



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

12 March 2021

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

I was truly delighted to welcome pupils back to the School site this week. Seeing so many smiling faces and hearing the busy rhythms of school life is a tonic after what has been a challenging start to the year. I have been so impressed with how pupils have returned to learning together following their lateral flow testing and safety briefing. In today's [assembly](#), I thanked pupils for their help in keeping our community safe by following the rules in place to keep our site Covid-secure. Whilst we are not yet 'as normal' in how we interact with each other in the School, I am confident that by working together and by being consistent in our approach, we can have an uninterrupted run of learning together followed by a fantastic Summer Term.

An important reminder - Symptoms & Attendance at School

Please do not come to school if you 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

If you are in any doubt about symptoms, please be cautious and check with our Health and Wellbeing Centre staff before coming to School.



International Women's Day

This week we marked International Women's Day and I shared the achievements of two vaccination pioneers – Dr Sumathy K, a scientist who was instrumental in not only developing India's Covid vaccine response, but also helped to develop a vaccine against Zika and Chikungunya viruses; and Professor Sarah Gilbert, biologist and vaccinologist who helped to develop the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. These are just two women making an incredible difference in the world by dedicating their lives to the pursuit of what fascinates them. Where true gender inclusion exists, we can all make our mark on the world in our own way.

In a week where we have heard very difficult news about the disappearance of Sarah Everard while walking home from a friend's house in South London, there are lots of important conversations being had about how safe we feel. There are systemic issues which still impact how safe a number of communities feel whilst going about their daily business, but we can all do our part to make improvements by thinking about how to be a good ally. That means challenging ourselves and each other by calling out behaviours and micro-aggressions which make people feel unsafe whenever we have the opportunity. Thinking about our own role in how to drive change makes the prayer I shared on Monday even more pertinent.

Creator God, we are all made in your image

On this International Women's Day, we pray for women around the world

And, as we celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of women,

we remember the women who have played a part in our lives.

Those who have nurtured us, taught us, inspired us and loved us.

On this International Women's Day we also pray that all women may know equality and security and that all members of this School may feel included and given equal opportunities to safely flourish within the Royal Russell family.

We remain committed to running the School safely and successfully through to the end of this term and would ask for the cooperation of all members of the School Community in achieving this.

Thought and care for each other and especially those we love, remains hugely important at this time. Please do not become complacent about this.

Have a safe and successful weekend.

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson

Chris Hutchinson

Returning to Learning Together

From Monday we welcomed back two year groups on site at a time. Students had the opportunity to take a lateral flow test and were accompanied by their Head of House where they were treated with hot chocolate, cupcakes, fruits and other delicacies. Whilst socially distancing and awaiting their test result, Ms Charlotte Stewart, the school lead Nurse gave a presentation on safety and regulations inside and outside school to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

All students were eager to reconnect with one another and were extremely attentive to all instructions and recommendations given. All students will be receiving a kit for home testing after their third test on site as been taken.

Thursday 11 March, the school was fully open to all year groups, Year 7 being the last year group to be welcomed back. Whilst some were still taking their tests, other students went on a scavenger hunt and took a variety of pictures. The weather was almost gentle to us all!

It was an exciting week and one that the children and teachers had been anticipating for a while.

Welcome back everyone!







Year 9 Theology and Philosophy “My Identitee”

This term Year 9 students have created their “Identitee” (T-shirt shaped) collage, poster, t-shirt or video that symbolically expresses their identity accompanied by a written rationale.

Congratulations to all of Year 9 who created inspirational art and written work. There was a magnificent level of planning, imagination and originality, in a fabulous array of personal artistic representations across the year group. Each student designed, created and explained how three of their T-shirt symbols represents them. Y9 wrote imaginatively about the meaning behind their personal symbols and how their symbols represent their identity. Students wrote inventively about their symbolic techniques e.g. colour, shape, texture, font and position. The TP department teachers have hugely enjoyed exploring each group’s work and choosing the top three according to the success criteria, in the year.

The Y9 “Identitee” Competition Prize Winners are:

- 1st = Isaac Hayden
- 2nd = Vrutik Patel
- 3rd = Joint prize: Emeka Peters and Emily Hayden de Carbonnieres

Please see a brilliant variety of the fantastic array of Y9 “Identitees” below:

CREATIVE ACTIVITY: MY IDENTITEE

Aims of this task:

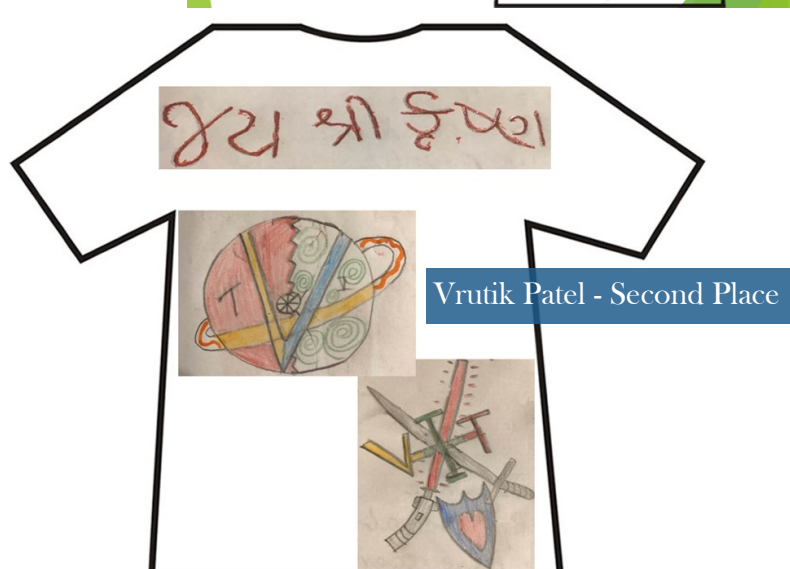
- ▶ To develop your skills in using and explaining symbolism
- ▶ To develop your understanding of how people express their identity, and how their identity is formed

KEY SKILL FOCUS: ST
Symbols and Texts

1. Plan, Sketch, Design & Create a T-shirt shaped collage to symbolically express your identity

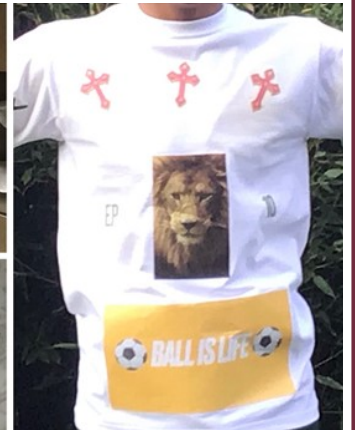
2. **ONLINE LEARNING ASSESSMENT:** Write a paragraph explaining how you have used symbolism in your collage (see written work success criteria sheet)

N.B.
Firstly think, plan, sketch and design your top 3 symbols. Make sure you have written about the symbolism in-depth. Then create your collage on the template provided, or make your own T-shirt. Pay attention to the success criteria!





Emeka Peters - Joint Third Place



Emily Hayden de Carbonnières - Joint Third Place



Chika George

My first symbol has multiple different meanings.

Eye -
 As a young woman, female and black person one would see me in a different way because of my age. People think my opinion doesn't matter. Saying that they have more experiences when it's just ignorance. See this a part of my identity because in my mind I guess me clearly. The reason for this is it gives growth for my mentality. It teaches me the way I want. Others as grow up, and not because of the colour of their skin. You assume they say whassup.

The phrase Ola o Jo tunbi -
 Ola o jo tunbi is Yoruba for tomorrow is a new day. This reminds me I have another chance even if I do today. It identifies me because as a human I make mistakes and this phrase reminds me of it when it happens.

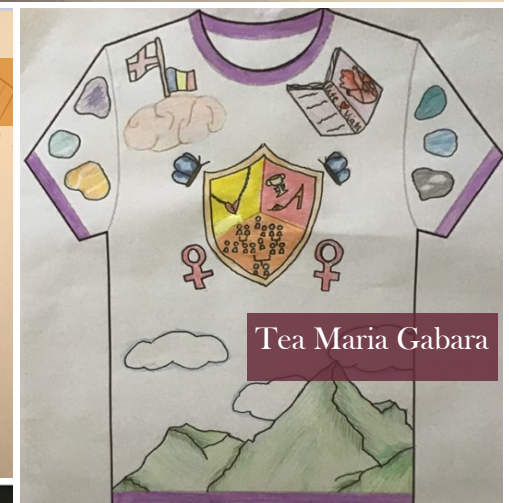
The cross -
 The cross is a symbol of my faith. So it reminds me everyday so my faith doesn't get displaced. The colours remind me of the rainbow, because in the bible it symbolises hope. It also says Christ is my saviour because I'm a Christian. I believe it to be true.



Jasmine Rihal



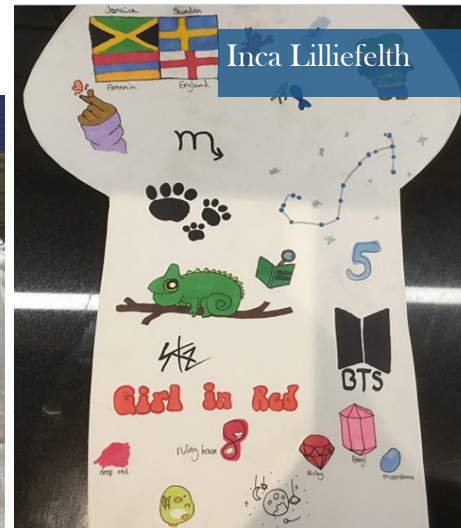
Avni Sharma



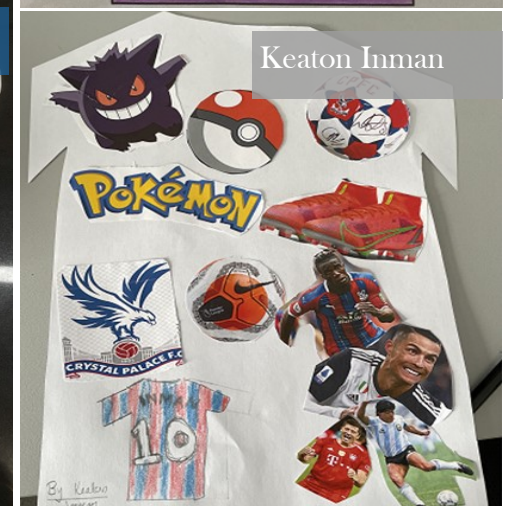
Tea Maria Gabara



Polly Holmes



Inca Lilliefelth



Keaton Inman

Pictures from our First Lessons Back!



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?

Year 7 Online Learning Superstars

This Weeks Year 7 Online Learning Superstars are...

Maths - Mr Jewiss's and Mr Rajgobal's Nominations

- **Vaisaali Mayooraan** for always giving great answers and being keen to learn in maths
- **Kalan Sharma** for being hot on her heels with a great attitude.
- **Klara Dworakowska** for applying herself meticulously and diligently, especially after receiving constructive feedback.

Science - Ms Semple's Nominations

- **Shailen Mistry** for helping a fellow pupil during lessons
- **Anxo Garcia-Missan** for asking great questions that demonstrate his interest
- **Isabelle Earing, Emilie Marshall-Tate, Scarlet Keers, Tulsii Patel, Lauren Hamilton and Alex Johnson** for their efforts in science.
- **Hez David-Ajibola** for trying his best during the tasks he is set.

English - Mrs Pepperdine's Nominations

- All of **7R** for being so fun to teach remotely. Also, for their work writing a story to finish their topic on heroes and villains, and creatively making an iMovie trailer
- **Ronnie Hurley-McQuitty** for creating fun with his snowman and snowball on the his patio door to make us all laugh
- **Amber Stuart, Jake Tindall, Izzy Flint** and **Sarah Wood** for always being so good at sharing their ideas
- **Talia Yorrick, Scarlett Nicholls, Ronnie Hurley-McQuitty, Charles Hayden de Carbonnières, Mitchell, Izzy Flint, Jake, Amber Stuart, Katherine Syred** for their outstanding Independent Reading Projects!

Drama - Ms Cripps' Nominations

- **Izzy Flint, Charles Hayden de Carbonnières, Katherine Syred, Sarah Wood, Louise Mawer, Vaisaali Mayooraan** and **Avani Viridi, Matilda Welsh** are all superstars.

Languages - Ms Burns' Nominations

- **Amber Stuart, Jake Tindall, Izzy Flint, Ronnie Hurley-McQuitty, Dylan de Gale, Shailen Mistry, Oneli Pelpola** and **Isabelle Earing** for writing and speaking using challenging Spanish this week
- **Klara Dworakowska, Elissa Demetriou, Max Graham, Rohan Phillpot, Bethany-Anne Reynolds, Maisy Main** for amazing efforts answering in French lessons.

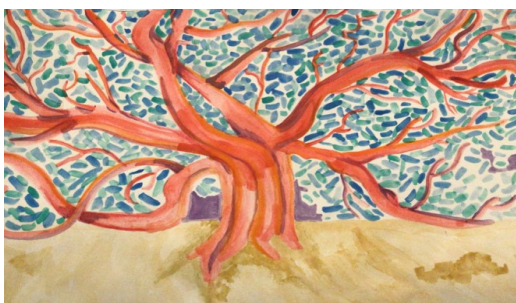
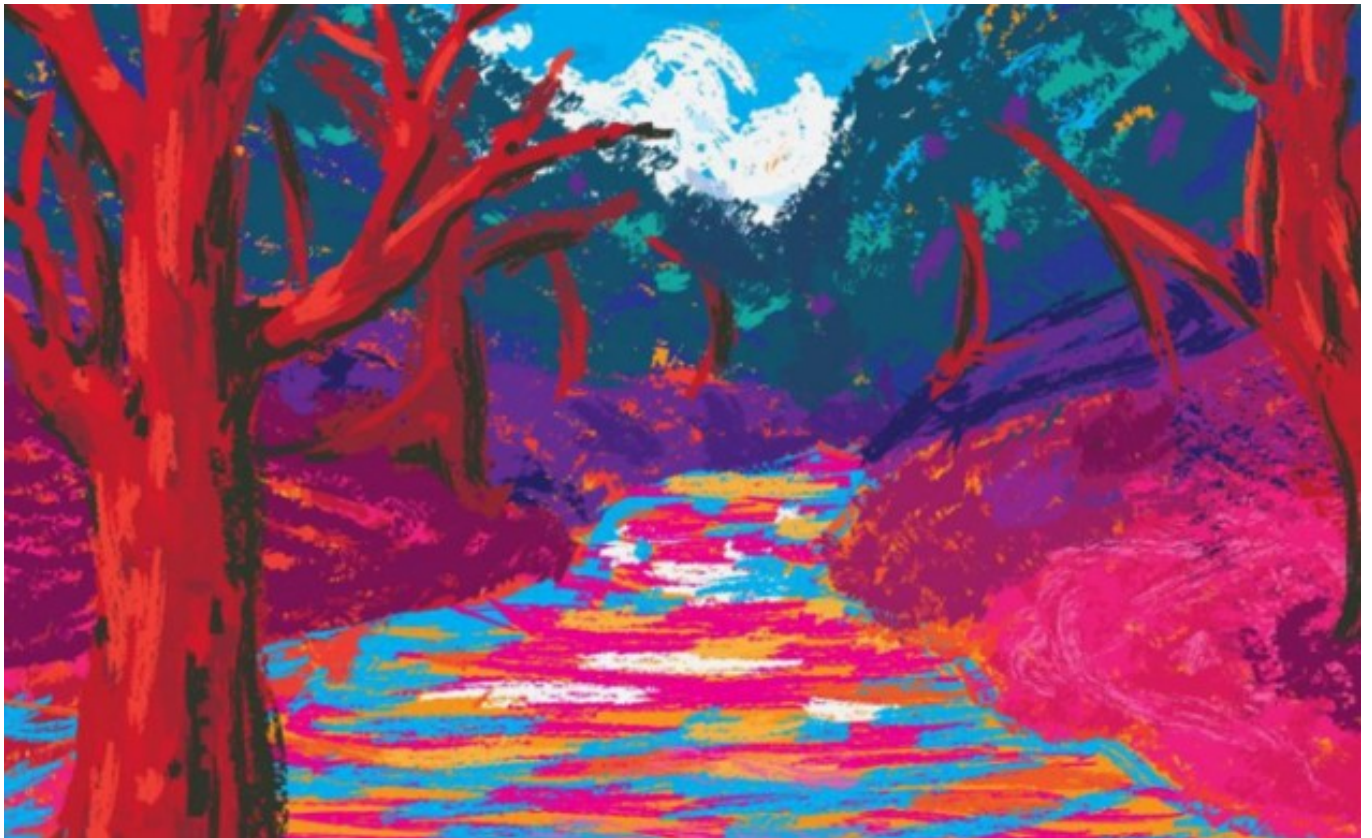
[Even more nominations and photos on the next page!](#)

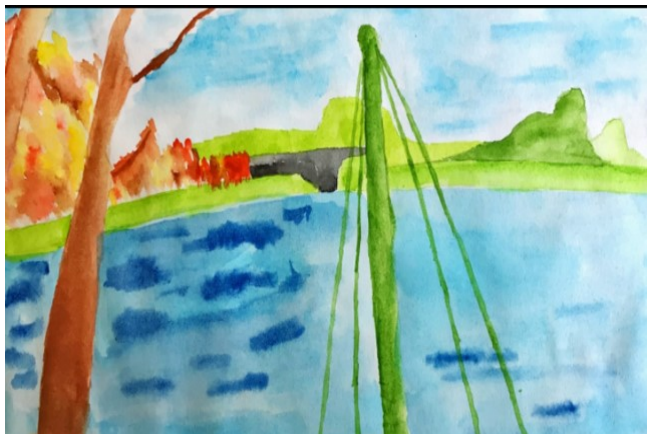
Japanese - Ms Bransby's Nominations

- **Anxo Garcia-Missan** for their excellent learning in Japanese online and for always being on-time and ready to learn, very attentive and focused in the lessons.

Art - Ms Blaquiere's Nominations

- **Amber Stuart, Tulsi Patel, Ronnie Hurley-McQuitty, Megan Findlator, Lauren Hamilton, Katherine Syred, Izzy Flint, Tayah Rautenbach, Emilie Marshall-Tate and Anxo Garcia Missan** for their hardwork in Art! They have been looking at leaves, trees and landscapes. Their beautiful work has cheered us up. Take a look at their fantastic creations below





Year 11 Unifrog Presentation

Y11 received a presentation from Mr Brennan on how to use Unifrog, the platform that helps students to make the best choices and submit the strongest applications to universities, apprenticeships and, ultimately, their chosen employers. If you need assistance with Unifrog you can see Mr Brennan in the school library every Thursday at 4pm.

Please click [here](#) to see the 10 minute presentation.

unifrog

The complete
destinations platform

Find and apply for the best courses and apprenticeships for you.

Spotlight on Library Resources

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

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



A Message from Mrs Bob-Jones

Below is a message from Teacher of Business Studies and Economics, Mrs Bob-Jones who is currently on Maternity Leave.

"I wanted to let you all know that Richard and I welcomed our little boy, Kendi Luke Sedgwick, on Friday 26th February. We're both doing well. Kendi is an absolute joy and we're just so happy after a very challenging pregnancy.

The name Kendi means 'loved one' in Swahili."

Congratulations to Mrs Bob-Jones and her family!



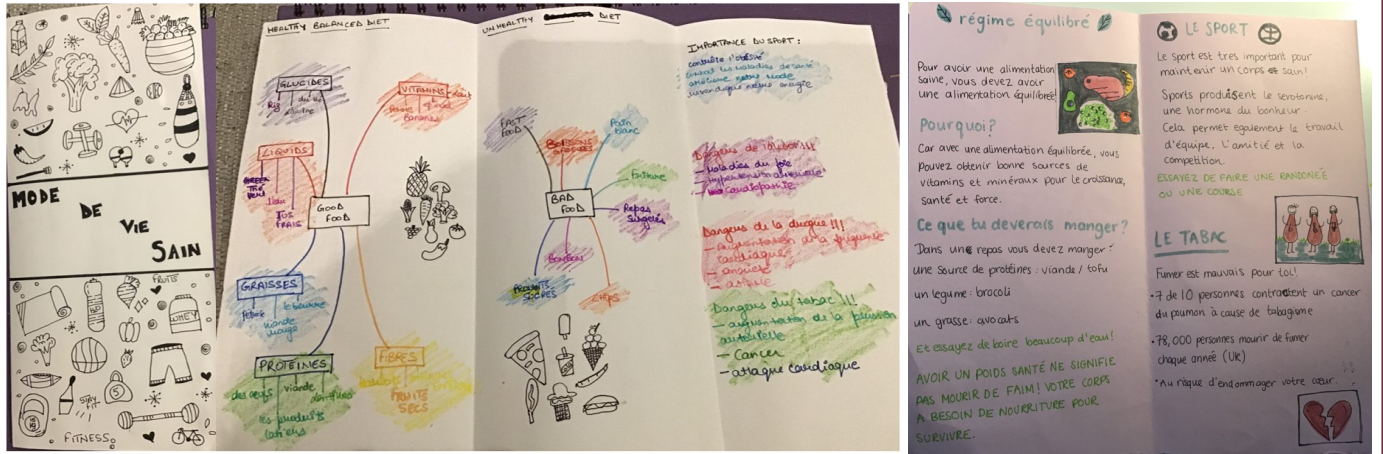
Year 10 French Work

As part of their Health topic in French, Year 10 pupils have designed leaflets to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Well done in particular to Aarsheya Mittal, Cassie Exall, George Mills, Hanaa Ratip, Harrison Devlin, Nina Lago Burity and Meenachey Niranjana for their fantastic work.

The collage features several key components:

- Hand-drawn Guides:**
 - Le guide Darfoit pour maintenir une vie saine:** A large poster with a smiley face and text about staying healthy.
 - L'alimentation:** A page discussing food choices and their impact on health.
 - Le tabagisme:** A page explaining the dangers of smoking.
- Printed Worksheets ('Comment avoir une vie saine'):**
 - 1) Le Sport et l'activité physique:** Discusses the benefits of physical activity and provides examples of sports.
 - 2) Manger un Régime équilibré:** Focuses on balanced nutrition and healthy eating habits.
 - 3) Éviter le fumer, les drogues et l'alcool:** Warns against substance use and its effects on health.
 - 4) Un régime équilibré:** Provides detailed advice on diet and food intake.
- Presentation Slide ('un mode de vie sain'):**
 - Qu'est-ce qui fait une alimentation équilibrée?** Lists principles like variety, moderation, and energy balance.
 - Bons et mauvais aliments...** Categorizes foods as beneficial or harmful.
 - Importance de l'exercice:** Highlights the role of physical activity in overall health.
- Other Visuals:**
 - A drawing of a person running.
 - A bowl of fresh fruit.
 - A glass of water being poured.
 - An illustration of a cigarette.

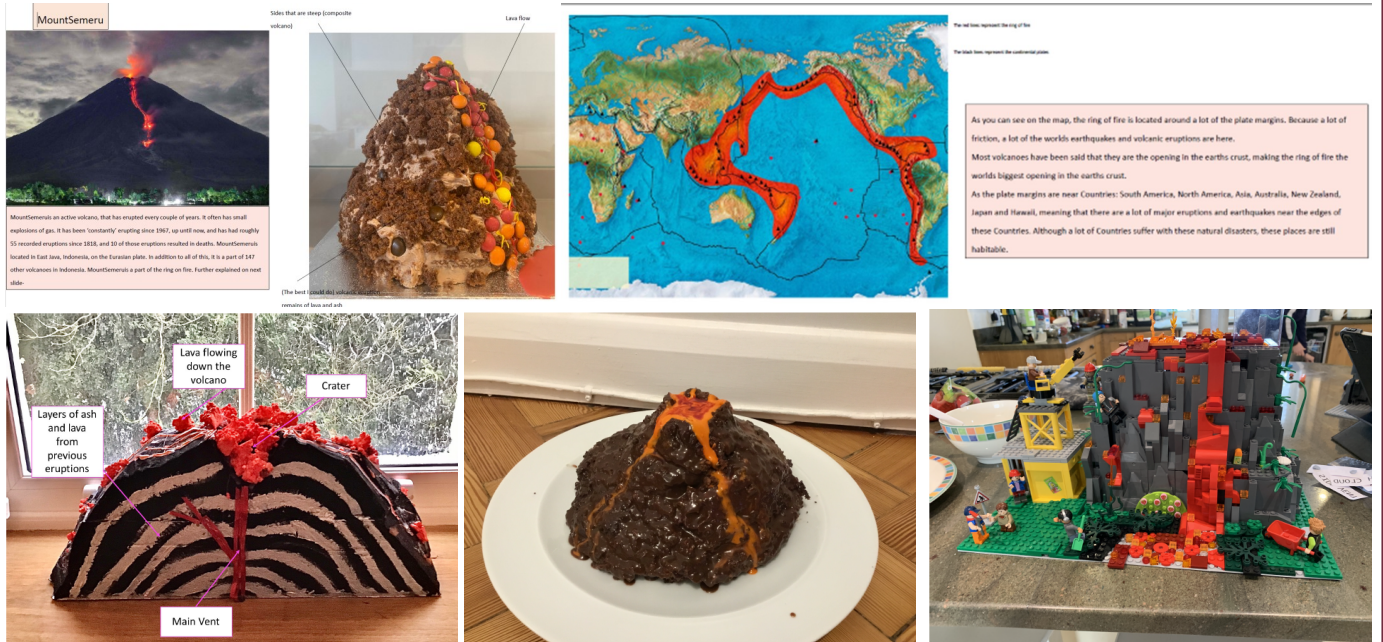


Year 8 Volcanoes Project

During the spring term Year 8 have been completing a topic on Tectonics and Tectonic hazards. Miss Benjamin-Taylor's Year 8 classes took the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of volcanoes in a practical way, by creating their own model volcanoes.

Students seized the opportunity to be imaginative, creative and resourceful with their models, using range of ways to represent their learning. From 4 tier cakes to Minecraft and from classic paper mache to lego, students produced some fantastic work and even a few eruptions! One student even made their volcano out of 100% recyclable and sustainable materials.

Well done 8P, 8Q and 8S, for all you hard work.

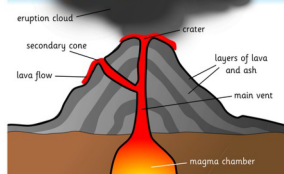


How Mount Semeru was formed

Mount Semeru is a part of a group of 147 volcanoes. This group of volcanoes was called 'The Ring of Fire', of which was formed over 115 million years ago. The ring of fire was formed when the oceanic plates slid under each other, creating fold mountains in a 'circle-like' shape. These are called fold mountains, because when they are created, the collision of the two plates folds the land. Originally they were just the mountains that the plate collision had caused, until the plates rubbed against each other again. As a result of this, the molten rock in the mantle went up the mountain, creating a magma chamber, which then made a vent when the mountain erupted, making it a volcano.

Quite a lot of volcanoes have secondary cones, and secondary vents; however this volcano doesn't have either of these.

A Cross Section of a Volcano



Many other well-known volcanoes live in the ring of fire; Mount Saint Helens, Mount Fuji, Mount Merapi, Krakatoa. This is only a few out of the 147 volcanoes.



Music Co-Curricular Groups

From Monday 15th March

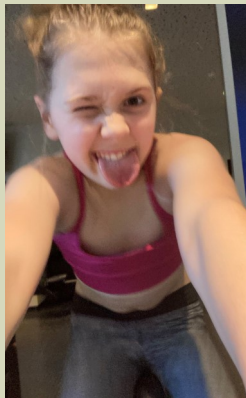
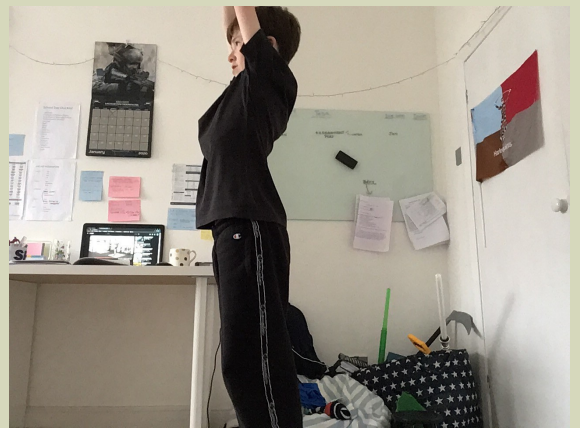
Group	Staff	Day/Time	Venue
Year 7 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Monday 1310	A10
VI Form Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Monday 1600	A21
Year 11 Choir	Mr Bell	Tuesday 0810	A10
Year 7 Instrumental	Mrs F Griffith	Tuesday 1310	A21
Year 8 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Tuesday 1310	A10
Y11 GCSE composition (drop-in)	Mrs Y Griffith	Wednesday 1320	A21
Year 10 Instrumental	Mrs Ford	Wednesday 1600	A21
VI Form Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Thursday 0810	A10
Y11 GCSE Music revision (drop-in)	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 1315	A21
Year 9 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Thursday 1600	A10
Year 9 Choir	Mrs Y Griffith	Friday 0810	A10
Year 10 Choir	Mr Bell	Friday 0810	Chapel
Year 8 Instrumental	Mrs Stanton	Friday 1310	TBC, meet A10

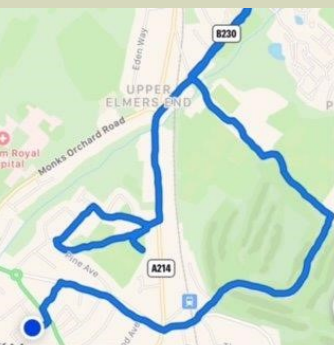
Co-Curricular Activities

From Monday co-curricular clubs and activities will resume. Click [here](#) to view the Spring 2021 Activities and Clubs Schedule on firefly.

From the Sport Department

PE @ Home





Key Diary Dates

IGCSE/GCSE Assessment Grading Virtual Briefing

Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 March 2021

A Level/BTEC Assessment Grading Virtual Briefing

Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 March 2021

Year 12 Virtual University Fair

Wednesday 17 March 2021



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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen