



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

16 October 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

My first congratulations this week go to all those who have contributed to the English Department Poetry competition. The quality of the entries has been as strong as ever and after some careful judging of the amazing work, the winning pieces have been selected and placed on our Firefly page [here](#). Congratulations to Joshua Worrell, Elspeth Gardiner, Emeka Peters, Emily Ton and Isabel Leyland.

We have run two successful virtual open events for prospective parents and families this week. In each of these, a panel of pupils have answered questions and given examples of their best experiences at Royal Russell. They have been great ambassadors for the School and my thanks to Nicholas Solly, Pettiann Bhoorasingh, Jemima Earing, Xavier Obe, Stanley Harrison, Emily Hayden de Carbonnières, Ishe Hunidzarira and Anna Stone.

At our assembly this morning I was able to thank all pupils and staff for their hard work and support of each other in this busy, busy first half of term. I was particularly pleased to congratulate those new pupils and staff who have made such a strong start since joining us in September.

Effort grades and reports have been issued this week to all year groups and these should give a good indication of where pupils need to focus in the second half of the term. Please do take time to review these with your children and follow up with their tutors, if this is needed.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working together to keep the whole Royal Russell community COVID-safe. I have been very impressed by the thoughtful way in which pupils have responded to the challenge of learning in a 'bubbled' school environment and in the way they have adapted their ways of working to ensure that as much of normal school activity as possible has been safely enjoyed.

You will all be aware that there are increased restrictions from the UK Government coming into place at midnight tonight and I would ask that you continue to do all that is possible to reduce the chance of infection by maintaining HANDS – FACE – SPACE routines.

If there are changes to arrangements during half-term, we will keep you informed through regular updates. If we are required to move to remote learning for any period of time, we will be ready to do so using our MS TEAMS platform.

After 8 years leading us in his role as Director of Music, Mr Millward will be leaving us today.

He has made a huge impact here in that time and it is no surprise that music plays such an important part of the lives of so many Russellians. I often refer to the Music Department as the 10th House at Royal Russell, providing amazing care and support for pupils and staff. It is Mr Millward's open and friendly approach, the epitome of 'non sibi sed omnibus', combined with his brilliant, brilliant musicianship that have made the department a very special place. He is leaving to move to Leicester Grammar School in a new role and we wish him and his family every success in the future.

At Assembly this morning, I gathered at a suitably safe social distance with the Year 10 Choir to sing this ABBA tribute to him to the tune of 'Thank you for the music'!

Thank you Mr Millward for all you've brought us,
Thanks for all the joy you've taught us
Who can live without you? We ask in all honesty
What will life be?
Without you with us here, what are we?
So we say thank you Mr Millward
For our music community.

I hope you are all able to find some time to recharge over the next two weeks and I look forward to welcoming everyone back, ready to 'work hard and be nice to people' in the second half of this busy term.

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

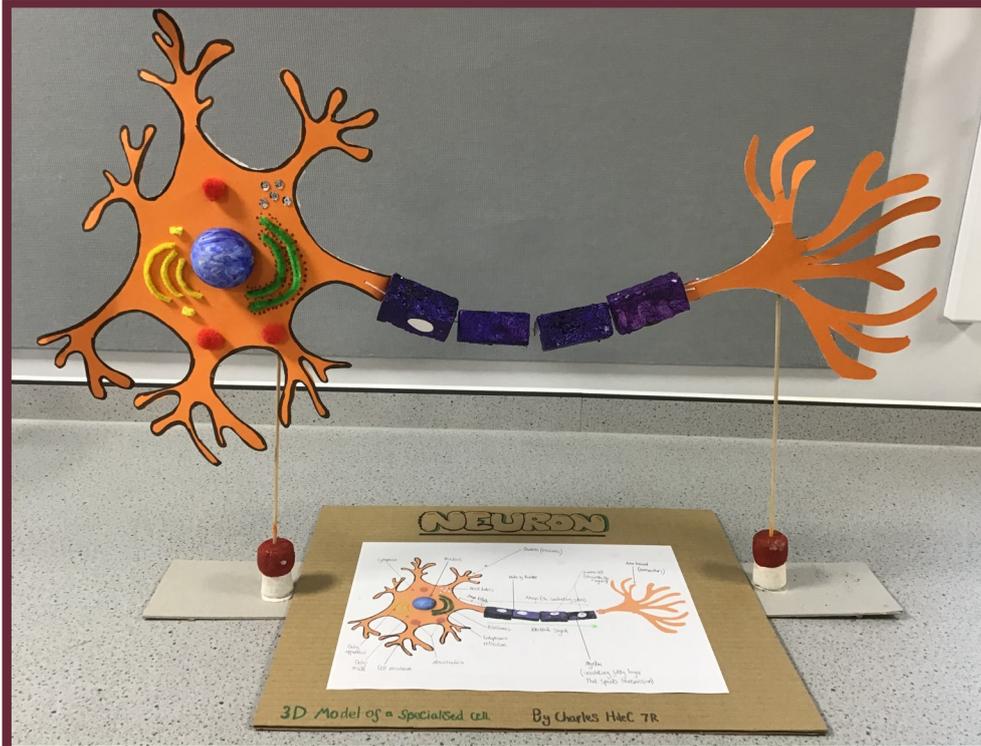
Headmaster

Year 7 Stem Cell Models

To understand more about the structure of living organisms, Year 7 students studied cells, their structure and how they differ. As part of this, they were challenged to make a model of a cell from everyday materials. This was an opportunity to show off their learning in Science, and also to get creative.

This year saw some exceptional cell models. Congratulations to all of Year 7 for showing so much effort and creativity.

And the winners are...

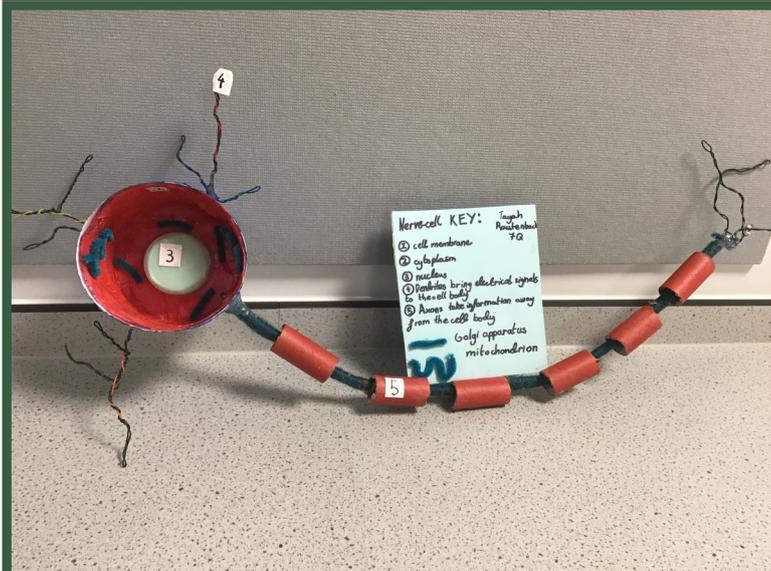


1st Place -

Charles Hayden de
Carbonnières'
Nerve Cell

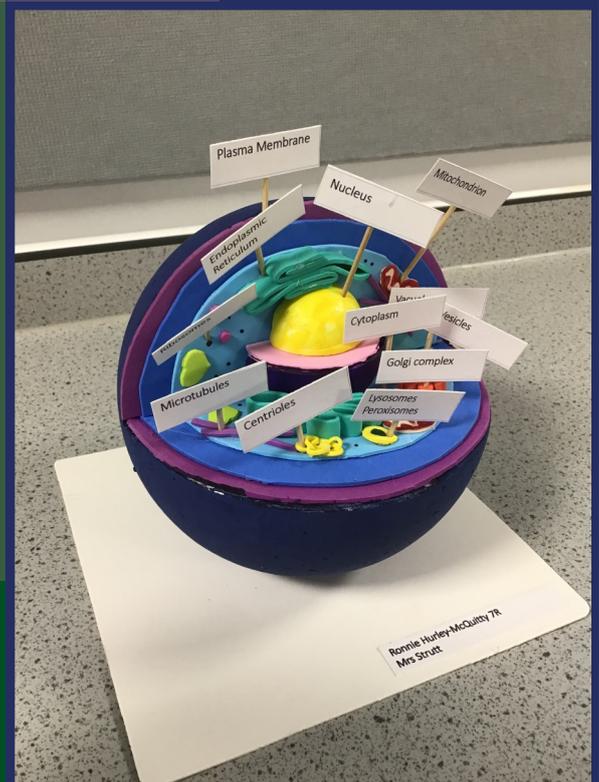
3rd Place -

Ronnie Hurley-
McQuitty's
Animal Cell



2nd Place -

Tayah Rautenbach's
Nerve Cell



Gifted & Talented Talks

As part of our Gifted and Talented programme, Mr Martin Tanner gave an entertaining and informative presentation to a group of Year 9 pupils last Friday, exploring the science of the infinitely large and small. Martin is a keen amateur astronomer and enlightened our pupils to the wonders and mystery of the universe, including the basic ideas of quantum theory and "entanglement" where two particles can instantaneously communicate at an infinite distance.

We look forward to him delivering further high quality talks to our pupils during this year.



What's New in the Library?

Click the picture of the books to see what's new in the library...



Catering News

The Catering Department have completed an additional training course to improve their understanding of Food Allergens and to gain confidence in their work when catering for special diets safely.

We are pleased to say that all the Managers and Chefs successfully completed the Highfield Level 3 Award in Food Allergen Management in Catering (several team members were awarded a distinction). All the Food Serving Staff also attended an Allergy Awareness & Allergen Labelling for Caterers course.

"Natasha's Law" is due to come into force by summer 2021 and the training we have undertaken will ensure that we are better prepared to meet these new requirements.

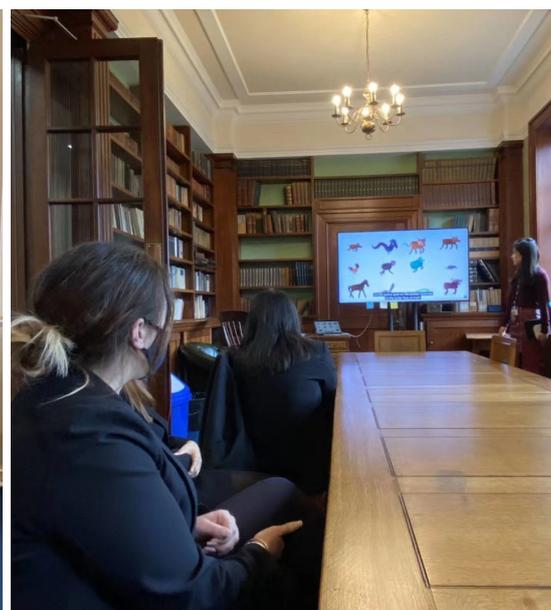


Chinese Club

Last Friday, we gathered in C10 to learn about the Chinese Zodiac. The Chinese zodiac, known as Shengxiao or ShuXiang, features 12 animal signs in this order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. Originating from ancient zoolatry and boasting a history of more than 2000 years, the Chinese Zodiac plays an essential role in Chinese culture. The 12 Chinese zodiac animals in the cycle are not only used to represent years in China, but also believed to influence people's personalities, careers, compatibility, marriage, and fortune.

2020 is the Year of The Rat according to the Chinese zodiac. This is a Year of the Metal Rat, which started on Jan 25 2020 (Chinese New Year) and will last until 2021 Lunar New Year's Eve on Feb 11 2021. Next year will be Year of the Ox.

The Sixth Form last week explored the zodiac animals and the signs. We had fun discussions about the Chinese zodiac compatibility, especially in terms of finding their Mr or Mrs Right.



Exciting Career Opportunities

We currently have many new vacancies open at Royal Russell. Including roles in Teaching, Marketing, Nursing, Coaching and Administration.

Please click [here](#) for the full list of available positions. We would be grateful if you could share this with your wider community.



St Andrews Assembly

A long Time Coming!

The return to school has presented a challenging raft of changes for us all from distancing routines, room changes and timings to our day. However, the Year 11 boys of St Andrew's were keen to discuss, consider and present the impact of change in the wider world – specifically the global change to our consciousness and awareness of equality, in light of the well documented racial tensions highlighted in America this summer.

In a thought provoking presentation, the boys offered a clear definition of systemic racism supported by some alarming statistics highlighting the gulf in education, employment and property between races. The assembly provided the opportunity to revisit and explore some of the more notorious cases of the summer, offering due context and a balanced view as to what extent the cases of George Floyd et al would galvanise (and sustain) a drive for change.

The topical issue of the duration of change was also raised, with sport's commitment to 'taking the knee' perhaps now suffering a decline of interest and impact. The sensitive reflections of all of the boys culminated in a powerful composition produced by Josh Golding, who displayed great musical talent in sampling and compiling a range of sound bites and speeches to an original soundtrack (also played at the whole school assembly).

An excellent assembly - one that should reassure us all that the younger generation truly are our vehicles of change.



Why We Should Celebrate BHM?

October. On those cold school mornings of October, I instantly pile up my coat, scarf and gloves. When I sit on the bus, the clean sheet of fresh frost always captures my attention. However, by the afternoon, the warm sun rays flood through the top deck of the bus making it more comforting and cosy. You probably can all relate to this as well: every morning the cold weather nips at my skin but in contrast, in afternoon, the hot sun forces me to carry my coat in my arms on my way home. In my opinion, in October the variety of temperatures reflects on the moods and feelings of Black History Month. Some may say that, black history month is an emotional, sad and sorrowful time, as we think about all the hard work, deaths and the many horrific events that has happened in order for equality. However others may say that black history month is also a month for full celebrations in order to empower, empathise and educate all ages and cultures about black history. I think that black history month is about both of these things. So let's consider why should we celebrate it ?

The truth : something from young we have always been constantly reminded and encouraged to tell. So I ask myself, why is it that when I search up on Google *lightbulb inventor* images and search webs about Thomas Edison flood my screen? When in actual fact, the light bulb inventor was a black man, born in Chelsea, who was a son of former slaves, called Lewis Latimer. Even when you search up *helpers* or *associates with the invention of the light bulb*, many other pictures of middle aged white men fill the screen. But, well Do you really think that Lewis Latimer will come up along side with them ? I think that one of the most important messages to young black children during Black History Month is that, the reality is, sadly they already have to work one hundred times harder than others. But even though history may not show it directly, everyone should be taught about the black people who have also helped to shape and modernise our world. Young black children should know that they also have a chance to help our society. As you guys are senior pupils, I think as the older years, it's your job to help to spread, educate and make younger pupils aware of all our other amazing unseen *black heros*.

I think celebrating black history is crucial to broaden our understanding on our history. But I bet you didn't know that, 87% of our history books have been written by white males. Yes, 87%! What a shocking number... You may be thinking, "Well does this mean that everything in our history books are a lie" well I personally, I think the word lie is the wrong word. I think the correct word is inaccurate. But how are we supposed to broaden our knowledge and understanding of black history when every year all we get taught about is the powerful but repetitive stories of Martin Luther King junior and Rosa Parks? Although both these figures are extremely important, I'm quite sure if you ask anyone to think of two black figures who contributed to the civil rights movement, both these figures will be said and they won't be questioned. The problem is, if this question is asked, and the answer is both of these figures, we just say "correct" and move on. But what about our unheard of figures such as Frank Smith, Claudette Colvin or even Asa Philip Randolph? If unheard of figures are mentioned people will ask who they are. And I believe that the beauty of learning is the answer of our questions. Answers that can help make us think more deeply, answers that can help us understand and answers that can help us to spread our understanding.

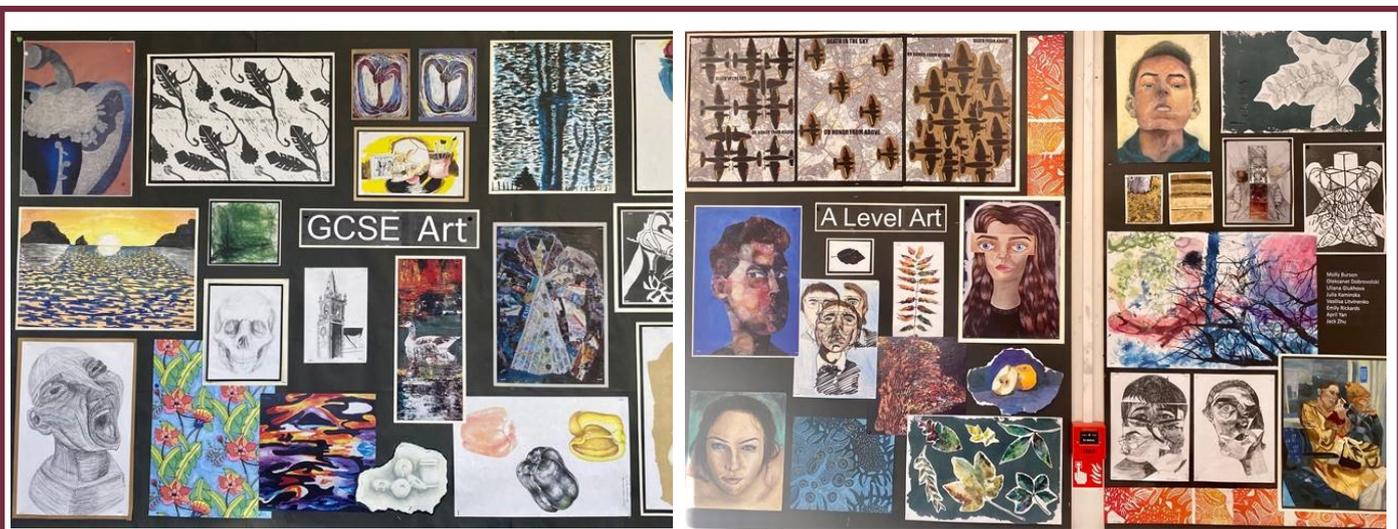
As I said before, celebrating black history month helps to broaden our understanding of black history. However, black history month isn't just about black history, but it is a story about the danger of power and prejudice and also the story of how the British Empire has such a powerful status. For those still unsure about why we should celebrate black history month, have you ever thought how Britain has a powerful title? Or even what events happened in order for Britain to have its well known powerful title? Well the answer is one word... Colonialism. "The act of taking political and economic control over a dependant territory" but in this case it was more then this. As well as robbing innocent people from their beautiful lands, natural resources and production, it also meant robbing people from their identity. Enslaving Innocent people, stealing their sugar, stealing their bananas and crops and leaving them with nothing. I think black history month must be celebrated to show how far we have come.

I am part Jamaican and Chinese. You may be Indian, Scottish, French or Australian. But no matter whatever your nationality is, we need to come together to spread the awareness and the importance of black history. Leaving history and returning to the present day, our fight is not over. The repetitive headlines in the news - " A young black boy, brutally killed by a white police officer" this is not something that should be the new norm but something that must stop. I completely agree with The Sun's statement of saying "This year has been the biggest movement in a long time" but this got me thinking....

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many others are now apart of black history. October is a time to come together, to celebrate , to educate and also reflect on all these past and present events that have impacted our world.

Racism must end now. Black Lives do Matter. And **Happy Black History month.**

Amber Knibb, Year 11



Poetry Competition

This year's National Poetry Day theme was 'Vision' and fell inside Black History Month. Pupils across all year groups were invited to submit a poem along with a self-created video. The winners were invited to work with Year 12 Media students, Jaiden Drakes-Thomas and Ellie Baker, to create a winner's video which can be viewed on the Black History Month Firefly page [here](#).

And the winners are...

- Joshua Worrell Y7
- Elspeth Gardiner Y8
- Emeka Peters Y9
- Emily Ton Y10
- Isabel Leyland Y12

All of the brilliant submissions can be viewed [here](#).



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Year 7 have spent the week designing and preparing their own fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies. We have seen a wonderful selection of colourful vitamin rich drinks, perfect for breakfast. Ingredients used included pineapple, papaya, avocado and kiwi.

Year 8 have continued to research and plan meals for those who follow strict dietary guidelines, including intolerances, religious restrictions, and meals for vegetarians. They have engineered and developed their own Vegetarian Taco recipe, with a super variety of ingredients and presentation techniques.





Russell Talks

Nadeem Mukri delivered a very fascinating talk this week where he spoke about the Abbasid Caliphate being pioneers in higher education and research. He brought to our attention the mathematical, scientific, and economic breakthroughs between the 7th and 13th centuries that were achieved by this dynasty such as the trigonometric identities, algebra, and the binomial theorem that we see today in A level maths which was particularly interesting.

He then compared the philosophic and economic theories of Ibn Khaldun to that of the famous, modern economists that are more well-known, and they were very similar. The fact that the policies we perceived to be of western origin could easily have derived from the Arabs is a real eye-opener and was something I found very intriguing.

Timeline: 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200

al-Mansur (r. 754-775) - built Baghdad
 al-Rashid (r. 786-809)
 al-Ma'mun (r. 813-833) - House of Wisdom

House of Wisdom
 Mathematics
 Astronomy
 Physics
 Medicine
 Geography/ Cartography
 Poetry
 Philosophy

Sanskrit
 Greek
 Chinese
 Persian → Arabic

*During the period of the Caliphs the learned men of the Christians and the Jews were not only held in great esteem but were appointed to posts of great responsibility, and were promoted to the high ranking jobs in the government... His (Caliph Harun Rashid) never considered to which country a learned person belonged nor his faith and belief, but only his excellence in the field of learning.
 -John William Draper in 'History of Intellectual Development of Europe'

1332



1723



From the Sport Department

Football

U18's

Royal Russell started their Hudl league game and 5 minutes in were 1-0 down when a loose pass was cut out and a 2nd ball drop down to the Bede's midfielder who slipped in their striker who finished to make it 1-0.

8 minutes in and Royal Russell were level when a great ball over the top from Oliver Hamstead found David Kawa who took it down perfectly beating his full back and finishing well from a tight angle, 1-1.

Royal Russell had a few chances to equalise through Tyler Falzon, which their GK saved, and then Cameron Dobell had the ball in the net twice but both times found the offside flag up. Both coming from great work from Jaiden Drakes-Thomas.

Half time score was 1-1.

In the first minute in the 2nd half, Royal Russell took the lead. Bobby Moore found Tyler who cut it back and Josh Sargent at the 2nd attempt smashed it home off the cross bar, 1-2 to Royal Russell.

After 55 minutes, a great goal came from David Kawa. Jaiden found him with a great reverse pass and Kawa turned expertly before shifting it past the Centre Back and slotted it well. 1-3 to Royal Russell.

62 minutes in and BEDES got one back with a great finish from their number 14 who curled it into the top corner, 2-3.

After 70 minutes and Royal Russell regained their 2 goal lead. Great pressing from David lead to a mistake from the Goalkeeper whose clearance fell to Bobby Moore who slid it to Braiden Hall who drove it across the goalkeeper and into the far corner, 2-4 to Royal Russell.

There was time for 1 more for Royal Russell and it was substitute Braiden Hall as he smashed the ball again across the keeper but this time from 20 yards.

A great way to finish off a great strong performance.

5-2 win for Royal Russell.



Year 7 and 8 Social Football

As it is the end of the half term, more social teams have enjoyed playing in tournaments and matches.

On Monday, Team George took on Team Chris. Despite having the Lions share of possession, Team Chris just couldn't get past Danush in goal and were 3-0 down at half time. A mid-season transfer saw Will and Lewis trade places and in a dramatic turnaround Team Chris ended up 7-5 winners.

Great fun was had by all!

Team Chris



Team George



Netball

Senior

This week the Senior Team concentrated on preparing for their matches which will begin after half term. Good luck girls!



Key Diary Dates

Monday 2 November	Half Term Break Ends
Tuesday 3 November	Year 7 Keable Breakfast with Headmaster
Wednesday 4 November	UK Senior Further Maths Challenge (Year 12)
Thursday 5 November	Year 13 Parents Evening
Thursday 5 November	Hockey : Girls U9 Tournament v Lingfield
Friday 6 November	Hockey : U11 UKSA Tournament
Friday 6 November	Bonfire Night
Monday 23 November	Autumn Concert Broadcast

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



To keep up to date click the icons below and give us a follow....



Instagram

royal_russell_school



twitter

@Royal_Russell



facebook

Royal Russell School

We welcome your feedback. Please email: reception@royalrussell.co.uk or feedback@royalrussell.co.uk
To unsubscribe from receiving this weekly Newsletter click [here](#).

Royal Russell School

Coombe Lane : Croydon : Surrey : CR0 5RF

www.royalrussell.co.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen