



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

05 March 2021

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

We have been busy on site in preparation for the return of pupils next week and it is very exciting to reflect that this time next week, we will have welcomed all year groups in the Junior School and Senior School back to learning together.

Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils who received the results of their early entry IGCSE maths examinations on Thursday. These exams were taken at the start of the term and it is great to see the hard work of the pupils recognised in the grades awarded.

We have continued to receive news of successful university offers for a wide range of courses for our Year 13 pupils and, this week, I was delighted to learn of two candidates receiving offers from Nottingham University to study Medicine. Congratulations to Ata and Charlotte!

The closing date for the admission of pupils into Year 7 and Year 9 in September 2021 is today, so I am delighted to report that very healthy numbers have accepted the places we have offered. This means that, at this point, we do not expect to be able to offer any wait list places for either year group, which is a great reflection on the health of the School.

In [our assembly](#) this afternoon, I thanked pupils who were involved on the pupil panel for the new Head of Science, Head of Politics and Director of Music interviews which we have completed in the last few weeks. Candidates have loved meeting Royal Russell pupils and have universally praised their enthusiasm and engagement. A special thank you to Maria Maciejak, Rebecca Clery, Pettian Bhoorasingh, Alex Jennings, Luke McCabe, Thea Savva, Chris Mahajan and Ella Bexley for their help this week.

On Thursday morning I met with Year 12 pupils alongside Mrs Snelgrove and Ms Worsfold to share thoughts with them on the next stages of their Higher Education journey and how we will be supporting them through the UCAS process. We will be holding our Higher Education live event on Thursday 25 March from 9am to 10am. This will include presentations from former pupils and university representative sharing their expertise and experience.

I also took time to discuss the opportunities for Student Leadership in the School next year and set out a timeline for the School Prefect application process. In my presentation I included some images of leadership and share one of these with you here.

Cricket fans will recognise this extraordinary moment from the 2005 Ashes series. For me, the connection between Freddy Flintoff and Brett Lee (on the opposing side) at the moment of a series victory, says a great deal for how I expect our student leaders to reach out and support pupils at all stages of their Royal Russell journey. This will be especially important for those who are feeling anxious about the return to School next week.



You will already have received detailed plans for the phased return of pupils to the School site next week. These have been set out to help make this process as safe as possible for all involved and will include Lateral Flow Testing for the returning pupils.

It is important to emphasise that we are not yet able to return to School 'as normal' and, our model of operating will be based on the effective routines we had in place at the end of last term.

Face Coverings

In addition, we will be asking all pupils and adults in the Senior School to wear face coverings when they are inside buildings and when they are unable to socially distance outside.

It follows that, for parents, as it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m at all times during drop-off and pick-up, we are asking all parents, guardians and carers to also wear a face covering when they are on site and outside of their vehicle.

The guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings is being reviewed by the Government at Easter.

Symptoms & Attendance at school

Please do not send your child to school if they or any member of your household is showing symptoms of coronavirus.

The three common symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

I remain committed to running the school safely and successfully through to the end of this term and would ask for the cooperation of all member of the School Community in achieving this. Thought and care for others remains hugely important at this time.

I look forward to welcoming you back safely to learning together next week.

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

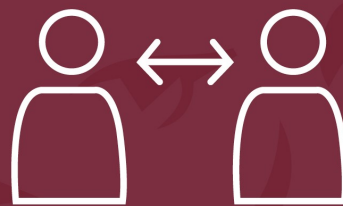
Headmaster



Keeping our Community safe is at
the heart of everything we do



Face masks



**Maintain social
distancing**



**Stay at home if you
have symptoms**



**Talk to us if you
have a concern**

#wearerussellian

An Adventure for Annie

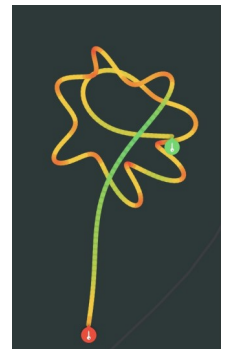
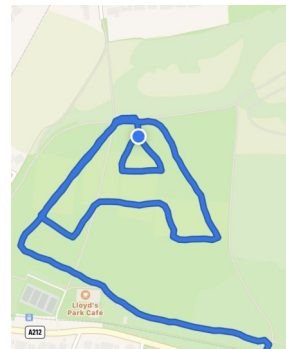
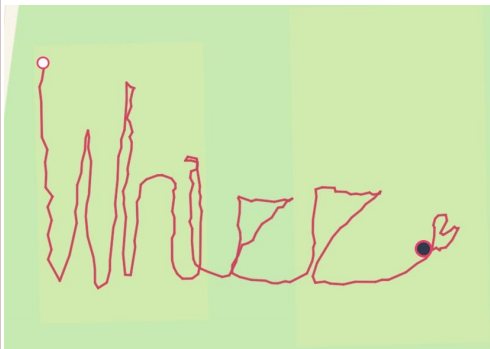
We've been blown away by our communities response to our An Adventure for Annie Initiative.

Like Annie, you've all been embracing adventure, rising to the challenge and most importantly, just having fun!

Click [here](#) to view a video montage of all the creative GPS artwork responses and family photos we received during the challenge.

Together we have raised an amazing £1,465 for Meningitis Now which will help support those affected by meningitis and stop the disease devastating lives.

You can donate on the Just Giving page [here](#).



Wanstor Community Tree Donation

Wanstor have donated fifty trees to the School as part of their corporate social responsibility programme. The trees have been planted across our 110 acre campus creating many peaceful areas for reflection for the community.

Neil Cufley, our Director of Operations and Finance said "we are very grateful to Wanstor for thinking of us with this incredibly generous gift. The trees will be an enduring legacy here at the School and we know they will be enjoyed by generations of children on their educational journey".

Peter Lukes, Managing Director of Wanstor said "our business is passionate about sustainability and want to be involved in projects that help to drive this. We started donating and planting trees three years ago to help climate change, and this year we're thrilled to donate 50 trees to Royal Russell School. It's great to be able to work together on this initiative together and we hope it contributes to a tranquil environment for the students and staff alike."



Royal Russell Team up with Virusend Spray

We are delighted to share our partnership with Virusend spray as one of the measures we are putting in place to ensure we can all return to learning together safely next week. Virusend is a multipurpose disinfectant spray which was developed in conjunction with the British Army and has been deployed to British Army personnel across the country, working alongside the NHS.

As our local community is incredibly important to us, we have partnered with Virusend spray to donate their product to 12 other schools in the local area as part of our work with the Rowdown Foundation; meaning thousands of children across South London will also benefit.



Model United Nations

With students returning to school next week we will be relaunching MUN with a number of exciting events to look forward to:

The return of MUN Debates

Students in Years 10 to 13 will be able to attend the Monday night debates – which will be held in the Great Hall on Monday 15th March and Monday 22nd March from 4.00pm.

The return of MiniMUN Debates

Students in year 7 and 8 will be able to attend the Wednesday night debates – which will be held in the Great Hall on 17th March and 22nd March from 4.00pm.

Online conference

Students interested in attending a half day online conference on Saturday 27th March hosted by Croydon High should look out for details next week.

Royal Russell International MUN Conference

We will be sending out invitations to other schools to attend the Royal Russell International MUN conference next week and any students – particularly those in year 12 – who are interested in acting as an officer at the conference either as Chair, Head of Press, Head of Media or Head of Secretariat should look out for information on how to apply.

Mini MUN debates

Wednesday 17th March
Years 7 & 8 Great Hall from 4.00pm

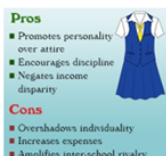
“All countries should insist that all their citizens are vaccinated against Coronavirus and should ban anyone from travelling abroad unless they have been vaccinated.”



Things to think about include:

- Does your country currently have strict lock-down procedures in place?
- Does your country have the ability to vaccinate all their citizens?
- Does your country support the idea of Vaccine passports?

Wednesday 24th March
Years 7 & 8 Great Hall from 4.00pm



Pros

- Promotes personality over attire
- Encourages discipline
- Negates income disparity

Cons

- Overshadows individuality
- Increases expenses
- Amplifies inter-school rivalry

“All countries in the world should ban school uniforms and allow students to wear what they like when they go to school.”

Things to think about include:

- Does your country currently encourage students to wear a school uniform?
- Does your country have a large number of poor families who struggle to afford school uniforms?
- Do you believe making school uniform compulsory stops students competing over their clothes?

St David's Day at Lunchtime

On Monday, to celebrate St David's Day the catering team created a special themed lunch for the children of key workers and essential staff working on site.

Everyone enjoyed the special Welsh menu which consisted of Traditional Cawl, Creamy Mushroom Vol au Vent and Welsh Cakes for desert!

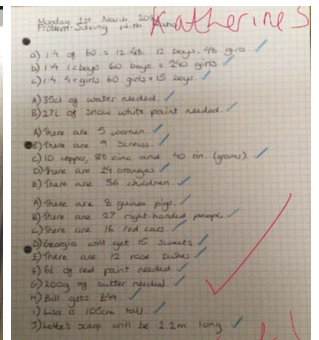
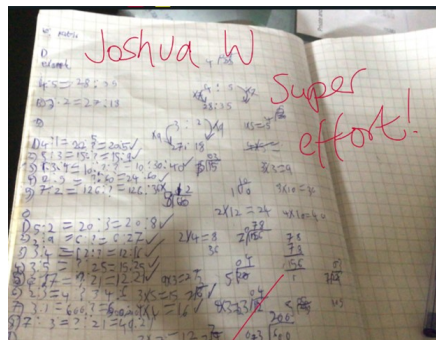
The catering team have been busy preparing for the return of pupils to onsite learning next week. You can view next week's menu on Firefly.



Year 7 Online Learning Stars

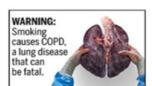
This Weeks Year 7 Online Learning Superstars are...

- **Anxo Garcia-Missan** and **Shailen Mistry** for contributing and participating well in lessons and always completing work to a high standard in their Maths lessons.
- **Louise Mawer**, **Katherine Syred**, and **Joshua Worrell** for being very diligent and often present their methods in an organised way in Maths lessons.
- **Shailen Mistry**, **Oscar Verlander**, **Anxo Garcia-Missan**, **Avani Virdi**, **Michael**, **Paul Kronacker**, **Jack Martyn**, **Vaisaali Mayoaran**, **Kalan Sharma**, **Marin Singh**, **Matilda Welsh** for their excellent work in Food Technology making Curry in a hurry.
- **Anthony Yau** and **Mate Ban** for their informative PSHE Projects on the dangers of drugs and the harmful effects of smoking and taking drugs.



Types of drugs

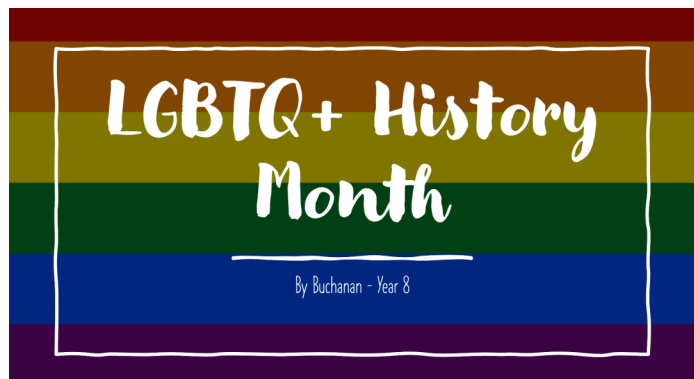
- depressants — slow down the function of the central nervous system
- hallucinogens — affect your senses and change the way you see, hear, taste, smell or feel things
- stimulants — speed up the function of the central nervous system



Buchanan's LGBTQ+ History Presentation

Year 8 Buchanan Girls' delivered an excellent presentation for LGBTQ+ History Month this week.

Take a look at their fantastic work below;



Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans + History Month

The overall aim of LGBTQ+ History month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public.

This is done by:

1. Increasing the visibility of LGBT+ people, their history, lives and their experiences in the curriculum and culture of educational and other institutions, and the wider community;
2. Raising awareness and advancing education on matters affecting the LGBT+ community;
3. Working to make educational and other institutions safe spaces for all LGBT+ communities; and
4. Promoting the welfare of LGBT+ people, by ensuring that the education system recognises and enables LGBT+ people to achieve their full potential, so they contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives, thus benefiting society as a whole.



WHAT IS LGBTQ+?

• LGBTQ+ STANDS FOR:

Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender
Queer
And more



Why do we use the **rainbow** as a symbol of LGBT equality?



Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans + History Month

- "Rainbow flags tend to be used as a sign of a new era, of hope, or of social change".
- Rainbow flags have been used in many places over the centuries, including as a symbol of gay pride and LGBT social movements since the 1970s.
- Today, the flag is flown as a sign of inclusion and welcome. When flown outside businesses, or placed in shop windows, it tells LGBT people they can relax, and feel safe to do what others' take for granted: to hold hands or hug their partners, to book a table for Valentines day, to demonstrate their **love without hate**.
- As an image, it reminds us of not only the diversity of sexual orientation but also of the **diversity of human characteristics as a whole**.
- You can find more info at: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/>

ANNE FRANK

- Did you know that in a lot of versions 5 pages of her Diary were taken out because they talked about her attraction to boys - and girls?
- There is actually, a complete and unabridged second edition. That edition has been out for 20 years, but English-speaking readers do not often encounter it.
- Its interesting to know that Anne Frank, a Jew in the second world war who became famous from her diary about her life hiding from the Germans, was also bisexual (meaning they feel attraction to female and male)



OSCAR WILDE

- Oscar Wilde was an Irish poet and playwright and became one of the most popular playwrights in London in the 1890s.
- He was sent to prison for homosexuality and later died in prison of meningitis in 1900
- Male homosexuality was only decriminalized in 1967 meaning many gay men would keep relationships secret to avoid being arrested

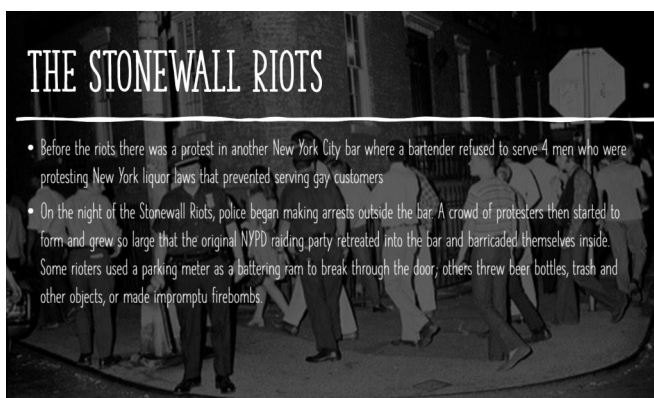


ALAN TURING

- Alan Turing was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist.
- In 1952 he was arrested after reporting a burglary at his home. In the investigation the police found out that Turing was in a relationship with another man
- At the time homosexual relationships were illegal and he was charged with "gross indecency"
- He pled guilty on the advice of his lawyer, and opted to undergo chemical castration instead of serving time in jail.

THE STONEWALL RIOTS

- Before the riots there was a protest in another New York City bar where a bartender refused to serve 4 men who were protesting New York liquor laws that prevented serving gay customers
- On the night of the Stonewall Riots, police began making arrests outside the bar. A crowd of protesters then started to form and grew so large that the original NYPD raiding party retreated into the bar and barricaded themselves inside. Some rioters used a parking meter as a battering ram to break through the door; others threw beer bottles, trash and other objects, or made impromptu firebombs.



Year 11 Taster Sessions

To help Year 11 make informed choices about their studies next year, we are running a series of taster sessions this half-term in subjects that we offer in the Sixth Form only. Students have already had the benefit of experiencing a typical Economics, Photography and Psychology lesson and the following sessions are also coming up this term.

- Friday 12th March - Media BTEC (p11)
- Friday 19th March - Business BTEC (p11)
- Friday 26th March - Politics (p11)

Students who have not received an invite to these sessions but would like to be added should contact Mrs Smith (ksmith@royalrussell.co.uk), who will add you to the list if there is capacity.

Anxo's Mean and Median Discovery!

Anxo's Mean and Median Discovery!

Whilst working on averages in Maths, Anxo Garcia-Missan in Year 7 went to discover that the Mean and Median of any linear sequence will always end up being equal.

Take this example:

A sequence of 12, 14, 16.

Median = 14 (you can see that 14 is in the middle).

Mean = 14 (the 3 numbers add up to 42, which divided by 3 equals 14).

Here's another example:

A sequence of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19.

Median = 11.5 (you can see that 11.5 is in the middle between 10 and 13).

Mean = 11.5 (the 6 numbers add up to 69, which divided by 6 equals 11.5).

Try it yourself with a different sequence!

Spotlight on Library Resources

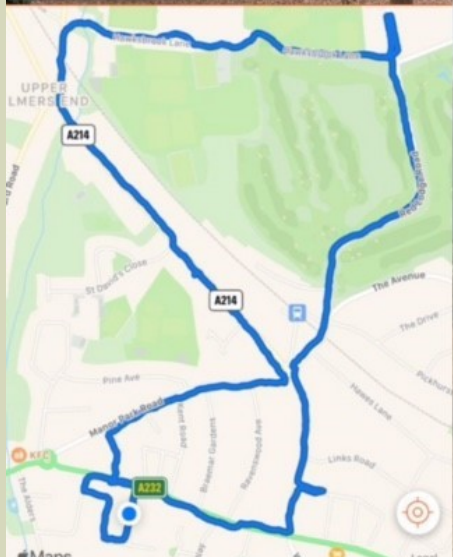
Click the image for this week's spotlight on library resources.

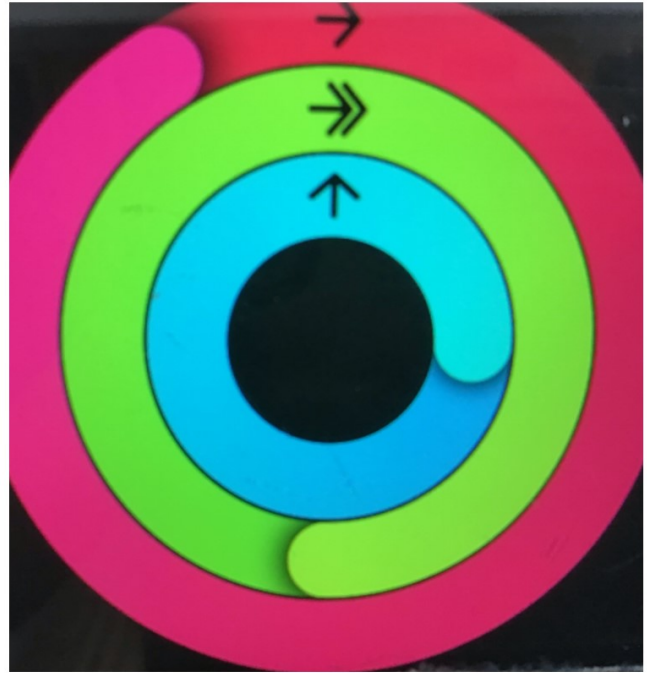
**SPOTLIGHT ON
LIBRARY ONLINE
RESOURCES :
DIGITAL THEATRE
PLUS**



From the Sport Department

PE @ Home





Key Diary Dates

Return to Learning - Dates for Lateral Flow Tests

Year 7	Thursday 11 March 2021
Year 8	Wednesday 10 March
Year 9	Wednesday 10 March
Year 10	Tuesday 9 March
Year 11	Monday 8 March
Year 12	Tuesday 9 March
Year 13	Monday 8 March



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