

Issue No : 01

2nd September 2016

Calendar

Thursday 8th September at 6.30pm:
**KS5 Welcome Evening
(Main Hall)**

Student Reception Assistants

	Period 2	Period 5
Mon 5th Sept	Geordan Bedford 10B1	Simon Bestin 10B1
Tues 6th Sept	Connor Pickering 10B1	Fynn Savill 10B1
Wed 7th Sept	Ioan Dicken 10L3	India Evans 10B2
Thur 8th Sept	Teigan Kilby 10B2	Olivia Andrews 10B3
Fri 9th Sept	Ben Boswell 10B3	Henry Bright 10B3

Academy Term Dates

Academy Open Evening (Training Day)	Thursday 29 th September
Mid Term Break	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st October
RSA Closes	Friday 16 th December (at 12.45 pm)

From the Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first Newscheck of the new academic year and a warm welcome to parents of any students who have joined the Academy this term. I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and I look forward to working with you all over the course of the year. Newscheck is just one of the many ways in which we keep in touch and update you with news and opportunities from the Academy.

It has been a real pleasure to meet all our students this week and it has felt like a significant moment in Robert Smyth's history as we welcomed our first Year 7 students to the Academy. All students have made an excellent first impression so far and staff have very much enjoyed getting to know and teaching them.

It has been a really exciting and positive start to the term as the Academy celebrated its best ever results at both GCSE and A level. The articles in the local press, which I hope you have been able to read, give more details about the wonderful achievements at both Key Stage 4 and 5. These results are the culmination of much hard work by all students and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on their successes and to wish them luck for the next stage of their education. I would also like to thank both staff and parents for all the support and encouragement that you have given to students throughout their studies.

As you know, we really value the positive partnership that we have with parents in helping to ensure that all students are able to achieve well and reach their goals and aspirations for the future. Together we need to ensure that every student attends well, arrives on time for each lesson and is dressed and equipped appropriately. We are really proud of our students' achievements and want to support them as much as we can in their endeavours.

Our Sixth Form registration process has been busier than ever with over 260 new Year 12 students registering for courses. Thank you for your patience during this process, where we have endeavoured to meet the first choices for as many students as possible.

Our KS5 Welcome Evening will be taking place next Thursday, 8th September at 6.30 pm and we look forward to meeting parents of our Year 12 students in order to ensure that you have all the necessary information to help students settle quickly into Sixth Form life and their studies.

Have a good weekend.



Ms Jones

Notice

We hope that you enjoy reading the first Newscheck of this academic year and that you find informative and interesting. In future the Newscheck link will be sent weekly to all parents via our Schoolcomms email system or can be accessed via our website. Please ensure that we are kept up-to-date with your correct email address.

If you do not have an email address or access to the internet your son/daughter can request a copy of Newscheck each Friday from his/her tutor.



Mrs Dyke

Mobile Phones and Earphones



All students and parents/guardians are reminded that RSA has very clear rules about the use of mobile phones and earphones on site.

Students are allowed to use mobile phones in lessons, with the permission of their teachers, to work and record homework etc. Mobile phones and headphones/earphones may be used in social time but both must be out of sight at all other times. If a member of staff sees a student with their phone or earphones out the items may be confiscated without warning.

The use of mobile phones and earphones is permitted in the Sixth Form Centre.

Students must appreciate that they bring mobile phones into RSA entirely at their own risk and that Robert Smyth Academy will not be held responsible for these.

Mrs Charter

Student Valuables



We do not encourage students to bring valuable items or large sums of money into RSA. Students do so at their own risk and are responsible for this. Items can be handed in to the office for safe-keeping and collected at the end of the day.

Cash brought into the Academy for payment for trips etc. should be handed to Student Services at the earliest possible time.

Mrs Charter

Temporary Bus Pass

If you lose your Bus Pass and require a temporary replacement, please go to Reception at **break or lunchtime only**. **The cost of a temporary pass is £1.00.**

Mr Taylor

Free School Meals

Did you know ... by registering your child for Free School Meals entitles ROBERT SMYTH ACADEMY to get additional funding to assist your son/daughter's education?

The Government funding of Pupil Premium gives students who have been eligible for free school meals at any point during the past six years additional money to support their educational growth.

For each student registered Robert Smyth Academy gets £935 a year (2016/17).

This money can be invested in resources to support your son/daughter, such as the cost of school trips and equipment.

To check if you qualify take a look at our website for further details. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact Leicestershire County Council on 0116 305 6588, Free School Meals or Miss Cambridge at Robert Smyth on 01858 440770 who will help you to register.

Please register as soon as possible to ensure that your son/daughter does not miss out on having access to this additional funding.

Mrs Charter

16-19 Bursary Scheme

We have an allocation of money to help support young people in education. The RSA bursary will be awarded to students to help with the cost of meals, transport, books, equipment and other course-related costs.

Financial assistance will be available under the 16-19 Bursary scheme as follows:

- Bursary of £1,200 per year to all young people in the nominated vulnerable groups (i.e. in care; care leavers; young people in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit; and disabled young people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance who are also in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments).
- Bursary of £800 to students receiving Free School Meals. If you think you may be eligible to receive Free School Meals please see Mrs Dyke or Miss Cambridge in the main office.
- Discretionary Bursary is targeted towards students facing financial barriers to participation, such as the cost of Academy trips, transport, books and equipment.

Please see Mrs Dyke in the main office for further information and the relevant forms.

Mrs Dyke

Schoolgateway



Schoolgateway is a web-based system that enables parents to access data that we hold for students, for example information about attendance, behaviour, achievement and timetable. You can also pay for certain trips via this system. Access is strictly controlled and only adults with parental responsibility who are registered on the Academy's database will be allowed access to this information.

You can access the system through our website www.rsacademy.co.uk by clicking on the link on the right-hand side entitled **Schoolgateway**. Please log in as a 'New User' and, providing the information that we hold on our records is correct, you will receive a pin code which will enable you to access the system.

We hope you will find this information useful.

Mrs Dyke

Payment Systems



Schoolgateway is a payment system where parents can pay online for trips, events and student meals. This offers parents the opportunity to make payments directly online, keeping you in control. The system can be accessed at any time to make transactions directly to us using your **debit card only**, or to view your account. You can access this system through the link on our website.

Parents who wish to pay by cash or cheque (payable to 'Robert Smyth Academy') should hand these into Student Services as soon as possible. Any charges incurred by cheques not honoured by the bank will be passed onto the parent.

Mrs Charter

Catering

Sixteen07 and Café Nouveau

Welcome to our new and returning students. We have been trying out new products to entice you this term.



Look out for the **NEW** flavoured milkshakes:

- Yazoo Chocolate
- Yazoo Strawberry

They are all offered in a 200ml plastic bottle and served chilled from one of our cold cabinets. We are thrilled to be selling them at **75p**. Let me know what you think.

We have also introduced our new **Thursday Wrap** specials at lunch service; come along and try one of our new flavours:

Oriental Crispy Chicken with Bean Sprouts and Hoisin Sauce

Crispy BBQ Chicken and Bacon Ranch

Crispy Chicken Tikka Melt with Onion Bhajis

We are delighted and very excited to introduce a number of **new recipes** to our daily menu. Look out for:

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

Creamy Chicken Pie, New Potatoes and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Italian Beef Lasagne

We look forward to hearing your feedback.

Thank You to Year 10 and Year 7

Thank you for all your support during our Induction Days and Summer School, we have received encouraging feedback and look forward to serving you this term.

Mrs Spencer and the Catering Team

Music



Extra-curricular Music, Drama and Dance

The Performing Arts Faculty offers lots of different clubs which students from all year groups can participate in. Please see notices in the **Music Block** and **The Max Drama/Dance studio** for full details and times. A full list will also be published shortly.

Instrumental/Singing lessons

We have fifteen visiting peripatetic music teachers who give lessons on a very wide range of instruments, both popular and classical styles, as well as jazz improvisation, theory and aural. Students who are having lessons are reminded to check the timetable each **Monday morning** in the **Music Block** for their lesson time. There are vacancies for new students interested in taking up lessons; some teachers offer shared lessons and it's also possible to apply to a local charity for subsidy. Please contact Mrs Petersen or Mr Hughes for more details.

VAT Off Musical Instruments



Students wishing to purchase a new musical instrument for use within the Academy as part of their musical study, either GCSE or A Level Music, individual lessons, or participation in extra-curricular music, can avoid paying VAT by purchasing the instrument through the Academy. Full details of the scheme are available on the Academy website or contact Mrs Petersen.

Mr Hughes and Mrs Petersen

MFL



The MFL Faculty is always striving to improve students' performance by supporting them in their studies. Independent work will undoubtedly help all our linguists to become more confident and boost their results. Mary Glasgow magazines have publications aiming at improving grades by:

- developing confidence through independent reading of authentic texts.
- providing exam practice using the activities on every page and online.
- offering a wider access to cultural information through interesting articles.

