



Royal  
Russell

Russellian 2019



# Cover Artwork

Year 7 were commissioned by our Headmaster to produce a piece of artwork to enhance the table in his study.

The pupils were inspired by the works of David Hopper and closely studied his designs and techniques, considering how these could be incorporated into their own creation.

They embarked on gathering images from all the different environments of the school campus and explored how to use their photography in a creative manner.

The amazing result of their project is now proudly on display for all to admire.



# Headmaster's Welcome

This has been a hugely successful year, where we have seen the values of the Royal Russell community being expressed in the actions and outcomes of our young people, as strongly as ever.

My fundamental commitment as Head of this amazing school is to ensure that excellence is embedded in every facet of the Royal Russell experience.

Whether we consider our individual and collective academic successes, or the stunning music and drama performances, or the quality of our sports teams or the ever widening opportunities for our pupils to excel in so many activities beyond the classroom, this has been an outstanding year.

Many of you will know that I am a great believer in the school motto, 'Not for oneself but for all'. I love the resonance that this Victorian aspiration has with our busy lives led here at Royal Russell in the 21st Century and I constantly challenge our pupils not just to be successful, but to think about how that success can be achieved together. Not just to be good, but to do good within the Royal Russell Family and beyond. Not just to work hard and play hard, but to work in a way that is both supportive and collaborative.

Our lives are enriched in so many special ways when we work, learn and grow together and I often reflect on the sense of warmth, genuine generosity, openness and joy that

exists throughout our school. Self-awareness, responsibility, integrity and respect for one another are difficult to quantify, but I know that Royal Russell pupils would top any local, national or international league table that could accurately measure this.

One of the highlights of this last year was undoubtedly the success achieved by our public examination candidates and I am delighted to report that we achieved our best ever GCSE and A level results this summer, allowing our pupils to move on from Royal Russell with great confidence and belief in their abilities. I also hugely enjoyed welcoming and getting to know our new Year 7 pupils and seeing them settle and then thrive in their new environment. They, with the year groups above them, will ensure that Royal Russell accomplishment will only grow in the future.

Our success in pupil outcomes and ambition for our future development is achieved through the work of a great team and I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Royal Russell community of staff, parents, friends and supporters for providing so much opportunity for our young people to thrive.



Thank you to our superstar, Royal Russell pupils who bring so much joy to us as we support and guide them on their Royal Russell journey and who are a source of so much love and laughter in our lives.

My congratulations to you all.

Chris Hutchinson  
Headmaster



# Public Examination Results

This year we have once again seen incredibly successful outcomes for our girls and boys in their public examinations.

These demonstrate the high quality of our academic provision at all levels and the effectiveness of our Challenge Curriculum, which stretches and broadens our pupils' knowledge and passion for every subject.

Our co-curricular programme and strong focus on pastoral care ensures that our young people enjoy their learning and are supported, well cared for and given every opportunity to be successful both in and outside of the classroom.

## OUR BEST EVER GCSE RESULTS!

This year we celebrated our best ever GCSE results with our delighted Year 11 pupils and parents. 53.3% of all grades were an impressive 9, 8 and 7 (A\*/A).

110 pupils sat a total of 980 GCSE examinations and achieved another impressive set of results.

A special mention to Sade Fawehinmi who achieved an outstanding ten Grade 9s!

Congratulations to all our pupils who worked so hard, and have made us so proud. These results strongly reflect their effort and the commitment of our teaching staff and all in the Royal Russell community who have supported them.

We look forward to welcoming these talented young people into our thriving Sixth Form.



Sade achieved a stunning ten Grade 9s!



Congratulations Year 11!

## OUR BEST EVER A LEVEL RESULTS

116 Year 13 pupils sat 368 A levels and BTEC Diploma examinations this summer, achieving a stunning 45% A\*/A grades.

There were many individual outstanding performances in our results, demonstrating the success at all levels of the academic range and reflecting the strength of our provision for this wonderful group of girls and boys.

Particular mention should be made of our three Oxbridge candidates, who have all been successful in achieving the grades required for their offers.

**Lucas Jones** A\*, A\*, A\*  
*French & Arabic at Somerville College, Oxford*

**Kei Kawamata** A\*, A\*, A  
*Engineering at Lincoln College, Oxford*

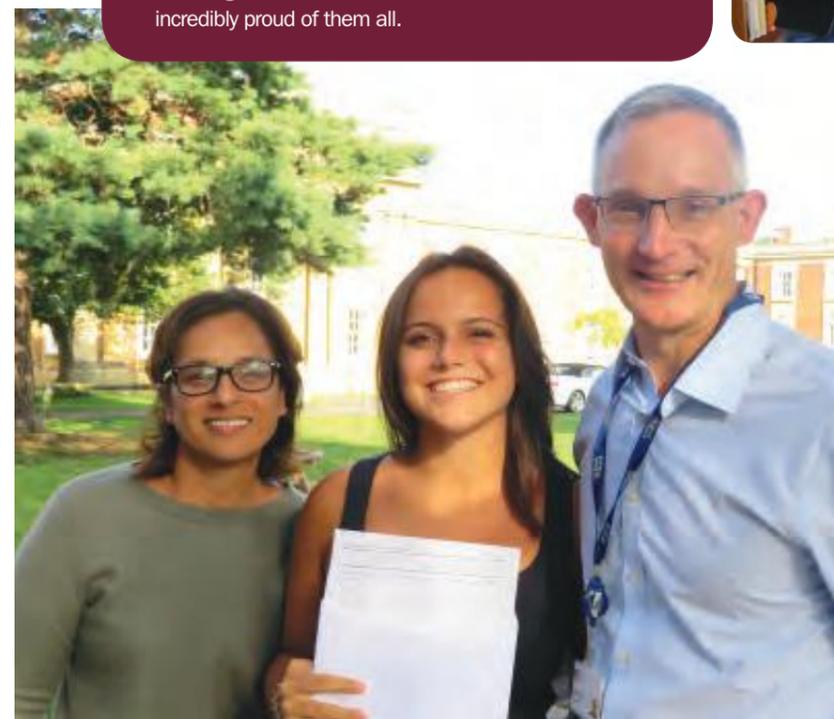
**Ola Maciaszek** A\*, A\*, A\*, A  
*Mathematics at St John's College, Cambridge (Ola was also awarded an A\* for her EPQ Project)*

Our BTEC Level 3 pupils have also been incredibly successful in Sport and Business, with 50% of grades awarded at the equivalent of A\*/A.

Pupils leave us to study a wide range of courses including Computer Science, Economics, English, History, Mechanical Engineering, Pharmacy, Sports Management, Television and Psychology at universities including Cambridge, Edinburgh, Exeter, Kings College London, Loughborough, Leeds, LSE, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, University College London and Warwick.

These results strongly reflect the hard work of our pupils and the efforts of our teaching staff and of all the Royal Russell community who have expertly guided these talented young people who move on, with such confidence, to the next exciting stage of their lives.

Our congratulations to the Class of 2019. We are incredibly proud of them all.





# Class of 2019

The Senior Prefect Team have an important role in the leading and running of our school. They are selected each year following an application and interview process where they discuss their successes, contribution to school life and their future aspirations. The Team are role models for our community and support the pupil body throughout the year. Heads of School, Maya Linter, Amanfi Aggrey and Yasmin Akhmedova talk about their own personal Royal Russell journey.

My time at Royal Russell has definitely been one to remember and, since joining in Year 5, I have made countless memories.

I have been able to take advantage of the abundance of co-curricular activities offered at the school. Sport at Royal Russell has been a big part of my journey; I joined the School having never played netball and now I am leaving as the Captain of the first team that reached two National Finals this year. Being a part of Sport at Royal Russell has not only developed my physical ability, it has enabled me to develop as a person, and I am happy to say that through this I have made friends for life. I was also Head of Secretariat for our International Model United Nations Conference, helping with the organisation and administration of this prestigious event.

The past two years in the Sixth Form has prepared me well for the future. I have taken History, Business and

The journey I have been on since my first day at Royal Russell has been a defining one.

I remember joining the School in Year 7 and it being an extreme culture shock. I came from a reasonably small primary school, so the transition to our enormous campus at Royal Russell was a big step up.

Fortunately I had nothing to fear, because the size of the school didn't make it any less welcoming. It was easy to make new friends and soon enough I was talking to my primary school friends about how cool my new school was.

I had been awarded an Academic and Sport scholarship and got involved in all the activities and

Spanish at A level and leave to study Law with Business at the University of Birmingham next year.

After applying and being interviewed by the Headmaster for the positions of Head of House and Head of Sport, I was chosen to be a Head of School. My experience in this role has taught me skills in time management, public speaking and teamwork. I have learnt to balance being in a leadership position with being part of a year group community and this experience will help me greatly in the future.

One of the most profound memories I will take away with me is the trip I took to Uganda in the summer of 2018, before I started Year 13. The experience opened my eyes to how lucky we really are and how much we all take for granted.

It is hard to put into words how amazing my time at Royal Russell has been. I know that when I look

clubs that interested me.

As I went through each year I was able to see the evolution of our unique ethos here at Royal Russell and I believe you won't be able to find a community quite like it anywhere else.

Throughout my years spent at Royal Russell I have shared countless experiences with my peers, celebrated many academic and athletic successes and grown into the young man that I am today because of all of them.

I achieved 10 A\*s and one A at GCSE and chose Economics, Maths and Spanish for my A levels. I am leaving to go to the University of Manchester to study Economics and go into Banking, or set up my own business



Further Maths and Economics) to a great extent with thanks to the professionalism and day-to-day support from my teachers. I received offers from LSE and UCL, my two first choice universities. My studies of English as an Additional Language resulted in a top IELTS score and a professional qualification for teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Boarding life turned out to be a wonderful life experience. My House is a comfortable environment with cosy rooms and common facilities for studies and leisure time. Queen's House has a unique home-like atmosphere and friendly and caring staff.

In Year 12 I was sharing a room with a girl from China, who is now my very best friend, and lived alongside pupils from all over the world.

Revising for exams with friends, taking care of younger pupils, shopping at weekends, ordering pizza on Friday nights, fun trips, celebrating birthdays together. These seem like small things but they have shaped my personality and taught me to value friendship, open-mindedness, responsibility, respect and care for people.

Royal Russell offers its pupils a wide range of co-curricular activities. Everyone can choose what he or

she likes. I chose Model United Nations because Royal Russell has strong MUN experience and expertise. In a short time, I learnt many skills and became President of the Security Council at our School's annual MUN Conference. I participated in many MUN conferences throughout the year both as a Delegate and a Chair, and through this experience I sharpened my debating and public speaking skills.

I was honoured to be selected as Head of School. This role allowed me to see how much the Headmaster and staff do to ensure that each and every pupil is looked after and taken care of. I can say that pupils are an important part of Royal Russell's decision making process and our views and ideas are heard.

Everyone who comes to study at Royal Russell should take every opportunity to learn new things, meet new people and make new friends. You may never get another chance to play in a rock band, go rock-climbing or construct a rocket, and one day, that Japanese GCSE might help you make the most important deal of your life!

YASMIN AKHMEDOVA  
Head of School



back in years to come my time at Royal Russell was unforgettable.

My advice for any Royal Russell pupil is to grasp every opportunity given to you at the school because you will learn so much and may never get another chance to do so many wonderful things every day.

MAYA LINTER  
Head of School



when I graduate. Studying at Royal Russell has been a huge privilege and as I prepare to move on to the next chapter of my life, I will always be proud to call myself an Old Russellian.

AMANFI AGGREY  
Head of School



## Heads of School & Senior Prefect Team



Marina Perez Gomez, Aleksandra Maciaszek, Davlesh Jodhun, Ihsan Abubaker, Maya Linter, Ana-Maria Militaru, Fedor Sulitskiy, Ada Okorogheye, George Ledger-Humphreys, Yasmin Akhmedov, Maddy Longhurst, Lucas Jones, Amanfi Aggrey, Stevie Palmer.



# University Destinations

All our Year 13 pupils successfully accepted places at their chosen universities, have gained coveted apprenticeship schemes and internships or directly entered employment in their chosen career fields.

	Physical Geography (With Year Abroad)
	Economics
	Illustration and Visual Media
	Health and Exercise Science with Professional Placement
	Business Foundation Year Foundation Year - Business, Finance and Management
	Law with Business Studies Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin
	Business Studies Sports Management Television Production
	Graphics for Games
	Digital Games Development Digital Film Economics (With Placement Year) Sport and Business Management
	Property Development and Planning (With Foundation Year)
	Sports Science

	Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences (Sport Development)
	Chemistry
	Accounting and Finance
	Sport and Exercise Psychology
	Foundation Year
	Business Management Business Information Systems
	Psychology
	Economics and Finance with Industrial Experience Law
	Foundation Year
	International Business
	International Business (With Year in Industry)
	Communication and Media Digital Media International Business

	Mathematics, Statistics and Business
	Film Practice
	Art Foundation Criminology and Sociology Economics Media and Communication
	Economics Mechanical Engineering (With Industrial Experience) Management
	Marketing
	Criminology and Sociology Physics and Philosophy Pharmacy Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
	Construction Management Product Design
	Engineering French and Arabic
	Film Industries Geography Marine Environmental Science Psychology (With Placement Year)
	Business Management English and Drama (With Year Abroad) Global Health (With Year Abroad) History
	Mathematics with Finance and Accounting  Accountancy and Finance Geography and Economics (Regional Science) Quantity Surveying

	Business and Management (With Year in Business) Management with Accounting
	Television and Radio
	Accounting and Financial Management Mechanical Engineering (With Foundation Year)
	Journalism
	Medicine
	Mathematics
	Economics Psychology
	Business and Management Studies Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Robotics Marketing and Management Mechanical Engineering
	Anthropology Education Studies Statistics, Economics and Finance
	Accounting and Finance Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Economics (MORSE) Modern Languages and Economics
	Property Development and Planning (With Foundation Year)



This year, we are delighted to welcome John Evans as our Junior School Headmaster, who joined Royal Russell in September 2019.

My first impression of Royal Russell was the tangible sense of community I felt within the school. I sensed an enthusiasm and a joy of learning that permeated every aspect of school life I encountered and I was struck by the generous welcome from all. There is an evident sense of warmth from everyone you meet at Royal Russell and I immediately felt at home. Now, several weeks into our first term together, I can already feel the excitement growing as I am coming to better understand the community's well developed qualities and its exciting potential.

Royal Russell Junior School welcomed over 70 new families in September and mine was one of them. My son, Oscar, is thriving in Reception, my wife, Kerry, is enjoying her position in the Senior School English and Drama Departments and my dog, Ludo, enjoys meeting and greeting pupils on arrival to the school.

My teaching career began in Cambridgeshire at St. John's College Prep School where, alongside lessons in the classroom, I shared my love of sport, especially rowing, with some of the older children. I have always believed in the importance of a broad range of experiences to transform young people's lives and I remember exciting Tyrolean ski trips and white water rafting in the Italian Alps.

I'm happy to report that my first taste of London life was south of the river at Dulwich Prep London. I taught a variety of subjects to classes in Years 3 and 4 and then focused on English with older pupils, preparing for transition to senior schools. I continued to enjoy a wide range of activities including boarding duties, trips to Snowdonia and cycling coast to coast across the north of England.

As the Senior Deputy Head at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' Preparatory School, I had oversight

of academic matters and the day to day running of the school. 'Habs' is similar to Royal Russell in terms of both the age range of the children and the commitment to excellence in all areas. It is a real privilege to watch our children transition from the Junior School to the Senior School and support them as they become outstanding young people of admirable character and I know that I will feel the same pride this summer as my first Year 6 cohort moves up to the Senior School here at Royal Russell.

I relish the challenge of teaching and love learning itself. I have learnt so much from the different environments I have worked in, both from my colleagues and the pupils in my care. In the classroom, I am thrilled by curiosity and discovery. Teaching is not imparting your own knowledge, it is about inspiring young minds to want to learn, develop and grow. Moving into leadership positions, I have remained focused on my time in the classroom and see this as a crucial, and enjoyable, part of my role.

The proudest moments in my career have always been the successes of children. Sometimes it's the little things: doing something for the first time, having the confidence to approach a challenge in a new way or simply persevering when something has been particularly tough. You never get tired of seeing a child achieve something they did not think they could.

Academic progress, stimulated through curiosity and challenge, will, and should, always form an important part of what schools provide. However, there is a huge need to understand that childhood has changed so much since many parents were children themselves. The pressure on young people to live their lives under the scrutiny of social media is intense. Pupil welfare and awareness of mental health have, quite rightly, come to the



forefront of the educational debate and schools also have a responsibility to support young people as they prepare to enter a world which can often seem quite uncertain. There is no exact formula to getting this right in school or at home, but what is key is establishing and maintaining deliberate and purposeful communication between home and school that places the child at the centre of a supportive community with their best interests at heart.

I am proud to lead such a successful and well-regarded Junior School as Royal Russell and work with an amazing team of teaching and support staff and I look forward to celebrating the school's continued success with parents and pupils.

John Evans  
Junior School Headmaster



## 2019 Senior School Scholarships

Congratulations to the following Year 6 Junior School pupils who have been awarded scholarships in recognition of their hard work and talent.

Luca Bradbury	Academic	Kesmia Mangaru	Art	Georgia Pocheliev	Academic
Leah Clery	Academic	Jasmine McCann	Drama	Johan Prinsloo	Academic
Erynn Edney	Music	Mia McCann	Drama	Lorenzo Shone	Sport
Tallulah Haley	Academic	Jamie McDowall	Drama	Ted Stacey	Sport
Sienna Hudson-Wiltshire	Drama	Thomas Mullen	Academic	Uliana Tokolova	Art
Hannah Kaminski	Sport	Olivia Obasuyi	Sport	Eleanor Von Gerard	Drama
Amy Knolles	Academic	Shayna Patel	Sport	Aleksei Vorontsov	Academic



## Heads of Junior School

### ZARA ASPLAND

“It was such a great honour and privilege to be elected as Head Girl. My most moving moment was laying the wreath in the Memorial Garden to mark 100 years of the end of the First World War.

Royal Russell has given me so many opportunities throughout the years and I am very grateful.

When I grow up I would like to be a photographer or a newsreader. My advice to new pupils is to try hard, be kind and make the most of the wonderful opportunities at our school.”

### ALEKSEI VORONTSOV

“Ever since Year 3 I kept telling myself that in Year 6 I would become Head Boy!

My favourite memory of the Junior School was in Year 5 when we were learning about natural disasters, building towns and having to survive! I also enjoyed giving our new Headmaster, Mr Evans a tour of the School.

My advice to new pupils is to trust in other pupils as they will always help and support you.”

### AMY KNOLLES

“I have really enjoyed being Head Girl because there were lots of responsibilities and fun opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise.

My favourite part was helping in the weekly celebration assemblies.

My favourite sport is Cricket and my favourite subject is Art. I really enjoyed rehearsing for the Year 6 production, Rock Bottom. I am excited to be moving up to the Senior School and am really happy to have been awarded an Academic scholarship.”

### PETER YUNG-HOI

“My favourite memory of my time at Royal Russell is when I met my best friends, Roberto, Ted and Josh. When I joined the school, everyone welcomed me and it was a really special time.

I enjoy all my lessons and have always felt supported by the teachers because they give up their time to help us.

When I'm older I would like to be a chef.”

### JOHAN PRINSLOO

“I was honoured to be Head Boy. This was such a lovely surprise since this was only my second year at the school. Royal Russell is a place where you can meet lots of friends across all year groups. When I'm older I want to be a lawyer or an electrical engineer.

My advice is never give up as anything is possible.”

### HANNAH KAMINSKI

“It was an honour to be appointed as Head Girl. I have really enjoyed all the responsibilities that I had as well as the speeches I have given.

I have had so much fun at Royal Russell, but some of my best memories are winning the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament, the IAPS Plate in Netball and the Croydon Schools Long Jump. I also enjoyed the Holland Hockey Tour. I have been awarded a Sport scholarship and I am really looking forward to all the sport in the Senior School.

My advice to new pupils is to enjoy yourself while you're here as it will go by very quickly.”



# Junior School Trips



## YEAR 3 LONDON RIVER CRUISE AND LONDON EYE TRIP

Year 3 were treated to an absolute feast for their senses when they travelled to London. They began their experience with a riverboat cruise to see many of the top London landmarks. They then climbed aboard our VIP capsules on the London Eye for a Geography workshop, identifying landmarks and their position in relation to the eight compass points.



## YEAR 1 TRIP TO HEVER CASTLE

Year 1 had great weather for their trip to Hever Castle. They had a fun day at the Castle, where they enjoyed the tour and the workshop on how people lived in earlier times. They learnt more about the features of castles and were delighted by the model houses.



## YEAR 5 RIVER EXPLORATION TRIP TO GREENWICH

On the foreshore, pupils looked for artefacts that have been at the River Thames for thousands of years. Wading through the waters, they found bones of animals and pieces of plates and pipes.



## YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO BOWLES

Year 5 started the year with an incredible three-day trip to Bowles! They enjoyed a vast range of exciting activities including archery, raft building, rock climbing and skiing. They also practiced some very important life skills such as bed making and cleaning!

## YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Year 2 became astronauts and visited the Science Museum to explore Space! In the workshop they learnt what life was like on a space station and visited all of the planets and rockets in the exhibit.



## YEAR 6 TRIP TO KEW GARDENS

The sun was trying hard to shine through as pupils explored the Palm House, conservatories and stunning grounds of Kew. They saw many of the plants that they have been learning about, and also discussed deforestation and were able to handle real rainforest artefacts. The treetop walk was a highlight and allowed pupils to imagine the height of the emergent layer of the rainforest, although not everyone quite managed to get to the top!

## YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE AQUARIUM

Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous day in Brighton. They saw so many different kinds of fish in the Aquarium and finished the day with a picnic on the beach. A lovely fun day out.



## YEAR 4 TRIP TO SHOREHAM

The children found crabs, anemones, shrimps, a selection of small fish and even a live oyster whilst rock pooling. On the beach they discovered an array of shells, cuttlefish, seaweed and fossils. Closer to the land they identified a selection of beautiful rare flowers, saw butterflies, bumble bees and caught a glimpse of a lizard's tail.





# Junior School Trips

## RECEPTION TRIP TO THE BRIGHTON SEA LIFE CENTRE

Reception had a fantastic trip, looking at the amazing sea creatures in the Aquarium. They managed to spend some time on the beach as well. They had lots of fun despite the lack of sunshine.



## YEAR 6 FOOD TECHNOLOGY TRIP TO PIZZA HUT

During a wonderful morning at Pizza Hut, pupils were able to learn about the way that the restaurant is marketed, as well as find out more about a professional kitchen and what goes into creating so many delicious pizzas. As well as this, they also had a go at making their own pizza creations.



## YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE TATE MODERN

Year 4 had lots of fun drawing in many challenging ways. They designed their own installations for the Turbine Hall and saw great views of London from the top!

## SPORTS TOUR TO THE NETHERLANDS

A group of Junior and Senior School Hockey enthusiasts had the pleasure of experiencing a number of sporting and leisure activities. These included a coaching session each day for our respective teams, a number of fixtures against different clubs across Holland along with lots of exiting activities such as laser tag, bowling, tobogganing and even a trip to a Dutch pancake house. Everybody experienced a number of team and personal successes, whether it be learning a new skill at training or winning against a good Dutch opposition.

The trip was certainly enjoyed by all, and one to remember.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL BUSHCRAFT TRIP

During their exciting three days of outdoor adventure, the large group of pupils slept in tents, cooked their food on open fires and did plenty of trekking and exploring. They learnt a range of practical and survival skills, including first aid, camp building, firefighting and navigation. Our young Bushcrafters thoroughly enjoyed their time, having lots of fun!

## YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

This much anticipated trip was a fantastic way to start the year, with pupils using an array of their 'Russell Powers' to tackle the many challenges throughout the week. From rock pooling to body boarding, aeroball to the highly anticipated 3G swing, the pupils grasped all the opportunities that came their way.

The evenings were just as much fun with camp fires and games and, of course, a compulsory hot chocolate before bed! How much sleep the children had was questionable, having a giant sleepover in adventure lodges with all their friends was just way too exciting!

It was a brilliant week, enjoyed by all the children and staff, which gave us all memories to reflect on for a very long time.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL PANTOMIME TRIP

The whole school enjoyed a trip to the Harlequin Theatre in Redhill to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, some even stopped to admire an enormous Christmas tree.



## YEAR 2 TRIP TO LONDON ZOO

Year 2 visited London Zoo where they were greeted by giraffes, gorillas, penguins and meerkats. They attended a talk from a member of zoo staff that got them thinking and learning about endangered species. A great day was had by all.





# Junior School Trips



## PUPIL PARLIAMENT TRIP TO WESTMINSTER

Our Pupil Parliament representatives from all year groups had an exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.

On their guided tour it was fascinating to see the House of Commons and House of Lords, where important decisions about the future of the country are debated and voted upon. They enjoyed comparing these debates to our own debates in school and came back with lots of new ideas for Pupil Parliament.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP

The Junior Ski Trip, including a few Year 7s and 8s, headed to Sestriere for six days of amazing skiing.

The large group arrived at the hotel just as it started to snow! This was the trend for the week as they woke up most mornings to fresh powdery snow which allowed our pupils to make excellent progress and ski the whole resort.

We mixed our awesome skiing with some great evening entertainment, including a chilled movie and games night and an exciting treasure hunt where the pupils compiled a movie to present their findings. We swam in the open-air pool overlooking the stunning mountains and resident DJ Josh kept the party alive on our last night after our awards evening.



## RECEPTION VISITS THE MAINTENANCE TEAM

Reception enjoyed exploring other areas of our wonderful school, with a trip to the Maintenance Department. They met the team and toured the workshop.

## YEAR 1 TRIP TO THE BRITISH TRANSPORT MUSEUM

After travelling to London by tram and train, pupils explored the history of the transport system over the past two hundred years. The pupils were delighted to be allowed to go inside the carriages of the vintage trams and trains on display.



## YEAR 4 TRIP TO SURREY STREET MARKET

Year 4 travelled by tram to the historic Surrey Street Market in Croydon, which has been trading since 1276. They examined lots of fresh produce and talked to the stall holders about how they run their businesses.



## YEAR 4 TRIP TO FLATFORD MILL

Year 4 had a fantastic time away at Flatford Mill. They carefully swished around their nets to catch interesting creatures in the pond and used their map skills to navigate the local area whilst orienteering.

The night walk was also adventurous and some of the children spotted bats! They slept over in lovely old buildings with very squeaky floorboards and stairs! Great fun was had by all.

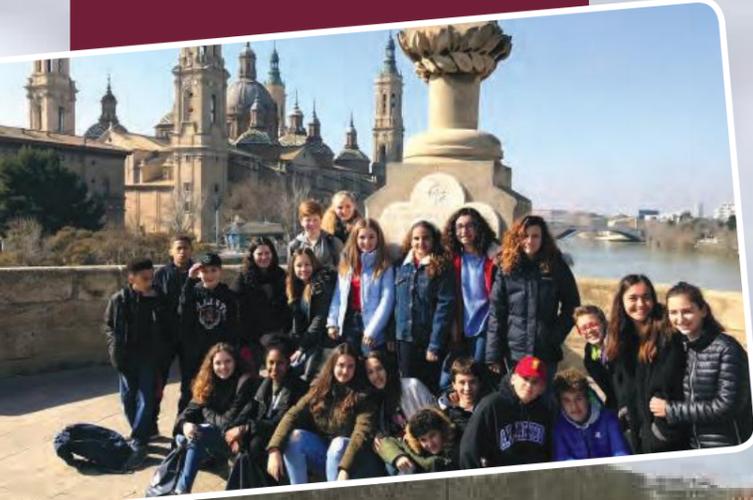




# Senior School Trips

## SPANISH EXCHANGE

A group of pupils had the great opportunity of spending a few days with their host families in Zaragoza, Spain. Spending time at a Spanish school, they attended lessons, speaking only Spanish. They visited the main cathedral, market and the stone bridge.



## YEAR 7 TRIP TO PARIS

35 Year 7 pupils headed to Paris for the opportunity to meet French students and practice the language. They enjoyed a meal at a local restaurant overlooking a horse manège, before a picnic on the Champs de Mars by the Eiffel Tower. They spent time discovering the capital's landmarks from a boat on the river Seine, seeing Notre-Dame, the Musée d'Orsay and the Louvre. The highlight of the trip was, undoubtedly, seeing the Eiffel Tower in the evening from the Trocadero, sparkling in all its beauty.



## YEAR 12 TRIP TO THE V&A MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

Year 12 Art and Photography A level pupils travelled to London for an inspirational tour of the Museum. They saw different toys, dolls and games from countries all over the world, spanning from the 1800s to modern day.

## BOARDERS' RIVER BOAT TRIP

Our Boarders took a high speed, adrenaline filled boat trip on the Thames. They enjoyed sight-seeing, taking in the attractions of the Houses of Parliament, HMS Belfast, the Tower of London, the Docklands and the O2. It was an exciting and truly fascinating tour.



## YEAR 9 HISTORY BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Year 9 travelled to Ypres, Belgium, visiting the various memorial sites where soldiers from both sides of the war rested. They also had the opportunity to experience and explore the trenches at Sanctuary Wood. On the way home, they stopped in France to see the Thiepval Memorial to the Unknown of the Somme, six of whom were Old Russellians.

## BOARDERS' TRIP TO MADAME TUSSAUDS

A group of Boarders were spellbound straight away, rubbing shoulders with George Clooney, Kim Kardashian and Tom Hardy to name a few! The highlight of the trip came at the end where they were treated to an immersive Marvel 4D Cinema Show. A great time was had by all.





# Senior School Trips

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO BLACKLAND FARM

84 new Year 7 pupils visited Blacklands Farm for a day of team building and challenge to get to know each other better. They attempted three main activities; tower abseiling, the crate challenge and the team challenge. The day was a lot of fun and all groups worked really hard on the challenges presented to them.



## YEAR 12 TRIP TO FRYLANDS WOOD

Year 12 pupils embarked on their journey to Frylands Wood for some new year team building and bonding activities. These included rock climbing, gladiators and a huge assault course. It was a fun day, allowing pupils to form friendships as well as challenging themselves to work in teams to try new and challenging activities.



## BOARDERS' TRIP TO LEEDS CASTLE

Our Boarders spent a sunny Sunday at Leeds Castle. They enjoyed a visit to the flower festival with live music and food. The tour of the Castle was the highlight with the impressive luxury décor and history of the castle on show.



## YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO DORSET

GCSE Geography pupils headed to the Dorset and Hampshire coastline to undertake fieldwork. They headed to Hurst Castle and Milford on Sea where they undertook beach sediment surveying and beach profiling. Pupils were able to understand the impact of longshore drift on the coastline and how human activity can alter our expectations.



## BOARDERS' EXPLORE LONDON

Pupils travelled from Battersea Bridge, taking in the sights of The Houses of Parliament, the Shard and the Tower of London to name but a few. After departing the boat in Greenwich, they ventured into the food market before making a dash up the hill to see the spectacular view of London and standing on the Meridian Line at the Royal Observatory.



## YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO SEAFORD

Pupils approached the shingle beach with great caution as the waves were very destructive. They climbed to the top of the cliffs to get a better view and made a field sketch of the coastline, which included the sea cave and stump, to support their study of erosion.

## YEAR 8 TRIP TO THE GLOBE THEATRE

The whole of Year 8 set off to London with their English and Drama teachers to watch Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in the Globe Theatre. It was a beautiful venue in which to watch this world famous production.





# Senior School Trips



## YEAR 8 TRIP TO BILBAO

35 excited Year 8s headed to an adventure centre by the beach in Bilbao for five days of activity. In the water, they were introduced to body boarding, surfing and sea kayaking. On land, they enjoyed horse riding, a trip to the town centre and a visit to the world famous Guggenheim Museum.

Some pupils were worried that they did not have enough Spanish for this trip, but they all managed to understand the instructors who spoke only in Spanish.

## YEAR 13 VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF THE MIND

Pupils studying A level Psychology were intrigued by the different works of art by numerous artists throughout history displayed at the museum, all attempting to convey and portray their own experiences with their mental health. It certainly provoked a lot of thought into just how unique everyone's experiences are with their own mind and the variations in perceptions of different mental health issues.



## BOARDERS' GO KARTING CHALLENGE

Boarding pupils spent a Saturday morning racing each other at one of the best karting circuits in London. Some were even lucky enough to have been selected to race twice, which they hugely appreciated.

## GCSE ART TRIP TO THE TATE MODERN

Year 10 and 11 pupils went to the Tate Modern to explore their exam theme of Reflection. Pupils showed particular interest in the viewing platform of the Blavatnik which gave a stunning view of London's landscape.



## YEAR 7 DAY TRIP TO BOULOGNE

Pupils enjoyed an exciting day in Boulogne, speaking and giving instructions in French. They went to la vieille ville, l'aquarium, la plage and of course le centre commercial. A very exciting and cultural day was enjoyed by all!



## SKI TRIP

37 pupils spent their February half term in Snowbasin, Utah in the USA. With plenty of fresh snow, the new and the experienced skiers enjoyed the perfect powdery conditions on the slopes. Their evenings were spent watching live basketball, shopping, swimming and visiting an indoor activity centre.





# Senior School Trips



## YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO WALES

Eight A level pupils travelled to Rhyd-Y-Creiau Field Centre to study glaciers, water cycle and carbon cycle. On arrival, they attended a talk in the classroom before leaving to visit the local town of Betws-y-Coed to look at methods to measure the use of space. In the town they recorded a land use and services tally and an environmental quality survey. They had a great experience dodging the rain, surrounded by wonderful landscapes and experiencing the people and traditions of rural Wales.



## BOARDERS TRIP TO BODIAM CASTLE

Our Boarders took a short journey to Sussex to visit Bodiam Castle, gaining an insight into its history and why it is still in such good condition after 600 years. They stopped for lunch in Tunbridge Wells, visiting the historic Pantiles area. A lovely day out in the glorious Spring sunshine.



## GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 travelled to the land of the Vikings to explore the unknown western part of Iceland. Pupils headed straight to the Lucky Leif Bridge – also known as the Bridge of Continents - where they crossed from one side to the other, traversing the tectonic plates from the North American plate to the Eurasian plate. This is one of few places on Earth where this is possible.

They visited the Secret Lagoon and were warmed with 38-40 degrees Celsius below the surface while it rained and was only 3 degrees above the water, quite a contrast! The trip was an amazing experience!



## YEAR 12 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

A level Biology pupils were introduced to a range of sampling techniques and headed up to a mature and coppiced woodland to compare species diversity in the two habitats. The evening was spent analysing the results and carrying out statistical tests. The next day they walked to Box Hill to sample the area and draw some of the flora.

Overall it was a highly enjoyable and valuable experience for the pupils, who worked well together as a team, supporting and encouraging each other.



## A LEVEL BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO WAKEHURST PLACE

Year 13 Biologists spent a day at Wakehurst Place and Botanic Gardens in West Sussex. They had the opportunity to study the application of gene technologies in plant classification and conservation. They conducted a DNA profiling experiment by undertaking gel electrophoresis with fast gel staining protocols. In the afternoon, pupils headed into a coppiced woodland to sample different areas. The focus was on biodiversity and how managing woodlands is vital for so many insects. Overall, they thoroughly enjoyed what was such a fantastic day, enriching their knowledge and gaining new practical skills to help them to grow as young scientists.

## YEAR 11 TRIP TO WHITECHAPEL

Year 11 History pupils embarked on a journey deep into the heart of East London to learn more about the history of Whitechapel and the infamous Jack the Ripper. As they ventured deeper into the narrow alleyways, they looked at the architecture and immersed themselves into imagining the lives of working classes who had lived crammed into small apartments, their struggles, triumphs, hardships and victories.



## FRENCH EXCHANGE TRIP

Pupils organised a trip to London with their French friends. They enjoyed the main tourist sites including the London Eye and Big Ben. The day ended with some retail therapy in Oxford Street.



# An Evening with Johnny Ball

We were delighted to welcome TV legend Johnny Ball to entertain parents and pupils with an interactive presentation of his new book, *Wonders Beyond Numbers*.

Johnny was a regular feature on TV in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, inspiring millions of children with his renowned way of presenting scientific, technological and mathematical principles in an entertaining and accessible way.

During a fascinating and fun journey through the history of Maths, including the works of Darwin, Galileo and Newton, Johnny demonstrated how these methods are still used today and what these

mathematical discoveries have made possible. Johnny explained how Maths is always the answer; once you understand the maths, you can solve the problem.

He then answered questions from the audience of pupils and parents, including confirming that Geometry was his favourite aspect of Maths and that he would find being a teacher quite difficult, since he always presented to a different audience for his TV show, whereas

teachers kept the same audience for a whole year!

Particularly amusing was his theory that 'all education is theft', since we take the work of others and interpret and build on it with constant new discoveries.

Johnny then took the time to sign many of his books, including one guest's original 1979 copy of 'Think of a Number'.



# Oliver with a Twist!

Is English all reading, written work and no play? This burning question was comprehensively answered by the pupils of 7S and 7P

After a highly enjoyable term studying Dickens' classic *Oliver Twist*, both classes were challenged to design a game to represent the many trials and dangers faced by the novel's young hero. The game could take any format - from a classic board game approach, through to a contemporary electronic version - and aimed to encourage the player to share the many perils that Oliver faces.

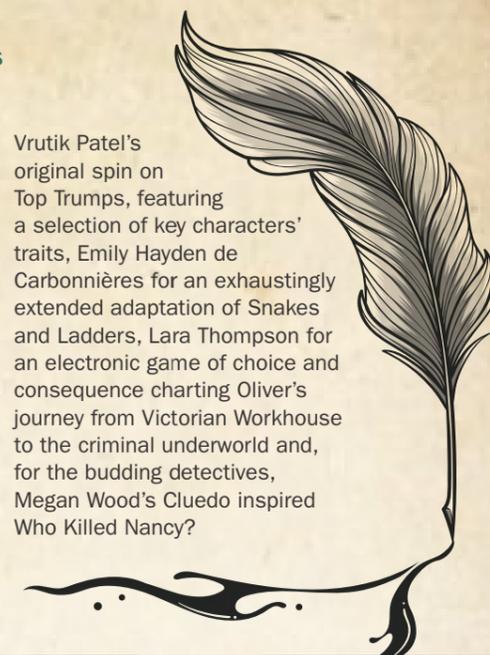
Many pupils selected a backdrop of their highlights and celebrated moments for their game setting: Oliver's sapping walk to London, his evasion of the menacing Bill Sikes

and his escape from the clutches of a villainous Fagin were popular.

All pupils seized the opportunity enthusiastically, with some incredibly creative approaches in design and presentation: playing cards, board games, chance games and even a game of skill featuring Sikes' mistreated dog, Bulls-eye.

The games reflected such a thorough knowledge and appreciation of the plot and characters, fused with an entertaining twist!

Vrutik Patel's original spin on *Top Trumps*, featuring a selection of key characters' traits, Emily Hayden de Carbonnières for an exhaustingly extended adaptation of *Snakes and Ladders*, Lara Thompson for an electronic game of choice and consequence charting Oliver's journey from Victorian Workhouse to the criminal underworld and, for the budding detectives, Megan Wood's *Cluedo* inspired *Who Killed Nancy?*



EMILY HAYDEN DE CARBONNIÈRES

"I really enjoyed the novel and wanted to show how much Oliver goes through. I am proud to have created such an absorbing game - it took me days to design, but will take any player hours to complete!"



VRUTIK PATEL

"I enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and work over an extended project deadline. There are so many characters in the book, I thought they should all be included in a game. I thought a good idea was to compare them in a game, as we had compared them in writing."

MEGAN WOOD

"Creating character cards for my *Cluedo* game allowed me to really display my learning about the different characters, but in a fun way. I chose Nancy for my game because I felt such sympathy for her when she was murdered and that the killer should be punished."



LARA THOMPSON

"Oliver makes so many choices in the story, so I thought a game should show us if he makes the right decisions and what could happen if he doesn't."





At the end of the Summer term, pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends were very warmly welcomed to our annual celebration of individual and collective talent and success, Royal Russell Day.

Guests were treated to a full programme of entertainment, showcasing all areas of the school including musical performances by our Junior and Senior School Choirs, resident Rock Band 'Rapid Escape', Swing Band, Orchestra and a stunning solo from Alex Franklin of Bridge Over Troubled Water.

Extracts from the three major school productions; a Midsummer Night's Dream, Rock Bottom and School Daze, and a rousing performance by the Junior School Musical Theatre Group demonstrated the dramatic talent of our pupils throughout the school.

Prizes were awarded for academic and sporting achievement, co-curricular contribution, effort and good citizenship to pupils in the Junior, Senior and Sixth Form and trophies were presented to the winning Houses of the House Activities Cup and House Sport Competition.

The spirit of Royal Russell life was captured in a series of outstanding videos produced by our Media Studies pupils who live-streamed the entire event to an appreciative audience at home and abroad.

We acknowledged the contribution of the families of Year 13 pupils Christian Kwame Agyeman-Duah, Joshua Cleaton, Eva Endersby, Ginny Gilmour, Davlesh Patel, William Jones, Pierce Kisseih, Rheanna Marriott and Stevie Palmer who have made Royal Russell their school of choice for their entire school journey, having joined us in Nursery and Reception.

A finale of The Greatest Showman and a relaxed reception on Lime Tree Quad concluded this wonderful occasion which is an established highlight of the Royal Russell academic year.

## SIXTH FORM ACADEMIC PRIZES

The Art and Design Prize	Eva Endersby
The Biology Prize	Yumeng Zhang
The BTEC Business Studies Prize	Marina Marinova
The Business Studies Prize	Dong Suk Lim
The Chemistry Prize	Keitaro Kawamata
The Computer Science Prize	Pavel Staykov
The Design and Technology Prize	Alec McLaren
The Drama Prize	Matt Lewis
The Economics Prize	Ben Leeson
The English Prize	Anna Armitage
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Monica Raykova
The French Prize, The History Prize	Lucas Jones
The Geography Prize	Bohuai Yang
The German Prize	Philip Stoycheff
The Media Studies Prize	Morgan Faulkner
The Mathematics Prize	Aleksandra Maciaszek
The Music Prize	Charles Eastwood
The Photography Prize	Naomi Wheeler
The Physical Education Prize	Sebastian Ellis
The Physics Prize	Crina-Alexandra Misaila
The Psychology Prize	Joshua Cleaton
The Politics Prize	Stevie Palmer
The Spanish Prize	Amanfi Aggrey
The Theology and Philosophy Prize	Robert Turnbull

## SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

The Art and Design Prize, The Mathematics Prize, The Physics Prize	Rebecca Clery
The Biology Prize, The Prize for Food Technology	Adina Browne
The Business Studies Prize	Chun Tak Tsoi
The Chemistry Prize, The French Prize	Charlotte Haines
The Computer Science Prize	Kya-Grace Oates
The Design and Technology Prize	Emily Taylor
The Drama Prize, The Physical Education Prize	Abigail Barnes
The English Prize	Emily Giles
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Kit Yung Hui
The Geography Prize, The German Prize	Jacob Warner
The History Prize, The Music Prize	Alexander Franklin
The Media Studies Prize	Jack Burton
The Spanish Prize	Folasade Fawehinmi
The Theology and Philosophy Prize	Adeola Ajagbule, Rahul Nagar

## JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

The English Prize	Amy Knolles
The Richard Green Mathematics Prize	Joshua Antinoro
The Numeracy Progress Prize	Dixie Evans
The Literacy Progress Prize	Shayna Patel
The Science Prize	Oscar Waudby
The History Prize	Thomas Mullen
The Ingrams Geography Prize	Emily Netherway
The Computing Prize	Luca Bradbury
The Modern Foreign Languages Prize	Miyuki Kawamata
The Stainer Music Trophy	Eleanor von Gerard
The Drama Prize	Aleksei Vorontsov
The Art Prize	Kesmia Mangaru
The Design and Technology Prize	Uliana Tokolova

## SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE AWARDS FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Buchanan	Morgan Faulkner
Cambridge	Henry Steele
Hollenden	Ria Kamdar
Keable	William Jones
Madden	Luke McCabe
Oxford	Xihuai Guo
Queen's	Monika Raykova
Reade	Emily Rickards
St Andrew's	James Aston

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP PRIZE

The 1853 Society Cup	Emma Santoro-Danese, Zayd Rafique
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## SENIOR SCHOOL HIGHEST MERIT AWARDS

Year 7	Priscilla Obeng, Alec Thurbin
Year 8	Amy Tree, Thomas Davies
Year 9	Emily Kawamata, Almat Suleimenov
Year 10	Jemima Earing, Arthur Heath
Year 11	Folesade Fawehinmi, Yichuan Cao
Highest Merits for the Whole School	Priscilla Obeng

## SENIOR SCHOOL EFFORT PRIZES

Year 7	Emily Hayden de Carbonnières, Vrutik Patel
Year 8	Amy Tree, Sam Stealey
Year 9	Hannah Miller-Forkin, Henry Steele
Year 10	Jemima Earing, Luke McCabe
Year 11	Folesade Fawehinmi, Yichuan Cao
Year 12	Emily Rickards, Philip Stoycheff
Year 13	Ting Li, Sebastian Ellis

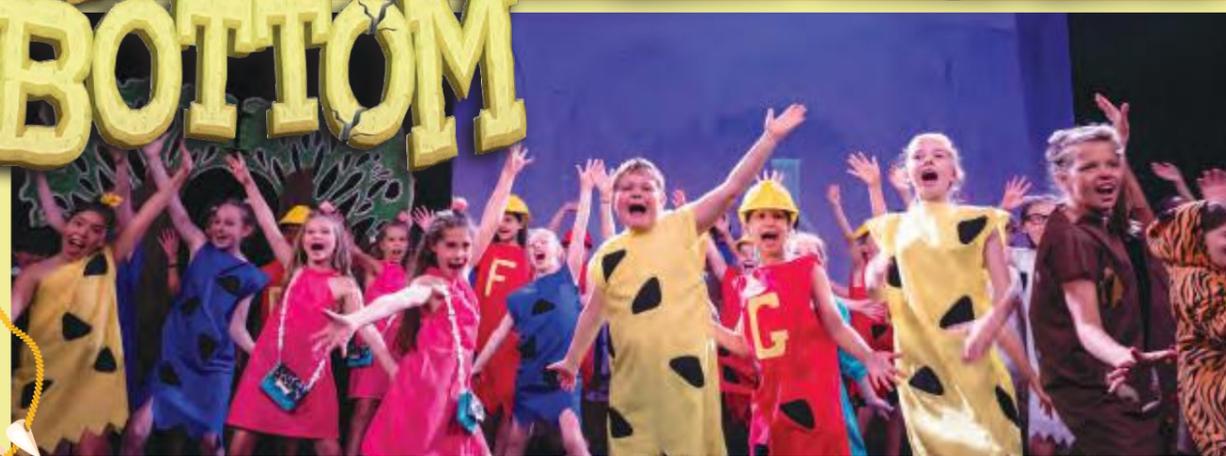
## SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

The Shield for Services to MUN	Lucas Jones
MUN Delegate of the Year	Stevie Palmer
Most Improved MUN Delegate	Aaron Bigord
Young Delegate of the Year	Toby Cascarini
Best RAF NCO	Jamie Biggs
Best Army NCO	Samuel Wyncoll
Best Army Recruit	Toby Stahel
Best RAF Recruit	Campbell Eady
Prize for Services to Chapel	Ana-Maria Militaru
Shield for Services to Drama	Christopher Patten-Walker
SATRO Problem Solving Challenge Surrey Winners	Edgar Heath-Pampin, Davlesh Jodhun, Keitaro Kawamata, Vasilisa Litvinenko, Crina-Alexandra Misaila, Fedor Sulitskiy



# ROCK BOTTOM

## THE PREHISTORICAL HYSTERICAL STONE AGE ROCK MUSICAL



Year 6 took us on a journey back to the dawn of time with their pre-historical Stone Age rock musical Rock Bottom.

The play follows Bobby Cobblestone, 'BC' to her friends, who lives with her family of Caveys on Stoney Street amongst roaming dinosaurs and a volatile volcano, and the quest of the vain Lady Lava to retain her youthful looks for eternity.

There were laughs aplenty as along the way we meet Bobby's family, the Growlers, Wild Willie, Morris Minor and his Mini-Miners and the three Timekeepers, Crater, Crivice and Creek who kept the show running at a fast pace with humour and song.

Bobby, a young wannabe inventor, hatches yet another idea for a useless invention in her quest to fulfil her dream to become an Egghead and work for the local celebrity Lady Lava.

It is the day of the Feast of Krakatoe-or-two, when the Caveys make offerings to the great volcano to stop her from blowing her top.

The town holds a disastrous dinosaur drill, to prepare for a possible attack, during which a big blue dinosaur appears! Bobby is overcome with excitement when she comes face to face with her idol, as Lady Lava, accompanied by her saber-toothed tiger Tiddles, makes a grand entrance at the feast, announced by her grovelling servant, Gravel.

However, when the feast is revealed, it is discovered that most of the food has been gobbled by Growlers Zig and Zag, and all that remains is a giant egg. When Bobby hears a small voice coming from the egg, she whisks it away to local wildlife egg-spurt Wild Willie where it hatches to reveal Rex, a baby dinosaur.

Back in Stony Street, while helping her parents with the laundry, Bobby is inspired by some creased washing and hatches her first ever useful invention and is whisked off to the Crystal Crivice to be Lady Lava's new Egghead.

However, she soon learns that Lady Lava may not be the kind, considerate boss that Bobby imagines. She only wants Bobby for one thing - to invent a way to make her young forever.

We discover that she is actually a wrinkled old hag, kept young through the power of a magical rock called Cellulite. The imprisoned Eggheads have been harnessing its power within a Time-Turner that reverses time and rejuvenates their boss.

However, she has been using it a little too much, causing a rift in time and strange futuristic objects start to appear in Rock Bottom! The three Juans, a trio of silly stone salesmen are instructed by Lady Lava to find and collect these from all over town.

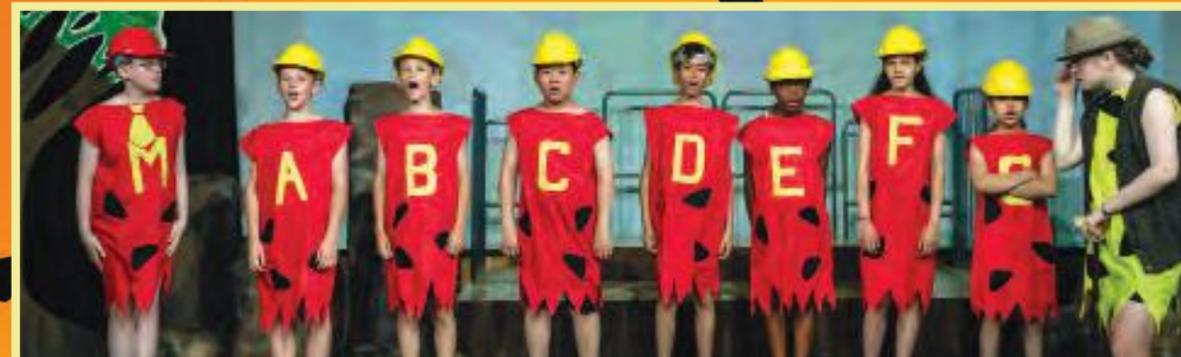
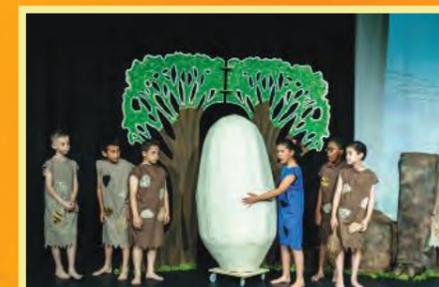
The Eggheads explain her task, but she is out of ideas. The Eggheads persuade our hero to persevere, reminding her that failure is part of the process, and Bobby finally hatches an idea to save the day.

Bobby reluctantly reveals her invention - a cocktail of liquid cellulite which Lava gulps greedily. The rejuvenating effects are instant, but a little more potent than she expects and she transforms into a newborn baby! Gravel is given custody of Little Lava and Rex is reunited with his mother as the play reaches its happy ending.

There was not a stony face in the audience as parents were dazzled by the comic performances, energetic dance routines and fantastic costumes and set. Toes were tapping to the excellent solo and group renditions of songs including 'Back to the Beginning', 'Welcome To My Life', 'Start All Over Again', 'Spell On You', 'Down Low', 'Smile' and the incredible 'Rock Bottom Rocks'.

It was clear that Year 6 enjoyed every moment on stage.

Congratulations to them all!





# Senior School Drama

The Drama Department has continued to entertain audiences with an array of thought-provoking, inspirational and comical performances throughout the year.

## YEAR 7 TO 9 PRODUCTION

The Year 7 to 9 production of School Daze was a great opportunity to see some of our younger pupils take the limelight. They certainly did not disappoint, producing a very entertaining and uplifting show. All those involved did themselves proud with their hard work, dedication and talent.

Through a series of vignettes, mostly comic but occasionally more serious in tone, the Play described the experiences of being a 'new kid' in an unfamiliar school. All the performers, as well as those helping backstage, delivered a show that had something for everyone.

It was lovely to see the enthusiasm with which the pupils embraced the material and their joy in participating was clearly reflected in their performances.



## HOUSE DRAMA

All Houses participated in the annual House Drama Competition. Each House could pick one out of three stimuli; the song Thursday by Jess Glynne, a picture of polar bears and the word Gender, then script and perform their piece.

Each House produced an interesting performance with their own spin on their chosen stimulus. Buchanan came third, Keable second and Reade won the competition for the second year running.



The Theatre Tech Team



The Cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

The Play, given a unique festival setting, combined outstanding acting with hilarious comedy from our young actors.

The story followed four interconnecting plots, brought together by the celebration of the upcoming wedding of Theseus, the Duke of Athens and Hippolyta, the Amazon Queen.

The scenes of forbidden love between Hermia and Lysander were set against the unrequited love of Helena and Demetrius. As Hermia's father Egeus demands marriage to Demetrius, Hermia and Lysander flee to the forest, with Demetrius and Helena in pursuit.

As the tale unfolds, a group of Players gather to rehearse a play to be performed at the Duke's wedding; 'The most lamentable comedy about the most cruel death of Pyramis and Thisbe'. The hilarity continues with the characters of Lion and Moonlight and an unforgettable performance from 'The Wall', through which Pyramus and Thisbe whisper.

In the forest, Titania, Queen of the Fairies, and Oberon are estranged by Titania's refusal to give up her Indian changeling and Puck, a 'shrewd and knavish sprite' makes mischief with his magical love potion. A calamity of mistaken identity sees Lysander pursue Helena and Titania fall in love with a donkey before amends are restored and all awaken to believe that the night's events were a dream 'past the wit of man'.

A group wedding is held and all gather to watch the play before Puck suggests that all that the audience has experienced might just be a dream.

Over 100 pupils from Years 7 to 13 took part in a variety of capacities, both on stage and behind the scenes, with pupil teams leading on costumes, make up, props and theatre sound and lighting

Everyone involved should feel justly proud of their contribution to this wonderful performance.





# Junior School Family Day

To the excitement and delight of our pupils, we opened our doors to over 150 extended family members including many grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles and godparents.

Once united with their relatives, pupils proudly gave guided tours of their school, taking them to their classrooms, gym, music suite, science room, dining hall and even for a go on the slide and swings in the adventure playground!

Plenty of cups of tea and slices of cake were consumed and the afternoon concluded with a wonderful performance from the Upper Junior Choir.

It was a real pleasure to welcome those who play such an important part in our pupils' lives.





# Uganda Charity Expedition

Following a year of fundraising, fourteen pupils embarked on a three week expedition to Uganda to work with the local community at Two Bridges School in Kampala.

Touching down in Uganda was a unanimously surreal and fantastic experience for all of us. Not knowing what to expect, we were pleasantly surprised by the lush greenery. We travelled a few hours to Two Bridges School where we received a heart-warming welcome. Everyone, from the children to the teachers, couldn't stop smiling. We were so excited to begin our project and for the experiences that lay ahead.

Early mornings and bright starts became the norm, being woken up by the cockerels and a nice cold bucket shower. Each day we would nominate a team leader, divide into groups and allocate tasks. The work was hard, but we had our own personal choir of children to motivate us along the way.

Each night, after a 'hearty' dinner, we were all assigned jobs to do, such as cleaning and getting water. We all did a really efficient job as a team, before settling in to our banana grove, with mosquito nets up (some arguably better than others), ready for a good night's sleep.

On the first day of the project the children were very excited to see us, some even bringing gifts such as sugar canes, pumpkins and handmade bracelets made from straw. We taught the kids the Macarena (eventually) and must've given about 10,000 'high fives' throughout the day.

Each day, our time was divided between teaching the children reading, English and maths and the building tasks, which began with shovelling dirt and constructing the foundation for the new building. With help from the many children who joined in, the job was done fairly quickly and we had lots of fun on the site. Within a week we had made incredible progress; painting classrooms, building a netball court and erecting a chicken coup.

In between the project, there were opportunities to get to know the community and learn about their culture. On Sundays, we would wake up at 5.30am, get dressed into our 'best' clothes and walk to the local church, accompanied by local Ugandan children. Church was very different from what we were expecting, compared to home. It involved lots of upbeat singing and dancing which, for some of the songs, we joined in heartily.

The Two Bridges Olympic Sports Day was certainly a highlight, and when we arrived the children were screaming with excitement. The events included the egg and spoon race, 100m, relay and tug of war. Each of us got the opportunity to take part, with some seeing their competitive nature come out and taking the events very seriously! It was great to see the children playing with all the toys we donated and the football team wearing their new West Ham kit, thanks to Joe's donation. It was by far one of the best days as the children didn't stop smiling and everyone was in a great mood.

We were guests at a culture show at the Ndere Centre in Kampala. The show was very interesting to watch, with traditional Ugandan dances, outfits, instruments and speakers. At the end we all went down to the stage and joined in with the cultural dancing. We were all laughing and having fun, playing the drums and learning dance moves.

We were especially excited though when we went to our rooms to see actual beds with actual towels and hot running water showers. We were all so happy and realised how quickly we had become accustomed to our more basic lifestyle and how much we take for granted. We all slept very well in our hotel-like luxury beds before we returned to the teach/work routine the following morning.

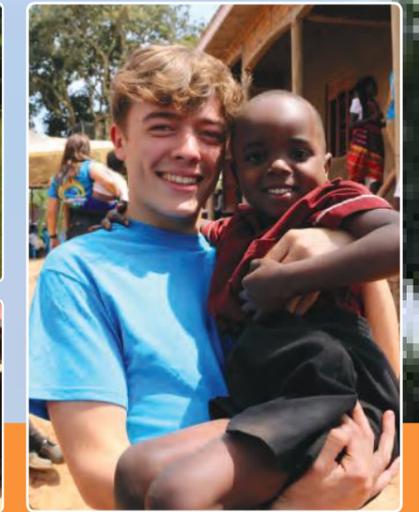


Our final day at Two Bridges began in the usual fashion of finishing up jobs we were supposed to have finished the day before! Both classrooms were successfully painted, and our handprints and names now adorned the walls. Eva and Fedor painted a beautiful mural on the previously bare plank wall of the nursery, which is a lasting and lovely reminder of our involvement in the project.

The afternoon was spent preparing for our leaving ceremony, which involved getting out of our comfort zones to practice a traditional Ugandan courtship dance - costumes and all. The ceremony itself consisted of speeches from teachers and members of the local council before the dancing began. We attempted to follow along as they performed their complicated dance moves, but also showed off our own skill by introducing both the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide!

When the time came for us to leave, emotions were running high. Saying goodbye to children we had formed close bonds with over the fortnight was extremely difficult, but we managed to extract ourselves without putting any of them in our suitcases, which we would consider a triumph.

Despite our sadness at leaving, the time we spent there will stay with us forever.



## SAFARI

On route to the Red Chilli Rest Camp in the huge Murchison Falls National Park, we stopped at the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, where we were lucky enough to see two female rhinos, one very large baby and one (exceedingly rare) male rhino.

At the Camp, and after a very good sleep, we woke up with an early start of around 6.00am. Early, but we were all used to it by now. We got in our safari cars to drive to the river Nile to get on the boat for our tour. The boat was fun and we all got amazing views of hippos, crocodiles, giraffes and elephants. We got the car on a small ferry and went across the river and, even though we were in different

safari groups, we all ended up seeing lions, buffalo, giraffes, elephants, antelopes and more. Each and every one of us said that this was a mind blowing experience and we all enjoyed it so much.

Our time in Uganda finally came to an end, and what an experience it had been. As we looked over the beautiful Kampala skyline, we reflected on how much we owe to this trip and how many 'that one time I was saving the world in Africa' stories we looked forward to telling over the coming years.

## OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Alexander Blake  | Libby Jones             |
| Cameron Divers   | Ekaterina Khodanova     |
| Eva Endersby     | George Ledger-Humphreys |
| Zack Evans       | Maya Linter             |
| Farrah Farrejad  | Joseph Newman           |
| Zachary Jennings | Stevie Palmer           |
| Ella Jones       | Fedor Sulitskiy         |



The Autumn term saw the first of three heats of the much anticipated and hotly contested annual House Quiz Bowl Competition. Each heat required a different team of four volunteers from each House in Years 7 to 9 to come together to battle for the trophy and score points for the overall House Activities trophy, to be awarded on Royal Russell Day.

The reigning champions were Madden House, winners in 2017 and 2018 and they were confidently looking to complete the hat-trick. Could any team stop them? Housemaster, Mr Stathopoulos didn't think so!

After answering questions on general knowledge, audio and who am I?, Buchanan jointly led the table with Reade, with Madden tailing behind in sixth place.

In the second heat in the Spring term, there were rounds on logos, where in Royal Russell? and connections. Once again, Buchanan led the way, pushing one point ahead of Reade, with Madden scoring well to gain the third place position, with all to play for in the final heat in the Summer term.

Questions from the current news, identifying countries in Europe and an observation round saw St Andrew's

putting up a strong challenge, but it wasn't enough to beat Buchanan who led the final table by one point, ending the reign of Madden.

Congratulations to the ten girls representing Buchanan and winners of the 2019 Quiz Bowl trophy: Molly Burson, Katie Hamerton, Caitlin Baron, Ella Redman, Ella Smith, Emily McCann, Amy Tree, Jiya Desai, Safia Opie, Charlotte Kempster and Zoe Crispin.



Ladin. Smells like Jahai. Welsh mutants. Gumatj sums. You speak Ndebele, don't you? Random topics? Perhaps, but they all came together one afternoon under the same challenge: Linguistics.

Over 100 young Russellians, from Year 6 all the way up to Year 13, immersed themselves in analysing alphabets, working out sentence patterns and solving language puzzles in the 10th Annual UK Linguistics Olympiad.

The Great Hall witnessed the effervescence of a competition like no other. Concentration, teamwork, determination, creative thinking and having fun with little-known languages was apparent in the thrill and adventure of discovery as pupils travelled the world to solve linguistic data challenges.

Problems of increasing difficulty intrigued, delighted, sometimes amused, but certainly challenged all the pupils - but how rewarding it was to crack the codes!

Their first stop was northern Italy to decipher Ladin, a language spoken by 30,000 Italians in the Dolomite mountains followed by Japan, where pupils translated English words into characters known as Kanji.

From there it was on to northern Malaysia, where pupils matched a collection of verbs relating to 'smell' to their English translations.

The mutations of the Welsh language proved a challenge to many, but they soon worked out the logic to enable them to complete sentences in this Celtic dialect, and a challenge in Pitjantjatjara, an Australian Aboriginal language with only 3,000 speakers, required pupils to complete the missing words in a conversation.

Back in Italy, pupils studied the Cippus Abellanus, a document carved into stone from the 2nd century BC, written in the ancient Oscan language and a stop in Mongolia saw pupils identifying the singular, plural and directive forms of words transcribed from the Cyrillic script into Latin.

Writing Arabic numerals in Gumatj, a language spoken by around 240 people in the Northern Territory of Australia, added a new twist as they were tasked to write words such as 'dambumiriw



ulu ga lurrkun' as numbers!

In Zimbabwe, pupils explained Ndebele grammar and, to complete the competition, pupils got dotty about Braille, identifying the 62 symbols used as letters, and those recycled to mathematical symbols to complete the blanks in transcriptions.

This increasingly popular competition gave pupils the opportunity to engage in intellectual endeavour in a unique challenge, which is hugely valuable to building up their co-curricular portfolio.



"We thoroughly enjoyed the Olympiad, as it provided us with a new challenge. We enjoyed tackling the questions varying from Welsh to Australian aboriginal dialects which definitely challenged our code breaking and translating skills."

ARTHUR HEATH AND NICK SOLLY, YEAR 10

"The Linguistics Olympiad was a unique experience. It is a competition where you get to test your linguistic, mathematical and logical skills. There are very few Olympiads or competitions that offer you such a sense of accomplishment. Who said deciphering puzzles cannot be fun?"

ALI MISAILA, YEAR 12

"An interesting experience, where we learnt teamwork skills while trying to solve the problems. The atmosphere was quite competitive and this stimulated our thinking."

JULIE LIN AND NIKI HUI, YEAR 11

"The Linguistics Olympiad was an amazing and very educative experience. It is suitable not only for people interested in languages, but also for everybody who finds pleasure in maths, solving puzzles or discovering other cultures. The most challenging task was the Braille language and my personal favourite was the number system used in the language 'Gumatj'."

OLA MACIASZEK, YEAR 13





This was another very successful year for the Model United Nations programme at Royal Russell.

As always the highlight of the year was our own International Conference which this year attracted a record number of pupils from around the world for three days of debating.

We had over 100 Royal Russell pupils acting as either Delegates, Chairs, members of the Secretariat or part of the Press or Media teams.

Our pupils attended seven different conferences this year, winning a number of awards as Delegates and we also provided some excellent Committee Chairs.

One of the best experiences this year was representing Israel

at The Hague International MUN Conference. This was a tough challenge and the pupils prepared thoroughly, with their research including a visit to the Israeli Embassy to learn about the policies of the current Israeli government.

For the second year in a row we had two pupils, this time Ella Jones and Megan Driver, working as Advocates in the International Court of Justice at the St Andrew's MUN Conference in Dublin.

In preparation for conferences, pupils continue to meet each Monday after school to debate and develop their negotiation and public speaking skills.



### MiniMUN

Abi Barnes and Jago Burgess ably ran MiniMUN debates for our younger pupils during MiniMUN Club every Wednesday after school.

We had a record number of pupils from the Junior School attending, along with a loyal band of Year 7s and Year 8s. Topics were again diverse, for example pupils debated

the introduction of a sugar tax, whether children be allowed to leave school at 15 years old and should single-use plastics be banned.

In the Summer term, nine students attended the Reigate Junior MUN Conference with everyone speaking in their Committee.



## MUN Conferences, Awards and Chairs

### REIGATE MUN CONFERENCE – SEPT 2018

Highly Commended Delegate: Krish Sivagnanam  
Outstanding Delegate: Aaron Bigord

### THE HAGUE MUN CONFERENCE – JAN 2019

President of the Environment Commission: Lucas Jones  
Deputy President of CCPCJ: Ella Jones

### ROYAL RUSSELL INTERNATIONAL MUN CONFERENCE – OCT 2018

Chairs: Stevie Palmer (Secretary General)  
Ella Jones, Megan Driver, Ben Preston (Presidents of the General Assembly)  
Nikita Sood, Yasmin Akhmedov (Presidents of the Security Council)  
Davlesh Jodhun, Dionne Scougul, Hrishi Nokku (Committee Chairs)

### HAILEYBURY MUN CONFERENCE – MARCH 2019

Highly Commended Delegate: Dionne Scougul, Becky Birchall, Alex Blake  
Outstanding Delegate: Aaron Bigord, Stevie Palmer

### DUBLIN MUN CONFERENCE – APRIL 2019

Highly Commended Delegate: Davlesh Jorhun  
Advocates in the ICJ: Ella Jones, Megan Driver

### CROYDON HIGH MUN CONFERENCE – NOV 2018

Outstanding Delegate: Aaron Bigord  
Chairs: Nikita Sood, Megan Driver

### ROYAL RUSSELL DAY AWARDS

Antrobus Shield for Most Improved MUN Delegate: Aaron Bigord  
John Piggin Shield for MiniMUN Young Delegate of Year: Toby Cascarini  
Model United Nations Shield for Services to MUN: Lucas Jones  
Cox Shield for MUN Delegate of the Year: Stevie Palmer

### BENENDEN MUN CONFERENCE – DEC 2018

Highly Commended Delegate: Ana-Maria Militaru  
Outstanding Delegate: Aaron Bigord, Becky Birchall  
Highly Commended Delegation: Ana-Maria Militaru, Becky Birchall, Luke McCabe, Justyna Oworuszko, Ella Flaherty  
Chair: Megan Driver



# Junior School Sport

This has been another outstanding year of Sport for our young girls and boys. Whilst there has been plenty of success, the opportunities provided are so much more important. Every pupil in the Upper Juniors has had the opportunity to represent their school in matches, as well as competing for their House in our wide range of competitions. Pupils participate in a wide variety of sports which provides the opportunity to engage in a sporting experience that excites them.

## FOOTBALL

A fantastic year of Football was had by all age groups.

The U9s came 2nd in the Caterham Tournament following some great wins and a tense penalty shoot-out.

The U10s travelled to St George's Windsor where the A Team made it as far as the Semi-Finals. The B Team recorded some impressive wins which saw them through to the Finals and bring home silver medals.

The U11s headed for the ISFA National Finals after topping the table at the 18-team qualifying tournament, storming through their opposition without a loss. They finished top of their group, but lost 1-0 in a tough Quarter-Final. The boys were also victorious at the Caterham Prep Tournament where four wins and one draw secured them the title.

The U11 Girls' Team performed exceptionally well in the ISFA Regional Qualifiers. The talented team secured three impressive wins, but lost to the eventual tournament winners.



## BIATHLON

The Biathlon Squad experienced great success this year.

At the British Biathlon Final, the U9 Boys' Team of Lucas Brown, Alister Gironella and Thomas Meadows swam and ran their way to victory and Lara Stubley and Lucas Brown both finished 3rd individually.

In the U10 event, the Boys' Team of Thomas Worrell, Shyam Rajanayagam and Stanley Moore won a silver medal.

In the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships, the U11 Boys finished 5th out of 20 teams, picking up a great trophy, with brilliant individual results from all our girls and boys.

## HOCKEY

The U8 Boys had their first ever tournament at St George's Weybridge, with the A Team finishing 4th and the B Team gaining two impressive wins to be Tournament Winners!

The U9 Girls played some excellent Hockey in the Lingfield Tournament

and the U9 Boys put in a very strong performance, conceding only one goal, and came 2nd in the Parkside Tournament.

In the IAPS Regional Hockey Tournament, the U11 Boys qualified for the Plate Competition and made it as

far as the Quarter-Finals.

The highlight of the year was the annual Royal Russell Tournament, with both the Girls' and Boys' Teams reaching the Semi-Finals in a very competitive field with the girls winning the Plate Competition.



## NETBALL

The Netball programme had a very successful year with brilliant results across the board.

The U8s won both the St Christopher's Tournament and the Royal Russell Festival with impressive playing from the whole team. The U9s and U10s were 2nd at St Christopher's.

The U11A Team were unbeaten for the first half of the season. They won the Seaton House Gladman Tournament, with five wins and one draw, only conceding 1 goal!

It was amazing to see all their hard work come together at the IAPS Tournament where they won 8 out of 10 matches and finished as Plate Champions.

They also won the Croydon Schools Qualifier Tournament and, at the Finals, won all seven of their matches to be crowned Croydon Champions!

In House Netball the Year 3 and 4 competition was won by Exeter and the Year 5 and 6 competition was won by York.



## CROSS-COUNTRY

31 pupils competed in the Croydon Schools Cross-Country event with plenty of success.

Thomas Meadows, Year 4 and Stanley Moore, Year 5, stormed to victory in their races to be Croydon Champions out of 150 young runners.

Both the Year 5 Girls' and Boys' Teams won their events, with the Year 6 Girls coming in 3rd.

In the Oakhyrst Christmas Cracker event, held in muddy conditions, Lara Stubley, Stanley Moore and Joshua Worrell were champions of their events with Thomas Karelis and Thomas Meadows coming in 2nd and Arabella Howard and Ted Stacey achieving credible 3rd places.

In House Cross-Country, the Year 3 and 4 event was won by York and the Year 5 and 6 event was won by Durham!



## GYMNASTICS

The Gymnastics Squad competed well in the Royal Russell Annual Competition against many local schools. The Year 3 Team finished 3rd, the Year 4s finished an impressive 2nd and both the Year 5 and Year 6 Teams won their groups! It was a lovely afternoon of Gymnastics, with many pupils performing in their very first competition.

In the Surrey Schools Sports Acro, the U11A and B Teams finished

3rd with some brilliant floor and vault routines.

With a high standard of Competition at the Surrey School Gymnastics competition, the U11 Team performed fantastic floor sequences with back flips, walkovers and great linking skills to finish in 11th place.

In the Surrey Schools Floor and Vault Competition, the girls nailed their landings and vaulted with confidence and style to finish 7th.



## ROYAL RUSSELL DAY AWARDS

The following pupils received awards on Royal Russell Day in recognition of their talent and commitment to Sport throughout the year.

Year 3 Victor Ludorum	Harry Payne	Year 5 Victor Ludorum	Zachary Brennan
Year 3 Victrix Ludorum	Mina Park	Year 5 Victrix Ludorum	Nina Umeh
Year 4 Victor Ludorum	Izehi Obasuyi	Year 6 Victor Ludorum	Lorenzo Shone
Year 4 Victrix Ludorum	Arabella Howard	Year 6 Victrix Ludorum	Hannah Kaminski
The Hallworth Trophy for Sportsmanship	Olivia Obasuyi		



## ATHLETICS

Our young athletes performed well at the Croydon Schools Athletics Qualifier with Charlie Dobbs 1st in the 800m and Ama Amarachi, Zac Brennan, Nathan Majekodunmi, Evan Newman, Harvey Wright-Phillips and Joshua Worrell gaining impressive places.

In the Final, both our Girls' and Boys' Year 6 teams finished in 2nd place. Individually, Hannah Kaminski came 1st in the Long Jump, Oneli Pelpola 3rd in the High Jump and the Boys' Relay Team came 3rd.



## FENCING

Eva Holland, Year 5, and George Bullock, Year 7, travelled to Millfield for the IAPS Fencing National Championships. George gained a lot of experience from the competition and battled well in every bout. Eva made it to the top eight where she was eliminated in a tough bout and finished in a brilliant 5th place!

## SWIMMING

At the Croydon Schools Swim Gala Qualifier, we won Best Boys' Team, Best Girls' Team and Best Team Overall!

In the LLSA Swim Finals, Dylan Cornick came 4th in Freestyle and Lorenzo Shone came 5th in Backstroke.

In the Sutton Girls' Swimming Gala, we gained many 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and were crowned Overall Winners!

Individually, congratulations to Zac Brennan for qualifying to the IAPS National Swim Finals.



## TRAMPOLINING

The Trampoline Team, especially the boys, have once again enjoyed fantastic success at Regional and National level.

The season started with 24 pupils successfully progressing from the London Regional round to the Southern Zonal Finals. It was a day for the Novice Boys with both the U11B (2nd) and U13B (1st) securing a place at the National Finals.

At the Finals, after top quality routines, the U11 Boys were 4th. Outstanding results.

We hosted the Junior and Senior Croydon Schools event and swept the board both individually and in the team event. The squad won six Individual and eight Team titles with lots of silver and bronze medals too!

To round off a great season we once again hosted a very successful IAPS National Trampoline Championship, with 194 competitors from schools across the country bouncing.

Our strong Trampoline squad had trained hard and were ready for this exciting event. The U9 Girls all

completed great set routines, and the team finished 5th. In the largest group of the day, with 58 competitors, the U11 Girls dominated the field with six trampolinists finishing in the top 15! Isabel Gironella topped the group with two excellent routines and picked up a 6th place medal. These excellent performances secured the A Team a silver medal in the Cup Competition! The day finished with a lovely surprise when the C Team won the Plate Competition after showing great consistency in their routines!





# Senior School Sport

We have seen considerable success in Sport at all age groups and ability levels this year, with record numbers of pupils participating. We are competing at the highest level and achieved many local, regional and national successes and even made competition history.

## FOOTBALL

### 1ST XI BOODLES ISFA NATIONAL CUP CHAMPIONS – AGAIN!

The road to the Cup Final began at the start of the season where we stormed through the rounds, overcoming Brentwood, UCS, Oswestry and Ardingly College. The Final was once again against Millfield, the team we beat in 2017, at the MK Dons Stadium and we were trained and ready.

An early 'own-goal' from Millfield meant that the pressure was on, yet Ada Okorogheye was an ever present threat,

never letting the Millfield defence settle and calmly scored to make it 2-0 at half-time.

In the second half, Millfield dominated the ball and brought the score to 2-1 with 22 minutes left. Outstanding defending was seen from Ben Lesson, Aaron Ibe, Diego Richardson, Nathan Daniels and Sam Long, who stopped everything that came towards them until the referee blew his whistle for full time and we were crowned National Champions!



### 1ST XI ELGIN CUP FINAL WINNERS!

The Boys played seven league fixtures and a Semi-Final to reach the prestigious Final against Ardingly College.

The game started well, dominating possession and creating chances, until Ardingly broke through and made it 1-0 to Ardingly at half-time.

As the second half commenced, they did not waste time and hit a low driven shot into the bottom corner from 25 yards, 1-1. There looked like only one winning team from this point onwards as they continued to mount pressure on the Ardingly defence. An acrobatic strike from Lewis

McGillicuddy struck the Ardingly defender, giving the referee no choice but to award a penalty which Nathan Daniels stepped up to dispatch, bringing the score to 2-1!

This was enough to carry the team through to the final whistle and bring home another trophy!

### 1ST XI HUDL LEAGUE VICTORY!

Through the League we gained an incredible 18 out of 21 points, losing only one game against the best football schools in the country. Not only did we win the League, we gained the highest position in the history of the competition.

### 1ST XI WIN THE ISFA SIXES CUP FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!

The 1st XI adjusted well to the unfamiliar format of six players on a full-size pitch and finished top of the league, unbeaten and without conceding a goal, drawing City of London in the Quarter-Final and securing a 2-0 victory.

In the Semi-Finals, the Team applied the tactic they had practiced and beat Ardingly College.

The Final against Hampton was sealed by our top goal scorer, Luke Spillane-Davis.

We are the first school to win this Cup three times in a row in the competition's 60 year history!



### 1ST XI VERSES CORINTHIAN CASUALS XI

In true Corinthian style, a respectful game was played on home ground against a strong opposing side.

After a 30-minute deadlock, Daniel Prefontaine put our boys in the lead, only to be equalised shortly after. A well-worked set play from Jack Gallagher, finished by Ibrahim Atomanson put us back in the lead, where we held on to win 2-1.



### THE 1ST XI TEAM

Sam Long, Diego Richardson, Nathan Daniels, Ben Leeson, Aaron Ibe, Rylan John, Kyrique Garvey-Williams, Leon Thomas, Luke Spillane-Davis, Ada Okorogheye, Lewis McGillicuddy, Josh Newbury-Teeluck, Junior Beloziegue, Alex Taylor, Leo Lawless, Jack Gallagher, Omar Bel, Jordan Harrison, Jacob Thompson, Lewis McGillicuddy, Imran Kayani, Rush Shefik, Ibrahim Atomanson and Daniel Mamas.



U15A ISFA INVESTEC NATIONAL CUP RUNNERS-UP

The U15A Team have been a revelation this year, beating Whitgift, Eaton House, St John's and Hampton leading to a super win against St John's Leatherhead in the Quarter-Finals.

In the Semi-Finals we saw the game through with an early 1-0 lead from Jack Henry-Francis with Toby McKimm in goal.

In the exciting Final at Burton Albion the team put in a creditable performance, narrowly losing 2-1 to Aldenham.

#### THE U15A TEAM

Toby McKimm, Jake Riddington, Louis Saville, Jaiden Drakes-Thomas, Samuel German, Ayodeji Elerewe, Theodore Serafeimidis, David Kawa, Kai Neil-Gray, Bobby Moore, Josh Else, Callahan Dennis, Samuel Charvet, Jack Harris, Abdurrahman Sbaiti, George Newman and Jackson Hogg.

#### GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The Girls had an excellent season with both the U13 and U15 Teams reaching the Finals of National competitions.

##### ISFA 7-A-SIDE COMPETITION

The U15s reached the Finals in the ISFA Competition where they played Surbiton High School. Skye Warren's excellent long-range effort put us in the lead, but Surbiton equalised and won the game on penalties.

The U13s also played extremely well to reach the final 16 in this tough competition.

##### U13 AND U15 ISFA FUTSAL COMPETITION

The U13 Girls comfortably won all three of their games.

The U15s won their opening four games which included City of London and Millfield, reaching the Final against Kingston Grammar. An unfortunate loss saw them achieve a credible 2nd place.

##### U13 ISFA NATIONAL CUP FINAL REGIONAL QUALIFIER

The U13s travelled to St George's Park for the tournament that saw them play City of London, Hampstead and Allyn's. In the Quarter-Finals, some excellent saves by Amy Tree in goal and scoring by Charlotte Walker saw them 1-1 at full time, but unfortunately lose on penalties.



#### U15 GIRLS

Louisa Carney, Cynthia Ding, Rhianah Dinnall, Faith Chen, Jemima Earing, Lucia Hart, Amber Kennedy, Rosie Page, Rosharna Thomas-Grant, Skye Warren, Ruby Whitley and Reanna Blades.

#### U13 GIRLS

Millicent German, Pretty Panyapattanakul, Giovanna Ephraim, Rebecca Hubbard, Charlotte Kempster, Bethany Long, Ayomide Phillips, Amy Tree, Charlotte Walker, Yasmin Williams and Nadra Webb.

#### NETBALL

The Netball programme has had excellent success this year. All teams have had regular fixtures in A, B and C Teams and shown real dedication to their training. We have 14 senior teams who have competed in 187 matches, winning 102 matches.

Our U12, U13 and U14 Teams competed in the Surrey Schools Tournament. The U12s finished in 3rd place.

Our First Team played in the Regional Round of National Schools. The girls played some phenomenal netball, a particular highlight being beating Barking Abbey 8-4. They finished the day 3rd in the Region of London and South East.

At the Surrey Finals, both our U16 and U18 Teams competed to be named the Surrey County Champions. The U16s qualified on goal difference and had finished in 8th place. The U18 team remained undefeated throughout

all group stage matches and beat Putney High in the Semi-Final 10-8. The Final against Guildford High School finished 9-11 and we were awarded the Runners-Up trophy.

U16's played in the London Schools Tournament, where they reached the Final losing to Eltham College by one in the Final.

The senior teams have had a hugely successful season, finishing off with two National Cup Finals. The girls travelled to Northwich for the SnS National Cup Final against Bromsgrove. The final score finished 38-41 to Bromsgrove. Our girls performed to an exceptional standard and their skill level was outstanding.

After this game, the girls travelled to Leeds for the National Independent Schools Final, where they took on Woodhouse Grove School and were Runners-Up in a very tough match.



#### BASKETBALL

It has been another fantastic year for the Basketball programme.

The U15 Squad finished their season in 2nd place with an impressive 9-2 record and only experienced losses during the season in the League and Cup Competitions to a very strong City of London School Squad, which deservedly earned them an opportunity to compete in the end of season play-off competition held at Dulwich College. In a hard fought Semi-Final match the Boys were eventually defeated despite a brave effort by all of the players.

The U18s finished their season in 3rd and competed in the end of season play-off tournament. The Semi-Final matches were played against City of London School and, despite a good team performance, they were eventually beaten by a taller and more experienced team. In a thrilling 3rd and 4th place match against the league winners, they managed to win by one point and were named bronze medallists.



## CRICKET

We hit the ground running at the start of the season with some great victories. Training sessions were well attended with targeted drills designed to improve skills. We have fielded four teams each weekend and all games have been competitive with a good win record.

The U15 Cup Team went on a run taking them to the last 16 in Surrey. They comfortably beat Tiffin School along the way with Tom Smith striking a fine 60 not out to take us past their 145 runs

with 3 overs to spare. He was ably supported by 20 not out from Ted Cordery who was also excellent behind the stumps.

The U14s enjoyed their season under Ted Cordery's leadership with a number of them playing up in the U15 Cup Team. Joe O'Dell hit his maiden half century for the school with 66 not out against a strong Wallington unit.

The U12 Team also made it to the last 16 stage following a thrilling one run victory away to Glyn.

## HOCKEY

The Hockey programme has continued its progress with a further increase in fixtures in all age groups.

We have continued to field two teams competing regularly at U12 and U13 level and one team at U14 and U15 for both boys and girls. We played well in the Surrey Trophy Tournament and the National Cup.

A combination of both Junior and Senior School players competed abroad in the Netherlands Hockey Tour where they were able to learn a different style of hockey.

Many pupils have headed to external clubs to continue their development. We are delighted to report that a number of players in the U13, U15 and U17 age groups are gaining representative honours for Kent and Surrey County hockey teams.



## TENNIS

Players were provided with many more fixtures this Summer. We took part in the Surrey Schools Festival at St Georges College and the Rootham Shield at Reed's School which gave pupils the opportunity to compete with the best tennis schools in the South East.

Our U13 and U15 Girls' and Boys' Teams competed in the Surrey Leagues. The teams finished mid table in most age groups.

The introduction of LTA ratings events on Saturday afternoons gave pupils an opportunity to compete with players of a similar rating. This year we have also introduced the Road to Wimbledon U14 event, whereby the winners represent the school in the Regional Finals and have the opportunity to play at Wimbledon. 12 pupils took part and the winner was Callum Breen, Year 7, with James Wood, Year 7, as the runner-up.



## TRAMPOLINING

### LONDON SCHOOLS TRAMPOLINE QUALIFIER

In a simply brilliant competition, the squad performed really well, especially those competing for the first time.

The Boys' Team of Tino, Alex and Will started the day off brilliantly finishing 1st in the U13 Novice group, with Tino taking the title and Alex finishing in 2nd place!

The U14 Elite Team continued the success by finishing 2nd in the highest difficulty category. Eivie Lloyd finished 4th, Jasmine Rihal 7th, Hannah Sinclair 8th and Amy Tree 9th.



### SOUTHERN ZONAL TRAMPOLINE FINALS

The U19 Intermediate Girls won their event with a huge gap between them and second place. Individually Anna Stone, on top form, finished in 2nd place.

The U13 Boys' Team performed great routines, with Tino showing great consistency and finishing individually in 2nd with Alex in 7th. Along with Will they secured the team victory!

In the U14 Elite Boys' group Matt performed a great set routine and finished in a credible 7th.

In the hardest category, the U14 Elite Girls' Team of Eivie Lloyd, Jasmine Rihal, Amy Tree and Hannah Sinclair, also showed huge improvements in their routines, completing multiple somersault links in their voluntaries and came 3rd!

### CROYDON SCHOOLS TRAMPOLINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Royal Russell hosted this event with over 120 pupils competing from nine schools.

In the U14 Elite groups, Matt Payne and Eivie Lloyd easily bounced to victory with Jasmine Rihal Runner Up. Along with Amy Tree and Hannah Sinclair, the Girls Team also took the Gold!

In the O14 section, we swept the board taking the top five spots. Anna Stone was the champion, Emily Runner Up, 3rd was Grace Scott, 4th Emelie Torlot and Ellie Baker 5th. It was no surprise when we also won the Team event! In the O14 Boys Jamie Biggs finished as runner-up.

In the U14 Novice section we won the U14 Girls' and Boys' Team section with, individually, Sophie 2nd, Tino 3rd, Romy and Alex 4th and Will 5th.

The U13 Novice Team of Lara, Drew, Gracy and Romy bounced into 3rd place.

In the U19 Intermediate group the team were the clear winners with Grace Scott finishing in 2nd and Anna Stone 3rd! Emily Arnold (7th) and Ellie Baker (14th) helped the team secure the victory. Jamie Biggs finished 2nd in the U19 Novice group and Matt Payne and Amelia James, jumping at Elite level, put in great performances with Matt 2nd and Amelia 4th.

The U15 Team all bounced really well and were unlucky to finish in 4th place in a tough group.

### NATIONAL SCHOOLS TRAMPOLINE FINALS

The U13 Boys' Team all bounced brilliant routines and we were delighted with the 3rd place finish with Tino Khamnei finishing 8th individually. Tino, Alex Mazzoni and Will Mather have made Royal Russell history by not only being the first boys team to compete at the National Finals but also to pick up a National medal too!

Eivie completed two solid routines in the U14 Elite Girls' group to finish 8th.

To round off the day, the U19 Intermediate Team all jumped fantastically well with Grace Scott bouncing to the top spot with Anna Stone 4th, earning the team a 2nd place team medal.

### LONDON YOUTH GAMES TRAMPOLINING EVENT

Team Croydon were up against the other 32 London boroughs and were keen on coming away with a medal. Grace Scott completed an awesome set routine, posting the top set score of the whole event! Anna Stone and Eivie Lloyd also scored top marks. Grace's voluntary was solid to put her 4th in the Girls' competition.

Having 4 scores in the top 20 positions put the team up at the top and it was fantastic to be announced London Youth Games Runners-Up!



### ATHLETICS

Over 70 pupils were selected to run, throw or jump for the school at the Croydon Schools Borough Athletics Championships. 1st places were won by Calum Firth, Year 10, 800m, Tait James, Year 10, Javelin, Khalia Charles, Year 9, 100m, Reanna Blades, Year 9, 200m and Lara Davis, Year 7, Javelin.

In addition, we secured eight 2nd places, six 3rd places and a win for the Year 7 Girls' Relay Team of Emily Hayden de Carbonnieres, Chika George, Millie German and Millie Taylor.



### CROSS-COUNTRY

All pupils and a significant number of members of staff participated in the main event of the year, House Cross-Country. The challenging course began on Top Pitch before winding its way through our woods to the finish line on Lime Tree Quad.

Holly Perks won the Junior event for the second consecutive year with a new personal best time. The winners of the Intermediate event were Faith Chen and Ayodwji Elerewe and the Senior event was won by Jessica Westland and Jack Burton.



# House Sport

Representing your House in a range of activities continues to play a major role in our sporting programme. Pupils have the opportunity to compete in year groups throughout the year, scoring points for participation and wins towards the House Championship Cup, awarded on Royal Russell Day.

## GIRLS' HOUSE SPORT RESULTS

EVENT	JUNIOR HOUSE WINNERS	INTERMEDIATE HOUSE WINNERS	SENIOR HOUSE WINNERS
5-a-side Football	Reade	Reade	
Athletics	Hollenden	Reade	Reade
Badminton	Hollenden	Hollenden	
Basketball	Buchanan	Reade	Hollenden
Cross-Country	Queen's	Hollenden	Hollenden
Hockey	Hollenden	Hollenden	Hollenden
Indoor Athletics	Hollenden	Reade	
Netball	Buchanan	Buchanan	Hollenden
Rounders	Buchanan	Buchanan	
Swim Gala	Queen's	Reade	Hollenden
Table Tennis	Queen's	Reade	Reade
Tennis	Hollenden	Hollenden	Hollenden



## BOYS' HOUSE SPORT RESULTS

EVENT	JUNIOR HOUSE WINNERS	INTERMEDIATE HOUSE WINNERS	SENIOR HOUSE WINNERS
5-a-side Football	Cambridge	Oxford	Oxford
Athletics	Keable	Keable	Keable
Badminton	Keable	Cambridge	Oxford
Basketball	Oxford	Cambridge	Cambridge
Cricket	Oxford	Oxford	
Cross-Country	Cambridge	Cambridge	Cambridge
Football	Cambridge	Madden	Keable
Hockey	Oxford	Cambridge	Madden
Indoor Athletics	Cambridge	Cambridge	
Swim Gala	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford
Table Tennis	Cambridge	Cambridge	Cambridge
Tennis	Cambridge	St Andrew's	Cambridge





# Combined Cadet Force



The Cadet unit at Royal Russell is well established, with cadets in both the Army and RAF Sections. It has been in operation within the School for over 100 years, forming one of the main co-curricular activities that the School has to offer with around 170 cadets in Years 9 to 13 parading every week.

Whilst the CCF is a voluntary youth organisation with a military ethos, the skills and experiences that are developed throughout the five years are second to none. The military underpin everything that they do around a mnemonic "CDRILS"; Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity, Loyalty and Selfless Commitment. Within the CCF we use this as the foundation to the organisation, which in turn equips pupils with an exceptional all round ability and discipline that can be used both inside and outside the classroom, whether it be studying for exams or being a committed member of a sports team.

This year has been busier than ever and we have seen an increase in the number of cadets joining and continuing for the full five years.

Cadets have been on a variety of camps and taken part in a number of competitions, gaining experience and success, enabling them to put into practice what they have been taught on weekly parade nights, whether that be Drill, Marksmanship, First Aid, Aircraft Recognition, Obstacle Courses, Leadership Cadres and Fieldcraft.

Annually the CCF holds three staple camps, held at MoD training bases across the country. In addition to these, RAF cadets have been able to attend an Aerospace Engineering Camp and the Army Section a REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Camp. These Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps are an extension to the classroom, whether that be stripping an engine and servicing an Army Land Rover or working as an

RAF Engineer and learning about the futures of flight. In addition to camps, the CCF has hosted two key competitions within the Cadet calendar, including The Regional First Aid Competition and the Youth Organisations in Uniform (YOU) London Competition, maximising the extensive grounds and facilities that Royal Russell has to offer.

This year, Army Cadet Sergeant Major Edgar Heath-Pampin attended the coveted Master Cadet Course which is the pinnacle of Army Section training. Cadet Warrant Officer George Ledger-Humphreys has completed the RAF Junior Leaders Course, which is the highest course available to RAF Cadets and certainly isn't for the light hearted.





# Combined Cadet Force

All pupils are encouraged to join the Combined Cadet Force from Year 9 and, at the end of Year 8, all pupils attend an off-site Induction Day where they learn about the exciting and rewarding opportunities and challenges in the CCF. Following their initial training, Cadets can choose to join either the Army or RAF Sections and, in addition to weekly activities, can attend camps and specialised courses throughout the year.

Here we meet four Cadets who share their experiences at the end of their first year.

## RAIN REID-PARR

I decided to join the CCF because it looked really fun and I thought it would be a good life experience and I would gain some useful knowledge for the future. I chose the Army section because it looked the most active and exciting.

I enjoyed many things throughout the year such as the marching, the camps and using the rifles. I think my favourite was January Camp where we got to shoot blanks at pretend enemy targets and learn how to search a room in a house.

I have learnt how to survive in the wild by using skills such as building tents, food, cleanliness and hygiene and other general knowledge in that area. I also learnt how to use a rifle and different drills related to marching, what to do in the case of an enemy attack and how to lead a section.

The first camp I went to was October Camp which was fun because it was my first trip away with the CCF and I got to know a few more people. It was a very enjoyable experience because you gain so much knowledge. On one of the days, we did a very fun (and a little bit scary) obstacle course which was very exciting. I also went to January Camp and that was the first time I used a rifle properly. We also had a



'A Squadron' weekend camp over Easter and we camped outside in bashers and ate ration packs for the first time. We did lots of fun command tasks and learnt a lot about surviving outdoors.

Remembrance Day was very interesting, especially watching the disciplined older members of the CCF perform their drill and commands to commemorate all the soldiers that died for our country.

I think that you can join the CCF no matter who you are. It may appear to appeal to certain people but it doesn't matter. It is a fun life experience to have and you get to make a lot of new friends. You gain knowledge that you may never need, but in a life and death situation you would know what to do. Don't just join because your friends do and don't quit if they quit because it is really fun and you don't want to miss out on anything.

## TOBY STAHEL

I joined because I wanted to improve my self-discipline and to push myself to the limit with everything I do.

I am in the Army section and I chose this because I am not as interested in planes as some other people. Also I knew I would prefer going into the field more and in the RAF section there is a lot of sitting in a classroom and learning, which I'm not a big fan of.

I enjoyed the assault course in October Camp as it posed a real challenge to me, but I succeeded with the help of friends.

I have learnt how to clearly communicate with others as a leader during command tasks and to be able to follow the orders of others.

On October Camp I did my first Night Exercise and it was an experience and a half. I couldn't go to January Camp but the people who went on it only had good things to say about it, so I will make sure I go next year.

During the Army training on Mondays, the best activity that I did was the hide and seek game, where we had to use the 7Ss to conceal ourselves from



the NCO trainers. These are Shape, Shine, Shadow, Silhouette, Spacing, Skyline and Sudden Movement.

Remembrance Day was touching with the Chapel service and it was a beautiful sight to see the poppies falling from the bell tower.

I would say try everything that your section gives you the opportunity to do as this stuff is a once in a lifetime opportunity, unless you join the Armed Forces. I would say that I was hesitant at first, but have no regrets about doing it.

I was proud to have been named Best New Army Cadet this year and receive an award on Royal Russell Day.

## CAITLIN BARON

I decided to join the CCF after the Induction Day at the end of Year 8 because I thought it would be a good way to learn skills that I wouldn't be given the opportunity to learn anywhere else. Not many of my friends wanted to join so I knew it would be a good opportunity for me to meet new people and become more confident in myself and as a leader.



our camouflage techniques with lots of day and night fieldcraft exercises.

The weekend camp during Easter was my favourite. We learnt how to make our shelters under bashers and how to sleep overnight in cold weather. We cooked our meals from ration packs, which were surprisingly good, and learnt how to be part of a night training expedition.

I would recommend joining the CCF as you'll learn a lot, get to be a leader in tasks, spend time with friends and have a lot more fun than you would imagine.

## CAMPBELL EADY

I decided to join the CCF because I was told that it would look good on my CV for when I'm older and I also thought it looked like a lot of fun.



I chose the RAF section because I liked the idea of learning to fly a plane and I thought I would prefer that to crawling about in mud a lot.

I enjoyed October Camp as it was a good place to meet new people and make new friends. It was quite challenging but a very good experience for me.

Since joining I have learnt many things, but the most important one has to be learning about first aid. I now know what to do in an emergency situation.

I've been on two camps so far and participated in all the tasks. I most enjoyed going out on the night exercises and scaring everyone by making them jump!

I was involved in the Remembrance Day commemorations and it was brilliant

to represent the RAF section of the CCF, and then march out to stand with everyone while the wreaths were laid.

I would have to say that my best activity in the CCF this year has to be camouflage as I always seem to take it too far, covering myself in all kinds of nettles and thorns, just to hide myself.

I would recommend the CCF to all new pupils, everyone should give it a try. My advice would be to sleep as much as you can before going on a camp because with all the physical activity, I can guarantee that you'll need it.



New Year 9 CCF Cadets

# Inspiring Our Future Workforce

We believe that it is important to encourage our pupils to explore the vast career possibilities that await them and expertly guide them through every step of their chosen journey.

We encourage our pupils to consider all the available routes to a successful and fulfilling career. We guide our pupils through the process of choosing the right GCSE and A level subjects by helping them understand their own personal skill sets and motivating them to thoroughly research their options. Pupils can also gain subject experience by getting involved in relevant co-curricular clubs and activities on offer at the school.

Beyond Royal Russell, pupils are shown the possibilities of university,

internships and apprenticeships and moving directly into the world of work.

We equip our pupils with the skills and attributes they will need to succeed and become a positive force in their communities and wider society. Learning to work in a team, collaborate, communicate articulately, innovate, think globally and be resilient is as important as rigorous academic endeavour.

We are incredibly fortunate to have close links to the Croydon and London Chamber of Commerce and a strong professional community of

parents and Old Russellians who are willing to share their expertise and experience with our pupils. All of these valued groups contribute to our pupils' success by acting as mentors, exhibiting at our careers fairs, hosting an assembly and offering workplace visits. Our pupils come from a diverse range of backgrounds and all are hardworking, engaged, eager to learn and seize every opportunity to gain real-life experience.

Pupils leave us with the skills and mindset to be valuable employees as well as future global leaders and influencers.



## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CAREERS FAIR

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the NHS and there has been a good deal of reflection on the extraordinary work done since its inception and how today's young people will drive its continued success and service.

Our NHS Careers Fair was an opportunity for our pupils to talk to a wide range of high-ranking professionals, including many Royal Russell parents, who gave their valuable time to discuss the many opportunities for careers in the NHS.

This event was instigated by Dr Agnelo Fernandes MBE FRCGP, Chairman at NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group, Royal Russell School Governor and past parent. Agnelo drew together over 40 NHS professionals to speak to pupils about some of the 350 different careers available in the NHS, many not medical related, including accountancy, performance analysis and marketing.

The busy evening comprised of two hours of 'drop in' sessions where pupils and their parents spoke enthusiastically to the NHS professionals about their work and what steps they can take towards a career in the NHS, including taking one of over 100,000 new apprenticeships to be offered by 2020, applying directly for jobs from school or going via university. There were also opportunities to sign up for volunteering work and potentially secure offers of work experience.

## CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

53 organisations, nine universities and six apprenticeship providers gathered for our well-attended Careers Fair.

The free-flow format allowed pupils and parents to work their way around the stands, asking questions, having conversations and seeking out work experience opportunities.

105 pupils listened eagerly to a talk by the National Apprenticeship Service, who showcased the exciting opportunities that modern apprenticeships offer.

We were proud to welcome back three Old Russellians who left us in 2018; Max Rickards and Jamie King, who spoke enthusiastically about their first year on apprenticeship schemes at IBM and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Lauren Carney who shared her experience of her first year at the University of Southampton studying Fashion and Textile Design.



## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FAIR

Our Activities Fair was a popular event, with pupils eager to sign up to the wide variety of clubs available each term, at lunchtime and after school.

Our co-curricular programme aims to inspire and enthuse pupils to develop their personal passions, learn new skills, socialise in new environments, and stretch themselves beyond the classroom and their comfort zones.

Teachers, coaches and pupils worked together to promote the exciting clubs, with something for everyone, including MUN, Chess, Puzzles and Games, Science, STEM, School Newspaper, Young Scientist, Touch Typing, Japanese, Design Technology, Art and Design, Food Tech, Playwriting, Drama, Theatre Tech, Photography and Sport.



# The Great Outdoors

Our Forest School, nestled in our natural woodland, continues to provide our youngest pupils with an outstanding learning environment and the opportunity to explore and enjoy our extensive outside space.

In Nursery and Reception, children visit our Forest School once a week, spending a whole afternoon in the woods. Here they enjoy seeing the seasons change; visiting in snow, rain and sunshine. This time and space provides the inspiration to create imaginative playful experiences which aid their language and communication development as well as their confidence and social skills.

Children are encouraged to take risks as they climb trees and use small tools. They learn to persevere as they

overcome obstacles to their child-initiated tasks, develop collaborative skills as they work together to build dens and shelters and encourage curiosity as they investigate, dig, go on mini-beast hunts and explore.

With each visit, a new focused activity is introduced to children in Years 1 and 2 and their enthusiastic enjoyment of the freedom to explore is evident. Pupils interact with natural resources, search for insects and investigate trees and plants.

Forest School Club is offered to children in Years 3 to 6 in the Summer

term where they benefit greatly from experiencing the natural environment that surrounds them. Here they have learnt to prune trees and help manage the site in a sustainable way. They have prepared wood for a camp fire, where they have cooked popcorn and toasted marshmallows and boiled water for hot tea, with mint from our herb garden.

We are extremely fortunate to have access to this wonderful learning resource within our own unique 110 acre campus and bring its abundant benefits to all our pupils.



## YEAR 3 CCF SLEEPOVER

Year 3 experienced the biggest sleepover of their young lives!

The event began after school with the children setting up their beds by laying out their mats, sleeping bags and teddies in the Junior School Hall.

After tea, the Senior School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) provided a fun packed evening full of entertainment in our fantastic grounds. Activities included a blindfolded trail

through the woods, camouflage face painting, mini adventure assault course and fire building and lighting. After this, they all sat around the camp fire to enjoy a toasted marshmallow and stories before heading back to their overnight camp.

The following morning, 40 somewhat sleepy children and their parents enjoyed a barbecue breakfast before departing, with many stories to tell and memories to treasure.





# An Audience with Roger Daltrey

We had the privilege of welcoming The Who founder and lead singer, Roger Daltrey for a special evening to raise funds in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

After an interview, filmed by our talented Media pupils, Roger met with our lucky 'Golden Ticket' winners, who had each made a significant charity donation to join Roger at a pre-event reception for a personal talk and photo opportunity.

The main event was attended by over 200 parents, pupils, Old Russellians, family and friends in the Auditorium. Our own Theatre Technician, Jon Edwards,

provided the build-up, with a special compilation charting Roger's singing and acting career, complete with video clips of his most infamous moments including the exploding drum kit!

Roger gave a fascinating insight into the early days of The Who, his filmography and his pursuits outside of the music industry, one being his passion for model railways! He answered a variety of questions from the audience, with Year 7 pupil Alec Thurbin, an enthusiastic music composer, having the opportunity to ask Roger if he had ever written a film score.

Roger also spoke passionately about his work as Patron of the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity that supports young people aged 13-24 through their diagnosis and treatment. Specialist units within 28 hospitals provide dedicated areas for these young people who would otherwise be in either children or adult wards. Recognising that emotional welfare is as important as medical treatment,



these units provide a space where they can socialise and participate in activities with other teenage patients, with games areas, workshops and their own kitchen and dining areas.

The evening was compèred superbly by pupils Anna Armitage and Matt Lewis, along with Chloe, a patient at the Teenage Cancer Trust unit in Bristol. She was able to articulate how the Charity had immensely improved her cancer experience with her own incredibly moving story.

Roger took the time to sign copies of his new biography, Thanks a Lot Mr Kibblewhite and pose for photos with many delighted supporters.

**The event raised over £7,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.**



# Junior School Music

The Junior School Music Department has enjoyed another very exciting and event-filled year, full of splendid performances from our young instrumentalists.

Highlights of the Autumn term included the annual Harvest Festival, held in the Chapel, where the children sang with great spirit and joyfulness. Generous donations from all of the Junior School pupils in support of the Purley Food Hub were gratefully received. The Choir once again gave a festive performance in the Whitgift Centre and the annual Christmas Carol Service proved to be a celebration of seasonal vocal delights and pertinent scripture readings.

The Spring term commenced with preparations for the round of competitions and music festivals that have become part of the musical tradition in the Junior School. Our young musicians must be commended on the many successes that they achieved in these events. This is undoubtedly fine testament to our pupils' diligent practice but also to the dedicated teaching of our talented team of music teachers.

The Junior School Choir have risen to all of the musical challenges presented to them and were particularly thrilled to be invited to sing in the massed choirs 'Joseph' performance. This was a collaborative music event that also included many instrumental performances from both the Junior and Senior School musicians. Our young choristers and instrumentalists very much enjoyed performing as part of our exciting Royal Russell Day celebrations at the end of term to a large audience of appreciative parents, staff, governors and guests.

Our youngest musicians in the Junior School delighted us all early in the Summer term with a wonderful concert, full of varied performances. This Lower Junior Concert has now become a much anticipated annual event, under the direction of the indefatigable and enthusiastic Mrs Moseley. The Upper Junior Summer Serenade took place shortly thereafter. Of particular note were

the number of pupils performing as part of instrumental ensembles, many of whom were making their debut performance in this concert. These included woodwind, brass and ukulele ensembles.

Our Music Cafés, held throughout the year, have continued to provide valuable opportunities for our pupils of all abilities to perform to their parents and peers, developing their confidence in what are always very enjoyable occasions.

Congratulations to Durham House who this year won both the House Music Competition with some delightful instrumental performances and the House Singing Competition with their fabulous version of 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight', complete with a cuddly Roary!





# Senior School Music

The Music Department has enjoyed a great variety of concerts, all performed to an exceptionally high standard. Our major events have included Autumn and Spring Concerts, the Christmas Concert and the ever popular Music Dinner with the theme this year of the 1970's.

The Autumn Concert was a fantastic start to the musical year with many wonderful performances. Ms O'Hanlon's singers performance of The Lily and The Rose was beautiful and moving and Swing Band clearly enjoyed performing Soul Bossa Nova (better known as the theme tune from Austin Powers) as much as the audience enjoyed listening to it. The Winter Concert really celebrated Christmas with a variety of well-known Christmas tunes, the Orchestra performed the Christmas medley which is always a favourite and Swing Band took everyone on a Sleigh Ride with vocals from Chris Patten-Walker. The Drama Department provided some dramatic interludes of Christmas poetry and readings from Scrooge. Mr Millward was the star of the show, not only providing accompaniment to many of the performers, but also a rendition of a comedy Classical Aria. The finale was a real celebration with everyone joining in to sing Frosty the Snowman!

Our annual Showcase Concert took place in the Spring term, with Millie German, Alex Franklin and Aleksandra Maciaszek (for the second year running) winning their classes. There were many memorable performances by pupils from all year groups and Mr David Bullen, the visiting adjudicator, had the unenviable task of deciding a winner in each category. Millie impressed Mr Bullen with her ability to sing and play the guitar with a lovely rendition of Riptide by Vance Joy. Aleksandra performed a very impressive excerpt from Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 in E minor, with Mr Ford performing all the orchestral parts on a second piano to accompany, no mean feat. Alex Franklin was praised for a beautiful and very mature rendition of Minstrels by Debussy which is a notoriously difficult piece to play effectively.

The Music Dinner was, as always, a real highlight of the year. The 70s theme was very popular with pupils, staff and parents alike and gave ample opportunity for some fabulous



costumes as well as a huge variety of music to choose from to perform. We had from ABBA to Queen with a few musicals thrown in for good measure. Swing Band opened the evening with lively renditions of the Theme from Hawaii 5-0 and Superstition.

There were some very moving solo performances; Anastacia Allan with Send In The Clowns, Streets Of London from Joy Eden, You've Got A Friend performed by Charlotte Thistleton and stunning performances of Maybe This Time by Tess Williams, Bridge Over Troubled Water by Alex Franklin and Just The Way You Are by Charlie Eastwood. Things got a bit more lively with Ms O'Hanlon and Mr Bell's singers performing the Time Warp with a guest appearance by Mr Hutchinson. The Barbershop brought the house down with Gimme Gimme Gimme by ABBA and Rapid Escape performed a rousing medley of Queen songs which got everyone singing. The whole evening was brought to a close with everyone, including the Choral Society, singing Bohemian Rhapsody and Thank You For The Music. The whole evening was full of joy and a good time was had by all. It will be hard to top this next year but we will definitely try.

The Spring Concert was a combined Junior and Senior School event with performers from Year 3 all the way through to Year 13. The Choirs, Orchestra, Swing Band and String Group were all a combination of

pupils from all areas of the School. The Orchestra performed some challenging pieces with Largo by Dvorak and Copland's lively Hoe Down. Ms O'Hanlon's singers with You Raise Me Up really set the mood with a very touching performance. Alec Thurbin impressed everyone with the performance of his composition.

The second part of the evening was a performance of the original version of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber. This was a combined performance and between all the choirs, accompanied by a live band of pupils from the Senior School. Everyone enjoyed the lively songs that we all know, especially the finale of Any Dream Will Do, which brought back memories of the 90s for many parents who remember the Jason Donovan release of the song. The evening was a joyous event and it was amazing to see pupils from the whole school supporting each other and working together.

There have also been Rush Hour concerts that have focused on different families (piano; voice; guitar and drums; brass, wind and strings). These have given all the pupils the opportunity to perform solo and display their individual skills. Our annual visit to perform at the Shirley Methodist Church cycle of lunchtime recitals enables the Year 11 pupils to perform in public to a very appreciative audience.



Our resident Rock Group 'Rapid Escape' (Anya Lewis, Dhillon Sen, Tristan Massey-Alstromand and Luca Simons) were successful in their first performance outside School with a gig at the Croydon Lounge.

A number of Music and Drama scholars went to the National Theatre to see a production of Sondheim's 'The Follies' and they were able to meet Dawn Hope, one of the leading actresses, after the show. The production was fantastic and despite there being no interval, everyone was captivated by the singing, dancing, acting, costumes and set for the whole 2 hours 15 minutes.

The Department has run three sessions of Associated Board Exams, with some impressive passes being achieved from Grade 1 through to Grade 8. Many congratulations also to Alex Franklin, who has been awarded a Sixth Form place at the Purcell School for Young Musicians.



Once again, the choirs have been very busy contributing to the life of the Chapel, singing at Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and many other services in between.

There have been some very high quality performances from all the choirs; Choristers, Chamber Choir, Choral Society and Barbershop. The Autumn term was particularly busy with all the services in the run up to Christmas and the Christmas Carol Service was a lovely way to end the term with some wonderful traditional Christmas music.

In the final service of the term, the guest preacher was Dame Judith Weir, a distinguished British composer. On a similar theme, in October, film composer Michael Csanyi Wills gave a talk to the music scholars about his work and the art of composition.





# Performing Arts Examinations

Pupils in the Junior and Senior School, at all ages and levels, triumphed in their Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations this year.

The introduction of LAMDA Drama classes to our co-curricular programme has been a great success, with all 28 pupils passing their Grade 6 exam with Merit or Distinction.

## Junior School ABRSM Examination Results

Henry Hayden de Carbonnières	Clarinet	Year 3	Grade 1	Merit
Akein Pelpola	Piano	Year 3	Grade 1	Pass
Rayaan Zubair	Piano	Year 3	Grade 1	Pass
Ava Barton	Guitar	Year 4	Grade 1	Distinction
Ava Barton	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Distinction
Brendan Bizio	Piano	Year 4	Grade 1	Pass
Maddalen Bueno-Goti	Violin	Year 4	Grade 1	Pass
Maddalen Bueno-Goti	Piano	Year 4	Grade 2	Distinction
Yasmin Frankcom	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Merit
Yasmin Frankcom	Piano	Year 4	Grade 1	Pass
Frederick Gilbert-Hodd	Violin	Year 4	Grade 1	Merit
Arabella Howard	Guitar	Year 4	Initial Grade	Distinction
Gio Kositratna	Violin	Year 4	Grade 1	Pass
Gio Kositratna	Piano	Year 4	Grade 1	Pass
Beatrice Low	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Merit
Maria Parbatani	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Pass
Nicholas Thurbin	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Distinction
Allegra Wilson	Violin	Year 4	Grade 2	Distinction
Maisey Winter	Descant Recorder	Year 4	Grade 2	Merit
Isabella Flint	Violin	Year 5	Grade 1	Merit
Isandros Germanis	Guitar	Year 5	Grade 1	Merit
Charles Hayden de Carbonnières	Clarinet	Year 5	Grade 2	Pass
Thomas Karelis	Guitar	Year 5	Grade 1	Merit
Max King	Guitar	Year 5	Grade 1	Distinction
Annalise Luffingham	Descant Recorder	Year 5	Grade 2	Merit
Rohit Nair	Guitar	Year 5	Grade 2	Merit
Onelli Pelpola	Piano	Year 5	Grade 2	Merit
Yuta Suzuki	Guitar	Year 5	Grade 1	Distinction
Naia Bueno-Goti	Violin	Year 6	Grade 2	Merit
Naia Bueno-Goti	Piano	Year 6	Grade 4	Pass
Ella Crawford	Piano	Year 6	Grade 1	Merit
Erynn Edney	Cello	Year 6	Grade 3	Merit
Hartley Haig	Piano	Year 6	Grade 1	Distinction
Hannah Kaminski	Guitar	Year 6	Grade 3	Distinction
Mia McCann	Piano	Year 6	Grade 2	Pass
Jasmine McCann	Flute	Year 6	Grade 4	Pass
Olivia Obasuyi	Violin	Year 6	Grade 2	Merit
Johan Prinsloo	Piano	Year 6	Grade 2	Merit
Uliana Tokolova	Violin	Year 6	Grade 2	Merit
Uliana Tokolova	Descant Recorder	Year 6	Grade 2	Distinction
Joseph Venkatasami	Piano	Year 6	Grade 1	Pass
Eleanor Von Gerard	Descant Recorder	Year 6	Grade 3	Distinction
Eleanor Von Gerard	Singing	Year 6	Grade 3	Distinction

## Senior School ABRSM Examination Results

Toby Cascarini	Trumpet	Year 7	Grade 1	Merit
Aya Clarke	Clarinet	Year 7	Grade 3	Pass
Charlotte Kinch	Singing	Year 7	Grade 2	Merit
Minwoo Park	Cello	Year 7	Grade 2	Merit
Jasmine Rihal	Piano	Year 7	Grade 2	Merit
Kayden Smith	Drums	Year 7	Grade 3	Merit
Lara Thompson	Cello	Year 7	Grade 3	Pass
Alec Thurbin	Piano	Year 7	Grade 5	Merit
Isabella Bruguier	Singing	Year 8	Grade 2	Merit
Sam Stealey	Piano	Year 8	Grade 2	Pass
Kaylah Black	Flute	Year 8	Grade 1	Pass
Isabella Bruguier	Clarinet	Year 8	Grade 3	Pass
Adam Court	Singing	Year 8	Grade 5	Merit
Cassandra Exall	Piano	Year 8	Grade 1	Merit
Lara Flint	Alto Saxophone	Year 8	Grade 1	Merit
Kobi Jawaheer	Singing	Year 8	Grade 4	Pass
Kobi Jawaheer	Drums	Year 8	Grade 3	Merit
Imani Kufuor-Gray	Trumpet	Year 8	Grade 1	Pass
Safia Opie	Singing	Year 8	Grade 4	Pass
Mateo Reardon	Cello	Year 8	Grade 3	Pass
Emily Ton	Flute	Year 8	Grade 1	Distinction
Emily Ton	Flute	Year 8	Grade 2	Distinction
Oliver Tchum	Violin	Year 9	Grade 2	Pass
David Cherry	Singing	Year 9	Grade 5	Merit
Isabelle Kurankye	Singing	Year 9	Grade 4	Pass
Gavin Lee	Piano	Year 9	Grade 6	Pass
Charlotte Thistleton	Singing	Year 9	Grade 4	Merit
Georgia Yeulett	Singing	Year 9	Grade 4	Distinction
Arthur Heath	Piano	Year 10	Grade 2	Merit
Michael Johnson	Trumpet	Year 10	Grade 4	Pass
Ivan Lam	Piano	Year 10	Grade 3	Pass
Hamzah Mughal	Singing	Year 10	Grade 5	Merit
Mihai Pavel	Piano	Year 10	Grade 5	Pass
Anjani Poopalasingham	Trombone	Year 10	Grade 7	Pass
Liam Smith	Singing	Year 10	Grade 5	Pass
Charlotte Haines	Piano	Year 11	Grade 4	Pass
Luca Simons	Singing	Year 11	Grade 6	Merit
Samuel Wyncoll	Piano	Year 11	Grade 3	Pass
Anya Lewis	Piano	Year 12	Grade 4	Merit
Fandi Yue	Cello	Year 12	Grade 5	Merit

## Senior School LAMDA Drama Examinations

Adeniyi Andes-Pelumi	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Brooke Agbai	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Millie Brown	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Sam Alfred	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
James Browne	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Anastacia Allan	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Ellie Deragon	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Serena Biju	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Tea-Maria Gabara	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Naomi Brown	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Lucy Payne	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Anna Clery	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Junaid Quazi	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Lucas Heath-Pampin	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Ella Redman	Year 7	Grade 7	Merit	Isabelle Kurankye	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Lara Thompson	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Charlotte Thistleton	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Megan Wood	Year 7	Grade 6	Merit	Oliver Tchum	Year 9	Grade 6	Distinction
Yasmin Bebawi	Year 8	Grade 6	Merit	Ellie Baker	Year 10	Grade 6	Distinction
Ellen Connolly	Year 8	Grade 6	Merit	Hamzah Mughal	Year 10	Grade 6	Distinction
Lara Flint	Year 8	Grade 6	Merit	Sophie Stretton	Year 10	Grade 6	Distinction
Sebastian Oglaza	Year 8	Grade 6	Merit	Rosharna Thomas-Grant	Year 10	Grade 6	Distinction

In addition, Hamzah Mughal, Year 10 and Sophie Stretton, Year 10 achieved a Distinction at Grade 7 for the Solo Acting Course.



# Junior School Art & Design

The Art Room has been bursting with activity throughout the year, and the children have produced such a wide range of excellent work.

We have enjoyed pop-up exhibitions of Year 5 clay poppies for Remembrance Day, Year 6 self-portrait paintings, Art Club's extraordinary nature drawings and hundreds of yummy ice-cream sculptures made during Cross-Curricular Week.

Many children have been thrilled to receive the award of 'Artist of the Week' for their outstanding effort and positive attitude to Art and Design Technology.



## YEAR 3

Taking inspiration from Giacometti and Antony Gormley, the children practiced recording the body in proportion through drawing and sculpting. They also explored mark making in response to Monet's landscapes and created large collaborative landscape paintings of the School's grounds, inspired by David Hockney.

In Design Technology, they designed and made shadow puppets and picture frames.



## YEAR 4

The children developed designs for fantasy architecture inspired by Gaudi and Zaha Hadid and created their own Pop Art inspired monoprints and clay sculptures. This culminated in a trip to the Tate Modern where the children were able to experience a range of modern and contemporary artworks.

In Design Technology, the children designed and made pop-up books and in Food Technology they designed healthy seasonal soups and smoothies.

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

In Nursery, the children explored mark making, colour mixing and constructing using a range of materials. In Reception the children made drawings, paintings and sculptures in response to their topics, including working together to make a Lowry inspired snowy Christmas scene and designing and making crabs and jellyfish following their trip to the Sea Life Centre.



## YEAR 1

The children explored line shape and colour through learning about Kandinsky, made portraits inspired by Picasso and made drawings and clay sculptures inspired by minibeasts.

In Design Technology, the children designed and made bird feeders and vehicles.



## YEAR 2

The children developed their skills in drawing and mark making inspired by Ernst Haeckel, made studies, prints and collages of fruits and vegetables inspired by Van Gogh and Arcimboldo and created their own Aboriginal story paintings.

In Design Technology, they designed and made soft toys and in Food Technology they designed and made sandwiches to enjoy at the Lower Junior Teddy Bears Picnic.



## ART CLUB

During the Autumn term, Art Club worked on developing skills with lots of practice and experimentations in drawing. The project culminated in an assembly led by Art Club, where the children delighted in sharing their progress and spoke of the importance of fostering a growth mindset.

In the Spring term, the children had lots of fun making all the elements of their Mexican Festival Ofrendas. In the Summer term, Art Club worked in a range of media to explore the theme of Robots.



## YEAR 5

For Remembrance Day, clay poppies were created, inspired by Paul Cummins, which were on show in the Junior School. Children also explored surrealism and perspective through creating a mixed media piece and then used the different elements of the piece and their iPads to create stop motion animations.

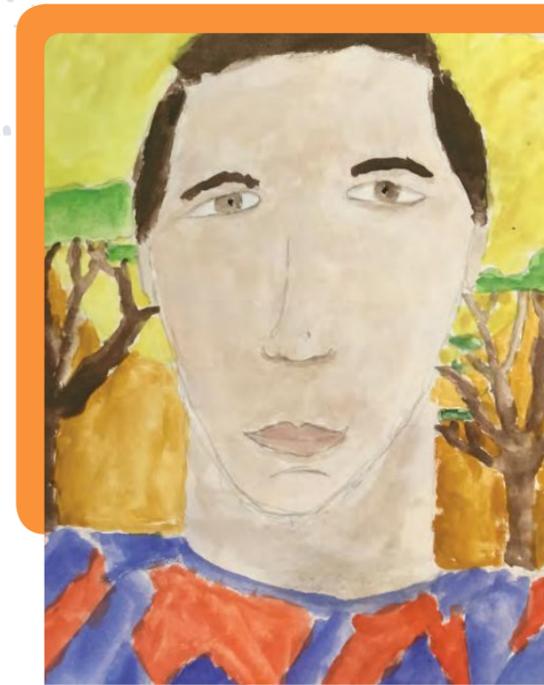
In Design Technology, the children designed and made mechanism toys and fabric money containers. Year 5 also had the exciting opportunity to work with the textiles designer Jessica Chan to create and experiment with natural dyes.



## YEAR 6

The children developed their skills in recording faces in proportion and created their own self-portrait paintings. They used their iPads to research and develop ideas for how to represent themselves and to take photos to draw and paint from images. The children also learnt about the work of William Morris in connection with their History topic and created a range of artworks exploring natural forms and patterns.

In Design Technology, the children designed and made fairground rides using motors and pulleys, and in Food Technology they designed and cooked their own bread creations, a hugely popular project which culminated in a fantastic trip to Pizza Hut where the children enjoyed being behind the scenes in the kitchens and made their own pizzas.





# Senior School Art

It's been a busy year in the Senior School Art and Photography Department. Year 7, 8 and 9 have had the opportunity to extend their ideas further and explore using a range of materials. This has included using clay, photography and a site specific mural project.

Year 7 began the year with expressive mark making and colour work, extending and informing their creative journey into Senior School.

Year 8 developed colourful Royal Russell inspired lino prints and approached more abstract elements informed by reflections, nature and surfaces.

Year 9 used personal identity to inspire their portraiture outcome whilst challenging their use of materials and technique.



Year 10 GCSE pupils have made an excellent start to their course, developing an energetic range of mixed media outcomes.

They have focused on the themes of clothing and water. Detailed and considered observations informed their abstract paintings, 3D structures and batik outcomes. They also utilised their visit to the Tate Modern, taking the opportunity to view London from the Blavatnik building.

Year 11 pupils were intrigued by the precision and detail at the BP Portrait Award, which provided great inspiration for their conflict portraiture project. Pupils worked hard to reflect on their ideas and refining

technique, developing a wide range of personal and political portraits. As a consequence, they responded confidently to the exam theme 'Reflections' with a wide range of thoughtful outcomes.

A level Art and Photography pupils experienced a variety of opportunities beyond the classroom this year.

A fantastic attendance to the 'Art in Action' conference enabled A level pupils to meet and question the Ceramicist Kate Malone, Artist Fiona Rae, Photographer Simon Roberts and Milliner Piers Atkinson.

They also drew inspiration from a trip to the Museum of Childhood and

the Taylor Wessing exhibition at the Photographers' Gallery. Photography pupils explored further with a walking tour from London Bridge to the Barbican, including a visit to the 'London Nights' exhibition. The trip generated a wide selection of confident images and discussion about street photography.

Pupils went on to develop a wide range of personal and informed ideas inspired by identity and childhood. They supported each other to push the boundaries of their artwork and photography. Their chosen themes challenged the perception of identity and social issues including religion, mental health and homelessness. A brave and considerate commitment made by all.





Over the last few years the need to place mental health high on the education agenda has at long last been realised. Schools are waking up to the fact that pupils cannot become the best version of themselves if they do not have positive mental health.

The message we hear all too often in schools is: study hard, get your qualifications and a happy lifestyle will follow, but we must recognise that this is completely the wrong way round. The right road to pupils achieving their full potential and excellent qualifications is through a positive mindset, a love of learning and an enjoyable school experience.

At Royal Russell we place equal importance on the wellbeing of our pupils and their continued academic success. Our pupils deserve our support to be happy, healthy and focused individuals, with all the tools they need to thrive.

It is natural for children to experience episodes of stress, friendship issues, the burden of social media or to feel somewhat overwhelmed with what their young lives throw at them. Our job is to foster an environment of calmness, support and openness and have the strategies in place to quickly identify if a child is struggling emotionally.

Our pastoral system, rated excellent in our last ISI inspection report, incorporates an established tutoring and monitoring programme, delivered by dedicated teachers. We operate a vertical House system which is led by a Housemistress or Housemaster and a team of personal Tutors. The care for our pupils is also strengthened by the additional oversight of the Head of Year who offers a linear year group approach. Through this system, we know our pupils very well.

This team works closely with our onsite, 24-hour Health and Wellbeing Centre and our school counsellors who are with us two days a week. Our Chaplain is also on campus to offer support and guidance to pupils during the school day, alongside our independent listener. Academic support is continuously available through subject clinics, drop-in sessions and revision courses.

Through the creation of our Healthy Mind Policy, we have trained over 60 staff in Mental Health First Aid and established pupil Safeguarding Ambassadors, proving our pupils with a forum to share their thoughts on how we can continue to provide them with appropriate and effective support.

Royal Russell is part of a piloting group of schools in London to promote a whole school approach toward positive mental health. The Children and Young Peoples' Emotional Wellbeing Programme brings together partners from education, health and care and parents across South London to improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people. The programme aims to reduce the risk of self-harm, improve emotional resilience and enhance wellbeing by developing prevention and early intervention initiatives.

As part of this trailblazing initiative, Royal Russell will welcome a mental health support team who will offer both one-to-one support and group treatment sessions for children and, where needed, provide referrals to specialist CAHMS support. This new service will complement our current professional counselling service already in place.

At Royal Russell we keep wellbeing at the heart of what we do and this can only benefit our pupils. Continuing to develop outstanding care will only reflect positively on our pupils' academic development. Let's all work together to enable our young people to have a very well balanced and successful future.

**Nathalie Hart**  
Deputy Head Pastoral and  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



This year, we said goodbye to James Thompson, after a decade as Headmaster of the Junior School. James's legacy is evident throughout the school, which has flourished under his leadership, from the excellent outcomes of our youngest pupils, our outstanding ISI Inspection report and the amazing sports pitch development, which James personally project managed. James leaves us for his new role as Headmaster of St Hugh's in Oxfordshire. We wish James, Viv, Melissa and Lara every success.

This is not a school one leaves easily. Like many, I feel like I have grown up in this school.

I came here as one person and I leave as another. Someone indelibly changed, affected and improved by the experience of attending Royal Russell. I am not arrogant enough to think that I am unforgettable, but let me assure you – the people that make Royal Russell what it is, are.

Thank you to the parents who have entrusted their children to our care and to my glorious, wonderful and stunning Junior School team who really made my job so much easier each and every day, they are all stars, past and present, many of whom will one day be Heads in their own schools.

The joy of being a Junior School Headmaster is not the same as that of a Senior School Head. We don't live and die by the falsehood of league tables, or our GCSE and A level results. We don't get to guide pupils through university applications, or that first broken heart or finding out they've made the first team.

Instead I know that somewhere inside the Junior School there is a six year old who has finished reading Matilda. That someone in Year 4 has passed Grade Two Trumpet. That a child who joined us in Year 5, nervous and anxious, has moved to Senior School confident and happy. Every day I walk past children who bounce, leap and dance into school because here

they are loved, they are happy and they are recognised for being the frankly brilliant individuals they are.

This year, there are over 20 Year 13 pupils graduating from Royal Russell and another 38 Year 11 pupils, all of who attended the Junior School, some from as little as three years old.

We have raised them, and even after they left the Junior School and crossed the car park into Year 7 and beyond, we have watched and loved them, applauded and admired them.

Other schools have qualities, they have attributes, many have values. In the Junior School we have Russell Powers. Collaboration, communication, persistence, resilience, initiative, originality, curiosity and risk taking, reflectiveness and decisiveness.

Every day I am surrounded by children who cannot help but be authentic. When they love they love. When they are sad they are sad. And when they learn they learn with a passion and speed and hunger that puts us adults to shame. I will take that authenticity, that relish for life with me, for it is the greatest Russell Power of them all.

**James Thompson**  
Junior School Headmaster 2009-2019



James Thompson planting the cherry tree which he kindly donated to the school as a farewell gift.



James Thompson with wife Viv and daughters Melissa and Lara.

# Russellian Ball

Following the success of last year's inaugural Narnia themed event, the Great Hall was transformed into Alice's Wonderland for the 1853 Society's second Russellian Ball.

Over one hundred guests from across the Royal Russell community were treated to an evening of fine food and entertainment before dancing the night away.

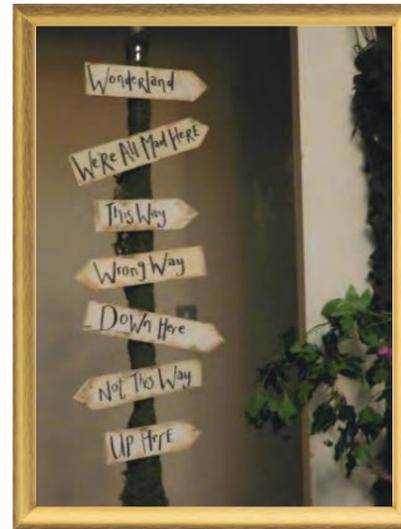
The Alice in Wonderland theme saw guests arrive at the Magic Forest in the rotunda, complete with over-sized mushrooms. This led to Wonderland itself, with a Mad Hatter's tea party setting, beautifully decorated tables and a stunning flashing white dance floor as the centrepiece of the room.

Guests were treated to a superb meal with lots of unusual eat me/drink me twists, accompanied by close-up magic displays from our resident parent magician. Our young CCF Cadets did an excellent job as our waiters and waitresses for the evening.

The auction and raffle, with wonderful prizes kindly donated by parents and supporters, raised almost £17,000 to fund projects across the School.

This was just one of the many successful events organised by our

Parents' Association throughout the year, including the Christmas Fair, Quiz and Comedy Nights, Family Barn Dance, Easter Egg Hunt and Open Air Movie Nights.





Our whole school community of pupils from Nursery to Sixth Form, staff, parents and friends gathered in the Memorial Garden to commemorate the Old Russellians who lost their lives at war.

Our CCF Cadets provided the Guard of Honour and, following a two-minute silence, wreaths were laid by our Heads of School. At the end of our service, poppies cascaded from the Chapel tower creating a poignant display.

This year, to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, we took part in the national 'There But Not There' campaign, sitting two life-size 'Tommys' on Chapel Quad, in addition to the silhouettes that were awarded to the school and placed around our campus.



Here at Royal Russell, we are incredibly fortunate to enjoy 110 acres of natural green space. Our pupils have an abundance of opportunities to spend time learning and playing outside, whilst breathing some of the cleanest air in London. This, alongside bright and spacious classrooms and extensive facilities for sport and physical activity, provides a healthy and calm learning environment.

We know that to help children maximise their learning, engagement and outcomes, we need to nurture not only the external factors influencing their wellbeing, but also pupils' mental health, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development.

Growing up today seems tougher than ever. Our children face a host of new challenges that we cannot always understand. In a confusing, addictive, 24-hour online world, children need new skills, attitudes and a great deal more support from all those who play a role in their young lives.

Children need to be taught how to care for their own mental health, just as they are with their physical health, to cope with the challenges

and stresses that they will inevitably face, even at such a young age.

Our seven 'Russell Powers' are embedded into school life at every opportunity, teaching the vital skills of resilience, collaboration, risk taking, initiative, originality, decisiveness and reflectiveness.

Our motto, 'non sibi sed omnibus', encourages pupils to consider not only their own success, but the benefits of collective endeavour, including consideration for the wellbeing of those around them.

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we held a special Safety and Welfare Day, dedicated to celebrating positive mental health and safety.

The children enjoyed lessons in mindfulness, wellbeing, yoga,

e-safety and more, encouraging them to be aware of their emotional health and learning useful skills and exercises to be healthy and safe.

In Years 3 to 6, the children also learnt first aid essentials in a session delivered by our Health and Wellbeing Centre staff.

Our School is so much more than a place of learning. Our children need and deserve a complete education that perfectly balances rigorous academic endeavour with fun, support, friendship and love.

We aim to not only be an academically successful school, but a mentally healthy school. Through our commitment to the wellbeing of our pupils, we can create a generation of happy, healthy and confident individuals.





The Old Russellians have had another busy year organising social and sporting events and keeping in touch with old pupils and staff through news and updates in their regular newsletter.

## OLD RUSSELLIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brian Angel (President)	Julia Powell (Correspondent)	Kemal Chaudhri	Danny O'Rourke
Adrian Edwards (Chair)	Vicky Rees (Membership Secretary)	Rob Fisher	John Piggin
Ian Walsh (Secretary)		Charles Froy	James Strudwick
Nigel Reed (Treasurer)		Aazim Ihsan	Colin Cameron

## OLD RUSSELLIANS BIENNIAL REUNION

A large group of Old Russellians were welcomed for this year's Biennial Reunion in May.

Former pupils arrived early to enjoy a cup of coffee and begin to renew old acquaintances. The group made their way to Chapel for a short service, where Graham Moseley gave a wonderful address and the Choir sang an anthem. Upon exiting the Chapel, the warm sunshine greeted them allowing everyone to enjoy their pre-lunch drinks on Chapel Quad.

A traditional roast beef school lunch was taken in the Dining Hall

and the group were entertained by a recital of songs by Music pupils Amber Lukes, Year 8, Tara Odedra, Year 8 and Georgia Yeulett, Year 9.

At the time of their previous reunion, the new Oxford and Cambridge Houses were still under construction, so it was exciting to see this new building fully completed. The group were taken on a tour by a few current Oxford boys who proudly showed off their new accommodation.

In the Library, plans of further new school developments, including the new Queen's and Hollenden Boarding

and Day Houses and Science facility extension, were laid out for viewing.

A number of CCF Cadets, who had earlier helped in the Dining Hall, chatted freely with the former pupils, many of whom had been Cadets themselves whilst at School.

A fantastic day was had by all who attended and we look forward to welcoming them back to School again for the next Biennial Reunion in two years' time.



## OLD RUSSELLIANS' 1980s REUNION

Over 50 former Russellians who attended the School during the 1980s returned for a guided tour to see the changes had taken place since they had left.

This was followed by a well-attended evening reunion. The event was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all who came, from all parts of the world.

## RIVERSIDE REUNION

This year, the venue was changed for the London drinks to the Terrace Bar at the South Bank Centre. This allowed more outside space for everyone to enjoy their drinks and view in the glorious sunshine.

25 former pupils met up with former classmates and also enjoyed meeting the somewhat older ORs who were keen to chat about their school experiences.





Graham Moseley, Director of International Relations, gave a passionate talk to an enthusiastic gathering of Old Russellians, as part of their Biennial Reunion. Speaking of his 40 years at Royal Russell, Graham shared his memories of the building at the heart of our community, the Chapel.

With lightning flashing across the sky and rain pouring from the heavens, a young man alighted from the 130 bus at Bishop's Walk request stop, got his bearings, rushed quickly through the woods and made his way along Coombe Lane to the gated entrance of Royal Russell School.

In the height of the storm, little time was spent taking in the scenery as he hastily walked down the driveway to the Bursar's hut (sorry, office). Several minutes later he found himself in the Common Room drying out, huddled around a two bar electric fire with three other people. Molly Goriely fussed over them for a while before Edward Thompson took them on a short tour of the School, during which he asked the occasional question. Then it was interview time. Little is remembered about this momentous event but they were soon gathered together again around that fire.

Sometime later Edward Thompson appeared at the door to summon the young man. "Mr Hopewell would like to see you again." Oh no, what have I done wrong? he thought. In what is now Mr Selby's office he sat nervously facing Messrs Hopewell and Thompson, both wearing their academic gowns. And much to his surprise, they offered him a job teaching Geography and Games. Little did I know then that I would still be here 40 years later!

So, what can this old (little o) Russellian possibly share with you Old (big O) Russellians today? Since we are gathered in Chapel, perhaps it is appropriate to focus on this building, for it has played a significant part in my time here and it might trigger some happy memories for you too.

Sir Aston Webb certainly designed a beautiful building as an official war memorial for those Russellians killed in the First World War. With angel sculptures by Eric Gill, seating like an Oxbridge chapel, high walls and windows to eliminate distractions,



heating that is possibly the best in school, an organ of high quality, and acoustics that enhance singing, we are indeed blessed by its presence at the very centre of our community, offering a wonderful place for reflection on all aspects of human existence. Its tall tower reminds us that there are things more important to consider at times than what goes on in classrooms or the humdrum of our daily lives.

It seems like only yesterday when I walked through the Chapel door for the first time as a member of this very special community. And I have been lucky enough to work with colleagues, some of whom are here today, who have served this community above and beyond what might normally be expected. Amongst those are the very people who guide our reflections in this Chapel, the Chaplains.

John Watson was my first Chaplain. A larger-than-life figure with a long beard, he looked more like a Greek Orthodox priest than your average Anglican vicar. He was very good at befriending rogue pupils, I recall.

I am not sure what I did but by the end of my first year Sid Hopewell had resigned along with John Watson. Andrew Foot held the fort for one term before Ron Balaam arrived. His first

appointment was a new Chaplain; Alan Woodhead was a Yorkshireman with a Bobby Charlton hairstyle. Sunday Chapel services took on a new look with the appearance of what Robert Pipes described as the von Woodhead family singers to lead the singing; Alan plus his soprano wife Barbara, their three musically gifted daughters Christine, Catherine, Margaret, and Vicky, a sort of adopted daughter. Occasionally my wife Judy and I joined them.

In those days there were two services on weekdays plus every Sunday morning at 10.00am. Every week Alan wrote all three services in long hand in rough books. Barbara still has them; amazingly there is hardly an error or crossing out in them. With the whole Senior School fitting comfortably into Chapel, Alan eagerly illustrated the teachings of Christ from everyday family life and the happenings going on in the world. Through MUN services, Alan's reputation as a gifted speaker / preacher who liked to challenge his congregation quickly extended beyond the school gates.

And it was here that Alan's artistic and creative talents were revealed to a larger audience, rather than just his pottery room. He also encouraged others to lead services.

I can recall many special moments:

- Banners or drapes flowing down from the organ loft.
- A lawn mower taking centre stage down the aisle.
- Tony Ogbue, a Nigerian boarder in Cambridge and myself being confirmed by Bishop Snell.
- The young son of Tony Clarke who, as Ron Balaam rose to speak in one service, loudly announced across the pews: "Daddy, that man is a liar!"
- Steve Neilly, Julian Sergeant and I leading a sketch called The Race to Heaven, with colleagues showing off their acting talents as each tried to outdo the others with good works to get them across the finishing line. The message being It is faith ultimately that gets you across the line, not good works.
- A simulation of Jacob's Ladder called the Climb to Heaven in which Steve climbed a ladder into the organ loft; a feat no longer possible given Health and Safety Regs!
- My sons racing each other down the aisle on toy tractors whilst collecting Harvest produce.

But the ultimate witty observation came following my talk on the characteristics of God: He has a sense of humour, I said, after all he created me. Imagine my feelings when a member of Cambridge House jovially corrected me afterwards saying that my existence proved that God makes mistakes!

Anyway, enough frivolity, let's get back to Chaplains. During the memorial service for Alan Woodhead after sixteen years (1982-1996) of dedicated service the then Bursar, Richard Hill, looked up at the ceiling

and noticed one of the wooden beams coming loose. Hence, the Chapel was closed for repairs and refurbishment. It was as though God was marking a boundary between Alan's long service and those to follow.

Canon Wilmington filled the period of the interregnum. He was a friendly sort of the old school of Anglican clergy, utterly reliable and charming.

Father John Paddock (1997-2000) reminded me of the archdeacon in the hit 1960s, ecclesiastical comedy All Gas and Gaiters, someone with a strong sense of fun who likes a tippie. But John was far more intellectual than his onscreen counterpart, holding degrees from Oxford, Glasgow and Cardiff universities. He eventually became Dean Of Gibraltar.

Philip Tait (2000-2005) brought an actor's presence and clarity to the role. Being an ex-prison chaplain, he related particularly well to the naughty boys of the community. And his ability to tell a story within his sermons was second to none.

Stephen Padfield (2005-2012) was a friend to everyone and a great charity fund raiser, especially, but not solely, for Magnet High School in Nairobi. Taking staff and pupils to East Africa is now firmly established as part of our caring culture but it was Steve who introduced it to us.

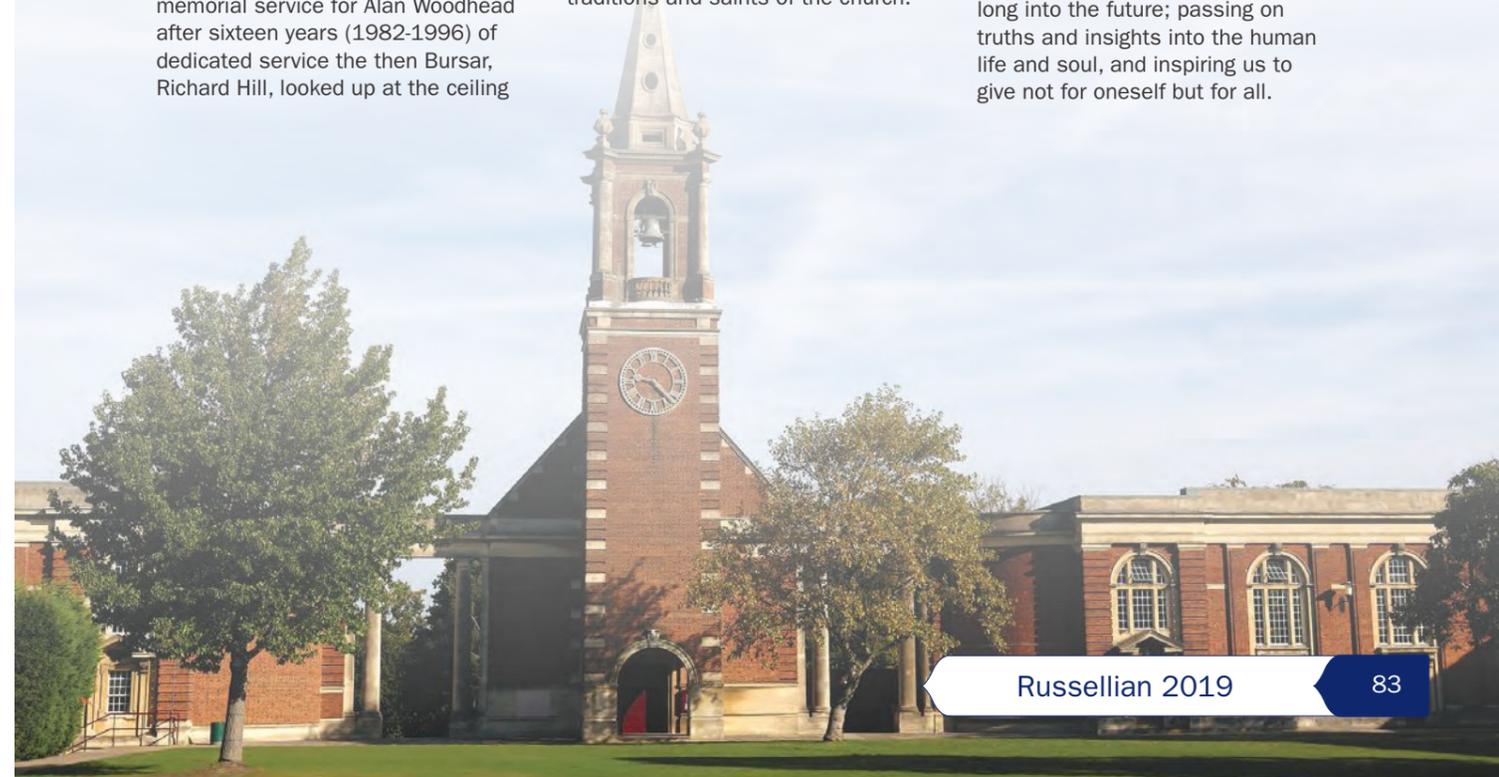
Henry Kirk (2012-present) continues to share his deep knowledge of Christian philosophy and faith, particularly through the great works of art inspired by the Bible. He has taught me much about liturgy, traditions and saints of the church.

It is natural to compare Chaplains but as I look back over the four decades I try very hard not to do so, for Theodore Roosevelt reminded us that comparison is the thief of joy. Instead, I rejoice in the different aspects of faith that they shared, take pleasure in the variety of talents that they brought to us, and delight in their God blessed humanity. Perhaps there is a principle there by which to live one's life.

Of course, not all services have been pain free or filled with joy. There have been far too many occasions when I have cried deeply along with others when our community has lost one of its members. Our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen once told her grandson "Grief is the price we pay for love". And so we have deeply loved and mourned in this place David Birkenshaw, Alan Woodhead, Peter Green, Judith Chapman, Janice Martin, Maria Latessa and Patricia Willis, as well as other colleagues and pupils.

But thankfully there are more frequent moments of great joy such as baptisms, welcoming new life to the community, weddings celebrating the union of staff members or Old Russellians, outstanding choir contributions, amusing illustrations of community life from the boarding houses and, of course, celebrations of the great Christian festivals.

It is my hope and prayer that the words spoken here in this Chapel, the prayers said here in this Chapel, the readings read here in this Chapel were part of your life's journey and will continue to be a part of the journey of Russellians today and long into the future; passing on truths and insights into the human life and soul, and inspiring us to give not for oneself but for all.





## OLD RUSSELLIANS' FOOTBALL TEAM

“What ifs and maybes” were the overwhelming takeaways for the Old Russellians' Football Team after a second season that simply had a low for every high.

A league reshuffle before the start of the season saw the ORs bumped up to Junior Division 1 having finished a respectable fourth in the league below the year prior.

There had been a few new additions to the squad and numbers at pre-season training gave cause for optimism.

The season began with a frustrating 2-2 draw away to Reigate Priory Reserves – a match that will only be remembered for its controversy and niggles.

That was followed by a 1-0 defeat at home to early league favourites Woodmansterne Hyde, in what was an encouraging display from the ORs.

Two solid wins followed as a 6-3 defeat of NPL Reserves in the League Junior Cup first round was backed up by a first league victory against Raynes Park Vale Reserves.

There was a first round exit in the Surrey County Junior Cup at the hands of Westside Reserves, but the squad bounced back with consecutive home league victories – a 3-0 win

over Old Plymouthians Reserves and a 4-2 defeat of Fulham Deaf.

The season though sadly took a turn for the worse at the start of November as a combination of a lack of fit players, a lack of availability and some tricky fixtures saw the ORs suffer four defeats on the bounce.

The turn of the year brought with it some new hope. An early 5-1 victory over NPL Reserves got the Geoff Ellis Premier Shield campaign up and running. And despite a 2-0 loss to AFC Ewell Reserves there was a 4-4 draw against league leaders Battersea Boys and a 2-1 away win at Fulham Deaf to celebrate.

Arguably the greatest victory of the season came in late February as the ORs handed Battersea Boys a rare defeat on home soil to make the Quarter-Finals of the Geoff Ellis Premier Shield.

Unfortunately, the ORs could not build on this success as the very next week a 1-0 defeat to Old Boys Clapham brought the Cup run to an end.

With just the League to focus on in the last few months, two fixtures against Shaftesbury Town resulted in a win for each side, there were draws against Old Plymouthians Reserves, Oxted and District Reserves and defeats to mid-table rivals Raynes Park



Vale Reserves and Chessington KC Reserves.

The ORs played well to earn a draw away to Woodmansterne Hyde and a narrow loss to Merton Social Reserves – two teams bidding for promotion at the business end of the season.

And perhaps it was fitting that the ORs produced a great display on the final day with a 4-0 victory over Reigate Priory Reserves to pull down the curtain on a somewhat turbulent season.

### GET IN TOUCH

Old Russellians Danny O'Rourke, Ryan Walters and Simon Foss are currently looking for additional talented OR footballers to join the current OR team. Please contact OR Membership Secretary Vicky Rees for further information at: [vrees@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:vrees@royalrussell.co.uk)

## OLD RUSSELLIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

The Old Russellians' Golf Society was established in 2015 with an original membership of a dozen players. We now have a roster of over 30 players who have all played at some time or another in our July competitions.

Each year we seem to have at least one new member and this year we are delighted to say we had two new members joining us, Phil Melliush (1969-1976) and Alex Mitchell (1989-1994).

This year the venue was Farleigh Golf Club and we were welcomed by Old Russellian Alex Allbutt (2009-2012) who is a club professional at Farleigh.

The day began with refreshments upon arrival before the golf commenced at one o'clock in very decent weather and a gentle breeze.

Everyone enjoyed the day with a few stories about the depth of the rough grass and a fair few golf balls being left out there for recycling purposes.

The eventual winner was Robin Parker (1969-1975) with a respectable score of 39 points. Robin, having won our inaugural event in 2015, has now generously offered to play off a reduced handicap at our next meeting in 2020 as he was concerned that wearing a sombrero and spurs might interfere with his swing next time! Robin collected a great prize of a nine hole playing/teaching round of golf with Alex Allbutt. Second spot went to Alex Mitchell who was just one point adrift.

Other prizes went to Dave Jewiss (Member of Staff) for closest to the flag on a par three. He was barely a couple of feet away and unbeatable on what must be

one of the toughest holes on the course. The Longest Drive went to John McKay (1967-1974) with a booming 280 yard tee shot.

There were prizes of champagne and golf balls to all the winners which also included a team event won by Dave Jewiss's group.

This year we were sadly not joined by Mr Piggan who was otherwise occupied on school business which had taken him to Hong Kong, so instead we had to give the award for lowest score to Phil Melliush who also might have had a prize for most lost balls if there had been one going!

Next year we are hoping to hold our 2020 event on Friday 3 July with a venue yet to be decided. Any new members are very welcome.



Will Jewiss, Paul Hollingum, Nigel Rocca and David Jewiss



Ian O'Brien, Tommy Sherlock, Andy Rogers and Ian Windle



Ian Wittchell, Nigel Reed and Martin Tanner



Martin Finch and Alex Mitchell



Phil Melliush, John McKay, Ian Walsh and Robin Parker

### 2018/2019 OLD RUSSELLIANS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Amar Dhesi (left in 2008)	Ryan Walters (left in 2008)	Harvey Hanifan (left in 2013)	Ross Obaze (left in 2017)	Ben Long (left in 2018)
James Dunn (left in 2008)	Adrian Yansanah (left in 2009)	Jack Maloney (left in 2013)	Danny O'Rourke (left in 2017)	Sam Phillipson (left in 2018)
Simon Foss (left in 2008)	Ian Alloca (left in 2010)	Myles Watkins (left in 2013)	Jack Sims (left in 2017)	Nick Tilling (left in 2018)
Tom Higginson (left in 2008)	Jerry Shonde (left in 2011)	Sam Johnson (left in 2017)	Matthew Weller (left in 2017)	Milo Hanifan (left in 2018)
James Osabaldeston (left in 2008)	Piers Hanifan (left in 2011)			

Old Russellian Simon Bull (1969-1978) talks of his time at Royal Russell and his successful artistic career that followed.

My parents chose Royal Russell for two principal reasons: it was co-educational and it was reasonably near to Heathrow. We were living in Paderborn, Germany at the time and in the Autumn of 1969 they dropped us off; my sister Rosemary at the Junior School, my older brother Andrew and I on the doorsteps of Cambridge and Transition House.

Soon after unpacking my bags I remember rushing out to explore the woods. Those woods were to become my own private domain for the next seven years and I would come to know and love their bracken slopes, michaelmas daisies, blackberry bushes, badger sets and winding paths.

The Housemaster in Transition was Mr O'Brien, a fitness fanatic who taught us to push through the pain barrier every time we went on cross-country. Then came The Reverend Clements who was instrumental in helping weave together two powerful strands in the thread of my life: art and religion. He would host evenings where we sat about discussing reincarnation, resurrection, or a painting he had recently acquired.

After a year in Transition, I joined Andrew in Cambridge, where Mr Kefford, Latin Master and athlete, ruled with Mr Green, a mild-mannered disciplinarian and cross-country overlord. In the Housemaster's Study I admired a glorious print of an otter by the wildlife artist Archibald Thorburn that hung above his desk. I loved that picture, and thought that perhaps one day I would be to be able to paint something like it myself.

The only subject I ever came top in was woodwork, so when I had to decide between art and woodwork for "O" levels it was problematic. I chose art. Thus began my time with Colonel Starkey's Saturday morning drawing lessons. He was patient, attentive and inspirational and we were expertly walked through the rudiments of



observational drawing that serve as the backbone of all visual art. Today, this teaching method is rare. Mr Starkey learnt his technique at Camberwell School of Art and passed it on to us as a sacred trust. We sat in a circle around our subject and were taught to draw what we saw, not what we thought we saw. He would come round to each student in rotation and write on our drawings things like 'Check', 'Measure', 'Angles', etc. The result was that we all learnt to draw and I will be forever grateful for that foundation.

Since he had once been an actual Colonel in the Parachute Regiment, it was natural for Mr Starkey to head up the Cadet Corps. He enticed me to camp by offering me the position of Platoon Photographer and rewarded me by sending me up in a helicopter to take aerial photographs of the camp positions.

When I was fourteen, my folks moved to Hong Kong. In those days camera equipment was cheap out there, so I saved up my pocket money for two terms and splurged on a Zenith E camera and 400mm telephoto lens. If the woods and art room had been my domains, now the dark room was added to the list of creative havens.

I was soon selling my photographs of the

badgers and fox cubs that peopled the woods to the staff common room at 10p for a 10x8 print. I used some of these photographs as the basis for a series of wildlife paintings as I sought to emulate the great Thorburn and raised my prices accordingly. I would go down to the school laundry and scrounge old sheets that I pasted to hardboard in order to make canvas panels for my early oil painting efforts and, I am proud to say, that most of those early attempts are still hanging on the walls of retired teachers' houses to this day.

If the woods were my Narnia, the art room was where I learnt to look at what I saw, not what I thought I saw, and the dark room was where I learnt to turn my ideas into a business, but it was at the school Chapel where I learnt to make sense of it all.



"I was honoured to be asked to paint Headmaster Ron Balaam, whose colourful portrait graces the walls of the Great Hall."

I sang in the choir and served communion under the guidance of Reverend Clements, finally graduating to ringing the bell for Sunday evensong along with Joanna Scott who handed out the hymn books. Joanna was in the year above me and was therefore way out of my league, but as chance would have it, at one fated Halloween disco, she asked me to dance with her. When she left school ahead of me, I spent my upper sixth selling as much art as I could in order to afford the train fare to visit her, and so began my fledgling art business.

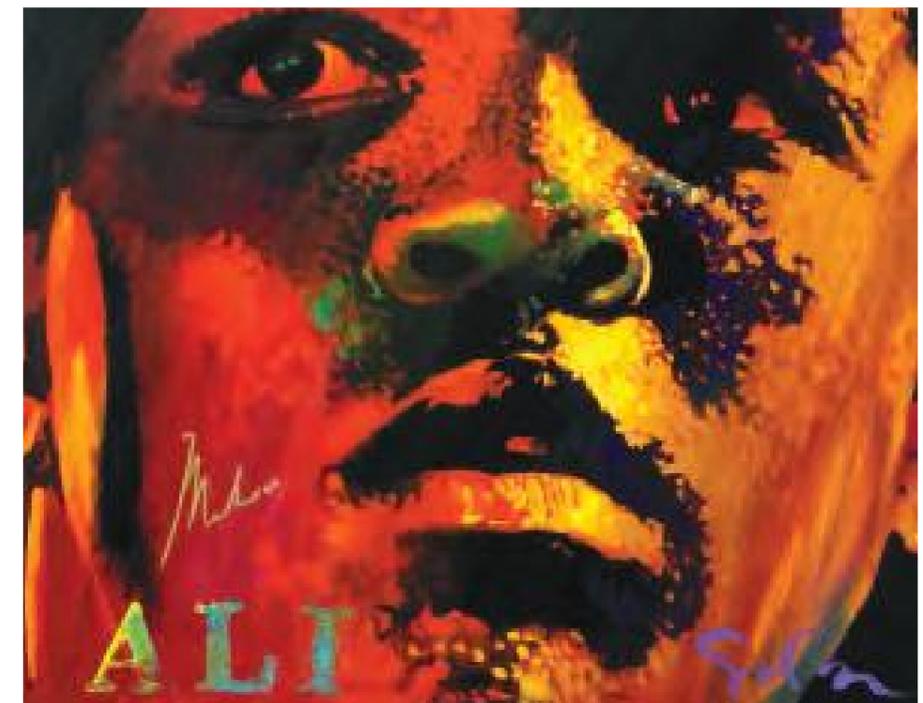
After leaving school in 1976, I completed a foundation course at Gloucestershire College of Art and

Design, then to Leeds Poly (now Leeds Metropolitan University) where, after three years, I graduated with a BA (Hons.) in Fine Art.

I have been truly blessed to extend the adventures of my school days throughout my whole life. I have exhibited worldwide and have tens of thousands of collectors waking up to a little piece of my art every morning. I have been helped and encouraged by many truly gifted individuals without whom I would be nowhere. I was honoured to be asked to paint Headmaster Ron Balaam, whose colourful portrait graces the walls of the Great Hall. I progressed from that, to eventually

chronicling the life of Muhammad Ali. I spent many hours traveling with him and speaking at major events in the US, including one on the eve of the inauguration of President Obama, whose portrait Muhammad commissioned me to paint.

I now live next to the beach on a nature reserve at the mouth of the Carmel River on California's Central Coast. I still enjoy stalking wildlife with my camera for a hobby. Joanna and I welcome our expanding family of four children and five grandchildren for their beach holidays every year and we try to get back to the old country as often as we can.





# Development

This year has seen significant investment in our Royal Russell estate and the commencement of our transformative Campus Masterplan.

The start of the year saw the demolition of the 'Old Cambridge House' building, the first of the 1960s' Laingspan buildings to be replaced.

Building work commenced on the site to erect a new Day and Boarding House for the girls of Queen's and Hollenden. This new building, with stunning views of Cambridge Slope and Lime Tree Quad, will be similar in design to the impressive Oxford and Cambridge Day and Boarding House that opened in Summer 2017 and accommodates 170 boys.

The physical works for the Science Facility extension also began. This project will provide an overall capacity of ten specialist Science laboratories and new small group study areas.

Progress is on track and both projects are due to be completed by Summer 2020, ready for pupil use in September.

We have also relocated our Memorial Garden to its new home on Chapel Quad, providing a lasting and fitting memorial to those Russellians who lost their lives at war.

This will be ready for our Remembrance commemorations in November.

The focus for the next stage of our Masterplan is to completely rebuild the Junior School to provide state of the art facilities for our youngest pupils.

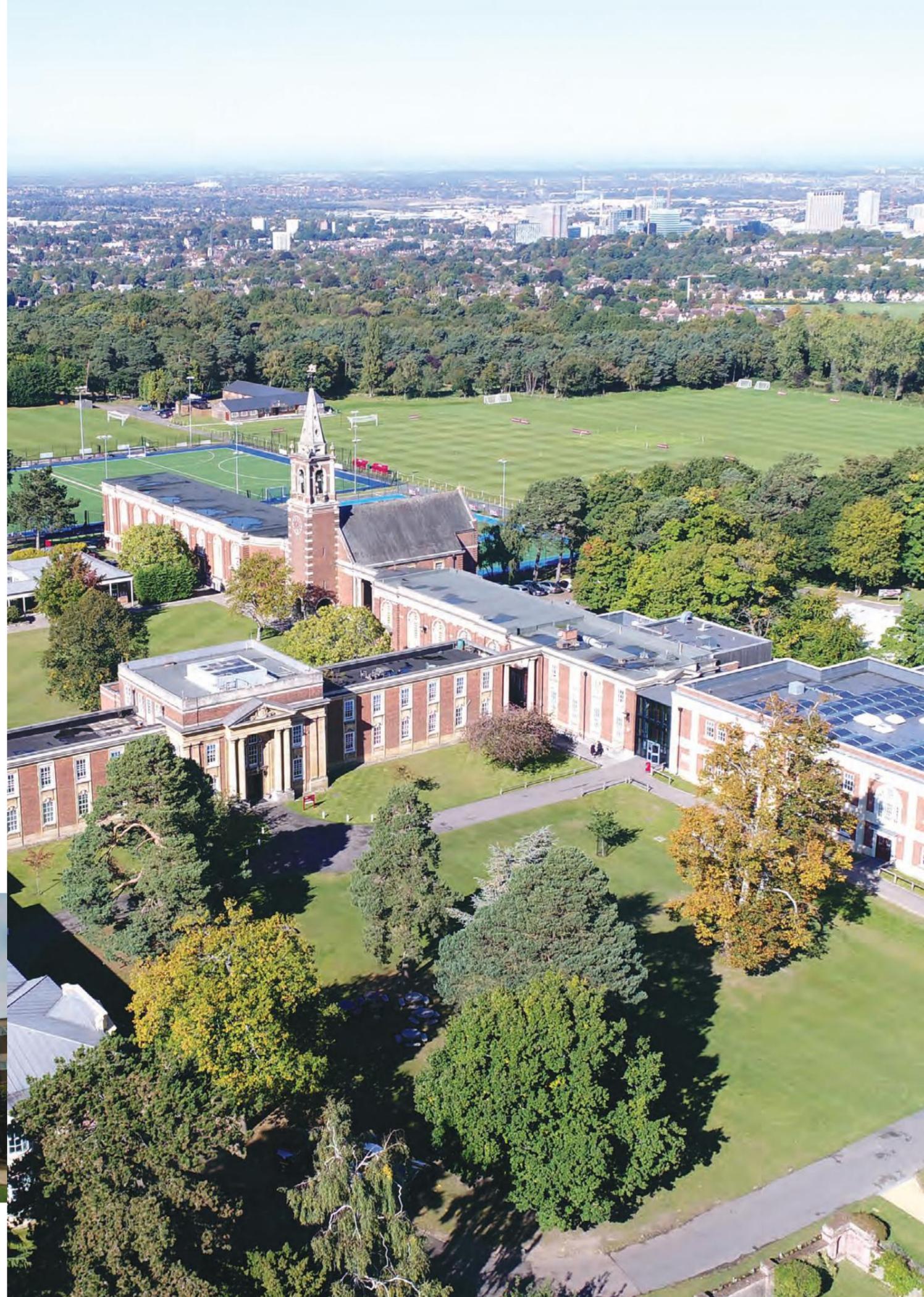
These developments herald a new chapter for Royal Russell, adding to and complementing the architecture of the majestic buildings designed by Sir Aston Webb in 1924, which remain a permanent feature on our campus almost 100 years after they were built.

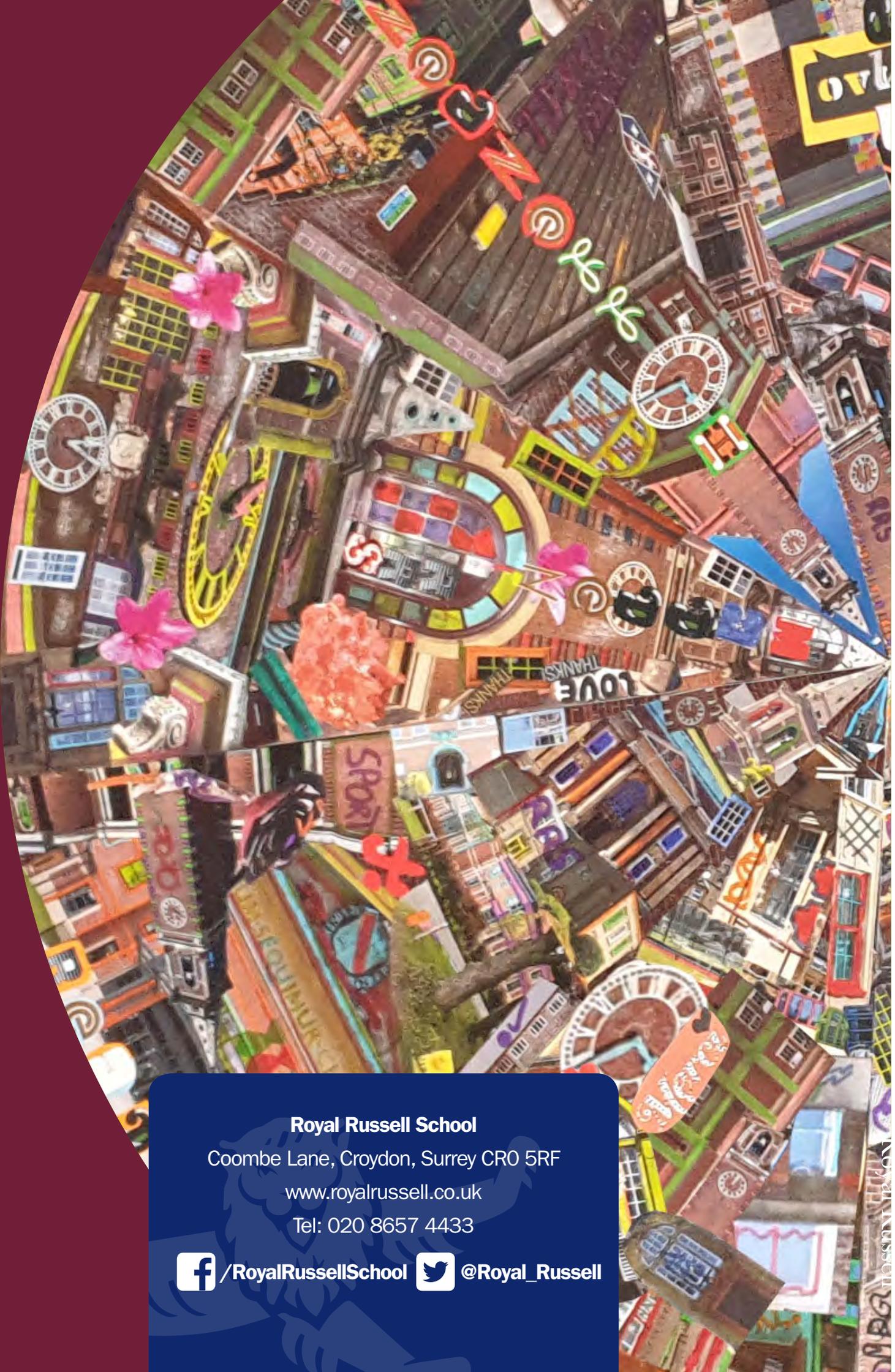


Queen's and Hollenden Day and Boarding House, opening September 2020



Science Facilities Extension, Opening September 2020





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