Dear Parents and Friends,

Last Saturday evening we were treated to an amazing evening of enjoyment and entertainment at the Russellian Ball. Guests were greeted by the brilliant Swing Band, over drinks in the Dining Hall, before walking through the wardrobe into an enchanting ‘Narnia’ themed Great Hall for our delicious dinner. The food was prepared by our own chefs working with a team led by Allan Thistleton and served by a team of Royal Russell cadets. The auction that followed was overseen by Jeremy Lloyd-Jones and the hotly contested bidding raised over £13,000 for 1853 Society funds, which can now be redistributed to enhance School projects. My thanks to all who supported this inaugural event, to Max Rickards for his brilliant photography, to all the Royal Russell Operations and Support teams and to Emma Thistleton and her amazing team of 1853 Society helpers who made the event such a success.

We returned this week to a very busy academic routine, with some of our Year 11 pupils taking GCSE examinations. I was delighted at my recent Prefects meeting to see that we now have many of our Year 13 pupils with a range of good offers; some have already received five university offers at this stage. I would like to thank Mrs Culbert and the team of Sixth Form Tutors for the work they have done to guide our pupils to this point.

During the week I have met the new Year 6 pupils and enjoyed a brief ‘interview’ with each of them where we discussed their targets for the year ahead. It was a pleasure to chat to such a happy and focused group who are clearly already settled into Royal Russell life.

On Tuesday evening I travelled to the Leatherhead Theatre to see our performance of ‘Twelfth Night’ in the Shakespeare for Schools Festival. This production was led by Miss Stevens and Mrs Pepperdine and combined acting talent from Years 8, 9 and 10 with a brilliant group of musicians directed by Alex Franklin who had also composed the score. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable performance which showed the talent of our younger actors and musicians. Congratulations to all involved and particularly to those who are also rehearsing for the School Play ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’, which is being performed on Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 November. Tickets for these evenings are available through the School Office.

This has been a very busy and successful week for our sports teams with some amazing football fixtures with the U13 A, B, C, D, E and F teams and U15 A, B, C and D teams playing City of London at the beginning of the week. Our 1st team netball squad were on brilliant form, winning 57 – 21 against Bradfield on Wednesday. Many of our sports teams are in action over the weekend with fixtures against Highgate and Alleyn’s tomorrow and in the regional round of the National Schools Netball competition at Epsom on Sunday.

On Thursday afternoon I was delighted to welcome the Hollenden Year 7 Girls to ‘tea’ at Headmaster’s House during their tutorial time and to spend some time learning about their interests and aspirations. They are certainly an ambitious and adventurous group.

At our Assembly this afternoon, we awarded certificates for excellence in the first round of grade assessments. Congratulations to Sam Stealey, Yasmin Williams, Anastacia Allan, Deri Roberts, Jemima Earing, Zhiging Zhang, Martha Shepheard, Sean Smith, Matthew Morton, Katie Harris, Amelia O’Sullivan, Amanfi Aggrey, Yasmin Akhmedova, Lucas Jones, Aleksandra Maciaszek, Ali Mula, Thalia Selby and Pari Warren. We also congratulated pupil delegates and officers from the Royal Russell MUN Conference.
The Christmas Fair will be taking place next Saturday 18th November from 12 noon-4.00pm and I look forward to see many of you there.

There is a Parents’ Evening for Year 8 on Wednesday 15 November which starts at 4.30pm in the Great Hall.

Looking ahead, the Year 7 Parents’ Evening is on Tuesday 28 November and Year 12 on Thursday 7 December.

This morning the whole school gathered at the Memorial Garden to commemorate those Old Russelians who lost their lives in the service of their country and to join in a collective Act of Remembrance. The ceremony included words from ‘For the Fallen’ by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21st September 1914. The fourth and final verses read:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

The combined choirs and CCF will take an active part in leading our Remembrance Service which will be held on Sunday at 10.00am in Chapel. We will be joined on Sunday by Old Russelian Joe Begley, who will lay a wreath alongside a wreath for the School and the CCF. Parents will be very welcome to join us for the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial Garden from 10.45am and refreshments will be served in Dining Hall following the service.

Tomorrow, CCF cadets will join the parade at the Lord Mayor’s Show, alongside the Royal British Legion.

Poetry Festival 2017, overall Senior Category winner Open Road by Tomas King, Year 10.

In the bleak reality of a truck stop,  The only thing to be certain of
when the night is howling at my back  is that I have a choice in direction.
and threatens to swallow my spirit,  But I can’t stay here for too long,
cutting me down, the runt of the crop.  engaging in this introspection.

Or the foggy darkness of a strange bed,  After all, the open road calls,
where my skin sears with anxiety, and my past choices snap at my heels.
hungry moths colonise the ceiling,  I can flounder and grab at a new path as long as I want,
but don’t worry, soon they’ll be dead.  reaching for what I desire

When the rusty calico pattern  and yearning, but ultimately –
of my scabs start to corrode  I know I’m just spinning my wheels.
and reveal the salmon-pink vulnerability
Of my flesh, healed from that burn,

faced with the sickening emptiness  The only thing to be certain of
of the world stretched out before me,  is that I have a choice in direction.
begging and daring me  But I can’t stay here for too long,
to shine a light into that darkness,

With best wishes,

Chris Hutchinson
Headmaster
Russellian Ball
School Services

Mr Simon Smith, a recent teacher in our Design Technology Department, has become the School’s Independent Listener. He explained on Monday that he is available to be phoned by pupils for a confidential chat. The Chaplain and the School Counsellor also offer confidential support.

On Thursday Mr Graham Moseley explained how the particular weather conditions enabled so many troops to escape across the Channel from Dunkirk in 1940. He asked: was this a miracle?

On both days we sang the hymn, God is our strength and refuge, to Eric Coates stirring tune, Dambusters’ March, which was the theme to the 1955 British war film The Dam Busters. Each verse concludes confidently: God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore!

Answer to Quiz 116

The Augsburg Confession is the primary confession of faith of the Lutheran Church.

Quiz 117

Who was St Frances de Sales ? Prizes for pupils.

Remembrance Day

On Friday at 11.00 a.m. the entire School – Junior, Senior and Support Staff - gathered together at the Memorial Garden to remember in silence Old Russellians and others who died in war.

A wreath from the Junior School was laid after an Upper Junior School Chapel service.

10 of the 22 ORs who were killed in 1917 serving King and Country.

Thought for the week

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. St Francis de Sales.

Remembrance Sunday

Service 12 November, 10.00am in the Chapel All are most welcome.

Jesus said: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)
French Exchange

Year 11, 12 and 13 had a fantastic week in France. All of the students were so happy to be reunited after following their visit to Royal Russell before the holidays.

The French families have been so welcoming and the weather was exceptionally warm for the season. We had the chance to eat outside on terraces in the sun.

Students were treated to all sorts of activities by the families including visiting the Loire Valley and its fabulous chateaux such as Chambord or to visit Paris and go to the very top of the Tour Eiffel.

All of the students have had a great time and were commenting on the way back how much their French had improved. Total immersion is so important in language learning as well as communicating with similar age groups. I know that some of the students have already been invited back to New Year's parties. It looks like some of the friendships made will last and develop further in the future.

I now look forward to be taking the Years 8-10 at Easter time.
This Tuesday, the Shakespeare Schools Festival took place in Leatherhead theatre. It was a brilliant event, with the four schools who attended presenting their own interpretation of one of Shakespeare's plays. We got to see a modern twist on The Tempest, a chilling performance of Macbeth and the hilarious A Midsummer Night's Dream, as well as Royal Russell's own Twelfth Night, which I can completely, unbiasedly say was the best.

The first play, The Tempest, kept to the main story but added a clever modern interpretation, with a trio of sassy air hostesses for narrators. We were all in awe of these primary school children speaking Shakespearean language with the ease and grace that professional actors strive for.

The gorgeous performance of Macbeth entailed stunning physical theatre but sadly lacked a storyline that was easy to follow.

A Midsummer Night's Dream was very entertaining and lively, with the melodramatic character of Nick Bottom taking centre stage and winning us all over.

Royal Russell's performance was outstanding. The story of Twelfth Night was brought to life expertly. The audience repeatedly burst into fits of laughter, while still caring deeply about each and every one of the characters. Thank you to the incredible cast, live band, and behind-the-scenes crew for an unforgettable performance and amazing green and yellow tights!

Anna Firth, Year 11
Boarders Activities

The boarders spent the afternoon of Sunday 5th November making fire themed felt sketchbooks.

There was an incredibly good standard of work produced vividly bringing to life the spirit of the day.

Sixth Form Assembly

This week, on Wednesday, Year 12 were visited by Dr Paul Hammerton, whose presentation differed quite drastically from the previous week’s HIV/AIDS talk.

He has studied a range of subjects at a number of prestigious schools, from Mathematics at Cambridge and Mechanical Engineering at University of Arizona to Science and Engineering at NASA Langley. He even worked in an office next door to Stephen Hawking while he was writing A Brief History of Time, a fact which excited a lot of the students.

Dr Hammerton’s talk was on some of the things he has studied and currently lectures at UEA. Firstly he spoke about ‘sonic booms’, guiding us through some very technical physics equations and then discussed the aerodynamics of sport, such as why we have dimples on a golf ball, or why a cricket ball swings. This was very interesting for some of our Cam-Tech students, such as Cormac (pictured), who have had Dr Hammerton’s details passed on to them to aid their studies.

However, there were a number of us whose brains were a little rusty now that we’ve abandoned Physics and Mathematics following GCSEs but the talk wasn’t any less worthwhile. Dr Hammerton’s passion for what he does was very inspiring. He told us to always do what we enjoy and that we don’t always have to make a concrete decision about our future career, which was a very refreshing opinion to hear. Hopefully some of our current Year 12s will be following in his footsteps at Cambridge in a few years’ time!

Anna Armitage
To Kill a Mocking Bird

Race, Class and Inequality... These are some of the key themes addressed in Harper Lee's 1960 classic novel 'To Kill a Mocking Bird'. On the 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, the Drama department will be travelling back in time to 1935, Maycomb Alabama to see how these themes play a role in the heart-breaking story of Atticus Finch and how he defends an African American man who was scapegoated for a crime a white man committed. Whilst some people may be think that this was written 57 years ago and therefore it is no longer an issue that affects us in the modern day, sadly it still does. People are still be wrongly convicted for crimes they did not commit.

The Drama department would love for you to get on board and journey back with us to a time where this awful event was the modern-day reality. To those readers who are loyal followers of the school play, you will know that this play is not like any that had been done before. Not only are the Drama department tackling one of the most renown classics in the world, in less time than previous years, they are actually performing it in the round. This intimate and intense setting will throw the audience straight into the middle to the drama, adding a stronger zest of thrill than ever before, as the audience will be at the forefront of the action that is so clearly portrayed by the phenomenal acting talents of the cast.

We hope to see you all there all there supporting the efforts of the Drama department and information has been sent out about how to order tickets.

Stevie Palmer

Year 9 Chemistry

Year 9 Chemistry pupils were this week studying carbon dioxide and this experiment looked at carbon dioxide dissolved in coke.
Old Russellians Visits

This week, two Old Russellians returned to School.

Sam Antrobus

Sam was a pupil at Royal Russell from 1985 to 1996, was Head of Madden House and President of the General Assembly at our International MUN Conference.

After a decade working in Finance, Sam founded the Wishford Schools Group. Wishford Schools owns and operates seven prep schools including St David's in West Wickham, which has strong links with Royal Russell. He is also a school inspector.

Sam was particularly interested to see the School's impressive new boarding and day House, the Performing Arts facilities and sports pitches, and to hear about plans for further development.

Simon Coupe

Simon was a pupil in Cambridge House from 1963 to 1969.

He now lives in Lancashire and is a Partner at Coupe Bradbury Solicitors.

His brief tour brought back many fond memories and he was surprised to see how much the school had changed with new buildings, astro and no outdoor swimming pool!

He is keen to return again with his son, who lives in Tooting, and enjoy another school dinner.
From the Sport Department

NETBALL

On Saturday our U15s and senior first team played away against Emanuel. Both well contested matches, unfortunately neither came away with the result we had hoped for. The first team had their first defeat losing by one goal. Well done to Emily Giles stepping up to the senior team, she played exceptionally well, especially out of her first choice position.

On Monday, our first team played against Coloma in preparation for their Independent Schools Cup match on Wednesday away to Bradfield College. This match allowed us court time to put into practice set ups the girls have practiced over the past few weeks. It also highlighted areas which need revisiting prior to Wednesday.

Tuesday evening our U12A, B and U13A, B had matches against Coloma. Overall this was a successful fixture, winning 3 out of 4 matches. Special mentions to Cynthia Ding, Carey Robinson, Safia Opie, and Amy Tree, all selected as player of the match.

The U19s Netball team have progressed to Round 3 of the Independent Schools Cup with a huge score of 57-21 against Bradfield. The girls played exceptionally and have made history for Royal Russell being the first team ever to get this far.

This Sunday our U18A and U14A teams are heading to Epsom College for their regional round of the National Schools Tournament.

HOCKEY

Thursday – Home v Christ Hospital. 4-1 Victory.

It was the U12As first fixture under the flood lights. The girls were well prepared and were determined to win. Royal Russell scored two goals in quick succession in the first half with well worked counter attacks and good team play. Christ Hospital however replied with a goal of their own just before half time. With a couple of alterations at half time, Royal Russell started the second half with dominant play. The home side score another two goals with great passing demonstrated by the whole team. The game finishes a 4-1 win with spirits high.

Saturday – Home v Ashford School (U13A). 5-2 Loss

On Saturday the U12A team played against Ashford Schools U13A team. The first half began with plenty of end-to-end action which included great saves by goalkeeper Safia Opie. Royal Russell raised their game to compete against the older side, Ashford played some strong, competitive hockey of which they scored 5 goals. This did not phase Royal Russell as both Cassie Exall and Bethany Long scored well worked team goals. Overall the girls enjoyed the challenged of playing an older, more experienced team.

The U12Bs took on Christ Hospital under the lights last Thursday. Christ Hospital set the benchmark of the game with an early goal, but defenders Charlotte Kempster, Ella Smith and Eryn Gonzalez-Gorbena responded with persistent defending throughout the game. Charlotte Kempster worked hard to distribute the ball amongst the forwards, and played in Kharece Roberts twice to score. A fantastic display of grit and determination finished the game 2-2.

On Saturday, the U12Bs took on Ashford U13Bs in a highly competitive game of Hockey. Ashford opened the scoring with 2 early goals, and in true Royal Russell style, the girls responded with 2 goals to leave the game 2-2 at half time. The second half came and Royal Russell put Ashford under huge pressure, winning a number of penalty corners and getting the ball to the forwards, Emily McCann and Ayo Phillips a number of times. Unfortunately Ashford caught us on the break 3 times in the half, and scored all 3 times. A highly impressive performance against the year above!


**FOOTBALL**

On Monday the School held its first ever block fixture against the City of London School. All 67 students from Years 7 and 8 who participate in football for games on a Monday afternoon took part in this competitive fixture. Royal Russell fielded A-F teams for the first time in the School’s history.

The U13As continued their impressive form with a hard thought 2-0 victory against City of London. Royal Russell started the game slow and it was clear to see early on that it was going to be a difficult task ahead due to the size and physicality of City of London. The first half finished 0-0 with both teams not really creating any clear cut chances and the game becoming a real battle in the middle of the park. The second half saw royal Russell start brighter with Bobby Moore opening the scoring after 5 minutes. Constant pressure from Royal Russell all over the park saw them open up a 2-0 lead with an excellent finish from Roman Burrell after some great interception play from Jack Low. Royal Russell held off late pressure from City of London with Toby McKimm making some excellent close range saves along with confident performances from the back four which included Sam German, Sam Charvet, Louis Saville and Abdu Sbaiti.

Our B team played an exciting game. In the first half of the game we were not expecting our opposition to be 6-2 up. We went onto play brilliant football with Nathan Larcombe scoring 4 goals, Josh Golding scoring 2 and Archie Moore scoring one as well to put us 7-6 up. All of our goals were great finishes. Jared Lilliefelth played an excellent game with his lovely performance in defence and went on to win man of the match. We won 7-6 as we blocked any chance they had, as we deserved this win and tried our best with everyone putting 100% into the game.

The C team participated in their first block fixture. After previously beating the side 3-0 the team looked to assert their dominance once again. The first half saw us leading 3-0 with keeper Ed Warner undisturbed. The second half continued the way the first half finished with 3 more goals coming in for Royal Russell, and City of London getting a late consolation in the last few minutes. Man of the match was Gabriel Mckenzie with his high work rate. Goal scorers: Kim (4), Mckenzie, Bello.

The D team really didn’t let the last results v City of London affect them. They worked well as a team and displayed a great attitude towards the match. Some fantastic individual performances meant we won the game 3-1, with two goals coming from Tom Lang. Man of the Match - Tom Lang.

Our E,F,G teams had a great 7-a-Side tournament arranged. All the boys that haven’t yet had a chance to be picked in a team got lots of game time in which they showed excellent improvements from the level they have been playing at in training! Lots of goals, lots of smiles, and an excellent performance from Zayan Mitton-Richards in goal.

On Tuesday our U15 A-D teams travelled to City of London.

During the first half the U15As went out all guns blazing and put on a great performance. We had ample amount of chances but we couldn’t finish them. By the end of the first half it was 0-0. There were good chances in the first half with a free kick from Francis Tulley that hit the crossbar and good link up play from Jaiden Drakes-Thomas, Kai Neil-Gray and David Kawa. Kai made a good run through the middle but dragged the shot wide. Jaiden made good runs through the middle then passed the ball to the striker and winger. We could have been 1 or 2 goals up. The second half was rather disappointing because we conceded two goals, one that was early in the half and one that was late. The two goals came from a lack of concentration. 3 amazing slide tackles from Ademola Idowu-Ossei kept us from undergoing a bigger goal deficit. Kai Neil-Gray and Tyrrell Lowe had created great chances in the final third.

The B team had a hard fought 2-2 which saw Royal Russell come from two goals down at half time to secure a well-deserved draw. The first half saw both teams struggle to tie down one another, with neither team able to create any good goal scoring opportunities. However, Royal Russell created a handful of chances and dominated the majority of the possession in the second half of the match. Two long range efforts in the final 10 minutes of the game from Rudi and Denzil ensured Royal Russell of the draw.

Our C team started with a great passing play. They managed to come away at half time 1-0 up. Stand out performances from Skye and Callahan allowed more chances to be created with a total of 4 gold in the game by Michael, Evian, Josh and Skye with the final score being 4-0.

And finally our D team had an excellent performance from the boys which bettered throughout the game as they began to understand the shape they were playing in. An excellent strike from Dhillon Sen from the edge of the box contributed to his hat-trick. Matthew Nairne was outstanding at centre back earning himself Man of the Match.
1853 Society Christmas Fair

Saturday 18 November 12.00pm – 4.00pm

Our biggest and best event of the year is here!

Put the date in your diary now. Come along with the kids and bring friends and family as there’s something for everyone…

Fun and games on the stalls… Santa Claus…a magnificent raffle… great prizes to be won… the famed Secrets Room [where the kids can buy nice Christmas presents for their parents]… grand raffle and auction… artisan sellers… and not forgetting, warming, Christmassy food & drink.

Come and be part of the fun.

To make this year’s event bigger and better than ever, WE NEED YOUR HELP. We always ask and help is always willing given from our amazing Royal Russell community. So, thank you. Here’s what we need…

**Donations** for the Secrets Room or for a stall that the Parents’ Association will run alongside the wonderfully imaginative stalls that the classes, parents and Houses run.

Anything from gift sets, toys, new books, toiletries, perfume, or any other unwanted items for men, women and children. There is a Teddy Tombola, so any grown-out of cuddly toys would be appreciated.

Please bring your donations into the Junior School Office or the Performing Arts Centre Reception.

**Prizes for the Raffle and Auction** - Anything from a bottle of wine/champagne to a meal for 2 at a local restaurant or a day out at the races.

If you can give something special, big or small, please get in touch - Emma Thistleton, Chair 1853 Society, emmathistleton@hotmail.com

**Your help** - to set up the Great Hall the day before, to help out in the morning of the big event or to run a stall with other parents. Please get in touch and let us know if you can spare an hour.

*Royal Russell School Parents’ Association [1853 Society]. Our mission is bring the Royal Russell Community of pupils, parents, staff and friends together with a wide range of social events throughout the year. We also aim to raise money to contribute some of the extra things that will help enhance our children’s school lives.*

*We look forward to seeing you at some of our events this year.*
Diary Dates

Sunday 12 November  
Remembrance Day Service 10.00am  Chapel  All Welcome

Sunday 12 November  
Boarders Trip to the Horniman Museum

Monday 13 November  
Senior School Anti Bullying Week

Monday 13 November  
Cranmer Reading Competition at St Pauls

Wednesday 15 November  
Year 8 Parents Evening  Great Hall

Thursday 16 November  
Rotary Club Public Speaking Event

Saturday 18 December  
Croydon High MUN

Saturday 18 November  
1853 Society Christmas Fair  12.00pm to 4.00pm
All Welcome

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We welcome your feedback. Please send to Ciara Campbell, Marketing and Communications Manager
email: ccampbell@royalrussell.co.uk or feedback@royalrussell.co.uk