



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

10 January 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Our teaching staff enjoyed a very positive day of collaborative learning on Monday in training sessions focusing on the Royal Russell framework for excellence in teaching. Staff became students for the morning and attended a series of lessons given by colleagues which focused on empowerment, adaptation, challenge, achievement and reflection.

We were also pleased to welcome Ms Ellie Bonner, who joins the Business Studies department and will lead our Business BTEC programme, Ms Corbat who joins the MFL Department and Ms Griffith who joins the Music Department.

At the beginning of term, I also took the opportunity to update staff on the progress of our exciting new buildings. I was very pleased to report that the new accommodation for Queen's and Hollenden House, as well as the extension to our science facilities are both on track to be opened in time for full use in September 2020, as planned.

Our 11+ and 13+ Entrance Examination Days on Tuesday and Wednesday were full of youngsters keen to join Royal Russell next September. I was delighted to see a good number of existing Royal Russell families represented, especially the Royal Russell Junior School pupils who were taking their academic scholarship assessments.

We welcomed all of the Senior School pupils back for the start of term on Thursday. Some were already back into their academic routines with Year 11 completing Maths IGCSE Exams on Tuesday. Year 11 parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers at their Parents' Evening on Tuesday 21 January. Ahead of this, Mr Botting, Mr Selby, Ms Tovey and Ms Morris, our Head of Year 11 will be interviewing each of the Year 11 pupils to discuss their individual performance and aspirations.

Our Sport programme is already up and running with senior football fixtures in a tournament at St John's Leatherhead last Saturday. This afternoon the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were victorious in their Hudl League fixture against Repton, braving the driving rain to score twice in the final few minutes and secure the win. On the same afternoon, our Year 8 and 9 girls were very competitive in their U15 Netball Surrey Tournament at Lingfield.

'Good Luck' to all those playing hockey against Ashford and football against the Corinthian Casuals tomorrow.

Please make a note of the following Parents' and Information Evenings this term:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Year 9 GCSE Awareness Evening | Thursday 16 January 7.00pm in PAC Auditorium |
| Year 11 Parents' Evening      | Tuesday 21 January from 4.30pm in Great Hall |
| Year 9 Parents' Evening       | Tuesday 4 February from 4.30pm in Great Hall |
| Year 8 Parents' Evening       | Wednesday 11 March from 4.30pm in Great Hall |

The PAC Auditorium will be hosting our Showcase Music Concert on Tuesday 11 February at 7.00pm and the House Drama Competition on Thursday 19 March.

The Music Dinner will be held in Great Hall on Saturday 7 March from 7.00pm and the Spring Concert will be held in Great Hall on Monday 23 March at 7.00pm.

The Year 7 - 9 Play will be held in the Auditorium on Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March.

I look forward to seeing you at these events and at Chapel Services, Lectures and on the touchline. I also look forward to some exciting 1853 Society events including the 1853 Quiz Night on Saturday 8 February and the Russellian Ball on Saturday 28 March.

Happy New Year to all members of the Royal Russell Family. I wish you every success and fulfilment in 2020.

With best wishes,

**Chris Hutchinson**  
Headmaster

# Canterbury Tales Progress

## Miss Wong's Walkie Talkie Climb

Bhona Tayali and I (Miss Wong) were students here at Royal Russell School. To support the Canterbury Tales Challenge, Bhona and I decided to join forces together to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

As a person, I am very grateful that I was able to attend school and enjoy life. However, every day 619 children and young people from across the UK arrive for life-changing treatments at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The hospital battles the most complex illnesses to change the lives of thousands of children and change the world.

To support their work, Miss Wong and Bhona Tayali will be climbing 896 steps, over 36 floors in the Walkie Talkie (a.k.a. Sky Garden) to help raise money for seriously ill children on Saturday 29 February !!

This extraordinary hospital has always depended on charitable support, and every day is a chance for you to make a difference. Together we are aiming to raise at least £500.

If you can, please help us by donating [here](#).

Any donations will be most appreciated.

THANK YOU!



## Oxford, Cambridge & Friends' 24 hour Relay Run



Preparations are under way for Oxford & Cambridge's 24 hour relay run; part of the school's Canterbury Tales Charity initiative.

The boys and staff will run loops around school from midday on Saturday 18 January until the same time on Sunday. The aim is to run more than 133 miles, the length of the Pilgrim's Way from Winchester to Canterbury. This weekend we will be practising running with head torches, as well as making sure we are as fit and ready as possible.

The purpose of this relay is to raise awareness of men's mental health, and to encourage good habits including exercise, going outdoors, socialising and helping others. We are also hoping to raise money for the men's mental health charity, CALM.

If you would like to sponsor us, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

## Forthcoming Events - Check Firefly regularly for details and sign up!!

|              |                                  |         |                           |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| February 29  | Walkie Talkie Climb              | 13 June | Bike Ride from Canterbury |
| March 1 – 31 | Canterbury Swim                  | 14 June | Walking back from London  |
| March 6      | 24/7 Burn                        | 14 June | Grande Finale Weekend     |
| April 24     | Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral | 18 June | Bake Off                  |
| May 1        | Buchanan Sofa Surf Sleepover     |         |                           |
| May 1        | 24hr spin                        |         |                           |

# Key Diary Dates

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday 12 January   | Boarders' Activity Go Karting                |
| Sunday 12 January   | Chapel - Holy Communion                      |
| Thursday 16 January | Year 10 GCSE Geography Field Trip to Dorset  |
| Thursday 16 January | Year 9 Pupil & Parent GCSE Awareness Evening |
| Friday 17 January   | Year 12 & 13 Spanish Exchange Trip to Madrid |
| Friday 17 January   | Year 9 Elevate Study Skills                  |
| Sunday 18 January   | Boarders Activity Go Karting                 |
| Sunday 18 January   | Canterbury Tales - Pilgrims Way Relay        |

## 1853 Society Quiz Night

On Saturday 8 February, The 1853 Society will be hosting their annual Quiz Night. This is always a fun evening, combining a traditional quiz with a great opportunity to get together with friends.

The Quiz will be held in the Great Hall and doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Nibbles will be provided but please do bring either your own drinks, glasses and corkscrews or alternatively, there will be a licensed bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks on the night.

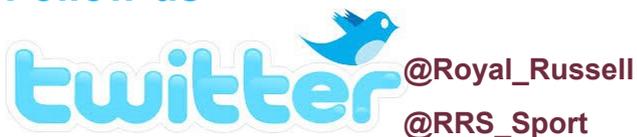
Tickets are £10 each and teams can be up to a maximum of 10 people. This is an adult only event, so no children please. If you would like to book please contact either [1853society@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:1853society@royalrussell.co.uk) or [mel@bruguier.net](mailto:mel@bruguier.net)



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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen