

Calendar

TUESDAY 25 APRIL
Year 12 Students to UCAS Fair, Loughborough University
WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL
RSA Open Morning
FRIDAY 5 & SATURDAY 6 MAY
Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Practice Expedition
FRIDAY 19 & SATURDAY 20 MAY
Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Qualifying Expedition
FRIDAY 19 MAY
Year 13 Leavers' Concert
MONDAY 22 MAY
RSA Open Afternoon
THURSDAY 25 MAY
Year 13 Leavers' Day & Dinner
FRIDAY 26 MAY
Year 11 Leavers' Day

Year 10 Student Reception Assistants

	Period 2	Period 5
Mon 24 April	Nancy Buchanan B3	Imogen March B3
Tues 25 April	Ailsa McDonald B4	Chloe Moore B4
Wed 26 April	Kate Quinsee B4	Molly Barrow B5
Thurs 27 April	Nancie Lawrence B5	Jay Hodkin B6
Fri 28 April	Joe Lewis B6	Evan Burrows B7



From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents

We have this term, of course been focussed on Year 11-13 exam preparation, with mock exams and revision strategies continuing in earnest. **Please see our website for many ideas about how you might support your child in that journey.** Year 7s continue to be a joy to us, with nearly half of them now having achieved their bronze achievement pin and many gaining their silver badge. Year 10s and 12s will shortly be preparing for their end of year exams and, after a successful year so far, Year 12s are now starting to set their sights on Post-18 progression and thinking about visiting universities for open days.

We recently received a 'Competitors Report' from UCAS which compares how Robert Smyth students fared with their university applications last year, compared to our competitors. It showed that an incredible 34% of students from Robert Smyth were accepted into higher tariff universities i.e. Russell Group institutions, **compared with an average of 14% at the nine closest sixth form providers.** This is testament to students and colleagues who have invested such high quality input and time to ensure all achieve their goals.

I am grateful for all the support and communication that many of you have offered in thinking about our partnership with Tudor Grange Academies Trust. They and we are mindful of all the success and tradition that makes up the 400 years of history of Robert Smyth School in the town, which is one of the reasons that the name will remain unchanged. It's not just the improved exam successes which, last year for instance, made us the **most successful school in Leicestershire** for English and maths GCSE results, but also the **rich variety of extra-curricular life** which saw in recent weeks a wonderful Spring Concert and, last week, our Under 18 boys' rugby team win the County Plate final for the fourth year out of five.



Spring Concert

As a result of the excellent results and vibrant extra-curricular we have exciting numbers of students choosing to join us next year at all key stages: 120 coming into year 7, 140 into year 10 and 265 in Year 12.

Please be mindful of the following dates for meeting and consultation with our TGAT partners, where amongst other topics, uniform, phones and dress codes will be discussed:

- Thursday 6 April at 5.30 pm for prospective parents and students of incoming year 7
- Tuesday 25 April at 6.00 pm for current key stage 3 and key stage 4 parents
- Tuesday 25 April at 7.00 pm for key stage 5 parents
- Tuesday 2 May at 6.00 pm a public meeting for sharing information with members of the local community
- Y10 Induction Evening on Wednesday 28 June and a final Year 7 Induction evening on Thursday 6 July.

We also have a Year 8 Taster Day on the 20 June and Year 5 Experience days on 5 and 6 July.

I look forward to meeting you at these and other events.

Thank you for all your support of the school, and I hope you enjoy a happy and restful Easter break.



Richard Taylor, Acting Principal

Sixth Form Updates



UCAS Year 13

Year 13 students who have made an application to higher education should now be confirming their choices – firm and insurance – with their chosen institutions. For most institutions the deadline is early May, however, each individual will have been informed about their own deadlines through UCAS Track. This is also the time to be applying for **student finance**. The link to this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login> or via the UCAS website, www.UCAS.com.

UCAS Year 12

Now is the time for Year 12 students to begin thinking about their progression post-18 and whether they intend to make a higher education application through UCAS. Although they do not have to make their applications until the autumn term of Year 13, **they should start their research now** and begin attending **open days** or, at least, start booking them in for later in the year. They are currently receiving **guidance in their 6Plus lessons** on how to choose a course, how to choose a university and how to start a personal statement. By starting now, they will feel confident about their choices next year. I recently attended a meeting with the CEO of UCAS, who advised that students should use the course-finder at **UCAS.com** and peruse the whole A-Z of courses so they know what is on offer. She also shared statistics that suggest this is a very good time to make aspirational applications to university and that, despite media stories to the contrary, graduates still have a much greater earning capacity than non-graduates. Last year, 85% of students at Robert Smyth made a higher education application. For those students who decide in year 13 that they do not wish to make an application, there will be alternative careers advice available and help with applications for higher level apprenticeships. However, this year, I would encourage **all students** to consider higher education options so they can make informed choices.

I will shortly be calling a meeting for any students who intend to apply for courses with the early deadline i.e. applications for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary. It is important that these students have their applications mostly complete by the time we return to school in September.

We also have the **UCAS Convention at Loughborough University** coming up on the **25 April**, a chance for students to speak to a large number of university representatives in one place. Over 100

students have signed up for this but there are a handful of places left.

Furthermore, in late June, there will be the opportunity for students to take part in a **Taster Conference at Leicester University**, where they can attend real lectures in subjects of their choice. More details to come about this next term.

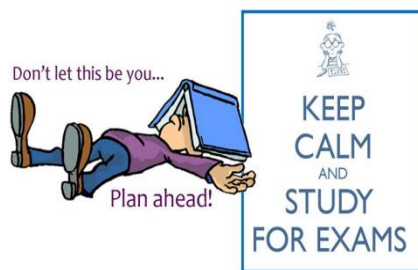


Enrichment Week

During the week of **3-7 July**, Year 12 students will all be involved in Enrichment Week. This is a key opportunity for students to choose a subject to focus on and produce a research project. Students will be asked to make their choices after the Easter break. It is very useful for them to align this with potential subject/vocational pathways as most students talk about this in their university applications. I will send more details out about this soon, but would encourage you to discuss with your sons/daughters what they might choose to spend a week researching and producing a project on.

Exam Week

During the week of **12-16 June**, all Year 12 students will have end of year exams for all of their subjects. These are extremely important internal assessments which will form the basis of predicted grades. Timetables and further details will be sent out in the Summer Term.



Head/Boy Girl Elections

Next term, we will be asking students if they wish to apply to be Head Boy and Girl (there are also Deputy Head Boy and Girl positions) next year. If so, they will need to write a short letter explaining why they would like to represent their year group in this way and what makes them suitable. They will also need to give a short speech to their peers to the same effect. Students will then be asked to vote for their new head prefects.

Ms Kirk

Faculty Student of the Term

Each month teachers of KS4 classes nominate a student for this award and the Head of Faculty chooses a deserving winner in their subject area. Teachers nominate students for many different reasons but it is always a student who has impressed whether that is through their attitude to learning, effort levels, progress, achievement or contribution to the community. Students get 50 achievement points for their tutor group and house. Such students are a delight to teach, role models for their peers and should be very proud to have received the recognition.

Well done to March's winners:

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Amelia Gilbert who was a huge help in setting up the Oxfam window display and is also supporting GCSE classes in her own time.

ENGLISH

Shanel Askar for some fantastic results in English - far above any predictions.

HUMANITIES

Lydia Smith for an excellent mock exam result in Geography.

MATHS

Harriet Dalby for an excellent mock exam result.

MEDIA

Grace Coe for being highly organised in class and well-prepared for the Media mock.

MFL

Danielle Smith for a massive improvement in Reading and Listening for German. Focussed on lessons and with homework.

PERFORMING ARTS

Alice Benstead for excellent progress in GCSE Dance for practical exam work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Charlotte Ellis for a consistent outstanding performance throughout PE.

SCIENCE

Molly Barrow for consistent effort and hard work.



Faculty Heads

Easter Revision

There will be revision sessions for Year 11 students in the following subjects over the Easter break.

Monday 10 April from 9am to 3pm
Art (Miss Ball & Mrs Kenworthy)
Room AD01/AD03

Tuesday 11 April from 10am to 2pm
RE (Mr Whitton & Mr Davies)
Room HB02/3

During the summer half term break there will be an English revision session as follows:

Thursday 1 June from 12pm to 2pm
English (Mr Morton)
Lecture Theatre/English Faculty

Mrs Wilson

Congratulations to RSA Mathematicians!

On Thursday 9 February, students from years 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a national competition that involves over 200,000 students from around the UK and we had some superb results. 6% nationally were awarded a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

Top scorers for RSA were Joe Brooks (Y11) and James Howland (Y10). Along with Omar Mohammed, Charlotte Ellis and Connor Miller they all made it through to the next round.

The certificates were awarded as follows:

Gold:

Joe Brooks, Omar Mohamed, Charlotte Ellis, Conor Miller, Tom Rowbotham & James Howland

Silver:

William Hamill, Alex Wayland, Lara Haynes, Lewis Daly, Theo Eastwell, Jack Sawford, Tommy Farr, Daniel Hands & Nancie Lawrence

Bronze:

Jobe Hazlewood, Daniel Bolderston, Lawrence Maslin, Ethan McHugo, James Dixon-Boarder, Adam Smith, Georgia Hawthorne, Alfie Gower, Thomas Fortnum, Sian Pyne, Mitchel Adams, Matthew Priestley, Molly Barrow, Colin Lopes, Charlie Cox, Beth Wilson, Ben Wooding & Jacob Bailey

Certificates will be issued in maths lessons so make sure they are stored in your blue progress files! Well done everyone.

Maths Faculty

Sport

Thank you and well done to all those students who have represented RSA either as a performer or leader this term. The students have participated in a number of sports this half term at all ages – football, basketball, swimming, rugby, volleyball, badminton and dodgeball to name a few.

'Lock-in' Payments

'Lock-in' payments are now due - thank you to all students who have brought their money in.

Cricket Fixtures will be held after Easter as follows:

U12 Group Stage

Lutterworth High (H): Thursday 27 April
TECC (A): TBC

U19 Group Stage

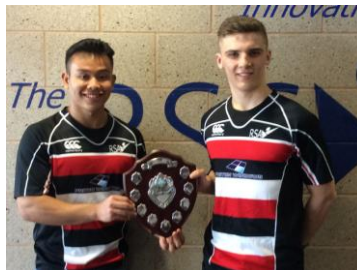
Leicester Grammar (A): Friday 28 April
Regent (A): Thursday 11 May

Summer Clubs

Look out for information surrounding athletics, tennis, rounders and cricket in the summer term.

Rugby Success

Well done to the RSA "Raptors" who maintained their unbeaten record with 4 wins during the spring term. The team have now won 8 games out of 8 which is a fantastic effort in their first season! The U18s have also enjoyed a good term with wins over Welbeck and Ratcliffe, ensuring the team progressed to the County Plate Final against Ashby.



U18 Rugby Players

The U18 rugby team secured the county plate title for the fourth time in five years, with a 32-8 victory over Ashby in the final. Having trailed 3-0, a Jack Leather penalty and try enabled RSA to take an 8-3 half time lead. In the second half RSA began to exert further pressure on their opponents and, with tries from Ed Duggan, Bryn Williams and Joe Cleaver, coupled with an additional 9 points from Jack Leather, the team comfortably secured the trophy. Well done to the whole squad, led by captain Joe Price.

Basketball

After a good win over Ashby, the boys' U16 team lost out in the county cup quarter final, despite a good performance away at Lancaster.

Badminton



The U16 boys' team made it through to the county finals at Babington, but unfortunately did not feature amongst the medal placings, despite excellent efforts from Mitchel Adams, Elliot Baker, Rhys Lewis and Ben Woodward.

Sports Leaders (Years 10-13)

Students who are in Years 10-13 and are interested in helping out at the National School Games at Loughborough University (31 August-3 September) should see Mr Scully or Mr Grundy for more information. You would need to organise your own travel to and from Loughborough.

Borough Alliance Football Club

Borough Alliance is looking for students to help support their coaching sessions with junior teams on Saturday mornings.

The club is also looking for people to help with the organisation of the end of season awards and with catering on Sunday's match days.

For more information please see Mr Scully.

Mr Scully

Important School Transport Information

Mainstream Transport Policy



There have been no changes to the **mainstream** home to school transport policy since it changed in September 2015. A quick reminder is that free transport will be provided to the nearest Leicestershire or 'frozen area' school where the distance is more than 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary age pupils.

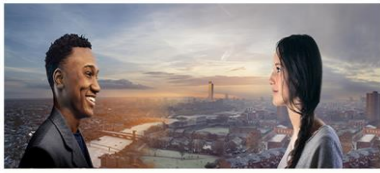
Parents of secondary transfer pupils will get formal confirmation on whether they will be entitled to free transport (11+ and 14+ transfer groups) by the end of April 2017.

Please use the web address below to find out more about applications for 2017-18, Post 16 transport and the SEN Transport policy/applications.

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds

Academy Office

Careers & Apprenticeships



WHERE AMBITIOUS MINDS MEET

HS2 will be the nation's new high-speed rail network, connecting North and South. Bringing Britain's cities, businesses and people closer together, it will create jobs and economic growth.

This apprenticeship offers you the chance to start your career with one of the biggest, most complex and ambitious projects ever. As we build the future together, you'll gain life changing experiences, work with diverse and brilliant people, and develop valuable transferable skills.

There are a number of apprenticeships available:

- Project Management Apprentice, Birmingham and London
- Project Controls Apprentice, Birmingham and London
- Procurement Apprentice, Birmingham
- Transport Planning Apprentice, Birmingham

What you'll gain:

- Recognised Level 3 or 4 qualification (dependent on apprenticeship).
- Skills and experience that set you up for a rewarding future.
- A clear path to build your career at HS2.
- Open doors to many opportunities in many industries.

Join the great venture at:
careers.hs2.org.uk



NHS Careers & Apprenticeships Event

Are you interested in pursuing a career in the NHS? If the answer is yes, then you can explore the range of fantastic opportunities within the University Hospitals of Leicester on Tuesday 25 April. You will have the chance to hear about the exciting positions available and ask questions to staff.



The details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday 25 April 2017

Location: LEBC, 30 Frog Island, Off North Bridge Place, Leicester, LE3 5AG

Time: 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
(Drop in at any time)

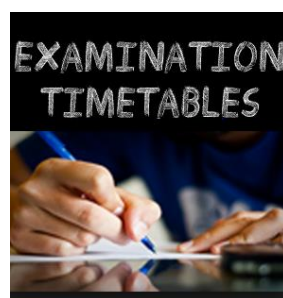
How to Book a Place:

If you are in Year 11, 12 or 13 and would like to attend this event then simply confirm your place by emailing:

abby.robinson@leics-ebc.org.uk

Mr Webb

Exam Timetables Summer 2017



The public examination timetable for the summer 2017 session is available on our website.

Adjustments will be made in the event of clashes and students will receive a personal examination timetable with details of such arrangements around the 30 April 2017.

Mrs Simpson & Mrs Dix

Academy Term Dates

RSA Closes Friday 7 April

SUMMER TERM 2017

RSA opens to students Monday 24 April

May Day Monday 1 May

Mid-term break Monday 29 May to Monday 5 June
(Students return on Tuesday 6 June)

RSA Closes Friday 14th July

AUTUMN TERM 2017

RSA opens to Y7 & 10 students Tuesday 29 August

Y12 Registration Tuesday 29 August

Y7, 8, 10, 11 & 13 students only Wednesday 30 August

All students (including Y12) Monday 4 September

Training Day & Open Evening Thursday 28 September

Mid-term break Monday 16 to Friday 20 October

RSA Closes Wednesday 20 December at 12.45 pm

SPRING TERM 2018

Training Day Monday 8 January

RSA opens to Students Tuesday 9 January

Mid-term break Monday 12 to Friday 16 February

RSA closes Friday 23 March

SUMMER TERM 2018

RSA opens to students Monday 9 April

May Day Monday 7 May

Mid-term break Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June

Training Day Monday 4 June
(RSA closed to students)

RSA closes Friday 13 July at 12.45 pm