



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

5th February 2021

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

### Children's Mental Health Week

This has been a week of conversations and reflections centred around Children's Mental Health Week which has focused on the theme 'Express yourself' and which is explored further in the Senior School Assembly this afternoon. At my Headmaster's Update to pupils and staff on Monday morning, I read 'Invictus' by William Henley:

Out of the night that covers me,

Black as the pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance

I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

Looms but the Horror of the shade,

And yet the menace of the years

Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishments the scroll,

I am the master of my fate,

I am the captain of my soul.

In a week where we have shared the sad news of the death of Captain Tom Moore, this poem challenges us to be our own 'captains' and focuses on our inner strength and the amazing ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity. Captain Tom served in the Duke of Wellington's regiment during the second world war and the motto on their cap badge is 'virtutis fortuna comes' - fortune favours the brave. If, like me, you have been inspired by Captain Tom's bravery, do follow his example and challenge yourself to reach out and offer kindness and support to those close to you particularly those who have suffered as this pandemic has continued. Captain Tom was an eternal optimist and, amidst the stories of successful vaccination programmes, falling infection rates and even a hint of sunshine this afternoon, we can feel his message that 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

### Year 9

I was very pleased to welcome Year 9 parents to their virtual Parents' Evening on Tuesday to discuss progress and to consider their GCSE options. It is clear that this is a year group are working very hard through this important year in preparation for their GCSE courses and I send my congratulations to them for engaging so fully with their online learning.

## Linguistics

At the beginning of this busy week, we also saw a small number of pupils complete the Linguistics Olympiad.

### Year 11 and Year 13 Exam Update

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for the Q&A session on Tuesday evening where we were able to share with you the updated position on IGCSE qualifications this summer. The following two pieces of information were announced this week:

Pearson Edexcel have confirmed that their IGCSE examinations will not go ahead as planned. A robust approach based on teacher assessment will be used to determine the grades awarded in May / June 2021. This means that all GCSE and IGCSE subject courses, apart from Computer Science, will not have formal examinations this summer and the qualification grade achieved will be awarded through teacher assessment. This is pleasing news and ensures that the majority of qualifications we offer in Year 11 are assessed in the same way and there is no risk of unintentionally disadvantaging individual or groups of students. We await a final position from Cambridge International about Computer Science IGCSE and the Computer Science and Physics A Level, once the DfE/Ofqual consultation outcome has been shared with us.

### Public Exam Consultation

The provisional date of Monday 22 February has been given for the publication of the DfE/Ofqual consultation outcomes on the awarding of GCSEs and A-Levels this summer.

We look forward to receiving the guidance in this publication, taking some time to fully understand the procedures outlined and getting initial communication from exam boards about how they will support schools and colleges to award qualification grades.

We will arrange our next Year 11 and Year 13 Parents and Pupils Q&A session for early March to explain the outcomes of the consultation and how we will respond to this in order to best support our pupils and make the way ahead as clear as possible for all.

Our core message remains the same as it has throughout this academic year; pupils in Year 11, 12 and 13 should continue to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to successfully master the specification being studied and enable progression and a strong transition to the next stage in their academic journey. So pupils should keep working hard on their programme of study, and the Royal Russell Staff Team will keep working hard to support them through to the successful conclusion of their GCSE, BTEC and A level courses.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Senior School Leadership Team.

with best wishes,



**Chris Hutchinson**

Headmaster



# Year 7 Assembly

## Games Step Challenge

Average Number of Weekly Steps Taken by Students w/s 25th Jan 2021

### HOUSE

	B	C	H	K	M	O	Q	R	A
Year 7	10,915	6,582	12,113	3,381	14,252	10,961	9,039	93	7,352
<u>YEAR</u> Year 8	9,962	1,538	8,301	11,696	1,529	18,274	16,443	18,053	3,864
Year 9	12,846	1,235	13,871	6,956	2,926	5,364	9,823	785	5,926

In Year 7 Madden were first, followed by Hollenden, the Oxford (just!)

In Year 8 Oxford were first, closely followed by Reade, then Queen's.

In Year 9 Hollenden were first, followed by Buchanan, then Queen's.

### **Highest Steppers** (in no particular order)

**In Year 7:** Louise Mawer, Harry Dawes, Elisse Demetriou, Tom Clements, Max King, Anxo Garcia Missan, Rohan Phillpot, Oscar Verlander, Vaisaali Mayoorn and Charles Hayden de Carbonnieres.

**In Year 8:** Emily Netherway, Olivia Dunn, Hazel Perks, Amy Knolles, Patrick Howe, Isabelle Ward, Ben Emerson and Mia McCann

**In Year 9:** Alec Thurbin, Archie Sullivan-Martin, Raashmi Niranjana, Emily Hayden de Carbonnieres, Aya Moustakim Clarke and Woody Wyatt

**In Year 10 special mention to** Sam Stealey, Ed Warner, Ravi Durjan, Gabriel McKenzie and Meenachey Niranjana

## New Director of Royal Russell MUN

Miss Sandrine Calvet has been appointed the new Director of the Royal Russell MUN Conference. She has been an Advisor to Royal Russell delegates for 15 years and has attended over 50 MUN conferences since she joined Royal Russell School in 2006.

Miss Calvet said, "I am really looking forward to the opportunity to carry on the wonderful MUN legacy at Royal Russell and the chance to work with our amazing students in the years to come."

Miss Calvet's appointment follows Mr Simon Keable-Elliott's decision to retire from teaching at the end of the school year after 24 years at Royal Russell School and 9 years as MUN Director.







# Off Screen Afternoon



Mia Tran



May Sullivan



Avani Virdi



Tulsi Patel



Elissa Demetriou



Tayah Rautenbach



Issy O'Sullivan



Rebecca Haines

# ¡Cocina Española!

As part of the Spanish Tourism and Gastronomy topic, the Year 12 students were able to perfect their Spanish tapas making skills and make up this wonderful array of dishes.

¡Que aproveche!



## Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Emily Walker for passing her Grade 3 Flute performance exam during lockdown. She has worked extremely hard and has progressed so much this year.

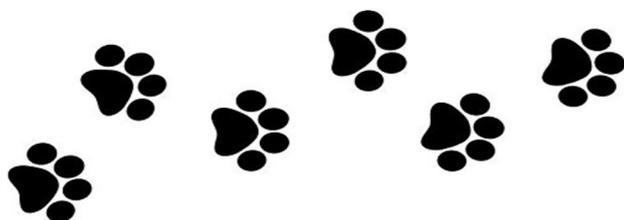
## Royal Ruffle

### COMPETITION TIME!

February is for Furry Friends and Royal RUFFle!

Share your pawsome pet pics and tag us with the #Royalruffle for opp-purr-tunity to win a Roary!

All pet companions welcome, from cats and dogs to chickens and horses!



**Royal Ruffle!**

Share a Photo of your Pet with the #RoyalRuffle...

For the chance to win a Roary...

Do you like singing ?

Fancy a challenge ?

Join the Royal Russell  
Virtual Choir

Email Mrs Griffith at:

[ygriffith@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:ygriffith@royalrussell.co.uk)

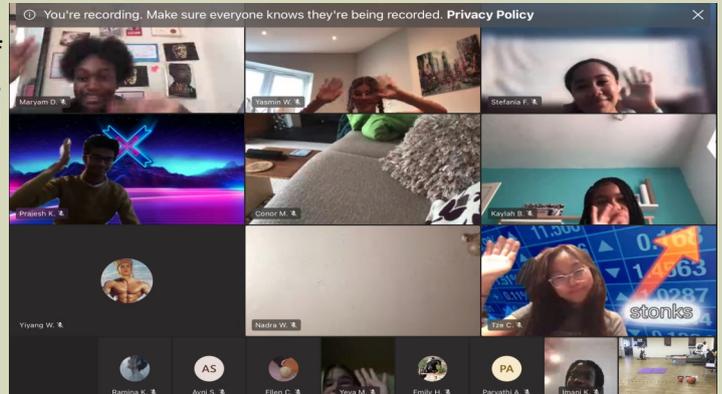


# From the Sport Department

## PE @ Home

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

Well done to all the pupils who joined in!



# From the Sport Department



• I went on a walk I measured the distance and it was around 4K it was a beautiful walk and was a good start back to doing sport again

# Key Diary Dates

## Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Year 8	Wednesday 10 March 2021
Year 10	Thursday 11 February 2021
Year 12	Thursday 25 February 2021



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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen