



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

29th January 2021

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

Academic Progress

It has been a pleasure to review the progress of pupils with their online learning after the issue of grades at the beginning of this week for Year 7, 8, 10, 13. My special congratulations to those pupils listed in this newsletter who achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold effort awards.

These grades were discussed in detail by tutors in their 1:1 follow up conversation held on Thursday morning. At the same time Year 11 pupils had interviews with members of the Upper School Team focusing on preparation for the Sixth Form and following the issue of their trial examination results.

Year 13 students will have their own 1:1 meetings at the beginning of next week and Year 9 pupils and families have the opportunity to discuss their GCSE options with subject teachers at the Year 9 Parents Evening on Tuesday 2 February.

On Tuesday we conducted a quick survey of the pupil view of their online learning and, after 578 responses, I was pleased to note a score of 3.6 out of 5 for 'I am happy with my progress' and a 'happiness' rating also at 3.6. We will continue to collect feedback from pupils and families from our surveys and tutor conversations, so that we can continue to support each pupil as strongly as possible.

'Check-in Day' on Thursday

From the reports I have received, the 'Check-In' day on Thursday, was a great success and many of the activities of pupils and staff within the community are recorded in photos and reports on the pages that follow. I was particularly pleased to be able to join some of the Critical Worker pupils, collecting sticks on a dog walk with Scrumpy which was followed by a smoky bonfire and toasted marshmallows!

Royal Russell Filmstars

Archie Barnes, Year 10, appears in the blockbuster hit 'The Dig' which was adapted by Moira Buffini from a 2007 novel by John Preston, and directed by Simon Stone. Archie plays the role of Robert Pretty, the young son of lead actress, Carey Mulligan. The Dig is released today on Netflix and you can see the trailer [here](#).

Dionne Scougul, who left Royal Russell in 2020 is featured in the BBC's latest documentary with David Attenborough called 'A Perfect Planet'. There are five episodes, each focusing on one key aspect of our planet that contributes to our way of life. [The final episode of the season](#), Humans, features our very own Dionne Scougul who is now studying archeology and ancient civilizations at Durham University.

Childrens' Mental Health Week

Next week is [Childrens' Mental Health Week](#). This [poster](#) and the BBC programme, '[The Truth about Mental Health](#)' are some good starting points to explore these important issues further.

Return to the School Site

Following the [announcement by the Prime Minister](#) that schools will not return to onsite learning until at least Monday 8 March, I wanted to share my disappointment, that we will not be welcoming our Royal Russell pupils back to the School site immediately after the Half Term break. We fully support the national efforts to combat the transmission of covid-19 and, when the time comes for our pupils to return, we are confident in our covid-safe environment and our ability to respond quickly to welcome our pupils back to Royal Russell as soon as Government restrictions allow.

Chris Hutchinson

Headmaster

Headmasters Weekly Update

On Monday during my weekly update assembly I read a passage from the 'Velocity of being' which is a collection of letters to young readers the following passage is from **Andrew Soloman**.

Andrew Soloman is a writer and lecturer on psychology, politics, and the arts; a winner of the National Book Award; and an activist in LGBT rights, mental health, and the arts.

Dear Children,

The world itself is all beautiful, but sometimes it can be hard to see that, and books let you understand moments of beauty you might otherwise miss.

Daily life is hilarious, and books will help you find that humor and laugh out loud at life. This will help you to keep on living.

We are all alone in some ways, and books make us less alone. The writers who write them reach out from their imagination and expertise into yours. You need never be lonely again.

The arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, but sometimes you need books to show you how to bend toward justice yourself.

Human beings are fundamentally absurd, and nothing shows off that absurdity better than a book. A sense of the absurd is good armor for life.

It's hard to follow the golden rule and be kind to others all the time, but books will show you how to do it. They can make you kinder; they can make other people kinder to you.

Reality can get dismal. Nothing will do a better job of rescuing you from reality than a book; it is as good a means of escape as your own boat or rocket ship.

