



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

11th December 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

At the end of last week our boarding pupils enjoyed a special Friday evening meal to mark the end of the Year 11 and Year 12 examination weeks and, for some, to share some time together before beginning their journeys home around the world. The catering team provided a magnificent celebration meal and the evening was completed with some dazzling fireworks on North Pitch.

It was great to see a very busy Saturday morning programme of fixtures and training sessions up and running. I look forward to hearing the result of their game tomorrow against Sutton Grammar tomorrow.

Congratulations to pupils on their outstanding results in their Musical Theatre exams which are published later in this newsletter. Our musicians had a very busy start to the week with rehearsals and recordings for the Senior School Carol Service and for the Christmas concert. Recordings were made in year group bubbles and these have been brought together for our Christmas Service of readings and carols, which will be broadcast on Sunday 13 December at 6.30pm. The service sheet for the Carol Service is available on Firefly [here](#) and the link to the YouTube broadcast is [here](#). This will follow on from the Junior School Service which will be broadcast at 4.30pm on the same afternoon which is available to view on Firefly [here](#).

The end of term Christmas Concert was a collaboration between the music and media departments and has allowed pupils to hone their performing, filming and editing skills. Sam Stealey has been instrumental (no pun intended!) in leading the organisation for this event which will be broadcast on Tuesday 15 December at 6.30pm on Firefly [here](#).

Those of you who know Year 10 pupil, Archie Barnes, might be interested to see [the trailer for the release of 'The Dig'](#). Archie was filmed as part of this new production last year. My congratulations to him on fitting all of this in, alongside continuing with his studies here at school.

At assembly this afternoon, I was pleased to award the following pupils with a Headmaster's Award for achieving 50 and 75 Merits, Maximilian Nicholson, Sam Stealey, Ravi Durjun, Anusan Kanmanirajah and Emily Hayden de Carbonnières.

Thank you to all families for your flexibility and understanding around the change of plans for the end of term. The move to remote learning, for two of these last few days, will help us to reduce the total numbers of pupils on the site and this should help us all to finish the term safely. The plan has the additional benefit of testing our remote learning provision for both staff and pupils and I hope that this proves to be a useful reminder for everyone of how to access TEAMS and Firefly resources.

We have steered our way through another successful week of managing covid within the School community and I am extremely grateful for the support of all Royal Russell families in helping to keep us all safe. It remains crucially important that, if any pupil or any member of your household is showing covid symptoms or feeling at all unwell, they should remain at home and access our remote learning programme. Thank you for your support in this.

Next week, we will be serving a Christmas Lunch for Year 11, 12 and 13 on Monday 14 December and pupils are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper and make a donation to [Crisis at Christmas](#). The Christmas Lunch and Christmas Mufti Day for Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 will be on Wednesday 16 December.

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster

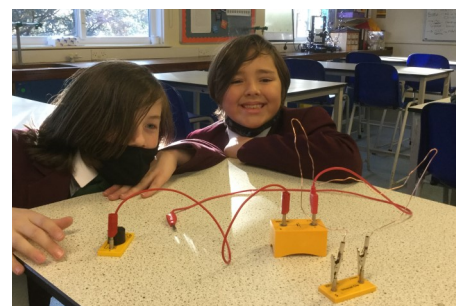
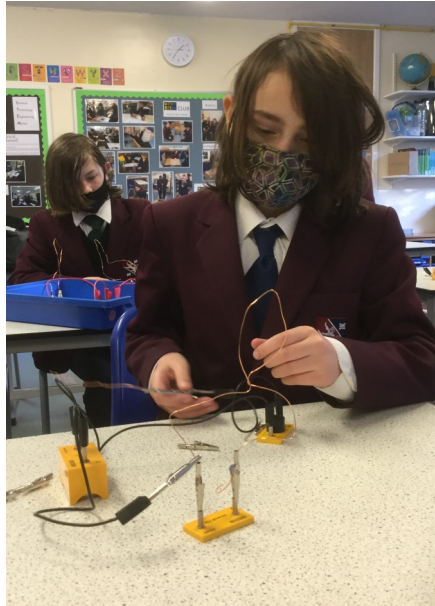
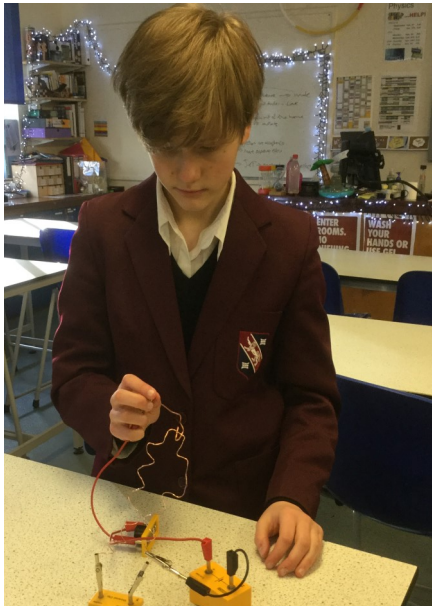
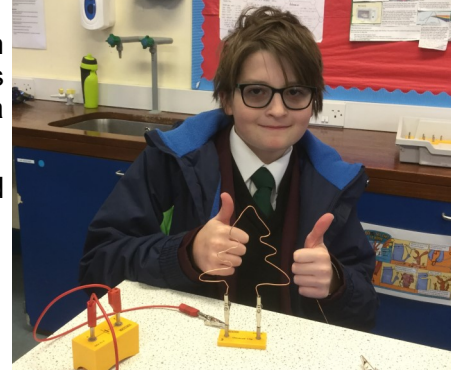
Year 7 STEM Club

Christmas Tree Hand Steady Buzzer

Year 7 STEM Club members (who have not yet been taught an electricity topic in Science) were challenged to design a Christmas Tree shape in copper wire and then to connect up a circuit with a battery and buzzer.

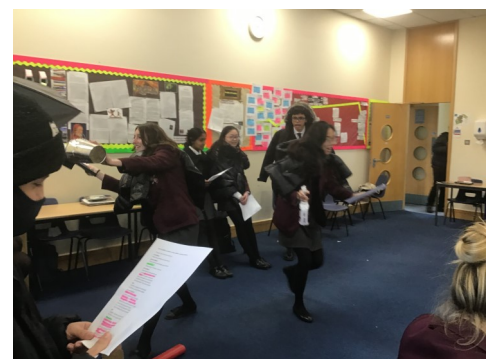
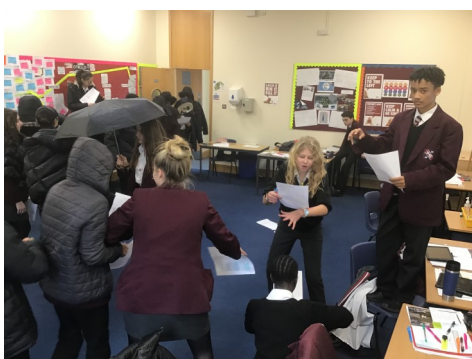
The buzzer was set off when their hand was not steady enough and the metal holder touched the Christmas tree shape.

Happy Christmas to all Year 7 STEM Club members!



Year 10 Macbeth Coursework

Year 10 have been working on their Macbeth coursework in English and this week embraced their inner witches by bringing one of the play's most iconic scenes to life. It was a treat to watch their varied interpretations of Shakespeare's famous trio and hear some haunting renditions of, "Double, double, toil and trouble..."



Christmas Celebrations

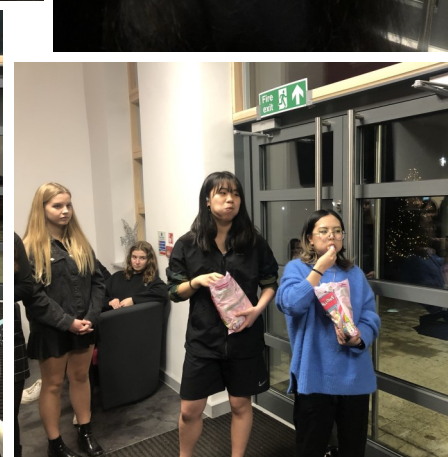
On Friday 4 December the boarders celebrated Christmas albeit a little early!

The boys and girls enjoyed delicious food in the beautifully dressed Dining Marquee. It was lovely to eat a socially distanced meal listening to Christmas tunes and chatting to friends. After finishing the meal on a high with chocolate fruit and yummy cakes, we were treated to fantastic fireworks by the pavilion courtesy of Mr Mckenna!

We all then carried on the fun in our house bubbles with party games.

It was lovely to spend time together and celebrate Christmas before many of the boarders return home!





Christmas Cards Workshop

Following the festive evening experienced by the boarders on Friday night, the girls in Queen's and Hollenden kept the Christmas spirit going over the weekend, making their own Christmas cards for friends and family.



Music Theatre Exam Results

A huge congratulations to all the pupils who recently took their Music Theatre exams. We had some excellent results with two thirds getting over 85%.

First Name	Surname	Grade	Mark
Cicely	Humphreys-Elvis	2	Distinction
Mia	McCann	2	Distinction
Mia	Gammell	2	Merit
Nichola	Smith	2	Merit
Emily	Netherway	3	Distinction
Oneli	Pelpola	3	Distinction
Lara	Davis	4	Distinction
Jasmine	Rihal	4	Distinction
Matilda	Welsh	4	Distinction
Nancy	Burgess-Gibbs	5	Distinction
Amber	Lukes	5	Distinction
Holly	Seymour	5	Distinction
Ophelia	Humphreys-Elvis	6	Merit
Ellie	Baker	7	Merit

Rehearsals and filming for the Christmas Service and Christmas Concert took place on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Thank you to all parents and pupils for helping with the smooth running of these two days. The Christmas Service will be broadcast on Sunday 13 December and the Christmas Concert on Tuesday 15th so look out for the YouTube links nearer the time. The Music Department can't wait to show you the final result.

The ABRSM exams took place on Thursday. We had 20 students on a variety of different instruments taking their exams. All students have been working incredibly hard but a particular mention goes to Luca Simons who took his Grade 8 singing and his ARSM piano on the same day.

Christmas Service and Concert

The Music and Media teams have been busy preparing to get our community into the festive spirit. Please join us at 6:30pm on Sunday 13th December for our Virtual Christmas Carol Service. An electronic Order of Service will be available to download on Firefly [here](#).

Our informal Christmas concert, complete with Santa hats, sleigh bells and Christmas-cracker jokes, will be released on Firefly [here](#) on Tuesday 15th at 6:30pm.

Filmed By: Zachary Jennings, Yulia Stepanova, Sophie Stretton

Editing by: Rozhan Hamed, Max Newark-Symonds, Ellie Baker



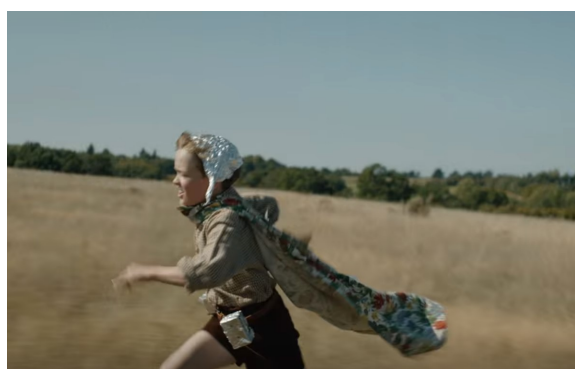
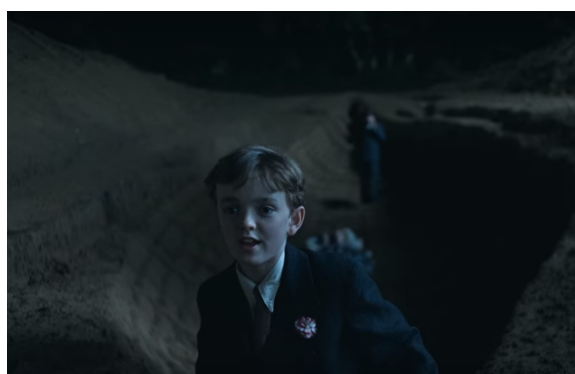
Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Archie Barnes who is starring a film called The Dig.

The film is to be released in cinemas on Friday 15th January and streamed to Netflix on Friday 29th January.

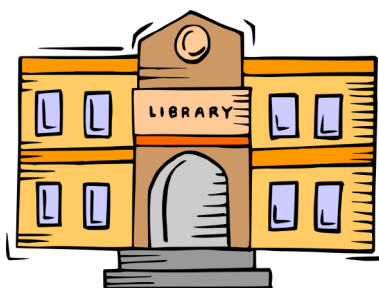
Please click [here](#) to watch

THE
DIG



Click the Cracker !

For the annual Christmas Book recommendations please click the Christmas Cracker.



Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child

For the past few weeks, Tahnee Dione (Year 9) and her Team have been working hard to make Christmas a joyful experience for children around the world. In support of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, the Team have rallied around to collect old shoe boxes and buy items to fill these with presents.

Samaritan's Purse is a charity that gives aid to victims of war, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty, and persecution in more than 100 countries. Operation Christmas Child aims to bring Christmas to children in such circumstances through shoebox gifts. It is important, now more than, for these children to be reminded that there is hope, and that people care about them even when their lives may seem bleak.

As a community, we are proud of our School motto, 'non sibi sed omnibus' (not for oneself but for all). Tahnee in particular believes that "we all have an individual and collective responsibility to brighten the lives of those around us as well as those that we do not know." She is very grateful to Miss Scott, Mrs Jones and all the pupils who took part in this special charity.

Wishing the Royal Russell Family a bright and fulfilling Christmas!



Parent Support

Parent Support needed for Challenge Day: 28 January 2021

We're giving all pupils in Year 10 the opportunity to have a mock interview as part of their careers learning and skills development and are in need of parents who would like to support this by being the interviewer.

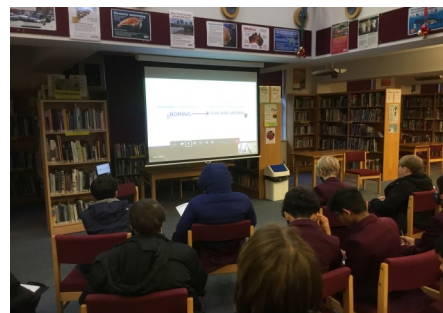
All the interviews will be held online, via MS Teams, on Thursday 28 January and will start at 8.30am and finish at 11.30 am. During this period, you will interview 5 or 6 pupils for 10 minutes each, with another 10 minutes for individual feedback. All materials to support the interviews and the feedback will be provided.

I can promise that you will find this as much a rewarding experience as pupils will find it useful.

If you think you could help, please email jharris@royalrussell.co.uk.

Year 9 Study Skills

The Elevate Education company entertained and educated our Year 9 pupils in memory techniques last Friday afternoon. This was made possible via interactive Teams presentations from the three external presenters to Year 9 tutor groups in their venues around the school. Our pupils learnt about approaches that included using mnemonics, condensing information and creating imaginative stories and journeys to assist in recall. We will be running similar sessions for Years 8 and 10 early next term.

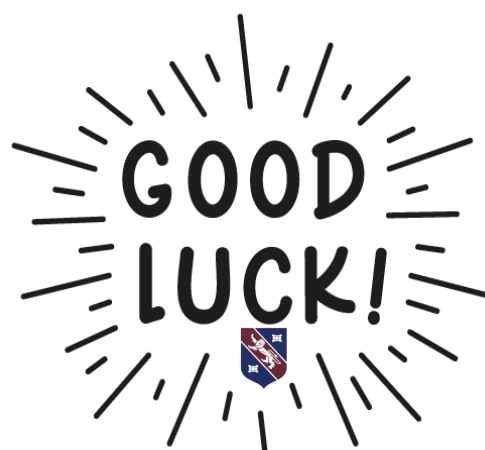


Farwell to Nurse Buckley & Col. Mustard

Our Lead Nurse at the Medical centre Mr Thomas Buckley will be leaving the school at the end of term.

It has been a pleasure having him and Col. Mustard's friendly faces in the Medical Centre.

We wish him all the best for the future.





Offer extended Christmas Trees

DELIVERED!

The 1853 Society Parents' Association have paired up with *Christmas Tree Express* to offer beautiful, real Christmas trees, delivered **straight to your door** with a £5 discount.

If you buy a Christmas tree through www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk this year you will receive **£5 off** any tree, in addition, *Christmas Tree Express* will donate **£5 to the 1853 Society**, benefitting all the children at Royal Russell School.

Ordering is simple, just use the code **RRS20** and your £5 discount will be added.

Choose from 4Ft, 6Ft and 8Ft trees

DISCOUNT OFFER
EXTENDED UNTIL
13TH DECEMBER
SO ORDER
YOUR REAL
CHRISTMAS
TREE
NOW!

Remember your
code

RRS20

For your
£5 discount

www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk

The code is valid until **13th December**, or until stocks run out so please order ASAP!

From the Sport Department

Netball

U14's and U15's

The U14's and U15's had their first Saturday training session this term last weekend. The turnout was brilliant which enabled the session to be very beneficial and of course fun! The girls took part in a fun Christmas themed fitness and movement circuit, which they enjoyed, followed by some technically advanced drills before they played versatility matches in their year groups. There were some excellent matches showcasing the strength of our netball teams. All in all a very productive morning of netball.



From the Sport Department

Football

It was great to be back playing on Saturday morning. The weather was kind with ideal conditions to get underway. Royal Russell did not waste any time as they set the ball back to Tom Jones who pinged the ball in behind to the onrushing Braiden Hall. His speed and agility bamboozled the right back before crossing to the determined Kilae Crockwell to side foot home 1-0. Unfortunately, despite controlling possession and creating chances, the score stayed the same throughout the entire half, 1-0 half-time.

A few changes to personnel in the second half, with some players having to play out of position due to injuries and trials from the squad. The performance lacked fluidity and zest which had been present in the opening moments of the game. A miscalculated volley in the defensive third fell to Wilson's striker, a quick 1-2 and the shot was well saved by Ethan Endacott, yet on retrieving it squirmed out to be toe poked in, 1-1.

There were numerous chances; the best of the bunch fell to Braiden Hall after some good work involving Tyler Falzon and Jaiden Drakes-Thomas. However, he was not able to hit the target and make the Goal Keeper work. Final score 1-1. A great test, a feeling of pre-season to get ready for the season that will, hopefully, unfold for the rest of the term until Easter.



From the Sport Department

U12A's v Wilson's School

It was great to see the U12A's take part in their first fixture this season as they beat Wilson's School 6-1, albeit a friendly.

The quality of the game was set when in the first minute Zac Brennan plucked the ball out of the sky with an expertly taken touch to switch the play.

This continued as Royal Russell was playing some great football, passing the ball well whilst the attacking threats from Harvey Wright-Phillips, Dylan De Gale and Joseph Kennedy was ever present.

Evan Newman got off the mark when he did what strikers do best and finished after finding himself in the right place at the right time, not just once but twice. Royal Russell went into half time 2-0 up with plenty of positives and some great attacking football.

Royal Russell continued the way they left off, when both Zachary Brennan and Dylan De Gale got in on the act both scoring from good finishes.

Joseph Kennedy topped off a fine display when he also scored 2. His second being a peach of a strike on the edge of the box, smashing off the crossbar.

A great performance, and most importantly, great to see the boys playing their first game and playing the game with smiles and enjoyment.



Year 9 Football

A combination of A, B & C teams all participated in a 2-week tournament for their games afternoon session for the U14's.

The Tournament was made interesting when the following rules applied when a player from each team scored:

A team player - 1 goal

B team player - 2 goals

C team player - 3 goals

This got the teams communicating together on what was the best tactic to win the game and working together to utilise the rules to their advantage.



From the Sport Department

It was goals galore as Barcelona beat PSG 5-3 in the opening game with PSG utilising the rule well allowing Alexander Mazzoni to 'smash' a penalty home worth 3 goals but that couldn't prevent his team losing to a strong Barcelona side.

Barcelona were involved in another game full of goals with it ending 3-3 against Juventus. One of the goals of the day came from PSG with a brilliant counter attacking goal with Callum Breen breaking forward at pace and squaring it to Adeniyi.

Barcelona topped the group with the tournament to be completed with a round of games and final next week.

The table finished as followed with Barcelona topping the group after a very impressive start.

Barcelona/Non Bibs - 13pts
PSG/Yellow - 11pts
Juventus/Red - 5pts
Bayern Munich/Pink 2pts
Marseille/Orange - 2 pts

Top goal scorers:
Oliver Hampton - 2
Henry Luff - 2
Liam Moore - 2
David Olatunji - 2
Isheanopa Hunidzarira - 2
Emeka Peters - 2
Adeniyi Andes-Pelumi



From the Sport Department

Year 11 Social Football

Year 11 social football on Wednesday was a battle between two evenly matched teams trying to play fast, attacking football.

Harry Francis scored an exceptional goal from an error on a goal kick to make it 1-0 to the Bib's, but Xander Gopaldas equalised by dribbling past most of the defence and the keeper before rolling the ball over the line.

'Shirts' then quickly doubled their score when Makaziwe Ansan converted a goalmouth scramble like a true pinball wizard.

It stayed like that until a number of errors by 'Shirts' defence resulting in a sin-bin for one player, allowed Harry to score again, this time from the penalty spot.

2-2 at Full-time - Sudden Death Penalties!

'Bibs' 1st penalty taker hit his shot straight at Zayan Mitton Richards who saved comfortably and Toby Stahel made no mistake, smashing the ball past Ted Cordery.

'Shirts' team win!

Well played and congratulations to all the boys on an excellent series of games. Every member of staff who has taken the group has commented on what a great bunch they are, how the games are competitive but always played with a sense of humour and respect for each other.



Key Diary Dates

Sunday 13th December

Christmas Service Broadcast [here](#) at 6:30pm

Monday 14th December

Christmas Jumper Day for Year 11,12,13

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Concert Broadcast [here](#) at 6:30pm

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas Jumper Day for Year 7,8 ,9, 10

Wednesday 16th December

Finally Assembly

Wednesday 16th December

Year 11 Reade Breakfast : Marquee

Wednesday 16th December

End of Term

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 8

Wednesday 10 March 2021



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Royal Russell School

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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen