



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

11 September 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

This has been a very successful first full week of learning in the Senior School and this afternoon, I thanked the pupils for the warm welcome that has been extended to all of our new members of the community. I also thanked staff and pupils for the positive way in which all have engaged with the new routines within the working week.

We continue to monitor these new ways of working and will make changes as we see necessary to ensure we all remain as safe as possible whilst still enjoying living and learning together.

At our assembly this afternoon I reminded pupils about what the School means to me and reflected on who we are, what we do, how we feel and what we believe.

Who we are:

We are a Family School and embrace and support our whole community

We are passionate learners and pursue excellence in all that we do

We are ambitious for ourselves and recognise the rewards of effort, collaboration and commitment

What we do:

We provide an outstanding, academic, 3 - 18 co-educational experience as the Family School of choice in South London.

How we feel:

We feel nurtured and supported within our happy community

We celebrate our diversity and inclusivity

We enjoy our international family connections

We feel proud to be Russellians

And what we believe:

We believe in the School's motto 'Not for oneself but for everyone'

We believe in ourselves and each other and recognise the value of integrity and respect

I then took the opportunity to remind pupils about our School Anti-Bullying Policy and to state clearly that bullying will not be tolerated within this School community.

Over the Summer, after an invitation sent out in June, a group of parents and staff met together to form a Diversity and Equality Group. This was, in part a response to the heightened awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement following the death of George Floyd in May.

This group have shared expertise and helped to shape an Anti-Racism Policy for the School which I introduced to pupils this afternoon. Anti-Racism has always been covered within our general anti-bullying policy, but we felt it important that we had a separate statement on this particular issue.

Below is the introduction to the policy which will be formally published following approval by the Board of Governors, later this term.

At Royal Russell School we understand and take seriously our responsibility as educators to ensure that we promote the message of equality, embracing diversity and being actively anti-racist in our curriculum, our ethos, our teaching and in all areas of Royal Russell 'life'; we understand the need to address in meaningful and sensitive ways all of the issues that young people face in these areas.

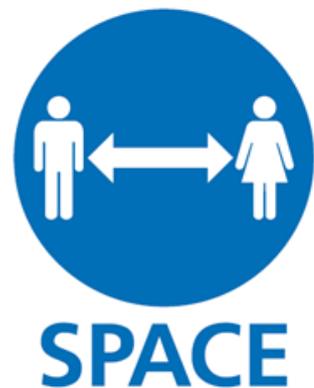
Royal Russell strives to be an inclusive and tolerant community in which the wellbeing of every young person comes first. Racism will not be tolerated at the School. Should a pupil ever be worried about racism or feel they have been the victim of abuse of any kind they should report it immediately to a member of staff.

We will endeavour to:

- Challenge racial discrimination, racist behaviour, racist language or harassment, prejudice and stereotyping, however thoughtless or unintentional;
- make sure that all students and staff are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential;
- provide an environment which respects and values diversity and shows consideration for the traditions, cultures and religious practices of people from different racial groups and different geographical regions;
- prevent direct and indirect, overt and covert discrimination on grounds of race or geographical origin
- assist in the identification of possible barriers to equality of opportunity for students and staff and ensure that these barriers are addressed where possible

Next month, the Senior School will be marking 'Black History Month' with a number of department initiatives which will be shared with pupils. Please encourage your children to engage with these opportunities to challenge our thinking in this area as much as possible.

I finished the Assembly this afternoon with a reminder about staying covid-safe, both within and beyond the School.



I reminded pupils that they must keep washing hands, wear face coverings if they are travelling on public transport and maintain appropriate social distance from all of the staff at the School, whenever possible.

With my thanks for all your support from Royal Russell families this week,

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster

Key Diary Dates

A reduced selection of Clubs and Activities will be running from Monday 14 September.

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