Sometimes, it's good to feel sad. Books will make you melancholy when you need to be melancholy. If you've lost something or someone, books will help you feel your own feelings about loss.

Sometimes, a book can confer happiness on you. Sometimes, the ideas and emotions that a book pins down are just the ones you need to wake yourself up into joy.

All the books in ours and many other languages are made from the juxtaposition of twenty-six shapes. There is nothing else so exquisitely versatile in all creation. It's a wonderment to behold those shapes in action.

Please read, and please write.

All my love,
Andrew



Year 7 Grade 2 Certificates

Effort Colour Certificates

BRONZE CERTIFICATES	SILVER CERTIFICATES	GOLD CERTIFICATES
		
Keira Rudich – Goodbody	Evan Newman	Kalan Shamra
Stanley Moore	Mitchell Eady	Isabelle Earing
Zoe Christian	Logan Baker	Matilda Welsh
Brandon Moreland	Harvey Wright-Phillips	Isabel Gironella
Ronnie Hurley-Mc Quitty	Charles Holland	Anoushka Selvon Bruce
Yu gia Ding	Oneli Pelpola	Emilie Marshall Tate
Mia Hughes	Talia Yorrick	Tayah Rautenbach
Junsheng Lu	Rohan Phillpot	Charles Hayden de Carbonnières
	Scarlet Skeers	Sarah Wood
	Oscar Verlander	Jacob Tindall
	Maisy Main	Lara Akadiri

GOLD AWARDS (TOP SCORERS)

Anxo Garcia Missan
Klara Dworakowska

YEAR 7 ASSEMBLY – 20.01.21 – TO START AT 8:30 AM
MRS MAWER

CHALLENGES AND OFF SCREEN ACTIVITIES



Choose 5 to 10 of the following challenges and have proof ready to feed back to your tutor tomorrow!

CHALLENGES AND "OFF SCREEN" ACTIVITIES

Are you up for the screen free challenge? The challenge you can complete 100% of the following activities on 'Challenge Day' 20th January 2021. No phones! No tablets! No iPads! No TVs!

CHALLENGES AND "OFF SCREEN" ACTIVITIES

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CHALLENGES AND "OFF SCREEN" ACTIVITIES

Lauren Silvera
Tulsi Patel
Suraya De Almeida
Elissa Demetriou
Megan Findator
Camille Hardy
Marin Singh
Amber Stuart
Scarlet Nicholls
Mia Harrison
Avani Vardi
Vaisaali Mayooraan
Shailen Mistry
Louise Mawer
Jacob Watkins
Bethany-Anne Reynolds
Katherine Syred

Year 8 French - Mon Style!

Part of learning about clothing, fashion and style is being able to dress up and express yourself. That's certainly what the Year 8s did this week with their own fashion style (albeit the same as each other!). Très bien ma classe!



Freddie Fraser



Chukwuemeka Okonkwo



Jairus Earl



Kayan Jotangia

Year 8 - Art

In art, Year 8 pupils have started to explore the meaning of personal environment and how this may change in lockdown.

Erynn has started to research the work of Rachel Whiteread and relates the concept to what we think of as a home.

Yuchen Peng has created a fantastic study of the concrete house.

22/01/21

Ghostly Replicas

London-born modern sculptor, Dame Rachel Whiteread studied

painting at Brighton Polytechnic and sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art. Today she is famous for producing positive impressions of negative spaces that highlights everyday domesticity – capturing their every imperfect indentation and memorialising it.



Rachel is best known for taking familiar urban objects, surfaces and settings and transforming them into ghostly inverted replicas using plaster or concrete casts to create life-size impressions of ethereal, yet blunt, industrialised beauty. Rachel seems to have a fascination especially with containers, not only seeing them as things that had a practical purpose, but as magical instruments that can take a person back to a moment in time and leave the viewer with a memory of the everyday object and the things that were so precious inside - from a group of hot water bottles, or a cardboard box in her man's loft to a whole house Rachel wants us to. Neatly positioned or randomly scattered, her sculptures reflect the intimate objects and their interaction with humans and make a statement of issues to society.

Her first iconic large piece called Ghost in 1990 was a concrete cast of a whole living room created from inside a condemned North London Victorian terraced house, showing its windowsills, walls and mantel piece. It brought Rachel worldwide recognition and took her to the next step.



"Sheds are like miniature houses - furniture where people can dream away their lives in" - RW, Irish News



At the start of the project



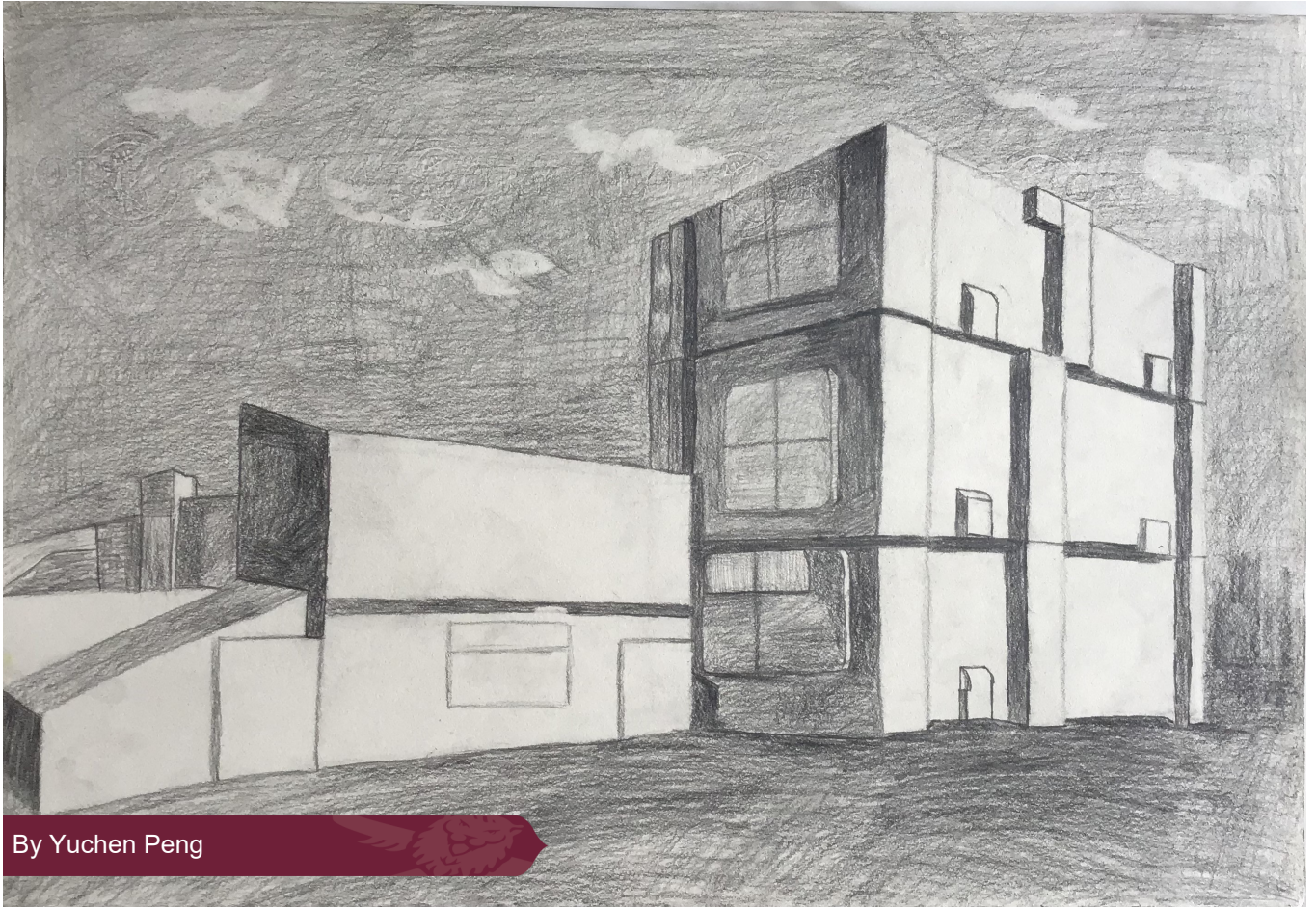
during work



last impression

Rachel was the first woman to win the Turner Prize back in 1993 for her controversial project - Unfilled (House), no. 193 Grove Rd was the final 3-storey house on the edge of a park in the East End of London took three months to fill with liquid concrete before the shell was peeled off to reveal block by block the flip flopped space inside made solid like a jelly being turned out from its mould. Just like the rest of the area, it was due to be demolished by the Council, but before that happened and the character and heritage of the road was lost forever, Rachel created an exact grey memorial that stood eerily out on its own whilst all around, the last of the street was torn up. Each room had been carefully cleaned and stripped, foundations deepened to take the weight of the filling, the staircase upstairs was removed, but the steps were kept to the front door. Block on block people could see the inverse outline of each floor, the windows, doorway, fireplaces, pits and marked walls from decades of families living there. I think Rachel wanted to commemorate the importance of home whilst showing the senselessness of knocking down existing houses full of personality and memories destroying community to replace it with huge faceless drab redevelopment. The result was a stark, striking structure that for 80 days created a buzz - sometimes very positive, other times negative. Just 11 weeks after its reprieve, the last impression of no 193 was gone, but it's still not forgotten because of Rachel's decision to create **House**.

Seeing a great piece of art can take you from one place to another—it can enhance daily life, reflect our times and, in that sense, change the way you think and are.—Rachel Whiteread



By Yuchen Peng



By Chloe Mayaki-Mattinson.

Children's Mental Health Week

This year, children's mental health week is taking place from the 1st-7th of February. This year's theme is Express Yourself. Expressing yourself is about finding the ways to share your thoughts, feelings, and ideas. This can be done through any way you like, whether it's dance, drama, art, music, photography, or any activity that makes you feel good. Expressing yourself does not mean you have to be the best at something. It is about finding ways to show people who you are and how you feel. Expressing yourself in a way that you want is a great way to improve your mental health.

By getting involved with children's mental health week, we can raise awareness to help children and young people get the emotional support they need.

Billy Ocean and the young voices choir have released a charity single, a cover of Bill Withers 'Lovely day' for Place2Be. By downloading and streaming, all profits will go towards Place2Be's work supporting children and young people's mental health during these challenging times.

No one should suffer in silence. If you are struggling please talk to a trusted friend, adult, teacher, mental health charity or your GP.

If you are struggling, please reach out to your tutor.

Here are some charities that you can contact:

Samaritans- Email- jo@samaritans.org or Call- 116123

Childline- Call- 0800 1111

The Mix- Call - 0808 808 4994 or Crisis Messenger- text THEMIX to 85258

Reading for well-being

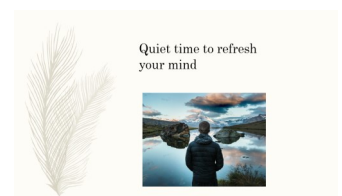
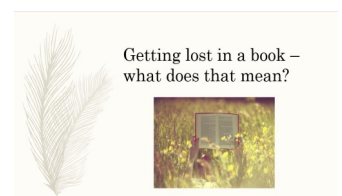
Getting lost in a book - what does it mean?

To get lost in a book is not to get lost at all.

To get lost in a book is simply to find yourself in worlds yet undiscovered – this all sounds very romantic and flowery, but essentially it means to be so absorbed in something that you can't really think about anything else.

So, what are the benefits of reading purely for pleasure?

- Helps you to get to sleep
- Makes you a better writer
- Switch off from worries
- Feel less stressed : your heart rate slows down
- Improves your imagination and creativity
- Raises your spirits by making you laugh
- Exercises many parts of your brain
- Improves confidence and self-esteem



Critical Worker Pupils

The 5 pupils working in school didn't miss out on off-screen activities and found that they almost didn't have time to fit everything in! The Library unlocked its puzzles and games cupboard and everyone had an opportunity to play Pictionary, Battleships, Penguin Pile-up and some even took on the challenge of the marble run!

The highlight of the day was an afternoon walk around the cross-country track with Scrumpy collecting sticks for a bonfire, complete with marshmallows! Once back inside, some of the pupils rounded off the day with some meditation and yoga and everyone really enjoyed the chance to move away from technology and try out something new.



Check-in Day Photos

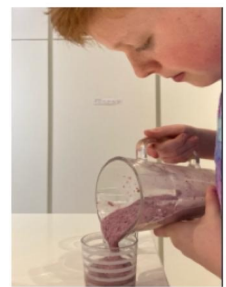
Check-in day was a day to focus on conversation, consolidation and time away from our screens.

Activities for the day will include some 1:1 tutorial time to review the online learning progress and to follow up grade conversations. This was combined with a creative or physical challenge which ideally involves some time outdoors.

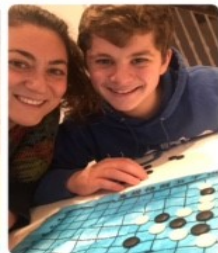
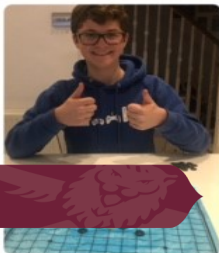
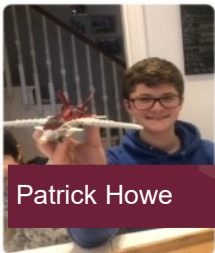
Take a look at some of the activities from check-in day.



Ella Readman

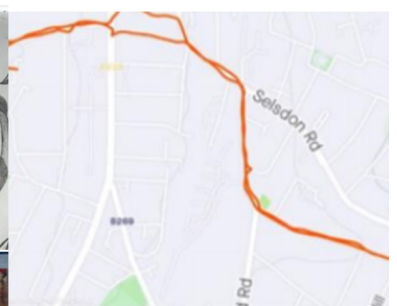


Max Graham



Patrick Howe

Joseph Payne



Sofia Elaheebocus



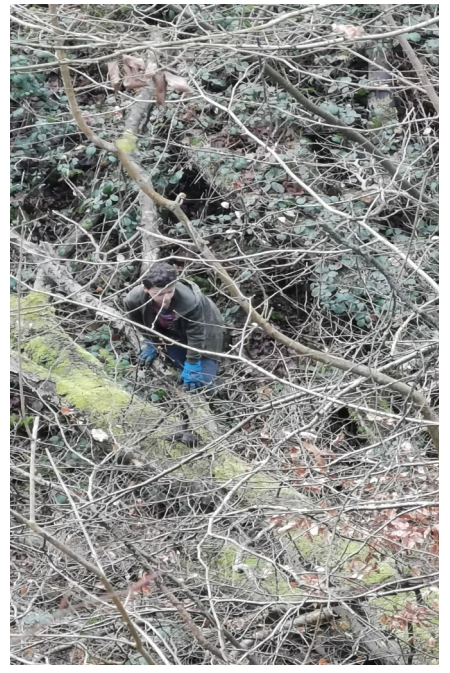
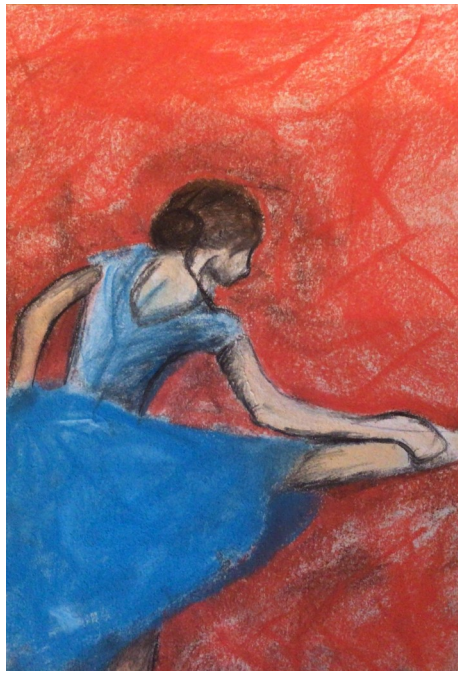
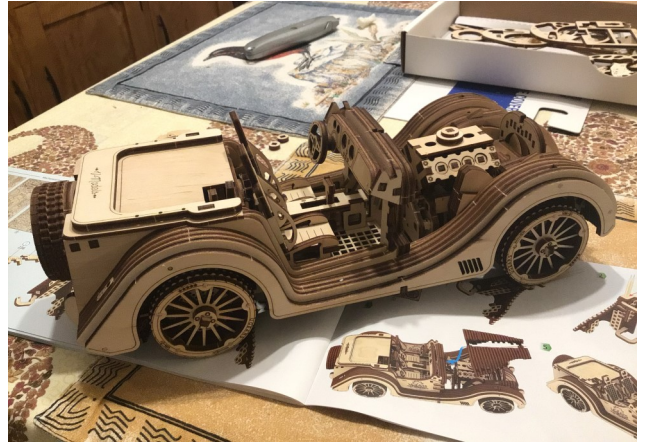
Distance
3.71 km

Elevation Gain
64 m

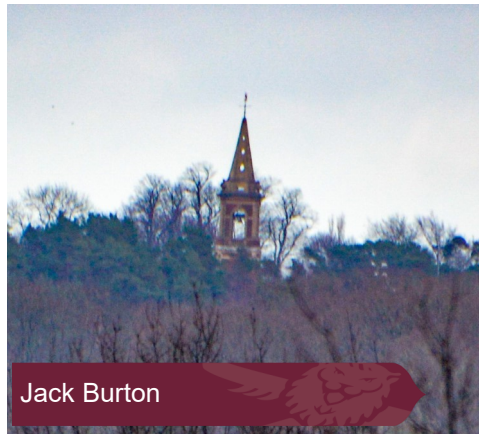
Moving Time
38:32

Calories
205 Cal

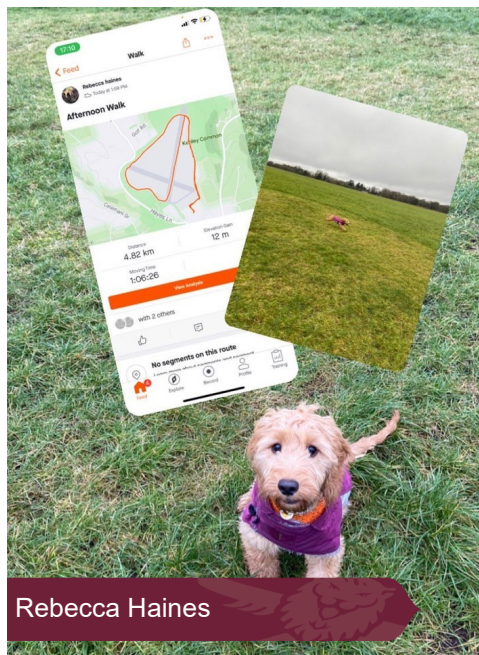
Check-in Day Photos



Check-in Day Photos



Jack Burton



Rebecca Haines



Jack Taylor

Thursday no screen afternoon

Bethany-Anne Reynolds

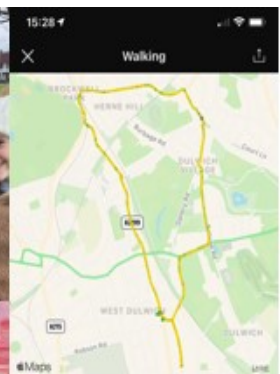
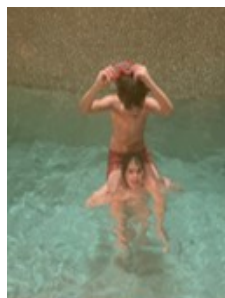
Playing the piano



Putting food in squirrel feeder (my version of the pet activity)



Cooking lunch



Distance	6.7 km
Duration	01:18:40
MOVES	982
Calories	413 kcal
Average speed	5.1 km/h

Maisy Main

Check-in Day Photos



Elissa Demetriou

17:25

Feed Run

Jenny Demetriou
Today at 11:36 AM

Lunchtime run with Elissa.

Distance: 5.68 km Avg Pace: 6:14 /km
Moving Time: 35:27 Elevation Gain: 48 m
Max Elevation: 61 m

View Analysis

With someone who didn't record? Add Others

Partly Cloudy, 12 °C. Feels like 12 °C. Humidity 79%. Wind 25.9 km/h from W.

Feed Explore Record Profile Training



Anxo Garcia

Year 7 Queen's—Check-in Day Photos



From the Sport Department

PE @ Home

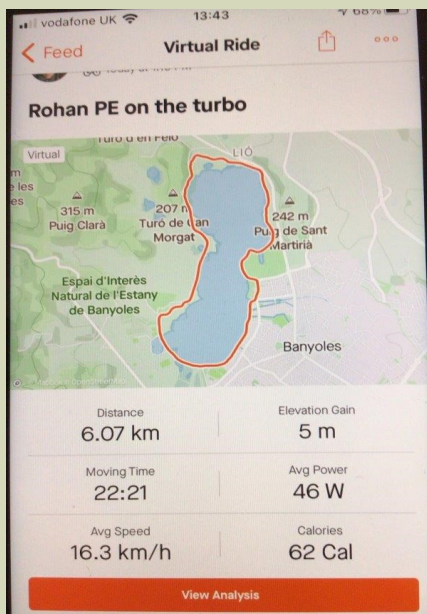
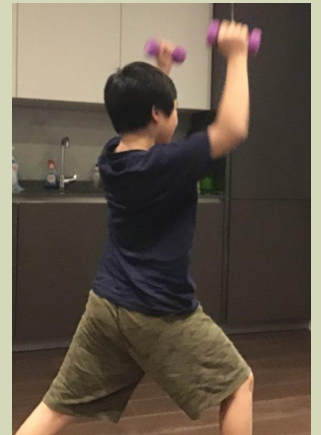
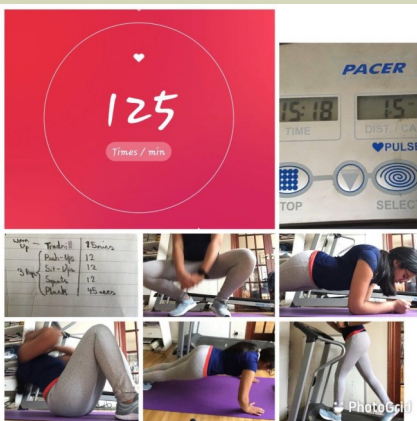
The Sports department have been setting tasks for the students in both PE (for KS3) and games (for all students).

The students have a choice of challenges to complete in either football, netball or hockey and can join in a live circuit training session delivered from the sports pavilion, or can complete a task of their own choosing, ideally outdoors. Failing any of that students can virtually join our cross-country course.

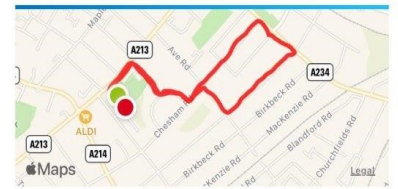
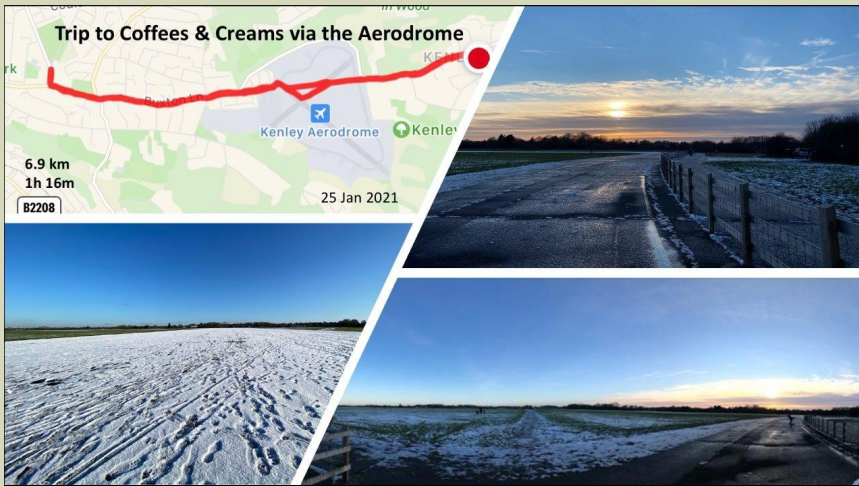
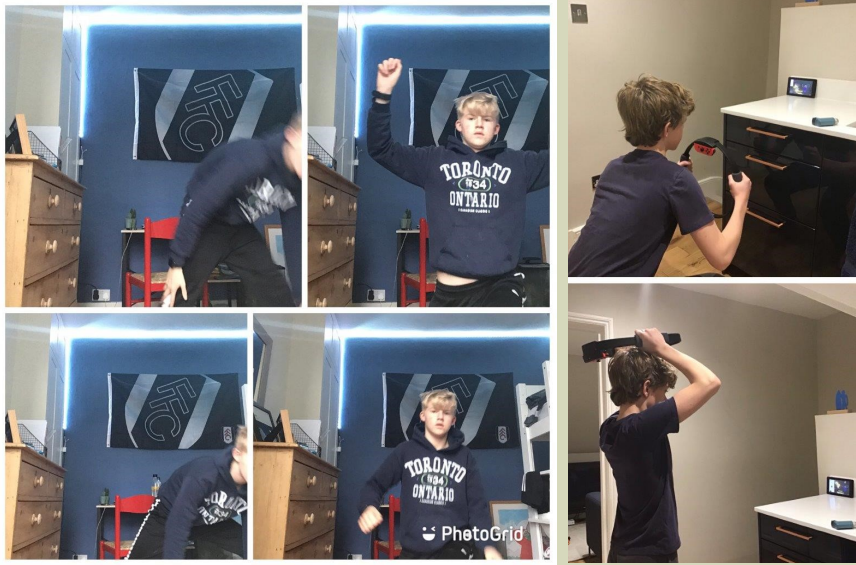
To get a task marked as complete on firefly, the students must submit their activity, These submissions have included pictures, videos and screenshots of data collected on apps such as Strava. We are working with the Student Well-being group to try and promote mental health alongside being physically active, again through challenge.

The week started off with John Davis, Head of Games leading a Zoom call where up to 76 pupils from Years 7 & 8 participated in a circuit training session.

Well done to all the pupils who joined in!



From the Sport Department



SUMMARY

[VIEW ANALYSIS >](#)

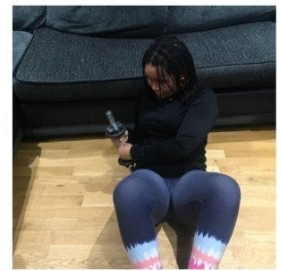
2.14
DISTANCE
(KM)

19:39
DURATION

9:10
AVG PACE
(MIN/KM)

155
CALORIES

13
EL. GAIN
(M)



Key Diary Dates

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 8	Wednesday 10 March 2021
Year 9	Tuesday 2 February 2021
Year 10	Thursday 11 February 2021
Year 11	Thursday 21 January 2021
Year 12	Thursday 25 February 2021



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