This is the website if you wish to browse samples of magazines:

<http://maryglasgowplus.com/>

The subscriptions, at a yearly cost of £9.50, are available for Year 7 French and Spanish, GCSE French, German and Spanish as well as A Level French students. They consist of five issues and access to the website where extra activities, including listening tasks, are offered.

Letters are available from MFL teachers or to download from the RSA website in the 'letters home section' or follow this link: <http://www.rsacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Mary-Glasgow-letter.pdf>

The deadline for orders is **30th September**.

Mandarin Lessons

We are very pleased to be able to offer Mandarin for all year groups. This is an exciting enrichment opportunity, as this language is increasingly sought after by employers. The lessons will take place on Monday after school for KS4 and 5 students and Wednesday after school for KS3. You will learn some basic Mandarin and explore some cultural aspects too.

For those of you who studied Mandarin last year, an HSK level 2 class will be running on Monday too.

For more information, please collect a letter from Student Services and return it to MFL Faculty by 9th September.

Miss Mode

Sport



Year 11 Sports Ambassadors

If you wish to be selected as a Year 11 Sports Ambassador please see **Mr Scully** as soon as possible.

ALL Year Groups - Sports Council

If you are interested in joining the Sports Council this year please see **Mr Scully** for more information.

ALL Year Groups - House Sports Captains

If you are interested in becoming a House Sports Captain for your Year group please see **Mr Scully**.

Sports Teams

If you would like any information on any sports teams or clubs please see the PE noticeboard or a member of the PE staff.

Mr Scully

AS Film Studies



If you are passionate about films and want to think and write about them in an academic way, AS Film Studies is for you. On Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes sessions will run to support film-lovers wishing to extend their understanding. This is an enrichment opportunity which has the bonus of the chance to achieve an additional qualification and is open to any student in Years 11, 12 or 13.

If you are interested come along to Room EN07 at lunchtime on Wednesday 10th September to register.

Mr Luhrs

Just4U Clinic



Just4U is your confidential Health and Wellbeing Clinic, based in the Medical Room. We are here to help and support you with a wide range of issues. These include: relationships, emotional wellbeing, coping with stress and any other concerns that you may have. Come along, even it's just for a chat; we are always here to listen and help. The Just4U Clinic is open every lunch time and on a drop-in basis throughout the day for emergencies.

The School Nurse is also in the Just4U Clinic on a Monday and Thursday lunch time.



High Energy Drinks

High energy drinks are banned from the Academy. This is because of the negative impact that high energy drinks, which contain high amounts of caffeine and sugar, may have on the health, concentration, learning and behaviour of young people.

Should a student be found to be carrying any variety of this product, the drink will be confiscated and parent/carer will be informed.

We ask that you talk to your son/daughter about the concerns regarding these products.

Ms Sippits

Permission to Use Photographs

From time-to-time we take photographs of students for display or publication. We also celebrate student achievement in local newspapers, using their official photographers. If photographs of students are used on our website, students' names will not be given and we will try to ensure that anyone accessing the photos via the Internet will use them only for this purpose, but acknowledge that this cannot be guaranteed.

Please notify the Academy office in writing if you do not want the Academy to publish photographs of your son/daughter.

Mrs Charter

Job Vacancy

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (CHEMISTRY)

The Academy is looking to appoint a **Science Technician** to join the staff of our highly regarded Science Faculty.

Job Description

To provide Laboratory and general assistance in the Science Faculty as part of our team of three technicians.

The nature of the work requires a good technical knowledge of chemistry and utmost care to ensure a safe environment for both students and staff.

It is essential for the candidate to be qualified up to A level chemistry, degree level would be desirable.

Hours: 21 hours per week for 39 weeks a year.

There is some flexibility as to when these hours are worked during the week.

Salary: Grade 6 pts 12-15 £16,588 – £17,824 p.a. (pro rata)

Actual Salary: £8,019 - £8,617 p.a.

This post will be one year fixed term in the first instance.

For further details and an application form please email sbooth@rsacademy.co.uk

The closing date is:
Noon on the 15th September 2016.

The Academy is committed to the safeguarding of young people and all appointments are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

Main Office

SPORTS DAY RESULTS 2016

Well done and thank you to all the competitors, leaders and staff who made Sports Day a success once again this year. For the first time Year 10 students competed in the three new Houses and Year 12 students participated in two different teams. Congratulations to all the individual and team winners but also to the students who gave 100% for their House. Well done to Charlotte Ellis for breaking the High Jump record with a jump of 1.55m; an excellent performance. The competition between the Year 10 teams was the closest for a great number of years with the three Houses being split by only 8 points! Congratulations go to **Logan** who secured the Sports Day trophy. The three Houses share the Tug of War trophy with all accruing the same points from the combined results of the girls' and boys' competitions. 'Team Sanderson' won the Year 12 team competition by 20 points, although 'Team Benstead' won the Tug of War.

Victor Ludorum – Alfie Harris and Jack Bellamy (both won 3 individual events)
 Victrix Ludorum – Charlotte Ellis and Alice Merriman (both won 3 individual events)

Girls' Results

Event	First Place	House	Time/Distance
100m	Alice Benstead	Hammond	14.1secs
200m	Alice Merriman	Logan	28.5 secs
300m	Charlotte Ellis	Logan	46.0 secs
800m	Charlotte Ellis	Logan	2mins 42.9 secs
1500m	Julia Golinska	Logan	6 mins 11.6 secs
80m Hurdles	Alice Merriman	Logan	14.9 secs
4 x 100m		Hammond	57.9 secs
Long Jump	Bethany Sterland	Bragg	4m 09cm
Triple Jump	Alice Benstead	Hammond	8m 89cm
High Jump	Charlotte Ellis	Logan	1m 55cm *New record
Discus	Alice Merriman	Logan	17m 60cm
Javelin	Rosie Tremlett	Logan	16m 93cm
Shot	Rosie Tremlett	Logan	7m 95cm
Tug of War		Logan	

Boys' Results

Event	First Place	House	Time/Distance
100m	Alfie Harris	Logan	11.9secs
200m	Alfie Harris	Logan	25.1secs
400m	Jack Bellamy	Bragg	57.8secs
800m	Tom Pedler	Logan	2m 27secs
1500m	Tom Pedler	Logan	4mins 53.4 secs
80m Hurdles	Jack Bellamy	Bragg	12.5 secs
4 x 100m		Bragg	49.6 secs
Long Jump	Ben Woodward	Logan	4m 95cm
Triple Jump	Alfie Harris	Logan	11m 27cm
High Jump	Jack Bellamy	Bragg	1m 55cm
Discus	Ben Holland	Hammond	26m 88cm
Javelin	Ben Holland	Hammond	38m 53cm
Shot	Jay Parker	Bragg	9m 85cm
Tug of War		Bragg	

Best Year 12 Performances:

James Milsom (Hurdles – 26 points), Ella Dodson (Javelin – 23 points)

Final Overall Placings

- Logan 189
- Hammond 187
- Bragg 181

Year 12 Placings

- Team Sanderson 248
- Team Benstead 228

Principal Sue Jones BA (Hons)

Vice Principal Richard Taylor BA (Hons)



Term Dates 2016 - 2017



Autumn Term 2016

Training Day & Open Evening: <i>(RSA Closed to Students)</i>	Thursday 29 th September
Mid Term Break:	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st October
RSA Closes:	Friday 16 th December (at 12.45 pm)

Spring Term 2017

Training Day: <i>(RSA Closed to Students)</i>	Monday 3 rd January
RSA Opens:	Wednesday 4 th January
Mid Term Break:	Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February
RSA Closes:	Friday 7 th April

Summer Term 2017

RSA Opens:	Monday 24 th April
May Day:	Monday 1 st May
Mid Term Break:	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June
RSA Closes:	Friday 14 th July

Please note: Dates may be subject to change – students will be notified and any alterations will be published in Newscheck and on the Academy's website.

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

The Robert Smyth Academy is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information about you and may receive information about you from other educational establishments you have attended previously. Information may also be received from the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- support your teaching and learning;
- monitor and report on your progress;
- provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- assess how well the Academy is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the Academy without your consent unless the law and our rules permit it.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority (LA), the Department for Education (DfE) and the NHS Vaccination Team.

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact the Data Manager.

If you require more information about how the LA and/or DfE store and use this data please go to the following websites:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/schoolsfpn> and

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/>

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/thirdpartyorgs/>

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the LA or the DfE as follows:

- Mike Challands

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mike.challands@leics.gov.uk

- Public Communications Unit
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ROBERT SMYTH ACADEMY

► **Respect** ► **Succeed** ► **Aspire**