



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

6 March 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Our senior pupils and staff have been hard at work this week. As Year 13 completed their Trial Exams, and some of our Year 11 pupils received the results of their early entry GCSE Maths examinations. Three sets sat the foundation tier examination in January achieving an outstanding level of success, which will give them a great confidence boost at this important point of their public examination preparation.

As our pupil recruitment programme draws to a close, it is very pleasing to record that interest in joining the School at Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 is as strong as ever. I am particularly pleased with the balance of pupils who have been selected for Year 7, where the mix of our own Junior School pupils, combined with a new intake selected from another 45 different schools, will create a very exciting and diverse group of young people who will contribute to the School greatly in the future.

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, the Library held its annual sale of books, DVDs and games. Pupils and staff were able to browse a huge selection of fiction and non-fiction books and over £70 was raised for BLESMA, the limbless veterans' charity.

In our Russell Talks programme, Nadeem Mukri gave a very informative presentation on 'Robots', suggesting that many of our roles could be replaced by machines in the future! Isabelle Bennett gave the Junior Russell Talk on careers in medicine.

Our trips programme this week has included a Buchanan Theatre Trip to 'The Boyfriend', a Year 12 English Literature Theatre Trip to 'A Doll's House' and a GCSE Art Trip. We have also welcomed Mr Parham, Mr Grindrod and our Year 12 Geography students back from their amazing Field Trip to Iceland.

On Thursday evening the Year 11 GCSE Drama Students performed their final examination pieces in the Auditorium. These performances followed their examination assessments earlier in the day and it was wonderful to see both the quality of the acting and technical knowledge. It was very clear that this group have learnt a great deal from each other and their mutual support and appreciation was a very strong feature of the evening. My congratulations to all involved and particularly to Ms Cripps, Ms Davenport and Mr Edwards for all their guidance.

Our 'Canterbury Tales' fundraising initiatives continued with Miss Wong and Bhonae Tayali (both Old Russellians), completing their Walkie Talkie Climb for charity

This has been a busy week for our sports teams and particular mention must go to the U12 Netball Team who played magnificently and were unbeaten at the Croydon Schools Tournament.

The U18 Football squad have had a very busy week. They won 2-0 against Whitgift on Monday, lost 2-3 away at Shrewsbury on Wednesday and, this afternoon, they are playing away at Hampton. The U15 Football team continues their super successful season with a 4-0 win against Forest School in the Elgin Cup semi-final. The final will be played against Whitgift on 11 March at Bromley FC.

I look forward to joining many parents and pupils at the 'Red Carpet' Music Dinner on Saturday evening in Great Hall.

I would like to thank all Royal Russell parents and families for their continued understanding of the challenges we face with the ongoing development of the COVID 19 virus. I have been asked by some concerned students if they would be able to wear face masks to School and I have readily agreed to this. We continue to monitor the position closely and I will be writing to give a further update next week.

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster

Geography Trip to Iceland

This year the destination for the Year 12 fieldwork was not Snowdonia, as it had been for the previous seven years, but Iceland. The Trip's purpose was to create and collect data that informed an independent fieldwork investigation undertaken by Sixth Form geographers.

On Thursday, Year 12 geographers side-stepped Parents' Evening, to make their late flight to Keflavik. Three hours later we made it to Keflavik airport in a snowstorm. The expected light rain showers were overtaken by harsh snow storms which had blown in from the east.

Was this climate change working its magic?

The tricky journey from the airport to the hostel involved snowdrifts, road closures and abandoned cars. We made it to Asbru uncertain what the rest of the trip had in store.



Students collecting data at the Seljalandsfoss and Skogar Waterfalls

The next day, the weather eased and we were able to navigate the roads toward Reykjavik. We drove through the surrounding mountains to Hveragerdi and Selfoss. We then spent the day trying to understand the extent that land use, the local economy and public perception are influenced by the fact that Hveragerdi is a geothermal town. After a long day trudging through the snow we collected the data and arrived at our farm accommodation in Vatnsholt.

The next couple of days were for physical geography. We headed south towards the ice cap Myrdalsjokull and the glacial tongue at Solheimajokull.

En-route we passed the famous Seljalandsfoss and Skogar waterfalls which despite flowing were encased in ice stalagmites. At the glacier we planned to measure fluvio-glacial sediment - but it was buried by the snow, as was the meltwater lake and large blocks of glacial ice, scuppering our plans. We were able to gain access to the glacier when on other days we would have needed crampons.

After attempting to collect sediments and not succeeding, we headed further south to the area of Vik and the famous black beach. Here we encountered over 50 mph winds and 5m waves pounding the basalt coastline. It was a great experience to make you feel alive, but not ideal conditions to collect data. We went onto our accommodation for plan B and C. That night we enjoyed a stay in a local farmstead which was a traditional viking building with a grass roof. We were also insulated by snow drifts, which made for a warm night.

Day three and we had a new plan, the west coast. We headed on the internal roads which were interesting in the snow and towards the great rift at Pingvellir. Here we were able to appreciate the tectonic forces ripping the Iceland landmass apart to create volcanic landscapes. We also enjoyed a slide on some ice which had reached up the side of the rift.

Next we were in Borgarnes where we spent the early afternoon around farmland measuring the dimensions of kettle holes to determine whether they changed with distance. Most were covered by ice which created a great boundary to measure but also led to very cold feet. We navigated our way through the snow and were able to use laser binoculars to get our work done. We then headed to Akranes to collect data for the third project, beach sediment analysis.

Good teamwork meant that we managed to do this in quick fashion, but also meant we had some measuring to do back at the apartment in Reykjavik.

The last day we finished off our beach study with some more data collection at the Grotta beach. It was nicer than it sounded.

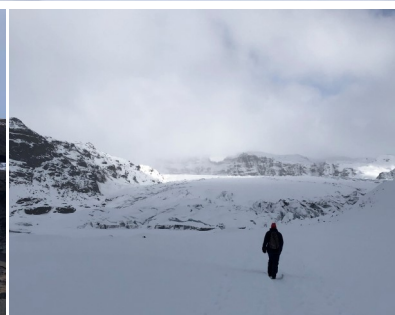
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We then had some relaxation time before our flight, and we spent this in an open-air geothermally heated pool in Reykjavik, just like the locals. We treated ourselves to a 50m pool, a slide and dips in the 8 degree and the 44 degree pools; invigorating!

Then onto Keflavik airport, just as the weather was clearing for our return home to Heathrow.

This trip wasn't without its challenges, but it was wonderful to experience the sheer beauty that Iceland has to offer and the brutality of its natural elements.

Well done to the Year 12 and thank you to Mr Parham and Mr Grindrod for keeping our spirits up and entertaining us.



Boarders Trip to the Water Park

Fifty Boarders and staff embarked on Royal Russell's first ever water park trip as requested by their student reps.

They tore down the flumes at breakneck speed and took advantage of the Olympic sized pool. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly Eric Brenya's exhibition diving which was heartily applauded by his peers on the poolside.

We returned in plenty of time for supper and enjoyed a tasty snack on the way home, courtesy of the catering staff.

An enjoyable day out!

Mr Jewiss
Head of Cricket



Culture Talk - Hong Kong

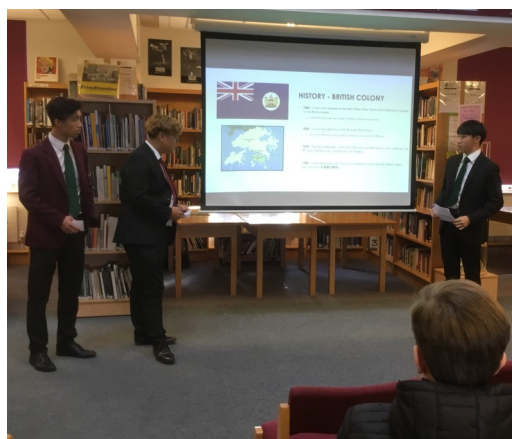
On Thursday 27 February, there was a culture talk in the library about Hong Kong, presented by Lucas Tan (Year 11), Jason Poon (Year 12) and Gordon Poon (Year 12).

The talk included a lot of detailed information about Hong Kong, including the history of Hong Kong, British colony and Japanese occupation, the different councils in Hong Kong, Hong Kong protests, 5 demands from protesters, places to visit if you travel there and the best foods in Hong Kong.

They ended by teaching us some phrases in Cantonese including "I love you" and "goodbye".

Overall it was a very interesting and informative talk enjoyed by all.

Lucas Tan (year 11), Addison Frey and Oliver Brennan (year 10)



VICTORIA
HARBOUR





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

To reserve your tickets

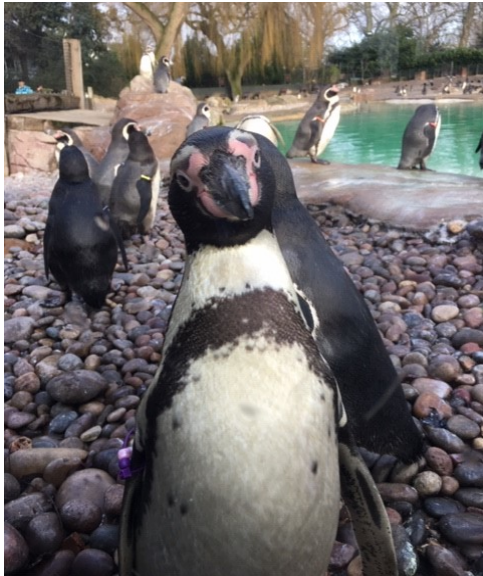
Biology Photography Competition

The theme for this year's Biology House competition was 'Animals'. The Competition was tough as we had over 60 entries.

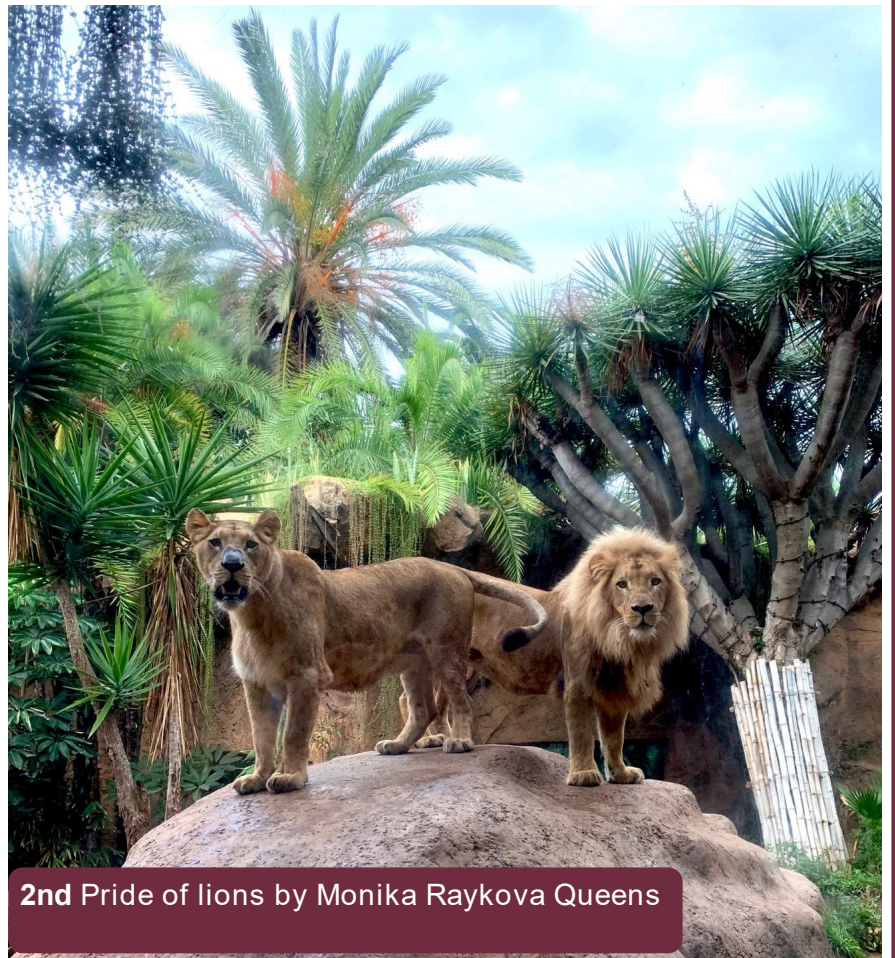
The top 13 photos are displayed on the Biology notice board in the Science building.

Certificates and prizes will be award in the next assembly. Thank you to everyone who entered.

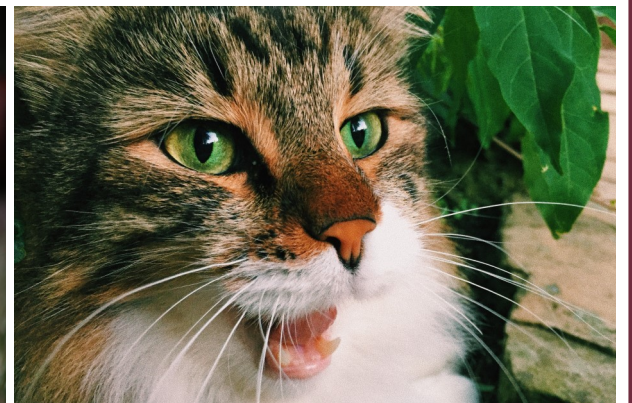
This year's winners are:



1st Penguin by Patrick Howe Y7 Oxford



2nd Pride of lions by Monika Raykova Queens



Joint 3rd Cat with green eyes by Molly Wicking Buchanan
Cat drinking by Elesha Jepson Reade
Dog in a field by William Preston Keable

Maths Conference Inspires All!

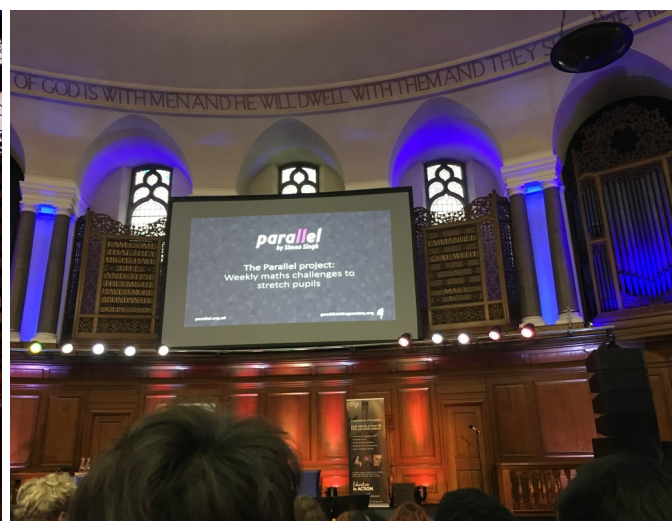
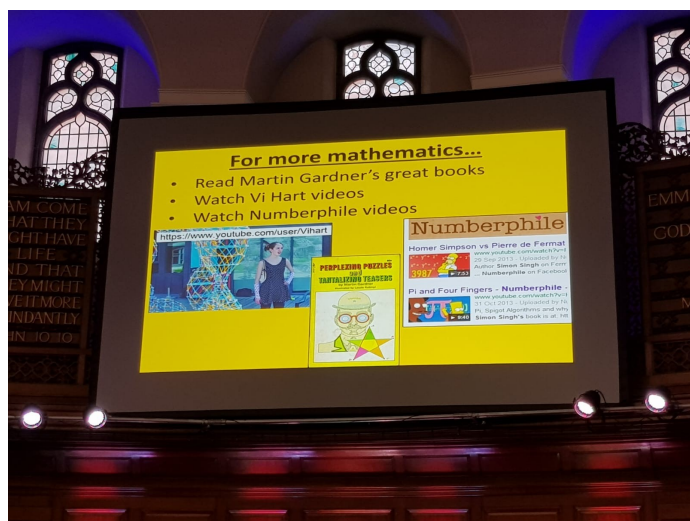
Our Year 12 double Maths students were treated to a selection of inspiring talks at the A Level “Maths in Action” conference held at the Emmanuel Centre in London last week.

The conference included learning about the general issues with analysing big data to discover security problems in large computer networks involving some successful mathematical techniques.

Students were also introduced to the story of Professor Andrew Wiles, who was recently able to prove Fermat's Last Theorem, which has included mathematicians for over two hundred years.

Finally, there was a fascinating talk on Maths in pop music.

Thanks to Ms Au and Ms Wong for accompanying the group.



A silhouette of a zombie with outstretched hands against a bright orange sunset sky. In the background, a city skyline with various buildings is visible. The text "ROYAL RUSSELL YEARS 7-9 PRESENTS" is overlaid on the image in a white, dripping font.

ROYAL RUSSELL YEARS 7-9 PRESENTS

"TEN WAYS TO
SURVIVE THE
ZOMBIE
APOCALYPSE"

30TH-31ST
MARCH
7.00PM
AUDITORIUM

TICKETS FROM MS SMITH IN SCHOOL OFFICE

Senior Russell Talk - Robots!

Nadeem Mukri delivered a very informative, relevant lecture addressing the concern on the majority of young people's minds today; will we have to compete with robots to earn a living?

He had carried out immense research and I was enlightened to hear about the sort of things that Artificial Intelligence is capable of. From marking student essays to diagnosing eye diseases that doctors have trained all their lives to be able to do.



Will future graduates be competing against robots for jobs instead of each other?

To conclude, Nadeem made it clear that to achieve maximum efficiency it is best when Artificial Intelligence and humans team up and work together.

Lucas Humphries,
Year 12



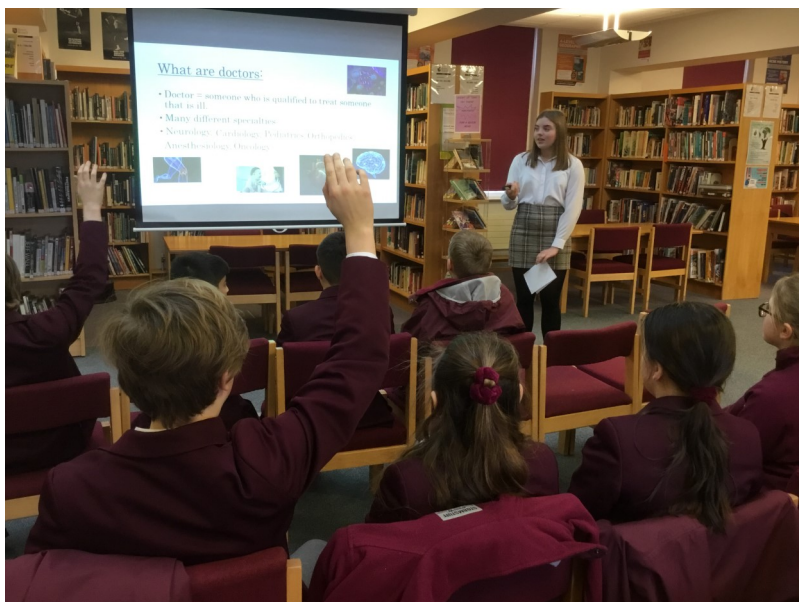
Junior Russell Talk

On Tuesday, Isabelle Bennett from Year 12 spoke to Year 6 about becoming a doctor for this week's Junior Russell Talk.

She talked about how long it takes to train to be a senior doctor and the different specialisms available.

Year 6 enjoyed sharing their knowledge from watching medical documentaries and talking to family members in the profession.

They also asked Isabelle lots of questions, especially when she revealed information about their salaries.



Canterbury Tales Progress

‘We all have a tale to tell’
Loosing yourself in a book is
the ultimate relaxation...

To celebrate World Book Day, lots of new initiatives have begun across School. One example is World Book Day’s “Share a million stories” in which pupils are invited to ‘share’ their story with a group by reading out loud (the number of ‘shares’ means the number of people listening), and this is counted towards our total number of ‘shares’ as a school.

Numerous English classes and tutor groups are contributing to our School’s total number. World Book Day is aiming for 1 million stories to be shared in total - so let’s get reading!

Our Fundraising Total So
Far.....

£19,206.71!!



Research has proved that reading is a great way of helping our mental health. The University of Sussex (2009) study has found that just six minutes of reading a day can reduce stress levels by 68%.

As part of Buchanan House’s mindfulness programme, the girls have begun a ‘Readathon’ challenge in order to encourage good mental health by taking time to enjoy a book. The girls are adding together the number of minutes read in form time across the month of March with the hope of reaching a total of over 2,500 minutes read collectively!

The Library has issued all pupils in the school with £1 World Book Day tokens - so please encourage pupils to purchase a book to enjoy.

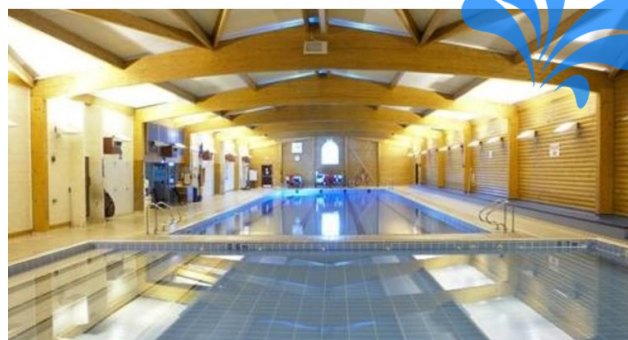
Swimming Challenge

The swimming challenge is now underway and as a community we have managed to get to Canterbury (4,032 lengths) and are already on the first of the return journeys.

Anyone can join in and all abilities are most welcome.

Please remember to record the distance swum when using the School Pool. It’s as simple as that!

Group	Lengths Completed
Junior School	667
Senior School	593
Members	2,291
Outside Groups	1,824
Total to date =	5375
Lengths required =	18,817



Running Total (From Sunday 1 March to Wednesday 4 March)

Target - 24,192 lengths (RRS to Canterbury and back, three times)

Pancakes for Wings of Hope

Wings of Hope Achievement Awards is a social enterprise project that two Year 12 teams are taking part in.

WOHAA help to provide a free education in Malawi and India. The pancake day sale raised around £120.

Team CIARRI was made up of six students from Year 12 Amma Darkoa Nomafo, Charlotte Haines, Ryan Appadu, Rebecca Clery, Isobel Cufley and Isabelle Bennett.

More events to follow.



Miss Wong's Walkie Talkie Climb

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Bhonae (Old Russellian) and I (Miss Wong) for climbing the Walkie Talkie on Saturday.

It was a huge success and we managed to climb it in 10 minutes. It felt easy at first but then got harder as our legs started to give in. However, we did not want to let our supporters down and most importantly the charity. So we kept going even if we had to crawl up!

The funds raised will be spent on major projects relating to child health, life saving medical equipment and rebuilding the lives of families.

We wouldn't have done it without your support. Thank you!!

Our page is still open for donations please click [here](#).



Junior School Totals!



Month	Fundraiser	Total
October	Junior School Mufti Day for 'Jeans for Genes'	£297.85
November	MacMillan Coffee Morning	£136.89
November	Odd Sock Day as part of Anti Bullying Week	£195.00
December	Croydon Night Watch, Carol singing at the Whitgift Centre, Christmas productions and Concert Collections	£956.95



Forthcoming Events Check Firefly Regularly for Details!!

A Pilgrim's Way Relay

Staff Bake Off Competition

Canterbury Run

Fringe Event

Bike Run to Canterbury Cathedral

Cathedral Choir

Croquet for St Christopher's

Canterbury to School three-day Walk



Royal Russell Presents

JAZZ

An Evening with Claire Martin OBE



With the Nikki Iles Trio - A Tribute to Tony Bennett 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 online plus booking fee.



From the Sport Department

Pupil Achievement

Shereese Miller in Year 9 has made some very impressive achievements in athletics so far this year.

She came second place in Shot put for Surrey U15 girls and has been awarded the Jack Petchey Award for her commitment to sports by Croydon Harriers.

Well done Shereese!



ClassFit

Last week during Games, Y7 & Y8 ClassFit carried out a range of physiological tests including; Wattbike Power, Grip Strength and Lung Function using a digital spirometer as demonstrated by Mr Brennan.

The physiological testing at Royal Russell is second to none and the pupils' fitness matched the quality of the testing.



Hockey

U12A

On Saturday our U12A Hockey team played away at Trinity School. Royal Russell started the game slowly with Trinity creating numerous chances at their goal which resulted in conceding two goals. Royal Russell then rose to the challenge, matching Trinity with high levels of competitiveness and tactical skill. During the remainder of the first half Royal Russell earned two short corners which came to no avail.

The second half told a different story, putting Trinity school on the back foot early by using attacking opportunities that utilised the width of the pitch. Royal Russell were rewarded a goal for their attacking pressure. Trinity were able to reply back, scoring another on the counter attack.

U12B

U12B boys headed to Trinity school. They played very well in the cold, wind and rain! The boys passed the ball well and they were determined and competitive in their defending.

We had some exciting opportunities to score, but in the end the boys couldn't get enough goals on the scoreboard. Final score was 4-2 to Trinity.

Well done to Chuck who made some excellent saves in his debut as a goalkeeper! Everyone did an incredible job and we enjoyed a rewarding match tea of bacon sandwiches afterwards.

U13A

On a very wet and windy Saturday morning, RRS hosted Trinity in an end to end game with the U13A boys.

A slower start for RRS resulted in a couple of early goals being conceded, but once we had found the flow of the game, RRS created some excellent goal scoring opportunities.

Some determined defending and outstanding saves from Christian Hamilton kept the team in the game until the final stages where a couple of goals in quick succession cemented Trinity's lead.

An excellent effort from all the boys despite the testing conditions.

Netball

U12 Croydon Schools Tournament - Undefeated all day!

The U12 girls travelled away to Croydon High School to take part in a Croydon Schools Tournament on Monday.

After qualifying for Surrey Schools Finals the girls were on a high and had great confidence going into this tournament.

Their first game proved to be somewhat of a warm up for the girls, taking half of the short match to get into their stride. Once they did, they displayed some excellent netball and gained a convincing win 13-3.

The next couple of matches saw the team make some changes to try out different combinations both in attack and defence.

Our second to last match proved to be the hardest of the day against the hosts Croydon High. At half time, we were up 4-1 showing great passages of play and excellent shooting. However, the girls started to make some silly mistakes in the second half which led Croydon to score 4 goals in quick succession. In the last minute we were able to equalise, with a final score of 5-5.

Despite not losing a game throughout the tournament, the final result rested on goals scored throughout, unfortunately this then meant the girls came second and missed out on qualifying to the finals.

The girls should be very pleased with the way they played and conducted themselves.

Well-done girls!



U15A & B

On Tuesday afternoon, the U15 A and B teams travelled down the road to Coloma. Some last minute arrangements saw the girls join together and play half a game each as one big team.

Congratulations to Millie Wood who was given player of the match and Carey Robinson who was awarded coach's player.

Football

1st X1 v Wentworth International

This ESFA Elite fixture was a challenging proposition after the half term break and drawing a completely unknown opposition. The game started at a frantic pace with each team trying to get a foot hold in the game.

Wentworth edged this battle although we created the better chances and had the most possession. The deciding moment of the game was from a counterattack from our corner which resulted in a strike from the edge of the box to beat our Goalkeeper Rush Shefik, 1-0 to Wentworth.

A change of shape and a dominant display led to numerous chances being created but we were unable to score against the unorthodox Wentworth.

The game ran away and the final score was 1-0 and the end of the ESFA journey for the 1st XI this season.



U15 v Forest School - Elgin Cup

In this semi-final match of the U15 Elgin cup, we were comfortable winners against our visitors Forest School.

While being easily on top of the game, having to deal with the odd counter attack, we found it difficult to score squandering many chances.

When we finally got our first goal through Xavier Obi from close range, the opposition fell apart and Xavier scored a second, with Sam German and Louis Saville also scoring for a comfortable 4-0 win.

The final will be against Whitgift School at Bromley FC on Wednesday 11th March.



Key Diary Dates



Saturday 7 March	Music Dinner - Great Hall - 19:00
Sunday 8 March	Boarders' Trip to the Art Museum
Monday 9 March	Year 8 History Trip to Hampton Court
Tuesday 10 March	Careers and Higher Education Fair - Great Hall & PAC - 19:00
Wednesday 11 March	Year 12 & 13 Business BTEC Guest Speaker - Customer Service - Room A6
Wednesday 11 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening - Great Hall - 16:30
Thursday 12 March	Year 7 Paris Trip
Thursday 12 March	Trinity Schools' Book Awards - Library - 17:00
Friday 13 March	Frantic Assembly - Year 10 & 11 Drama - Auditorium



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Royal Russell School

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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen