



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

On Saturday evening the Great Hall was full of brilliant and joyous music making at the 'Red Carpet' themed Music Dinner. A wide range of soloists and ensemble groups enjoyed enthusiastic support from their audience who were then treated to a wonderful meal, provided by our catering team in the Dining Hall accompanied by Mr Tansley and Mr Cook. Thank you to all of our young musicians for their outstanding performances and to the Music Department staff and our visiting Music Teachers who ran the whole event.

On Tuesday evening we held our Careers and Higher Education Fair in Great Hall and the Auditorium. This event was aimed at Year 10 and Year 12 pupils and we were delighted to welcome 35 local and national organisations including universities and a huge range of future employers. It is great testament to the Royal Russell community that so many of those exhibiting have strong links to the School either as parents or as Old Russellians.

Many of our visitors commented on the warmth of welcome from our new Year 12 Prefects and staff and on the positive engagement from our pupils and I am very grateful to Jenny Harris, our Head of Careers, who organised and coordinated this event so successfully. If you are able to offer support to our careers programme in any way, please do contact Jenny by email on jharris@royalrussell.co.uk

On Wednesday, Year 8 pupils and parents were able to catch up on their progress at the Year 8 Parents' Evening, having enjoyed a History Trip to Hampton Court on Monday. Zoya Kirmani presented the Senior Russell Library Talk on 'The Midnight Zone', sharing her research on the oceans.

Year 13 have been reviewing their trial examination results and using these to help to focus on the remaining 15 days of teaching this term. I know that Year 11 will also be well aware that they have only 28 teaching days through to study leave!

At Assembly this afternoon, the Maths Department gave a presentation on 'π' in celebration of [National Pi Day](#). We then awarded 'Gold' certificates for seven pupils who had performed outstandingly in the Senior UK maths Challenge as well as commendations for young Historians and further 'Gold' Certificates for the national Linguistics Olympiad.

Johan Prinsloo, Elena Buckingham, Hannah Kaminski, Vrutik Patel and Emily Hayden de Carbonnières were commended in Junior Assembly for their outstanding effort grades.

Congratulations to our Senior Netball teams who were both victorious in their fixtures against Trinity on Wednesday and to the U12 boys' Hockey squad who finished 3rd overall in their Surrey Tournament. The U15 Football Team narrowly lost in the last few minutes of their Elgin Cup Final, played at Bromley FC against Whitgift. This same squad has reached the final of the ISFA National Cup which is due to be played on Thursday next week.

In our response to the challenging conditions posed by the current COVID 19 pandemic, we are maintaining a 'business as usual' approach to our core teaching and learning activities, at the same time, our contingency planning is actively underway and we are carefully looking at all eventualities, including provision for remote learning, and specifically at individual fixtures, trips and events.

Some activities which can be easily moved or which we consider to be 'non-essential' have been either cancelled or postponed and we will keep you informed of these through our usual communication channels. It is inevitable that there will be some disappointment, if activities or opportunities are cancelled and we will do all that we can to reinstate these in the future.

Those of you with children in Year 11 and Year 13 will be very aware of their forthcoming exams, and we will respond to whatever measures the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) implement. At present their advice remains generic and is based on 'preparation as normal.'

We remain extremely grateful for everyone's understanding at this time. *The wellbeing of our whole school community is of the upmost importance and I am sure you will join me in supporting everyone during this worrying period. We will continue to keep you informed as the situation and official advice changes.*

With best wishes,



Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster



Boarders' Trip to the Imperial War Museum

On Sunday a group of Boarders stepped back in time at the Imperial War Museum. This was an opportunity to rediscover some of the major events in the history of Britain and across the world from the beginning of the 20th century up until now.

An enjoyable educational experience concluded by a stop at the Museum Café and some shopping for souvenirs.



World Book Day Sale



The Library held its annual sale to celebrate World Book Day last Thursday. Pupils and staff enjoyed browsing the range of books on offer, picking up an early Mother's Day gift or just treating themselves.

As part of the Canterbury Tales Challenge, a grand total of just over £70 was raised to support Blesma – the Limbless Veterans' Charity enabling limbless veterans to live independent and fulfilling lives.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2020



Year 8 Trip to Hampton Court

On Monday we all travelled to Hampton Court where we learnt so many amazing facts; I discovered that the palace was so beautiful inside and out.

We learnt that Lady Jane Grey never set foot in the court in her reign that went on for only 9 days. Very interesting!

The Palace had huge kitchens with fire places and could hold hundreds of people; the dining rooms walls were draped in lovely man-made silk knittings and a lovely wooden ceiling. I also very much enjoyed the architecture itself. In addition, I personally loved the gift shop!

All in all, the tour guides did a really good job of taking us round and I had a fantastic time.

Prentice Bradford Year 8



Mother's Day Recommendations

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

Anyone for afternoon tea ?

How about a literary inspired tea ...



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



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



A Midsummer Night's Dream Tea Shakespeare's famous romantic

Or maybe just say it with flowers ...



Careers Fair

One of our young reporters, Terrell Thomas, Year 10, has written about the Careers & Higher Education Fair.

On Tuesday, Years 10 and 12 got a taster of what their futures could look like after their education in the Senior School. At the Fair, pupils were able to visit a myriad of major industries such as Amazon, the NHS and NatWest as well as many universities.

The Fair presented the pupils with many exhibitors to talk to about their career options and what their industries could provide for the pupils. There were many universities and apprenticeship courses available for us and there were some interesting exhibitors as well. One particularly unique exhibitor offered the chance to be on FaceTime with Dr Lee, a Member of the UN, to get an understanding of what it is like in the UN.

I was fortunate enough to be on FaceTime with him and he said, "The UN has six official languages; French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese and English. It is important to communicate in different languages so learning a language in school is good".

After the Fair, I asked Campbell Eady what did he learn from the fair and he replied:

"I found the Fair useful in advising my future education. In my opinion, Dr Lee was one of the most interesting people I have met."

Mrs Harris, Head of Careers, said, "Putting on an event like this is a huge team effort and we are very fortunate to be supported by fantastic parents, Old Russellians, members of the business community and of course, our wonderful pupils and Prefects".



Business BTEC



On Wednesday, Business BTEC had a guest speaker from Coversure Croydon called Rajan Amin.

For Year 12 and 13 students, learning from external guests is vital for them to be challenged. This visit was part of their Unit 14 in their Business Studies BTEC.

They created role play scenarios which will later be filmed for their coursework. Rajan's session was incredibly valuable for students to learn about customer service and hear from the owner of a local Croydon business.

Theology and Philosophy

Congratulations to all of Year 9 who took part in the creative "Identitee" competition.

There was an outstanding standard of planning, imagination, and originality shown in a fabulous array of personal representations across the year. Each pupil designed, created and wrote about their "Identitee." They explained how they decided to present their T-shirt design and what that said about them.

They picked three different symbols from their T-shirt design to explain in more detail including which part of their overall identity that particular symbol represented. They wrote about what kind of symbolic techniques they used to create their symbol e.g. colour, shape, texture, font and position, as well as how the symbolic techniques actually helped to represent the meaning of their symbol.

Please see the photos below. The results are to be announced next week!



Senior Russell Talk

On Tuesday, Zoya Kirmani gave a Senior Russell talk in the library about "The Midnight Zone", a topic she clearly has a passion for. With the use of her thorough research, Zoya taught us the different layers of our oceans and what weird and wonderful creatures can survive at such depths.

We looked particularly at Cockeyed Squid, Anglerfish and a Barrel-eyed Fish, and how they adapted to their surroundings. Her audience was fascinated by the idea of a specialised green eye lens, and fish with translucent heads, that let them see the shadows above.

In all, Zoya clearly has a strong interest in marine biology and this became clear in her delivery. Well done Zoya!

Rebecca Clery Year 12



The top section of the poster features a dark orange background. On the right, a zombie silhouette is shown from the chest up, with its right hand raised in a claw-like gesture. In the background, a city skyline with various buildings is visible. The text 'ROYAL RUSSELL YEARS 7-9 PRESENTS' is written in a white, dripping, horror-style font across the middle of this section.

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

Canterbury Tales Progress



'We all have a tale to tell'

The East Kent Ride

The chalk downs drainage never lets us down so despite the wet winter so far, we are confident!

Just over twelve miles of countryside bliss in an area of outstanding natural beauty, between 25-30 optional fences around the course, several hundred riders going at a pace that suits them.

The ride starts and finishes at Olantigh Park, Wye, Near Ashford, Kent.

Riders of all capabilities enjoy the varied terrain of grass, tracks and country lanes as well as our optional fences. These fences are fixed cross country fences with a larger and smaller option.

The smaller option is usually 1ft 6-2 ft high and the larger option being between 2ft 6 and 3ft. The famous final section consists of larger and more challenging fences and is set in the park on the return from the ride.

Sponsored Ride Charities

Our charities are at the heart of our ride. I hope you will all ask every auntie, uncle, work colleague, boss, school friend, parent and neighbour to sponsor you for our worthy charities.

Each year we support Kent Air Ambulance. We are also supporting Demelza House at the request of our lovely new sponsor, Chaverys Accountants.

I have done some work at Demelza recently and they are the most incredible organisation with amazing people doing amazing things. This year we are also supporting the Fire Fighter's Charity, in recognition of some of the equine lives they have saved locally during 2019.

Hopefully they will be joining us on the day for educational purposes.

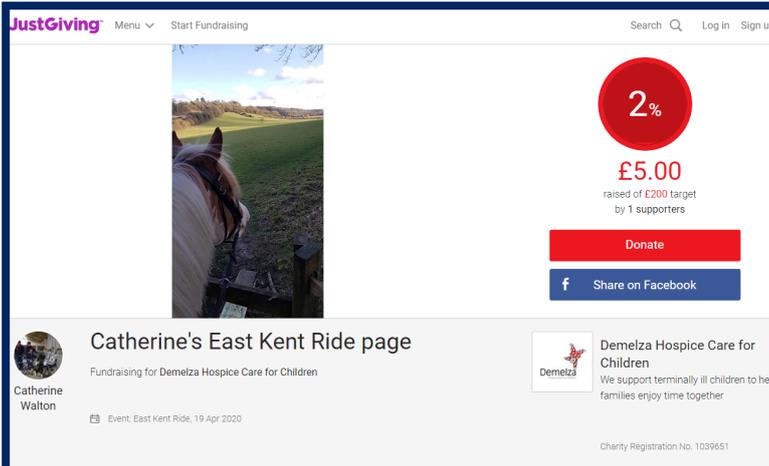
Please click [here](#). Any sponsorship is gratefully received .



Catherine Walton

Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

£19,236.71!!



Croydon Half Marathon

Hello, I'm fundraising for the charity "Let's Talk About Mouth Cancer." I mainly want to raise awareness of the disease through early detection and prevention so please read below for the key signs and symptoms to be aware of.

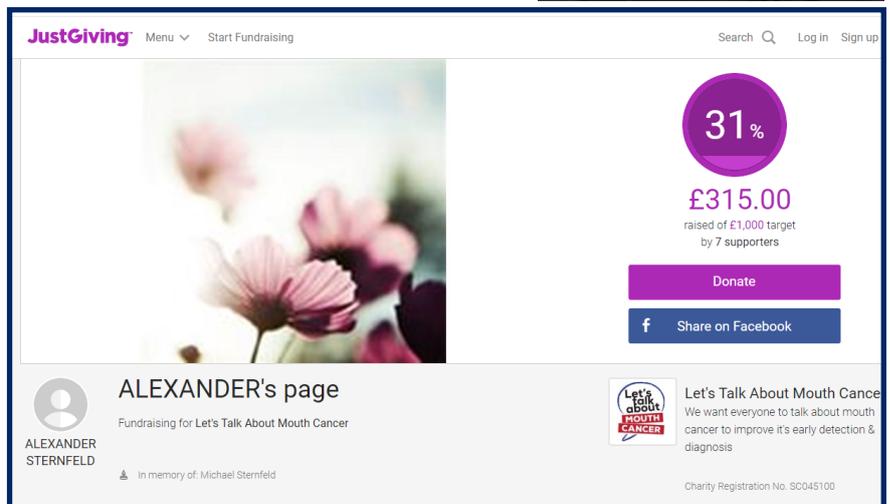
That said, any small donations you would like to make would also be much appreciated! I will be running the Croydon Half Marathon on Sunday 15 March 2020, which is only a week away!

I have been a keen runner for a long time, but have been training pretty hard since the beginning of July 2019. I last did a half marathon, believe it or not, back in 2004 and raised more than £1,200 for Leukaemia Research.

Little did I know at that time that my father would have passed away due to mouth cancer in 2009. He would have benefited from the advice, especially in terms of going to see a doctor or dentist if a mouth ulcer fails to go away after three weeks.

He left it and it wasn't until a lump appeared in his neck that he sought medical treatment.

The disease is extremely aggressive and despite an 11-hour operation (the longest day in my life), radiotherapy and chemotherapy, his life was cut short only 6 months after diagnosis.



The screenshot shows a JustGiving fundraising page for Alexander Sternfeld. The page features a header with the JustGiving logo and navigation links. A large purple circle displays '31%' next to a raised amount of '£315.00' out of a '£1,000 target' by '7 supporters'. There are 'Donate' and 'Share on Facebook' buttons. The page title is 'ALEXANDER's page' with a sub-header 'Fundraising for Let's Talk About Mouth Cancer'. A profile picture of Alexander Sternfeld is shown, along with a note 'In memory of Michael Sternfeld'. The charity logo 'Let's Talk About Mouth Cancer' and its mission statement are also visible.

Key facts, signs and symptoms

In the UK, more than 7,800 people were diagnosed with mouth cancer in 2019 and globally there are in excess of 300,000 new cases every year.

The number of people being diagnosed with mouth cancer has grown by around a third in the last decade and remains one of very few cancers which is predicted to increase further in the coming years.

Although there are risk factors heavily linked to the disease, mouth cancer can affect anyone, which is why it's so important that we all know what to look out for. My fundraising is all about taking action and promoting the messages:

- ◆ Don't leave a mouth ulcer unattended for more than 3 weeks
- ◆ Don't ignore any unusual lumps or swellings, or red and white patches in your mouth
- ◆ Any changes in and around your mouth or swelling should be checked after 3 weeks. Go and see your dentist or doctor
- ◆ Early detection could save your life. If you notice any changes in your mouth, speak to a dentist or doctor immediately
- ◆ Changes in your voice or problems with speech
- ◆ Unintentional weight loss
- ◆ Difficulty moving your jaw
- ◆

Thank you for taking the time to read my page. Please click [here](#) to donate.

The Swimming Challenge Continues



The number of lengths completed has been very impressive. We have managed to get to Canterbury and back (8,064 lengths) and are already on the return leg of the second cycle.

A massive well done to all those involved and thank you for joining in. It's not too late to join us and everyone is most welcome.

Please remember to record the distance swum when using the School Pool and to add a card to the display. If anyone is interested in donating please click [here](#).

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



Sponsor Graham Swann running his 37th London Marathon

Sense is a national charity that supports people with complex communication needs, including those who are deaf and blind, helping them to be understood, connected and valued.

They are there for every person who faces communication barriers in a world that relies on being able to see and hear well to be connected. Together, we can unlock barriers to communication so no one is isolated, left out or unable to fulfill their potential. I couldn't think of a more worthwhile cause to support for my 37th London Marathon.

Please click [here](#) to support and donate anything you can spare. I am very mindful that I have so many wonderful supporters who have contributed to my previous marathon adventures.



Forthcoming Events Check Firefly regularly for Details!!

A Pilgrim's Way Relay

Staff Bake Off Competition

Canterbury Run

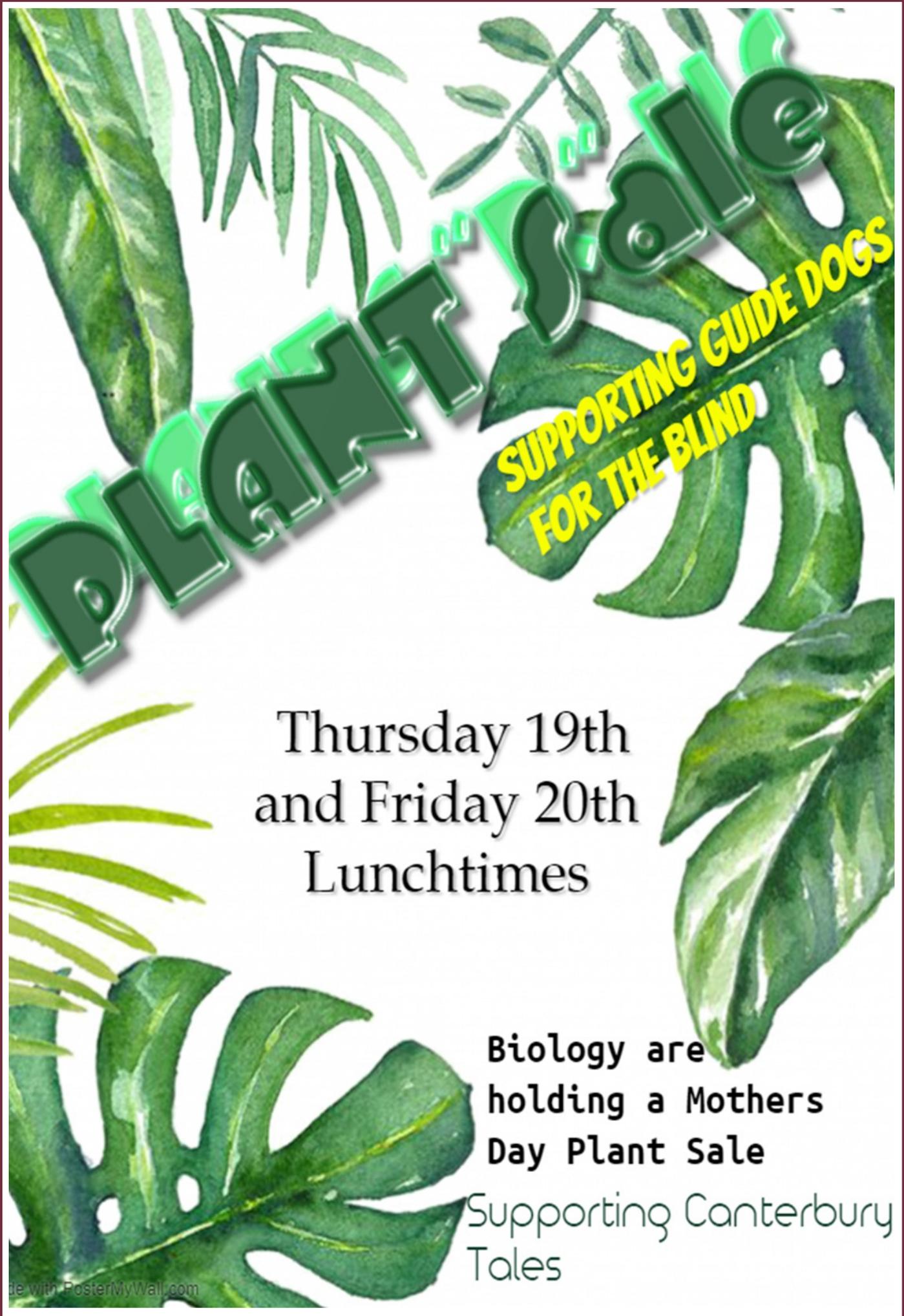
Fringe Event

Bike Run to Canterbury Cathedral

Cathedral Choir

Croquet for St Christopher's

Canterbury to School three-day Walk



PLANT SALE

**SUPPORTING GUIDE DOGS
FOR THE BLIND**

Thursday 19th
and Friday 20th
Lunchtimes

**Biology are
holding a Mothers
Day Plant Sale**

Supporting Canterbury
Tales

The Canterbury Tales Challenge.

All money raised will go to The Guide Dogs For the
Blind

Biology Egg Decorating Competition

£1
per
entry



Prize for the best
decorated egg is a
large Easter egg

Tuesday 17th March at 1:15-Introduction in S1

Wednesday 18th March lunchtime-Dye your eggs

Eggs to be submitted for judging by Tuesday
21st March.

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

Football

U15 Elgin Cup Final

The U15's took on neighbouring school Whitgift in the Elgin Cup final at Bromley Football Club on Wednesday night. Royal Russell got off to the best of starts when Louis Saville managed to put us 1-0 up when he scored a brilliant goal after receiving a fantastic pass, courtesy of Amir Mohamed Faruk. With the assistance of Toby McKimm in goal, Royal Russell went into half-time leading. Whitgift came out stronger in the second half of the game and managed to score an equaliser.

The score was now 1-1. Through perseverance and resilience, Royal Russell managed to fight back with a close ranged effort from Sam German. This saw Royal Russell take the lead with 10 minutes left to go. Unfortunately, Royal Russell were unable to hold onto the lead and Whitgift scored two goals in quick succession with only minutes left to play. The final score finished 3-2 to Whitgift.

Both teams will meet later next week where they will contest the National ISFA Cup final in Burton upon Trent. We wish the whole team the best of luck next week and we want to thank everyone for their continued support.

Hockey

U12A Surrey Plate Competition - 3rd Place!!

On Wednesday, the U12's headed to Woking HC to play in the Surrey Plate Competition.

The boys started the group matches in a really positive way, winning vs St Johns, Allyn's, Trinity and Kingston, and finishing the group in second place on goal difference!

The boys then took on St George's, Weybridge in a nail biting end to end game, which finished 2-1 to St George's. Using the loss as motivation to come home with a medal, the boys then fought tooth and nail to get a result vs Whitgift, which finished with a convincing 3-1 win to us.

The boys played some brilliant hockey throughout the day and really worked hard to come away with a medal. A fantastic effort by all!



Strength and Conditioning

Members of the Years 9 and 10 Class Fit Group took advantage of the brief sunshine to go round the stunning cross-country route.



Netball

U18 Surrey Finals

On Sunday, our first team had their Surrey County finals competition, having previously qualified in first place. During the group stage, the girls won all but one game, beating Lingfield College, St Catherine's, Putney High, St George's and narrowly losing to Alleyn's.

This left us in second place in our group and we were set to face Streatham and Clapham in the semi-final. The score finished 8-5 to Streatham and Clapham. Our girls worked exceptionally hard and did themselves proud. Royal Russell therefore finished the day in third place.

Jada Springer and Jasmine Palmer-Garrick led the team with great spirit and determination all day.

U13 National Plate Quarter Final

Our U13 netball team played their national quarter final match on Tuesday against a strong Sydenham High team. Unfortunately, we weren't successful on this occasion, however the girls should be incredibly proud of reaching that stage in the competition.

Priscilla Obeng led the team well with lots of encouragement. Chika George was named player of the match having played in both defending and attacking positions. Well done girls!

U12 and 13 Surrey Finals

The U12 & 13 A teams played in their Surrey Finals on Thursday away at East Grinstead. Both teams faced tough qualifying matches. The U13s played against Croydon High in their first game, the girls played excellent passages of play and managed to come from behind to draw 5-5. The next few games showed just how tough the day was going to be with fundamental errors being punished.

The U13s narrowly missed out on qualifying to the semi-finals, however, they should be proud of how they played and conducted themselves throughout the day.

The U12s travelled to the finals knowing they were three players down, however, this did not dampen their spirits and they played excellent netball for their first match. Mistakes then started to creep into their match play, and this was punished hard by the opposition.

Again, the U12s missed out on their semi-finals, but should be very encouraged by the performances they displayed.



Key Diary Dates

Thursday 19 March

Mother's Day Service

Thursday 19 March

House Drama Competition

Friday 20 March

Year 10 Business Studies Young Enterprise 'Tenner Challenge' ends



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Royal Russell School

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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen