



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

31 January 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last Saturday, eight pupils participated in the Independent Schools' Mock Law Trials competition at the Inner London Crown Court. They worked hard to understand their individual roles and prepare their cases and against very stiff competition from much older pupils, performed brilliantly. Thank you to Mr Tanner and congratulations to Lara Flint, Vanessa Jin, Rosharna Thomas-Grant, Katie Hamerton, Charlotte Mawer, Emma Hourihan, Moses Ihasuyi and Sam Stealey.

On Sunday, our MUN team of delegates left for The Hague International Model United Nations Conference, the largest global student MUN conference. Our Senior MUNers, who have gained experience through our own conference, have been invited to hold key positions as officers and chairs of committees and when the team return later today, I look forward to hearing of their successes.

Our Senior Russell Talks programme welcomed our first Year 12 presenters last week. Leo Khamnei and Atta Aslanov spoke very thoughtfully on the dangers of vaping and this Tuesday, Ryan Kamdar and Lucas Humphries gave a very thought-provoking presentation on the influence that 5G will have on our lives.

On Tuesday evening a large number of parents joined staff in the Auditorium for a presentation on our study skills programme from 'Elevate'. Details of the Elevate programme and resources can be found on their website at <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/>

The next round of the House Quiz Bowl competition and a Maths Roadshow for Year 7 were run on Wednesday, our Theatre Club attended the 'Book of Mormon' in the West End last night and I was delighted to welcome our French Exchange Students from Cours St Charles in Orleans to meet their exchange partners this evening. We also held awareness evenings for the exciting Geography Trip to the Azores and the History Trip to Germany, which depart at half-term.

The U15A Footballers have continued to perform very impressively this week. On Saturday they took on Bedes in their final game of the Elgin League and finished with a 7-0 win which means that Royal Russell have been crowned champions of the Elgin League for the first time in the School's history, at this age group.

In Netball, particular mention goes to the U14A netball squad, who have had an undefeated week with victories against both St Dunstan's and Coloma. Tomorrow we have Year 7 Netball fixtures against St Dunstan's, Boys' Hockey against Caterham and Senior Football against Ardingly.

I would like to thank all members of the Royal Russell community for your understanding during this difficult week with news of the spread of the novel coronavirus. This afternoon at our assembly, we opened with a prayer for all those affected around the world. We also took time to reflect on the example and contribution of Kobe Bryant in a short tribute led by Year 11 pupil, Marshall Guo.

With best wishes,

**Chris Hutchinson**  
Headmaster

# Chapel News

On Holocaust Memorial Day Mr Stathopoulos, Housemaster of Madden, arranged for Marcel Ladenheim to speak in Chapel. His grandparents and father were killed in Auschwitz. In Paris his mother had a breakdown. Marcel, aged 3, knocked on the door of a stranger, Olga, who was a dancer at the Folies Bergère, the famous cabaret music hall. Olga became like a mother to Marcel, whom she hid, risking her own life.

The Church season of Epiphany follows the twelve days of Christmas and lasts from January 6<sup>th</sup>, when we celebrate of the visit to Jesus of the wise men, to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, forty days after Christmas. Called Candlemas, it celebrates the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. In a service we considered the meaning of wisdom, knowledge of what is good and right.

This year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Beethoven, the great German composer and pianist. We heard a recording of the first part of his *Moonlight Sonata*, with its powerful and haunting, yet quiet, melody. We considered how the beauty of his Creator shines through the beauty of his music. Beethoven fans can hear several orchestras play in the Barbican on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We compared the need of a mother's love in a comedy sketch, *Call from Long Island* (from YouTube), with the Old Testament story of the remarkable devotion of Ruth, from Moab, to Naomi, her mother-in-law from Bethlehem.



On Sunday evening there was a celebration of Holy Communion as well as the premiere service presented by Latessa, on the theme of community.



Proud Latessa presenters: Justyna, Sofya, Monika, Jakob and Junwei

On Sunday week, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5.45 p.m., new choristers will be formally admitted in a service of Choral Evensong. All welcome.



# The Hague MUN Conference

Royal Russell students make great start at THIMUN 2020!

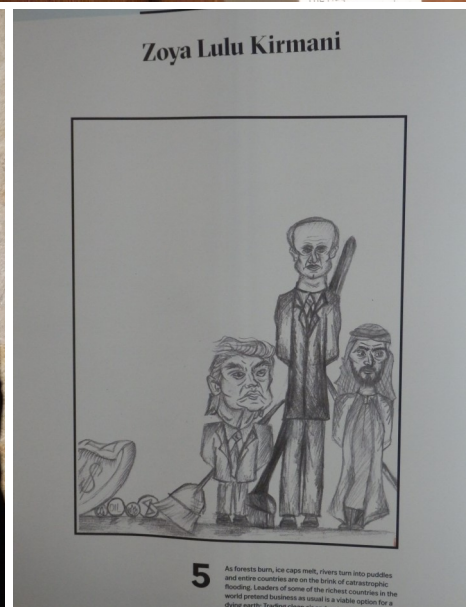
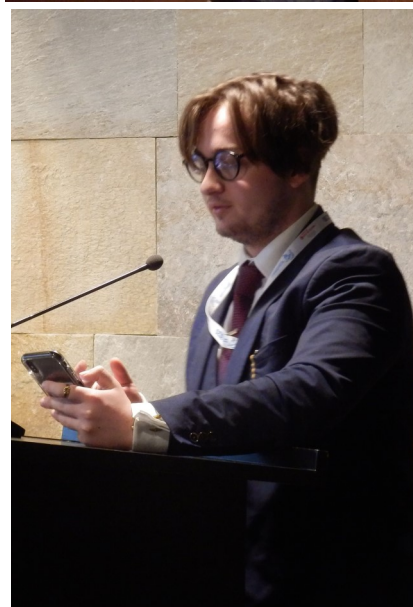
This year 18 students are attending the THIMUN conference in The Hague with three press students (Sammie, Zoya and Ella W), two chairs (Ella J and Dionne), and one judge on the ICJ (Aaron) alongside the 12 delegates representing Georgia.

Six students flew out on Saturday so that they could attend their preparatory meetings on Sunday. The delegates flew out a day later and, after a visit to the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam they met up with the others in The Hague. From Monday morning everyone has been busy. Zoya, Sammie and Ella W have already been involved in three editions of the paper with Ella's articles, Zoya's pictures and Sammie organising layout.

Ella J has been a star - as one of the Deputy Sec-Gens - helping to organise the Chairs' training and then busy running the conference with the other senior students. Dionne has made a great start as a committee Chair and Aaron has thrown himself into his role as a judge on the ICJ.

The delegates all got involved in lobbying on Monday and helping to write full resolutions. Tuesday was the first day of debate. Sam, Betsy and Krish all made excellent opening speeches and many have already taken the floor to speak. In particular Simon made a strong speech in favour of his amendment.

The star so far has been Sam who has already managed to get his resolution through the approval panel as main submitter and to introduce the resolution in his committee.

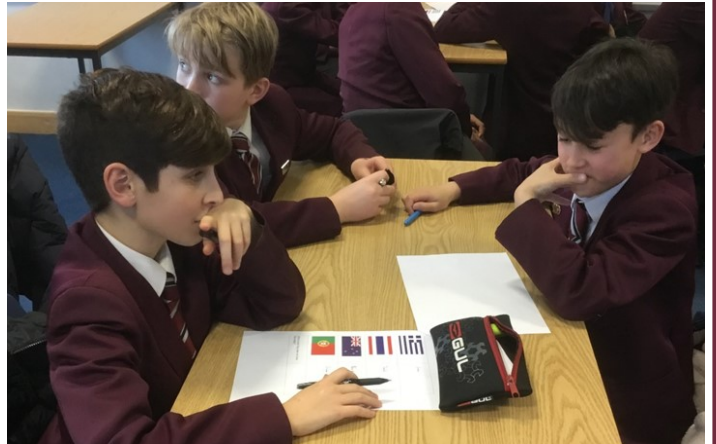


# Quiz Bowl

The second day of competition in the annual Quiz Bowl competition saw rounds on flags, codes and who am I?

There were some changes at the top of the leader board with Queen.s moving up two places with a 2 point advantage over Madden. Can Madden retain their crown? Another notable riser being Oxford. Well done to all those that represented their House.

Team selection for the next day of competition on Wednesday 10 February, with rounds on artists/song titles, current news and logos needs to be tactical as there are 40 points still up for grabs!



House	World	Obs	General				Who?	Flags	Codes		
	Round 1 (24)	Round 2 (10)	Round 3 (10)	Total (44)	Position		Round 4 (10)	Round 5 (10)	Round 6 (10)	Running Total (74)	Position
Buchanan	12	7	8	27	4		4	7	7	45	5
St Andrews	19	4	6	29	1		6	9	0	44	6
Madden	15	7	7	29	1		6	9	6	50	2
Reade	13	5	1	19	8		7	9	4	39	7
Cambridge	11	4	4	19	8		7	8	5	39	7
Keable	15	7	5	27	4		6	7	7	47	3
Queens	18	6	4	28	3		8	8	8	52	1
Oxford	16	7	3	26	6		8	9	4	47	3
Hollenden	12	5	5	22	7		0	0	0	22	9





# Year 7S Science Experiments

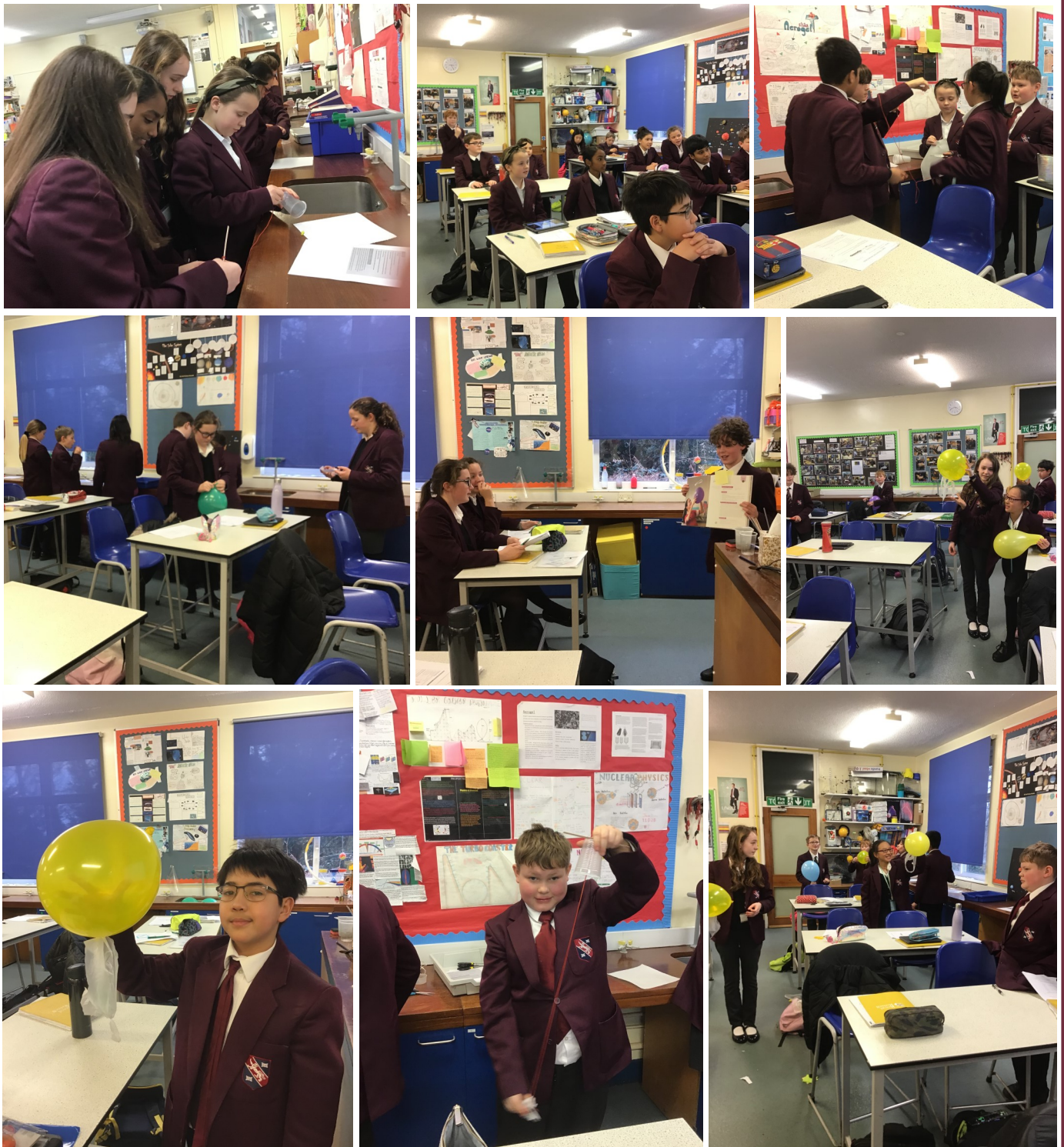
Recently I had been inspired by someone called Michelle Dickinson in a Science show in London. She had written a book called 'The Kitchen Science Cookbook'.

I found this book very exciting and when I found my favourites I asked my teacher if we could do them in class. This week in Science I explained to everyone what we would be doing and how it works. The three experiments I did with my class were 'levitating ring', where from electrostatic attraction we could try to make a plastic ring bag fly in the air.

The next was called 'whirlpool in a bottle' where we added washing liquid and water into a plastic bottle and shook it to create a kind of whirlpool. The final one was called 'chicken in a cup' where by using a plastic cup, string and wet paper towel to create a noise that sounded like a chicken. This was really fun.

Thank you to Mrs Semple for letting the class 7S try the experiments.

**By William Caldwell**





# Mock Law Trials Competition

Last Saturday a group of aspiring law students from Years 9–12 participated in the Independent School's Mock Law Trials competition at the Inner London Crown Court.

Our team had spent a relatively short amount of time in preparation for this competition, where each school is required to present opposing sides of specially written criminal cases in a live format against other schools, over three rounds.

Pitched against Sixth Form teams from Ibstock Place School, St George's School and Royal Hospital School, our younger pupils performed bravely: demonstrating both an understanding of the criminal justice system and the court process and the key skills required by those who work within it.

Our primary aim was for the pupils to enjoy themselves whilst trying something new, and gain a better understanding of what is involved in a legal career. In doing so, our team improved their teamwork and communication skills and showed resilience in what can be a rather challenging environment.

We had a great day and are very proud of our team. Special thanks go to our Barrister mentors, Mr Kris Venkatasami and Mr Richard Sedgewick.



# Parents Seminar on Study Skills

Many thanks to Joe from the Elevate organisation for delivering enjoyable and informative sessions to over two hundred Junior School and Senior School parents on Tuesday evening in the Auditorium.

Joe focused on strategies and techniques which help pupils outside the classroom, including the use of study plans and looking at motivation factors.

The talks complement our School Study skills programme which runs from Years 7 to 11, including a number of visits from Elevate. Indeed, on Friday afternoon Year 7 had an "in-house" session on summarising skills and next week we have half-day sessions booked for all pupils in Year 8 on effective study.





# Year 8 Maths Roadshow

The Library on Wednesday was transformed into a mathematical palace of fun!

Pupils in Year 8 were enthused by a wide variety of mathematical puzzles and hands-on activities. Many thanks to Andrew, from Cambridge University's Nrich project, for running this annual event.



## Senior Russell Talk

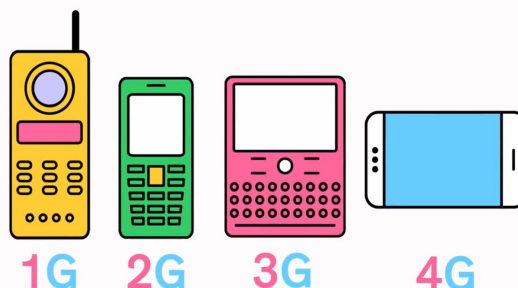
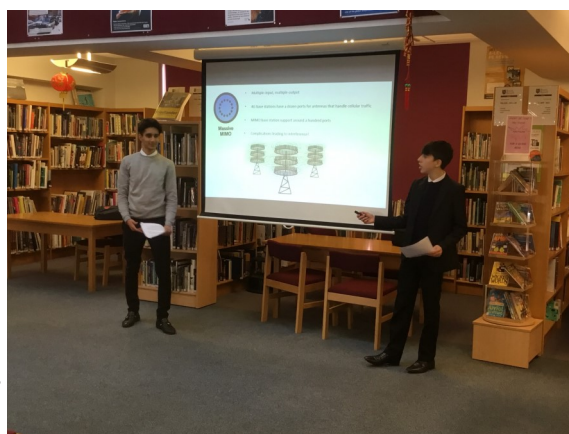
This week's Senior Russell Talk by Lucas and Ryan focused on technology: "5G – a fast or fatal future", revealing both the positive and negative effects.

The main thing that separates a 5G from a 4G network is the extremely low latency rate which is the amount of delay between sending and receiving. 5G reduces it from 100ms to 1ms - almost real time. The human reaction speed is 300ms and we still have lots of accidents with cars. Imagine if your car could respond to all of its surroundings on its own within 1ms. In theory this could not only prevent all accidents but get rid of traffic jams altogether.

5G will be the foundation for virtual reality, autonomous driving and things we can't even yet imagine. However there are over 2000 international based studies researching the effects of being exposed to this level of radiation and there is evidence that proves RF radiation is a direct cause of cancer.

At the moment there are only 10,000 devices per square mile however on a 5G network there can be up to 3 million devices. This influx of devices means that the general public will be constantly exposed to extreme levels of radiation and we are unsure about the effects.

It is important that people are aware that this technology is dangerous even though the benefits can be blinding.





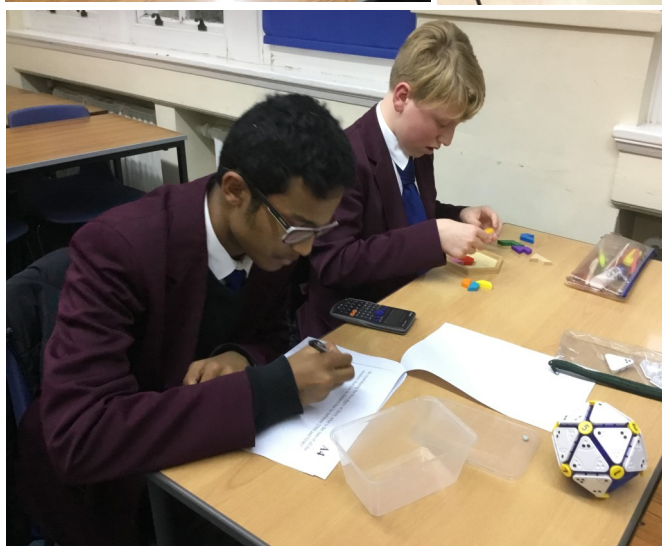
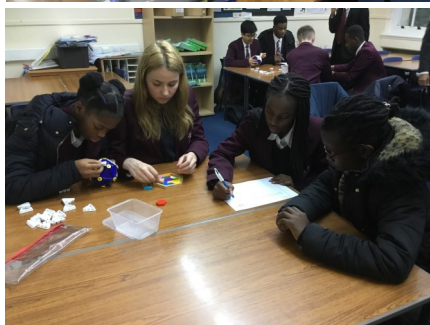
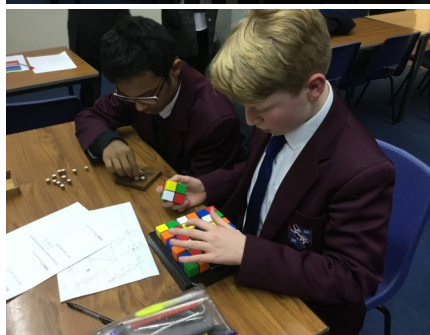
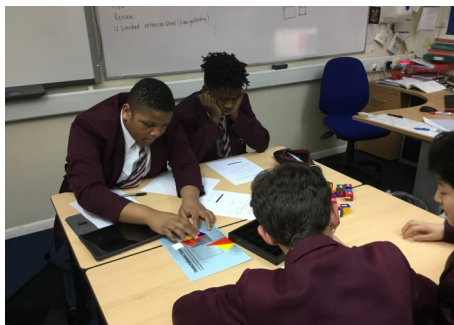
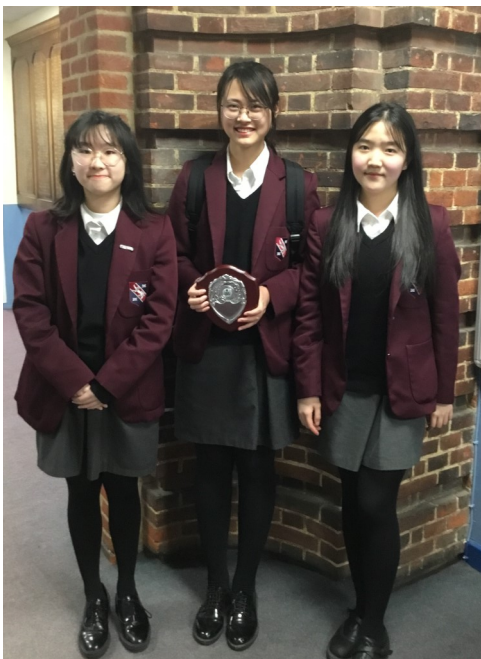
# Intermediate House Maths Challenge

## Queen's House Triumph in the Intermediate Inter-House Mathematical Challenge Competition 2020!

In a closely fought competition, House teams comprising pupils from Years 8, 9 & 10 undertook a range of mathematical puzzles in the Intermediate House Maths Challenge held on 30th January.

Keable House took third place and Oxford House took second place with the Queen's House team of Julia, Belinda and Isabella clinching victory.

Congratulations to all participants and a big thank you to Mrs Smith for organising the competition and to our Sixth Form helpers for running it.





# Library News

## "Is vaping a safer alternative to smoking?"

Ata and Leo introduced many interesting ideas in today's talk about vaping and smoking. It was very useful as we learnt a lot about the negatives of vaping and using Juul as an alternative to using cigarettes.

Ata also enlightened us about the misconceptions about vaping; how the vape juice mainly consists of water, however this is not true. A lot of other harmful compounds are present in vape juice which exposes the user to many health risks. Nicotine is in almost every vape including Juul.

Something I found particularly interesting was that the CEO of Juul, declared that it is not a good idea for young people to use nicotine containing products if they haven't been pre exposed to them before. Leo mentioned that active smokers are 2x more likely to develop mental illnesses and that 80% of people who turn to vaping go back to smoking.



In conclusion, Ata and Leo's talk was very insightful and showed many of us why vaping would be a bad alternative to smoking.

The Boarders enjoyed yet another exciting, and alas last, go-karting trip for this academic year, with the unbeatable Kris losing by a tenth of a second to Tyler who had ample practice in the previous two go-karting trips.

However, watch for an emerging speedster under the name of Louis Mattern who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. I am sure we can expect more from Louis who I am sure will be more than happy to take on Kris's mantle next year.

Other Boarders raced themselves to a well-deserved appetite where they feasted on the venue's delicious hot dogs.



## Boarders' Go Karting

# Challenge Day

On the 23 January, Year 11 students took part in a range of activities, which benefited us in numerous ways. The morning was based around study skills where we listened to a talk given by the company Maximise, which introduced different revision techniques for our upcoming exams, followed by a session exploring educational websites to aid our revision.

In the afternoon, we participated in a range of well-being activities including Cooking, Art, CrossFit, and Yoga to name a few. The activities were particularly challenging and engaging, teaching us a variety of skills that we do not normally learn in the classroom. Challenge day was a refreshing change from the normal school day and really helped to give Year 11 some useful strategies to cope with our upcoming GCSE exams in the summer.

## Bhanujan Arudchelvan

Year 13 took part in various workshops and events, particularly focused on preparing us for our A level exams and life after Sixth Form.

In the morning we split into two groups to attend a workshop on mental health and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) run by the Croydon branch of IAPT, An NHS initiative focused on helping people to access psychological therapy. Two psychologists explained how CBT works, and answered all our questions on therapy and mental health.

For the remainder of the morning we had one-on-one interviews with members of staff to discuss our progress and post-Sixth Form plans. In the afternoon we had a study skills session run by Maximise and learnt how to revise efficiently before our approaching trial and A level exams. Mr Cufley then gave a talk on finances, discussing everything from credit cards and tax to mortgages and salaries to help us know what to expect when handling our money in adult life.

# Junior Russell Talk

On Tuesday, Maria Maciejak in Year 12 spoke to a group of Year 6s about her home - Poland. The Year 6s enjoyed learning about famous people from Poland including Nicolaus Copernicus, Józef Piłsudski, and Robert Lewandowski.

Maria talked about the struggle for Polish independence over the 20th century and shared pictures of traditional Polish foods. Year 6 particularly enjoyed winning prizes for their Polish speaking at the end of the talk!





# Lunar New Year Celebrations

The Library was delighted to kick start the Lunar New Year festivities in School this year with a celebration of Chinese culture.

Lucas in year 11, compèred the event and introduced Anna in Year 12 who captivated us with her musical skills on the Guzheng – a traditional Chinese plucked stringed instrument. The title of her piece was Zhan Tai Feng, which roughly translates as “typhoon” and we could almost picture the wind whipping up the waves as her fingers skipped rapidly over the strings.

Next, Abil and Almat from Kazakhstan entertained us with a Dombra duet, reminding us all that Lunar New Year is also celebrated in other Asian countries. The boys were perfectly synchronised with their energetic strumming which left us wanting to hear more. Our final musical performance, on another traditional Chinese instrument – the Erhu, was given by Maxwell in Year 12. This bowed stringed instrument dates back to the Tang dynasty and Maxwell gave a wonderful rendition of a piece called Horse Racing.

Year 12 pupils: Jason, Gordon and Kevin then all gave a presentation on the story of the Zodiac and how each animal featured in the Zodiac has its own unique personality and traits. This year is the Year of the Rat and there were several small rats (Year 7s!) in the audience. I'm happy to say that these particular rats only displayed the personality strengths of the zodiac rat: intelligence, optimism, wit, charm and adaptability!

Everyone in the audience was able to identify with their Chinese Zodiac animal and Mr Moseley was even wearing a Rooster tie to display his affinity with his own particular character.

The celebrations ended with some wonderful Chinese sweet treats, provided by Mrs Tang who very kindly comes in each year to support our festivities, and some more beautiful background music provided by Anna on the Guzheng.

Later in the early evening, the action moved to the Auditorium with a programme that featured the same acts from lunchtime plus Jasmine on the Guzheng, all interspersed with more modern Chinese music ranging from guitar (Gordon), pop bands (Gillian, Sasa, Julia, Isabella and Daisy & Matt, Maxwell and April)) to rap (Tommie). Never before has there been such a wide variety of styles at this event and all credit must go to the organisers: Lucas, Bibienne, Gordon and Jason.

Thanks to the Media Team led by Mr Dear and Ms Groves the concert was *Live* streamed for the first time and can be enjoyed again on YouTube.

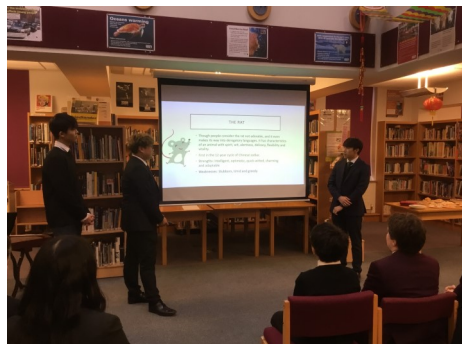
Afterwards all members of the Boarding community retired to Oxford and Cambridge to enjoy a superb Chinese meal prepared by our wonderful Catering Team.

Thank you to everyone who organised and took part in these events to make them such a success.

**Gong xi fa cai / Gung hei fat choi / Happy New Year!**







## Year 11 Poetry Live Conference

On Friday, members of Year 11 attended the Poetry Live! Conference with the English department, where we were treated to readings by poets including the inimitable Carol Ann Duffy, the inspirational John Agard and current Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

It was a real joy to hear the poems on our course brought to life and given new context and meaning by the people who wrote them, and we also came away with some top tips on writing about poetry from a GCSE examiner.





# Canterbury Tales Progress

‘We all have a tale to tell’

## Miss Wong's Walkie Talkie Climb

Miss Wong and Bhone Tayali (Old Russellian) has one month left until the big climb. Miss Wong has been training hard in her local gym by running on an incline.

The Walkie Talkie climb is to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital to create a better future for seriously ill children.

Any donations are greatly appreciated. Please click [here](#).

Thankyou!

Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

**£12,367.46!!**



## On Yer Bike!!

From Friday 1 May 12.00 noon to Saturday 2 May 12.00 noon we will be holding a 24 hour Spinathon!

David Selby, John Davies and Martin Parham will be completing the 24 hour non-stop marathon under the instruction of Old Russellian, Luke Turner at the School's Pavilion.

There will be 30 minute slots available throughout the event to allow students, parents, Old Russellians and friends to join in the challenge.

All details of how to book your place will be relayed to you next week and will appear on the dedicated Firefly page.

Get ready to pedal!!

## Forthcoming Events - Check Firefly Regularly for Details!!

A Pilgrim's Way Relay

Staff Bake Off Competition

Canterbury Run

Bike Run to Canterbury Cathedral

Cathedral Choir

Croquet for St Christopher's

Canterbury to School three-day Walk

Fringe Event

Buchanan Sofa Surf Sleepover

Cake Sale

Sport v King's Canterbury

The Big Tea Party

Canterbury Hostelry Tour

Thirty Mile Walk

Restless Triathlon

24 hour spin class

**The Grand Finale!**  
**Sunday 14 June 2020**

Royal Russell Presents

# JAZZ

## An Evening with Claire Martin OBE



With the Nikki Iles Trio - A Tribute to Tony Bennet and Bill Evans

**Thursday 23 April : 7.00pm : Auditorium**

Multi-award winning vocalist and Linn recording artist Claire Martin has been a tour de force on the UK jazz scene for over 30 years and brings together a trio of some of the finest musicians on the scene today; Steve Watts - double bass, Matt Home - drums led by celebrated pianist and arranger Nikki Iles.

Claire will be singing some classics from the Great American Songbook alongside stylish re-workings of the Tony Bennett/Bill Evans songbook repertoire. Claire has enjoyed worldwide critical acclaim and gained many awards including winning eight British Jazz Awards and in 2018 she was the proud recipient of the BASCA Gold Badge Award for her contribution to jazz. Nikki Iles was the BASCA Gold Badge winner for 2019 and is one of the most in-demand pianists of her generation.

**'Worldclass' THE TIMES**

Tickets are £17.50, plus booking fee. Please click [here](#) to book

## Safeguarding Corner

Each week we will have a Safeguarding feature in the Headmaster's Newsletter regarding safeguarding and online safety.

A section where interesting articles, latest news and updates will be available to you. I will of course continue to email you directly for any major updates or news on these topics.

Please click [here](#) to read a article about how sleep deprivation makes teenage girls' anxiety worse.

Mrs Nathalie Hart, Deputy Head Pastoral





The background of the poster is a vibrant red carpet scene. A wide red carpet leads from the bottom towards a set of stairs in the distance. The stairs are also covered in red carpet and are flanked by white balustrades with gold-colored railings. The scene is framed by heavy red curtains at the top. Several bright spotlights shine down from above, creating a glamorous atmosphere. There are also some bokeh light effects and small starburst graphics scattered throughout the scene.

**ROYAL RUSSELL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTS**

**RED CARPET - AWARD WINNING MUSIC  
DINNER**

**SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020**

**GREAT HALL 18:30 FOR 19:00 START**

**TICKETS £15 (TO INCLUDE SUPPER)**

**Please email**

**[vrees@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:vrees@royalrussell.co.uk)**

**To reserve your tickets**

# QUIZ NIGHT

Take the Challenge on Our  
Quiz Night.



Great Hall  
Saturday  
8th February  
7.30pm

Tickets £10. Table  
snacks provided.  
Tables of 10 people  
max. Doors open at  
7pm. Licenced bar  
available or BYO.

Tickets on Wisepay or email  
[mel@bruguier.net](mailto:mel@bruguier.net)





**FEB 17TH - 21ST**  
Royal Russell School

**8AM - 6PM**  
FOR AGED 5-14 YEARS

# **HDO FEB** **SPORTS CAMP**

Amazingly fun sporting activities!

FROM  
**£35**



**FOOTBALL**



**INFLATABLES**



**TEAM GAMES**



**swimming**

## **About Us**

HDO' is a sports camp which is taught by coaches of various sporting backgrounds, helping develop sporting techniques or simply introducing children to sports they are yet to learn. HDO will be running at Royal Russell this February break!

## **Our Products**

- Weekly and sibling discounts
- Daily swimming sessions – with pool scooters and jet boats
- Interactive light speed games
- Team and individual focused sessions

**Online Registration**

**[HolidayDropOff.com](http://HolidayDropOff.com)**



# From the Sport Department

## Football

### U14A

Royal Russell went 1-0 up through Roman Burrell, and should have had more, but then conceded a sloppy opposition equaliser.

We kept however to our shape and scored further goals prior to half time through Joe McKenzie who was a thorn to Bede's two centre halves. 4 minutes into the second half Joe got a 2nd goal and then Roman, Oliver Barnes, Oneth Muhandiram and Bailey Neil-Gray made the final score 7-1 to us.

A very good team performance, well done.

### U15A

The U15s took on Bedes last Saturday in the final game of the Elgin League. Only a win for Bedes would see them overtake Royal Russell in top spot and put them through.

Royal Russell had already qualified for the next round of this competition but a draw could see them secure the League win for the first time in their history.

The U15s started straight out the blocks and took an early lead. 3-0 half time. The second half continued much like the first, but Royal Russell managed to put the game to bed when Justin Chow managed to score from close range, Sam German and Bobby Moore both scoring with a long range effort.

Junseong Kim managed to turn his defender in the box and smash home the final goal to make it 7-0 to the away side and crown Royal Russell Champions of the Elgin League 'Sticks Division' for the first time in the schools history at this age.

Congratulations to all the students involved for all their hard work though the season. This means they will now go through to the semi-finals of the knockout stages.



### U15B

An early start saw a trip down to Bedes School for the U15s final game of the season. A poor performance resulted in a 7-0 defeat.



## U18B

Royal Russell started the game the stronger of the two teams, taking a 2-0 lead after some great build up play for both goals.

Bedes hit back just before the break to make it 2-1. Both teams started well in the second half, with Bedes scoring a break-away goal to make it 2-2.

The third Bedes goal came from a wonder strike into the top corner after both teams were seemingly cancelling each other out. Bedes went on to score the 4<sup>th</sup> after hitting Russell on the counter as we pushed to find an equaliser late in the game. The score finished 4-2.

## U18C

In a tight first half, we looked good, playing some attractive football with our slightly makeshift team. 0-0 at the break.

The second half saw the 3XI dig deep, showing great character throughout the team, as the goals started to flow. Evian, Callahan, Louis and Rezo all got on the scoresheet.

Final score 4-2, MoM went to Evian, but it could have equally gone to Jamie, Eric, Callahan or Jackson, and it was great to see Tobi reproduce some of the form from last season as he drove powerfully forward. More of this please Lads!

## Swimming Gala

The Croydon Schools Swimming Association annual gala is a much anticipated event, consisting of a series of heats and finals held under professional conditions.

Last week saw Royal Russell swimmers from Year 7 & 8 travel to compete in the Finals and put all of their training to the test!

The team showed great spirit, enthusiasm and focus throughout the event, proving that a good dose of courage and resilience go a long way!

There were some strong performances across the board, often with Royal Russell closing the gap right until the end of each race. Individual placings were awarded with a bronze medal for Elena Buckingham in the 25m freestyle, a silver for Dylan Cornick Gonzalez-Gorbena in the 25m freestyle, a silver for Millie Brown in the 50m freestyle and a gold for Olivia Dunn in the 50m breaststroke.

The final placings saw both the Boys' and Girls' Teams coming 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

Thank you to all the swimming staff and parents who have trained and supported the swimmers.



# Netball

This last week has been excellent for Royal Russell netball, with nearly every team playing in a fixture and some excellent wins.

The 1st team reached the quarter finals in both cups, showing an excellent level of netball with very tough matches to make it this far. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams also managed to get excellent wins against tough Woldingham teams.

Congratulations to the U12 team who reached the last 16 in the National Plate competition, narrowly losing in the quarter finals to Bedford 18-16, the girls should be very proud of how they played throughout their matches, the future looks exciting for this team!

The U13 team has also had a good week, with their quarter final Plate game still to be played. A particular mention to the U14A team who have had an undefeated week, beating both St Dunstan's and Coloma. !

The U14As then delivered 2 fantastic games on Tuesday afternoon. They are working so tightly as a team and are now displaying a consistent high level of netball, which is now producing the results they have been working towards. St Dunstan's Player of the Match went to Ayo, and Coaches Player Yasmin. Coloma's Player of the Match, again, went to Ayo, with Coaches Player being awarded to Ella Smith.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team played their 1st match in just under two years! Woldingham were very good, but we kept the score to 11-20, with Sophie Stretton scoring 6 and Emily Rickards scoring 5. Coaches Player was given to Rosie Page for a fantastic game as centre, and oppositions Player was awarded to Faith Chen for some dynamite interceptions in defence.

The U14B netball teams also had a fantastic day of netball on Tuesday. They started off the day playing St Dunstan's College, during their games period. A strong first quarter led the girls to a solid 10-7 win. POM's were awarded to Nadra Webb, who worked tirelessly in centre court, and Mia Harris, who ended the game having shot fantastically.

Straight after that game, they put up a strong fight against Coloma. The game ended 14-11, with Nadra again being awarded Player of the Match. Well done girls!





# Key Diary Dates



Saturday 1 February	Year 8-10 Exchange Students at Royal Russell
Sunday 2 February	Boarders' Activity - Indoor Climbing
Monday 3 February	Linguistic Olympiad
Tuesday 4 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening. Great Hall
Thursday 6 February	UK Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 6 February	Year 13 Biology Trip to Wakehurst Place
Thursday 6 February	Uganda Preparation Trip Parents' Awareness Evening
Thursday 6 February	Theatre Society Trip to The School Of Rock
Saturday 8 February	1853 Quiz Night - Great Hall. Tickets via Wisepay
Sunday 9 February	Boarders' Cinema Trip



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