



Royal Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

There is something refreshingly 'normal' about our Newsletter content this week, which is full of reports of safe pupil activity and progress, reflecting the amazing range and variety of experience on offer for our pupils. My congratulations to all pupils for the very positive way in which they have engaged with their classes and activities – I feel as if some really good learning rhythms are being embedded and this will help everyone to success this term.

We are hosting our virtual Open Day tomorrow morning and, as part of this, our own super-creative media team has produced a video introduction to the School, which was filmed last week by our Year 13 Media students. My thanks to Ella Westland, Hannah Cable, Izzy Yard, Lily Payne and Jack Burton for helping to bring this together, and to Ms Groves and Mr Dear for their guidance and advice. The video is available to view [here](#).

A great deal of thought and work has been completed in preparation for Royal Russell Black History Month which begins next week. Further information regarding this important event is included within this newsletter. The quote on the newsletter page from the Library is from '[Inspire and be Inspired](#)' by Lemm Sissay, who is chancellor of the University of Manchester. It is really worth taking a little time to reflect on the messages within this piece and also in engaging with other events and activities which will be running in School.

Year 11 have been working through a range of assessments this week which will help their teachers to gain a deeper understanding of how they can support each pupil to successful outcomes next summer. Next week, Year 13 pupils will be completing their own assessments as they move forward with their university decisions and with the completion of their UCAS forms.

Year 7 enjoyed being outdoors in the sunshine for their Team Building Day on Monday, which helped them to think about the new friendships they are making within their tutor groups and classes.

It has been great to see some of the stunning work of the Year 7 Science Projects on Cells, which are also included later in this newsletter.

Next Tuesday 29 September, Year 7 Parents will have the chance to meet with tutors to catch up on progress at their 'Meet the Tutor' event. This will also include workshops on Firefly for Parents, iPads and Blended Learning, Online Safety and Social Media.

As well as some great work in curriculum subjects, we have also seen many of our activities programme restarting including the CCF, Model United Nations, Music Ensembles and Food Clubs.

COVID-19 Update

Pupils have been very impressive in adapting to the wearing of face coverings in our corridors and communal spaces, I congratulate them for making 'Hands, Face, Space' a priority and helping to keep everyone in the Royal Russell community safe.

On Tuesday, in my last COVID-19 update, I set out our plans for our response should we have a positive COVID-19 test result within the Royal Russell staff or pupil community.

In this case, I know you will appreciate that it will take time to establish the close contact of any individual within the School, we may therefore ask the entire Year Group bubble to self-isolate for one day in the first instance, whilst we confirm the direct and extended close contacts.



Those identified as close contacts would then be asked to self-isolate for 14 days whilst other pupils who are not close contacts would be permitted to return to School.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful [here](#).

We have also been asked to make you aware of this [letter from NHS Test and Trace](#).

May I take this opportunity to ask you to remind your children of the following points:

1. the importance of a thorough hand hygiene routine.
2. the importance of mask wearing, both according to our in-school protocols and also for those using public transport to and from the School. We have been advised this week by a member of the public that a small number of Royal Russell pupils using public buses have been observed not wearing masks for their journeys.
3. the importance of maintaining appropriate distance from all members of staff and pupils outside of their immediate Year Group 'bubble'.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster



Science Block Extension

We are delighted to announce the opening of our Science Block Extension. This spacious building features lots of light and state of the art facilities for our growing cohort of pupil scientists.

As a result of increasing pupil numbers and a demand for STEM our Governors commissioned a feasibility study into how the new facilities would complement the other buildings on our 120 acre site.

CLArchitects innovatively balanced the modern facilities with our historic building and MCS Construction delivered the amazing results!

Our pupils have been enjoying the classrooms and laboratories since the start of this term and they are a fantastic addition to our School community.

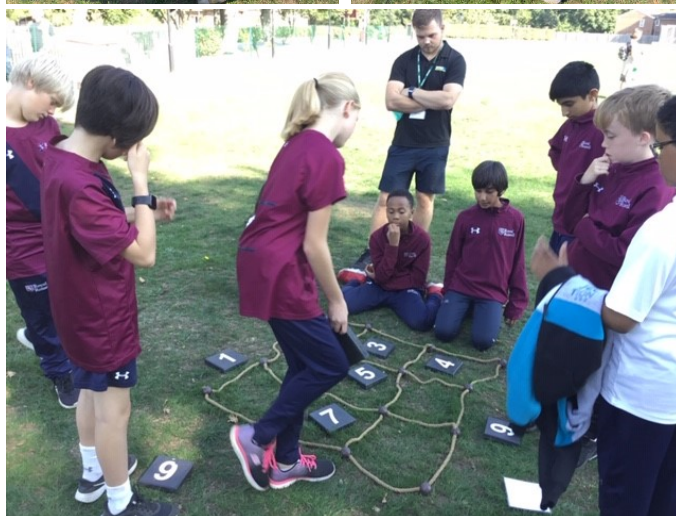


Year 7 Team Building Day

On Monday, the Whole of Year 7 spent the afternoon with their tutor groups and class mates attempting team building activities. The group worked together and listened to each other to come up with strategies on how to solve the puzzles.

It was so much fun although sometimes frustrating when things did not go according to plan! Year 7 pupils got to work with different members of their year group and therefore had the opportunity to meet and work with different pupils than they usually would.

Mrs Anne Mawer
Assistant Head Lower School





Year 10 GCSE Art

Congratulations to year 10 GCSE Art!

The class have made a fantastic start to their 'Nature' project. Below are some examples of their work in progress and are developing mixed media observational studies.

Mrs Cassandra Lands
Head of Art, Design & Photography



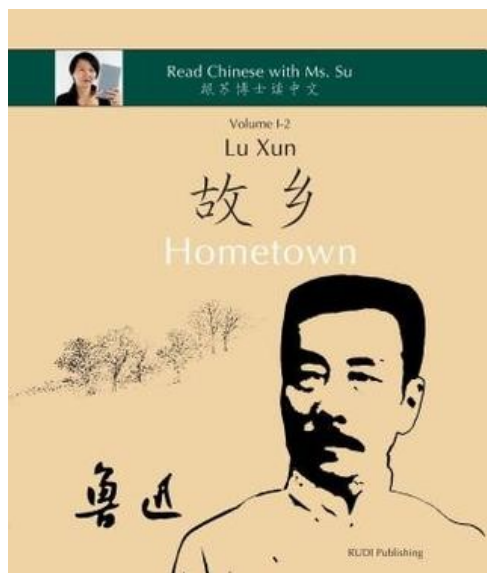


Year 13 Chinese - Hometown

On Monday, Year 13 Chinese students had a discussion about the Chinese oral exam topics and analysed the background of Hometown, a short story by Lu Xun, May 1921.

Hometown is one of the many stories that Lu Xun wrote using a first-person narrative style. The story is based on the author's actual experience during a 1919 trip back to his hometown. Like most of Lu Xun's works, Hometown provides a valuable opportunity for readers to study the lives of common people in early twentieth-century China. By following the author/narrator's footsteps and inner journey, readers are asked to ponder common people's hardships, dreams, despairs, and hopes.

Ms Tingting Wang
Teacher of Chinese



Mr Grindrod's £10 Challenge!

Late last school year, the Year 8 Madden tutor group rose to a challenge set by their tutor Mr Grindrod to raise money for the School's Canterbury Tales charity initiative.

This tasks enabled the pupils in Madden House to gain knowledge about building wealth and doing their bit for charity at the same time. Each pupil was given £10 of Mr Grindrod's own money and were instructed to use the money to make a profit (and return the original tenner to Mr Grindrod!).

Some of the group did this by buying soap and a sponge to clean cars to turn a profit, several bought sweets and sold them for a little more to their hungry peers, another acquired some flowers and sold them door to door.

This project built initiative for us and helped us to learn about entrepreneurial skills.

Our money making schemes were cut short by the pesky COVID-19 lockdown, but when all the money was returned we had made a collective profit of £87.17.

The form decided that this would be split between two charity's, Lives Not Knives (a charity to help youth in England to stay away from knife crime), and the Mental Health Foundation.

Will Mather

Year 9 Pupil, Madden House



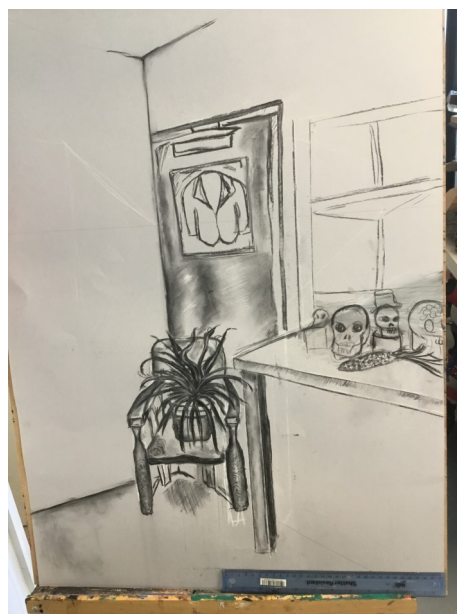
Mrs Burns' Sanitised Spanish System

Mrs Burns' Year 10 Spanish class have a safely sanitised system for the use of dictionaries. Each set of two pupils are made responsible for one dictionary for the week and have created a label system to ensure that only the named pupils can use their copy until all the dictionaries are sanitised on Fridays.



Spaces and Habitat Project

Year 12 Art A level students have started their 'Spaces and Habitat' project. They are considering inside and outside spaces with focus on viewpoints and perspective.



Library Delivery Service

The Library is pleased to offer a Click & Deliver service for pupils who are currently unable to access the Library space.

Full instructions on how to request items and search the catalogue are on the Library's Firefly home page. Books will be distributed by pupils' tutors and can be returned via the book return box just outside the Library. The Librarian is more than happy to suggest appropriate titles if pupils are unable to find a specific book – just email mcolyer@royalrussell.co.uk


Royal Russell School Library


**Click & Deliver
Service**





Year 7s Stem Club Success!

Year 7 STEM CLUB - 1.15pm Tuesday lunchtimes in S3 for Year 7 only.

 Open to all Year 7s who want to experiment with Science or make models and understand the science of how they work.

 STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Maths and each week there will be science in an experiment, making models or designing prototypes for Technology and Engineering, and occasionally using some Maths.

 Each week there will be a different challenge or competition.

 If you are in Year 7 and are interested in joining, please come along!

This week, Year 7 raced their hovercrafts which were made from old CDs, bottle tops and balloons.

They learnt that a hovercraft works by forcing air out beneath it, creating a cushion of air to float on. As the CD is light enough, it doesn't need a large cushion or skirt as a life sized hovercraft normally has. The balloon acts as a pressurized gas chamber. When you open the bottle top, the balloon forces air out through the top, creating a thin cushion of air beneath the CD.

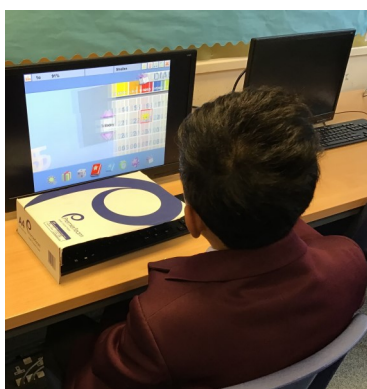
As the hovercraft is nudged it floats over the surface like an air hockey puck. That's because air hockey uses the same principle, with the puck floating on a layer of air but the air comes from holes in the table rather than above as in a hovercraft.



Year 7 Touch Typing

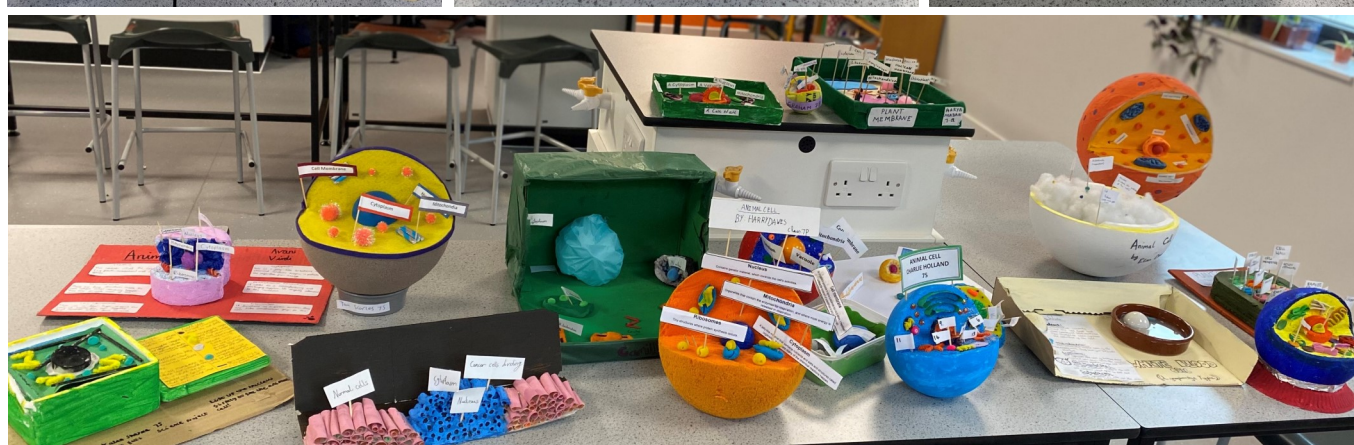
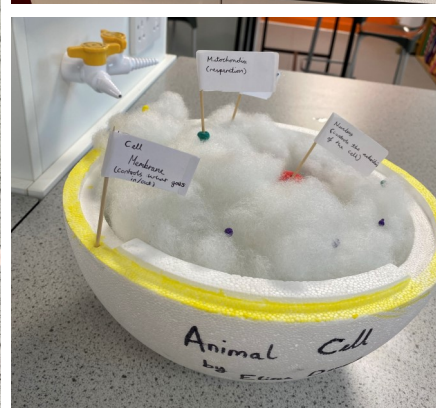
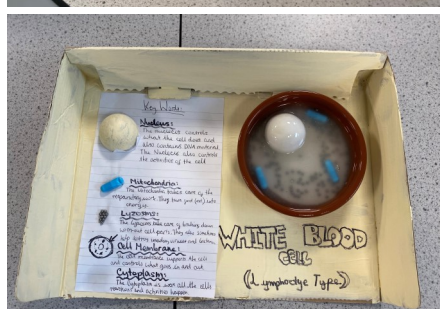
Y7 Touch Typing Club takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes with Mrs Tanner in C4. A funky programme is used demonstrate how to remember the keys and cardboard box covers the keyboard so that pupils can learn to type without looking.

All of the pupils enjoy learning this extremely valuable skill which will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



Year 7 Cell Models

Year 7 have been busy creating a range of 3D models representing human, animal and plant cells. Below are some examples of their creations for their first science project.



Mini MUN

Despite the disappointment of having to cancel the RRS MUN annual conference this year, Model United Nations is back as an after school club and the first round of debates took place this week.

On Monday a few students from Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form met in Great Hall for the first debate of the year on the Death Penalty. Pupils remained in their year group bubbles but still managed to run a high class debate under the chairing of our two Heads of MUN Sam Hacker and Izzy Bennett.

On Wednesday, Anastacia Allan and Luke McCabe chaired our first Mini MUN debate with Year 7s and Year 8s - again in their bubbles - debating whether countries should close schools or pubs and restaurants because of COVID. Below are some photos from the event.

MUN debates will continue every Monday and Wednesday from 4.00 to 5.00pm for students who wish to attend.

Mr Simon Keable-Elliott
Exams Officer and Head of Politics





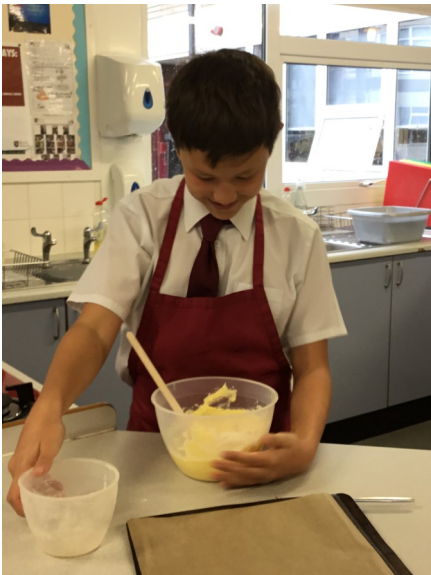
Year 7 Food Club Returns

Wednesday this week, saw the return of Food Club, with the chance for our new Year 7s to practice their baking skills. 12 enthusiastic chefs joined Mrs Saunders and Ms Wood to prepare 'Fork Biscuits'. Every student had the chance to decorate their biscuits and could then take them home once they had successfully washed up!

Thank you to Archie, Shailen, Anxo, Harry, Luke, Tom, Isabel, Rohan, Talia, Anoushka, Oscar and Emilie for a fun 'Bake Off'

Mrs Saunders
Teacher of Food Technology





Library - Things to see and do Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month this October, the Library has produced a guide to exhibitions, resources and activities related to Black History in the UK and beyond.

Please click [here](#) to read the edition in full.



Royal
Russell

LIBRARY

**THINGS TO SEE
AND DO ...**

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

OCTOBER 2020

PLACES TO VISIT

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/b/black-heritage/>



The V&A holds a variety of material relating to black heritage and culture, including fashion, photography and performance. Current highlights include :



Staying Power - photographs of Black British experience 1950-1990 to increase the number of black British photographers and images of black Britain in the V&A collection

Africans in Art - The V&A collections include many representations of African people in a variety of media, ranging from painted portraits, prints and photographs to images in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass and heraldic devices, as well as material relating to the slave trade and abolitionism.



Autumn Term's Updated Clubs and Activities List on Firefly

The co-curricular activities will be published weekly on Firefly.

Click [here](#) to see all the activities available for the week

From the Sport Department

Individual Success

Congratulations to Bethany Long in year 10, who has been selected to train at a hub centre for U17 NPL London Pulse.



Senior Games

This week during games afternoons we focused on fitness, strength and conditioning and skills practise in preparation for the eventual return of competitive fixtures.



Key Diary Dates

Saturday 26 September

Virtual Open Morning (booking only)

Tuesday 29 September

Year 7 Parents Meet the Tutor Evening

Wednesday 30 September

Virtual Open Morning (booking only)

Thursday 1 October

Year 7 Flu Inoculations

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 7

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Year 8

Wednesday 10 March 2021

Year 9

Tuesday 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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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen