



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

05 June 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

Welcome back to the second half of our Summer Term.

### **Congratulations**

I'd like to start with congratulations to all of the Senior School pupils for their ongoing commitment to their own progress, even when this has been entirely delivered through screens and calls and email catch ups. Years 7, 8 and 9 have been working through some end of year assessments this week and there has been some tremendous creativity and ingenuity shown in their project work and impressive knowledge, recall and application of new learning in their assessment responses.

None of this is at all easy for our young people and I salute both their determination to succeed and the support of their teaching colleagues who are making this possible. I urge families to contact teachers and tutors for help, where pupils are finding difficulties and I would want to remind parents that our outstanding IT Support Team can also try to resolve issues of access to information and our learning platforms. They can be contacted at [ITTeam@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:ITTeam@royalrussell.co.uk).

### **Year 10 and Year 12**

It has been wonderful to welcome more pupils back onto the site this week with large numbers of Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery children returning in the Junior School.

The careful planning that we completed during half term has meant that this has been a very successful week of reintroduction to onsite learning and, on the back of this success and following the latest UK Government guidance, we are now making plans for some 'face to face' time for pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 before the end of term.

Our plan is to welcome:

Year 12 Pupils onto the site from Monday 15 June to Friday 19 June and then

Year 10 Pupils onto the site in two groups, the first from, Monday 22 June to Wednesday 24 June and the second from, Monday 29 June to Wednesday 1 July.

Our detailed outline for this will be communicated initially to Year 12 families at the start of next week, when we will also be asking for updated information on which pupils are able to safely return to the site.

I am very conscious, in all of this planning, that it is possible the official position might change and we remain ready to continue with our remote learning for all year groups through to the end of this term if necessary. I am also very aware that we must retain the quality of the remote learning programme for all pupils who are unable to attend the school site and this principle will be central to the model we are developing.

## **Global protests following the death of George Floyd**

Few of us can have failed to be drawn into the global protests relating to the appalling death of George Floyd and I am sure that there have been many discussions at home and online about how to respond to this tragedy. What is clear to me is that many of our pupils are being exposed to an assault of images and reports online, which may be difficult for them to process. I would encourage you to discuss these issues with your children and encourage them to raise this in their tutorial sessions and classes, where appropriate, so that we can help them to support each other. Yesterday the Student Wellbeing Support Group (SWSG) sent out a message to all pupils, which I have copied below:

“On behalf of the Student Wellbeing Support Group, and in light of recent worldwide events, we want to convey a simple message to you: we stand with you.  
As a school, we always try to be open, inclusive, diverse, supportive – a family.  
You need to know that everyone at school, and in the Student Wellbeing Support Group, believes you are incredible! Things can be difficult even when times are ‘normal’ (whatever normal means!), so it is amazing that you’re doing as well as you are now.  
Please do keep going, and if you’re in need of any support, in any way, you must speak to your tutor, one of your teachers, Mrs. Hart, a friend, a family member.  
If you know of someone who is going through a particularly hard time, please do let us know. We might be able to help in more ways than you can imagine.  
If you want to be part of a really positive movement to promote wellbeing and mental health awareness at Royal Russell, then please do join the Student Wellbeing Support Group and be a champion of positive change!  
Wherever you are, whoever you are, whatever you are, please remember: we stand with you.  
Wishing you all the best,  
All your RRS Teachers and the Student Wellbeing Support Group”

That simple message of being ‘open, inclusive, diverse, supportive – a family’ remains absolutely at the core of our Royal Russell values and ethos.

Our assembly this week, is led by Mrs Hart and is available to view [here](#).

## **Royal Russell Day – Saturday 27 June**

I am pleased to announce that our formal celebration of achievement and prize giving event, held at the end of this term, will go ahead on the original date of Saturday 27 June. The event will be presented through an online feed which will be shared with you in advance, for now please put a note in your diaries.

I look forward to joining you virtually then to celebrate the wonderful achievement of our pupils and to reflect on the events of this year.

With my very best wishes,



C J Hutchinson  
Headmaster  
**5 June 2020**