years ago with their own lives, and got to handle several historic artefacts, such as chain mail, a wool spindle, bowls and cutlery, combs, a shield, a spear and helmet and a sound horn. Naturally, the day

would not have been all work and no play, and therefore the children were introduced to two popular pastimes from Dark Age Britain: Fox and Geese and Nine Men's Morris. They learnt the rules and enjoyed playing the ancient games.

Linked to English focus, Year 3 also delved into some of the stories and riddles from Norse mythology, and particularly enjoyed the saga of Thor's Lost Hammer. Some of the pupils were given the opportunity to take on roles of the Viking Gods.

Known for being warriors, they could not spend the day as vikings without focussing on their weapons and armour. The children were treated to a display of weaponry and battle tactics! This culminated in forming a viking raiding party, and the pupils invading Year 6!

The day ended with learning about Ragnarök and the fate of the Gods. Well done also to all the pupils in the Spear Wrestling competition, who secured their legendary place in Valhalla!



# Senior School Trips

## BIOLOGY TRIP TO WAKEHURST PLACE

In February, Year 13 Biology pupils went to Wakehurst, a botanical garden in Sussex, to carry out gene analysis and cloning. During the day they carried out gel electrophoresis, which allowed them to observe different sized fragments of DNA. The pupils then compared the DNA bands to known samples, this technique is used in forensic analysis, paternity testing and identifying illegal imports of plants and other organisms.

Later in the day, they cloned cauliflower, using micropropagation, which gave them practice working in sterile conditions, which will be useful to many for university and beyond. They were also given the opportunity to observe some of the most recent scientific work carried out by scientists at Wakehurst and Kew Gardens, including visiting the Millennium Seed Bank. It was an interesting day, and a great last Biology trip for the pupils.



## POLITICS TRIP TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

In May, Year 12 Politics pupils, accompanied by Mr Marlow, Head of Politics, and Mr McGinty, Assistant Head, spent the day at the Houses of Parliament. The pupils were given a guided tour around Parliament, learning about the history of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and considering the roles that both chambers play in shaping legislation, scrutinising the work of the government and representing the British public. After the tour, they took part in an interactive workshop on voting and representation in the UK. Working in groups, pupils formed their own political parties, created mini manifestos and took part in a mock election. They also learnt about the different voting systems in operation across the UK and debated whether the 'First Past the Post' voting system, for so long a fixture of the UK's political system, should be replaced with some form of proportional representation.



### MADRES PARALELAS, A LEVEL SPANISH CINEMA TRIP

Following a delicious meal at Taco Bell, Spanish pupils in Year 12 and Year 13 went to the David Lean cinema in Croydon, to watch a Spanish film 'Madres Paralelas' by the acclaimed director Pedro Almodóvar. The film was very interesting, although complicated at times, incorporating both a mix of emotions and the historical context of the fallout of the Spanish Civil War in the modern day. This visit provided a great opportunity to practise their Spanish comprehension skills.



### QUEEN'S HOUSE BOWLING TRIP

Queen's House had a great evening out just before the Christmas Holiday. They travelled by tram to Valley Park in Croydon to have a fun filled evening bowling and playing on some of the arcade games. It was a fantastic way to relax after a busy term and have some fun with friends!

### YEAR 12 BIOLOGY TRIP TO FLATFORD MILL

In June, Year 12 A Level Biology pupils headed towards Colchester for a 3 day trip to Flatford Mill to research the abundance of different species of animals and plants in the area. The scenic location included a lake for stand-up paddle boarding, large fields consisting of sheep or cows, a history exhibition and even a reading nook!

Upon their arrival, they walked to the forest where they used quadrats to sample the species diversity. The second day was spent at the local stream to ascertain the number of different aquatic species such as shrimp and other marine animals. This exercise helped decide which areas of the stream had higher concentrations of oxygen. Other experiments included fishing for sea creatures (which turned into a rather competitive sport) and evaluating their behaviour when placed in different environments.

On the last day, they were split into groups to create their own experiments on anything of their choosing. It was very fun to have independence in terms of being a biologist, hypothesising the outcome and determining whether their results supported their theory - a brilliant and immersive trip.



## A LEVEL JAPANESE TRIP TO BFI

As part of their independent research on the topic of 'Changing Family Relations', A Level pupils visited the BFI Japan 2021 Film Festival: 100 Years of Japanese Cinema.

They joined a lecture by Professor Alastair Phillips of the University of Warwick, in which he discussed 'The Family and Home in the Golden Age of Japanese Cinema'. Set in post-war Japan, the main theme of the film is the break-up and Westernization of the traditional Japanese family and the inevitability of children growing apart from their parents. A very moving and emotional tale, it was fascinating to see which elements he highlighted, together with the clips of other movies that the pupils had not previously studied.



## TRIP TO SUSHI CAFÉ

In March, the Food Department planned an evening dining experience at Sushi Café in Battersea (Sushi Café is an authentic Japanese restaurant providing Izakaya inspired cuisine).

The trip included our Year 9 pupils that have selected GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, and our current Year 10 and 11 GCSE pupils.

Mrs Saunders, Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition, Mr Major, Assistant Head of Middle School and Mr Moseley, Director of International Relations, accompanied 20 eager 'foodies' to the restaurant in London. Providing the opportunity to gain wider exposure to different foods/cuisines/styles, which they may not be accustomed or have tried before. There was an amazing menu to choose from, which hopefully will inspire the pupils when experimenting with design ideas, plating and presentation.

The menu includes over 50 freshly prepared dishes, including the well-known Chicken Teriyaki, Salmon Nigiri and Salmon and Avocado Rolls. The group were challenged to 'All you can eat' and tried Tempura, Stir Fried Rice & Noodles, Sashimi, Nigiri, Hosomaki and Temaki. The food was freshly cooked, prepared and beautifully presented, and it gave our Year 10 pupils some ideas to aid the final Year 10 unit, 'The Dinner Challenge'.

After an hour and a half of tasting, evaluating and more tasting, the Royal Russell pupils and staff had 'ate their fill'. It was deemed an enormous success, and we look forward to another visit soon.



### SPANISH TAPAS

My peers and I had the opportunity to enrich our learning in preparation for our independent investigation worth 20% of our A level. As we scrambled onto the bus excited for the journey ahead, we certainly did not anticipate the 7 hour minibus journey. Upon arrival at The Cranedale Centre, a delicious 3 course supper was very much appreciated. As exhausted as we were, we attended an evening lesson in preparation for our fieldwork the next day. After a tasty breakfast, we packed our waterproofs and headed to our first location.

The day focussed on a range of coastal management strategies and entailed collecting data related to the beach profile at Hornsea. The final location was Flamborough Head where the chalk-cut cliffs lead to a spectacular view, characterised by caves as well as a beautiful arch. We then spent our evening lesson evaluating and analysing strategies used.

Saturday's excursion to the North York Moors National Park required two adjacent catchments that would later be compared. We aimed to examine the effects of afforestation which links to the 'water and carbon cycle' in the specification. We were exposed to new equipment which we previously had not used at GCSE, for example a hydro-prop used to measure the velocity of the river. On our return, we used statistical tests to analyse the data, a skill which is essential for achieving high marks in our independent investigations. As the majority of the class will execute an investigation linked to 'changing places', Sunday's activities were a prominent point of interest. Many fieldwork techniques were used to collect a wide range of data in Scarborough. The town flourished in the late 17th century as a fashionable seaside resort and has maintained this 'seaside buzz' hence it was crucial we ended the day with some fish and chips. The trip ended on a high with a six hour karaoke session which was enjoyed by all.

*Written by Annabel Plant - Year 13*

### CUCKMERE HAVEN

In June, the whole of Year 7 went on a fun and exciting trip to Cuckmere Haven. We did lots of different activities during the trip to put our geography skills to the test. The purpose of the trip was to figure out whether the people who visited Cuckmere had a positive or negative impact to the area! On our trip we got to look at some of the exciting parts of Cuckmere. We got to walk down the river, sit on the beach, do a scavenger hunt and we got to see the huge headland that was near the beach too! Doing all of this made the trip exciting and interesting.

As well as looking at the geography of the area, we also got to go to the visitors' centre and learn about the history of Cuckmere too. Some of the activities that we did include traffic and car counts, surveys, data collecting and field sketches. In the traffic count, we had to stand safely next to a road and count the vehicles that drove past, this allowed us to work out the number of people coming through the area or

coming to visit. When we did the data collecting, we had to look around us and assess what everyone was doing so that we could note it down in a tally chart. This would help us understand what people like to do at Cuckmere, and how many people like to come! We all then walked down to the beach where we had lunch and enjoyed the scenery.

Our next geographical task was a field sketch. When we did the field sketch, it helped us to realise what parts of Cuckmere Haven visitors like and what they might come to Cuckmere to see and visit. The field sketch also allowed us to enjoy the views and have some fun at the same time! The rest of the afternoon was spent doing a House scavenger hunt, which was surprisingly challenging! Everyone really enjoyed the trip and it helped us improve our geography skills and gave us a lovely day by the coast.

*Written by Sophie Lang - Year 7*



# Careers 2022

Within the Careers Department, the annual Careers and Higher Education Fair is the highlight of the year and was especially so this year since our event in 2021 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Open to pupils and families in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13, the Fair had something for everyone. A sizeable Higher Education Fair in the Auditorium and Conference room, with 17 UK universities and representation from international

universities and agencies and 21 businesses exhibiting in the Great Hall. Over 300 families attended spending time talking to the different providers and businesses, finding out about the various pathways and their exciting

opportunities. The buzz of this event is always very special and in March it was simply incredible as families emerged out of the pandemic restrictions and embraced the opportunity to explore and discover possible futures.

## YEAR 12 VOLUNTEER WITH THE CHARTWELL CANCER TRUST

Mrs Harris, Head of Careers, attended a Croydon Business Expo event in March and connected there with many local businesses who wish to work with Royal Russell, including Jo Bennett from The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust. The Trust is a small, locally based charity, whose mission is to provide support to NHS staff and patients undergoing treatment for cancer and leukaemia in South London, North Kent and Surrey.

Jo gave a presentation to Year 12 pupils about the charity's work and detailed a fundraising 5K walk that they needed support with. The response from pupils was exceptional and we had

a strong team of volunteers, with a wide skills base from photography & media skills, PR & communications to event planning & administrative support, meeting with Jo to plan and execute the event. Funds raised from this event came to over £4,000 and an additional £150 was raised by the pupils themselves selling irresistible Krispy Kreme doughnuts to pupils during a lunchtime break.

Jo and the Trustees of the Charity have expressed their delight and gratitude at having the support of Royal Russell pupils and families, and we hope to build on this experience for our mutual benefit.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Despite the continuing and long-lasting effects of Covid, which had delayed the progress made in developing our work experience programme for pupils, businesses are as keen as ever to attract young talent and there has been a huge rise in quality virtual work experience programmes being made available to school pupils. In every industry it is possible to find quality experiences, and these are signposted to pupils as and when they become available – one such programme is organised by Bright Network who partnered with Royal Russell to offer on-demand internships with top companies. We are excited to hear what our pupils who have completed their experiences this summer have learned and discovered.



## YEAR 10 SUMMER CAREERS CHALLENGE

Year 10 pupils were set a challenge to apply for a mock job so they could learn about and experience as close to a real recruitment process as possible. They spent time with their tutors learning about the importance of a strong and tailored CV, the basics of a good cover letter and techniques such as 'STAR' to demonstrate their skills effectively in interview.

They were then invited to apply to one of several 'mock' jobs and were interviewed for this, online via MS Teams, by an external volunteer interviewer. It's fair to say that they were a little apprehensive at the thought of this challenge, but the sight and sounds on 'interview day' revealed what good work they had done to meet this challenge. The feedback from the interviewers was incredibly positive with one interviewer going so far as to say that they would recruit their interviewee on the spot if they could! Well done to Year 10 – the future is bright!

## CAREERS BREAKFASTS

We are lucky to be supported by brilliant parents, Old Russellians and local business contacts who came together this year at different points to put on Careers Breakfasts. Running along the lines of speed networking, (but slower!) pupils in Year 9 and upwards were invited to meet professionals working in STEM, Law and Creative industries. These small but focussed events give pupils a perfect opportunity to meet young and experienced professionals and dive deeper into what different roles involve, the rewards and challenges, and the pathways to accessing these opportunities.



# Junior School Music

The Junior School Music Department has enjoyed another very exciting year of wonderful performances. Highlights of the Autumn Term included the annual Harvest Festival and the Christmas Carol Service, both of which brought our school community together in seasonal celebration of song and reflection.

Our young musicians have continued to impress us with their musical skills on the performance platform from the perspective of informal soirees, formal concerts and good-natured musical camaraderie via participation in House Music events. Congratulations to Exeter and Durham who respectively won the Upper Junior House Singing and House Music Competitions, and to York House who won the Lower Junior Singing Competition.

Music Cafes and a delightful Vocal Soiree were well-received by enthusiastic and appreciative audiences. The standard of musical preparation and performances from our young musicians has been very impressive at these informal events.

Participation in the Upper Junior School Choir has increased throughout the year and our choristers have enjoyed learning a

variety of vocal repertoire to enhance their existing pitching skills and musicianship. They were particularly delighted to be invited by Mr Franklin, Director of Music from the Senior School, to perform in the Senior School Spring Concert where they sang an anthem of their own and then joined forces with the Senior School Choirs to perform in a marvellous arrangement of *Mr Blue Sky*. They also prepared to come together once again for a musical collaboration as part of the Royal Russell Day celebrations.

Celebration was the key focus for our Junior School Jubilee Symposium and our accomplished instrumentalists provided festive musical interludes as part of a special Jubilee themed House Drama event. Instrumentalists and singers came together later in the term, in order to perform in the Summer Serenade Concert. This concert was a real musical fest of



instrumental solos, a duet, music theatre, ensemble and choral items.

Sincere thanks to all and congratulations to everyone who made this such an exciting year of music-making in our Junior School Music Department.





# Senior School Music

Music in its essence is about communication. Two years of the pandemic led to some imaginative approaches to enable music making to take place, but nothing can replace face-to-face musical experiences. In a year where life and education have almost been back to 'normal', it's been a truly exciting year in the Music Department, in which Royal Russell pupils have jumped at all the opportunities on offer.

We have seen the return of all the School's ensembles and choirs with a full array of musical activities to choose from in the Activities Fair back in September. Public performances began from week one, as weekly assemblies and chapel services brought back the long-awaited return of live audiences. Only a few weeks into term, pupils provided an impressive five hours of continuous musical performances for the School's Open Day.

As we moved into October and November, focus turned to the Autumn Concert, for which we welcomed families to the Great Hall for the first non-bubble concert in almost two years! The sense of delight from the simple joy of hearing music live was palpable from the audience, and perhaps even unexpected. Similarly moving, were the Remembrance Services where the School choirs and Choral Society combined to sing extracts from Faure's *Requiem* among other pieces.

Before we knew it, Christmas was upon us. On the last Sunday of term, nearly 200 pupils took part in the Senior Carol Service, including an enthusiastic rendition of Rutter's *Star Carol* sung by all of Year 7. Two cold winter nights later, we were warmed up by mulled wine and mince pies at the Christmas Concert with the Swing Band sending us into the holidays with smiles on our faces, after closing with the *swing Big Band Christmas*.

January gave more opportunity for soloists. On the first Monday back, the music scholars demonstrated their

immense musical talent in an evening of performances of the highest order; their dedication to the Music Department throughout the year has been outstanding. The first Rush Hour Concert of the year took place a couple of weeks later. This series of concerts is designed for musicians at all stages in their musical journey to perform in an informal setting to a friendly audience with a biscuit and a cup of tea. As these concerts went on, an increasing number of pupils signed themselves up to perform. This proactivity and maturity is admirable.

On the first Sunday of February, our choirs combined again for the first of two choral evensongs this year. Both of which included more advanced pieces such as Noble's *Magnificat* In B Minor and Balfour Gardiner's *Evening Hymn*. Tackling more demanding choral repertoire has been a challenge for our singers where our more experienced singers have been pivotal in successful performances. Thanks goes out to our Head Chorister, Isabel Leyland, and our Head of Barbershop, Hamzah Mughal, who have been stalwarts for Choristers and Barbershop respectively.

February also saw the return of the well-loved Music Dinner. With a theme of the Platinum Jubilee, an enthusiastic audience enjoyed beef wellington and an evening of highly entertaining and high polished performances, featuring the first performance of our Year 8 Spice Girls' rendition of *Wannabe* that went down so well, it was requested for three subsequent concerts! Less than two weeks later, Great Hall was filled again for the Spring

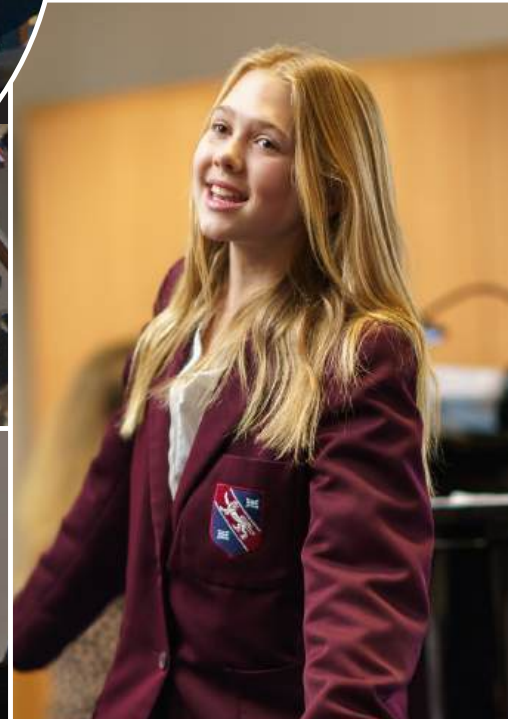
Concert. As part of this event, the Junior School Choir, Barbershop and Choristers combined to sing ELO's *Mr Blue Sky*. It was a pleasure to see both schools gaining so much from the other's involvement.

The first half of the summer started with the Guitar and Drums concert. With eardrums just about intact, the month of May included another choral evensong and a third Rush Hour Concert, along with the School's official celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on the last day of the Half Term. It acted as useful experience for alfresco performing as, following the success of last year's event, we held another Music Picnic. Sunshine, showers and all things in-between reflected the eclectic mix of performances on offer. Royal Russell Day marked the last musical performance event of the academic year, finishing with a 'Roar' (Katy Perry)! Our Music Prefect, Victor Ayodele, has been present for nearly all the events this year, playing in a mind-blowing number of items. He will be missed.

This year saw the return of in-person ABRSM exams. With an 100% pass rate over three days of exams throughout the year, we can say a big well done to all the pupils for their dedication to their practice. The musical successes of the year wouldn't be possible without the visiting music teacher team, whose hard work and proactivity in engaging pupils with performance is appreciated by all in the School community.

The whole department looks forward to an exciting 2022/23 academic year!





# Food Preparation Competition

This year has given us a chance to reintroduce the Food Preparation and Nutrition Competitions, which has been wonderful!



## YEAR 7 CHOCOLATE ORANGE COMPETITION

The task was to design and make at home a table centre piece or tree decoration suitable for a festive celebration using a Terry's Chocolate Orange.

This was a design task assessment for the Winter Term and all Year 7 pupils had to complete it. Each entry was given a grade and were tallied to add to the House Points for the final award at the end of the year!

The pupil's assignment had to include:

- 1) A fully coloured, annotated picture of the design
- 2) Name of product
- 3) A description of the product
- 4) Photos showing them working, cleanly, organised and independently
- 5) A finished product to present

Individual winners were Sophie Lang, Daniel Morrell and Nicholas Thurbin. The Highest House score was Reade.

## QUEEN OF PUDDINGS COMPETITION

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, pupils had a technical challenge called, 'A pudding fit for the Queen'. They were tasked with taking a basic recipe, using the same ingredients and instructions, and produce a finished product. Any variation on the finished product would be a result of their own technical knowledge. Each House had a pupil and teacher representative, and every team received the recipe information the day before the competition!

The results were as follows:

1st: Reade, 2nd: Madden, 3rd: Queen's,  
4th: St Andrew's, 5th: Cambridge, 6th: Hollenden,  
7th: Keable, 8th: Oxford, 9th: Buchanan.



## SWISS ROLL BAKE OFF

The final competition this year was open to two Key Stage 3 pupils from each House. They were asked to cook and present a 'Show-Stopper Swiss Roll'.

The results were as follows:

1st OXFORD - Jack Taylor, Joseph Venkatasami  
2nd ST ANDREW'S - Ehaan Nadeem  
3rd MADDEN - Harvey Goold, Anxo Garcia Missan  
4th QUEEN'S - Jasmine McCann, Cara Devlin  
5th READE - Leah Clery, Naia Bueno-Goti  
6th HOLLENDEN - Emily Moody, Uliana Tokolova  
7th KEABLE - Freddie Emerson, Alister Gironella  
8th BUCHANAN - Sophie El-Asmar, Mollie Atkins



# Media Department

The media department were excited to get back into its usual busy production schedule, beginning with Model United Nations (MUN) and culminating in Royal Russell Day.

Over the course of the academic year, A Level, BTEC and GCSE pupils have once again had the opportunity to hone their video production, scripting, presenting and vision-mixing skills. For coursework, pupils have made everything from adverts, music videos, opening scenes from TV dramas, news broadcasts, magazines, podcasts and film marketing campaigns. Much of the work has been outstanding, as pupils add technical proficiency to their creativity.

The department would like to thank its subject ambassadors, Zac Jennings, Ellie

Baker and Sophie Stretton for their efforts within the department.

We would also like to say a huge thanks and goodbye to Ms Groves, our endlessly supportive technician who leaves to pursue a career in Media teaching.

The Model United Nations Conference 2021 saw Media pupils return to one of the most exciting events in the department's calendar. A Level, BTEC and GCSE pupils spent the five-day extravaganza creating video content for social media, producing an entertainment show, live streaming

the conference, and directing the hotly anticipated annual MUN's Got Talent.

This year, the team was headed up by Max Newark-Symonds, Ellie Baker and Ella Nighy who showed excellent leadership skills when delegating tasks and motivating Media pupils from Year 10, 11 and 12.

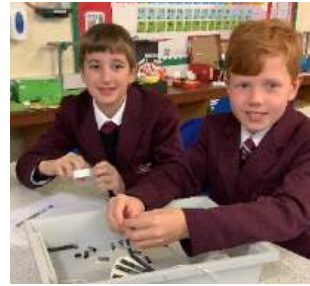
One highlight was the James Bond remake for the 'MUN's Got Talent' introduction video where Year 13 got to try out filming with our new stabiliser equipment, giving them the opportunity to shoot like the pros!



# Science

STEM CLUB FOR YEAR 7 and 8 has again run successfully this year – learning Science through having fun.

Here are a selection of the activities we have been up to this year:



## STEM

After a break of two years, Royal Russell once again entered three teams in the Croydon Heat of this year's competition held at St Philomena's School, Carshalton. 'The Surrey Schools Problem Solving Challenge Competition' involves around 1,000 pupils annually. Working against the clock, teams of six are given an unusual engineering/science problem to solve in an hour and a half.

There are five area heats around the county, including Croydon, and 180 teams enter the competition each year.

"On Thursday 24th January, after a half hour journey and looking at intense

competition, we were quite nervous for what was about to begin. We were given 90 minutes to design a contraption that would turn on a lamp using a marble dropped by somebody from the group after exactly ten seconds. After 90 minutes of a seemingly endless loop of testing and adjusting, and another 20 minutes of judging, the results were to be announced. Well done to the KS3 group who managed to come second in their bracket, the KS4 group who came third, in theirs, and the KS5 group who came first, breaking records with their 167/170 score."

*Written by  
CJ Coleman Benjamin*

The Problem Solving Final was held at Heathside School in Weybridge, on Wednesday 16th March.

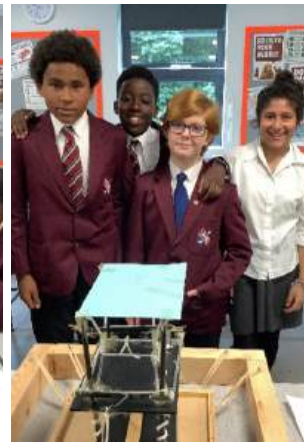
The final posed a particularly tricky problem for the teams to grapple with. It involved building a cart which would go down a slope. No wheels were provided, therefore it had to shuffle down. The teams worked well together and persevered to produce a vehicle that in both cases, actually made it to the bottom. Unfortunately, they both were not quite fast enough to win but they learned a lot! Both teams are keen to try again next year.



## EARTHQUAKE CHALLENGE

Year 7 were lucky enough to have a talk on earthquakes from our resident expert, Mr Tanner, Student Enrichment Assistant. This was part of a STEM challenge linking Science Technology Engineering and Maths to a 'real world' problem. Mr Tanner brought the science to life by asking pupils to try and predict when a balloon would pop and linked this to the fact that it is almost impossible to predict when an earthquake will happen.

The challenge was to build an earthquake proof house with limited materials, which simulated the constraint of budgets when designing a structure in the real world. Each team of four planned, designed and constructed their model house which was then tested on our earthquake simulator. Each Year 7 class had a winner, who then competed against the other winners from the other Year 7 classes.



## CREST AWARDS

CREST Awards, which are awarded by the British Science Association, are undertaken independently with the support, guidance and help of a mentor. They operate on a similar basis to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards in that it is possible to progress through Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Starting with Bronze (10 hours work) to Silver (30 hours work) and Gold (70 hours work).

They are a nationally recognised scheme for project work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics). The skills learnt from working on the CREST Awards will be invaluable if applying to university or for future job prospects. Universities value CREST Awards as they provide opportunities for developing valuable skills such as: working independently, time management, good organisation, being proactive as well as learning how to go about an independent project.

This year there were eleven students who earned their Bronze Award and three earned their Silver Award.

Emily Hayden de Carbonnières, Rohan Phillpot and Meenachey Niranjn deserve real congratulations on a MASSIVE achievement completing their Silver level CREST project. They all worked tirelessly researching, doing and writing up what is an A level practical – all in their own time! Rohan and Meenachey compared and investigated a variety of painkillers such as aspirin, paracetamol and ibuprofen, completed experiments and laboratory tests, whilst Emily compared plant growth.



# Junior School Sports

After the lack of fixtures and opportunities over the past two years, this year has been full of amazing sporting events. It has been wonderful to have the buzz of competition back and see so many pupils enjoying competitive matches.

The Junior School have taken part in a host of fixtures from Biathlon National finals to Gymnastic festivals, Surrey cross-country trials to Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) basketball and swimming competitions. With some outstanding performances across the board, it has been fantastic

to see the pupils get fully involved in all they can. The Sports Team have been delighted with the pupils' dedication to sport and to see them thriving across the broad spectrum of activities and opportunities offered. This has been a true highlight of the year. The Lower Junior pupils have enjoyed the variety of sports

they have been taught through the year; from apparatus work to tennis, badminton to ball skills and athletics and cricket in the summer. Sports Day was, as always, enjoyed by all pupils across the School.

## TENNIS

The pupils enjoyed some competitive matches alongside a chance to represent their Houses in House Tennis. The highlight of the season was the Year 3 and 4 mini red tennis tournament team who won the Croydon Schools festival and went on to represent Croydon at the London Youth games. The team played really well and the improvements were clear to see.



## ATHLETICS

The season started with Sports Hall Athletics where we won the Croydon Schools qualifying event and the finals and went onto represent Croydon at the London Youth games. A super achievement and the squad had a wonderful time at the competition.

In the Summer Term, the Croydon Schools Athletics championships was back in its full capacity. The girls' and boys' team competed brilliantly, and 16 pupils qualified through to the final's day. It was an intense event with fierce competition, but the pupils rose to the challenge and performed their best.

Croydon Champions - Mina in the ball throw and Kailan in the Year 6 High Jump; super silvers for Betty in the Year 6 Long Jump and Rubie in the 800m and brilliant bronze for Luke in the Year 6 Long Jump.



## GYMNASTICS

The pupils have worked hard on their skills and routines, the squad have enjoyed the U11 floor and vault competition, an exciting competition against Oakfield and the Surrey Schools Novice competition where we picked up seven medals.



## BIATHLON NATIONAL FINALS

The National Schools finals event was postponed from last year and the team travelled to Bath for the finals. The pupils were in fine form with personal bests - the aim of the game. They did not disappoint with great swimming and running all round.



## NETBALL

The Netball teams have continued to develop under the Bee netball programme recommended for our U11 pupils. Lots of schools have enjoyed having a go at this exciting new initiative; and this has allowed us to run a full calendar of competitive fixtures. There have been some very exciting matches and with all players now rotating positions it has been lovely to see the versatility of our pupils develop, this is fantastic for the future of netball. The U9A team were victorious at our Royal Russell festival and the U11A squad finished runners-up in the plate competition at the IAPS qualifier and the Croydon Schools tournament finals.



## CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-country Club continues to be as popular as ever with 60 pupils running every week. The pupils chosen to run at the Croydon Schools event had a fun time with some remarkable results both individually and collectively. Rubie and Betty were selected to represent Croydon at the London Youth Games cross-country race. A small squad ran at the Surrey Schools event with Paris finishing in the Top 10.



## FOOTBALL

It was another excellent year for boys' football. The focus across all teams continued to be based on passing football, with every boy being encouraged to play in different positions on the pitch. All boys in every year group represented the School in a competitive fixture during the football term which was great to see. Several teams had the opportunity to play in tournaments, where they impressed against some talented opposition. This included the U11A and U9A and B teams who played at the annual Royal Russell tournaments. The effort, energy, and enthusiasm from all the boys was brilliant throughout the year and it is exciting to see each team progress even further next year.

The girls' football club has been very popular, and it has been great to see the development of the girls' skills. The girls have had several opportunities to play matches and tournaments, their match play has improved, and we are extremely excited to continue this next year.

## CRICKET

The introduction of mixed cricket clubs in both Year 3 and 4 and also Year 5 and 6 has been fantastic, with over 100 Upper Junior pupils choosing cricket. During the season, the pupils had an opportunity to play in a variety of fixtures both mixed and single gender. With lots of pre-season opportunities during the Autumn and Spring Terms, the pupils were already well ahead of the game. It was awesome to see the improvement in bowling, consistency when batting and fielding and most importantly the smiles. A super season with some impressive results.



## SPORTS DAY

In June, all Junior School children took part in Sports Day. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the children were excited to represent their Houses. All year groups rotated around several events including long jump, sprint races, nerf-throwing and the different obstacle activities. After these events were completed, the afternoon finished off with the finale relays, which were fantastic to watch as always. The PE team were thrilled with the enthusiasm, energy and sportsmanship of all the pupils throughout the afternoon.

"My favourite part of Sports Day was the sprinting races and running for Exeter."

*Khiyan - Year 3*

"I enjoyed my first sports day at Royal Russell and especially the relay race."

*Noah - Year 4*

"I personally enjoyed the long jump and running but there are so many fun activities to do."

*Matilda - Year 5*

"I enjoyed getting the ice cream at the end and also the different running races."

*Ruby - Year 6*



## HOCKEY

The girls started the year with a focus on their power when passing and ball control, this focus paid off with some enhanced match play and super passing and shooting in our competitive fixtures. Lots of the girls were keen to have a go in goal with excellent results. We experienced a full calendar of fixtures and tournaments, including mixed hockey matches which we have been aiming to achieve for a while. A great season and we are particularly excited by the Year 5 girls' squad, many of whom played for the U11's in tournaments due to their great skills and ability.

Boys' hockey in the Junior School continued to make excellent progress this year, with improvement across all year groups. It was fantastic to see all boys in Year 3 and 4 playing in competitive fixtures, with a focus on developing their game understanding and decision making. The Year 5 group continued to make positive steps as they gained more experience at 7-a-side hockey. It has been brilliant to see the Year 6 teams competing against some strong hockey schools, particularly the U11A team who performed superbly at several tournaments to end a highly successful year for them.



# Senior School Sport



## FOOTBALL

This year, football grew from strength to strength with success in all phases of the football programme. Our 1st XI won the ISFA Sixes for the 4th time in five years, reached the 1st round of the FA Youth Cup v Oxford Utd away (an amazing experience for the group), took the HUDL league to the last game of the season and won the Isthmian South East League. The U15's reached the semi-final of the ISFA Cup, losing away to the winners Cheadle Hulme. They also reached the semi-final in the County Cup.

A huge highlight of the year was the U13's, who had a memorable season by winning the ESFA U13 Schools final 4-0 at West Bromwich Albion, this is the first ESFA Cup success in the School history!

Further successes are C and D teams playing for the School. The C teams at U12,13,14 and 15 all representing the School in fixtures, giving all boys that wanted to play the opportunity to represent the School in friendlies during games lessons and weekends.

The performance programme has grown with a diverse group from all over the world, attracting some excellent pupils to develop what Royal Russell represents in this space. The strength and

conditioning, video analysis and bespoke individual plans have helped greatly. Position specific sessions have been impactful and the bespoke work with the development squad has raised the quality.

Success in supporting pupils moving on from our programme has developed with a strong link to Loughborough University. We hosted them on Open Day and have since forwarded boys onto their Elite Performance Programme. Colchester took on two of our players midway through their time in our programme and are both doing well. Sam Long continues to surpass all expectations, going on to represent Scotland U23's this season. Many more have gone on and done well in non-league football, university football and other professional clubs looking to step up into the 1st team over the next couple of seasons, such as Deji Elerewe (Charlton Athletic) and Jack Henry-Francis (Arsenal).

Overall, a very successful season in all areas. A highlight was Joseph Margaritis playing his first ever football fixture, representing the School away v Ewell Castle to secure a 3-2 win. Well done to all involved!

## NETBALL

This past year has been a challenging period for all, however it has not hindered our ability to progress. It has been so exciting to see many of our girls take part in competitive fixtures and we have played 338 matches across 33 teams.

The highlight of the year was our U13's qualifying for next year's U14 National Final 18, to compete in September for a rank in the top 18 within the country. Next year, we will again be entering the following competitions as well as a full fixture list of friendlies for all teams; ISNC Cup, SnS Cup, School's Magazine Cup, Surrey Schools and National Schools. In addition to these, we have entered the Croydon Schools netball league as well as a Croydon adult league for our Senior team.

The Head of Netball has met with all netball scholars or potential scholars to ensure individual 1-1 support is in place. On top of this, coaches have ensured all netball players from U12-U18, A to D teams, have been able to access and complete an individual development plan. This has supported all our pupils to ensure they have met targets within netball over the year.



## ATHLETICS

In January, 14 pupils were selected to run for Croydon in the Surrey Schools Cross-country championships held annually at Reigate Priory. Special mention to Arabella Ormond, Zac Brennan, Matilda Welsh, Lorcan Oliver, Holly Perks, Yasmin Williams and Faith Chen who all did well and to Tom Meadows and Mia Hughes who unfortunately missed it.

We also had 12 of our best athletes across Year 7 to Year 13 qualify for the Surrey Schools Athletics Championships event, representing Croydon at Kingsmeadow Stadium in Kingston in June. Emily Hayden de Carbonnières (triple jump), Olivia Obasuyi (long jump), Thibault Hardy (javelin), Adachi Amiaka (100m) Chika George (80m hurdles), Chloe Mayaki-

Mattinson (shot), Alex Mazzoni and Oneli Pelpola (both high jump) all finished just outside the medals, but most with new PB's. Amarachi Amiaka came 2nd in the 75m hurdles, Justin Cho came 3rd in the long jump, with 5m 52cm and Faith Chen came 3rd in the senior girls' 800m. It was an excellent experience for all concerned.

During the last few weeks of the Summer Term, the School competed at The Croydon Schools Athletics Competition at the Croydon Arena with Year 7 to Year 10 pupils. Featuring more than 20 schools at each level, the standard is high and the competition fierce. The rivalries can be intense, but the spirit is always welcoming and friendly.



## CRICKET

This season was fantastic. The weather was good and pupils' attendance to training nights were excellent. The 1st team as predicted were a competitive team who won all their matches. Well captained and led by Tom Smith, the highlight of their season was against Ewell who were strong. Superb batting by Tom Smith, Archie Moore, and Tom Laing.

Year 10 started well when Kris Soni hit 68 and Lennon Hill 30 against Langley in a thrilling match which was just lost. However, the most notable performance was in a cup match against Wilson's who had 4 Surrey CAG bowlers and a player on the England school's pathway. Krish Soni, Lennon Hill, and Henry Kingston batted superbly before the heavens opened and the match was suspended. The following week, we were just 20 runs away from giving them a competitive match. Lennon Hill was the pick of the bowlers, bowling a consistent line and making the batters struggle to score against us. Zoe Graham also played in a few matches and bowled well.

Year 9 won a few and lost a few. Edward Findlay and Max Williamson batted well. Tom Bentley was always a threat when bowling with his metronomic bowling and claimed several catches and run outs throughout the season. James Dalton also bowled well with his left arm pace.

Year 8s were strong as predicted, with either Stanley Moore or Bradley Kingston always performing. Kalan Sharma and Harvey Wright-Phillips showing consistent improvement and development, and the collective team doing all three disciplines well; batting, bowling and fielding.

Year 7s competed well against strong oppositions. Tom Grehan captained well. Rayan Bamsey and Lucas Brown were the pick of the bowlers and batters, but there is a good team which is developing there.

We also played softball matches against other schools which was great to see, and they really enjoyed it. Special mention going to Zoe Graham and Amy Knolles who were picked for hard ball school matches.

## DANCE

Year 11-13 pupils experience dance during their games timetable, with the ability to pick it as an option. Pupils have had a great year learning a variety of styles including K.Pop, Intensive Jazz, Contemporary and Commercial Street Dance. Dance classes include cardio work to develop core strength, stamina and flexibility. Pupils are able to create innovative movement and learn choreography and dance notation so they can comprise original routines and confidently perform. Choreography and dance is heavily included in all our musicals in Junior School and Senior School, where pupils learn how to develop a solid performance technique in front of a live audience whilst enjoying the creativity involved.



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The appetite for Girls' Football has continued to grow with numbers increasing in the dedicated Friday training sessions. This year has seen the successful girls programme develop and expand with amazing numbers resulting in 9v9/11v11 matches across the age groups.

Our 1st X1 girls played their first ever ISFA games, reaching the ISFA Cup quarter-finals. U13 and U15 teams played in several tournaments including ISFA and both signed off the season with impressive wins against local school, Croydon High.

The U13 also won a Croydon Schools 7-a-side tournament with eight schools participating.

An all year around programme was introduced to Years 5 & 6, again proving very popular. They played several fixtures very successfully alongside ISFA and Croydon

Schools tournaments, winning their group in two, though knocked-out on penalties in both quarter-finals.

Due to this growth and success, football will become part of the Girls Games curriculum from September 2022.

Successes externally have been more of our girls now joining clubs, with Ava Barton continuing to play for Crystal Palace and moving to their U14's. Ella-Mae Coutts, again with CPFC's U21's becoming the National League South's Reserve Division Top Scorer and now taking a year out and moving to Spain with a professional linked club in Malaga. Reanna Blades continuing with Chelsea's U18/21's and played at the Emirates pre-season for the 1st Team against Arsenal and scoring on her debut. Reanna also remains a regular with England, heading off to the U18's camp in Portugal in July.



## HOCKEY

The Hockey programme embraces sport for all, with every child engaging with hockey when they arrive in Year 7. Our provision allows pupils to play at least three times a week in Games, Club and weekend fixtures with access to our Strength and Conditioning team. Every individual is given the best opportunity to reach his or her potential within their sport and is also supported by a holistic scholarship programme.

Our coaching team comprises of 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. With our coaches heavily involved in local clubs, we can encourage participation outside school and drive motivation within our school teams. We also have an all-weather full-size floodlit AstroTurf and an all-weather multi use games area (MUGA) is at the heart of our local club and allows the School to host Junior tournaments throughout the year.

The Junior School programme has pushed our Senior School programme to new heights and will continue to do so. Individual success must also be commended, and we are proud to have county representatives in different age groups. Moving forward, we are looking to bring back tours for our teams. We normally travel biannually to Holland which gives them a wonderful experience of learning a different style of hockey whilst allowing the pupils to have life-changing experiences with friends.



## HOUSE SPORT

One of the jewels of the School's sporting crown is the annual House Sport competition. Every pupil, in every year group, has the opportunity to compete regularly and frequently against their peers, in a wide variety of sports, throughout the year.

Perhaps the highlight of this year's competition was that for the first time in three years, we held the Whole (Senior) School Cross-Country. The courses vary in length, progressing as we move through the years. Boys and girls run the same courses; the Junior race (Year 7 and 8) is 2.2km, the Intermediates (Year 9 and 10) is 2.5km and the Seniors (Year 11 and 13) is 3.2km.

The winners in each race were:

Juniors: Matilda Welsh (B) 9.39 and Zac Brennan (O) 8.59

Intermediates: Emily Hayden de Carbonnières (H) 11.06 and Lorcan Oliver (K) 8.27

Seniors: Faith Chen (B) 14.42 and Jake Riddington (M) 12.08

Overall, Queen's and Oxford won this year's cross-country.

For the girls, the champions 2021-22 were Hollenden, by 1 point!

Reade are second, then Queens and Buchanan.

For the boys, the champions are Oxford.

Cambridge snatch second from Keable, St Andrew's and Madden.



## TRAMPOLINING

Despite the challenges of the past few years, the trampoline squad has been at its strongest this year. It was fantastic to welcome back the trampolinists and they worked super hard to prepare for the London Regional round of the National Schools competition. We entered a staggering 47 pupils across the School and the results were fantastic! We took home six team titles, and four pupils were crowned London individual champions. Congratulations to Eivie Lloyd, Alex Mazzoni, Raphael Poon-Jamin and Shayna Patel.

The U13 Girls finished as runners-up along with Anna Stone, Lukyan Starikov, Freddie Fraser and Oneli Pelpola individually; another two teams placed 3rd with Amy Tree, Eivie Lloyd and Nathan Elson occupying the bronze medal slot. Along with nine other pupils finishing 4th and 5th, we had a 36 strong team through to the Southern

Zonal finals taking place in Taunton.

It was a much tougher competition in Taunton, with qualification through to the National Finals at stake. However, after everyone's hard work it was great to see the improvements the squad had made. Raphael won his group alongside the U13 Boys, U11 Boys and U14 Girls Intermediate teams. Two teams finished as runners-up along with Shayna 2nd individually; Lukyan and Freddie finished in 3rd with Bradley Kingston 4th and all gained individual places at the National Finals. Once again, this record of 20 pupils through to the Nationals was awesome.

At the National Finals in Macclesfield we pushed hard in training, improved our routines and four was our lucky number, with four of the teams plus Raphael finishing in 4th position. A wonderful experience for the squad!

We also hosted the Croydon Schools trampoline event for both Junior and Senior pupils, once again the pupils did not disappoint with several medals picked up across the board for teams and individuals.

Finally, we hosted the IAPS National Trampoline Finals, it was amazing to have this exciting event back at Royal Russell. The morning started well with the U11 and U9 Girls all bouncing well. In the biggest group of the day, Elowen Day finished in a superb 3rd place with Margaret Kawa just behind in 4th. In both groups the A team were runners-up with the B team 3rd. The boys competed in the afternoon with Nathan keeping his cool to place 2nd, the U11 boys team finished in 3rd place and Lukyan competed superbly and was rewarded with being crowned National Champion! A fantastic result, and well done to all pupils in our trampoline squads.



In June, the Year 3 pupils took part in a CCF Twilight Experience within the School grounds. Cadets from the Royal Russell School CCF led a range of exciting activities that provided a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to use their Russell Powers.

**B**reaking into three groups, we began by learning how to stand to attention and how to march, before making our way to the first of three activities: camouflage and concealment, blind trail, and a hidden objects treasure hunt.

For camouflage and concealment, we learnt all the steps for remaining hidden from an enemy, such as being still, being silent, and breaking up our body shape. We then applied face paints to mask our skin using three different natural colours (brown, green and maroon) before playing a version of 'hide and seek' in the woods

and long grass whilst being hunted by cadets armed with water pistols.

Next came the blind trail, where the entire group was blindfolded except for the leader, who then had to guide the rest through the trail, holding on to each other with one hand and a guide rope in the other. Many of the pupils had the opportunity to be the leader, with varying degrees of success, giving instructions to their group to avoid obstacles and navigate safely through the trees.

Lastly, came the hidden objects treasure hunt. The scenario: following a plane crash,

we had to make our way quickly and safely through enemy territory to locate twenty items of wreckage. Some items were obvious whilst others were well hidden, and there were a few obstacles to avoid along the way, including an enemy soldier (a huge teddy bear) armed with a water pistol! The evening concluded with a barbecue.

Thank you to all those in the CCF who were involved in making this such a successful event and for giving our Year 3 pupils a flavour of life in the Senior School, and the range of opportunities and skills that the CCF has to offer.



# Theatre Society

What a wonderful year for the Theatre Society. We really made the most of being back in the West End, with ten shows on our wishlist: a record! And what a range of productions.

There was the spine-chilling 'Woman in Black', followed by 'Witness for the Prosecution', staged in County Hall court. We enjoyed the spectacular dance and cheerleading moves in 'Bring it On', with the magical 'Matilda' and 'Mamma Mia' following. 'Mary Poppins' was indeed practically perfect in every way. We watched a very modern 'Cinderella', then 'The Lion King' and the hilarious and thought-provoking 'Six!' Our final show was the

incredibly moving 'Dear Evan Hansen'. The Buchanan girls also watched a lightning-fuelled Delorean take off from the audience in 'Back to the Future': one for the Theatre Society next year!

A huge thank you to all the staff who led these fantastic trips, to the marvellous Mrs Smith, Senior School Learning Administrator, to the members of the society for being so well-behaved and

such lovely company, and of course to the parents for being there in the car park to pick everyone up on those long evenings.

*"It doesn't matter what age you are. But if our hearts get opened and released - well that is what theatre can do, and does sometimes, and everyone is thankful when that happens."* (Vanessa Redgrave)



# Young Voices 2022

In April, a talented group of Year 5 and 6 pupils travelled to London's O2 Arena to rehearse and then perform in Young Voices 2022! They had an amazing experience, singing and dancing alongside over 8,000 children as well as The Beatbox Collective, Urban Strides, Ward Thomas and Laura Wright. The event was inspirational, powerful and an incredible celebration of both music and life. Congratulations to our amazing children, who worked so hard to prepare for this incredible concert.



# 1853 Society

This year, we were finally able to plan events back onsite and The 1853 Society delivered some wonderful events. The Junior School Christmas Fair in December was truly magical, this was followed by events such as R-Fest, the Cheese and Wine evening, the Open-Air Cinema night and, of course, the 1853 Society Ball.

The 1853 Society also generously donated funds to special projects across the School, which included the fantastic Moral Compass mosaic in the Junior School and the Basketball Half Court in between the Boarding Houses. Our huge thanks to The 1853 Society and all the volunteers who made these events happen – the community is truly grateful for everything you do.



# Celebrating Lunar New Year

In February, the School held an event to celebrate the Lunar New Year for our boarding community, which took place in the Boys' Houses. The evening began with a stunning performance in the Chapel, followed by an informative presentation by Year 13 pupil Brian Park on how Koreans celebrate Lunar New Year. A number of Sixth Form performers offered songs and tunes ranging from love songs to rap. It was a splendid array of talent.

On returning to the Boys' House, the boarders were met with a delightful surprise of colourful Lion Dancers who entertained the crowd and posed for photos. Next into the foyer there were two tables with 200 red crackers made by Mrs Jeffree, Assistant Housemistress. 30 crackers contained Lucky Golden tickets with prizes containing Eastern Asian treats and even real money! The drinks table was laid out with bubble tea and cold drinks for refreshments.

On entering the second room, our guests were presented with a stunning ten course banquet meal to select from, such as Kung Pho chicken and recipes supplied by Yanning Lyu (Year 13) who was in charge of the event. A fabulous table of cut exotic

fruits and Tiger cupcakes completed the fare. Year 13 pupils also gathered to make traditional dumplings to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which looked amazing!

The Library was also involved in the festivities and was delighted to welcome pupils back to celebrate the start of the Lunar New Year : The Year of the Tiger. Mr Moseley, Director of International Relations, opened the lunchtime event by wishing everyone a Happy New Year in four different languages! The celebrations were co-ordinated by Yanning Lyu, who began with a presentation on the traditions and superstitions of the festival, including not cutting or washing your hair during the New Year period. Brian Park then told everyone how the celebrations centre around the

family with gifts and special food to symbolise good health and long life.

To finish off the festivities, Mrs Si-Wen Tang, a previous staff member who used to teach cookery classes, kindly returned to Royal Russell to provide us all with some tasty home-made traditional Chinese delicacies which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We had missed the opportunity to gather and celebrate this special occasion for the last two years, so were all extra appreciative of the hard work and effort that pupils and staff put into making this year's celebration so special.





# Old Russellians

## ANDREW FOOT'S MEMORIAL EVENT

We had a fantastic turnout for Andrew Foot's memorial event here at Royal Russell. We welcomed Old Russellians spanning 70 years to share their memories of Andrew's immense contribution to the School as well as memories of their own times here - a number of which involved using dinners trays as sleds on Cambridge slope in the snow! Thank you to all who joined us, it was lovely to welcome so many of you back to Royal Russell. The Old Russellians Society donated a tree to be planted in Chapel Quad and a bench which has been placed over the bowler's shoulder on Top Pitch in Andrew's memory.



## FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

What a fantastic day we had at the Old Russellian Football Tournament this Spring! Thank you all competitors for making it such a fun day and to Old Russellian Danny O'Rourke (2017, Cambridge) in particular who organised the format for the day.



## CLASSES OF 2019 - 2021 REUNION

We welcomed back the classes of 2019, 2020 and 2021 to campus for a fantastic Reunion drinks reception in Lime Tree Quad on Royal Russell Day. For many, this is the first time they have been welcomed back to campus due to Covid restrictions and it was so lovely to see so many familiar faces. The Old Russellians Society gifted the guests with Old Russellian ties and bracelets to wear when they are out there changing the world!

## BASKETBALL MATCH

This Summer the Old Russellian Basketball squad returned to Royal Russell to compete in a match against the staff and U16/U18 team players. It was great to see the return of former Head Boy Amanfi Aggrey, Maxwell James, Zehao Li, Will Jones, Ayo Adeogba, Oscar Luo and Titus Lo. Representing the Staff Team was Alex Stathopoulos, Colin Dear, Brian Moore, James Ward, Liam Cassidy, Harriet Fowler, Yaning Lu, Jampo Wang and Victor Ayodele. In a closely fought match both teams played well with some outstanding long-range shooting from Amanfi Aggrey, Maxwell James and Mr Stathopoulos, however the OR's were victorious on the day and managed to secure a 12 point win.





"I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration to work together."

- Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II



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