



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

12 June 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Volunteering

I was struck by an article in 'The Times' newspaper this week reporting on a topical study by scientists at Harvard University which shows that unselfish or altruistic behaviour gives benefit not only to those who are receiving it, but also to those giving of their time and energy to help others. The survey collected results over several years from thousands of individuals and showed that those who offered to help and look after others, enjoyed significantly higher levels of mental and physical health than those who did not. It was also interesting to note that as little as two hours' voluntary work a week made a big difference.

At Royal Russell we have always known that caring for others and being kind brings benefits to our community and now it appears that looking out for others and giving freely of our time is also good for us. There is an obvious challenge in this, that is to reach out within our community and beyond and offer to help and support, particularly at a time when there appears to be a need for compassion and care in the wider world. In doing so, it will be good to know that we are also doing good to ourselves!

'Black Lives Matter'

Like many of you, I have been reflecting on the terrible death of George Floyd and on the global 'Black Lives Matter' protests which have followed this week. I have had a number of searching conversations with current and former pupils and with parents about this.

We are very fortunate, at Royal Russell, to be part of a family school with deep roots in the South London communities and strong connections around the world. This creates a very rich and diverse School Community and, within that community, I am confident that we work hard to ensure that all voices are heard equally.

Of course, there is always more that we can do and I will be assembling a group to consider how the School can respond to the wider conversations around this important agenda. If there are any parents who would like to join this group, or just to pass on feedback, please do contact me.

Congratulations

To the following pupils who have been awarded a Headmaster's Award for receiving over 75 merits from their teachers. This is particularly impressive during remote learning so my huge congratulations to you all.

Zoe Spellings	Buchanan
Caitlin Robinson	Buchanan
Eleanor von Gerard	Buchanan
Aya Moustakim Clarke	Buchanan
Hanaa Ratip	Buchanan

Ella Smith	Buchanan
Amy Tree	Buchanan
Olamide Olalekan-Sule	Cambridge
Thomas Mullen	Cambridge
Yasmin Williams	Hollenden
Elena Buckingham	Hollenden
Hannah Kaminski	Hollenden
Uliana Tokolova	Hollenden
Lucy Payne	Hollenden
Gaia Castano Paramova	Hollenden
Eryn Cornick Gonzalez-Gorbena	Hollenden
Maryam Drammeh	Hollenden
Roshan Dosanjh	Madden
Thomas Lang	Oxford
Sam Stealey	Oxford
Amber Lukes	Queens
Avni Sharma	Queens
Cassandra Exall	Queens
Minnie Panyapattanakul	Queens
Kesmia Mangaru	Reade
Priscilla Obeng	Reade
Gabriel Mckenzie	St Andrews
Johan Prinsloo	St Andrews
Oliver Hampton	St Andrews

Year 12 Return to School Next Week

This morning we have been completing the planning for the return of Year 12 pupils to some on site teaching next week. I am pleased to see a good response from pupils who would like to return and look forward to welcoming them on Monday. A separate email with details of the arrangements for next week will be sent this afternoon.

Year 10 Return to School

We are still planning on welcoming Year 10 pupils back to the School Site on Monday 22 June and Monday 29 June for three days of face to face support and teaching. We will be sending out a survey for Year 10 pupils and families requesting feedback on our plans, early next week.

Senior Prefect Interviews

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week I was busy working with Ms Tovey, Mrs Harris, Ms Worsfold and Ms Wheeler-Quinnell interviewing candidates for Senior Prefect roles in the year ahead. There have been some very impressive candidates for these student leadership positions and I have no doubt that, when the final team is assembled, we will be in very capable prefect hands next year.

Royal Russell Day

Our exciting plans for Royal Russell Day on Saturday 27 June are taking shape and, as part of this celebration, the Royal Russell Day team are on the lookout for some exciting snapshots of the whole school community in lockdown.

To take part, please send us 5 to 10 seconds of video footage either showing an activity you've been enjoying in lockdown, or your response to the question 'what have you learnt in lockdown'? Please take a moment to read the guidance for filming and uploading, which can be found on the following two Firefly tasks:

RRD video: lockdown activities (5-10s)

<https://royalrussell.fireflycloud.net/set-tasks/72149>

RRD video: what have you learnt in lockdown? (5-10s)

<https://royalrussell.fireflycloud.net/set-tasks/72157>

We look forward to seeing your videos and hope to include as many as we can on the day!

New School Uniform

We have made new arrangements with our School and Sports Uniform suppliers and a separate email will be sent this afternoon with details for all families.

With best wishes,



C J Hutchinson
Headmaster

