



Royal
Russell

Russellian 2018



Headmaster's Welcome

Welcome to our Russellian magazine which celebrates a year in the life of Royal Russell School and highlights some of those magical moments that make this such a successful community.

Whether we consider our academic successes, or the stunning music and drama performances, or the quality of our sports teams showing the depth and breadth of our provision, or the ever widening opportunities for our pupils to excel in so many clubs and activities beyond the classroom, 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.

Some of my lasting memories are anchored around the completion of my seventh year as Headmaster and, with that, the completion of a generational journey from Year 7 to Year 13 for this group of Senior Pupils. I have been particularly thrilled to hear a strong pupil voice resonating across all areas of the School and to observe the subtle changes that these young leaders have been able to implement with the support and guidance of our wonderful staff.

Royal Russell pupils are very clear about what they value and it is perhaps worth reflecting on those values at the start of this summary of our collective success.

Firstly, we are a Family School and we embrace and support our whole community.

We are passionate learners and pursue excellence in all that we do.

We are ambitious for ourselves and recognise the rewards of effort, collaboration and commitment.

We feel nurtured and supported.

We celebrate our diversity and inclusivity.

We enjoy our international family connections.

We believe in the School's motto 'Not for oneself but for everyone'.

We feel proud to be Russellians.

At Royal Russell Day this year our new Chairman, Mr Andrew Merriman spoke about our exciting plans for the future which include a significant extension to our Science facilities alongside new accommodation for two of our girls' Houses. These plans extend beyond the physical development of the site and are reflected in the introduction of a new 'Challenge Curriculum' from September 2018 and with it, new opportunities to extend our learning initiatives and focus on the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

I am a big fan of 'Wonder' by R J Palacio. The book tells the story of a challenging journey through school for Augie and includes some great lines for us all to reflect on, including this:

"The best way to measure how much you've grown isn't by inches, or the number of laps you can now run around the track, or even your grades, though those things are important, to be sure. It's what you've done with your time, how you've chosen to spend your days, and whom you've touched this year. That, to me, is the greatest measure of success."

This summer we achieved our best ever GCSE results, with over 50% of all grades awarded at A*/A. Our success is achieved together and I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Royal Russell community for providing the opportunity for our young people to thrive.

Thank you to the Operations, Office and Support staff and to the teams from Admissions, Catering, Development, Domestic Services, Finance, Grounds, Human Resources, IT, Lettings, Marketing, Maintenance, Reception, Security and of course to my PAs.

Thank you to the Teaching, Classroom and Technician staff and to the School Leadership Team for their tireless work on behalf of our young people.

Thank you to our parents and supporters and particularly the 1853 Society, who give so much to enrich the Royal Russell community.

And finally an enormous '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.

A final thought from 'Wonder' "Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness."

I wish you all every success as your journey to greatness continues this year and beyond.

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster



Our results reflect the strength of our provision, the motivation and enthusiasm of our pupils to learn, the efforts of our expert teaching staff and the incredible support of our parents.

OUR BEST EVER
GCSE RESULTS!

OVER 50% OF GRADES AT
A* / A

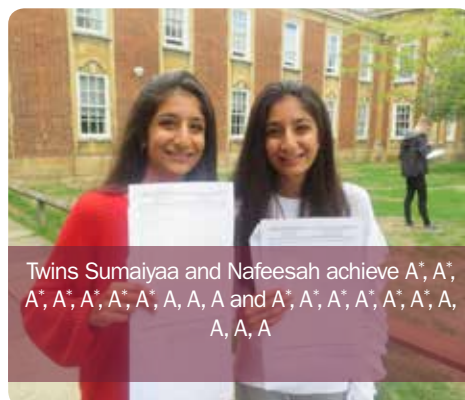
Our Year 11 achieved a fantastic set of results in their GCSE examinations this summer.

92 candidates sat for a total of 825 GCSE awards this year.

We are delighted that over half of all grades awarded were at A*/A with some remarkable results from our Year 11 girls and boys.



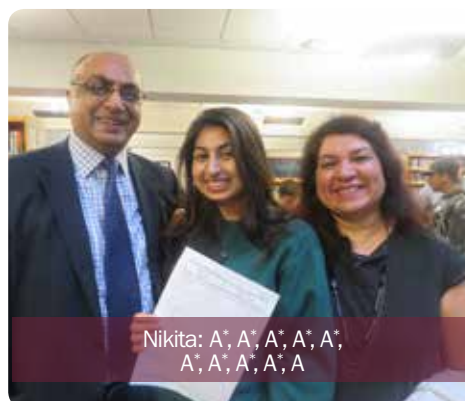
Tom: $A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*,$
 A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*, A, B



Twins Sumaiyaa and Nafeesah achieve A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A, A, A and A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A, A, A



Sophie: A*, A*, A*, A*, A*, A,
A, A, A, B, C and Mitchell:
A*, A*, A*, A*, A, A, A, B, B



Nikita: $A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*,$
 A^*, A^*, A^*, A^*, A

Congratulations
Year 11



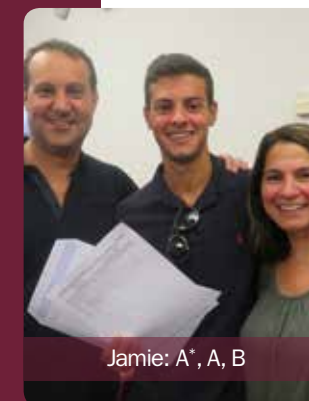
83 candidates sat a total of 263 A levels and Diploma examinations this summer.

Once again there were many individual outstanding performances in our results, with our top candidates achieving 3 A*s.

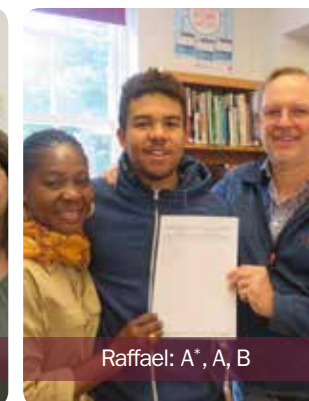
The buzz of success and excitement was evident in the Library on Results Day as pupils accepted places at their chosen universities and will be moving on from Royal Russell to study at Birmingham, Kings College London, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, University College London, Norwich, Southampton and Warwick, amongst others, on a wide range of courses including Computer Science, Pharmacy, English, History and Architecture.

We also have a small number of pupils who have gained coveted apprenticeship schemes and internships or directly entered employment in their chosen career fields.

Our congratulations to the Class of 2018. We wish them well and look forward to welcoming them back to school as Old Russellians in the future.



Jamie: A^* , A, B



Raffael: A^* , A, B



Sam: A^*, A, B



Amisha: B, B, C



Lauren: A, B, B

Our congratulations to the Class of 2018. We wish them well and look forward to welcoming them back to school as Old Russellians in the future.



Max achieved A*, A*, A* and has accepted a place at the University of Leeds to study English Literature



Heads of School

Jamie King and Thalia Selby talk of their successful journeys at Royal Russell

I've been at Royal Russell since I was in Year 3, so I have seen the School evolve and develop as times change to suit the needs of its pupils, creating many more opportunities inside and outside of the classroom for every type of learner.

An amazing aspect of school has been the facilities, looking like a university campus with lots of green space. It allows pupils to use the outdoors just as much as the indoors and has really helped me to stay focused during the hectic exam season to get plenty of fresh air and ice cream from the Sixth Form café!

My fondest memories have been from the countless co-curricular activities that I have immersed myself into, becoming one of the co-editors of the School Newspaper, operating all the technical theatre equipment for productions and events, being a part of the Model United Nations teams for the annual international conferences, doing DoFE, being a part of the Theatre Society, teaching on the computing roadshow, raising money for school charity events and cooking in Food Tech club. I look back on my time and immediately think of all the laughs I've had with pupils from many different year groups and the reason I am able to do that is due to the vertical system that is in place through the Houses and the co-curricular programme - being able to make friends with anyone and everyone!

I think the biggest asset to Royal Russell is the community that we are surrounded by. The staff are truly incredible, with every member of academic and support staff bringing something unique and exclusive to the Royal Russell experience. Whether it be their teaching, their support or their personality, each and every member of staff has made an impact on my time at School and I am sincerely grateful for everything they have taught me.

As one of the Heads of School this year, my eyes have really been opened to the extent of the running of the school, where I hopefully made a small difference in

order to make school life that little bit easier and more enjoyable at times!

Some projects this year that the Senior Prefect Team worked on were the Christmas and Easter Extravaganzas, running activities for the younger years to build the bridge between year groups in order for the younger pupils to socialise with new people.

We brought back Russell's Got Talent, to find the best new performers to entertain the masses during the last week of the year! We also ran a leadership conference for other local schools discussing leadership styles, what makes a good leader and the difference between personal and professional relationships. Alongside attending various meetings throughout the year, voicing the views of the pupil body, I feel that we brought the School that little bit closer together, which was one of our aims.

I have gained so many life skills throughout my journey at school - learning about different cultures, different aspects of a large organisation and how to read a map on DoFE, alongside many other useful things!

When you get into Sixth Form, the relationship between pupil and teacher changes. This means that there is no need to be scared to ask 'silly' questions or not to get involved in the interactive lessons.

I studied Computer Science, Physics and Maths for A level and the knowledge and passion most of my teachers had for their subjects was infectious.

Next year I am going to the University of Birmingham to study Computer Science. I am on a degree-apprentice programme with PricewaterhouseCoopers, looking



into their technology sector where they pay my entire tuition costs and pay me to work for them during the summers, too. I would definitely recommend looking into degree-apprentices as they are a win-win situation, no debt whilst still getting to enjoy all your time at uni!

If I were to give pupils one piece of advice for the upcoming years at school, it would be to get involved and try something different. You never know what might come from it, you might love it, you might hate it, it doesn't matter - you've learned something.

Jamie King
Head of School 2017/2018



I have spent 15 of my 19 years at Royal Russell, a daunting thought perhaps but I wouldn't have wished it any other way. Joining in Year 2, I've grown through the whole school, which is indeed one school and the transition between Juniors to Seniors felt seamless and natural.

The Junior School provided a strong educational basis, each child provided with an individual path to walk down, a path which both supported and pushed us to achieve our individual potential.

Individuality is encouraged from the outset, in art, music, sport, drama and more. Every child has a classroom identity along with co-curricular identity - good at maths and an amazing pianist - allowing the academic and co-curricular to be viewed as of equal importance; both moulding you as a person. This is encouraged through the Junior choir, orchestra and bands, sports teams and Junior School plays - all of which have opportunities to practise and perform with Senior School pupils. This exposes the Junior children to the facilities and opportunities that the Senior School offers. On a simpler level, introducing them to the older pupils and the larger site makes the notion of Senior School less daunting and more manageable, all of which calms the understandable nerves for a new Year 7! We are on one site, sharing facilities, meeting in the dining hall, joining for concerts and sports training; fully encouraging the feeling of 'non sibi sed omnibus' from the first walk through the gates.

I was honoured to be Head Girl and Head Chorister last year, roles which enabled me to see the school in a whole new light, being given responsibility for the success of projects and performances. One project Jamie and I organised was the return of Russell's Got Talent in July. We had just finished our A levels and returned to organise an afternoon of talent, bunting and ice cream! The fact we both returned to school as soon as we left, along with many of the Senior Prefect Team, shows just how much we loved the roles we had and the school we had those roles in. This project's aim was to bring together the whole Senior School in one event to celebrate the end of term, an aim which I believe

we achieved, with all year groups sitting together enjoying the show and eating ice cream. That freedom of friendship between years is, I believe, something very special to Royal Russell. I made friends in different years who gave invaluable advice to me when I was younger which I aimed to pass on.

In my opinion, our annual Model United Nations Conference is one of the school's biggest assets. Being the longest running conference of its kind in England, it brings such a sense of pride and legacy to the pupils who participate each year. Having been a delegate since Year 9, I have been able to travel to places as close as Reigate to those slightly further afield, such as The Hague. Having participated in many conferences at different locations, it was, ironically, speaking at our own 2017 conference as President of General Assembly where I was most nervous. Looking out into the Great Hall, filled with pupils from all around the world, I found myself overcome with emotion thinking of the legacy this conference will leave behind; the memory of someone's first speech, their first point of information or even their first resolution to pass successfully in a packed GA. More powerfully, it was the feeling of where this single conference would lead everyone in their lives. What struck me most, however, was the fact that every single aspect of Royal Russell life reflects this notion. Each performance in the Auditorium or goal on the sports pitch adds to the school's legacy, and to know you yourself have been a part of that is what makes Royal Russell so special.

Every pupil's path through education is different and Royal Russell doesn't just accept this, our school encourages it and strives to enable each individual journey to flourish. My pathway is currently taking me on a gap year whilst I prepare for drama schools' auditions in the New Year. Royal Russell did encourage me to



apply to UCAS, but also listened to my individual needs, as they do with every child, and supported me in balancing my academics with music lessons to enable me to be in the best possible position to pursue my dream this coming year.

I leave Royal Russell with many qualifications, all of which I am equally proud: A B B at A level along with Grade 7 Distinction in Trinity Drama, Grade 7 Distinction in Singing and Grade 5 Music Theory and Violin.

Performing Arts has always been very important to me. To have a school who supports that whilst simultaneously supporting my academics has been invaluable. Royal Russell's value for a pupil doesn't stop at their classroom success, each individual and each dream is equally valued, whether it be to study at Cambridge or pursue a dream of acting. It is truly a unique educational experience and one of which I am very glad and proud to have been a part.













Thalia Selby
Head of School 2017/2018



























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.

	The University Of Sheffield.	Mathematics and Statistics
	TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC AND DANCE	BMus (Hons) Performance
	UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	Business with Marketing Computer Science
	UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER	Biological Sciences (Physiology with Pharmacology) History Management Studies
	KING'S College LONDON	European Studies - French Pathway (4 years) Mathematics with Management and Finance Computer Science
	ual: university of the arts london	Cordwainers Footwear: Product Design and Innovation Film and Television
	SOAS University of London	History of Art / Archaeology and Japanese
	University of Essex	Biological Sciences (Including Foundation Year)
	MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester	Actuarial Science and Mathematics
	US University of Sussex	Biosciences (Including Foundation Year)
	STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY	Esports

	Imperial College London	Molecular Bioengineering
	Goldsmiths UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	Economics
	University of BRISTOL	Film and Television
	UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH	Pharmacy
	UNIVERSITY OF SURREY	Business Management (Marketing)
	WARWICK THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK	History Economics and Industrial Organisation
	University of Essex	Accounting and Finance (Including Placement Year) Literature and Creative Writing (Including Year Abroad)
	LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	Architecture
	UCL	Economics Pharmacy Anthropology Engineering (Civil)
	University of Brighton	Business Management Marketing Management
	Newcastle University	English Literature with Creative Writing Accounting and Finance
	PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY	Accounting and Finance

	Loughborough University	Economics
	NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY	Business Management and Marketing Biomedical Sciences
	ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	Business and Management Computer Sciences Management with Marketing (Year in Business)
	DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER	International Marketing and Business
	HARTPURY UNIVERSITY CENTRE	Sports Coaching
	UEA University of East Anglia	Environmental Science (Including Foundation Year)
	University of Nottingham UK CHINA MALAYSIA	Microbiology
	1893 Writtle University College	Equine Behavioural Science
	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM	Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership Modern Languages (4 years)
	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH	Computer Science
	Aston University Birmingham	Human Resource Management
	THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH	Mathematics
	Cardiff Metropolitan University Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd	Sport and Exercise Science

	UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	Law
	Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe	Aerospace Engineering Applied Medical Sciences (with Foundation Year) Mechanical Engineering (with Foundation Year)
	UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS	Textile Design Physics English Literature
	Durham University	Accounting and Finance
	BU Bournemouth University	Multimedia Journalism
	Queen Mary University of London	International Relations (with a Year Abroad) Dental Materials Biology
	UNIVERSITY OF Southampton	Philosophy Fashion and Textile Design
	University of Kent	Accounting and Finance
	Southampton SOLENT University	Football Business Management
	DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER	Accounting and Finance
	University of Suffolk	Sport Performance Analysis
	University of Reading	Consumer Behaviour and Marketing

It seems to me that the most important thing that our children will learn here is love. That they are loved and that they should love. In the words of John Lennon "Love is the answer. And you know this for sure."

So out of sheer and very real love for your children, I want to say two words: Kumon Maths, yes Kumon Maths. I could just as easily have said Private Tutor or Baby Einstein.

I say these words because we live in a world where more and more pressure is being placed on us as parents to mould our children, often overnight, into the perfect pupil. To equip them with the nutritional profile of a NASA astronaut; the academic ability of an Oxbridge scholar; the sporting prowess of a mini Olympian. To make sure their social life is only slightly less frenetic than that of the cast of Love Island and that their craft projects are always fully animatronic.

As every other parent you meet at the parties, at the park, at the office and the dinner party runs around filling every moment, every gap in aptitude, I urge you, I beg you, not to. Take a moment. Take a pause.

Allow your children the space to be children; the space to learn, to fail, to trip. Allow them to lose their bag, fail their test, miss their tram.

Let me be clear. Academics are incredibly important. Academic results are at the heart of what we do here. They matter. They count. My staff and I in the Junior School will start your child on a path to the best possible academic outcome and Mr Hutchinson and the Senior School staff will then help deliver on that promise. We are on it. I promise.

But I am also quite clear that sometimes we learn most effectively when we have



James Thompson and his wife Viv, with their daughters Melissa and Lara

enough space to stretch out our arms and touch the sky. We write our best stories, or invent our best project, or find the best way EVER to revise when we are allowed to just...breathe.

The most important thing I have learned is that we are not all born with a certain set amount of resilience – we build it like any other muscle. And here as teachers we build it into others, into your children, into the school as a community. Collective resilience is at the heart of our success.

When we give children space, we give them a huge opportunity to build that resilience. We are incredibly lucky here – surrounded by space and opportunity. It is a daily privilege and one I do not take lightly, to spend every day surrounded by bright pupils, committed teachers and fabulous facilities.

Every morning I thank my lucky stars that I have found myself here. And I do because I believe we do something differently here. We allow children to

develop in every way. We see that from the achievements of our sporting teams across all ages, from the confidence with which our pupils interact with each other and with visitors to the school, from the musical and dramatic talent we see at every turn, from the academic results our pupils produce each and every term.

WE TEACH THEM TO HAVE FAITH IN THEMSELVES AND TO BELIEVE IN THEIR ABILITY.

We are relying on our pupils to use some of that resilience I mentioned to find some better answers for the things my generation couldn't fix. They may fail. They may stumble. Thomas Edison had over 1,000 prototypes before one of those little blighters lit up. But then it did. And it changed the world. It filled the world with light.

As will they.

2018 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.

Millicent German	Sport	Emeka Peters	Sport
Drew Girton	Academic	Jasmine Rihal	Sport
Emily Hayden de Carbonnières	Academic	Holly Seymour	Drama
Aaliyah Adassa Huxtible-Miles	Sport	Brynley Smith	Sport
Charlotte Kinch	Drama	Alec Thurbin	Academic and Music
Gabriel Maher	Sport	Megan Wood	Drama
Minwoo Park	Academic		



Heads of Junior School

ISLAY PEARSON

"I have greatly enjoyed being at the Junior School, especially the trip to the Isle of Wight at the start of the year. We took part in a number of team building games and had a great time sleeping in canvas tents!

Being chosen as Head of School was a huge honour. You have to be sensible, responsible and kind. My favourite memory would be helping out all the little children in Nursery.

My advice to new pupils is that you should work hard, be kind and just enjoy yourself as your time here will go by in a flash! "

MATTHEW REGNARD

"My best memory of Royal Russell is of course becoming Head Boy for the Summer term. Being a Head of School is very good because you get a lot of responsibilities and opportunities. I have enjoyed every bit of the journey.

When I am older I would like to either be a hockey player or an architect.

My advice to new pupils is just enjoy your time at Royal Russell and try to cherish every moment, because the opportunities you get here, you can't get in any other school. "

LAUREN BARTON

"My best memory of Royal Russell was forming the Junior School Rock Band and playing in the Summer Serenade concert and on Royal Russell Day.

I really enjoyed being Head Girl in the Autumn term and reading out lots of speeches as well as all the responsibilities.

In the future I want to be a dressmaker or a teacher.

My advice to new pupils is to do lots and enjoy all the lessons, because this is an amazing school like no other. "

GEORGE BURROWS

"I became Head Boy in the Autumn term. I was very proud and surprised by this because I had only been at school for a year so this was a great achievement.

One of my favourite things of being Head of School was being given the privilege of showing our visitors from South Korea around the Junior School with Mr Thompson.

My advice to new pupils is to work hard and to believe in yourselves. "

ZEENA BILAL

"Being Head Girl has meant the world to me. Royal Russell has given me so many different opportunities including sports fixtures, academic competitions and speeches.

Some of my favourite memories are making history in hockey and winning the ISFA Football Tournament. When I am older I want to be a cricketer, tennis player or an author. My advice to new pupils is to have fun and enjoy yourself. "

GABRIEL MAHER

"My best memories are from the Lower Juniors where I made a base with my best friends and loved playing in the adventure playground.

The teachers give so much support and help you with your work, whatever level you are.

Becoming Head of School was a dream come true.

When I am older I want to be a movie director and make a blockbuster film! "

Junior School Trips

YEAR 5 TRIP TO HORTON KIRBY

After recapping on the water cycle and features of a river, we pulled on our wellies, trudged through the thick oozy mud, and jumped into the river. We did activities to test the river speed and the depth and size of stones on the river bed. We all had a great time and didn't mind getting wet at all!



YEAR 6 TRIP TO KEW GARDENS

The snow had melted and the sun shone as we explored the palm house, conservatories and stunning grounds of Kew Gardens. Our treetop walk was a highlight and allowed us to imagine the height of the emergent layer of the rainforest, although not all of us quite managed to get to the top.



JUNIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP

Over the Easter holidays, we excitedly travelled to Le Corbier Ski Resort in the French Alps. The snow was ideal and we spent the days practising our skiing skills in groups. In the evenings we had an Easter hunt, went swimming in the huge outdoor pool and had a disco and awards night. Everyone had so much fun and drank so much hot chocolate!



YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH

We first had a look at the amazing view from the viewpoint and then went to sit on the Meridian Line, one leg in the East and the other in the West, a must for any trip to Greenwich. After that, it was time to go to the Planetarium for the 'Space Adventure' show. Lying back in our seats under the stars, we watched as Ted the teddy bear took us into outer space to visit all the planets in the solar system. It was great fun seeing this, after all our hard work learning about the planets this term.

YEAR 5 TRIP TO BROMLEY

We explored the town of Bromley to investigate how it has developed over the last few decades. We discussed the pedestrianisation system, looked at differences between the old Town Hall and the Civic Centre and analysed why the new post office is so much smaller than the old post office building.

YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Making our way through the earthquake and volcano sections was our favourite part, as it had an earthquake simulator! The escalator going slowly through the 'centre of the Earth' was extremely fascinating! We had an incredible time and enjoyed it immensely.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE TOWER OF LONDON

We visited places around the Tower about Henry VIII's wives. We learned of the importance of marriage to the monarchy in the Tudor period and how the Tower was used during that time.





YEAR 3 TRIP TO ADDINGTON HILLS

Our trip to Addington Hills was amazing. We were put into groups and pairs and we had to use our mapping skills to get there. When we arrived, all of the sights that we could see were extraordinary.



YEAR 4 TRIP TO SHOREHAM-BY-SEA

We all enjoyed exploring rock pools and the natural wildlife on the beach.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT

We had a fantastic time exploring the kitchens, chapel and Henry VIII's apartments. We even had a 'digital mission' where we used iPads to spy on Henry to learn more about his Court.



YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE SEA LIFE CENTRE, BRIGHTON

We had our photos taken in front of a 'green screen' and appeared in the ocean as if by magic. We saw so many different kinds of fish and even some terrapins in the rainforest area. My favourites were the shark tunnel, turtles and stingrays. Then we went to the beach for our picnic. We all had a fantastic day!



YEAR 1 TRIP TO THE MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

On arrival, we were taken into an amazing workshop where we got the chance to play with diablo, cup and ball and spinning tops. We learned all about the toys that children used to play with in older times. The highlights of our day were the amazing dollhouses which we really wanted to get into.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

We watched a fantastic 360° film explaining the history of Parliament, followed by a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords! Everywhere we looked there was an amazing picture or statue. We even saw the Queen's throne!



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Year 6 had an amazing three days in Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight. We had fun on the zip wire and assault course, went canoeing, built rafts, had a go at archery, went on a night walk, had a pool party and, best of all, went body boarding. At night we had hot chocolate and slept in adventure lodges. It was a great opportunity to get to know our new class friends and teachers better.



YEAR 6 DIGITAL GENIUS TRIP TO BRIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Inspired by their recent WWF nature project, Year 6 had the opportunity to travel to Brighton to the Solutions Inc. Learning Summit to present their ideas as part of a pop-up exhibition.



YEAR 4 TRIP TO TATE MODERN

We really enjoyed travelling to London to see all the different types of modern art.



YEAR 1 TRIP TO HEVER CASTLE

We had so much fun exploring the castle and the amazing water maze!

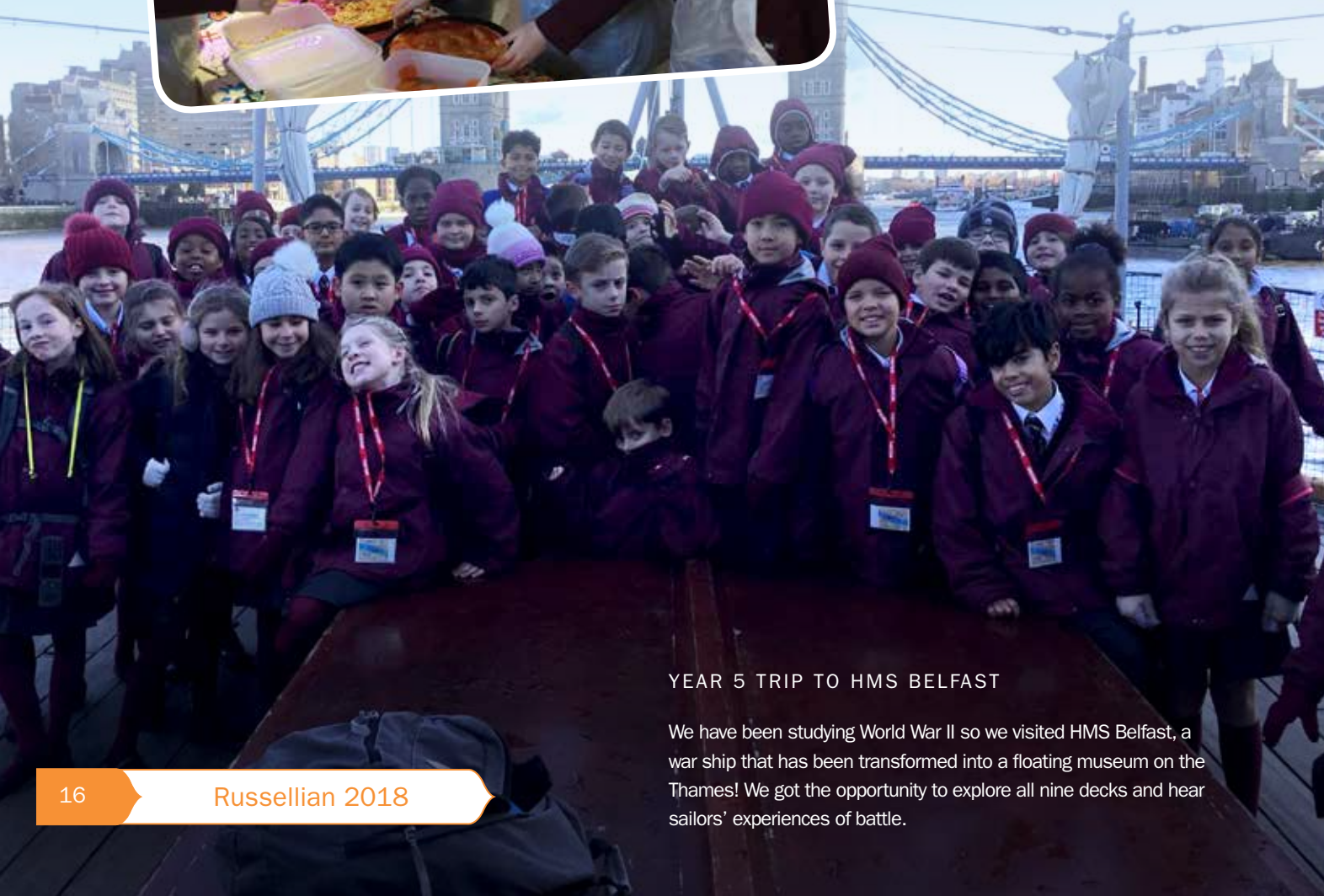
YEAR 3 TRIP TO THE FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE

It was really fascinating to see the Roman ruins that had been excavated, especially the amazing mosaic floors. We really got to feel what it was like to live in Roman times. There were lots of activities to do like building a Roman bridge and writing our names on wax tablets. We also got to visit the Roman Gardens outside.



YEAR 6 TRIP TO PIZZA HUT

The Year 6 children had a fantastic morning at Pizza Hut, where we were able to understand how a professional kitchen is run, along with sharing our thoughts and ideas about the ice cream factory. And of course making and eating our own pizzas!



YEAR 5 TRIP TO HMS BELFAST

We have been studying World War II so we visited HMS Belfast, a war ship that has been transformed into a floating museum on the Thames! We got the opportunity to explore all nine decks and hear sailors' experiences of battle.



YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO CARROTTY WOOD

We went climbing, did archery, had campfires, night hikes, climbed high ropes and even got a little bit muddy! We had to use a lot of collaboration and communication in order to succeed in many of our tasks. We really enjoyed it!



Senior School Trips

SIXTH FORM SPANISH TRIP TO MADRID

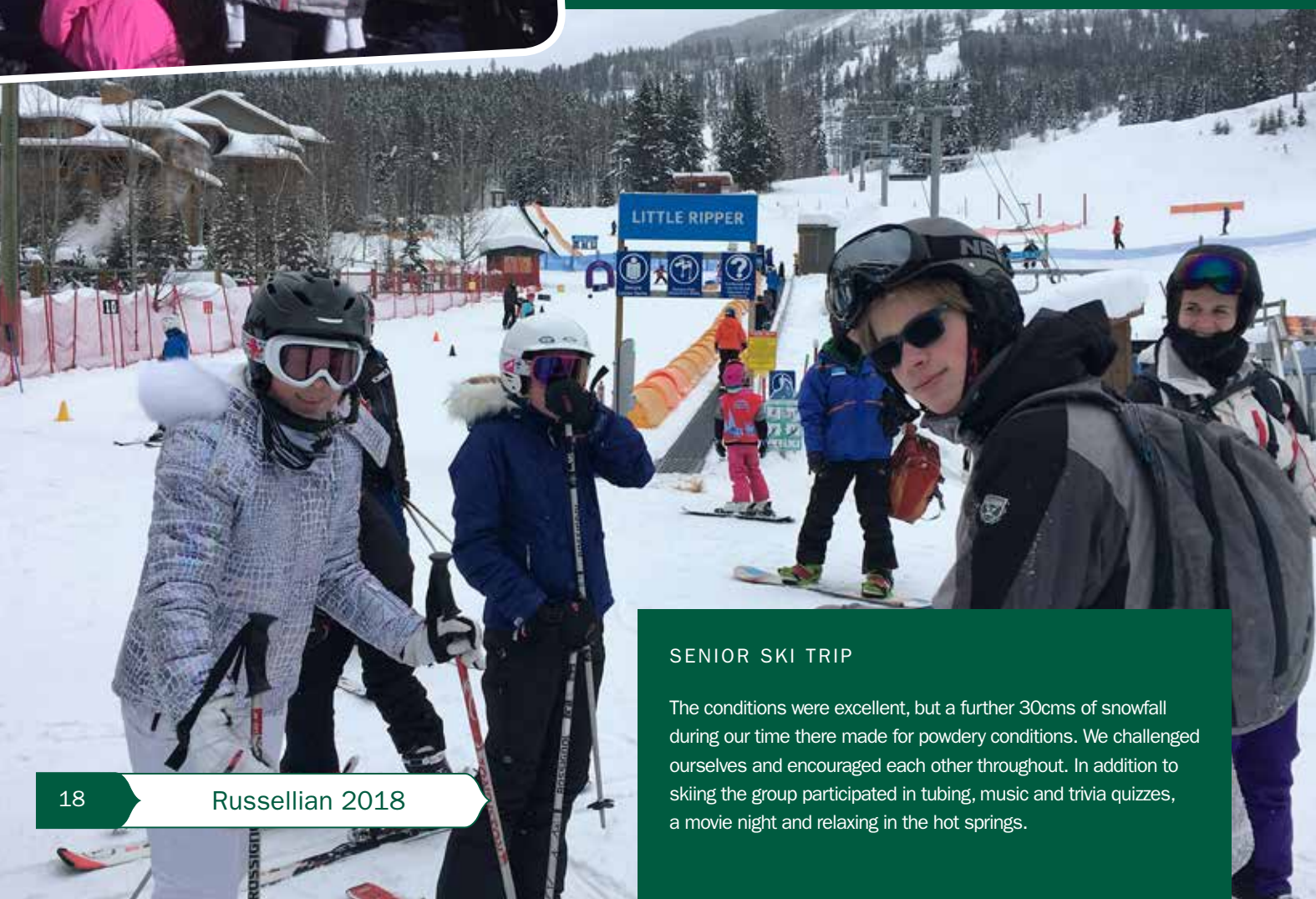
Staying just seconds away from the busy main street of Madrid, we were able to visit a Christmas market and Plaza de Cibeles that had a large Christmas tree as a centrepiece.

We ate Spanish tapas and paella, watched some flamenco dancing, visited the Prado Museum and had tea on the rooftop terrace of Circulo de Bellas Artes, while practising our Spanish.



YEAR 8 AND 9 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO SICILY

The highlights of our trip had to be the guided coach ride around Catania, cliff jumping, swimming in the Simeto River, learning about the lava formations on the caving tour, and, of course, the trip up Mount Etna to experience amazing views all the way to Messina, with just enough time for a quick snowball fight on our way back down from the volcano!



SENIOR SKI TRIP

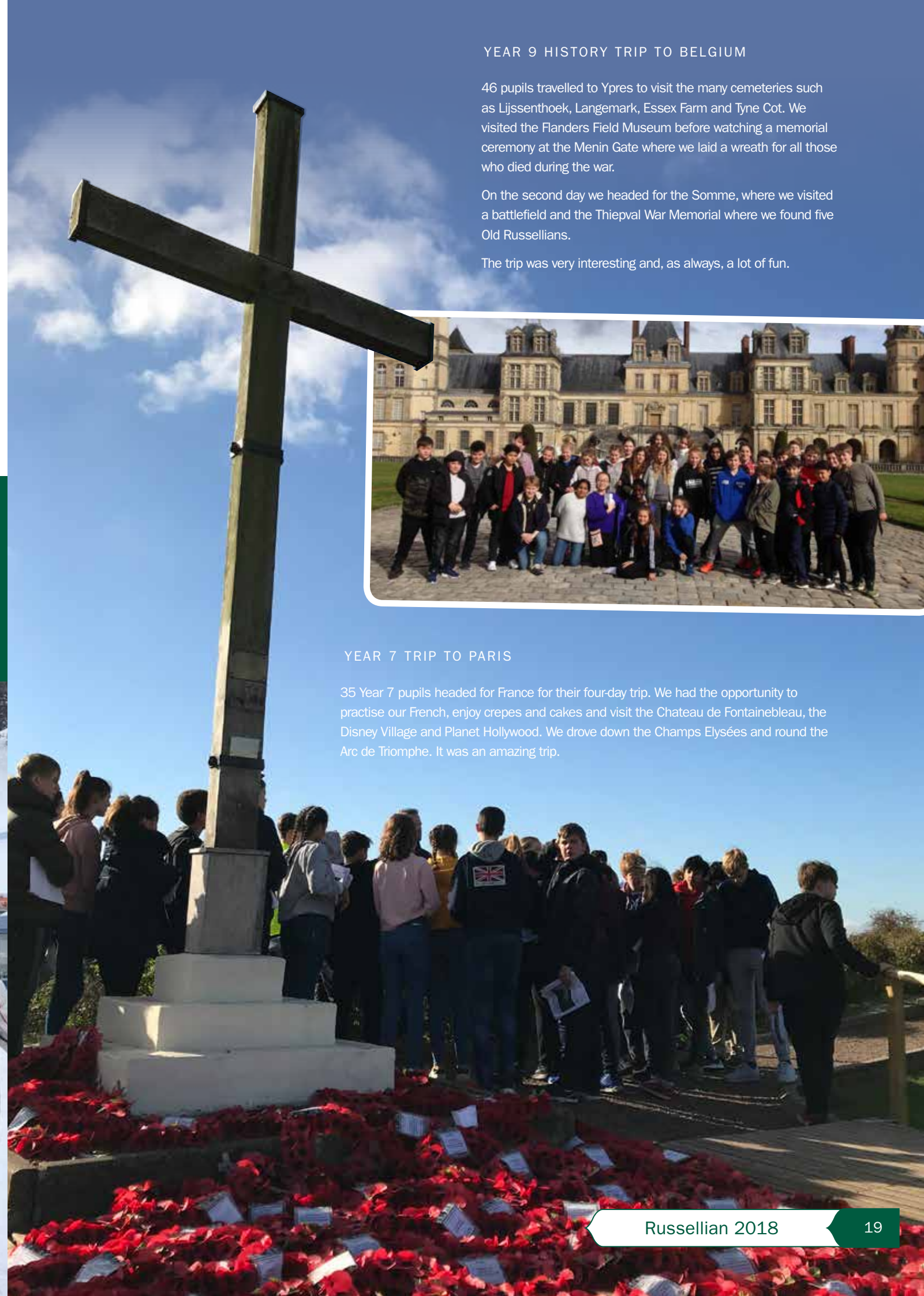
The conditions were excellent, but a further 30cms of snowfall during our time there made for powdery conditions. We challenged ourselves and encouraged each other throughout. In addition to skiing the group participated in tubing, music and trivia quizzes, a movie night and relaxing in the hot springs.

YEAR 9 HISTORY TRIP TO BELGIUM

46 pupils travelled to Ypres to visit the many cemeteries such as Lijssenthoek, Langemark, Essex Farm and Tyne Cot. We visited the Flanders Field Museum before watching a memorial ceremony at the Menin Gate where we laid a wreath for all those who died during the war.

On the second day we headed for the Somme, where we visited a battlefield and the Thiepval War Memorial where we found five Old Russellians.

The trip was very interesting and, as always, a lot of fun.



YEAR 7 TRIP TO PARIS

35 Year 7 pupils headed for France for their four-day trip. We had the opportunity to practise our French, enjoy crepes and cakes and visit the Chateau de Fontainebleau, the Disney Village and Planet Hollywood. We drove down the Champs Elysées and round the Arc de Triomphe. It was an amazing trip.



YEAR 7 TRIP TO BOULOGNE

The day was glorious, sunny and hot. We arrived there at around midday and ate our lunch on the sandy beach. We visited Nausicaa, the ocean museum and saw some extraordinary fish as well as sharks. We then enjoyed some time on the beach in the sunshine. Our way home was exciting and anything but quiet on the bus. We managed to follow the England v Colombia match live and cheered for the Champions.



YEAR 12 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Year 12 pupils embarked on a week-long trip to Flatford Mill, Suffolk to widen and hone our practical skills in Ecology. Each day was packed with opportunities for learning, including fieldwork at the beautiful National Trust location. On arrival we were shown to our accommodation, a 12th century building called Valley Farm. Once settled we were introduced to a range of sampling techniques that we would put into practice throughout the week to sample invertebrates in fresh water, compare biodiversity in woodlands and observe succession on a shingle ridge.



BOARDERS TRIP TO BRIGHTON

The boarders enjoyed a relaxing day at the beach. We spent time on the pier, on some rides and ate some fish and chips. Some decided to go for a whole lobster in the seafood restaurant. We also spent time shopping in the Lanes. A very enjoyable day in the glorious Sussex sunshine.



YEAR 12 ATTEND OXFORD UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

Eight potential Oxbridge candidates from Year 12 travelled to Oxford University to enjoy their open day.

The visit to the colleges and departments of the university was hugely motivating as it gave us the opportunity to meet like-minded people who are already studying the courses that we may apply for. The trip was incredible, it certainly motivated me to study a lot harder, and gave all of us a much greater appreciation of how Oxford works.



YEAR 7 TRIP TO CHESSINGTON

My group headed straight off to the monkey swings where we were flung into the air and sprayed with water. It was so much fun. After a few more rides, including laser shooting and attempting to win a big tiger, we decided to take a short break for lunch. My group got a load of sweets before going on the Scorpion Express many times!

Overall, it was an incredible day.

SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LANZAROTE

A small group of A level Geography pupils travelled to Lanzarote as part of their global tectonics study.

The first destination on the trip was Jameos del Agua as a brief introduction to the green caves which are actually lava tubes.

Day two was the real day of action starting with a taxing walk to the peak of the Ajaches volcano and then onto the beautiful lava flow of Hervideros. Before collecting our data from Pico Partido, an area with large amounts of evidence for volcanism, we analysed an anomaly in the landscape called El Golfo that was formed underwater.

On the last day we enjoyed a relaxing camel ride in Timanfaya National Park and a trip to Caldera Blanca, a massive volcano crater and its little sister Calderita.



YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO SEAFORD

I really enjoyed visiting Seaford Town, where we recorded data on the land use and types of services available. With this information, we could investigate how being near the sea affects the buildings and people.





YEAR 11, 12 AND 13 FRENCH EXCHANGE

The French families we stayed with were so welcoming, treating us to all sorts of activities, including visiting the Loire Valley and its fabulous chateaux and visiting Paris and going to the very top of the Eiffel Tower. We all had a great time and were commenting on the way back how much our French had improved.



BOARDERS VISIT THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM

When we arrived, it looked more like a park than a museum. We walked up the hill and entered the main part of the museum, where it is all about nature, the animals, the plants and the unseen creatures. There were vast collections on nature and they made them in such a vivid way I could not tell the difference between the man-made specimens and the real creatures that had been put into glass cases for protection.

GCSE TRIP TO GERMANY

50 History pupils spent an incredible six days in Germany. After visiting snowy Munich, we travelled to the concentration camp at Dachau, which was moving and thought-provoking to everyone. We went to Nuremburg and finally to Berlin, where we immersed ourselves in German culture.

The trip was especially useful for our upcoming exams and reinforced everything that we had learned.



YEAR 8 TRIP TO LONDON ZOO

The Year 8s visited London Zoo to extend their learning of 'endangered species'. The trip allowed us to study and research examples from the hundreds housed at the Zoo.

The gorillas, penguins and meerkats proved once again very popular study exhibits. We attended a talk from a member of Zoo staff that got us thinking about the validity, or not, of hunting endangered animals for various gains.

We were able to vote on, and then discuss, topics such as hunting for fur or skins, hunting for bush meat and hunting for medicines.



SIXTH FORM TRIP TO NORTH WALES

As part of the Geology trip to the Jurassic Coast, we met the best dinosaur hunter in the UK – Steve Etches. His collection of fossils is so good he has been given his own museum. He gets particularly excited when he finds a fossil inside the stomach of another fossil as he knows what it had for lunch!

YEAR 8 GLOBE THEATRE TRIP

Year 8 travelled to London to the Globe Theatre to watch 'Much Ado about Nothing'. The yard was old fashioned, and the theatre was made of wood, as it would have been in Shakespeare times. It had an open roof, so of course it had to rain, but luckily not for too long. The Play itself was good, it was a comedy and the humour was enjoyed by all.





YEAR 8 TRIP TO BILBAO

39 excited Year 8s waved goodbye to parents and headed for our four days of adventure in Bilbao.

We were based at an adventure centre, right on the beach. We were introduced to body boarding and surfing and went sea kayaking. Other activities included building our confidence on a very tall and long zip wire – truly thrilling – horse riding and go-karting.

Some of us were worried that we did not have enough Spanish for this trip, but we managed to understand the instructors who spoke to us only in Spanish. We had the chance also to go shopping in a small fishing village and a shopping centre where we were successful in buying lots of different foods and souvenirs using Spanish.

We visited the city centre of Bilbao and toured the world famous Guggenheim museum.

The current Year 9s told us last year how much fun they had, they were right! We had such a great time!



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO SNOWDONIA

Our study trip involved looking at the glacial landforms and history of Snowdonia. We travelled Cwm Idwal, an enormous valley and mountain range, formed by a glacier that had cut through the landscape thousands of years ago. We braved the elements: rain, wind, hail, snow, sometimes all at once!, to trek to the giant corrie, a lake created by a glacier, whilst analysing how the glacier moved and what it left behind. This involved taking striations on the rocks in the corrie

to analyse the glacier's movement, which collectively was discovered to be travelling North East which fitted the hypothesis.

We ventured to a Roche Moutonnee, a large piece of rock eroded by a moving glacier before heading to the forest to calculate the amount of carbon storage in coniferous and deciduous woodland.

It was a very cold, yet enjoyable, weekend.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

A group of intrepid pupils took to the bridleways of the Ashdown Forest as they undertook their Bronze and Silver expedition sections of their award.

On reaching camp, it was tent pitching, cooking and route planning for the next day's activity.

Morning saw a slightly tired group with quite a lot of soggy kit, but in true DofE spirit, they treated the whole thing as an adventure. While there were the inevitable missed turnings as well as a few blisters and stings, everyone made the check points along the way and arrived safely in East Grinstead to set off home for a well-earned rest.



SIXTH FORM PHYSICS TRIP TO CERN

32 Year 12 and 13 Physics pupils travelled to Geneva in Switzerland to visit the CERN campus - the home of the Large Hadron Collider.

There are two fantastic museums where we learned of the different detectors that CERN use, looked at small scale particle detectors and learned about some of the many amazing scientific breakthroughs

that have come about as a result of the research done at CERN, including the world wide web and numerous medical scanners.

We enjoyed a tour of the facility where we got to learn more about the ATLAS detector and the synchrocyclotron and quizzed our guides with all our burning questions.

Before heading home, we were able to enjoy some culture, exploring and food, with visits to the Geneva History of Science Museum, the UN buildings, St Pierre Cathedral and the cobbled old town among the day's activities.

We were all tired but happy, and excited for exploring more of the wonders of Physics.



Royal Russell Day

On the final Saturday of the Summer term, the Sports Hall was once again transformed into a theatre venue as 1,200 parents, pupils, Old Russellians, Governors and guests gathered for our annual celebration and prize-giving.

We were treated to some excellent work from our Media Teams who had produced a series of videos showcasing life at Royal Russell, while live-streaming the event to those at home and abroad.

We were entertained by many musical performances from the Junior and Senior School and enthralled by segments from the Year 6 production of 'Superstar' and the Senior School Play 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.

Prizes were awarded to those individuals who had demonstrated exceptional effort, achievement and success in their academic and co-curricular endeavours this year. House awards were awarded for success in House competitions, held throughout the year and for good citizenship.

A special mention was made to Ken Young, who stepped down as Chairman of Governors after 17 years on the Board and to Martin Tanner, who has earned his place

as Royal Russell royalty, retiring after a 36 year career at Royal Russell.

We also acknowledged the families of Teo Grimshaw, Holly Killick and Joel Yard who had made Royal Russell their school of choice for their entire school journey.

An uplifting finale of John Lennon's 'Hey Jude', complete with a flurry of ticker-tape, concluded our celebrations before we gathered for drinks on Lime Tree Quad.

JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

The English Prize	Drew Girton
The Richard Green Mathematics Prize	Lauren Barton
The Numeracy Progress Prize	Millie Brown
The Literacy Progress Prize	Lennon Hill
The Science Prize	Islay Pearson
The History Prize	Kayden Smith
The Ingrams Geography Prize	Emily Hayden De Carbonnières
The Computing Prize	Oliver Dixon
The Modern Foreign Languages Prize	Avni Sharma
The Stainer Music Trophy	Alec Thurbin
The Drama Prize	Holly Seymour
The Art Prize	Minwoo Park
The Design and Technology Prize	Charlotte Kinch

SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PRIZES

The Art and Design Prize	Joseph Howat
The Biology Prize, The Computer Science Prize	Matthew Morton
The Business Studies Prize	Charlie Jones
The Chemistry Prize, The French Prize, The Physics Prize, The Spanish Prize	Anna Firth
The Design and Technology Prize	Divyen Patel
The Drama Prize	Matthew Lewis
The English Prize	Olukemi Eyoma Green
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Gayane Arakelyan, Junwei Zhu
The Food Technology Prize	Pannapak Kiengvarangkoon
The Geography Prize	Mitchell Torlot
The German Prize	Philip Stoycheff
The History Prize	Megan Driver
The Mathematics Prize	Wenjia Zhang
The Music Prize	Charles Eastwood
The Physical Education Prize	Olga Dubov
The Theology and Philosophy Prize	Ella Jones

SIXTH FORM ACADEMIC PRIZES

The Art and Design Prize	Max Rickards
The Biology Prize	Marcus Roberts
The Business Studies Prize	Maksym Malynovski
The Chemistry Prize, The Physics Prize	Xixian Yi
The Computer Science Prize	Raffael Ryder
The Design and Technology Prize	Joseph Franklin
The Economics Prize	Jingyi Deng
The English Prize	Max Shirley
The English as an Additional Language Prize	Yasmin Akhmedova
The French Prize	Consuelo Alfaro Sogo
The Geography Prize	Mingxuan Qin
The Geology Prize	Holly Killick
The German Prize	Am-Fabian Seebauer
The History Prize	Meera Eldridge
The Media Studies Prize	Sam Phillipson
The Mathematics Prize	Jiani Wang
The Music Prize	Lily Addis
The Politics Prize	Thea Toffolo
The Spanish Prize	Firuz Mamedova, Polina Podkovyrina
The Theology and Philosophy Prize	David Guthrie

SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

The Shield for Services to MUN	Thea Toffolo
MUN Delegate of the Year	Philippa Messent Watling
Most Improved MUN Delegate	Mitchell Torlot
Young Delegate of the Year	Iris Nuredini
Best RAF NCO	Madeline Longhurst
Best Army NCO	Stevie Palmer
Best Army Recruit	Ethan Edney
Best RAF Recruit	Anna Stone
Prize for Services to Chapel	Ana-Maria Militaru
Shield for Services to Drama	Thalia Selby

SENIOR SCHOOL EFFORT PRIZES

Year 7	Jiya Desai, Iris Nuredini, Sam Stealey
Year 8	Anastacia Allan, Campbell Eady
Year 9	Jemima Earing, Zhiqing Zhang
Year 10	Abigail Barnes, Mohammed Gadalla
Year 11	Katie Harris, Toi Yan Ho
Year 12	Yasmin Akhmedova, Lucas Jones
Year 13	Thalia Selby, Ali Mula

SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE AWARDS FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Buchanan	Thea Toffolo
Cambridge	German Yukhno
Hollenden	Maya Linter
Keable	Charlie Jones
Madden	Luke McCabe
Oxford	Calum Firth
Queen's	Consuelo Alfaro Sogo
Reade	Thalia Selby
St Andrew's	Amanfi Aggrey

JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

The Lower Junior Prize	Henry Hayden De Carbonnières, Taymar Black
The 1853 Society Cup	Toby Cascarini, Joyce Alfred



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SUPERSTAN

Year 6 Production

After many weeks of enthusiastic dedication to learning lines, rehearsing songs and practising dance routines, our Year 6 pupils put on a 'super' production over two action-packed evenings at the end of the Summer term.

The play, created by Craig Hawes, focuses on clumsy dreamer Stanley Marvel, who lives an ordinary life in Megaville, until he discovers that local hero, The Candy King, is in fact a villain!

With his army of Minions and evil scientists, The Candy King is determined to conquer the world and enslave the citizens of Megaville with hypnotic gobstoppers and corrupt confectionery!

With the world in need of saving, Stanley's crazy Gran and her crumbly chums reveal a truth about his identity that will change his life forever.

With the help of fantastic elastic, anti-gravity underpants, Stanley is transformed into the greatest superhero ever – the Amazing Superstan! The caped crusader fights for truth, justice and freedom with his superpowers, super tights and the strength to open

a really tricky jar of pickles!

With a witty script, colourful costumes, jokes galore, catchy songs and even some inspired improvisation, this year's production was thoroughly enjoyed by parents, friends and supporters.

Well done Year 6 for entertaining us so well.





Senior School Drama



CENTRE STAGE

Our Drama department once again produced an excellent annual School Play, performing to a full Auditorium for three consecutive nights.

The Senior School's production of Harper Lee's classic 'To Kill a Mockingbird' was a culmination of ten hard-working weeks, with pupils from Years 8 to 13 producing a ground-breaking, professional performance, showcasing some of the highest quality school drama.

The Play was performed 'in the round', with intimate staging that enabled the audience to capture the story from different points of view, a first for Royal Russell that was described as 'something straight out of the West End!'

The cast outshone almost everything that we have seen recently on the Royal Russell stage, creating so much drama, tension and emotion for the audience.

The success of the performances was highlighted by the amazing collaborative

effort that was completed behind the scenes, with the pupil-led lighting, sound, stage management, makeup and wardrobe teams contributing so much.

All who enjoyed this production will have taken away some very strong images and memories of the drama that unfolded.

HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION

All Houses took to the stage in the Auditorium this Spring to perform their pieces for the House Drama Competition, with their choice of stimuli; 'This is Me' from the Greatest Showman, the Malala Youssafzai quote 'I raise my voice, not so I can shout but so others without a voice can be heard' or three emojis of the groups choice.

With the pieces being 5 to 8 minutes long, each House did an amazing job scripting, directing and performing their piece.

The overall winners, Reade House, performed a beautiful piece about fitting in, focusing on a girl who moves school from Brighton to

another area and attempts to lie her way into popularity.

The actors were amazing and the comedy aspect hilariously funny. They managed to find a real message behind the simple phrase and show it in a relatable light with a play that was clear and easy to follow, as well as emotional and fun.

Oxford House had an interesting dystopian take on their stimuli. In a world where Tutsi's were on the run from the government, the story involved a thrilling twist at the end, where one of the Hutu's betrays his partner in order to protect his moral values. With Victor's thrilling performance at the beginning, and the whole cast taking us on a theatrical journey we won't forget, the boys received strong congratulation.

Cambridge House produced a performance which demonstrated the issues of racism. The audience

'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee



HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION (from left to right):
St Andrew's, Queen's, Madden, Cambridge and the Competition Winners, Reade

adored every one of the actors and it's safe to say this was definitely one of everyone's favourites.

Buchanan's piece used the stimuli 'This is Me' and was about a girl coming out to her best friend and the world. Her best friend discarded her, refusing to accept the fact that she was gay, thinking only about herself, but eventually realising that she should never have been so dismissive and just said that she was proud of her. Overall it was a very well structured piece and brought tears to many peoples' eyes in the audience. It was ranked second place.

Madden's performance used the stimuli 'I raised my voice, not so I can shout but so others without a voice can be heard'. It was very different to all the other performances with an over exaggeration of a political debate. It was very funny and included mock interpretations of modern political leaders.

Hollenden performed a very deep and thought-provoking piece. It was based on a mother who was being abused by her husband and only finding love with her child Rose. Rose held a parade to let people

know that what was happening to her mother, and many other people around the world, was in no way acceptable. It was a truly heart wrenching piece and everyone shed a few tears. It was very well thought out and had a clear storyline and 100% deserved the third place it was awarded.

Keable was the only House that used the three emojis as their stimuli; the money, the gun and the suit. They showed us a piece based on a robbery.

Queen's House performed a wonderful piece, with Lara doing a particularly good job, as well as Rosharna who performed despite being on crutches. The characters were interesting and the plot was a joy to see played out.

St Andrew's performed a piece with the stimuli 'This is Me' about a struggling circus

trying to make it big. The costume choices were very bold and fitting and there were many comedic elements that added a light hearted air to the piece, including a bearded lady!

Well done to all the Houses for taking part. Each short performance was filled with humour, excitement and meaning and were all a joy to watch.

Congratulations to Reade for coming in first place, Buchanan for a strong second place and Hollenden for an emotional and moving performance in third place. All the groups seemed incredibly well prepared with their pieces which were all wonderfully scripted and performed.





Global Mindset

Global skills are nothing new to Russellians, but they may not have heard the title used before, so it is perhaps appropriate to look more closely at this aspect of the hidden curriculum.

WHY DEVELOP A GLOBAL MINDSET?

Business leaders want talented people who can think and lead globally. The world is getting smaller it seems, but in the main, it is not getting similar. The globalisation of business continues to challenge us to operate effectively across countries and cultures, and have the ability to understand the similarities among cultures and not be paralysed by the differences. It is about being comfortable with being uncomfortable in different environments.

Doing business globally does not just stop with language barriers. A person with a global mindset will be culturally sensitive to customs, working styles, protocols, superstitions, humour, formalities, taboos, dress code, religion and traditions.

WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL SKILLS?

Global communication skills –

Being able to communicate across cultures, both non-verbally and verbally, including foreign language proficiency.

Global insight –

Understanding and appreciation of different cultures, religions,

economies, governments, and global issues.

Confidence and flexibility to adjust behaviour to achieve results.

HOW DO WE HELP PUPILS DEVELOP A GLOBAL MINDSET?

Personal growth and enrichment comes with cross-cultural experiences and we provide a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to develop their global mindset. Pupils can:

Learn a new language and improve their communication skills through curriculum lessons and linguistic clubs.

Develop cross-cultural skills and self-awareness safely in a social and educational environment with pupils from over 35 different nationalities.

Gain global perspective and understanding through participating in our International Model United Nations programme, residential trips abroad and cultural exchange programmes.

Take an interest in global current affairs by reading world news in the Library.



Research and develop a deeper understanding of global issues; environmental, societal and political.

EXPAND YOUR MIND, EXPAND YOUR SKILLS, EXPAND YOUR WORLD.

“Only knowing your little part of the world will not yield the creative solutions we need to solve the world’s complex problems.”

Dr Lynne Mitchell, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CELEBRATION DAY

The Junior School children got to ‘travel around the world’ in just one day!

With the help of parents and extended families showcasing their native countries, the children enjoyed workshops and demonstrations on traditional clothes, dancing, culture, language and art.

All the children wore traditional clothes from the country of their choice. It was a wonderful display of colour and culture.



LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

An ever growing number of enthusiastic problem solvers, puzzle jugglers, thrill seekers, language learners and code breakers from Years 6 to 13 gathered to work in teams to decipher the meaning of many different languages.

“The Linguistic Olympiad is a competition in which your task is to find out how an often completely unknown language works. Sometimes it could be a strange African language you have never heard of, and sometimes some unpopular Chinese dialect with its own alphabet. Taking part is an amazing experience – you develop your knowledge about the world and its many varied cultures.”
Ola, Year 12

“It was a challenge trying to decipher different languages and it was fun. We were able to work together as a team to work out the answers.”
Oliver, Year 6

“It was really good fun and the questions were challenging. It was a cool thing trying to learn different languages.”
Lauren, Year 6





Model United Nations

Model United Nations remains a hugely popular activity at Royal Russell and continues to be highly regarded on a local, national and international level.

The MUN club continues to thrive with MiniMUN debates for Years 6, 7 and 8 now having between 30 and 40 pupils attend each week after school, whilst Senior MUN for Years 9 to 13 has over 30 pupils attending.

As always, our first conference of the year was at Reigate where we were able to give three Chairs good practise, ready for our conference in October.

Our own 36th Annual Conference, run over four days, attracted over 400 young delegates, with their teachers, from 32 schools in 12 different countries - including, for the first time, pupils from a Palestinian school in Israel and a Romanian school.

100 Royal Russell pupils participated as Officers, Committee Chairs, Secretariat, Press and Media which provided them with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills.

In particular the Media team excelled, putting on a game show on Friday night for our pupils, running an outdoor live MUN's Got Talent on Chapel Quad as

well as producing a series of short films about the conference which generated over 23,000 views within a week.

In early November we again supported the Croydon High MUN Conference lending them our placards and flags and providing three very good pupil Chairs. One of our delegations - China - won a Highly Commended award and two pupils, Krish and Mitchell, won individual awards.

The annual trip to The Hague Conference was made all the more enjoyable since it was a celebration of 50 years of THIMUN. Peter, Max and Claudia joined the Media team, contributing to every edition of the paper with intelligent articles and - from the latter - a series of impressive pictures. Lucas was an excellent Chair of his committee - thoughtful and sensible.

A record number of pupils managed to act as main submitter of their resolutions with Pippa in particular dominating her committee. Everyone spoke in their committee and Alex, Farrah, Stevie and Megan all made very good opening speeches.

The conference was opened by the King of the Netherlands who had attended a Royal Russell conference back in 1986, and a commemorative book on THIMUN named Royal Russell as the first school to affiliate to THIMUN and the first conference the Hague schools visited.

The last four conferences of the year were at Haberdashers, Haileybury, Dublin and Reigate Junior. The pupils did well in the senior conferences winning four individual awards at Haileybury, three at Haberdashers and one in Dublin. Perhaps the highlight was the work and achievements of Stevie and Lucas, who proved exceptional Advocates in a model ICJ case in Dublin. This was the first time we have put up a team of Advocates at a major conference.

16 pupils attended the Junior MUN conference at Reigate School which is a great opportunity for our MiniMUN pupils to experience a one-day conference and we took a range of pupils from Years 7 to 9.



Reigate Conference – September 2017
Chairs: Lucas Jones and Stevie Palmer

Royal Russell School International MUN Conference – October 2017
Chairs: Pippa Messent Watling (Secretary General)
Thalia Selby, Lucas Jones and Stevie Palmer (Presidents of GA)
Meera Eldridge and Ella Jones (Presidents of the Security Council)

Croydon High MUN Conference – November 2017
Highly Commended Delegate: Mitchell Torlot and Krish Sivagnanam
Highly Commended Delegation: CHINA (Keitaro Kawamata Mitchell Torlot, Krish Sivagnanam, Ben Preston and Stevie Palmer)
Chairs: Pippa Messent Watling, Ella Jones and Meera Eldridge

THIMUN – The Hague MUN Conference – January 2018 - No awards are given at THIMUN
Deputy President of ECOSOC: Lucas Jones

Haberdashers MUN Conference – March 2018
Highly Commended Delegate: Ella Jones
Highly Commended Delegation: Lucas Jones and Ben Preston

Haileybury MUN Conference – March 2018
Highly Commended Delegate Awards: Ben Preston, Stevie Palmer and Ella Flaherty
Distinguished Delegate Award: Dionne Scougul

Dublin MUN Conference – April 2018
Highly Commended Delegate Award: Davlesh Jorhun
Advocates in the ICJ: Lucas Jones and Stevie Palmer

Reigate Junior Conference – May 2018
No awards given

Royal Russell Day Awards
Model United Nations Shield for Services to MUN: Thea Toffolo
Cox Shield for MUN Delegate of the Year: Pippa Messent Watling
Antrobus Shield for Most Improved MUN Delegate: Mitchell Torlot
John Piggin Shield for Young Delegate of Year (MiniMUN): Iris Nuredini

MiniMUN Awards
Best in Year 6: Holly Seymour
Best in Year 7: Lara Flint
Best in Year 8: Terrell Thomas



Junior School Sport

The U11 girls have had an incredibly successful year, winning an array of trophies and medals and making so many Royal Russell firsts!

OUR GIRLS CAN

The girls started the year by becoming Regional Champions and qualifying for the IAPS National Hockey Finals, a first in the history of Royal Russell. At the Finals the girls played simply outstanding Hockey, narrowly missing out on a win.

The girls then travelled to Millfield, having made the IAPS National Finals. The girls finished 5th putting them in the top 20 IAPS schools - a truly amazing achievement they should be very proud of considering 216 schools entered the competition.

In Rounders, the U11 team played with great team spirit to make it to the third round of the IAPS Rounders Tournament, another first.

The U11 girls' Football team travelled to St George's Park, the home of England Football, as reigning National Champions. They played exceptionally well in the defence of their title and didn't concede

a goal throughout the entire tournament. The girls won their group, scoring 11 goals in 4 games and found themselves in a tough semi-final. The game went to penalties and the girls made it through to the Final with three good penalties and a strong save from Islay. The Final played out in a similar fashion, but unfortunately the girls found out how brutal penalties can be, losing out in sudden death to finish as runners-up.

The Trampoline team were 2nd at the IAPS National Trampoline Finals with Jasmine placing 2nd individually, out of over 70 competitors from all around the country. This was on top of her 8th place competing at the National Schools Trampoline Finals.

In Netball, the girls competed against 23 schools in the Surrey Schools Competition. With 2 wins, 2 losses and a draw, the team finished an admirable 4th in their group.

In the IAPS Regional Tournament, the girls competed against 38 schools in the region. They had an amazing run, playing incredibly well to win their first 7 matches,

finishing 3rd in their group and into the knockouts. They were knocked out by the eventual winners and missed out on a place at the National Finals by just 2 goals. The team held their heads high, finishing joint 9th.

The U11A team competed in the Versatility Tournament, where pupils play in a variety of positions. The girls started brilliantly, notching up three wins and finished on a high, with the girls 2nd overall.

The U11 Netball team travelled to Surrey Sports Park to compete at the Copper Box Arena. After a morning of pool matches, the team were entered into the Bowl Tournament and after a thrilling round of matches, the girls finished the afternoon as Bowl winners!

This year also saw the introduction of girls' Cricket fixtures and the U11AB teams were first to play in competitive matches, winning all along the way!

Well done to our girls!



THERE ARE SO MANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR, WHERE DO WE START?

This year, we have managed 101 teams across 25 sports. Those teams have taken part in a whopping 567 fixtures. We have had teams at a total of 12 National Final events. Travelling to our National events, we have clocked up a total of 2,342 miles!

The U11 girls and boys have possibly been the most successful across the board, achieving so many Royal Russell firsts. The girls started the year by qualifying for the IAPS National Hockey Finals and their success continued with excellent play at the IAPS Netball Qualifier. The Trampoline team were 2nd at the IAPS National Championships and the Rounders team played with great team spirit to make it to the third round of the IAPS tournament, to name just a few.

The U11 boys' Basketball team worked tirelessly at the IAPS Nationals to become Plate Champions. With the U11 boys' Biathlon team 5th at the National Schools Finals, and Ollie 5th, Islay 8th and Millie 12th at the IAPS Triathlon Nationals, the year was getting exciting.

Both the U11 mixed Rounders teams made it to the Croydon Finals. The A team won 4 out of 4 games to be crowned Champions and the B team finished 2nd place!

Our athletes produced outstanding performances at the Croydon Schools Athletics Finals, with 6 Croydon Champions and a clean sweep of the overall trophies for both the girls and boys and the U11 boys performed admirably

at the IAPS Regional Hockey Tournament, conceding only three goals all day.

The annual Royal Russell U11 Hockey Tournament proved to be another fantastic event, with both our girls' and boys' teams making it to the semi-finals. In our inaugural Football Tournament, we welcomed schools from across the South East. Our 1st XI refereed throughout the morning, showing Royal Russell at its best and to top it off, our U11A Team won the event.

Finally the U11 girls' Football team qualified for the ISFA National Finals and once again didn't disappoint with an awesome performance to finish as runners-up. A simply outstanding year.

Across the other year groups there has been more success.

The U10 girls finished 2nd at the In2 Hockey Tournament and the St Christopher's Netball Tournament, they won the Alleyn's Rounders Tournament too.

The U10 boys had a very successful Football season, winning all but one of their games. The highlight for them came at the St George's, Windsor

Tournament where they upgraded last year's Plate victory with a Cup victory!

The U9 girls had a fantastic Netball season winning the majority of their matches. They were runners-up at the Lingfield Hockey Tournament and won the St Christopher's Rounders Tournament.

The U9A boys' Football team won all three of the Tournaments they entered and won a whopping 90% of their matches. This places them top of the school sports performance tables in the country for their age group.

Our U9A boys' Hockey team put in a strong performance at the Parkside Tournament. Winning their group with an unbeaten run, they marched into the Final.

Our U8 boys had their first taste of competitive Football on Open Morning, with the A team beating Lingfield College and Banstead Prep to finish second. They went on to steal the show at St George's Weybridge, with the B team winning the tournament overall.



TRAMPOLINING

A noticeable development is the number of our boys competing at Local, Regional and National level.

We swept the board at the Croydon Schools event with over 50 pupils from Year 3 to Year 11 competing as individuals and teams.

In the U11 Elite category, Jasmine came 1st and Lara 3rd. In the U11 Novice, Shayna achieved 2nd place and Naia 3rd. In the U9 Novice category Nina came 2nd and Izzy 3rd. In the boys' categories, Max was 2nd with Charlie and Alister 3rd in the U9 Novice and Tino came 1st and Leo 3rd in the U11 Novice category.

We were also crowned U11 Novice Team Champions, U11 Elite Team Champions, U9 Novice Team Champions and U11B Novice Team Champions. Our U11A team came 2nd, our U11C 3rd and our U9B 2nd.

The IAPS National Finals, hosted at Royal Russell, was an amazing day and our 32 pupils competing all performed some excellent routines. We took home 5 team trophies and 3 individual medals!

Jasmine performed two stunning routines to finish 2nd individually out of 70 competitors, leading the U11A girls' team of Jasmine, Lara, Hannah and Lauren to Silver too. The U9 boys; Max, Alister and Charlie also placed 2nd and the U9A girls, Nina, Izzy and Oneli all bounced fabulous routines to finish in a brilliant 3rd place. The U9B team of Isabel, Bethany and Sarah won the B team competition with the U9C team of Isabella, Maisey and Ava finished in 3rd place.



CROSS-COUNTRY

We have had tremendous success in the Croydon Schools Cross-Country events, with our Year 3 and 4 girls and our Year 4 boys in 1st place and our Year 3 boys in 3rd place with some incredible individual successes too.

GYMNASTICS

12 gymnasts competed at the Surrey Schools Novice Competition. We took all 3 medals on the Vault, out of 60 competitors, and picked up 2 Floor medals!

ATHLETICS

Records were smashed from a Royal Russell perspective with five pupils winning individual gold medals. Millie and Christian both won their high jump competitions. Hannah and Nathan won the Year 5 Long Jump and Leo took the Year 5 Sprint title. These individual successes helped to ensure that Royal Russell were crowned both overall girls and boys Champions!

TENNIS

Our team of Year 6s and Year 4s competed at the Croydon Schools Tennis Tournament. They won every match as a team and won overall. Our Year 3s went to the Reedham Park Tennis Club Qualifier event and finished in 1st and 2nd place.



ROYAL RUSSELL DAY SPORT AWARDS

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT AWARDS

Year 3 Victor Ludorum	Lucas Brown
Year 3 Victrix Ludorum	Ava Barton
Year 4 Victor Ludorum	Thomas Karelis
Year 4 Victrix Ludorum	Oneli Pelpola
Year 5 Victor Ludorum	Max Larcombe
Year 5 Victrix Ludorum	Olivia Obasuyi
Year 6 Victor Ludorum	Krishan Soni
Year 6 Victrix Ludorum	Millicent German
The Hallworth Trophy for Sportsmanship	George Burrows



U8A Hockey Team



U8A Netball Team



U8A Boys Hockey



U8A Football



U9A Boys Hockey



U9A Football



U9A Hockey Team



U9A Netball Team



U10A Boys Hockey



U10A Football



U10A Hockey Team



U10A Netball Team



U11A Basketball



U11A Girls Football



U11A Boys Hockey



U11A Football



U11A Hockey Team



U11A Netball Team



U8B Hockey Team



U8B Hockey Team



U8B Boys Hockey



U8B Football



U9B Boys Hockey



U9B Football



U9B Hockey Team



U9B Netball Team



U10B Boys Hockey



U10B Football



U10 B Football



U10B Hockey Team



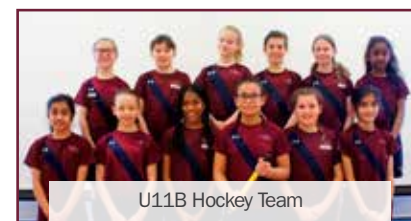
U10B Netball Team



U11 B Boys Hockey



U11B Football



U11B Hockey Team



U11B Netball Team



U8C Hockey Team



U8C Netball Team



U8 C Football



U9C Football



U10C Netball Team



U11C Boys Hockey



U11C Football



U8D Hockey Team



U8D Netball Team



U9 Gymnastics Squad



U9 Lingfield Hockey Tournament Team



U11 Gymnastics Squad



U11 Trampoline Squad



Senior School Sport

Participation and success have never been better than this year. The introduction of girls' Football in the Senior School has seen great success.

The Athletics programme, along with our core mass participation sports of Netball, Hockey and Football, has been outstanding with some incredible individual performances. Tennis has expanded and become even more successful and popular with pupils. There has been a real buzz about Sport this year with so many fixtures, clubs and successes on a scale never seen before.

FOOTBALL

The introduction of girls' Football has seen a huge uptake in all ages and abilities.

Continuing the National success of the Junior School last year, the U11s once again reached the Finals of ISFA National 7-a-side Tournament at St George's Park by winning the Regional Qualifier at Ardingly. Alongside this, the U13s also achieved this feat with their Regional Qualifier win at Allyn's taking them through to the Finals. This meant that we were the only independent school in the country to have two representative teams in the National Finals.

We were able to form a U12 team this year to compete in the prestigious ESFA Girls PlayStation 9-a-side Schools Cup. The team reached the quarter-finals where they just lost out in extra time.

Because of the growing reputation, success and participation of girls' Football, we now have our first four representative girl players come though at U13 and U15 ISFA National level and even at England International level.

The 1st XI Senior boys managed to achieve another accolade this season by winning the National Six-a-side competition at Charterhouse School. This is the first time a school has won this competition back to back. In recognition of this success, a record number of the 1st XI represented ISFA boys at U18 and U16 level, making us the most represented school in ISFA this year.

Despite the U18s going out in the second round of the Boodles Cup this year, they managed to finish 4th in the Hudl Elite Development League and win the Elgin Central League, but were unfortunate to lose out to Bradfield in the overall Final. They also reached the London Schools Cup Final again, where they lost on penalties to Hampton School.

Our U13s were also in pursuit of glory this year. They managed to reach the semi-finals of the ISFA National Cup. This is the furthest the school has ever achieved in this competition at this level.



CRICKET

There have been a number of highlights to the Cricket season. We have not only had outstanding performances, but are offering more opportunities to train and play than ever before.

The Year 7 team battled for a hard fought win at home to St. Dunstan's with a fine 5th wicket partnership between Ioan Trigger and Freddie

McAllister. Michael Phillips is turning into a fine opening bowler.

The Year 8s continue to show promise with a strong squad, playing in competitive matches.

The Year 9s have only lost one game and amongst their victories was one over the current Kent Champions. They are being

well led by Tom Smith and Josh Else is leading the scoring following his 77 not out at Skinners. Cameron Leishman is bowling some very tight offspin.

The U15 team had a fine victory in the first round of the Surrey Cup at Ibbstock Place, scoring 183 in our 20 overs with Sam Long hitting 94.



HOUSE SPORT

The entire Senior School took part in our annual House Cross-Country.

The winners in each category were:

Junior Boys: Tom Beare, Madden House

Inter Boys: Jack Burton, Madden House

Senior Boys: Leo Lawless, Oxford House

Junior Girls: Holly Perks, Reade House

Inter Girls: Faith Chen, Buchanan

Senior Girls: Megan Driver, Reade House

Oxford and Queen's House were the overall team winners.

In the boys' Senior Softball competition, St Andrew's retained their crown as Champions, showing good form in both batting and fielding. The girls played Junior House Rounders, won by Reade.

The winners of the Senior Athletics were St Andrew's and Queen's House. Oxford beat Madden in a well contested Cricket Final and Cambridge won the boys' Senior Tennis, with Buchanan for the girls.

GYMNASTICS

Our programme has continued to develop this year and our successes are testament to the pupils' hard work.

Our U13 mixed gymnastics team of Matt, Hannah and Rain made another piece of Royal Russell history, placing 3rd at the Milano Team Gymnastics National Finals, our first National Gymnastics medal.

All three pupils produced excellent floor sequences and vaults and finished the competition with a stunning group piece.



NETBALL

There have been a number of outstanding achievements across all age groups this year. Our Senior 1st team had huge success in the National Cup, making it to the quarter-finals, narrowly missing out on the semi-finals by just one goal!

In the first round, the girls beat Bradfield College 51-21. In Round 2, they beat St.Georges 36-31. In Round 3, they beat Benenden 45-23 and in Round 4, the quarter-finals, they had a narrow loss to Cheadle Hulme 30-31.

These girls were part of a programme that requires them to train 5 days a week, which includes all training aspects such as on-court technical training, strength and conditioning, fitness and video analysis. This season's squad was captained by Year 12 Maya Linter and vice-captained by Year 12 Maddy Longhurst.

TENNIS

This year has been busy on the Tennis front. We had more players than ever competing for the Tennis squads for the U15 and U13 teams.

In addition to team competition, the school hosted a number of LTA tournaments. Pupils were invited to join the MDL Coaching programme outside of school, which runs all year round. There are exciting times ahead looking at the talent coming up from the Junior School!



HOCKEY

The Hockey programme for boys and girls had an exciting year.

Over 60 boys and 50 girls regularly played in Saturday fixtures and regularly attended training across the Junior and Senior School.

Notable highlights from the girls' programme included the U15 girls making progress through the National Cup rounds for the first time ever, and the U11 girls becoming IAPS South East Champions and competing at the IAPS National Finals at Millfield School. The boys' programme had consistently great performances, notably the U12 and U13 boys who produced some fantastic performances against tough opposition throughout the year.

Individual performances to be celebrated throughout the year include Ali Haslam and Saffron Wood who made the England Hockey Performance Centre squads and Jasmine Palmer-Garrick being picked as the regular starting 1st Team goalkeeper for Bromley and Beckenham HC, playing in the East Prem.



ATHLETICS

Athletics has seen a real surge in performances and participation as a timetabled games option as well as an after school club. This has seen our pupils prepare and become better, fitter and more technical performers.

Year 9 and 10 went to the Croydon Schools Athletics and all pupils showed fantastic effort in their given event. A special mention to Ayodeji Elewere; 1st in the 1500m, Faith Chen; 2nd in the 1500m, Jess Westland; 3rd in the

1500m, Lily Payne; 1st in the Long Jump, Lucia Hart; 2nd in the Long Jump, Amber Kennedy; 3rd in the Long Jump, Morgan Hosannah; 1st in the 300m, Abi Taylor; 2nd in the 80m Hurdles and Jemima Earing; 3rd in the 800m.

Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in their Croydon Schools Athletics meet and produced some incredible results. Congratulations to the pupils who were placed 1st to 3rd on the day: Dylan Kennedy; 2nd in the Javelin, Eivie Lloyd; 3rd in the 800m, Holly Perks; 2nd in the 1500m, Khalia Charles; 1st in the

100m, Louis Saville; 2nd in the Long Jump, Safia Opie; 1st in the Shot, Toby McKimm; 2nd in the Shot, Yasmin Williams; 3rd in the Discus, Reanna Blades; 1st in the 200m, Cynthia Ding; 1st in the 800m and the Year 8 girls' 4x100m relay team who were 1st; Khalia, Reanna, Cynthia and Anastacia.

Following on from their performances at Croydon Schools, Khalia Charles, Amanfi Aggrey, Reanna Blades, Faith Chen, Jack Burton and Megan Driver were selected to represent Croydon at the Surrey Schools Athletics.

TRAMPOLINING

After our success in the London Regionals, 14 pupils qualified for the National Schools Trampoline Finals in Belfast. After two gruelling rounds we secured 3 team and 3 individual places.

Maddy, Emily and Grace produced the best routines they could to finish 2nd in the U19 Intermediate category. Inspired by their performance, the U14 team gave it everything and Anna, Amelia, Emelie and Eivie finished 3rd. Matt competed at the highest level and finished 5th in the Elite U14 boys' category. Jamie finished 6th in the U19 boys' Novice event and Jasmine finished in a brilliant 8th individually in the U11 Intermediate group. An amazing set of results!



ROYAL RUSSELL DAY SPORT AWARDS

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT AWARDS

Junior Victor Ludorum	Thomas Beare
Junior Victrix Ludorum	Khalia Charles
Senior Victor Ludorum	Amanfi Aggrey, Tyrelle Howell, Adaniortsewo Okorogheye
Senior Victrix Ludorum	Madeline Longurst
Intermediate Victor Ludorum	Jordan Harrison
Intermediate Victrix Ludorum	Faith Chen
The Andrew Foot Award (1985) for contribution to Boys' Sport	Sam Phillipson
The Twyford Shield (1938) for contribution to Girls' Sport	Maya Linter
Girls' House Championship	Reade
The Leslie Beckett Cup (1969)	
Boys' House Championship	Oxford
The Cook Shield (1927)	
The Hallworth Trophy for Sportsmanship	George Burrows





Combined Cadet Force



Want to learn how to fly a plane, jump out of an aircraft, target shoot, survive in the wilderness, defend yourself in unarmed combat or save a life with your first aid skills?

Don't worry, not everyone does, and the Combined Cadet Force is not everyone's cup of tea. There will be occasions where you are far outside your comfort zone or pushed to your absolute limits, and there will most likely be times when you think; "what's the point?". The point is getting past that block, and that is what the CCF aims to do.

By building your skills alongside a group of close friends, the CCF prepares you for any obstacle you could face in the field and in real life. Trust me when I say that once you have spent 48 hours outside patrolling, interviews tend to become a bit less daunting.

Contrary to what you might have heard, it's not all marching. Marching is practically none of what we do. It may seem like it in the first few weeks, but as the year goes by and you begin to get involved in the adventure training and leadership aspect, everything shifts.

You become a leader, a role model, a team member, and so much more. The CCF will stretch you physically and mentally until your problem-solving abilities are perfect, and you can jump a six-foot wall like a hurdle.

Universities and employers appreciate the CCF, or more specifically the skills that it teaches you. CCF is rewarding in itself as a fun and exciting new activity, but it is also rewarding at an academic and professional level.

Weekend and summer camps, flying experience, weapons training weekends, competitions, races, 48-hour exercises, range days, engineering and STEM camps, assault courses, first aid training and so much more awaits you. For two hours a week, it is a bargain.

So, if you still want a challenge, we'll be waiting.

NEW YEAR, NEW EXPERIENCES

CCF cadets and officers went to Longmoor Training Camp for a weekend of fieldcraft and manoeuvre to recce patrols. Each cadet was pushed out of their comfort zone. We were fortunate enough to be taught by regular soldiers as well as our own CCF officers in carrying out recce patrols, then a deliberate ambush.

We carried out a series of activities including team building and drill competitions that refined our skills and applied our knowledge.

At the beginning of May, around 15 cadets went on Wild Bush, a 48-hour exercise during which we practised our leadership skills. We went blank firing, did vehicle checks, recce patrols and put our OBUA (Operations in Built Up Areas) training from January camp into practise.

We had the opportunity to learn about IEDs from military personnel and were able to participate in a mass casualty first aid scenario.

It was a rewarding weekend, and we all learned a lot from it.





Blended Learning

Technology is changing how education works, and not just in some hazy future, but now, in classrooms across the world, including at Royal Russell. But the point of this change has to be the enhancement of learning rather than just the introduction of technology for the sake of it, and that is where our approach of blended learning comes in.

As a school we believe that the best way of achieving enhancement in learning is by combining the best of tried-and-tested educational methods with the possibilities that new technology brings to the classroom.

When something new and shiny comes along in education technology, there is a temptation to jump at it simply because it is innovative.

Yes, our pupils find electronic devices engaging and user friendly, but rather than rushing headlong into a technological false dawn which doesn't deliver better educational outcomes, we need to ensure that the deployment of technology enhances what we already do well, and opens up new possibilities for genuine learning.

And that is what blended learning is about at Royal Russell.

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

Firstly, it is about providing new tools in a pupil's metaphorical pencil case. Sometimes our pupils will be using mobile devices – iPads, laptops – sometimes they will be using internet access, sometimes they will be using pen and paper, or brushes and canvas, or whatever the most suitable tool is for the job at hand.

Sometimes the most effective way to remember that chemical reaction is to video it and add your commentary. Sometimes the most effective way to rehearse your Spanish dialogue is to (cringe) film yourself and your partner as you rehearse. And sometimes the most

effective way to learn about algorithms is to make effective hard-copy notes as directed by an expert teacher.

So, pupils will be guided to the most effective way of completing tasks, whether digital or otherwise.

Secondly, as we become more confident with how technology fits into that toolkit, blended learning looks like new tasks, new ways of collaborating and co-creating, new ways of capturing and augmenting learning which simply weren't possible before.

Group tasks can be genuinely collaborative rather than chunked and parcelled out, and individual learning can be just that – more genuinely individualised, whilst teachers can monitor and track work in 'real time' and intervene accordingly, rather than simply waiting for a finished product which might have been far better with earlier input.

These new ways of working are with us already, and are changing the way that the learning happens, not just the tools it is accomplished with.

Finally, and in many ways most importantly, blended learning is helping our pupils to become responsible users of technology.

Most of the current generation of school pupils have never known a time without on-demand access to almost anything from the comfort of their smartphone, and as a school we are well-placed to help them to navigate some of the pitfalls, as well as the opportunities, that this brings.

“Out with the old, in with the new. Where's the sense in that?”

Dan Botting
Deputy Head Academic

From a crash course in referencing and plagiarism through to building self-discipline and the realisation of what non-screen-time can offer, if we want our pupils to be able to get the most out of the social, educational and functional possibilities of technology, then we need to be leading them on that journey.

So, blended learning is not about throwing out the old, nor about an unthinking embrace of the new, but rather about bringing together the best of both in order to enhance the educational experience of our pupils, both during and beyond their time at Royal Russell.

Dan Botting
Deputy Head Academic



Ken Young, Chairman

Seventeen years ago, a young Accountant joined our Board of Governors. Ken served on all of the Governor Committees and was elected Chairman of the Board in 2007. During his time he has steered us through the selection of new Headmasters in both the Senior and Junior Schools, two new Bursars and numerous new Governors. In April, Ken Young retired as our Chairman.

Ken has made a major contribution to the financial welfare of the School and his focus on development has resulted in us now enjoying the Performing Arts Centre, the new Oxford and Cambridge House - with the second new building on its way - the planned new Science facilities, the astroturf and sports pitches and the pavilion. Importantly, the rebuilding of the Junior School is now a reality and is in sight.

Under Ken's guidance and with the input of a strong School Leadership Team, the School's academic results have seen a huge improvement and the inspection results have quite literally been outstanding. However he was always quick to remind us that while academic results are important, of greater importance is the provision of an all-round education where all pupils can thrive and prosper.

What must not be overlooked is that Royal Russell is only part of Ken's life. He has other significant charitable involvements and has been on the Board

of AGBIS. Ken and his wife Nicky, have committed themselves wholeheartedly to all aspects of Royal Russell life and are a great example to us all of the values of 'non sibi sed omnibus'.

If you look at Ken's biographical notes you will see that one of his specialisms is exit and succession management. Yet again he has excelled and we are extremely pleased that Andrew Merriman has taken on the role as Chairman of the Board.

There have been moments of great challenge, and moments of great celebration and joy, and throughout Ken has remained steadfast as a critical friend, with the emphasis always on the friendship rather than on being critical. We all have a great deal to thank Ken for and, personally, I could not have asked for a more caring, thoughtful and wise guide as I have enjoyed my journey as Headmaster with Ken as Chairman.

I am delighted that Ken will continue his links to the School and I look forward to working with him as our School



President. He joins an illustrious list of Presidents that began in 1854 with Lord John Russell and which suitably reflects the talents and contribution of his tenure as our Chairman and of his service to the School.

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster

Year 6 Ken Young Portrait Competition



Brynley Smith



Diya Patel



Lauren Barton



Christian Hamilton



English Department Awards



PROSE FESTIVAL AND CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

This year's theme has been 'Dystopian Fiction' and our pupils engaged with it wholeheartedly, rising to the incredible challenge of our 300-word 'flash fiction' limit to create some beautiful, thought-provoking stories.

For our first annual Prose Festival, hosted by the English and Library departments, parents and pupils were invited to hear our shortlisted entrants recite their 300-word stories

to our guest judge and enjoy a special performance by our talented Jazz Band.

Sarah Govett, author of the Territory Trilogy and winner of the 2018 Trinity Schools Book Award, had the difficult task of judging the entrants, but eventually narrowed it down to the following result:

Year 7 Winner: Lara Flint
Year 8 Winner: Anastacia Allan
Year 9 Winner: Isabel Leyland
Year 10 Winner: Sade Fawehinmi
Year 12 Winner: Antonia Möeller

NATIONAL POETRY DAY FESTIVAL

Royal Russell's first annual Poetry Festival was inspired by this year's National Poetry Day theme of 'Freedom'.

Every pupil from Year 7 to 13 was asked to use their creative juices and respond in poetic form!

For Year 7 we asked them to see the freedom in their environment and the world around them.

For Year 8 we looked at freedom of speech and expression. For Year 9 we explored political freedom and Years 10, 11 and our Sixth Form were given more freedom and could

write anything around the theme. 30 poems were short-listed by the English and Library departments from nearly 450 entries.

It was wonderful to welcome parents, pupils and staff to a special evening of recital, where our guest, award winning author and poet, Ros Barber, had the difficult task of choosing the winner in each year group:

Year 7 Winner: Lara Flint
Year 8 Winner: Anastacia Allan
Year 9 Winner: Cameron Leishman
Year 10/11 Winner: Thomas King
Sixth Form Winner: Anna Armitage



ENGLISH AWARDS

The English department celebrated a year of achievement with an informal Awards Ceremony, held in the sunshine on Cambridge Slope.

The awards recognised 75 pupils who have worked extremely hard and impressed us this year in the three categories of Excellent Effort, Significant Progress and Outstanding Attainment.

Pupils enjoyed a special Tea of drinks and cake and were each presented with a certificate by Mr Hutchinson, a copy of which was also displayed in the English corridor.



The opening of our first International School in South Korea places Royal Russell firmly on a global platform.

With our success in attracting international pupils from around the world, and the ever increasing reach and global reputation of our Model United Nations programme, the opening of an International School is an exciting addition to our development plans.

In December, our Board of Governors gave their approval to open Royal Russell School Korea. This school, planned to open in August 2020, will be a fee paying, co-educational day and boarding school for 1,500 pupils aged 5 to 19. It will be located on an impressive campus in the new Busan Free Development Zone, set up by the Korean Government on the south coast of Korea. It will share not only our curriculum, but our values in delivering a broad educational experience, co-curricular opportunities and outstanding pastoral care.

Pupils will be recruited from the local Korean population, international companies based along the Peninsular and, additionally, from China, Russia and Japan.

We will support our new school by sharing our expertise and best practice in terms of our operating model and curriculum and provide oversight in the form of annual inspections and governance.

In return, this partnership will develop a significant annual income stream that will contribute to our development plans here in Croydon, directly benefiting our pupils, staff and families. In addition, we anticipate interesting opportunities for exchange visits for our pupils and Model United Nations programme.

After travelling in December to South Korea to sign a Memorandum

of Understanding with the Korean Government, in March we welcomed a delegation of the Royal Russell School Korea Leadership team, and the Korean Advisory Committee, comprising of government officials, lawyers, accountants and compliance officers, who assessed our academic provision before granting final approval of our plans.

During this visit, our Korean partners enjoyed meeting staff and pupils before giving an insightful presentation to our Senior Leadership team and Governors, followed by a banquet dinner prepared by our Catering team.

This was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better, form new working relationships, exchange ceremonial gifts and, as is customary, make time for many photo opportunities!



As the world becomes increasingly high-tech, the skills learned in STEM subjects; Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, are becoming more important. More than ever before, success is determined not just by what people know, but by what they can do with their knowledge.

Young people need to be equipped with the skills that enable them to solve difficult problems, to gather and evaluate data and come up with logical, careful analyses to determine the best solutions to complex problems. In addition to their curriculum based learning, our pupils benefit from a wide range of inspiring co-curricular clubs and activities to build these skills.

Whether or not our pupils go on to pursue careers in STEM, they will have benefited from gaining key life skills, which will help them look at issues from original viewpoints and come up with innovative solutions.

THE YEAR 13 CHEMISTRY CLASS STARTED THE YEAR BY DYING THEIR LAB COATS

They looked at the nature of the fabric they dyed to see if the colour would take on the fabric. The polyester parts of the coats did not take the dye as it is a synthetic material and the cotton part of the fabric took the dye as it is a natural fibre.



YEAR 10 EXPERIMENT

Year 10 looked at the reaction of hydrogen with oxygen as an introduction to writing and balancing equations.



UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

Four pupils represented Royal Russell in the Year 8 and 9 UK Mathematics Challenge. This is a tough national competition and the team had been training weekly. They completed in four challenging rounds and finished 6th out of 32 schools with superb scores in all the rounds.

JUNIOR INTER-HOUSE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

In a closely fought competition, 13 House teams comprising of pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 undertook a range of mathematical puzzles in the Junior House Maths Challenge. In the overall competition, Madden House took third place, Queen's took second place and the Junior School Exeter team clinched overall victory.



A LEVEL PHYSICISTS

Sharon, Peter and Jamie, along with Mr Endersby welcomed Dr Markus Steck, a research scientist specialising in Accelerator Physics. The questions flowed as the informal meeting explored the forefront of particle accelerator science.



YEAR 10 EXPERIMENTS

Year 10 made soluble and insoluble salts. The blue solid is copper sulphate crystals; the yellow solid is lead iodide crystals and the white crystals are silver chloride.

YEAR 13 PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

Year 13 pupils made aspirin as part of their practical assessment.

For their Organic Chemistry studies, they were asked to make organic compounds.



HOUSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

Using paper and card, the children were challenged to make the strongest bridge they could. Exeter were the winners, building a bridge which was able to endure a weight of 2.9 kilos.

YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY LECTURE

Year 12 Chemistry pupils travelled to Imperial College London to attend the Newlands Lecture on Functional Coatings.



CHEMISTRY PUPIL LECTURES

Year 12 Chemistry pupils gave short talks to younger pupils on the newest things in Chemistry in the last year, for example, the tightest knots, why poison frogs do not poison themselves and creating heavy metals.



YEAR 5 PRIMARY MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

Our Year 5 team competed against 19 local schools in our annual Maths competition. After this, the Upper Juniors were amazed, intrigued and astounded as they watched the Maths Roadshow hosted by Rob Eastaway. His tricks, puzzles and games, encompassing magic maths, logic and problem solving mesmerised us all.





YEAR 9 CHEMISTRY

Year 9 Chemistry pupils studied carbon dioxide and this experiment looked at carbon dioxide dissolved in Coke.

UK SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Our Sixth Form Double Maths groups achieved 15 Gold, 8 Silver and 8 Bronze Certificates in the UK Senior Maths Challenge, competing against pupils from all over the country.



YEAR 13 CHEMISTRY LECTURES AT FRIENDS HOUSE

Year 13 Chemists attended a series of lectures at Friends House on the topics of the origins of life through atmospheric chemistry, the ten most beautiful experiments in chemistry and the wonder of mercury.

YEAR 13 BIOLOGY TRIP

Year 13 Biologists travelled to Wakehurst Place, home to the Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild plant seed bank in the world.

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 and studied DNA wood samples, checking to see if any were from illegal sources.



YEAR 10 CHEMISTRY LESSONS

Year 10 pupils have been making models of alkanes and alkenes in their Chemistry lessons.



STEM CLUB

In STEM Club, pupils have been building aeroplanes. They flew them from the balcony (three floors up) of Oxford House, achieving nine metres.



ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME

The pupils had a four-hour python coding masterclass from visiting academic Dr Rosser from Queen Mary University of London.

The pupils tackled an image analysis problem set by Siemens, to recognise railway signals in photographs taken from the train driver's cabin.

They worked on image normalisation techniques and on thresholding and kernel similarity, to help them locate the signals in the busy images.



PHYSICS IN THE SNOW

Year 12 Physics pupils, along with a few lucky Year 9's, took full advantage of the weather for an impromptu field trip to the Quad. Following the study of science and fluid dynamics they were able to see the application of their knowledge as the snow perfectly showed the movement of the air as it swirled around the site.

The pupils saw examples of laminar flow, with the slow flakes clearly showing the different speeds of the layers inside the flow. They also saw turbulent flow with eddies and vortices forming particularly where the snow was diffracted around the edges of the buildings.

YEAR 10 IGCSE COURSE

Year 10 studied chemical calculations for their IGCSE course by driving the water of crystallisation from hydrated crystals.



PROBLEM SOLVING CHALLENGE

Royal Russell entered three teams in this year's Science and Technology Problem Solving Challenge Competition held at St Philomena's School, Carshalton.

The three teams competed against 12 other schools and their task was to use straws, plastic card, cocktail sticks, cotton thread and various other items to build an overhanging street lamp, a metre off the ground that stretched out as far as possible.

The Year 12 team did very well coming 3rd and the Year 10/11 team built an exceptionally well-designed device which would have won their section if the lamp had stayed on.



ENGINEERING SCHEME COMPETITION

The engineering STEM team attended the South East Education Engineering Scheme Competition and at the University of Brighton. Over the last six months, they have been meeting each week and have between them produced a 60-page report on their project, an academic presentation and most importantly, they have written an algorithm capable of reading both train images and video footage to recognise train line signals.



BUSHCRAFT

What an amazing experience for our 55 young Junior School pupils who embarked on their toughest, and muddiest, challenge yet – Operation Bushcraft!

Immediately upon arrival at Base Camp, nestled in the Brecon Beacons National Park, our outdoor enthusiasts got fully involved in all the activities on offer.

During their three days of adventure, they embarked on learning survival skills, including first aid with a simulated plane crash scenario, navigation, fire lighting and weather incident training. They built and cooked on open fires, made survival bracelets, watched a salmon being prepared and demolished the lot, set up their bivis and slept outdoors, participated in air rifle shooting and archery and went on expeditions in the woods.

Our young explorers thoroughly enjoyed their time, learning practical skills and having lots of fun without a mobile device in sight!





In today's competitive and technology-driven world, in addition to an exceptional academic education, we believe that there are life-long skills that all children need to be equipped with for successful futures.

In the Junior School, we have seven 'Russell Powers' that are embedded into all aspects of school life to build these vital skills from the earliest age and we have loved using these Powers across all areas of our learning. These implicit learning skills, so key in life, are being made explicit to the children and are showcased across the Junior School.

PERSISTENCE AND RESILIENCE

We give children the opportunity to run and jump, to experiment, to compete, to be brave, to dream and to look for opportunities and adventure outside of their comfort zone. They may stumble, they may fail, but they will bounce back with a handful of skills and determination they didn't possess before.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Working as a team, sharing ideas, motivating others and having the skills to effectively communicate their thoughts is just as important for children as independent academic learning. Children learn more when they work together, gaining an appreciation for collective success.

RISK TAKING AND CURIOSITY

The best inventions were created by those with curious minds. We give children the space and opportunity to

explore, build, experiment, create, analyse and question. Children are encouraged to take healthy age-appropriate risks in a safe and secure environment.

INITIATIVE

We teach children to take responsibility, demonstrating leadership and teamwork. Good initiative is noticing that something needs to be done, or done better, and doing it. Taking initiative in all areas of school life is encouraged and praised and we offer many leadership opportunities for children of all ages.

ORIGINALITY

All children are unique and should be encouraged to celebrate their originality, rather than simply following the accepted norm. We encourage children to be original thinkers, a skill that is vital for creativity, imagination and invention.

DECISIVENESS

Decisiveness is making a choice that will achieve the greatest good or the best result. It is the ability to make a good decision quickly and with conviction, whilst evaluating, and taking responsibly for, the consequences. Indecision holds back progress and innovation. We teach children to be decisive, making decisions with confidence and courage. Practising

problem solving skills is one way we empower children to make thoughtful decisions in the future.

REFLECTIVENESS

To grow emotionally and academically, children need to look back to be able to move forward. They should be given the time and skills needed to reflect on their actions and decisions and learn from their experiences.

To bring these skills to life and to remain at the forefront of the children's minds, we have held competitions to design super hero mascots to represent each Power, soon to be seen flying around the school corridors!

This year, we once again organised a special 'Russell Powers Day', where the entire Junior School came 'off timetable' and embarked on workshops within their Houses, where they focused on specific Powers. Pupils engaged in age-appropriate activities including codebreaking, construction, quizzes and game invention and demonstration.

The pupils all had a lot of fun, whilst acknowledging and building upon the Russell Powers they had been using together and individually in their tasks.



At Royal Russell, we encourage our pupils to have a genuine concern for the good of others. We believe that our pupils not only aspire to be as good as they can be, but also as kind as they can be.

We have a strong and committed pastoral team of Housemasters and Housemistresses, supported by Tutors, Heads of Year, Nurses, Counsellors, Independent Listeners and our Chaplain who ensure each pupil is safe, cared for and valued. Every member of staff in the school wants the very best for each pupil and play their part in this. Pastoral care is a jigsaw with the pupils at the centre; every piece needs to fit perfectly, and my job is making sure that every piece is there.

It is important to remember that a happy pupil will learn, participate and be successful. Every pupil will have different needs and these change throughout their school career. We all need to be ready to give the right support at the right time. Our vertical House system, with small tutor groups, helps staff and pupils build respectful trusting relationships.

For me, the most important input for enhancing pastoral care comes from the

pupils, and I want to give pupils a feeling that their voice is always valued, needed and wanted. We already have formal and informal mechanisms for this, but I am constantly looking to pupils to come up with ideas. This year we will be launching eSafety Pupil Ambassadors. These are individuals who want to help others and mentor their peers and younger pupils who need some support or simply a friendly face to chat to in the field of being safe online, especially when using social media.

I will also be looking for Safeguarding Champions in each House who want to help embed safeguarding in their own day or boarding House. Giving pupils training to be able to take responsibility is key to personal growth and community living. This is not just for senior prefects but for any year group.

For me, Royal Russell is an amazing school, place of work and a home. The pupils make the school what it is and

every day someone makes me smile, whether they are just saying good morning or popping into my office for hot chocolate, or to tell me how their day has been.

I am always struck by the kindness, compassion and joy shown by Royal Russell pupils, who work hard to achieve their own goals but also make sure they look after the needs of others.

School life is to be thoroughly enjoyed, not endured, and I love what I do. I am surrounded by wonderful young people with a common purpose and a desire to make the most of every day. What could be better than that?

Nathalie Hart
Deputy Head Pastoral and
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Ruth Bannon, Junior School Deputy Head and Varun Footring, Assistant Head



Careers Fair



In May, we hosted a superb Careers Fair for our Year 10 pupils and their families.

Preparing pupils for the world of work and a successful, fulfilling future has never been more important and we believe that careers advice should be much more than just advising. Our aim is to inspire and enthuse our young people about the wide range of possibilities open to them and motivate them to pursue their ambitions. We encourage our pupils to consider carefully their choices and our Careers Fair is a key part of this process.

The event drew together our community of parents, Old Russellians, staff and supporters, including volunteers from various local, national and international businesses. Over 40 employment sectors were represented, including Finance, Design, Law, Architecture, Armed Forces,

Medical, Dentistry, Teaching, Media, Aviation, Technology and Public Relations.

The free-flowing format in our Auditorium and Great Hall provided the opportunity for pupils to speak to a wide range of exhibitors to gain valuable insight into their professions and to explore the various progression routes and pathways.

So the question is: Did our pupils take advantage of this great opportunity?

Judging by the continuous buzz of productive conversation, they certainly did! The delight at the award winning fashion designs, the tales of photographing Bear Grylls, the models on the architect's table, the reality of

amazing apprenticeships and the tales of the Student Ambassadors from British Airways, to name just a few.

But best of all were the conversations with pupils who had secured offers of work experience or workplace visits and had business cards with offers for continued advice and mentoring.

Our exhibitors commented on how engaged, focused and polite our pupils were, having come prepared with their research and questions.

We are extremely grateful to all those involved, who gave up their valuable time for the benefit of our pupils.

Junior School Music

As always, Music has formed a major part of the busy Junior School calendar, with all pupils participating in and enjoying Music competitions and soiree concerts, alongside ongoing curriculum projects and the 'home learning' initiative.

There have been some outstanding performances this year in our Music Cafés, concerts and events, such as the Guitar and Drum Soirees.

As usual, pupils and staff alike supported our Lower and Upper Junior House singing and instrumental competitions enthusiastically, displaying a wealth of talent. In particular, the Summer Lower Junior Concert and the Summer Serenade Concert highlighted the talent and expertise of our pupils.

The Junior Choir have remained a strong and steadfast key component of the Music Department, leading the

singing in our Christmas Carol Service and in our Chapel Services throughout the year, including a charity Christmas performance in the Whitgift shopping centre. The introduction of a Lower Junior 'Choir Club' has also proved very popular and this co-curricular singing group made its debut performance in the latter half of the Summer term.

Pupils have responded enthusiastically to a wide-ranging curriculum. With the successful introduction of iPads for Year 6, pupils have enjoyed completing 'listening and appraisal' activities on Stravinsky's magnificent 'Firebird Suite', and most recently,

utilising 'Garage Band' in order to compose pieces for set film clips.

Recorder and guitar playing remain popular choices for pupils. Roger Davies and Judy Moseley continue to encourage their respective instrumental pupils' participation in local Music Festivals and they were delighted by recent successes at the Croydon Performing Arts Festival.

Pupils have enjoyed taster lessons across a range of instruments. Many have progressed to taking lessons and successfully sitting ABRSM examinations.





Senior School Music

The Senior School Music Department enjoyed a very active and busy year, with music of a vast range of styles and levels regularly on display.

A whole host of concerts and events took place on the school campus, ranging from the informal 'Rush Hour' concerts, giving opportunities for some of our many younger performers to display their talents, up to the grander Autumn and Spring concerts, Royal Russell Day, new parents' events and the annual Music Dinner.

The theme of the Dinner this year was The Beatles, and the pupils really enjoyed dressing up appropriately and performing some fabulous music, either in its original format, or in rearranged styles. Both the Swing Band and Choirs were in fine form for this event. The choirs were also busy singing at the major Chapel events of the year, such as Remembrance, Advent and Christmas services.

Our musicians have been off-site this year for many performances, including the Choristers carol singing at the Whitgift Centre in aid of the Marie Curie charity, and all of the choirs going to Southwark Cathedral in March to sing Evensong. At the end of the academic year, two of our senior musicians – Alex Franklin and Aleksandra Maciaszek, performed a lunchtime concert at St Matthew's Church in Westminster.

SHOWCASE CONCERT

Over 50 pupils auditioned for a place in our Showcase Concert and the standard of music making across all instruments was extremely high.

The pupils performed brilliantly to an appreciative audience of parents, staff and fellow pupils in the Auditorium. The concert had a competitive element to it, and the results were as follows:

Year 7 - 8 Class

- 1st Tristian Massay-Alstrom (Drums)
- 2nd Ophelia Humphreys-Elvis (Voice)
- 3rd Kaylah Black (Voice)

Year 9 - 10 Class

- 1st Alex Franklin (Piano)
- 2nd Amelia O'Sullivan (Voice)
- 3rd Jessie Hunt (Voice)

Sixth Form Class

- 1st Aleksandra Maciaszek (Piano)
- 2nd Tim Zhang (Piano)
- 3rd Farhoush Pishnamazi (Guitar)



ACADEMIC MUSIC SUCCESS...

Many congratulations are due to the cohort of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, who achieved some excellent results this year, with 100% of A level Music candidates achieving an A grade.

...AND INSTRUMENTAL PROGRESS

A large number of pupils have taken music examinations with the ABRSM at school this academic year and achieved excellent grades. There are also many others who have also taken music boards exams out of school.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Particular congratulations to Lily Addis, who has a place to study singing at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. For her to gain a place at this prestigious establishment immediately after leaving school is a major achievement and we wish Lily all the best in her future studies. She also gained a Distinction in the Associated Board Music Examination Diploma – the ARSM.

As always, thanks go to the Music Department team who enable all of these things to happen: to the large team of Visiting Music Teachers; to Mrs Archer the Music Department Administrator, to Mrs Ford for all of her tireless work and support in enabling us to do all that we do in the Department and especially to our pupils who participate with such enthusiasm and are a joy to teach.





Music Examination Success

Pupils in the Junior and Senior School, at all ages and levels, are encouraged to sit Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations to guide their progress. These exams assess pupil's technique, notation, listening, musical perception, knowledge, understanding and creativity.

We are proud to announce that 69 pupils passed ABRSM exams this year:

Senior School Examination Results

Amber Lukes	Year 7	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
Cameron Lowe	Year 7	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Connor Morris	Year 7	Violin	Grade 3	Pass
Emily McCann	Year 7	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Hollie Taylor	Year 7	Violin	Grade 2	Pass
Ioan Trigger	Year 7	Singing	Grade 2	Pass
Isabella Bruguier	Year 7	Clarinet	Grade 2	Pass
Kobi Jawaheer	Year 7	Singing	Grade 3	Pass
Safia Opie	Year 7	Singing	Grade 2	Pass
Sam Stealey	Year 7	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Andrew Trice	Year 8	Alto Saxophone	Grade 4	Pass
Charlotte Thistleton	Year 8	Singing	Grade 3	Distinction
David Cherry	Year 8	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Georgia Yeulett	Year 8	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
Ma Sze Ting	Year 8	Violin	Grade 2	Merit
Nancy Burgess-Gibbs	Year 8	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
Oliver Tchum	Year 8	Violin	Grade 1	Merit
Sam Alfred	Year 8	Descant Recorder	Grade 2	Pass
Sophia Whitehead	Year 8	Singing	Grade 3	Pass
Anna Stone	Year 9	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
Arthur Heath	Year 9	Piano	Grade 1	Merit
Hamzah Mughal	Year 9	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Liam Smith	Year 9	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Charles Wyncoll	Year 10	Piano	Grade 4	Pass
Charlotte Haines	Year 10	Piano	Grade 3	Distinction
Grace Scott	Year 10	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Luca Simons	Year 10	Piano	Grade 7	Distinction
Luca Simons	Year 10	Singing	Grade 5	Merit
Orson Heath-Pampin	Year 10	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Ben Preston	Year 12	Cello	Grade 5	Merit
Lily Addis	Year 12	Alto Saxophone	Grade 4	Pass
Lily Addis	Year 13	Piano	Grade 7	Distinction
Lily Addis	Year 13	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Lily Addis	Year 13	Singing	Diploma	Distinction
Thalia Selby	Year 13	Singing	Grade 7	Distinction
Tim Zhang	Year 12	Piano	Diploma	Pass

Junior School Examination Results

Allegra Wilson	Year 3	Violin	Grade 1	Distinction
Ava Barton	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Avni Gandhi	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Beatrice Low	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Izhehi Obasuyi	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Pass
Joseph Adams-Grace	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Pass
Maddalen Bueno-Goti	Year 3	Piano	Grade 1	Distinction
Maisey Winter	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Maria Parbatani	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Nicolas Thurbin	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Yasmin Frankcom	Year 3	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Annalise Luffingham	Year 4	Descant Recorder	Grade 1	Merit
Bethany-Anne Reynolds	Year 4	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Isabella Humphries	Year 4	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Oneli Pelpola	Year 4	Piano	Grade 1	Merit
Dihain Mallikarachchi	Year 5	Descant Recorder	Grade 2	Merit
Eleanor von Gerard	Year 5	Singing	Grade 1	Distinction
Eleanor von Gerard	Year 5	Singing	Grade 2	Pass
Eleanor von Gerard	Year 5	Descant Recorder	Grade 2	Distinction
Eleanor von Gerard	Year 5	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Ella Crawford	Year 5	Violin	Grade 1	Merit
Erynn Edney	Year 5	Cello	Grade 2	Merit
Johan Prinsloo	Year 5	Piano	Grade 1	Distinction
Naia Bueno-Goti	Year 5	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Naia Bueno-Goti	Year 5	Violin	Grade 1	Merit
Naia Bueno-Goti	Year 5	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Olivia Obasuyi	Year 5	Violin	Grade 1	Merit
Olivia Obasuyi	Year 5	Descant Recorder	Grade 2	Distinction
Uliana Tokolova	Year 5	Violin	Grade 1	Pass
Uliana Tokolova	Year 5	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Alec Thurbin	Year 6	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
Alec Thurbin	Year 6	Descant Recorder	Grade 3	Distinction
Alec Thurbin	Year 6	Violin	Grade 2	Distinction
Avni Sharma	Year 6	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Charlotte Kinch	Year 6	Singing	Grade 1	Distinction
Diya Patel	Year 6	Piano	Grade 4	Pass
Diya Patel	Year 6	Piano	Grade 5	Pass
Emily Hayden de Carbonnières	Year 6	Piano	Grade 4	Pass
Jasmine Rihal	Year 6	Singing	Grade 1	Pass
Lara Thompson	Year 6	Cello	Grade 2	Merit
Lauren Barton	Year 6	Singing	Grade 1	Distinction
Lucy Payne	Year 6	Singing	Grade 1	Merit
Megan Wood	Year 6	Singing	Grade 1	Pass
Millicent German	Year 6	Singing	Grade 3	Pass
Minwoo Park	Year 6	Cello	Grade 1	Merit
Oliver Dixon	Year 6	Descant Recorder	Grade 3	Distinction
Sienna Berry	Year 6	Piano	Grade 3	Pass

Michael Crawford



In September, we were honoured to have stage and television superstar, Sir Michael Crawford, join us for our annual Battle of Britain commemorations. Sir Michael is best known for playing the character of Frank Spencer in the popular 1970s sitcom *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* and the title role in the hit musical *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Sir Michael's father, Arthur Dumbell "Smudge" Smith, was an Old Russellian who attended Royal Russell from 1927 to 1933. He joined the RAF in 1936 and served as a Spitfire pilot with 66 Squadron at Kenley.

In combat over Ashford on 4 September 1940, defending against large scale attacks from the German air force, the Luftwaffe, Sergeant Smith was shot down and badly wounded.

Tragically, he died from his injuries in hospital in Benenden two days later. He

was just 22 years old and died before Sir Michael was born.

Joined by our CCF Cadets at the War Graves section of St Luke's Churchyard, Whyteleafe, where his father is buried, Sir Michael laid a wreath in remembrance of his father, before visiting the RAF Kenley War Memorial and Aerodrome.

During his time with us, Sir Michael spoke passionately to a number of our Drama and Music Scholars about his incredible career that has spanned multiple decades.

He answered questions on topics from stage fright to stunts, with Sir Michael explaining how he had always insisted on performing his own stunts, with hilarious results.

When asked what advice he would give, Sir Michael highlighted the importance of working in a team.

"Always in life, you want people around you that will encourage you. It's a discipline which is so valuable in life, working as part of a team is better than being alone."



Junior School Art

The brand new Junior School Art, Design and Technology Department sprang into action in September and has had a wonderfully successful year. The Art Room has been bursting with activity and the children have embraced every new learning opportunity with excitement and enthusiasm. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had the additional support of staff and parent helpers to assist us with our ambitious projects this year, and the children have produced such a wide range of excellent work.



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 in response to their trip to the Sea Life Centre.



YEAR TWO

The children developed their skills in drawing and mark making inspired by Ernst Haeckel, made studies of fruits and vegetables inspired by Van Gogh, and created their own Aboriginal story paintings. In Design Technology the children designed and made soft toys, and in Food Technology they designed and made sandwiches.



YEAR ONE

Exploring line, shape and colour through learning about Kandinsky, Year 1 pupils made portraits inspired by Picasso and made drawings inspired by minibeasts. In Design Technology the children designed and made toys and bird feeders.



YEAR THREE

Taking inspiration from Giacometti and Antony Gormley, Year 3 practised recording the body and proportion. 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 the children designed and made shadow puppets and picture frames.

ART CLUB

In Art Club the children created colourful compositions and clay sculptures inspired by clocks and watches, and had great fun experimenting with materials, taking inspiration from microscopic images.



SET DESIGN CLUB

In Set Design the children helped develop ideas for the set for the Year 6 Production, The Amazing Adventures of Superstar, and then made lots of fun props.



BOOK WEEK

For the egg themed Book Week this year, in their Art lessons all the children in the Junior School had the opportunity to design and paint an egg. These were then exhibited in the Junior School and prizes given out to a winner in each year group and an overall winner.



YEAR FOUR

In 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 meals.



YEAR FIVE

Clay poppies, inspired by Paul Cummins, were made and put on show in the Junior School for Remembrance Day. The children also explored surrealism and perspective through creating a mixed media piece and stop motion animation. In Design Technology the children designed and made cam mechanism toys and fabric money containers. Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to work with the textiles designer Jessica Chan to create and experiment with natural dyes.



YEAR SIX

Year 6 responded to the work of Rachel Whiteread through drawing and creating plaster casts which were exhibited in the Junior School. The children also practised recording faces in proportion in creating portraits, and drew objects from the Art Room to make a mural inspired by Michael Craig-Martin. 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 following a fantastic trip to Pizza Hut kindly organised by one of our parents, where the children made their own pizzas.



It's been a busy year in the Senior School Art Department, with all pupils expressing their creativity across a wide range of projects.

Year 7 started the year with an independent and creative project exploring mark making. Inspired by the artist Tim Knowles, pupils were challenged to capture movement in nature by attaching drawing implements to plants. The outcome generated a debate about art and informed the creative development of mark making in the classroom.

Year 8 have created personal work exploring the Royal Russell landscape and self-identity, with consideration for contemporary art practice. They have taken care in their selection, creating relevant and thoughtful compositions.

In the Summer term, Year 9 were challenged to create site specific artwork. Working as a team, they created a mural informed by the pop art movement and contemporary artist, Michael Craig-Martin.

At GCSE, exceptional painting and ceramic skills in Year 10 demonstrate deeper knowledge and understanding, whilst exploring the theme of 'regeneration and renewal'. Visits to the Tate Modern and the National Portrait Gallery have informed pupils in developing ideas and connecting to relevant research.

Year 11 worked hard to complete their coursework with strong responses to the theme 'Conflict Portraiture', generating a wide range of thoughtful, political and challenging outcomes. They completed their course by exploring the theme of fragments for the 10 hour exam.

A level Art and Photography have had a demanding year, with visits to the Museum of Childhood and the Photographers' Gallery. A printing workshop in the Autumn term generated a variety of informed prints to inspire and develop further ideas within the theme of childhood and identity.

Year 13 have created a wide range of outcomes inspired by their own personal direction. Themes such as secrets, colour, light, architecture and freedom have ignited and deepened their artistic journey.





Charity Endeavours

Once again, Royal Russell pupils, staff and parents showed their community spirit and supported a wide range of local and national charities, engaging in a variety of activities to raise funds or collect donations, embracing our values of non sibi sed omnibus.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

In October, the Junior School wore jeans to school to support families in the UK affected by genetic disorders. We raised a total of £351.

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

Senior School pupils held a mufti day and a special collection on our School Play nights and raised over £1,300.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

For anti-bullying week, a mufti day was held in the Senior School which raised £1,300.

OFF THE RECORD

This local charity provides counselling and mental health support for young people and our pupils held various activities throughout the year in support.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Staff baked cakes and then sampled each one and voted for the best tasting. We all had great fun and raised £100.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

AT CROYDON FOODBANK

In December, our pupils and staff came together to donate food and toiletries to the Croydon Foodbank. This annual collection helps Croydon Food Bank to ensure that everyone has food on the table at Christmas.

THE SALVATION ARMY

At Christmas time, the Junior School children placed toys, toiletries and food under the School Christmas tree. This was collected by the Salvation Army and distributed to families in Croydon over the Christmas period.

CHELSEA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

A donation of £331 was made to Chelsea Community Hospital School following a collection at the Upper Junior Carol Concert, the Lower

Junior Christmas Play and the Early Years Nativity. The money raised will provide opportunities for children to go on day trips and to enrich the children's learning and lives.

CAREY'S CLOTHING

This year, we have donated 1265kg of used clothing, which is either recycled or sold, generating funds of £696.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

In March, Year 6 pupils sold daffodil pins supporting Marie Curie, raising £77.

POPPY APPEAL

In November, £1,100 was raised for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies ahead of Remembrance Day.

BABY BONDING SQUARES

Parents, staff and pupils (including the lovely girls from Queen's, who learned to knit) kindly knitted and crocheted hundreds of lovely soft baby bonding squares for St Thomas's Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit. One square is put with the poorly baby and the other square is kept with the parent and then these are swapped over daily. They are so crucial for premature babies and parents who are separated at such a stressful time.

HOPE RESCUE CENTRE

At Christmas, each class in the Junior School "adopted" a child from the Hope Rescue Centre to help make Christmas special and raised £600. We also sent hats and scarves that our pupils donated and held a collection following the Junior School production of Superstar.

THE RESTLESS TRIATHLON

Once again we hosted the 'Restless Triathlon', with our pupils swimming, cycling and running to raise an

incredible £12,000. Half of this was donated to the Restless charity with the remainder being donated to the Hope Rescue Centre to fund their residential summer camps for disadvantaged children in Romania.

TWO BRIDGES SCHOOL, UGANDA

A number of fundraising events were held this year, including a sponsored walk from the Cutty Sark to the Ugandan Embassy, mufti days, a cinema night and donut sales, raising £13,000. 15 Senior School pupils travelled to Uganda over the Summer break to carry out works for new classrooms and toilet blocks for the girls and boys of Two Bridges School.

NATIONAL CUPCAKE DAY

Staff baked an abundance of cupcakes to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. A group of Year 8 girls helped to sell the cupcakes to pupils at lunchtime, raising £160.

BOOK SALE

The Library held a lunchtime book sale in support of Living Paintings, who produce tactile and audio books for the blind. Pupils had the opportunity to purchase a donated book, raising £63.

VALENTINE CUPCAKES

The girls of Buchanan House raised £200 in support of the Uganda trip by baking, decorating and selling gorgeous cupcakes and distributing them to their happy recipients.

MARATHON RUN FOR DEMELZA

Our own Junior School Sports coach, Graham Swann, ran his 35th London Marathon in support of Demelza Hospice Care for Children.



Parents' Association



Committee 2017/2018 Mel Bruguier, Emma Thistleton, Virginia Gilmour and Claire Tree



The mums and dads of our Parents' Association, the 1853 Society, have had a busy year, arranging a host of social and fundraising events for pupils and parents, with something for everyone to enjoy.

The Christmas Fair was as popular as ever, with games, crafts, raffles and tombolas, prosecco tent, BBQ, fairground rides, plenty of retail therapy and of course, Father Christmas. With the help of many volunteer elves, the event raised £7,000.

The annual Quiz Night was a fun and relaxed evening, sprinkled with friendly rivalry. The fast-paced questions, in a range of categories, were expertly delivered by Senior School dad (and part-time magician) Wayne Trice.

It was no surprise that the battle of the brainteasers turned out to be a closely fought affair, ending in an exciting tie-break. It was Mrs Vallance's team from the Junior School, The Generation Game, who claimed victory for the second year in a row.

Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a festival themed evening disco, the R-Fest, complete with DJ, photo booth and chill out area.

The Junior School children were egg-cited to join an Easter egg hunt, following clues to find chocolate treats.

The Comedy Night hosted four top comedians from the Comedy Store, who generated a lot of laughter from their appreciative audience. Even from those who forgot not to sit near the front!

Junior School music teacher, Mrs Judy Moseley, shared her hidden talents at the family Barn Dance, where mums, dads and children learned how to swing their partners and do-si-do to live folk music. Who knew that it could be such good fun, and such good exercise!

Two open-air movie nights, showing family films including Paddington and The Greatest Showman, were well-attended by parents and children who came complete with picnics and blankets to enjoy a laid-back evening on the Quad.

But the absolute highlight of the year was the inaugural Russellian Ball.

The Great Hall was transformed into a stunning Narnia themed winter wonderland, with guests entering through a fur coat filled wardrobe and an enchanting rotunda. It was simply breath-taking.

Guests enjoyed a drinks and canapé reception, a three course meal served by our CCF Cadets, dancing and a spectacular raffle and auction.

This fundraising event raised over £16,500.

Over the year, funds raised by the 1853 Society have provided a new laser cutter for the Design and Technology department, a competition grade trampoline, new outdoor play equipment for the Junior School, a donation to the Senior School Science department and the final committed contribution to the Sports Pavilion.

The 1853 Society are a friendly and inclusive group of mums and dads who get involved to meet other parents and organise events for their community. Help comes in all shapes and sizes and we are always enthusiastic to meet parents who can lend a hand at events, share their skills, donate a prize or have ideas for future events.



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.

THE OLD RUSSELLIANS COMMITTEE

The following Old Russellians and staff sit on the Committee and the Headmaster also attends the meetings:

Adrian Edwards (Chairman)	1969-1976	Charles Froy	1992-1998
Brian Angel	1938-1947	John Piggin (Staff)	1974-2013
Colin Cameron	1975-1983	Julia Powell (Staff)	1970-2004
Kemal Chaudhri	1967-1974	James Strudwick	2003-2013
Robert Fisher	1996-2002	Ian Walsh	1973-1975

OLD RUSSELLIANS' GOLF SOCIETY TOURNAMENT

Another excellent turnout of Old Russellians this July.

The course provided an exciting challenge to the Old Russellians along with two current members of staff, Nigel Rocca and Dave Jewiss, with some very good scoring in a tight finish at the end.

First place went to Andy Rogers (1977-1984) who had an exceptional round, winning the ORGS Trophy with 42 points. Robin Parker (1969-1975), a previous

winner was runner-up with 39 points. Nigel Rocca was 3rd placed with 37 points and also won closest to the pin.

The Longest Drive was won by Ian Windle (1967-1975) who, having only played two rounds of golf this year, snatched the prize with a massive 320 yard drive!

After the game, the Society stayed on for a convivial hour or so chatting about the 'old days' and scoffing sandwiches

and chips. Most enjoyable it was too, washed down with a decent pint.

Any new members are always more than welcome to join the Society. This year we were pleased to have Ian O'Brien, former Head of PE, Phil Melliush (1969-1976) and another former member of staff, Martin Finch joining us.

THE TRIO OF KHANS REUNION

Siblings, Jehangir, Homaa and Aflaq were at Royal Russell between 1974 and 1981 at different times. Their father, Professor Ashfaq Khan, was teaching at Zambia University and successfully built and ran the Children's Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia at the time.

Jehangir now lives in Manhattan and is The Director of the Office of Counter-Terrorism at the United Nations, having had a long and illustrious career in the U.N. and was in town to see his father, who is now 92 and his siblings.

A surprise 60th birthday celebration for Jehangir was held in May at Homaa's house in Purley.

Adrian Edwards had organised the 'boys' from his school year, Mark Vernon, Julian Edwards, David Gunaratnam, Nigel Reed 'Spider', Murdo Urquhart and himself, to come along to the party.

They hid in the garden prior to the arrival of Jehangir. He was a little shocked upon his arrival, but quickly warmed

when he realised who everyone was! The nicknames and memories came flooding back and stories quickly followed and there was much laughter and camaraderie.

Stories of Colonel Starkey and his twisted moustache and ever present pipe, and "Ticky" Thompson and his quirky ways, as well as shootings, only air pellets apparently, across the quad by unnamed pupils who hid behind windows and aimed at selected passers-by! Mr Foot, Mr Piggin and Mrs Goriely as well as Mr Muller were all mentioned fondly.

Homaa is now a doctor in Godstone, having qualified both in Dentistry and Medicine and having spent part of her working life as an Oral Surgeon. She left Royal Russell aged 16 after 13 O levels and went to Roedean for the Sixth Form. She fondly remembers Carolyn Saulter, Jane Turtle, Julia Solomon, Julie Horrocks, Sian Holt, Virginia Jealous and Shirley Birchall. "We loved our patched flared jeans

and the school dances and actually worked quite hard! I even received the Snelgrove Prize for English" recalls Homaa.

Aflaq is qualified in both Engineering from Brunel University and also as an accountant. He is Financial Director for Health and Education in the NHS. He remembers Cambridge House and many escapades into the woods as well as the old haunted derelict house which we all loved to scare each other in.

The School church bell, assemblies, Wagon Wheel biscuits and small milk and juice bottles at break times caused nostalgic feelings, as well as the freezing cold swimming pool and icy games pitches. Character building indeed!

Adrian kindly presented the two brothers OR alumni ties and Homaa an alumni bracelet.

A wonderful afternoon of memories and laughter, well organised by Adrian and Homaa.



Send in your Old Russellians stories, pictures, articles of interest or news. Email or@royalrussell.co.uk or via our website: www.royalrussell.co.uk/old-russellians

THE ANNUAL RIVERSIDE REUNION

Old Russellians and staff came together in June for a wonderful evening of drinks in the Anchor Pub, Bankside. Not only was it a chance for people to catch up, it was an opportunity for any Old Russellians, unable to make his farewell party, to say goodbye to Martin Tanner, who retired at the end of the academic year.



OLD RUSSELLIANS' FOOTBALL

The Old Russellians enjoyed their first season under the leadership of Simon Foss with Ryan Walters running the team. They have played regular fixtures and achieved excellent results. To date they have only lost one match including cup games.

REALLY OLD RUSSELLIANS REUNION

A group of pre 1970 leavers met up for a reunion hosted by Carol and her husband Tony for a luxurious tea party at their home in Middlesex. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing about their former days at School.



OLD RUSSELLIAN TOM WRIGHT, ARCHITECT OF THE BURJ AL ARAB, DUBAI, TALKS OF HIS LIFE JOURNEY "WITH A BIT OF LUCK"

When you look back on life you realise that everything you do and everything you say has an effect on what happens next. Mostly in a very minor way but every so often you do something that, whether you know it at the time or not, sets in motion a chain of events and the course of life changes dramatically; for good or for worse. Some of these life changing moments you work hard to achieve and some just happen. You were just in the right, or wrong, place at the time. So here I look at the pivotal points in my life and see just how much control I have had over the course of events.

Well, pivotal event number one has to have happened in Croydon about nine months before I arrived screaming into English middle class semi-detached reality. Absolutely no control over that one.

Pivotal event number two was in 1964, when my father decided to stretch his salary to breaking point and send me and my brother to private school, Royal Russell. No control over this one either or, come to think of it, what happened whilst I was there.

Number three. When I was seventeen I announced to my father that I had decided to join the army, probably Colonel Starkey's fault. Dad was in the RAF at the tail end of WW2 and had had enough of fighting so he wisely suggested that I might look to building a new world, not continue knocking the old one down. So architecture it was. I could have rebelled and joined the army anyway so I like to think I had some control this time.

Whilst studying architecture at Kingston Polytechnic, now University, I was living with my good friend Paul who was going out on a date in town. To provide me with event four, his date said that she was bringing a friend. So I went along too and met my first wife Caroline. I had no control over any of this, love is always out of control.

On the work front I was finally qualified after seven enjoyable years of further education and was in line for my first proper job interview. I guess I should now bring up sailing, a passion of mine that has never waned. As a reward for A level results, my parents sent me

to Salcombe in Devon to learn how to sail and the sport captured my heart. I mention this now as on the last page in my portfolio of pupil work, was a picture of me helping to crew a yacht. The director interviewing me, a keen sailor himself, gave me the job not because of my pupil work but on the assumption that anyone who sails was going to be OK. Pivotal event five was when I decided to add the sailing photo, so I claim some control.

It was the eighties in London and boom time, we won a few design competitions and grew from half a dozen to twenty or so and I made associate then senior associate in a few years. The practice was brought by another architectural firm looking to add fresh blood to its design ability and before I knew it I was 32 and a director of a company with five offices and over two hundred and fifty staff. No real pivotal events here just hard work, drive and a competitive nature.

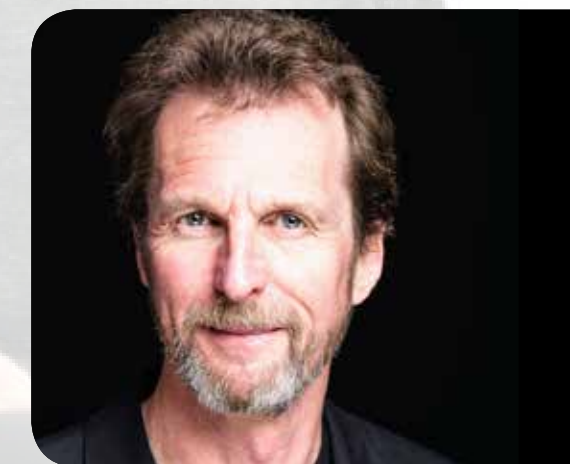
The next pivotal event happened six months after I became a director when the company went bust! When the recession hit at the end of the eighties the building industry in the UK spectacularly collapsed. Work dried up, staff were released and we ended with empty offices and leases we could not afford. By some quirk of fate our accountant was also the accountant of Atkins, the civil engineering company, who were not going bust and were looking to augment their small architectural division with some design talent. They brought us out of receivership. This pivotal event was definitely more good luck than good judgement.

So I found myself the youngest director in Atkins and over the next couple of years I worked on a series of international projects, one of which was a competition for a new British Embassy in Muscat. Whilst visiting the site I met Barry Chapman, the director in charge of the Atkins Dubai Office. We didn't win the work that time but two years later Chapman phoned out of the blue and asked me if I wanted to have a crack at designing a tower in Dubai. In a splendidly pivotal moment I agreed to move my family to Dubai and seven years later the doors of the Burj Al Arab were opened to the rich and famous.

I stayed at Atkins for 21 years and slowly build relationships with clients around the world, helping them produce interesting buildings until one day in my mid fifties I finally instigated a pivotal event myself. Accompanied by two fellow directors, I left Atkins and set up a new company of architects, WKK. The new practice has been blessed with five years of great business doing what we love to do most, fascinating architecture! You can look us up at wkkarchitects.com if you want to see what we get up to.

So have I been in control so far? Probably not, but to a certain extent you make your own luck. I have a plan to sail around the world in four years' time, it's been on my bucket list for the last 21 years and over that time I have been tweaking the little events of life so that they begin to align with the dream. When it comes to it, the pivotal event will be stepping on board and sailing away, finally in control of my destiny. With a bit of luck.

Tom Wright was a pupil at Royal Russell School between 1969 - 1976





Community Building

Over the past year, we have successfully built strong relationships with our community of current and former parents, Old Russellians and supporters. These contacts have helped us progress key development areas including our Careers and Work Experience Programme and the launch of our regular giving programme, the Annual Fund.

CAREERS

Sharing your professional experience and expertise with our pupils can help influence their future university and career choices, with pupils gaining a better understanding of the options and pathways open to them.

Introducing our pupils to the professional workplace and providing first-hand experience can give them a valuable competitive advantage. It will help them acquire the skills, both soft and technical, that cannot be taught in the classroom environment and provide a deeper understanding of their chosen career.

Our Careers and Work Experience Programme and annual Careers Fair are just two of the ways in which we look to inform and inspire our pupils.

ANNUAL FUND

We currently support the education of many pupils and wish to continue to offer means-tested bursaries to those who we know will thrive here; whether their talents lie in academia, music, performing arts or on the sports fields.

We are also dedicated to our ambitious estate development plans for our beautiful greenbelt site that will enhance the living and learning spaces for current and future generations of Russellians. Our plans include the building of a second new day and boarding house, the extension of our Science facilities and, in the longer term, a new Junior School.

We have raised over £90,000 this year for the Annual Fund through regular giving and single gifts and we would like to thank all our donors for their generous support. Gifts of all sizes can make an immediate and substantial difference, accelerating the progress of our School's highest priorities.

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



Science Facilities Extension, opening September 2019



If you would like to discuss our Annual Fund, please contact Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, Development Manager, at jlloydjones@royalrussell.co.uk

If you are able to support our Careers programme, please contact Jenny Harris, Head of Careers, at jharris@royalrussell.co.uk





Royal Russell

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