



# Royal Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

02 July 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

I'd like to start this final Newsletter of the term with congratulations and thank you to all members of our amazing community, to our superstar pupils, to our amazing and dedicated staff and all of our Royal Russell families. Thank you for all that you have contributed to ensure that we come to the end of this Summer Term with a great sense of collective and individual achievement and, having tested our on site provision over the past few weeks, with real hope for a return to normality in September.

My wish for Royal Russell pupils is that they should always thrive and, whilst at times, over the past few months, it has felt a little bit more like a time to survive, I have been wowed and delighted by the progress that they have all made despite the obvious challenges.

### Royal Russell Day

Thank you to all of the pupils and staff involved in creating our Royal Russell Day event which was broadcast on Saturday. If you have not had the chance to do so, please do take time to watch the event [here](#).

### Return to School in September

It has been great to see many of you safely back on the School site over the last three weeks and I will now be working with the School Leadership Team to plan for your safe return in September. There has been much in the media around the return to school for all pupils and I hope that we will be able to invite all of our community to start the academic year on site. We have, however, seen that certain areas have been returned to lockdown so we will continue to monitor the local situation most carefully.

We have been told that Government guidance will be issued this week. Although we are not yet certain what it will contain, there is certainty that some elements of Health and Safety planning and social distancing will remain in effect.

We be planning thoroughly and carefully for September, revising risk assessments and parental guidance to match new operational procedures. I will communicate our plans for reopening in August so that you and your families have the time to prepare for the beginning of term.

### Looking Forward

I am delighted to announce the new Senior Prefect Team.

#### Heads of School

Gordon Poon, Isabelle Bennett, Jack Burton, Zoya Kirmani

#### Deputy Heads of School

Cameron Mackay, Ella Westland, Isabelle Yard, Isobel Cufley, Jemima Longhurst, Lucas Humphries, Rebecca Clery, Sam Hacker, Sean Smith, Wendy Fong

#### Heads of Boarding

Ark Yang, Amma Darkoa Nomafo, RezoTateishvili, Vlada Medvedeva,

#### Heads of House

##### Buchanan

Adina Browne

##### Cambridge

Jason Poon, Samuel Chae

##### Hollenden

Charlotte Haines, Maria Maciejak

##### Madden

Ata Aslanov

##### Keable

Chris Mahajan

##### Oxford

Kevin Ren, Rahul Nagar

##### Queens

Wendy Woo, Kya-Grace Oates

##### Reade

Lily Payne, Emily Taylor

##### St Andrews

Simon Nzewi

I have already said thank you to Year 13 as part of our Royal Russell Day Celebrations on Saturday and I want to reiterate what an amazingly positive, open and friendly year group they have been, setting standards for us all to aspire to this year. I hope we will be able to catch up on A Level Results Day on 13 August.

Congratulations to Year 12 for stepping up to lead the School now, I look forward to seeing them take on further responsibilities in September.

Year 11 have plenty to look forward to in joining the Sixth Form and we still have that postponed Year 11 reunion to plan! Before then, I look forward to seeing many of you on results day on 20 August. I am pleased to announce that Mr Porter will be welcoming those returning as your new Head of Year 12 in September.

I hope Year 10 will reflect carefully on the advice you have been given to make a success of the GCSE year ahead. We will be here to support you as you prepare for this next challenge.

Good luck and well done to Year 9 as you start your GCSE courses in earnest next year.

Well done too, to Year 8 who now need to ensure they are ready to welcome a new group of pupils in September. Finally congratulations to Year 7 on such a successful start to your careers in the Senior School.

### Thank you

When we reflect on this year so much has been achieved and none of this would have been possible without the support, encouragement and guidance of our teaching and support staff. They have given their time, energy, enthusiasm and passion in all areas of school life.

In the classroom, in your houses, in the library, on stage and on the courts and pitches and in the opportunities they have provided to you through our huge co-curricular programme and in conferences, trips and visits they have been the driving force for your success this year. I thank them all deeply for all they have given to the Royal Russell Community and wish them a restful summer break to recharge for the new academic year ahead.

### Staff Leavers

You will have heard that we will be saying goodbye to a small number of staff leavers at the end of this term. I thanked them on Royal Russell Day and would like to acknowledge again the great contributions that they have made.

So thank you to; Lauren Ayers, Curtis Child, Kris Page, and Oliver Saunders

Thank you to Mr Bubb and Ms Brennan

Thank you to Mr Upton, Ms Schwirtz, Ms Griffith and Mr O'Gorman

Thank you to Mr Wheeler and Mr Parham, to Reverend Kirk and Mr Callow and thank you to Mr Botting. for reopening in August so that you and your families have the time to prepare for the beginning of term.

In addition, I have announced to staff today that Mr Millward will be leaving Royal Russell at the end of October 2020, to take up a new position at Leicester Grammar School.

We will have a future opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Philip next term. For now, I thank him most warmly and deeply for the amazing contributions he has made as our Director of Music since 2012 and wish him, and his family, every success with this new opportunity.

For our end of term assembly this afternoon, available to watch [here](#). I selected a poem from Maya Angelou called 'Continue'

I think this reaches out and touches much of what we have experienced together over the past 4 months in particular and also issue a challenge for us all for the year ahead

### Maya Angelou 'Continue'

Into a world which needed you  
My wish for you  
Is that you continue

Continue  
To be who and how you are  
To astonish a mean world  
With your acts of kindness

Continue  
To allow humor to lighten the burden  
of your tender heart

Continue  
In a society dark with cruelty  
To let the people hear the grandeur  
Of God in the peals of your laughter

Continue  
To let your eloquence  
Elevate the people to heights  
They had only imagined



Continue  
To remind the people that  
Each is as good as the other  
And that no one is beneath  
Nor above you

Continue  
To remember your own young years  
And look with favor upon the lost  
And the least and the lonely

Continue  
To put the mantel of your protection  
Around the bodies of  
The young and defenseless

Continue  
To take the hand of the despised  
And diseased and walk proudly with  
them  
In the high street  
Some might see you and  
Be encouraged to do likewise

Continue  
To plant a public kiss of concern  
On the cheek of the sick  
And the aged and infirm  
And count that as a  
Natural action to be expected

Continue  
To let gratitude be the pillow  
Upon which you kneel to  
Say your nightly prayer  
And let faith be the bridge  
You build to overcome evil  
And welcome good

Continue  
To ignore no vision  
Which comes to enlarge your range  
And increase your spirit

Continue  
To dare to love deeply  
And risk everything  
For the good thing

Continue  
To float  
Happily in the sea of infinite substance  
Which set aside riches for you  
Before you had a name

Continue  
And by doing so  
You and your work  
Will be able to continue  
Eternally

I hope you all enjoy a restful and well deserved holiday and I very much look forward to welcoming you all back to the School in September. When we start the new term, we will be welcoming over 200 new pupils to join the Senior School and I know that you will be ready to reach out and give them all a warm Royal Russell welcome.

Until then, read, relax, stay safe, be kind and look after those that you love.

With best wishes,

**Chris Hutchinson**  
Headmaster

*Chris Hutchinson*

