



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

20 November 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

Our week started with a special Chapel service for boarding pupils and staff from Queen's and Hollenden on Sunday evening. The Service was led by Miss Sava and included cameo appearances from Mr Moseley and Ms Davenport.

The Chapel Service on Monday morning was an introduction to Anti-Bullying Week which was presented by the Senior Prefects. The theme for this week was 'united against bullying' and, after a number of different activities in tutor groups during the week, our assembly this afternoon was again led by the Senior prefects who shared some of stories and experiences of support and kindness that have helped them in times of difficulty.

The opening prayer and reflection was written and read by Year 13 pupil Vlada Medvedeva.

Lord,  
Please teach us to be kind,  
Gentle, generous, giving,  
Forgiving, loving and  
Caring and follow in Your  
Humble footsteps

Guide us to the place  
You want us to be,  
Take control

Mould and shape us into the  
Brilliant beings we were  
Always destined to become

Lord,  
Even when the world around us is swirling and broken,  
Thank you for being true, kind, and a foundation to lean on.  
Today, we boldly and humbly approach you asking for your kindness to meet us.  
Amen

Luca Simons, gave a 'Russell Talk' yesterday lunchtime on the evolution of music through the 20th century. Luca shared his passion for music at assembly this afternoon performing 'I Got Rhythm' and 'The Man I Love' as a taster for the Music Department's Autumn Concert will be streamed on Monday 23 November at 7.00 pm via the school's YouTube channel.

Izzy Bennett closed the assembly with a final thought from Maya Angelou:

"My wish for you is that you continue.

Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness. Continue to allow humour to lighten the burden of your tender heart."

On Wednesday evening we held our Year 7 Parents' Evening using our new digital platform. The feedback from this was very positive with many experienced parents and staff commenting that it was an easier experience than the sometimes rather noisy and draughty Great Hall!

I have continued to meet Year 7 tutors groups for Breakfast and enjoyed some time getting to know Oxford House with Mrs Saunders on Tuesday.

On Thursday morning I met with a group of our new Year 9 pupils for breakfast in our new dining marquee. This was a chance for me to find out a little more about their progress so far and also to start some conversations about possible GCSE Option Choices for Year 10 and beyond. The formal process for GCSE options begins with a presentation to Year 9 pupils in December.

I have completed the final interviews with our Year 6 pupils in the Junior School this week. It has been great to note that 43 of these pupils have already accepted their places in Year 7 for September 2021. Many of these are now preparing for scholarship assessments in art, drama, music and sport which will be completed between now and January. We have 277 external applicants who also interested in joining Year 7 in September and our Admissions Team remain very busy!

### **Inclusion Group**

Since the summer (which feels a long way away today!) a small group of staff and parents have been meeting to discuss the School's approach to diversity, equality and inclusion. If you would like to join this group, please let me know by email to [headmaster@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:headmaster@royalrussell.co.uk)

### **Catering**

Whilst the Covid-19 outbreak has affected the School's ability to cater for pupils in the same way as we did pre-Covid, the Catering & Hospitality team have been working exceptionally hard to deliver a consistent level of service to pupils that is Covid-19 safe.

As a result of social-distancing, enhanced cleaning and other changes necessary to protect the community, the lunch offer has had to be scaled-back to a more simple offering. We do recognise that the lunch offer pre-Covid had more choice as was easier for pupils, as they could serve themselves, but this level of offering is unfortunately not possible at the present time.

To help with the situation, the School has invested money and resource into the new dining marquee building and will be running several theme lunches before the Christmas break, the first of which will be a Caribbean themed lunch on Wednesday 25 November. The pupil Christmas lunch is then planned to take place in the final week of term, with students enjoying a traditional Christmas lunch, with all the trimming, and perhaps a visit from Father Christmas himself, socially distanced, of course!

With best wishes,



**Chris Hutchinson**

Headmaster





# UK Linguistics Olympiad

## Preparation begins

Senior School pupils from Year 7 who have shown particular promise this term were given the opportunity to have a Linguistics taster session last Friday.

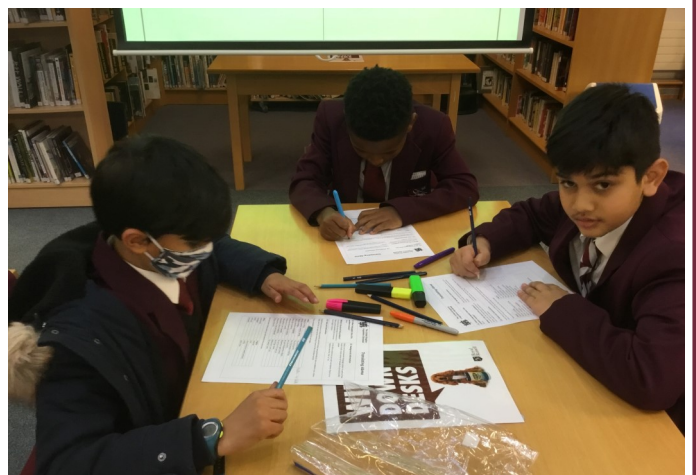
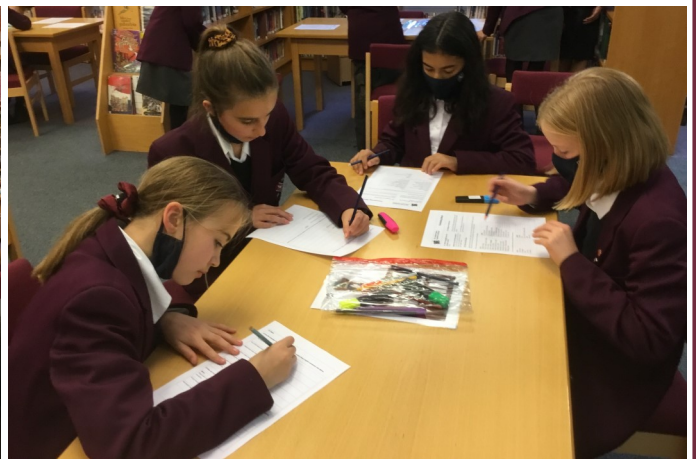
This involved completing problem-solving puzzles requiring them to translate short phrases in an unfamiliar language, "Abma" back to English. This is an Austronesian language spoken in parts of the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu by around 8,000 people.

The session was taken by Miss Sava, who runs our weekly School Linguistics Club. We hope that many of these pupils will be encouraged to take part in the UK Linguistics Challenge that takes place in February, which has now established itself as a major competition for the School with around eighty pupils taking part.

Below is an example of some phrases pupils were provided with:



Abma	English
Mwamni sileng.	He drinks water.
Nutsu mwatbo mwamni sileng.	The child keeps drinking water.
Nutsu mwegau.	The child grows.
Nutsu mwatbo mwegalgal.	The child keeps crawling.





# Queen's Charity

Last year Queen's House raised a substantial amount of money by selling items that they no longer needed. We sold them to one another, the staff and at The Christmas Fair.

All the donations were organised and set up for sale by Miss Ryan who spent a lot of time collating the items, storing them, pricing them and then organising charity sales.

Lockdown meant that this money hasn't been donated to the charities that the girls had nominated so this year we want to ensure that this is done and the charities benefit from it.

Each tutor group has chosen where they want their share of the money to be donated. In our House meeting time, the girls presented their choices and explained about the charity and their reasons for choosing it.

## We are donating to the following:

<b>Year 7</b>	Meningitis Now	Receiving <b>£215.00</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	Halo Project	Receiving <b>£107.50</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	Operation Xmas Child	Receiving <b>£107.50</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	Were so impressed by the Year7 presentation that they decided to add their donation to Meningitis Now	
<b>Year 11</b>	Water Aid and Just like us	Receiving <b>£53.75 each</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	Save the children	Receiving <b>£107.50</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	Cancer Research UK	Receiving <b>£107.50</b>

We will be sending this money out to these charities with a letter from each tutor group.

Well done Queen's girls for thoughtfully thinking of others and thanks so much to Miss Ryan for all her hard work organising all the sales.





# UK Senior Maths Challenge Success

Our Year 12 Further Maths pupils took part in the United Kingdom Senior Mathematical Challenge earlier this term.

It actually turned out to be more of an international competition as our students studying in the contingency school in China took part online as well as some of our "remote" learners.

The competition is for the top 25% of maths pupils and contains some very challenging questions which require a high fluency in problem solving techniques as well as strong algebra, arithmetic and geometry.

We were pleased to receive the results this week with 2 × Gold, 5 × Silver and 11 X Bronze awards.

Well done to all competitors, especially Ricky and Brian who were our two Gold Certificate winners.



## What's New in the Library...



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





# Queen's and Hollenden Chapel Service

The boarding girls from Queen's and Hollenden enjoyed some worship time in Chapel beautifully led by Ms Sava.

It showed the parable of the good Samaritan which ties in well with world kindness day as well as anti-bullying week.

Vlada, Head of Boarding, said a relevant prayer and some of the girls re-enacted the parable. There was some reflection time and a final little surprise at the end which involved a lot of blue plasters!

Overall, a great exercise for reflection and quiet time for our girls. Special thanks to Ms Sava for leading such a great service, and to Mr Moseley and Ms Davenport for their fantastic acting!





# Year 10s Hamburger Practical

Year 10s' first combined practical assessment. Pupils had 90 minutes to prepare, cook and serve a hamburger from scratch.

Pupils made their own bread dough, buns, mayonnaise, hamburger relish, meat (or meatless) patties and associated accompanying sides.

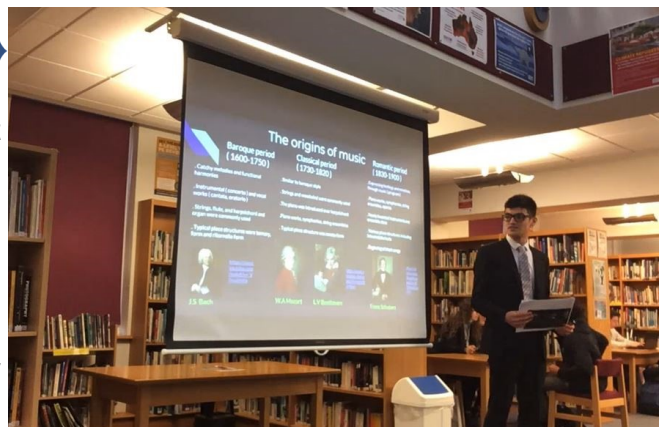
Mr Major is very proud of the level of detail, care and attention all pupils gave in order to achieve such great success.



## Russell Talks

This week, Luca Simons gave a Russell Talk about the evolution of music throughout the 20th century. He talked about all of the different genres of music and how they came about and compared the traditional methods of composing to the use of technology in music production that we see today.

His passion and enthusiasm for music radiated through his presentation making it an incredibly successful talk.





# From the Music Department

The Autumn Concert will be streamed on Monday 23rd November at 7pm via the School's YouTube channel.

Congratulations to all the soloists and groups who have worked so hard to get this together. Thank you to the VMT team for preparing and accompanying the students (Ms O'Hanlon, Mr Bell, Mr Ford, Ms Griffith, Mrs Cousin, Mr Croston and Mr Randall) and to the media team for producing the show (Ms Groves, Aaron Wong, Polina Pavlyukevich and Yulia Stepanova).

If any pupils are interested in performing in future concerts or assemblies, please make sure they've joined their bubble band or choir, as Christmas rehearsals are currently underway, and recordings will be in early December.

Good luck to those taking Music Theatre exams in the coming days, and to those preparing for ABRSM exams, scheduled for 10th December.

Lastly, for anyone having instrumental or singing lessons, don't forget to check your times each week, and set yourself a reminder if needed!

# AUTUMN CONCERT



Kaylah Black, Year 10

***To be broadcast virtually on  
Monday 23 November 2020***



# From the Estates Team

Work continues on the brand-new day and boarding house for the pupils in Queen's and Hollenden, including the planting of more than 300 Photinia Red Robin plants that will eventually grow into beautiful hedging around the building.

Pictured here are Jake and Luke, the two apprentices working in the School's Estates Team who will be planting the hedging over the next few days.



# The 1853 Society AGM

The 1853 Society (Royal Russell Parents' Association) would like to invite you to attend our AGM which will be held on Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm.

The Society is currently in its 48th year and is a friendly and inclusive group of Mums and Dads who become involved to meet other parents and to organise several events throughout the year to not only raise funds but also to bring together the whole school community.

This year we are having to do things a little differently as we can't meet face to face, so if you would like to attend and learn more then please email [1853society@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:1853society@royalrussell.co.uk) and I will then send you a link which can be used to join the meeting.

As in previous years, all officers and members resign and are re-elected during the meeting, so if you would like to apply for one of our officer positions or to become an ordinary member of the association then please email the address above and we can send you a nomination form. Many thanks,

**Emma Thistleton**

**Chair of The 1853 Society ( Royal Russell Parents' Association)**





# Christmas trees to help the PTA fund! Support

The 1853 Society Parents' Association

**This year treat the family to a beautiful, real Christmas tree delivered straight to your door.**

Buy a Christmas tree through [www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk](http://www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk) this year and receive £5 off any tree and a further £5 will be donated to the school PTA! Please use the unique code below.

Choose from 4Ft, 6Ft and 8Ft, enter your school code and receive £5 off at checkout. Christmas Tree Express will then give a further £5 to the school. Delivery is included.

Pre-order your tree today with the code:

**RRS20**

and we will give you

**£5.00**

OFF your order\*

**Order. Decorate. Enjoy.**

**[www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk](http://www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk)**

\*Code is valid until 29th November, or until we sell out, so please order ASAP!





# From the Sport Department

## Football

### Year 8

The Year 8's started their Champions League Tournament which they will be continuing every other week. Without fixtures it is a great way for the boys to still be in a competitive yet fun environment against each other.

The 4 captains, Ted Stacey, Aarush Sharma, Malakhi McKenzie and Oliver Stephens, selected their sides being Shakhtar Donetsk (Non Bibs), Tottenham (Blue), Bayern Munich (Red) and Young Boys (Orange) respectively.

There were 2 games going on at one time with different challenges as one pitch had full size goals whereas the other had no GK's and had the mini goals working on passing through the pitch with accurate passing to finish.

The Boys on the day came out on top with 12 points in total with the attacking flair of Freddie Fraser and Oliver Stephens combining well on different occasions. Tottenham fell closely behind with captain Aarush Sharma holding the team together whilst Josiah Manahan scored some great goals. Only 1 point behind them was Bayern with Malakhi McKenzie showing why he was captain with Patrick Low scoring a great goal which was also filmed and can be seen on the Royal Russell Sport Twitter.

In last place with 4pts for the week was Shakhtar Donetsk whose only win came when GK Lorenzo Shone struck a perfect free kick in the top corner to win 1-0.

A great tournament and the boys look forward to it again in 2 weeks after their international break (A & B training).





## Netball

Fantastic blended tournaments this week with brilliant efforts from everyone! Special mention to Ava Croffie who played excellently, as well as Chloe Mayaki-Mattinson who played fantastically in GK position with the most interceptions!

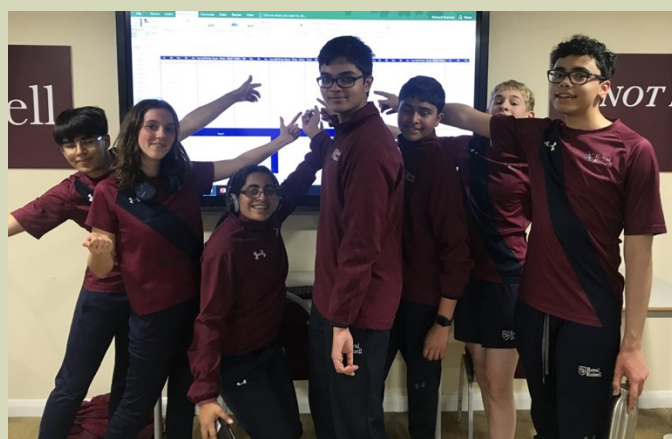
The Year 8 light blue team stole the show with a fantastic display of communication and team-work skills throughout all games. A big well done to all those who played.



## Strength and Conditioning

Year 10 pupils were introduced to the Wattbike this week. These bikes were designed by TeamGB and British Cycling and are the same models used in the past by Team SKY.

The Strength and Conditioning group also celebrated breaking the Y10 cross-country record TWICE in one session! Congratulations to Adam Court and Amber Lukes for becoming all-time Year 10 Boys and Year 10 Girls record holders.



## Pupil Achievement

In October, I went to the England National U17 football camp. It was at St Georges Park, Burton-on-Trent. I stayed there for 5 days and 4 nights and for me this was an amazing achievement and a huge opportunity.

We trained twice a day in the morning and afternoon then we had a hydro session in the ice pool, which was freezing cold!

On the Sunday, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> day, we had an in-house game and I was on the white team playing Right Back with a 4-4-3 formation. We played well and won 3-1.

There were 25 of us players there and the England coaches are picking 18 of us to represent our Country to play in the European U17 Championships in February. We will therefore begin our bids to reach the final in May which will take place on the Faroe Islands.

Overall, I learnt a lot from this camp and it was a great experience, one that I will never forget.



**Reanna Blades, Year 11 – England Ladies U17 National Football Camp, St George's Park**



# Key Diary Dates

Monday 23 November

Autumn Concert Broadcast Virtually

Tuesday 24 November

Year 7 Queen's Breakfast with Headmaster

Friday 27 November

Year 10 High Achiever's Talk in the Library

Sunday 29 November

Advent Service

## Upcoming Parents' Evenings

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