



Dear Parents and Friends,

After the UK Government announcement to close all schools in England made on Wednesday, we have all been working hard to prepare for a successful period of remote learning for our pupils in both the Senior School and the Junior School.

Pupils and parents have been briefed and we will begin this new remote learning programme on Tuesday 24 March. We will also be offering daytime supervision for the children of key workers from the same date and, as such, the School offices will be open and you can expect to be able to contact the School through our normal channels through to the end of term on Friday 3 April.

Please note that a number of staff are now self-isolating or working from home and so please do contact the School switchboard on 0208 657 4433, if you need help or assistance.

Firefly, our virtual learning environment, will be used as the primary tool for sharing resources and for setting and receiving work. Pupils and parents are already familiar with its functionality and we are checking pupil access to resources in classes this week. Firefly and the pupil's school email address will also be used for giving feedback to pupils in the Senior School. If you have any problems in accessing Firefly resources, the IT Support Team can be contacted at: [ITteam@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:ITteam@royalrussell.co.uk)

Each week during term time, we will provide a weekly update in place of the Headmaster's Newsletter. A team of staff will operate at Royal Russell from now until the end of the term and over the holidays. We very much hope that the summer term will start for students, as planned on Tuesday 21 April. This does now look very unlikely, however, we are in an unpredictable situation and we will let you know as soon as we can.

Today, alongside the normal rhythm of learning, there has been a strange atmosphere of uncertainty and with 280 pupils and nearly 30 staff absent, this has been completely understandable. I have though, been hugely impressed by the focus and attention shown in the classes I have visited.

I was able to share two rather impromptu final assemblies with Year 11 and Year 13 where I shared the latest update from the Secretary of State for education on the public exam season ahead which is available here: [www.gov.uk/government/news](http://www.gov.uk/government/news)

What is clear from this is that much remains to be clarified. Therefore, we will be writing to all parents with pupils in examination year groups, early next week, and as we receive more information on the exact mechanism that will now be used to award the grades for each student.

It was very good to hear both Year 11 and Year 13 in such fine voice at their assemblies. Year 11 had originally opted for 'You'll never walk alone' but in the absence of the words, we opted for Hymn 264 'The Spirit lives in you and me'. Year 13 chose 'Sweet Caroline' by Neil Diamond and as they sang it with the most amazing enthusiasm, it was difficult not to smile at the irony of the lyric!

Thank you very much to everyone for your considerable support and understanding as we have managed the unprecedented trials of these last few weeks. I would like to particularly congratulate our pupils and staff for the amazing way in which they have continued to commit to their learning at this very challenging time.

Royal Russell is a family school and your child's health, wellbeing and happiness remain at the forefront of our thoughts. We will be working hard to ensure that you and they feel as connected as possible to our community and to each other during the coming weeks.

Keep well and healthy, remember 'non sibi sed omnibus' and the strength and support of the Royal Russell Family.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Hutchinson'.

**Chris Hutchinson**  
Headmaster

# Junior Russell Talk

This week's Junior Russell Talk in the Library was given by Isobel Cufley and Jack Burton in year 12 on the 'importance of kindness'.

Jack and Izzy spoke about what it means to be kind and how we can be kind to one another. The presentation then focused on empathy, understanding and what it is like to put yourself in someone else's shoes to help discover how they might be feeling.

Pupils had lots of ideas on how to put this into practice, especially at break and lunchtime.



The Importance of Kindness

# RSC Chemistry Olympiad Year 12 Success!

In January, Year 12 entered the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad, the leading chemistry competition for students in secondary education across the British Isles.

This enriching experience is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves and excel in the chemistry field.

This year, our budding chemists had two hours to develop critical problem-solving skills to think more creatively and to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

These challenging scenarios included how silica gel is used to absorb moisture, and why the Pacific island of Palau imposed a ban on sun creams containing oxybenzone and octinoxate in order to protect its coral reefs.

We were delighted to award bronze certificates to fourteen of our students this week.

This is a terrific achievement!

Mr Baron

Head of Chemistry



Pictured (left to right) Jakob Bülle, Isabelle Bennett, Leonardo Khamnei, Kya Oates and James Douglas with their certificates.

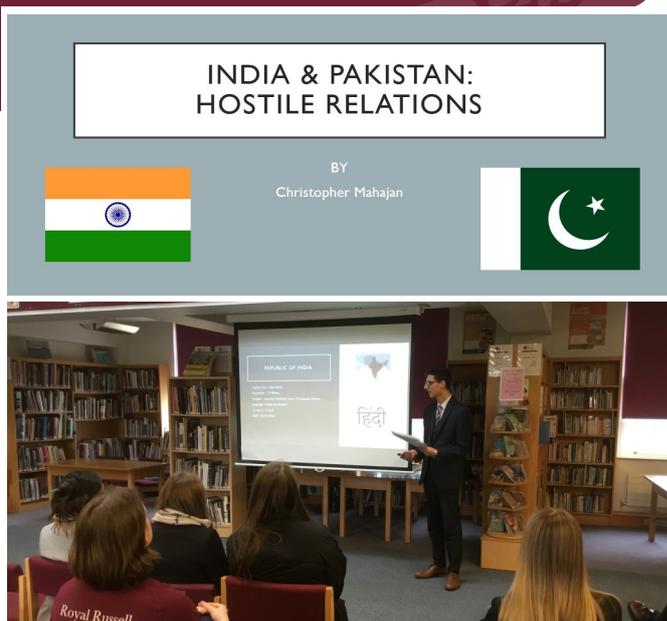
# Senior Russell Talk - Tension Between Countries

On Tuesday, Christopher Mahajan gave an interesting Senior Russell Talks presentation in the Library titled 'India & Pakistan: Hostile Relations and the reasons why'.

Chris covered the reasons for the tension by delivering an interesting mini history lesson.

It's safe to say that we all learnt a lot from this presentation and Chris, as he promised at the beginning, kept an unbiased opinion by delivering an informative presentation. This was backed up with extensive research.

Well done Chris.



# Crest Projects Achieved STEM Club

Pupils have been working very hard in STEM Club to complete their Crest Projects. Congratulations to Rohan Patel and Hugo Tonks (Year 9) who have now achieved their Bronze Award for their Bath Bomb Project!

Crest Projects offers pupils the opportunity to plan, research and experiment with their own project. They offer pupils a chance to gain an award from the British Science Association (in association with the Department for Business, Energy and Industry) which might be useful for university applications or future employment.

Pupils can begin with a Bronze Crest Award and progress through Silver and Gold. Bronze Awards are achieved after at least 10 hours of work, Silver Awards after 30 hours and Gold after 70 hours. Pupils work independently (or in their group), but we provide support and guidance. If you are interested, please email [acook@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:acook@royalrussell.co.uk) for more information.

Some pupils in Year 8 are also involved in individual projects and these will continue to run during the School's period of remote learning.

To all those pupils, please continue with your enthusiasm and continue to email Mrs Cook with your PowerPoint presentations so that she can support you with the next stage.

Rohan and Hugo's Project is on the next page...



# Rohan and Hugo's Project!

If you would like to make your own bath bombs at home, Rohan and Hugo have this recipe for you.

## Ingredients

- ◆ 2oz baking soda
- ◆ 1oz Epsom salt
- ◆ 1oz corn starch
- ◆ 1oz citric acid
- ◆ Large bowl
- ◆ Biodegradable glitter or dried flower petals (optional)
- ◆ 2 tablespoon of Oil
- ◆ Glycerol
- ◆ About half a teaspoon water
- ◆ About 3 pipettes full of essential oil (for scent)
- ◆ 2 drops of food coloring
- ◆ Small bowl
- ◆ However many moulds needed – Rohan and Hugo used two Chemistry weighing boats!



## Method

- ◆ Mix the dry ingredients together: 2oz baking soda, 1oz Epsom salt, 1oz corn starch and 1oz citric acid.
- ◆ Mix the wet ingredients together: 0.85 tablespoons of olive oil, 0.5 teaspoons of water, 5 drops of essential oil, 2 drops of food colouring and the glitter
- ◆ Then we put mixture into the moulds.

## The Project

First, Rohan and Hugo compared two shop bought Bath Bombs to think about important aspects they would want to replicate in their project.

Next, they thought about the variables (the factors they could change) within their series of projects. They chose to first make the Bath Bombs with cooking oil and then substitute this with glycerol.

Then, they made their Bath Bombs with the variations of colour and fragrance (essential oils).

Finally, they needed to think about considerations if they were going to commercially manufacture.



# Tenner Challenge Update

We asked the Year 10 Business Studies Tenner Challenge Teams for the secret to their success!

## Team Sweet Scenters

**Mrs Dye:** How did you come up with your idea?

**Team SS:** We thought what do loads of people want and have in their houses? We thought soap would work and we could create our own. We then decided to pick essential oils that had antibacterial properties.

**Mrs Dye:** What did you enjoy about the Tenner Challenge?

**Jared:** I loved selling the products

**Makaziwe:** I enjoyed the process of making the soaps.

**Jared:** My Mum's an aromatherapist and I asked her advice so we went for lemon myrtle, rosemary and lavender. We spent our £10 on soaps and essential oils to make the products.

**Mrs Dye:** How did you divide the work?

**Jared:** I did the selling and Makaziwe did the business plan. We then sold them in Beckenham Park and in our neighbourhood. We had to be quite assertive to sell the products. Jared created a poster to describe the products so people know what they were buying.

**Mrs Dye:** What would you do differently next time?

**Makaziwe:** We might change the product slightly, focus on more ethical packaging such as tissue or paper packaging instead of plastic.

## Arjun Dintakurti

**Mrs Dye:** What was your business idea?

**Arjun:** Services for the boarding house, I charged £1 for kitchen duties and getting food and £3 for cleaning rooms. This idea had low overheads and I knew people would be interested as people hate kitchen duties and cleaning their rooms! I promoted via word of mouth in house and people started to approach me once they heard about the services.

**Mrs Dye:** How much profit did you make?

**Arjun:** Approximately £45

**Mrs Dye:** What would you do differently next time?

**Arjun:** I did this on my own but next time I would work with a team and advertise more.



Team Sweet Scenters (pictured left to right) Makaziwe Ansan and Jared Lilliefelth



Arjun Dintakurti

# Dear Neighbour Letter Template

If anyone would like to deliver a message of support to their neighbours during this period of uncertainty, please find below a template to print and fill out.

Dear Neighbour,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live at

\_\_\_\_\_.

In these uncertain and challenging times, we need to support one another despite the need to social distance ourselves for safety.

Therefore, if you are over the age of 70, are disabled or within the "high risk" category, I'd like to help. If you urgently need a small grocery shop or have an urgent household issue, please text or give me a call. I'll try my best to fit this around my school work during the day.

*My number is:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stay safe out there!

Best wishes,

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Neighbour,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live at

\_\_\_\_\_.

In these uncertain and challenging times, we need to support one another despite the need to social distance ourselves for safety.

Therefore, if you are over the age of 70, are disabled or within the "high risk" category, I'd like to help. If you urgently need a small grocery shop or have an urgent household issue, please text or give me a call. I'll try my best to fit this around my school work during the day.

*My number is:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stay safe out there!

Best wishes,

\_\_\_\_\_

## Food Bank Donations

In just 24 hours, Royal Russell managed to pull together and make a real difference to the local community.

The School donated supplies to those in need including:

- There are many families in New Addington who were already dependent on the food bank before the recent challenges
- Fairchildes Primary School will continue to make lunch each day for children classed as pupil premium or vulnerable. This will then be delivered by staff to the homes of children who are not allowed to attend school

The Community Services Coordinator from New Addington Salvation Army Church (pictured on the right) came to the School to collect food items such as cereal and dried food as well as toiletries.

Many thanks to the Food Tech Department, the departing boarders and staff for their generous donations.

They really evoked the spirit of the Canterbury Tales Today!



# Singing at Break!

At break time Choristers, Barbershop and staff gathered in the Great Hall to sing some of their favourite songs including 'Golden Slumbers' (the Beatles) and Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen).

It was a lovely occasion and brought us all some cheer. We hope to be singing again together very soon!



# A Very Special Delivery Russell's Teapot!

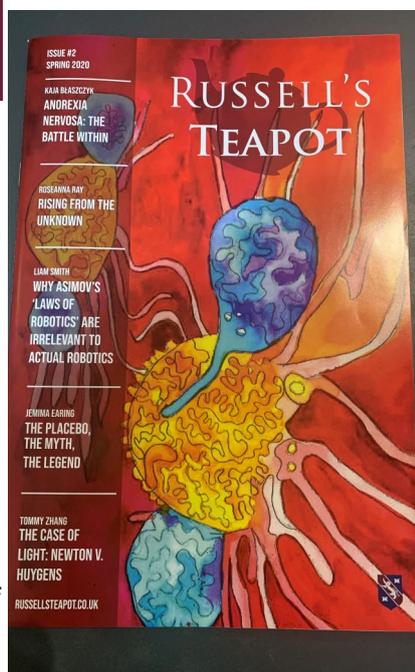
Today, the second issue of the much anticipated 'Russell's Teapot' was delivered to the School.

Alexandra Misaila (Editor-in-Chief) and Vasilisa Litvinenko (Art Director) collected them excitedly and admired their hard work.

The magazine is a fantastic read. It is clear when reading this edition the passion and enthusiasm of its pupil contributors.

Articles include; 'What Drives Hactivism?', 'The Greenhouse Effect', 'The Placebo, The Myth, The Legend,' and 'Space Exploration Should Unite, Not Divide Us'.

Keep your eyes peeled for an online edition of this fascinating read.



# Mother's Day Recommendations

With Mother's Day on Sunday please click [here](#) for some ideas and treats from the Library to make your mum feel special.

Anyone for afternoon tea ?

Or maybe just say it with flowers ...

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**

How about a literary inspired tea ...

Discover a wonderful selection of Peter's favourite treats inspired by the classic Beatrix Potter tales

Tuck into MFF-themed treats including sandwiches, crumpets, macarons and cookies, aimed at both adults and children

A Midsummer Night's Dream: To Shakespeare's famous romantic

# What can you do to help?

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) is worrying for us all. There are some people who may be hit really hard by this crisis – the elderly, those with underlying health conditions and poor health, people who rely on food banks or who are in financial difficulty, and people living alone.



We encourage everyone to check in with neighbours and people in their local area, if safe to do so.

In an attempt to keep children occupied, and parents sane, Facebook posts in numerous neighbourhood groups are encouraging people to create homemade rainbows and place them in their home windows for folks to find on a "rainbow hunt" this week.

"It's easy. No human contact. Get fresh air. Make a rainbow and then hunt for others," the post states. "All you have to do is put a rainbow in your window between now and this Friday ... colour it, paint it, cut it out, print it from the printer, whatever. Then we can get outside, walk around and see how many rainbows we can find."



For those living alone, check in by phone or in person to offer reassurance. Even a quick chat can go a long way for those people who, at the moment, will be at their most anxious and lonely.

For those in quarantine and the elderly, offer to help out with tasks like shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting letters and walking dogs.



For those struggling financially, think about donating to food banks or offering help directly, if possible for you to do so.

If every student and staff member does what they can to help in their community, we can make a huge difference!

# Canterbury Tales Progress



‘We all have a tale to tell’

## Canterbury to Dover

Mrs Colyer (Librarian) Mrs Harris (Head of Careers) and Ms Smith (Senior School Administrator) are on the move!

They are planning to walk (none of that running type of thing!) from Dover to Canterbury in one day. It is approx 23 miles, so will be quite a challenge for them.

They will be raising funds for Blesma. This amazing charity already has links with Royal Russell and regularly helps with our "Steps to the Futures Day" by running their resilience workshops for us.

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, is dedicated to assisting serving and ex-Service men and women who have suffered life-changing limb loss or the use of a limb, an eye or loss of sight in the honourable service of our country.

If you have a few spare pounds and would like to sponsor us, we would be really very grateful.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/canterburytodover>



## Celebrating the Sisterhood of Buchanan

Buchanan House looked at the theme of International Women's Day and shared ideas about how they can show solidarity, raise awareness against bias, take action for equality and celebrate the sisterhood of Buchannan.



Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

£19,346.71!!





“Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation.”

Research has proved that reading is a great way to help mental health!

For this World Book Day celebration, Royal Russell took a look at the books that have helped staff escape into a different world or given them a moment on peace in their busy lives.

Below are some of the books that inspired and helped them on any sort of journey through life, like those pilgrims in The Canterbury Tales!

**Prof Steve Peters**  
CREATOR OF THE **GROUNDBREAKING** MIND MODEL

Unabridged  
Read by the author

**The Chimp Paradox**

The mind programme that helped me win my Olympic Golds! Sir Chris Hoy

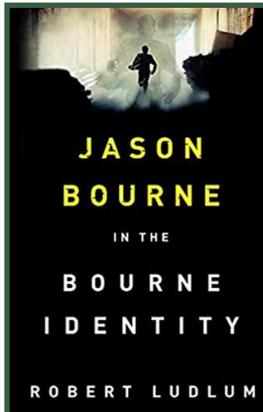
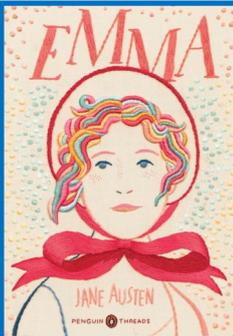
The **MIND MANAGEMENT**  
Programme for Confidence, Success and Happiness

The best book I have ever read is a mindfulness book called 'The Chimp Paradox.' I recommend for any sixth former to read as it gives us ways to help deal with external stress and how to train the brain.

**Ms Bonner**

I read books to escape from reality, and so I avoid anything too contemporary, or 'now'.

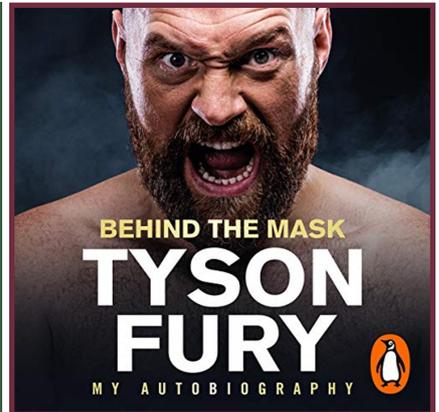
**Mr O'Gorman**



I love spy thrillers and The Bourne Identity transports one into a world of intrigue and has a few twists that I did not predict.

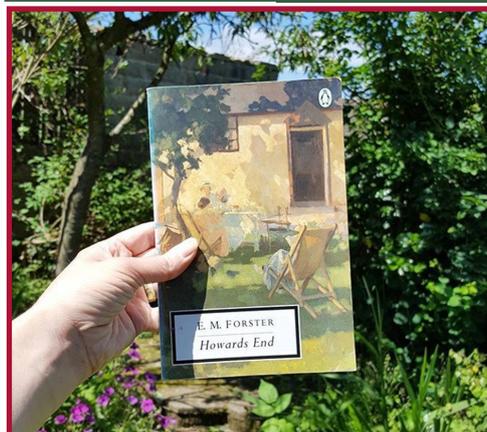
I was lost in the pages!

**Mr Baron**



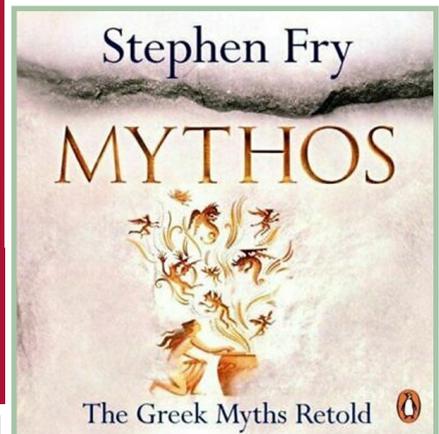
Not the best-written book of all time, but an inspiring story of a man who continues to battle his own mental health issues.

**Mr Baron**



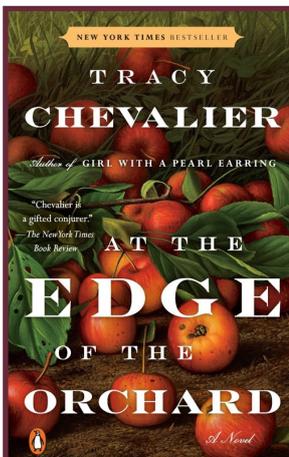
A beautiful read every time and makes you realise how important some time in nature is amongst busy modern life!

**Ms Evans**



Fry writes with such wit and intelligence that I found myself engrossed, laughing out loud and transported to another world!

**Ms Worsfold**



I grew up with trees and have always loved reading about the connection of trees to the landscape.

This gritty story starts with apples and, as the narrative unfolds, amazingly refers to a specific piece of woodland in mid Wales where I grew up.

**Mr Hutchinson, Headmaster**

**THE JEEVES COLLECTION**

Wodehouse's Jeeves novels provide escapism into the land of the terminally stupid Bertie Wooster.

**Miss Pringle**



This novel drops you into an imagined world of the past that is both recognizable but very strange, where book binding your life story can change your existence and the way people see you.

**Mrs Pepperdine**



The ultimate escape in the dystopian nightmare of Gotham City.

An exploration of what heroism truly is!

**Mr Dureau**

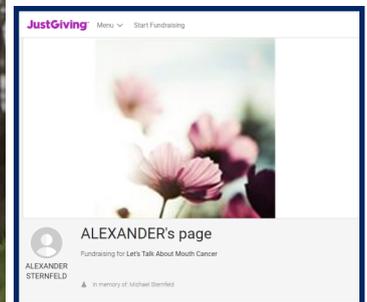
## Croydon Half Marathon - Update! 🏃‍♂️

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me so far and anyone who would like to sponsor me still. I completed the race in 1 hr 59 mins 51 secs.

It was excruciatingly painful, as evidenced by the photo below, which was probably taken during the last few paces of the race. The wall definitely set in at about Mile 9. I just seemed to have no energy, but I battled through thinking of the cause and my supporters.

Thanks also go to Striders of Croydon and Nice Work who organised the race.

Support Alex and his Fantastic cause by clicking [here!](#)



## Swimming Challenge Continues 🏊‍♂️

As a community, we have now swum from Royal Russell to Canterbury and back three times, or 24,192 lengths, or 378 miles in 18 days.

However, we hope to continue on our swimming journey and see how far we can manage by the 31st March 2020. To quote The Pool Water Treatment and Advisory Group (PWTAG), "Public health opinion is that it is generally safe to go swimming at this time. Water and the chlorine within swimming pools will help to kill the virus". Please note, the Pool may close and the challenge will unfortunately cease however, the health and well-being of the whole community is paramount.

I am extremely proud of everyone that has participated to date and I hope, together, we can continue. If not, thank you for your participation and I send you best wishes for staying fit, strong and healthy.

Group	Lengths Completed
Junior School	2,418
Senior School	1,480
Members	5,359
Outside Groups	5,128
<b>Total to date =</b>	<b>14,385</b>
<b>Lengths required =</b>	<b>9,807</b>

## Biology Plant Sale for Guide Dogs for the Blind 🌱

The Biology team with pupil helpers have raised over £110 in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Plants were propagated by students and teachers in support of this fantastic Charity.

Thank you to all the pupils who purchased our plants for themselves or for a little Mother's Day present.



## “Pi Day” Donut Sale for Wings of Hope Charity

On Tuesday, a team of fundraisers set out to sell boxes of Krispy Kreme donuts for International Pi day.

The date 03/14 resembles the first three digits of the constant Pi and was celebrated last week in Assembly, when we learnt about famous people born on the day, including Albert Einstein. We raised a total of £193.30 in an impressive 20 minutes.

All proceeds will go to Wings of Hope charity who provide a good education and life skills for less fortunate children in India and Malaysia.

Thank you for anyone who bought a donut and thank you to CIARRI team of Amma, Charlotte, Rebecca, Izzy B, Izzy C, Ryan, the Maths Department and all who helped out. themselves or for a little Mother's Day present.



# From the Sport Department

## Trampolining

### National Trampoline Finalists

Congratulations to the U19 Elite Team of Grace Scott, Anna Stone, Emily Arnold & Amelia James, U14 Elite Team of Eivie Lloyd, Jasmine Rihal, Shayna Patel & Amy Tree and the U14 Intermediate Team of Valentino Khamnei, Alex Mazzoni and Will Mather who bounced their way to the National Schools Trampoline finals.

The pupils had to finish in the top two teams at both the London Regional round and Southern Zonal finals to qualify for this prestigious event. The pupils worked tirelessly preparing their routines, learned new skills and showed a real commitment to training in preparation for the finals.

Unfortunately, the squad were unable to compete due to the current situation. However, the coaches and staff want to congratulate the Teams on their hard work and achievements.





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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen