



# Royal Russell Junior School

# Newsletter

## Spring Term

### 10th January 2020



Dear Parents,

A very happy New Year to you and your families. I hope that you managed to find some peace and time for yourselves over what can be a congested time of the year.

I am thrilled to have the children back in school. After three days of important preparation, their presence has made the school feel alive once more. There is excitement over new starts. The start of a new year, a new term and some new faces. A very warm welcome to our new pupils who are represented in every phase of the school. We welcome you into the Royal Russell family and our school community. We also welcome two new (ish) members of staff. Firstly, Sharon Martina has joined us a lunch time supervisor and will be working with our Lower Juniors during the day. Sharon is also one of our swimming coaches and will be a familiar face to our pupils. We also welcome Miss Rebecca Wear as one of our Year 6 teachers and our Year 5 & 6 Phase Leader. Miss Wear has spent time in school before the end of last term and we are delighted to welcome her back full time. Both colleagues have settled in well during what is always an exciting time of year.

We began the year by thinking about our New Year resolutions and the children have helped me to develop some ambitious, yet attainable, goals for the year. In setting their own resolutions, I have challenged them to be ambitious in 2020 and to support each other, to make new habits that promote growth and change and to enjoy their success.

You would be forgiven for thinking that there would not be much for my weekly letter two days into term, however, time and tide wait for no man (or child) in the Junior School and there are already exciting moments that accompany this letter. I would like to draw your attention to the coffee morning with our visiting SALT (speech and language therapist), full details of which accompany this letter. I must emphasise what a good opportunity this is to have contact with a specialist in this vital area of development.

Beyond the Junior School, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some fantastic charitable work happening in the community. Our very own Mr Janowski and Mr Ward will be joining the boys of Oxford and Cambridge boarding houses and Mr Dear, to run a 24-hour relay to raise awareness of men's mental health. They will be improving mental fitness by getting exercise, going outdoors, socialising with friends and doing something for other people. If you would like to find out more about the event, the charity CALM or sponsor the event, you can do so here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Oxford-house-Oxford-house>

My very best wishes for a wonderful weekend,

**John Evans**  
**Junior School Headmaster**

# Speech and Language Parents' Coffee Morning



## Reception to Year 6 Parents Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 8.45-10:15am

We are thrilled to invite you to a Speech and Language Coffee Morning provided by Kids First Therapy Centre in Junior School Hall.

Most suitable for parents of pupils in Reception to Year 6. We will serve coffee & tea from 8.45am and will start the programme at 9.00am.

Please come and join us if you would like to know more about:

- What is Speech and Language?
- How can speech and/or language difficulties impact your child's development, especially literacy.
- Modelling good language
- Games you can play at home to support your child's development

Please secure your place via Firefly – *Junior School Forms > Event Forms*

Please note that there are a limited number of spaces and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



### Silver Star Awards



Mayan 2D

For consistently making a positive comment about his peers home learning that was presented at the end of last term.

# Careers Education

**A message from Jenny Harris, Head of Careers in the Senior School and Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, Development Manager for Royal Russell.**

Our approach to Careers Education in the Senior School focusses on practical ways of learning. We aim to provide all pupils with multiple opportunities to interact with employers, professionals, apprentices and current university students, from a broad range of sectors and disciplines. We do this in a variety of formats so that pupils build on their networking skills and gather useful and up to date information as well as professional contacts. Engagement with career activities enables pupils to grow in confidence when making decisions on their future choices and increasingly, we see pupils having greater self-awareness: recognising what they have to offer universities and employers and crucially, where they need to develop skills.

We hold an annual Careers & Higher Education Fair, offer networking breakfasts, support work experience placements, provide mock employability interviews, engage with social enterprise initiatives, enter Mock Law trials competitions and the Young Reporter scheme and most recently, held a Dragons' Den style event for BTEC students in conjunction with the Business department.

Jeremy's remit is to devise and implement an alumni and development programme to strengthen the school's relations with Old Russellian's, parental communities and external businesses. So far, we have some very good blocks in place. The Careers Department and Development Office work closely when organising many careers events and together we rely heavily on our past and present parent network, our alumni and on the local business contacts we make through the school's membership of the London Chamber of Commerce. We are fortunate to have a parent community that already supports many activities in the wider school and so we hope that you will consider lending your support to the careers programme in the senior school.

We already benefit from keen support from a handful of Junior School parents which has been invaluable. We know too that there is a wealth of experience and expertise amongst you and we would very much appreciate your support, for the benefit of all pupils, not just today but in years to come.

Jenny and Jeremy would be very keen to hear from you if you think you might be able to join the growing list of potential helpers for the careers programme or if you would like to support the school in other ways.

*Please email:*

Jenny for support with careers activities on [jharris@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:jharris@royalrussell.co.uk)

Jeremy to discuss other forms of support on [jllloyd-jones@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:jllloyd-jones@royalrussell.co.uk) .

## 1853 Quiz Night - Saturday 8th February

On Saturday, 8th February the 1853 Society will be hosting their annual Quiz Night. This is always a fun evening, combining a traditional quiz with a great opportunity to get together with friends.

The quiz will be held in the Great Hall and doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Nibbles will be provided, but please do bring either your own drinks, glasses and corkscrews or alternatively, there will be a licenced bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks on the night.

Tickets are £10 each and teams can be up to a maximum of 10 people. This is an adult only event, so no children please.

If you would like to book please contact either [1853society@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:1853society@royalrussell.co.uk) or [mel@bruguier.net](mailto:mel@bruguier.net)

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

# Junior School Sports Snapshot



## U11 Croydon Schools Sports Hall Athletics Finals - WINNERS

The U11 squad all performed brilliantly at the finals, they showed improvements in their field events, throwing and jumping, further than in the qualifying event. On the track there were some exceptionally close races showing great determination to gain every point possible.

It was a nerve racking wait for the results and we were delighted to be announced as the Croydon champions! The team now go on to represent Croydon at the London youth games event in February!

It was fantastic to see our Y10 GCSE PE pupils being great leaders and helping to run the event.



Well done to everyone.