



Dear Parents and Friends,

It has been great to welcome pupils back onto the School site for the second half of this busy term.

Last night we held a virtual Parents' Evening for our Year 13 families and, at the end of the event, I was able to enjoy some catch up conversations with a number of these students. It was clear that the assessments before half term have focused their minds and I was pleased to share in the positive energy from this group, particularly when sharing their UCAS and career aspirations.

As part of our recruitment cycle for new Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 pupils, we have run two more successful virtual open events for prospective parents and families this week. In these, a panel of pupils has answered questions and given examples of their best experiences at Royal Russell. They have been great ambassadors for the School and my thanks to Nichola Smith, Priscilla Obeng, Anna Stone, Calum Firth and Victor Ayodele.

Our closing date for applications for places to join the School in 2021 is Friday 13 November, and despite the obvious challenges of not being able to physically welcome prospective families to the School, it is very pleasing to note a very similar number of registrations for places as in previous years.

I am looking forward to our Act of Remembrance in the Memorial Garden this Sunday and next Wednesday, on Armistice Day, when we will be marking two minutes of silence in memory of those former Russellian pupils who gave their lives in the service of their country.

New National Restrictions

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working together to keep the whole Royal Russell community COVID-safe as we move into the [new national restrictions](#). Set out below is our Royal Russell response to those new restrictions which I have shared with pupils and staff at our assembly this afternoon.

In the published guidelines, the Government have made clear that it is committed to keeping schools open so that our young people can continue to benefit from attending school, for their wellbeing and to ensure their long-term futures. The Government also reiterated its intention that public examinations should go ahead next summer, another important reason for keeping schools open.

We are therefore planning to remain fully operational and to provide as complete an educational experience as possible for our pupils for the duration of this restriction period.

There are a number of changes that we will be making and these are outlined below:

After School Activities

Current after school care and activities will run as normal, as long as pupils or staff are not travelling home and then returning to School for the activity.

Chapel and Assemblies

There will be no physical Chapel Services or Year Group Assemblies for more than 30 people. Where small group assemblies or services are held, pupils and staff must be suitably socially distanced in the assembly hall or chapel.

Cleaning

Additional cleaning routines have already been established including regular cleaning of high touch point areas and weekly anti-viral fogging of all classrooms and offices.

Dining Arrangements

The provision of our new Dining Pavilion now means that we can safely provide hot meals at lunchtime for all pupils and staff.

External Speakers

There will be no external speakers visiting the site during this restriction period.

Face coverings

In line with our current arrangements, face coverings should be worn by staff and pupils in Year 7 and above, when moving around the School in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Face coverings will not be required inside of classrooms or activity rooms, but may be worn by pupils and staff who wish to do so.

Fixtures

There will be no fixtures against other schools during this restriction period. There will be no sports practices or training on Saturdays or Sundays during this restriction period. Sports practices and sports activities during the school week will continue as currently planned.

Gym and Physiotherapy

The Gym will be open for pupils in their bubble during this restriction period. This includes for PE classes, strength and conditioning sessions and the supervised boarding pupil sessions. The Gym will be closed for staff personal use during this restriction period. There will be no physiotherapy appointments for pupils on the School site.

Lettings

There will be no external lettings during this restriction period.

Trips

There will be no school trips during this restriction period.

Ventilation

To ensure a flow of air, doors / windows to classrooms should be open whilst teaching. Doors can be closed if the learning task will disturb the learning of other pupils in adjoining classrooms, for the duration of that specific task.

Visitors to the site

There will be no visitors to school site during this restriction period. All meetings with parents should take place by phone or on TEAMS/ZOOM. Contractors will continue to operate in the controlled areas of the building site.

We will continue to monitor any changes in the published guidelines and we will amend our routines further, to protect the health and well being of our community, as needed.

Best wishes,



Chris Hutchinson

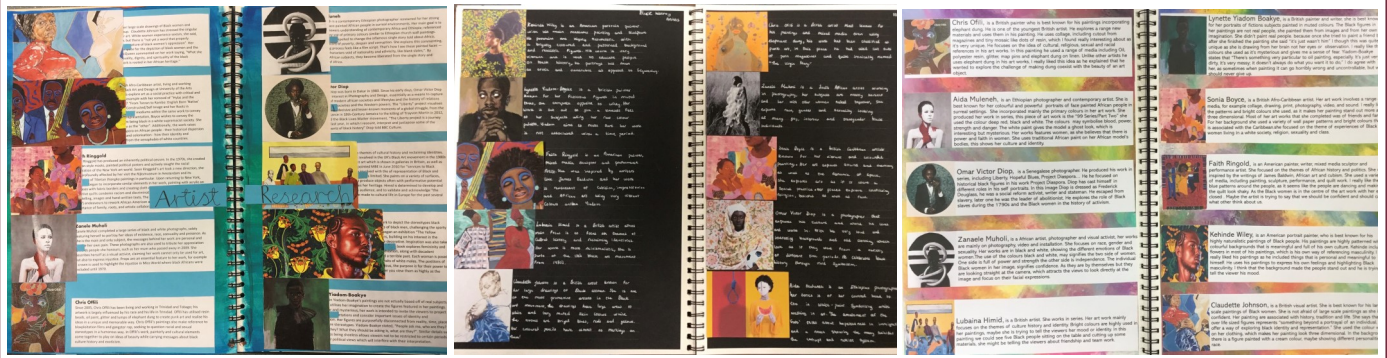
Headmaster

Black History Month Artwork

Below are Year 11 art pupils responses to artists they were introduced to, and researched for Black History Month.

Pupils were asked to paint a person who they felt had made a positive contribution to society. Here are some of their portraits including: Marsha P. Johnson, Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks.





MiniMUN debate in light of USA Election

This week at MiniMUN pupils representing different countries debated the statement “All countries should insist on their leader telling the truth and never saying, tweeting or emailing fake or untrue news.”

The China delegate discussed the dangers of lying to your people saying it could lead to insecurity and Norway built on this saying countries were reliant on trust between the leaders and the people. The North Korea delegate suggested that their leader understood what their people should and should not know and the delegate for India suggested in this time of COVID that some ‘white lies’ might be needed so as not to worry people too much.

The majority of students however spoke in favour with the Netherlands strongly arguing the moral case for honesty. At the final vote the motion was passed with a large majority. MiniMUN for pupils in Years 7 and 8 continues every week in the Great Hall (Wednesdays between 4 and 5pm). Next week’s debate is on immigration.

Senior MUN debates are also continuing on Monday nights for students in years 10 to 13.





Year 7 STEM Club

This week, Year 7 enjoyed setting off explosions in the Coke a cola and Mentos experiment on Tuesday lunchtime. STEM Club members planned which types of Coke a cola they wanted to compare the explosions of: Pepsi, Coke a cola, Coke a cola zero sugar, Tesco diet cola and finally Diet Coke.

To ensure that the experiment was a fair test, members came to an agreement that the temperature, quantity of Coke a cola and number of Mentos would remain constant. The only variable which would change would be the type of Coke a cola.

In Part 2 next week, they plan to compare the video footage and discuss possible reasons why some bottles of Coke a cola provided better explosions than others. Plans will then be made about what will be changed next time to compare with these results. For example, Billy has asked that we test out other types of fizzy drink such as Fanta to make comparisons.

Look out for more in the next few weeks!



Spotlight on online resources

Please click [here](#) to view another Sway showcasing some of the Library's online resources.

Year 8 Printmaking

During black history month, pupils from 8S and 8Q looked at the work of African printmaker, John Muafangejo. He fought for the independence of Namibia and this was often represented in his artwork.

The pupils studied his woodcut prints and in response, produced beautiful polyblock prints to celebrate his life and work.

Mrs Ahmed



Year 7 Headmaster's Breakfast

On Tuesday morning, Year 7s from Keable House were welcomed to the Conference Room to start their day with a delicious breakfast.

They also enjoyed getting to know each other and the Headmaster.



From the Sport Department

Football

Year 8 Tournament

Due to it being the first week back from half term and with the announcements of no fixtures the year 8's participated in a Champions League tournament. The captains selected the following teams Bayern Munich, Porto, PSG, Barcelona and Manchester City.

There was some very entertaining and attractive football being played on both pitches. Bayern Munich started the strongest in the first round of games going unbeaten winning 4 games out of 4 with Captain Oliver Stephens leading his team. Both goalkeepers Thibault Hardy and Lorenzo Shone were making some unbelievable saves. Bayern Munich's strong start lead them to Champions league winners finishing on 20 points.

Final League Table:

Bayern Munich 20

Porto 16

PSG 11

Barcelona 9

Manchester City 7

Year 9 Tournament

Due to it being the first week back from half term and with the announcements of no fixtures the year 9's also participated in a Champions League tournament. However, the captains picked different sides in comparison to the year 8's. Bayern Munich was chosen again along with Juventus, Liverpool, Benfica and somehow Arsenal sneaked into the tournament with some debate.

The players of all teams were showing some great defensive skills keeping a lot of clean sheets throughout the first round of games. Liverpool's passing attacking play was tantalising at times with the trio of Kenneth Peskett, Oliver Hampton and Archie Sullivan-Martin combining very well. Oliver Hampton scoring what was the goal of the tournament after great wing play from Archie (who some were calling Mo Salah after his display).

All players were showing great enthusiasm and the energy was very impressive on both pitches. The 2nd round of games was interesting when UEFA announced that captains couldn't score and each team nominated a 'star player' who if they scored would give the team a bonus point on every occasion. This changed the tactics as the captains were now leading the team and looking to assist. This proved effective when 'star man' for his team Alessandro Torre scored a great goal to give his team a bonus point as well as a win on the last game. The Champions League winners in the end were Arsenal who played some great free flowing attacking football with still some debate on how they got into the Champions League 2020!

Final League Table:

Arsenal 17

Benfica 12

Liverpool 11

Bayern Munich 7

Juventus 6

U18 Tournament

Year 12's and 13's continued the theme of the week with a tournament but this time consisting of the Purple team, Orange team, Green team and Pink team.

The greens began with a great start after being awarded a bonus point for the best warm up as a team. However, this wasn't replicated when they lost their first game 3-1 to the oranges. Whilst the Pink team put the purple team to the sword 8-2. The 2nd round brought some great games with the purple's losing 6-4 to the oranges whilst it was even closer on the other pitch where the pink team defeated the green team 5-4.

The final fixtures saw a cracking result for the greens where the purples capitulated. Braiden Hall scoring some great goals whilst Josh Sargent scored a 'Paulo Di Canio' type volley. Not to forget attacking player Kilae Crockwell who was a rock at the back. The pink team continued their unbeaten run winning 2-1 against the oranges in a closely contested encounter. The pink team consisting of Toby Mckimm, Bobby Moore, David Kawa, Amir Mohamed Faruk, Brayan Fernandez, Ben Olowu and Calum Firth.



The Pinks topped the table with 3 wins out of 3.

1. Pink - 9pts
2. Orange - 6pts
3. Green - 4pts
4. Purple - 0pts

Netball

Across all age groups we have been focussing on movement and ball skills this week, varying in difficulty throughout the year groups. This is to ensure all year group basics are at the highest possible level they can be, therefore as they move up age groups they are ready to learn the more complicated skills needed to perform set plays. In addition, the seniors have been practising their set plays, trying out different combinations and rotations within the 1st team squad.

All year groups have also all completed some fitness based work either in games or training. Specifically, the U13's have completed the 'death' test (bleep test), where their previous results from before half term were compared. Impressively, all the girls beat their previous results from the start of the year.



Key Diary Dates

Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Service (Closed event)

Tuesday 10 November

Year 7 Madden Breakfast with Headmaster

Wednesday 11 November

Remembrance Day

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



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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen