



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly
Newsletter

2 October 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

The start of Black History Month on Thursday has seen a whole host of activities planned for the School, many of which have been shared within this newsletter.

There is an excellent summary of the resources and opportunities available on the School's Firefly page [here](#). You will need to log in to Firefly to access this fantastic resource centre.

Thank you to all those involved in supporting our Open Morning Events this week. Particularly to those Year 9 and Year 12 pupils who helped out with the cameras and with the panel on Wednesday morning.

On Thursday 8 October, we will be hosting a virtual Sixth Form Open Evening from 7.00pm. This will be a really important evening for current Year 11 pupils making decisions about their courses and options for the Sixth Form. Our recent excellent A-Level results and the university destinations of our 2020 leavers, show that our students continue to be very successful in their Sixth Form years and beyond. I am looking forward to supporting our current Year 11 families through these important steps ahead. Royal Russell Sixth Form offers some very special opportunities both within and beyond the academic curriculum.

I have been delighted to see our first inter school fixture played this week with a good result for our Second XI against Wilsons. We have two more 'test' fixtures vs Hampton tomorrow morning with a plan to open up more fixtures if we feel it is safe to do so.

It has been great to hear news of the success of Old Russellians Sam Long and Rhys Norrington-Davies, who are both pursuing successful careers in football. There are more details on these stories later in this newsletter.

It was great to be able to catch up with Year 7 parents and families on Tuesday as part of our 'Meet the Tutor' event. I have been very impressed with the progress that Year 7 have made in their learning and the way in which they have settled in to their new routines. I was particularly pleased to welcome the Buchanan Year 7 pupils for Breakfast on Tuesday morning in the conference room with their tutor, Mr Cassidy.



Thank you to all members of our community for the careful way in which you have been protecting each other by washing hands, the use of face coverings and maintaining distance in corridors and classrooms.

Please can you also ensure that you are also following the rules on wearing a face covering on Public Transport so that we are minimising the risk to the Royal Russell Community.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster

Why do we celebrate Black History?

A great place to start on the Black History Month Firefly page is Baroness Floella Benjamin's video.

In this inspiring clip Baroness Benjamin shares her story about how she came to realise the Importance of Black History Month.

Her inspiring message of togetherness reminds us why it is important to look back at the past in order to create a better future.

You can click [here](#) to watch the video in full.



Kaya Kantner's Subject Pioneers

Year 13 student Kaya Kantner and Ms Ahmed have created Subject Pioneer Spotlight posters for each department to share in their classrooms.

These important posters celebrate a black pioneer in each subject and are helping to bring diversity into the forefront of the classroom.

If you spot a poster, take a moment to celebrate these outstanding contributions. We will be sharing a closer look at these posters on our Instagram page soon! [@royal russell school](https://www.instagram.com/royal_russell_school)



Royal Russell's Black History Month Poetry Competition

The English, Library and Media Departments are excited to be running a poetry competition to help celebrate Black History Month. Find out More about entering below!

- You should have explored poetry connected to Black History Month and National Poetry Day's theme of 'Vision' in English lessons. All pupils have been asked to write a poem connected to the theme of vision and to Black History Month. You then need to record/create a video to showcase your poem. You can submit as an individual or in pairs.
- You need to submit your poetry entry by Monday 5th October at the very latest to be shortlisted. Please submit to your English teacher.
- **Stuck for ideas?** Take a look at the Subject Pioneers section on Firefly [here](#). Could you write a poem about one of these successful people?

Excellent resources to inspire you below;

[Black history Month Heroes](#)
[Black History Poets Corner](#)
[Poetry Day Poems](#)



How to tie into the theme 'VISION':
This is YOUR chance to be seen; to be heard; to bring your words to light. You can make the 'unseen' now 'seen'. You can broaden the sights of our school community. You can look from someone else's perspective. You can expose hidden truths. You can celebrate those who have previously gone somewhat unnoticed - the unseen heroes!

You can "dig deeper, look closer and think bigger" (BHM Mission Statement)

Competition Guidelines

- You will study poems in English lessons connected to 'Vision' and also to BHM. Your homework is to produce a video celebrating a poem you love, or a poem you have written, inspired by the theme. The video will need to be filmed/created by you.
- You need to submit by **Monday 5th October** at the very latest to be shortlisted.

Rules:

- You can enter as an individual or pair
- Your video can be a maximum of 2 minutes long
- The poem/video must be connected to the theme of 'VISION' (making the unseen seen) – you could celebrate black history month by focusing on black history, the successes of people of colour, look at identity, diversity or visions for a future, inspired by Martin Luther King. You can interpret this theme in your own way so that it speaks from your heart!
- **There are two categories of entry:**
 1. New poetry written by students (you must write a poem on the theme 'vision')
 2. Existing poetry being celebrated (you must choose a poem from a poet that you would like to celebrate – it must be connected to the theme of vision and, ideally, would be connected to BHM)
- Your video must include your poetic words being spoken aloud. You may choose to have your poetic words displayed on the screen too.
- You can speak directly to the camera or you can use voiceover
- You can film some live shots, or you can use other artistic means – e.g. photographs, drawing – be as creative as you like!
- You can use iMovie, or another way to create your film. The file will likely need to be compressed. It must be submitted digitally to your English teacher, either via Firefly, Teams (or other recommended method).

The shortlisted videos will be shared on Firefly. The winning poems will have the opportunity to create a professional recording of your work with the Media Department!

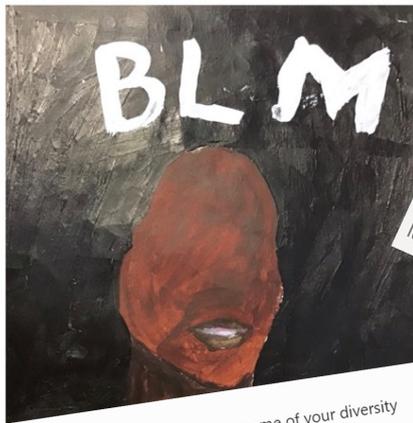
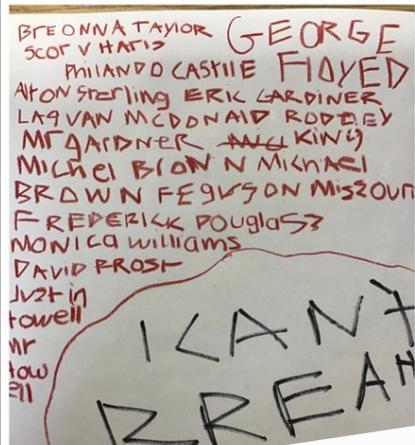
**National Poetry Day =
1st October 2020**

Buchanan's Black History Assembly

Each week this month, Buchanan House are producing a fantastic and insightful Assemblies in honour of Black History Month.

This week, the girls focused on the importance of diversity and finding your voice to progress change and fight for justice. They discussed the powerful Diversity dance and read the poetry of Maya Angelou to draw inspiration 'to rise' above challenges. Next week, they will be listening to the voices of poets like Ross Gay's 'A small Needful Fact' and Lemn Sissay's 'Inspire and be Inspired' as well as other prominent figures in society to give guidance on how to call out injustice and stand up for equality.

The girls also showcased their highlights of the week which included some of the fantastic artwork below.



Angela Hornby Yesterday 10:31 AM Thank you Reade Y10 for sharing your heritage stories, it was a real bonus for us to discover some of your diversity stories this morning.

Alejandro's Break Time Concert

Alejandro Christou played his guitar on the netball courts on Tuesday morning. A lovely little Concert to have.

Thank you!



Voting has begun for the Year 7 Stem Cell Projects

This week, Royal Russell teachers and staff have begun voting for their favourite stem cell projects. Next time you find yourself in S9 make sure to pick your favourite!



Interested in Becoming a Young Reporter?

Interested in becoming a Young Reporter?

YOU COULD BENEFIT FROM:

- Working as a real live reporter for 8 months
- Opportunity to win free press theatre tickets and access to various other events
- Interviews with celebrities
- All your articles published on a live newsfeed seen by millions
- Build up a portfolio for your CV and UCAS applications
- Skill set for your DoE qualification
- Make new friends through our social media groups



PLEASE EMAIL jharris@royalrussell.co.uk
STATING WHY YOU WISH TO BE A YOUNG
REPORTER BY THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER.

Open to Years 10 to 13 only!

Take a look at this [Firefly link](#) to Terrell's report on his experiences as a young reporter!

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

The Return of Music!

The Music department is pleased to announce that as from Monday October 5th, all instrumental and choir bubbles will be able to meet on a weekly basis. please see the times below, some of which may be different to what has taken place this week. Mr Millward and the Team would like to thank everyone for their patience in allowing us to get to this point.

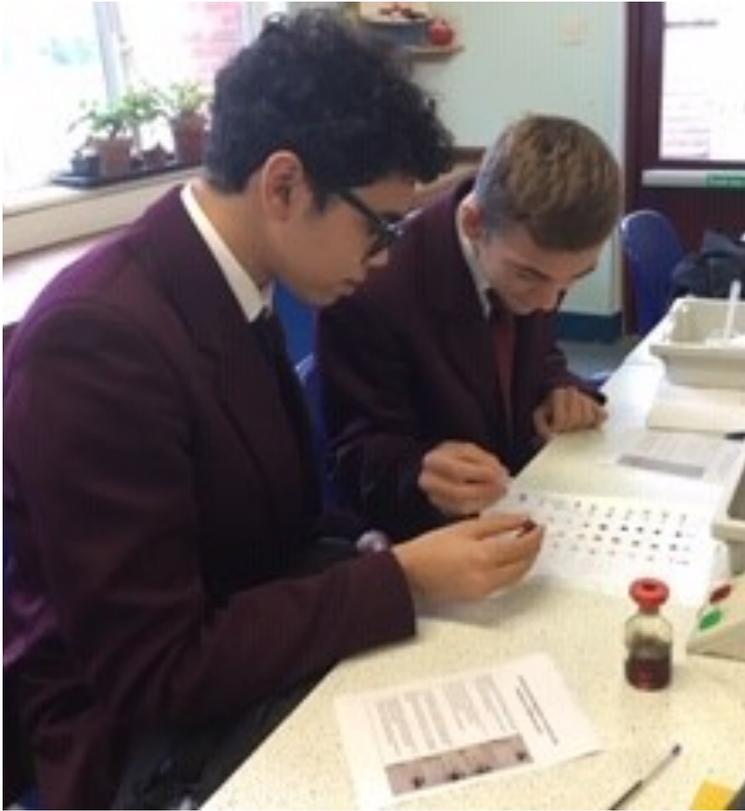
Group	Staff	Duty/Time	Venue
Year 7 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Monday 13:10	A10
VI Form Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Monday 16:00	A21
Year 11 Choir	Mrs Bell	Tuesday 08:10	A10
Year 8 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Tuesday 13:10	A10
Year 10 Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Wednesday 16:00	A21
VI Form Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Thursday 08:10	A10
Year 7 Instrumental	Mrs F Griffith	Thursday 13:10	A21
Year 9 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 13:10	A10
Year 11 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 16:00	A10
Year 9 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Friday 08:10	A10
Year 10 Choir	Mrs Bell	Friday 08:10	Chapel
Year 8 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Friday 13:10	A10



Biological Molecules

Year 10 Biologists have been studying Biological molecules. Thinking about what is in the food we eat. The composition of different molecules and how we can identify these molecules using chemical tests.





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***

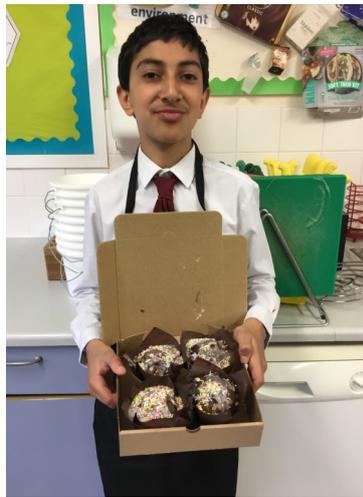


Year 8 Food Club

The department has had another busy week! Food Club ran for the Year 8's. The students enjoyed baking Chocolate Chip Muffins, that they decorated with icing and copious amounts of sprinkles. Maanik, Patrick, Jamie, Emily, Hartley and Ava worked well as a team, successfully preparing some wonderful cakes.

The Food Department will be focusing on new recipes in Food Club, taking ideas and influence from black cultures around the world, linked with the celebration of Black History Month. Next week we will begin with Caribbean Banana Muffins, with the opportunity to trial new flavour and spice combinations. We would love to gather a Recipe Collection whose origin stems from the black, Asian, or other minority groups, especially family favourites from the Royal Russell School community.

Please email vcorcoran@royalrussell.co.uk with details of your recipe, which will be shared on Firefly for others to enjoy through October. Lots of photos to follow over the next few weeks!





Royal Russell
SCHOOL



Food Technology

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION CLUB

WEDNESDAY 4pm – 5:15pm P12



Next Session WEDNESDAY 7th October 2020

YEAR 7

Caribbean Banana Muffins



Sign Up Sheet ... On the fridge in the Food Technology corridor

£2 CHARGE

ONLY 12 PLACES PER WEEK

From the Sport Department

Alumni Successes!

Sam Long

Sam Long has started his football career off fantastically and penned a professional contract with Lincoln City FC. Sam was first spotted by the club whilst playing for Royal Russell.

You can read all about his journey [here](#) and [here](#). We're so pleased for Sam and can't wait to continue to watch his career flourish.



Sam is pictured front row, wearing the Goal Keeper's kit, 4th from the left in this 2019 photo.

Rhy Norrington-Davies

Rhys Norrington-Davies has been called up to play with the full Wales International Team, who play England next game.

Find out more about this exciting opportunity [here](#). Congratulations Rhys, we are so proud to watch your career go from strength to strength.



Rhys is centre front row, holding the trophy in this 2016-17 picture.

Football

XI vs Wilsons School

On Wednesday afternoon, Royal Russell 2nd XI football team took on Wilson's School.

Royal Russell got off to a great start with an excellent volley from 12 yards from Patrick Low. After the 2nd goal came soon when Razat Rahman scored a well worked tap in for his 1st goal of the afternoon. Royal Russell started to really dominate the game with Cameron Sinclair and Benjamin Olowu looking very solid at the back whilst Patrick Low and Razat were pulling the strings in midfield. Josh Sargent delivered a perfectly weighted free kick to Razat who headed home a goal to make it 3-0.

Things only got better when Aleksandr Levasiuk scored an excellent goal to make it 4-0. There was time for 1 more before half time and it was a well-deserved goal for David Kawa who added a goal to his 2 assists, 5-0 at half time.

Conditions in the 2nd half made the game difficult for both teams to play but Royal Russell continued to dominate with both full backs, Jake Riddington and Calum Firth, always looking to get forward.

The 6th goal eventually came when some great midfield play led to Royal Russell being awarded a penalty. Dimitris Savva stepped up and expertly slotted the ball in to the back of the net.

An all-round great display with the back 4 looking solid defensively, the midfield dominating and passing the ball well, as well as the front players looking a threat all afternoon.

Final score was 6-0 to Royal Russell!



Strength and Conditioning

Year 7 Academy had their first Strength and Conditioning session with Mr Brennan and Miss Bailey following fitness testing last week.

All agreed it was fantastic.



Exciting Career Opportunities at Royal Russell!

We currently have many new vacancies open at Royal Russell. Including roles in Teaching, Marketing, Nursing, Coaching and Administration. Click [here](#) for the full list of available positions.

We would be grateful if you could share this with your wider community.

Key Diary Dates

Thursday 8 October

Virtual Sixth Form Information Evening
(booking only)

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