



## South East Regional Networking Meeting

July 2018

Dear AROPS Member,

As Chairman of AROPS, I am pleased to ask you to join us for a meeting of members at

**Royal Russell School on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**1.30 - to 4.00pm**  
**Coombe Lane, Croydon, Surrey CR9 5BX**

Rather than a formal conference, the AROPS regional meetings offer an opportunity for society representatives, alumni officers and development professionals to share ideas, experiences and concerns in general discussion about alumni engagement, event management and communications, and how these sit alongside your development function. We are indebted to the Headmaster, Chris Hutchins, Old Russellians President, Brian Angel and Chairman, Adrian Edwards for hosting us on this occasion.

*Royal Russell was founded in 1853. Warehousemen and their clerks among the thriving textile trade resolved setting up an institution for their orphans and needy children. Lord John Russell, twice Prime Minister in his lifetime, was impressed that an industry was now "looking after its own", fitting well with his social reform agenda.*

*After the Great War 1914 - 1918, the textile and distributive trades had over 300 new orphans or 'necessitous' children needing to enter the school. Over 120 acres of land on the Surrey Hills near Croydon were donated by Howard Hollingsworth of a major Oxford Street store. Sir Aston Webb, president of the RIBA and architect of The Mall, Admiralty Arch and Buckingham Palace facade was commissioned for the buildings. By 1924 the Prince of Wales presided over the opening, many needy pupils already having been accommodated. Later as King Edward VII he became the school's Royal Patron, a role each succeeding Monarch has continued. Currently Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has visited the School on four occasions.*

*In the early 1970's the demise of the textile trades and the care of orphans now being undertaken by the welfare state led to the School's closure. A new board of governors, boosted by a nationwide campaign, introduced fee-paying pupils to create income. New and better facilities have been built for boarders and day pupils, totalling over one thousand boys and girls aged 3 to 18. Royal Russell is independent of Livery Companies' support and operates as a charity under the direction of its own governors with the status of being a HMC school.*

The invitation is extended to societies/associations and schools who are members of AROPS, but also to those who might be interested in joining us. We always have a mix of 'volunteers' and paid employees at our meetings and would appreciate it if you could pass on this invitation to all who are involved with your alumni. If you are a non-member who has already attended a meeting, please consider joining AROPS. The maximum fee per annum in £50 and there are concessions for associations with limited funding. Please see our web page for details. [www.arops.org.uk](http://www.arops.org.uk).

The draft Agenda for the meeting is attached, together with a **reply slip**. Please let us know if you have any items you would like to add and we will do our best to include these in the meeting. Refreshments will be served from 1.30pm and we plan to finish at 4.00pm. A tour of the School will be available following the meeting.

Our Annual Conference for 2019 will be held on 11 May at the Magdalen College School in Oxford. We hope that all correspondents will be able to attend, so please 'save the date' if you can.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Jakobek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "J".

Peter Jakobek (Chairman, AROPS)  
Email: [aropstwitter@outlook.com](mailto:aropstwitter@outlook.com)



## **AROPS Royal Russell School Meeting**

### **AGENDA**

- 1.30-2.00pm      Arrival and refreshments in the Conference Room
- 2.00pm            Welcome from the AROPS Chairman & the Old Russellians Association
- 2.05pm            The Chair will give a brief outline of developments within AROPS
- 2.10pm            A brief outline of how the Old Russellians engages its alumni
- 2.20pm            An opportunity for Representatives to share ideas, experiences and concerns in discussion.
- An independent alumni committee or alumni working with the School's Development Office
  - What events have societies found work well when so much contact can be made by alumni using 'social media'
  - When should the alumni association start engaging with students – before leaving school, at university or post university
  - Ideas for involving the younger generation to take up management roles in the association
  - AOB



**AROPS South East Networking Meeting - Tuesday 13th November 2018**  
**Royal Russell School**  
**Croydon CR0 5RF (satellite postcode)**

Please return by Tuesday 6th November at the latest to Keith Balkham, [treasurer@arops.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@arops.org.uk)  
or via post: **Keith Balkham, 14 Cromwell Road, Alperton, Middlesex, HA0 1JS**

I / we will be attending

**Name(s)** .....

**Society/Association** ..... **Role** .....

**Email**..... **Telephone**.....

**Name(s)**  
.....

**Society/Association** ..... **Role** .....

**Email**..... **Telephone**.....

**School**.....

Please include the following item(s) for discussion

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I would be interested in a tour of the School after the meeting  
*Please tick if interested*