

# Senior



Royal  
Russell



“ The school is highly successful in meeting its aim to provide an outstanding academic education and an extensive range of co-curricular activities in the context of a family school. Throughout the school, from the EYFS to the Sixth Form, pupils' achievement in academic subjects is excellent.

*ISI Inspection Report*



# We Are Royal Russell

I am delighted that you have expressed an interest in joining Royal Russell School.

Our happy, vibrant and forward-looking community provides our girls and boys with an exceptional educational experience and, in a society seemingly obsessed with data and targets, it is all too easy to lose sight of what an exceptional education actually means.

A Royal Russell education is one that is a personal experience for every child. Our pupils matter to us and they are nurtured, valued and praised. They are given opportunities and challenges where they are allowed to enjoy their success and learn from their experiences. We recognise that the relative progress and achievements of the individual are just as important as the success of the cohort as a whole.

Our pupils are remarkable and a pleasure to teach. They are respectful, enthusiastic, motivated and tolerant. We expect them to take risks in the pursuit of personal development and to become confident and resilient. We therefore select pupils who we feel will work hard, share their talents and take full advantage of the opportunities Royal Russell has to offer by playing an active role in our community.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Chris Hutchinson  
Headmaster



# Space to Learn

Our extensive and impressive on-site facilities and state of the art technology blend effortlessly with the stunning original architecture that can be seen throughout our campus.

The buildings and grounds throughout our 110 acre estate are professionally cared for and we take great pride in our environment.

We make full use of our space and the opportunities it offers. We play in it, we paint it, we study it, we film in it, we photograph it, we run through it, we camp in it.

Where better than outside to read, re-enact a moment in history, or conduct an explosive science experiment?

Our pupils have space to learn, space to play, space to laugh, space to explore, space to grow, space to challenge and space to be themselves as part of our close community.

# We are Achievers

A Royal Russell education will equip your child thoroughly and suitably for a competitive and challenging world.

Our broad and stimulating curriculum, latest technology and highly dedicated staff combine to stretch imaginations, inspire creative thinking and raise aspirations. Our pupils have an extraordinary range of talents, which we seek out, nurture and celebrate.

We believe strongly in co-education and that the best learning takes place with girls and boys working together, benefiting from different interpretations, perspectives and learning styles.

Emphasis is placed strongly on effort, both academic and in the wide range of co-curricular

activities on offer to enrich learning. Hard work and commitment is expected, recognised and rewarded.

We have a well-developed and sophisticated Careers Department and specialist careers lessons are firmly embedded in the curriculum.

Our pupils deserve to achieve the best exam results they can. Our girls and boys achieve excellent results due to the commitment of their teachers to deliver the very best lessons and the attitude and willingness of our pupils to learn.



“ Our children are very different and the school provides for that. They are very happy at Royal Russell. They will leave the school well educated, confident young adults with a great grounding for their futures.





“ Love the atmosphere and friendly feel the school creates, from staff and children, which is quite unique.



# We love Sport

Participation and enjoyment of sport, at all levels, is at the core of our ethos.

Sport promotes a healthy lifestyle and develops teamwork, discipline, resilience and personal motivation. Above all, sport at Royal Russell is an enjoyable experience.

We offer an extensive range of sports for quality participation, fitness and fun including Football, Netball, Hockey, Cricket, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Table Tennis, Basketball, Athletics and Rounders. All pupils have timetabled PE lessons along with a games afternoon. We enjoy a busy fixture list throughout the year and are proud to put out a large number of teams, giving all pupils the opportunity to represent their school, regularly winning local, regional and national titles.

For our elite athletes, we employ the latest coaching techniques, physical conditioning methods and video technology alongside

training from specialist coaches, each expert in their field. We are able to identify those students displaying sporting talent and provide tailor made development programmes for teams and individuals.

Scholarships help recruit outstanding athletes and we support their aspirations through our Academy programme.

We continue to invest heavily in sport and our exceptional on-site facilities include four full size and four junior size grass football pitches, a new national standard floodlit astroturf pitch for Hockey and two further new floodlit all-weather games areas for Netball and Tennis. We also have a large, well equipped sports hall, gymnasium, 25 metre indoor swimming pool and a new athletics field and cricket square. A challenging cross-country course winds its way through our extensive grounds.



“ My daughter has grown much more confident and has developed a keen sense of academic purpose that we can attribute to the excellent care and nurturing environment at Royal Russell School.



# We are Performers

Music and Drama play an exciting and prominent role at Royal Russell, with pupils of all abilities regularly participating.

Activity centres around our superb Performing Arts Centre at the heart of our campus, providing an abundance of opportunities for music making and performing.

Our Drama department is lively and dynamic. It offers all pupils the opportunity to take part, both within the curriculum and as a co-curricular activity to build their personal confidence and develop their ability to speak in public, as well as enabling those with a creative streak to fully express themselves.

There are many productions throughout the year, including House competitions and the eagerly anticipated annual School Play. The year 7 to 9 production provides the opportunity for our younger pupils to be in the spotlight.

Our thriving Music department has gained a

reputation for musical excellence with a great many of our pupils taking individual music tuition and achieving significant musical success.

We have a Jazz Band, Swing Band, Orchestra and various choirs, including the Chamber Choir and Barbershop for male voices. Pupils have an abundance of opportunities to perform in the many concerts held throughout the year.

Music will always remain a non-elitist department, encouraging music making of any standard or genre simply for personal enjoyment.

One of our great strengths is the close collaboration between the Music and Drama departments, who regularly come together for school productions.



“ I wish I was a pupil!  
An excellent school with  
caring and professional staff.



# We are Creative

There is immense enjoyment and personal satisfaction in the bringing to life of ideas and concepts.

There is nothing like creating something that is beautiful, useful, entertaining, captures a moment in time, or is simply well presented and delicious!

Creative expression is liberating and rewarding. It encourages independent thinking, experimentation and risk taking.

Our Art, Photography, Media, Food and Design Technology departments nurture the creative

streak in every pupil, with exceptional results. Our pupils' creations can be seen throughout our school. Art and Photography pieces adorn our corridors and the results of Design and Technology projects can be seen in our reception areas.

Media pupils produce all our official school videos and their work is showcased in our annual Royal Russell 'Roscars' event.

# We are Contributors

The development of social skills, confidence, leadership and resilience cannot be achieved through a purely academic curriculum. We encourage a healthy balance of academic rigour and co-curricular participation, where pupils can explore alternative interests and unearth hidden talents.

We run an exciting programme of enriching clubs and activities, in which all pupils are encouraged to participate, to enhance their studies, learn new skills, extend their friendship groups or simply just to have fun and relax at the end of a busy school day.

Our Model United Nations (MUN) programme is second to none in the UK and our own annual conference, held in October, has an international reputation for excellence. Pupils develop excellent debating and public speaking skills and have the opportunity to attend many conferences both in the UK and worldwide.

We have an active Combined Cadet Force

(CCF) who train weekly within our extensive grounds, in Army and RAF sections. Our cadets attend prestigious leadership courses and travel to many residential camps at military bases throughout the year.

Our Duke of Edinburgh training represents significant personal challenge, with regular Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions.

Pupils are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of school life and contribute to the running of their school. Through the Student Council, Food Committee, pupil-led School Newspaper and in their Houses, pupils share their ideas, collaborate positively and organise social and charity events.



“ We believe that the wide range of opportunities both academic, the arts and sport give a well rounded education and capitalises on the strengths of the individual child.





# We are Adventurous

A Royal Russell education runs far beyond the classroom and we offer a comprehensive schedule of day and residential trips for every year group.

Academic departments lead educational trips to inspire and engage pupils in the topics being taught and deepen their understanding by first-hand experience.

Learning is brought to life by fieldwork trips, visits to galleries and museums and attending conferences and workshops.

Residential trips provide the opportunity for adventure, study and the broadening of horizons. Pupils gain independence away from home and form new friendship groups.

Geography pupils have recently travelled

to Wales, Spain, America and Iceland. Our Linguists have enjoyed cultural exchanges to France and Spain. The History department has visited the battlefields in Ypres. The Science department has visited the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland and a large group of pupils of all ages attended the annual ski trip to America.

We also run regular evening and weekend trips to the theatre, theme parks and London attractions, purely for our pupils' enjoyment, as well as a comprehensive programme of activities for our boarding pupils.



“ All three of our children have attended the Senior School at some stage of their education. They have thoroughly enjoyed their years at Royal Russell and have achieved their full academic potential, benefitting from very caring and supportive staff who have enabled them to become confident and well rounded young people. As parents, we have been extremely pleased with our choice of school for our children in all aspects and would (and do) recommend it very highly.



# We are Important

It is of paramount importance that our girls and boys are happy and enjoy their time at school and their emotional and physical needs are catered for. Pupils perform best when they feel secure, accepted and supported and are not unduly stressed or pressurised. We do all that we can to ensure that pupils quickly settle in, get involved and make new friends.

Our approach to individual warmth, care and attention is highly valued by our pupils and their parents.

Our outstanding pastoral care is strengthened by our House system. Whilst we celebrate all that is successful in co-education, we are aware that girls and boys have different pastoral needs, especially during the tricky teenage years.

All pupils, boarding and day, are attached to one of nine Houses and are supported by our Tutor system. Personal Tutors get to know each child well and understand their

interests, needs, aspirations and concerns. They work hard on an individual level to nurture, inspire, motivate and encourage self-belief and confidence.

Each pupil's academic progress, effort and social wellbeing are monitored closely and our high standards dictate a swift response to any concerns through our warm and caring relationships between pupils, parents and staff.

Pupils have a variety of routes for advice, support or just a reassuring chat; with older pupils, their Tutor, teachers, the School Counsellor, Independent Listener and our School Chaplain.

# We Feel at Home

Around one fifth of our girls and boys live at school in our well-positioned and homely boarding houses.

Pupils within our thriving boarding community join us from the local area and from overseas and add a vibrant international dimension to our 24 hour school life. Boarders are able to enjoy their school day with day pupils, have time to take part in activities after school and complete their homework in a quiet, supervised environment. Their free time can be spent socialising and relaxing with their friends in comfortable surroundings.

Whilst boarders may spend weekends with their family or guardians, the majority remain in school, taking part in the host of activities and trips laid on for their enjoyment.

Ultimately, each boarding house is a home. All our boarding staff live on-site, creating a friendly, happy and supportive family atmosphere.

Our new Boys' Day and Boarding House was built in 2017 and an impressive new building for our Girls' will open in September 2020.

Our boarding pupils thrive, enthusiastically embracing their increased responsibilities. They learn important life skills, including those of collaboration, tolerance and resilience, that prepare them well for university and beyond. They form lasting relationships that span the world, generating those future networking opportunities that are important in today's global society.

All our pupils, both boarding and day, enjoy their time at school and feel happy, safe and secure within our caring, family orientated community.



“ The most important reason for choosing Royal Russell for my child was the house system that provides excellent pastoral care. The social skills fostered at Royal Russell are equally as important as the high academic achievement.

# Royal and Loyal

Royal Russell is proud to have enjoyed Royal Patronage from its foundation and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has visited our school on four occasions.

In 1863, Edward, Prince of Wales became our first Royal Patron. Upon the death of his mother, Queen Victoria, and his succession to the throne, King Edward VII became our first Patron who was the Ruling Monarch.

King Edward VII was succeeded by King George V, King Edward VIII and King George VI, all Patrons of our school, until in 1952 our Patronage was accepted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Royal Russell is privileged to be one of a very select group of organisations to have each monarch in succession accepting the office of Patron.

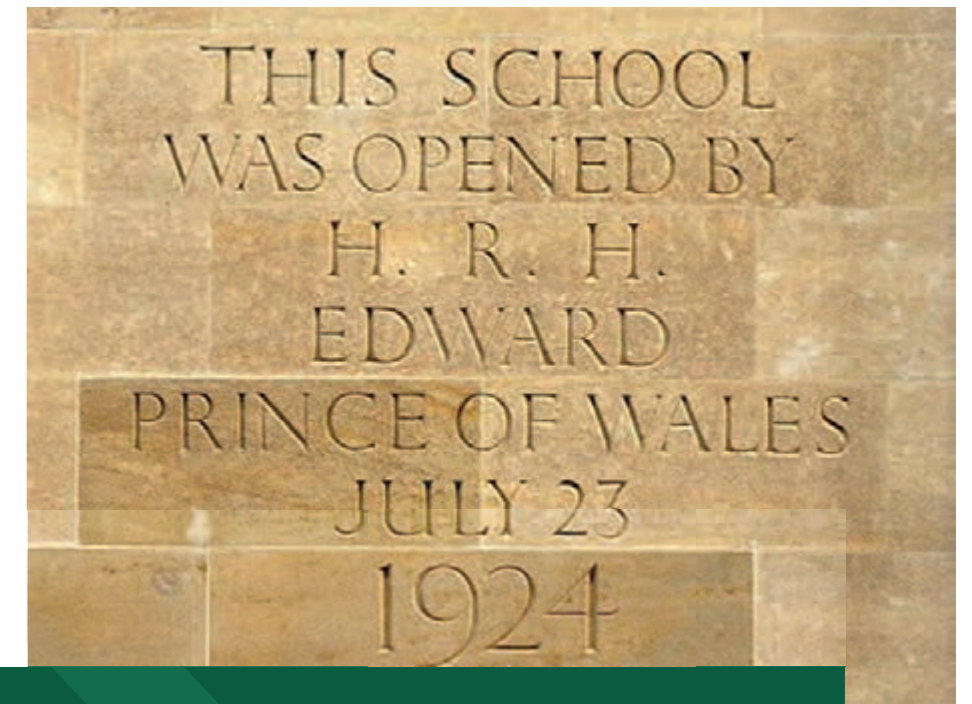
Her Majesty's first visit to Royal Russell was in 1950 as Princess Elizabeth and she returned in 1963 to open Cambridge Boarding House and the Practical Block.

In 1979, Queen Elizabeth II joined celebrations to mark our 125 years and visited us again in 2003, our sesquicentennial year, to open the Library and Sixth Form Centre.

The School celebrated the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and, in 2016, we were invited to attend the Patron's Lunch event, with our pupils joining the spectacular parade along The Mall, to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday.

“

I have not been back to the school for a while and, as an Old Russellian, what struck me was the whole ambience and atmosphere being indicative of a successful and thriving community, and long may it last.



## We have History

We are proud of the long and honorable history of our school.

Royal Russell was founded in 1853 as a charity to look after the orphan children of families from the textile trades. Former Prime Minister Lord John Russell, consented to be President of the School and the majority of pupils were supported by generous donations and scholarships.

Charles Dickens spoke of those who supported our school in a speech he made at the London Tavern in 1857: 'This is a school which can provide such a home as their own dear children might find happy refuge in, if they themselves were taken early away. And I fearlessly ask you, is this not the sort of school which is deserving of your support?'

At the end of the First World War, the School had 327 girls and boys in its care and had outgrown its site in Russell Hill, Purley. A new site was needed and in a breathtaking act of generosity, in 1924 Lord Howard Hollingsworth purchased our current site and donated it to

the Trustees as a gift in memory of the members of the textile trades who had left their peaceful occupations and gave their lives for their country in the Great War. Lord Hollingsworth felt that the best and most practical way to honour those who died was to provide a good education and a fair chance in life to the sons and daughters they left behind.

Reference to our heritage can be seen throughout the school in the many plaques laid by our generous benefactors, the stained glass in the Chapel and Great Hall and the many portraits of our Patrons, Presidents and Headmasters. The original architecture, designed by Sir Aston Webb, continues to blend effortlessly with our more modern buildings.

Whilst our school dates back almost 165 years, we are very much a forward-thinking 21st century school, upholding the values of our founders.

“

My son Téo was 3 years old when he was chosen by his teachers to greet the Queen and present her with a bouquet of flowers during her visit to Royal Russell in 2003. It was such an exciting day for all the children and we feel honoured to have been part of such a wonderful occasion.



# We are Supporters

We are extremely fortunate that our parents enthusiastically support our school and their children's education. From our energetic Parents' Association to attendance at our many events throughout the year, our parents get involved and are our greatest advocates.

“ I feel both my children have been given the best academic start in life possible by Royal Russell. It's been a great experience. Thank you!

The school community is great, very warm atmosphere and lovely staff. Grounds are superb.

Pastoral care in the house system is excellent – our son has benefited enormously from the firm but supportive relationship with his year Tutor and Housemaster – both of whom have made themselves available for discussions with us.

The experience both our children have enjoyed at Royal Russell goes beyond education and has resulted in a genuine love of their school days and respect and affection of the teaching staff. I believe their ties to the school will prove to be lifelong.

I receive a lot of help with fees from Royal Russell so that my daughters can attend. It would still be my first choice if I could afford the full fees: it has a family feel and provides wonderful extra curricular

and cultural opportunities, as well as high quality teaching. The relationships between staff and pupils are excellent, and the house system impresses everyone that I recommend the school to.

My daughter is very happy and doing extremely well and we are happy with her progress. On the two occasions I have contacted the school, my questions have been dealt with promptly and to my satisfaction. Right choice for my daughter. Really like strong sense of community.

We have always felt the campus/facilities are great. Royal Russell pupils are always polite and well presented. Sam has been extremely happy at the school from the age of four and a large part of this has been down to the excellent pastoral care and genuine interest in the individual.

Strong reason for choosing Royal Russell is it caters for different levels of academic achievements and we thought it would help our son get the best grades he can achieve.

I am very satisfied with the standard of service and education provided for both my daughters. Royal Russell turned their academic careers around and we owe the school a huge debt of gratitude for this success.

We are very pleased that we chose Royal Russell for our children.



I thought it fitting to end this prospectus with the thoughts I shared with our pupils, their families and all our staff at Royal Russell Day:

*In reflecting on this year of progress for Royal Russell I have been asking myself how we define 'success' and the characteristics that successful members of this community show.*

*At Royal Russell we understand that there is more to success than just one dimension and I believe that successful people and particularly successful pupils, show some or all of the following:*

*They show passion for areas of the curriculum and co-curriculum at the same time as having a balanced view of the passions and interests of others.*

*They are hardworking and focused without becoming obsessed.*

*They are engaged, self-aware and self-confident without a hint of arrogance and most importantly they understand the value of service and of Non Sibi Sed Omnibus.*

*Everything we do involves relationships with people. People we know, people we don't; people we see everyday, people we see once and never again; people we love, and people with the capacity to be loved. People who we respect, people we care for and who care for us.*

*Many of you will know that the Duke of Wellington, as well as being a successful military leader, was also twice the Prime Minister, as was our own Lord John Russell.*

*Wellington's biographer wrote; "Sir Winston Churchill once told me of a reply made by the Duke of Wellington, in his last years, when a friend asked him: "If you had your life over again, is there any way in which you could have done better?" The old Duke replied: "Yes, I should have given more praise."*

*So, with the Old Duke in mind I would like to praise and thank those who have made this year so successful for us all.*

*Firstly, 'Thank you' to our Teaching and Classroom Staff who mirror so many of those success characteristics and have given their expertise, their knowledge, their time and of themselves to ensure that this year is as successful as possible for all our pupils.*

*My second 'Thank you' is to our wonderful Royal Russell pupils. I cannot think of a more lively and interesting bunch and I want you to know just how much of a privilege it is to work with you all.*

*In my newsletter last week I described you as:*

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>R</b> emarkable  | <b>R</b> eliable      |
| <b>O</b> penhearted | <b>U</b> nderstanding |
| <b>Y</b> outhful    | <b>S</b> ociable      |
| <b>A</b> dventurous | <b>S</b> ensitive     |
| <b>L</b> imitless   | <b>E</b> xciting      |
|                     | <b>L</b> oyal         |
|                     | <b>L</b> oving        |

*You are the School and it is very fitting that we should be here this morning to celebrate your success and to reflect on the amazing range and variety of activities that you have undertaken.*

*My third and final 'Thank you' is to our parents and supporters who bring so much extra to our community. Be it directly in support of your children and of the events we are running or indirectly in the positive messages that you send to those who have not yet experienced this amazing school.*

Simply put, 'We Are Royal Russell'.

**Chris Hutchinson**  
**Headmaster**





**Royal Russell School**

Coombe Lane | Croydon | CR0 5RN

[www.royalrussell.co.uk](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk)

Tel: 020 8657 4433



/RoyalRussellSchool



@Royal\_Russell

Leading  
Independent  
Schools



**bsa** | BOARDING  
SCHOOLS'  
ASSOCIATION