



Royal
Russell



Campus Masterplan



www.royalrussell.co.uk

Introduction

Royal Russell is a special place where our pupils thrive in a happy, vibrant, forward-thinking community.

The facilities and space we enjoy today were created over many decades by those committed to providing an exceptional education to generations of children.

We have inherited a fine set of buildings and facilities in a wonderful parkland setting. In recent years we have added to them; building the Library (2003), Performing Arts Centre (2009), Artificial and Natural Pitches (2014), Sports Pavilion (2016) and new Day and Boarding House (2017).

A significant proportion of our building portfolio was constructed during the 1960s, using the Laingspan system building method, popular due to its build quality, quick construction and reasonable cost. However, critically for us today, Laingspan buildings are known to have a limited lifespan and these buildings continue to age.

The need to remove these buildings provided a unique opportunity to not merely renew and replace, but to completely reimagine our space

and the opportunities it brings.

The result is a bold, ambitious and well thought out Campus Masterplan, that sets out the development of our estate and infrastructure and aligns with the wider pupil focused themes in our strategic intent.

We envision modern, flexible spaces that will allow for the rich and dynamic ways in which our pupils and staff will work together to achieve academic and co-curricular excellence and achievement.

We will provide a world class learning, working and living environment that will enhance our local, national and international reputation.

An exciting, sustained and scheduled period of change lies ahead which will benefit current and future generations of Russellians.

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster

“A unique opportunity to not merely renew and replace, but completely reimagine our space and the opportunities it brings.”

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Our Vision

Learning at Royal Russell happens in all kinds of ways. Pupils might be out of their seats, working in groups and moving around our outside spaces.

They use technology to enrich their lessons, enhance creativity and collaborate and share information and ideas in new ways.

Not all classrooms have walls. Learning happens everywhere. We are fortunate to have expansive outdoor spaces for lessons, co-curricular endeavours, the enjoyment of sport, and for our pupils to socialise, play and enjoy moments of quiet reflection.

Our pupils are learning to navigate a world that will need their brilliance, integrity, generosity and humanity. It is our responsibility to provide an environment that promotes innovation, excellence and compassion to prepare our pupils to succeed as leaders, innovators and contributors.

To achieve our vision, the School appointed a team comprising of staff and Governors, with

professional support, skills and expertise provided by Architects, Planners, Ecologists, Traffic Flow Consultants and Quantity Surveyors.

Spirited, engaged and thoughtful discussions led to the creation of a bold and transformative Masterplan and, subsequently, our approved planning application.

Our ambitious plans include the development of superior new accommodation for day and boarding pupils, upgrading and extending of our existing facilities and investment in innovative information technology to meet the academic and pastoral needs of our pupils, now and in the future.

“Not all classrooms have walls. Learning happens everywhere.”

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Our Buildings

The replacement of our Laingspan buildings - the Junior School, Queen's House, the Medical Centre, the original Cambridge House and the Practical Block form the core of our Masterplan. These buildings continue to age and are out of keeping with the timeless architecture of the original structures, designed by Sir Aston Webb in 1921.

Our aim is to replace these buildings with modern facilities, with a focus on flexibility and longevity that blend effortlessly into our landscape, protecting the character of the campus.

Expansion of our campus is limited by Greenbelt status and there is no allowance for 'bleeding the edges' of our footprint. Effective and appropriate use of the space available is critical.

The construction of the new Oxford and Cambridge Day and Boarding House has been a transformational addition at the heart of our campus, with the powerful knock-on effect of freeing up other spaces for new use.

A grouping of facilities is envisioned, providing a strategic, coherent and integrated location of activities. Whilst this is, to a degree, constrained by the existing buildings which will be preserved, we seek to create an ergonomically efficient flow of pupils from one area of the campus to another.

Our Masterplan will deliver 21st century, adaptable, technology enabled learning and teaching spaces that will enthuse and inspire our pupils to learn.

In a very tangible way, each phase of our building plan reinforces our commitment to providing the best possible educational and pastoral experience for our pupils.

Our Environment

The physical environment we inhabit influences our thoughts, feelings and behaviour. It is our intention to create a campus that is an attractive place to study, live and work.

Landscaping remains as important as the built environment in creating a positive experience, and the natural, cultivated and built elements of our campus should be complementary parts.

Our unique landscape and woodland setting is a major asset and we are conscious of our obligations to conservation. From the outset, we recognised that while developing our Masterplan proposals, we must take a responsible and sensitive approach to the protection and preservation of our open spaces.

The School is a haven for wildlife, including bats, badgers, deer and great crested newts and we will ensure that these are protected. Our woodland is also populated by many varieties of trees, many under preservation orders.

It is our intention to create a healthy living campus with areas for our pupils to have opportunities

for social interaction, recreation and quiet reflection, within a vigorous and spirited academic environment.

Our campus infrastructure determines how pupils, staff, parents and visitors enter the School and move around it, their navigation and routes taken.

Coherent connections between parts of the campus, gateways and thresholds create a visual sense of arrival and first impressions. Signage, branding, lighting, cleanliness and safety all contribute to the experience and create a sense of place, belonging and pride.

Well maintained soft landscaping, planting schemes, attractive gardens, natural meadow areas and boundary hedges will create a delightful ambience to our open spaces and spaces between buildings.



Campus Masterplan

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Our Future Developments

Oxford and Cambridge House

Our new £8m development opened for occupation in September 2017 and provides superior living, working and social spaces for both day pupils and boarders.

In addition to creating a stunning environment, our boarding houses were designed to be 'homes from home', where our boarders would feel part of a family within the wider Royal Russell community.



Relocation of the Memorial Garden

Our Memorial Garden provides a focal point for quiet reflection, remembrance and pride.

Each year, the whole School community gathers to remember those Old Russellians who lost their lives at war.

The Memorial Garden will be enlarged and relocated to Chapel Quad, in front of the Chapel.



Cricket Nets

As part of a wider vision for Royal Russell sport, we will lay down six state-of-the-art cricket nets as our non-turf cricket practice facility. This will greatly improve cricket performance and coaching across all ages.

We have a regular fixture list against strong local teams and cricket is run year-round to maximise potential.



Science Facility Extension

We wish to instil a love of science, technology and discovery in all the pupils.

Our extension to our current Science Facilities will have laboratories, additional teaching spaces and see the existing facilities renovated.

We envision innovative spaces which blend new technology with practical and theory lessons.



Queen's and Hollenden House

New House accommodation will be built for 180 Queen's and Hollenden Day and Boarding girls.

Similar in style to the new Oxford and Cambridge Houses, which opened in 2017, the building will include extensive pastoral spaces and modern bedrooms, some en-suite, under-floor heating, secure access control and large, airy spaces for study and leisure.



New Junior School

Our new purpose built Junior School will be built on the footprint of the old Queen's House and will provide a modern and stimulating environment for our youngest pupils.

Bespoke facilities for Science, Art and Design, Music and Drama will enhance the learning experience.

The footprint of the existing building will be transformed into expansive outdoor learning and play spaces.



Royal Russell

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

For further information and details of how you can help make our Masterplan a reality, sooner, please contact:

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