



Royal
Russell

Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

19 March 2021

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

Day of National Reflection

Many of us have been reflecting, this week, that it was a year ago today that we closed the School for our pupils at the start of the first National lockdown in March 2020. This moment, and the challenges that have followed is being marked in a Day of National Reflection on Tuesday 23 March when we are all encouraged to take time to remember the impact that covid-19 has had on our lives and on the lives of all members of our wider community.

We will be marking this moment with a minute's silence at 12 noon on Tuesday next week.

Year 11 and Year 13 Assessment Plan

There has been much discussion nationally, over the last few weeks about the way in which pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 will be assessed this summer following the cancellation of the GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations. On Tuesday and Wednesday, I was able to join parents and pupils in these year groups for an update on our plans for the Summer Term along with Mrs Snelgrove, Ms Worsfold, Ms Wheeler-Quinnell and Mrs Hart. In these briefings, we set out our strategy for supporting these pupils through to the successful conclusion of their programmes of study and shared details of the assessment process. There are more details to follow and we will be writing separately to each of the year groups to set out the structure of the Summer Term which will include the dates of the final assessments and bridging work, which will be completed after half-term.

BTEC Results

I was delighted to receive the results of our Business and Sport BTEC candidates from their last formal public examinations which were sat in January. The pupils achieved 58% distinction grades and 42% merit grades. My congratulations to all of the Year 13 and Year 12 pupils and to Mr Bailey, Ms Bonner and the department teams.

MFL Interviews

Thank you to those pupils, Luca Simons, Vlada Medvedeva, Charlotte Mawer and Arthur Heath who helped out with MFL interviews this week for our new teacher of French and German. We have, once again, had an extremely strong field of applications which is a great indication of the wider health of the School.

I will share further details of our new staff appointments at the start of next term.

Meet the Prefects

We launched our new student leadership selection process last week and, on Thursday, the current Senior Prefect Team hosted a Q&A session with interested applicants. It was very interesting to listen to the issues which were being discussed and the responses, both from the established prefects and from those interested in applying for senior roles.

Feeling Safe

I was pleased with how sensitively the pupils have dealt with the many issues of safety which have been raised over the last few weeks and the maturity and critical thinking which has been applied to wider discussions on the subject. In tutor time we have been discussing the behaviours which can make us and others feel unsafe and how we can be an ally when we see poor behaviours.

As much as I am confident in the ethos of respect which we seek to reinforce with pupils and also the mechanisms we have in place to deal with issues when they are raised, I never want to be complacent that there is no room for improvement or great communication. This is why we took the opportunity in this week's pupil survey to ask specific questions around safety both during the school day and also in the journey to and from school. The survey results showed us that, as we begin to think about emerging from lockdown, there are some anxious feelings around being within larger groups again and this is a theme we will continue to discuss with pupils throughout this term as well as remind them how to access support if they need it.

We remain committed to running the school safely and successfully through to the end of this term and, with the sun shining this afternoon, this feels like another successful step towards that goal.

My best wishes for a safe and successful weekend,

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

Safeguarding Corner

Happy Heads Mental Health Organisation & Rest Easy Training have teamed up to help teens manage their emotions & feel empowered through a brand new workshop.

Alongside their parents, teens will learn new tips, tools & strategies for creating a balanced life that is fulfilling & purposeful. The aim of the workshop is to assist young people who are struggling with their mental health.

The hosts Ruth Moragas & Emily Gearing have both overcome mental health issues themselves & want to share their recovery tools & coping strategies with you.

Tickets (one per household) can be purchased via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-teen-wellbeing-workshop-tickets-145044617355?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



PARENT & TEEN WELLBEING WORKSHOP

27th March 11am

£12 per family
(Parent & teen aged 13+)



From the IT Department

Please ensure that when sending an email to the School that you include a subject line and content within the email, otherwise these emails will be blocked by our security systems to guard against phishing or spam emails.

Year 7 Assembly

Scavenger Hunt - Winning House (in no particular order)

- Buchanan House
- Madden House
- Hollenden House



Return Day Photos



Year 7 Assembly- Drama presentation

Greek theatre

By Keira Rudich-Goodbody

Greek Mask Facts!!

- They allowed actors to play more than one role, change genders, change character.
- They even projected your voice like a mini megaphone!
- People at the back of the amphitheater couldn't see the facial expressions of the actor so the masks had to project the facial expressions!

My mask design

- My mask is going to be a chorus mask.
- Chorus masks have simple expressions like happiness or sadness
- A more contemporary style are comedy masks

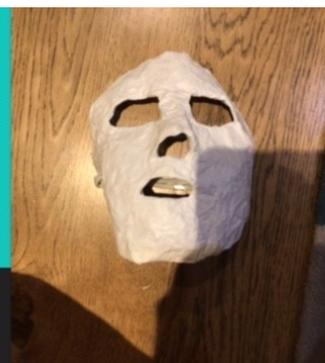


First I crinkled up some newspaper

I then took it off after a few layers and put on a balloon with extra newspaper



I then painted it white



By Sarah Wood



Year 7 Assembly

MASKS - Masks are to remain on inside and outside if you cannot socially distance.



Year 7 Superstars this week!

English - Mrs Pepperdine

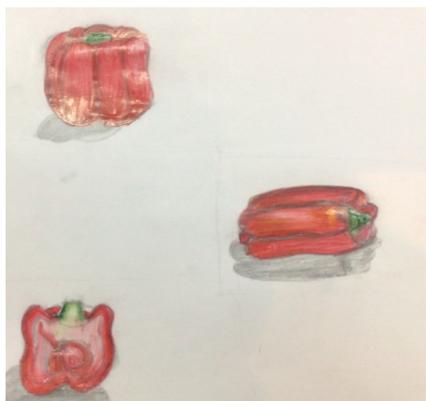
- * Ashton Rose did a great iMovie trailer for his short story, as did Daisy Ding and Megan Findlator.
- * Omar Haque has already settled back in to be really helpful, handing out things and cleaning desks. He's at the front so always gets asked and never complains!
- * Scarlett, Issy and Katie did a fabulous celebration of women's achievements with their Wonder Mum book cover and blurb.

Maths - Ms Wong

My Maths Superstars are Anxo Garcia-Missan and Thomas Gibbs.

Both settled in very well in the lesson and ready to learn. Excellent work on Probability and very engaged. A fantastic start!

Art - Mrs Baldwin 7S



Avani Virdi



Louise Mawer



Isabel Gironella

Top Girl and Boy – Merits OF THE WEEK

- * Isabella Flint - Queens 7R - **10 merits**
- * Thomas Clements - Madden 7R - **6 merits**
- * Anxo Garcia Missan - Madden 7Q - **6 merits**

BOOKBUZZ HAS LANDED!

After a very long wait Year 7 were delighted to receive their Bookbuzz books in their English lessons this week. Back in September, every pupil was able to choose a free book from a shortlist of titles supplied by BookTrust – the UK's largest reading charity.

The selection was wide and our pupils took full advantage of the variety on offer. The Library has a copy of each of the shortlisted titles so pupils can read through the entire selection if they wish by using the "Click and Deliver" service (instructions can be found here : <https://royalrussell.fireflycloud.net/library>)

We really look forward to hearing what you think of the books and seeing you in the Library as soon as regulations allow. In the meantime, HAPPY READING!!



Year 10 - Food Preparation & Nutrition

Anastacia Allan, Kharece Roberts, Stefania Findlator, Nadra Webb and Danelle Walker made some magnificent brandy snap baskets and cigars with cream, strawberry, raspberry and blueberry filling.



Year 10 - STEM Club

This week the Year 10 STEM club were experimenting with 3D printing. They were familiarising themselves with how to design and print objects, using callipers to test the accuracy of the prints in terms of sizes and experimenting with print qualities.



Year 10 - Year 12 parents and pupils

Thinking about studying for a degree in the US? It pays to start preparing early.

UES Expert Admissions are holding a free Mock US Admissions Event on 29th March 2021. This is a fun interactive, online event for students and parents with admissions officers from leading US colleges. For more information and to register, please click on this link: [Register for free here.](#)

MUN Returns

This week we had the first MUN debates back in school since last term. The Senior students kicked off last week with a debate on LGBT+ rights as part of the pride week in school. The debate really highlighted the different views internationally on the topic and showed how problematic it was to reach a consensus. Delegates representing Iran and Saudi Arabia clashed with those from western European countries.

On Wednesday there was a good turnout for the MiniMUN debate on covid and vaccinations. This debate also turned on a matter of human rights with students divided over whether citizens 'should' or 'must' get vaccinated. Ultimately Norway and Japan's amendment on this proposing 'must' was defeated by 7 votes to 5.

Overall two excellent debates with thanks to Anna Stone and Nicholas Solly for chairing the Senior debate for the first time, and to Jiya Desai and Iris Nuredini for their excellent chairing of MiniMUN. Next week we have two more debates.



Year 11 St Andrews' Male Responsibility in Memory of Sarah Everard

Our topical daily discussions in House were largely dominated by the haunting disappearance and death of Sarah Everard. With a proportion of the boys hailing from South West London, the distressing events played out close to home, on streets we are familiar with, and we could not help but be moved by developments.

After a distinct emphasis on our health in Covid times, this case resonated nationally, reminding us all of the importance of urban safety - pointedly enlightening males of their responsibility in ensuring that all feel safe in public.

The boys discussed their views sensitively, heightened their empathy and fostered a further appreciation of their roles as gentlemen, particularly in adapting their behaviour to avoid creating an uncomfortable presence. We have pledged to actively support and practise the tips suggested for responsible male behaviour.



From BTEC Business

Congratulations to all BTEC Business pupils who sat the exams in January.

You have achieved the best results for BTEC Business exams at Royal Russell School.

A very big Well done!

Congratulations!

From the Sport Department

PE @ Home

Games afternoon for Year 7 & Year 8



From the Sport Department

PE @ Home

Year 9 & Year 10 games



Key Diary Dates

National Day of Reflection

Tuesday 23 March



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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen