



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

04 September 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

After much preparation and anticipation, it has been wonderful to welcome pupils back in the Senior School today and to see teaching resuming in all age groups.

Thank you for your support in helping this to happen successfully and please do congratulate your children on the positive way that they have embraced the new routines, particularly if they are new to the School this week.

Our Senior School Assembly this morning was delivered live to Year 11 pupils in the Auditorium and broadcast around the School to all tutor groups.

We started the assembly by reading the School Prayer together, as I felt it particularly appropriate this morning. This first part of this is shown below:

Our Father

By whose guiding hand we have been gathered together in this School,

Grant, we pray Thee, that there may be in all our hearts a spirit of willing obedience and loving helpfulness,

so that we may truly be one family.

Bless us in our work and in our play.

Help us to be truthful not in words only, but in our inmost thoughts.

Help us to deny ourselves that we may please others.

Help us to put duty above all else.

Help us to shrink from all that is evil and to cleave to that which is good.

This was my address to the School which followed:

"Welcome and welcome back. Whether you are new to the School this term or returning as an experienced pupil, it is great to see you all and I'm delighted that we are able to join together, albeit via TEAMS and screens this morning.

Thank you for taking time to understand how we will be operating in this new safe environment. At the beginning of any new term there are new routines to establish, this term, there is more to absorb than usual, so please open your listening ears to the guidance that your teachers, tutors and house staff give you, so that we can all enjoy being back onsite and learning together.

You will know now that we are operating in Year Group 'bubbles' as much as is possible and that we are working to ensure social distancing between pupils and staff. Please respect this at all times and remind each other if your friends and peers are becoming forgetful!

As we return to the full operation of the School, we must all modify our behaviours. I understand that this may be challenging at times, but please do not assume that all will be as you expect and please do ask if you are uncertain.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to over 200 new pupils joining us today and to introduce the new teaching staff who join the Senior School this term:

Ms Benjamin-Taylor

Head of Geography

Ms Blaquiere

Teacher of Art

Ms Chandler	Teacher of History and TP
Ms Ellis	Teacher of Psychology
Mr Grehan	Teacher of Maths
Ms Jovanovic-Callaghan	Head of Chemistry
Ms Mathieson	Teacher of Media
Ms Voniatis	Teacher of Computer Science

Mr Cook joins us as DT Technician and Ms Wood joins us as Food and Nutrition Technician.

We also welcome, Ms Nicholls, Mr Locker, Ms Blake, Ms Redding and Ms Bailey as our Sports Interns and Mr Mills as a new member of our coaching team.

I would like to thank all of the Royal Russell Staff team, for the amazing work which has been completed to prepare for this new term.

Thank you also to our Senior Prefect Team, The Heads of Houses and all the prefects for the work they have done to ensure a very positive start to the term.

The new Student Leadership Team is:

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, Rezo Tateishvili, Vlada Medvedeva.

Heads of House

Buchanan	Adina Browne
Cambridge	Jason Poon, Samuel Chae, Jago Burgess-Gibbs
Hollenden	Charlotte Haines, Maria Maciejak
Madden	Ata Aslanov
Keable	Chris Mahajan
Oxford	Kevin Ren, Rahul Nagar
Queen's	Wendy Woo, Kya Oates
Reade	Lily Payne, Emily Taylor
St Andrew's	Simon Nzewi

You will have noticed that there have been significant developments across the site over the summer as we continue to provide improved living and learning facilities for you all.

The new building for Queen's and Hollenden is on target to be ready for occupation at half term and the extension to the new Science labs is completed internally ready for use.

To those of you returning today, congratulations on a very successful year.

In their A levels, our Year 13 students achieved a tremendous set of results.

Our top candidates achieved straight A* grades and secured places to study a very diverse range of degree courses and apprenticeships at universities within the UK and beyond.

As an example of this I thought I would share the University and further destinations of our Senior Prefects from last year with you.

Jack Gallagher	University of Nottingham to study Sport and Exercise Science
Megan Driver	University of Cambridge to study History and Politics
Nikita Sood	University of Bath to study Psychology
Vlad Letchev	University of Lancaster to study Business Management

Philip Stoycheff	Maastricht University, Netherlands
Anna Firth	University of Liverpool to study Veterinary Science
Bibienne Yeoh	University of Edinburgh to study Economics and Politics
Erika Rugyendo-Henry	University of Warwick to study French and History
Imran Kayani	Queen Mary University to study Computer Science
Ali Misaila	University of York to study Physics with Philosophy
Jada Springer	Aston University to study Business and Management
Charlie Jones	Degree Apprenticeship
Matt Lewis	Drama School

All of these pupils contributed hugely to the Royal Russell community in a whole host of different ways but most importantly they set an example for you to follow in the way they treated you and each other with care, warmth, openness and respect.

We also achieved our 'best ever' results at GCSE with over 57% of the examinations awarded 9, 8 and 7 (the equivalent of A* and A grades).

On the strength of these results I am delighted to announce the following students as new Sixth Form Academic Scholars.

Lucy Allen, Ellie Baker, Pettian Bhoorasingh, Jemima Earing, Calum Firth. Arthur Heath, Amber Kennedy, Ruoyi Liang, Yaning Lyu, Luke McCabe. Katie Pietroni, Anjani Pooplashingham, Damien Siew, Liam Smith, Anna Stone and Oliver Wyndham-Lewis.

For all of you the first effort grades will be completed just before half term, these focus on:

- Quality of homework
- Organisation and meeting deadlines
- Behaviour in class
- Independence
- and Response to feedback

and before then your tutors, housemasters and housemistresses and Heads of Year will be monitoring your progress very closely.

You will already have met your housemasters and housemistresses and tutor teams this morning who will be supporting you as you navigate this term.

I would also like to introduce our Senior School Leadership Team

Mrs Snelgrove, our Deputy Head Learning.

Mrs Hart, our Deputy Head People deals with, curriculum, welfare, and administrative matters and she is supported by Ms Wheeler-Quinnell and Ms Worsfold, our Assistant Heads in charge of Upper School, by Mr Major our Assistant Head in charge of Middle School and Mrs Mawer Assistant Head in charge of the Lower School.

Our Heads of Year are:

Mrs Mawer	Head of Year 7
Ms Walton	Head of Year 8
Ms Scott	Head of Year 9
Mr Major	Head of Year 10
Ms Morris and Ms Reebye	Head of Year 11
Mr Porter	Head of Year 12
Ms Worsfold & Ms Wheeler-Quinnell	Head of Year 13

I was very pleased to be able to present the Harrison Cup, awarded at the School Media Awards for our Science Magazine 'Russell's Teapot'.

Year 12 Students, Pettian Bhooresingh, Anjani Poopalasingham and Jemima Earing collected this award on behalf of the contributors. Special mention was made of Sacha Jennings for his contribution to this successful project.

Yesterday I set out the values and expectations that I hold for the new pupils and I thought it would be worth repeating these this morning.

I expect serious academic endeavour from you all.

I expect you to approach the challenges and opportunities available here with an open mind and a 'give it a go' attitude and you must all work hard.

Clearly, those who work harder attain more and create more openings for themselves. I will not have any time or respect for those who squander their opportunities here, achieve poor effort grades or, even worse, distract others from their targets in lessons and activities.

Aggressive or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated in this community.

Human beings are social animals and we need the support of our family and friends in order to thrive.

If this is going to be a successful year for you as individuals and collectively for Royal Russell, we will all need to work cooperatively and collaboratively and support each other in achieving our goals.

I expect you to look after each other and to make one further step by going out of your way to show kindness to those in need. This is particularly important as we welcome over 200 new pupils into the Senior School this term. Please make sure that all experience a warm Royal Russell welcome.

I believe in the school motto, 'Non sibi sed omnibus' (Not for oneself but for everyone) and expect to see this in the way you go about your daily lives.

I'd like to finish by asking you to reflect on 5 tips which I shared with the School last year to help you focus on a successful year ahead. (with thanks to Amol Rajan)

Take responsibility and make sure that you understand that both your actions and inactions have consequences and that the one thing you have complete control over is your attitude.

Say sorry if things go wrong, it is never wrong to apologise fully and in doing so acknowledge that you have understood how to avoid that same mistake in the future

Be good to people there is simply no substitute for being a warm, generous and open hearted person.

Work Hard you have already heard my thought on this, it is imperative that you commit fully to all aspects of Royal Russell life.

Recognise your potential and in doing so understand that you have amazing opportunities here this year. Nothing is set in stone. It's up to you how successful you are, how much you flourish, what you achieve.

On Monday there are six weeks through to half term; that is only 30 teaching days to get involved and make the very best start to this exciting year.

So be (covid) Safe,

Ask if you are not sure,

Work hard,

Be good to people - look after new members of your tutor groups and classes (especially look after the new staff!)

and have a great term!

Thank you.

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster



Year 7 Induction Day

On Thursday it was great to welcome our new Year 7 pupils to the school. They had a fun packed day filled with excitement and lots of new information to take in.

The morning was spent with their tutors, taking a tour, having a Year assembly, logging into the school systems such as Firefly and Office 365 for the first time, and emailing their teachers. They all experienced a delicious lunch and even had to go through a fire drill.

They were joined in the afternoon by their parents on Chapel Quad for a tea party for each house and a Headmasters Welcome. A lovely, busy day was had by all.



Russell Teapot WINNERS



Every year at the school Media Awards the Harrison Cup is awarded to a school which has shown flair, innovation and recognises effort and creativity.

Our team produced an incredibly engaging and interesting publication, a science magazine that had the judges reading features on mathematical equations, biology and astronomy with genuine interest.

The design of the magazine is equally attractive, and although many of the judges are by no means scientifically minded they unanimously agreed they would certainly buy this magazine.

Congratulations to all.



Key Diary Dates

Sunday 6 September

D of E Training Day

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 7

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Year 8

Wednesday 10 March 2021

Year 9

Wednesday 2 February 2021

Year 10

Thursday 10 December 2020

Year 11

Thursday 21 January 2021

Year 12

Thursday 25 February 2021

Year 13

Thursday 5 November 2020



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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen