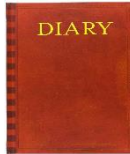




Issue: 19th December 2017

Dates for your Diary



Thursday 11th January, Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 9th February, Training Day
(closed to students)

Friday 2nd March, RSA Parents' Association Event

Information

With the recent weather being so inclement, we are now in a position to confirm that school jumpers are available via our uniform provider, Uniform Direct, telephone 0116 2511844.

The cost of each jumper is as listed below:-

Size	Price
32	£15
34	£18
36 (XS)	£18
38 (S)	£20
40 (M)	£20
42 (L)	£22
44 (XL)	£22

**** Please note that jumpers can only be worn as an addition to the uniform not as a substitute for the blazer ****

When paying the Academy by cheque for trips, books, tickets, etc. please note that they need to be made payable to **TUDOR GRANGE ACADEMIES TRUST**. Thank you.



Mrs M Thornton
Student Services

From the Principal

Dear Parent / Carer

I look back at a full term with considerable pride and joy.

Early on we achieved a 'Good' OFSTED judgement which validated our view of how far we have progressed in the last three to four years.

We have successfully introduced a new uniform in Key stage 3 and 4 and I am very grateful to parents and students for their support of it.

Tutor time at the beginning of the day means we have a crisper, more focussed start to the day.

The end of term always brings that positive Christmas vibe and the Christmas Concert and Extravaganza perfectly typified this. Full of zest and quality, these student events continue to exemplify what we stand for as an Academy –

LIFE: Learning Is a Full Experience.

You will read elsewhere in this Newscheck about our Year 8 Options process which is an exciting part of us becoming an all-through 11-18 Academy. We will be starting GCSEs in Year 9, which reflects good practice around the country. It will give our students more time to explore the GCSE syllabi and enable them to have a thorough understanding of what they are being asked to learn.

Thank you for your support with the recent snow day - it was the right decision to close when the site and surrounding roads were unsafe for road and pedestrian traffic. I am grateful to the site team who ensured its clearance and safety ready for opening last Tuesday.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very happy holiday and thank you for your ongoing support in 2018.



Richard Taylor

Message from the Chair of Governors

The appointment of a Permanent Principal

The Governing Body recently advertised the post of permanent Principal for Robert Smyth Academy. We received many applications from across the country for this post. The two-day interview process in early December 2017 involved students, staff, Governors and representatives of Tudor Grange Academies Trust.

We are delighted to announce that, following this process, **Mr. Daniel Cleary** has been appointed Permanent Principal of the Academy. Mr. Cleary is currently Deputy Headteacher at La Mare de Cartreret High School in Guernsey, one of the leading educational institutions in the Channel Islands. Mr. Cleary is a history teacher, has a passionate interest in education and a track record of raising achievement in all the schools in which he has worked. He is currently completing the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers. Throughout the complex interview process Mr. Cleary was authentic, articulate and visionary and was both popular and successful with all the interview panels, students, staff, Governors and Trust representatives.

Mr. Cleary said, "I am very keen to meet the students, parents and community in the coming months. I am looking forward to making the most of all that is great in the Academy, driving up educational standards and making sure all students gain the best possible outcomes at Robert Smyth Academy."

"Robert Smyth Academy can now look forward to greater stability and an exciting and successful future. We know that Daniel is looking forward to meeting parents, students and the community of Market Harborough at the earliest opportunity." stated Dr. Machon, Chair of the Academy's Local Governing Body

As all members of the Academy community are aware, **Mr. Richard Taylor** stepped up from his Vice Principal position into the role of Acting Principal in March 2017. Mr. Taylor will continue in the post of Acting Principal until Mr. Cleary takes up his post. The Local Governing Body, the Trust and the Academy are very grateful for the service that Mr. Taylor has discharged since March.

Dr Paul Machon

Principal Richard Taylor BA (Hons)

Sport

There have been lots of fixtures and clubs across the term including netball, football, rugby, girls' cricket, Futsal, handball, trampolining, badminton, table tennis, swimming, cross country and basketball. We have had success across the age groups and sports with the highlights including the U15 netball team reaching the county cup final in December, where unfortunately they lost despite a spirited display against Loughborough High. The inter boys cross country team came second in the county league with strong individual performances across the year groups. The U18 rugby team are through to the county plate semi-final after good wins over Ashby and JCC and the U18 boys' football team remain unbeaten in the league.

The Year 7 and 8 students have been performing well in a variety of sports. The Year 8s won their boys' football group; the Year 7 basketball team won the Blaby and Harborough tournament; the U13 girls' table tennis team performed well in the county final; the boys' rugby teams are performing well securing wins - including Year 8 away to Welland Park and Leicester Grammar.

There have also been numerous sports leadership events where our leaders from all year groups have been involved including primary school dodgeball, swimming, uni hoc, gifted and talented sessions, cross country, athletics, girls' and boys' football and playground leaders. In the New Year there will be work with Year 10 and 11 on the Level 2 qualification, Year 12 and 13 on the Level 3 qualification and Year 8 will be starting the Level 1 qualification - any interested students should always check the PE board for event details.

We are pleased to announce a successful bid with Harborough and Bowden's charities for 5 new outdoor table tennis tables.

In February we will be raising money for **Macmillan** and **Mind** with our eleventh Lock In (24 hour sports event for KS4 and KS5).



*** Look out for fixtures and tournaments in the New Year***

PE Department



Music Department

Tudor Grange Trust Choir

It has been a very busy term for the music department. Back in September a group of our vocal students took part in the first ever Tudor Grange Trust music event. Representatives from all of the Tudor Grange Trust primary and secondary schools got together to form a large choir. They spent the day rehearsing Karl Jenkins piece 'Adiemus', resulting in a final recording that was submitted as a bid to perform at the SSAT conference. This bid was successful, so in November a group of our students, along with the other Tudor Grange Trust Academies, opened the SSAT conference at Manchester Central. This was in front of many head teachers and educational leaders and was a huge success - we even got a standing ovation!

Well done to Hattie Kenyon, Martha Burton, Iris Singleton, Lily Almond, Alfie Hilton, Charlie Hilton, Josh Watson, Elliot Baker and Charles Witcombe for their performance.



NCBF

The Jazz band have also had a successful term. They took part in the regional Festival of the National Concert Band festival where they had to give a 15 minute performance in front of not only an audience, but a set of adjudicators.

The adjudicators were very impressed by the band, in particular the many improvised solos that were performed by Year 12 students, Holly Barnett, Charlie Hilton, Taran Mann and Josh Watson, and year 13 student, Charles Witcombe. The band were awarded Gold, they have now been invited to perform at the National festival at the Royal Northern College of Music in April. This is a very prestigious event featuring some of the best school bands in the country.



Soul Patrol

Due to some of the older students leaving the Academy there were several vacancies in the band this term. Auditions were held and Ben Maclean, Lily Almond and Amirah Bobat were appointed as new vocalists; Alice Riches on alto sax, David Shuttleworth on trombone, Charlie Hilton on drum kit and Josh Watson and Leo Harland on trumpet. The new members worked very hard to learn the music to perform in as the first gig they had was right at the start of term with a performance at the opening ceremony of the Academy games.

The Academy games is a national sport competition, and the students headlined the opening ceremony in front of around 4,000 people. The band performed two songs, 'Respect' (sung by Mae Dudley) and 'Treasure' (sung by Adam Pugh). The crowd loved the band and they have been asked to play another two gigs for Youth Sport.

Music for Youth School Proms

A group of our Year 7, 8 and 10 students have enjoyed a trip to the Royal Albert Hall this term to watch the Music for Youth school proms. They watched a wide variety of the very best youth music groups in the country performing, from traditional choirs to rock bands. The trip really inspired the students and they came away with their minds open to new musical styles.



Richard Meyrick

Our Year 12 students have also been inspired this term by a visit from professional pianist Richard Meyrick. Richard played for the students and explained how he became a professional pianist. Several of the students then performed to him and the class; Richard gave tips and pointers on how to improve. The students found his knowledge and expertise to be invaluable for their playing.



Cont....

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was a huge success and there was a large audience despite the snowy weather. There were performances from the sax, string, flute, percussion and brass ensemble, the Junior Band, our Key Stage 3 choir, Viva Voce, the Jazz band, Soul Patrol, and solos from Year 12 student, Ben Maclean and Year 13 student, Hannah Heilbuth.

The hard work that all of the students put into the rehearsal paid off as the level of performance was fantastic.



Music Department

Year 8 Options Process

After Christmas, we will begin the exciting process of Year 8 students choosing their GCSE options. There are several key dates which students and parents should be aware of. Namely,

Year 8 Options Evening,
Monday 5th February

Year 8 Parents Evening,
Thursday 22nd February

Options forms to be submitted by
Friday 9th March

Between Monday 5th February and Friday 9th March, Year 8 will have these opportunities to consider options:

A whole year assembly introducing the options process and the important decisions they have to make.

All Year 8 students will then be spoken to by their College Leader in tutor groups and given the option for an individual meeting if they would like one.

Subjects which Year 8 students have not had the chance to experience will be offering a 'taster' session.

Students and parents will be given a 'Key Stage 4 Course Booklet' to take away on 5th February containing the subjects they can choose from.

Academy Term Dates



Academy opens - Monday 8th January

Training Day (closed to students) - Friday 9th February

Mid Term Break – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Academy closes - Friday 23rd March

Catering

Students,

Thank you for your valued custom during our Christmas period. We hope you have enjoyed all the Christmas specials in your dining facility and hope you have taken the opportunity to try something new.

We received great feedback on the "Hot Hog Roast" and "Christmas Dinner in a tray" and will be featuring these two items in the NEW term so please look out for them.

From Monday 8th January, our Sixth form facility will be able to accept card payments for food purchases.

Have a great break and we look forward to providing you with our amazing hospitality in the New Term.



Emma Spencer & the Catering Team

Robert Smyth Academy Parents' Association

The Robert Smyth Academy Parents' Association is now up and running and had a very successful first event visiting the German Christmas Markets in Birmingham.

If you would like to come along and support the Parents' Association (parents from all years welcome) please come to our next meeting on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at The Angel Hotel, High Street, Market Harborough at 6.30pm. We welcome any offers of help and would love to hear your ideas.

A date for your diaries for our next social event is Friday 2nd March 2018 - details to follow in the New Year.

The Parents' Association would like to wish all the students, parents and teachers a very Merry Christmas.



Information

June 2017 Exam Certificates are available for collection from the Exams Office.

Year 13 Summer Resit forms are available from the Exams Office, deadline for return is 19th January 2018.

The Staff at RSA would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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

Information and Data Team
Room G8
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire, LE3 8RF
0116 305 6637
mike.challands@leics.gov.uk

- Public Communications Unit
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

website: www.education.gov.uk email: info@education.gsi.gov.uk tel: 0870 000 2288

Prospects - once you are aged 13 or over we are required to pass on certain information to Prospects. Prospects is the South Leicestershire careers support service for all young people aged 13 to 19. We may provide both your name and address, and those of your parents together with any further information relevant to Prospects services' role. However, you can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Prospects if you are over 16 years old. Your parents also have this right. Please inform the Data Manager if you wish to opt out of this arrangement.

Principal Richard Taylor BA (Hons)

