



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

The newsletter this week is again in two parts:

The first focuses on feedback from our Wellbeing week.

The second shares some thoughts on the plans for the second half of term and includes the link to the Parent Survey on our remote learning programme.

Part 1

I am delighted to see the success of our Wellbeing Week which has run across the Junior School and the Senior School and has been organised by Mrs Hart, Mr Porter, Mrs Netherway and the Student Wellbeing Support Group.

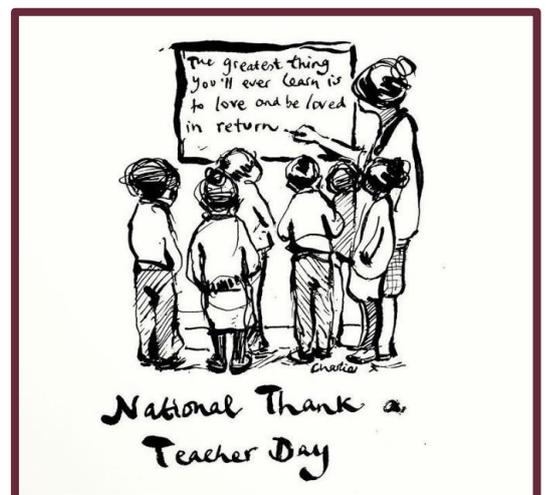
This week's assembly reflects on some of the feedback we have seen from pupils, staff and families and is available [here](#).

You can follow the progress of Wellbeing Week on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and through #RoyalRussellKindness.

Thank you for sending us updates and photos of you completing your challenges. There have been many creative response to the challenges that were set and I was particularly impressed by Kobi Jawaheer's composition, which is available to listen to [here](#).

Wednesday was National 'Thank a Teacher' Day and it has been wonderful to see some really lovely messages sent to teaching colleagues during the week. If you have not sent a message yet, please do so, I know this is hugely appreciated and would be a perfect act of kindness to finish the week. My message to Royal Russell Staff is available to see [here](#).

Some of you will know that I am a Charlie Mackesy fan, and I thought that the image and message below was a very suitable for sharing at the end of this busy and demanding first half of term. If you have not picked up '[The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse](#)', I do strongly recommend it as a soothing tonic in these challenging times.



Yesterday a small group of resident staff gathered to applaud and ring the Chapel Bell for key workers at 8.00pm and, in doing so, we also thanked all Royal Russell staff, pupils and families for all your brilliant work in the first half of term.

The Second Half of Term

In this newsletter last week, and following the UK Government announcements on 10 May, I set out a plan for the possible return to some on site learning for pupils in the second half of term. A significant amount of government guidance has now been issued and the School Leadership Team are now completing a detailed Risk Assessment and operational plan on restarting our teaching provision on site. The Risk Assessment is a very important and necessary step to ensure the safety of all of our staff and pupils and to consider all aspects of the UK Government's advice for Schools regarding, cleaning, handwashing and hygiene, social distancing and managing transmission risk. Ultimately, we will publish this Risk Assessment to all members of the School Community on the School website.

The approach to a possible return to School was discussed at the Education and Welfare Committee of our Board of Governors on Wednesday this week and they are now reviewing our plans, along with the School Leadership Team, so that we are ready for the next UK Government update which we understand will be issued on Thursday 28 May.

Following this update, I will write to parents on Friday 29 May with confirmation of our plan for the delivery of Senior School teaching as we start the second half of term.

Thank you to those parents in Year 12 and in Year 10 who responded to our survey regarding a possible return to the School site for some face to face interaction with their teachers. This information will be helpful as we bring our plans together.

Whatever the announcement on Thursday 28 May, we will be continuing with our remote learning programme for all year groups in the Senior School in the first week after half-term.

We are keen to continue the review of our remote learning offer and we are using the expertise of [RS Academics](#) to capture feedback from parents in all year groups. We invite you to complete this survey here: Royal Russell - [Home Learning Survey \(Parent Senior\)](#).

Announcements

Mrs Nikki Snelgrove our new Deputy Head Learning, joins us on Monday 1 June. Nikki is currently Academic Director at Streatham & Clapham High School. She studied maths at Leeds University and completed her PGCE in London. Nikki was previously Head of Mathematics at Sutton High School and Head of Sixth Form at Woldingham School where she also led the summer expeditions to Uganda, Venezuela and Borneo.

My congratulations to Mr Porter on his appointment as Head of Year 12 for next year and to Mrs Harrison on her appointment as Deputy in Reade House from September 2020.

With my very best wishes for a restful Bank Holiday weekend,



C J Hutchinson