



Robert Smyth Academy

I am delighted to be able to share exciting plans for the future development of the school which will further improve the experiences of all students. Today, we begin a full public consultation on the next stage of our growth which includes the successful acquisition of **over £3.5m capital funding to be spent on new, improved facilities for students including a new first-class suite of science laboratories, additional class rooms and a new, additional student restaurant.** Crucially, these developments will not compromise any of the beautiful playing fields that our students enjoy but rather replace existing buildings to provide greater space and state of the art facilities.

This consultation represents a genuine 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for our school and we are grateful to be able to begin this consultation by inviting your voices and those of our students to the very heart of it. To achieve this development we will provide additional places for students reflecting growing demand as an oversubscribed school. We have also taken this opportunity to propose timely changes to our admissions policies for both the main school and Sixth Form. Finally, we are also delighted to announce our intention to play a key role in supporting families in Harborough and the surrounding villages by establishing a small, bespoke resource base that will serve to inspire and support children with Special Educational Needs. These proposals have the full support of the Local Governing Body.

As you will read from the consultation outline, we are now seeking the views of all community stakeholders and we are confident that you will share in our excitement regarding the opportunities that lay ahead for our students. In this spirit, I would ask that you read the proposals and respond to our consultation feedback survey. As ever, we remain reliant on the continued support of our strong parent community to allow us to further enhance the quality of education, facilities and experiences that we want for Robert Smyth students; your voice counts.

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION FOR ROBERT SMYTH ACADEMY

Robert Smyth Academy is seeking your view on the following **change proposals**:

To increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Year 7 places at Robert Smyth Academy from 180 to 210 effective from August 2023 reflecting admissions for places into Year 7 made to the Local Authority by 31st October 2022

To increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Sixth Form places at Robert Smyth Academy from 250 to 340 (i.e. 170 per year group) effective from August 2023 reflecting admissions for places into Year 12 made by the Sixth Form admissions application deadline of 31st January 2023

To change the oversubscription and feeder school criteria for applications made for students who intend to join the school in Year 7 from August 2023, applying by October 2022 (Appendix A). This includes a change proposal to oversubscription criteria and feeder school designation


To increase the entry requirements for Sixth Form courses for applications made for students who intend to join the Sixth Form in Year 12 from August 2023, applying by January 2023 (Appendix B)

To establish a Communication and Interaction Resource Base for students aged 11-18 years who have an EHCP and for whom Communication and Interaction including autism is documented as the primary area of need. This provision will have a planned admission number of 15 places



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Background

Robert Smyth Academy has undergone significant changes in recent years. The last substantive admissions consultation took place in 2014 when the Academy consulted on the introduction of Year 7 students as part of the movement toward age-range change in Leicestershire schools. As a result of that consultation, the students who joined in September 2016 as our first class in Year 7 have now gone on to gain their GCSE qualifications this summer and the majority have now started the next chapter of their education with us in the Sixth Form. The school is no longer undersubscribed or in financial difficulty, the quality of provision is strong and as a result the school has been oversubscribed for two years. At the same time, we recognise the need for further investment to develop the quality of our science laboratories so that students have the best educational opportunities from Year 7 all the way to A-Level study.

Expansion of school places

This consultation is appropriately timed, not only because academies are required to consult on their admissions arrangements every seven years but because we are now moving into an exciting new chapter of the school's development. This summer, we were successful in securing capital funding that will further transform our estate and enhance educational opportunities for young people in Harborough and the surrounding villages. This funding represents the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a great legacy and to create more places for students to access an outstanding education. Put simply, we will be able to offer more school places because of investment into new, additional classrooms and buildings provided by Leicestershire County Council in conjunction with Tudor Grange Academies Trust (TGAT).

The capital funding that we have secured will enable us to progress our masterplan for the estate and **this will give students more first-class teaching spaces and facilities including a brand new science block and a new, additional student restaurant.** This is part of a long term, coherent plan which has been in place for three years and has been developed by a planning team including a dedicated architect. All design work has been carefully considered and our team have delivered similar projects successfully in other TGAT schools. This allows us to feel very confident that we can expand and enhance our provision.

We have given this expansion careful thought and this will be a phased increase (i.e. year-on-year). The school has now been oversubscribed in Year 7 for two years and we have also continued to see increasing demand for Sixth Form places over the last three years. We have continued to grow sustainably whilst continually improving the quality of education that we provide and this allows us to feel confident that we can increase the number of places available for students in both these phases whilst enriching the quality of education for all Robert Smyth students.


Change proposals: oversubscription criteria (Year 7)

As part of this consultation we have updated the school's oversubscription criteria for parents applying for secondary school places for their child (**Appendix A**). We have reduced the number of feeder schools to reflect the local alternatives available to children living in Kibworth and Great Glen. We have also prioritised children with siblings at the Academy to support parents and families. We have removed the 'catchment criterion'. We have added a criterion for children of members of staff. **These are proposed changes.**



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

We have also added the children of members of staff to our oversubscription criteria. Increasingly, schools have introduced this criterion as a recruitment tool and we recognise the importance of staff recruitment and retention to ensure that students continue to benefit from an outstanding education and to enable the school to attract the best teachers and support staff to deliver this in the future. We have undertaken an impact assessment of this criterion which shows that the effect will be minimal particularly in the context of an increase to admissions overall (i.e. from 180 to 210). This is documented in **Appendix A**.

Entry criteria (Sixth Form)

We have updated our entry criteria for Sixth Form. We have given careful consideration to the experiences of students who have joined the Sixth Form over the last three-years with an overall points total of below 40, on entry. Students with this grade profile are less likely to have secure academic foundations in place to pursue A-Level study in light of the challenges presented by reformed qualifications. We have increased our entry requirements to ensure that students who access this pathway have the prerequisite prior attainment to access, enjoy, and succeed in all areas of study. The school will continue to operate an admissions panel to examine the case of applicants who have not met the entry requirements, but are very close and have extenuating circumstances.

Communication and Interaction Resource Base

Finally, we are delighted to be able to consult on the creation of a specialist provision for secondary aged students which will be the first of its kind in Harborough. This provision will be carefully designed to meet the needs of young people who have Communication and Interaction including autism identified as the primary area of need in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We have been working closely with Leicestershire Local Authority on this proposal as part of the Leicestershire strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We recognise that there is a local need for this provision and we are committed to providing a life-changing, outstanding education for young people who access this resource base so that they develop the knowledge and skills to be successful.


In preparation, we have taken advice from independent SEN consultants to develop a model of integrated education to ensure that students will benefit from excellent teaching whilst receiving bespoke support. We propose the creation of a purpose built facility on our site situated near to the Hammond Arboretum which will replace existing buildings which are no longer used. We will deploy a specialist team to provide outstanding support to students who access the resource base.

We have good connections with local schools and we are well positioned to work collaboratively to ensure that eligible young people benefit from this provision. These students will benefit from an integrated experience that broadens their opportunities, plays to their strengths and generates personal development opportunities. We are confident that we can be a force for positive change and greatly enhance the lives of young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) by creating this resource base.



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Timeline

The consultation period begins on **Friday 1st October** until **Friday 12th November 2021** allowing a six-week period. If you wish to respond to this consultation, you may do so by completing this [form](#). The Local Governing body will use feedback from the consultation to inform their next steps. There will be a meeting in November to discuss feedback received before publishing the outcome.

We are required to ratify policy changes by 28th February 2022 and then publish by 15th March. At the conclusion of the consultation and decision making process the determined admissions arrangements will be published on the Academy website. This policy will take effect from March 2022 and subsequent applications for places into the school from this point onward. Admissions arrangements will apply to all admissions from August 2023 and for subsequent years until further notice.

Thank you for taking the time to read this admissions consultation document. This is an exciting time for the school community and for students (past, present, and future) and we look forward to working with you as we approach the next chapter of the school's development.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

@RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Appendix A

To change the oversubscription and feeder school criteria for applications made for students who intend to join the school in Year 7 from August 2023, applying by October 2022

Change proposal: changes to oversubscription criteria including moving siblings up the priority order

Current oversubscription criteria	
1 st	A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, resident or special guardianship order
2 nd	A child who has named Robert Smyth Academy on their Education Health Care Plan (See note i)
3 rd	Children who live in Robert Smyth Academy catchment area for the majority of the school week, with priority for admission given to those children who live nearest the Academy
4 th	Those with a sibling attending the Academy. The sibling must be on roll at the Academy at the time of the proposed admission to the Academy with priority for admission given to those children who live nearest to the Academy
5 th	Children who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic needs that make it essential they attend the school requested
6 th	Children who attend a feeder school at the point of application

Proposed oversubscription criteria Year 7 entry 2023 and for mid-term applications 2023/24 and beyond	
1 st	All looked after children in the care of a local authority (see Note i) or previously looked after children adopted immediately after being in care, or subject to a residence order or subject to a special guardianship order, or children whose exceptional social or medical needs can only be met by Robert Smyth Academy. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted, as well as children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) following having been looked after in England.
2 nd	Those with a sibling attending the Academy. The sibling must be on roll at the Academy at the time of the proposed admission to the Academy with priority for admission given to those children who live nearest to the Academy
3 rd	A child of a member of staff who works for the Academy, where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time when the application is made or is recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4 th	Children who attend a feeder school at the point of application
5 th	Children who live nearest the Academy (See note ii)



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

@RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Note i:

A **'looked after child'** is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school;

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order). Children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted

[*State Care - a child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.] (I.e. charity group that benefits society) but does not include private fostering whether in England or from outside of England.

Note ii:

Children living nearest to the Academy: as measured in a straight line from a central geo-coded point of home address to the school's designated front gate

Impact assessment of proposed criterion three


Year	Projected number of children joining due to their parents being a member of staff
2023	1
2024	2
2025	2
2026	0

Based on internal staff survey conducted in summer 2021



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Change proposal: oversubscription criteria – feeder schools

Current feeder schools

All Saints Church of England Primary School, Lubenham
Billesdon Parochial Primary School
Church Langton Church of England Primary School
Farndon Fields Academy
Fleckney Church of England Primary School
Foxton Primary School
Great Bowden Academy
Kibworth Church of England Primary School
Little Bowden School, Market Harborough
Market Harborough Church of England Academy
Meadowdale Primary School, Market Harborough
Ridgeway Primary Academy, Market Harborough
St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School, Great Glen
St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Market Harborough


Proposed feeder schools

All Saints Church of England Primary School, Lubenham
Billesdon Parochial Primary School
Church Langton Church of England Primary School
Farndon Fields Academy
Fleckney Church of England Primary School
Foxton Primary School
Great Bowden Academy
~~Kibworth Church of England Primary School~~
Little Bowden School, Market Harborough
Market Harborough Church of England Academy
Meadowdale Primary School, Market Harborough
Ridgeway Primary Academy, Market Harborough
~~St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School, Great Glen~~
St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Market Harborough



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Appendix B

To increase the entry requirements for Sixth Form courses for applications made for students who intend to join the school in Year 12 from August 2023, applying by January 2023

Offers of places to join the Sixth Form

Year 11 students currently on roll at Robert Smyth Academy and external applicants who apply by the published deadline will be offered a place in the Sixth Form, subject to them meeting the entrance requirements and the capacity of the Sixth Form. **It should be noted that where made this is an offer of a place, and not a specific course of study.**

The Academy reserves the right to withdraw courses that are undersubscribed and similarly to limit the number of students on courses that are oversubscribed using GCSE results as a means of differentiation.

Date of application for places

Applications for places in the Sixth Form must be made by **31st January** in the year of admission and made via the school website. Applications submitted after the closing date will be considered after applications that were received on time.

Eligibility criteria

Students will require the following points to gain entrance to the Sixth Form to study 3 A levels:

- **Students must have attained 40 points from their best 8 GCSE results at the end of Key Stage 4**
- Students must have attained GCSE grade 4 or higher in GCSE English language and maths
- Students must fulfil subject-specific entry requirements as detailed in our Sixth Form prospectus

Sixth Form students are expected to participate in enrichment activities to broaden their experience

Acceptance of places

The acceptance of places by applicants happens immediately following GCSE results day during the enrolment window. Detailed arrangements for enrolment will be published on the Academy website. Places not accepted on those days will be assumed to have been declined. External students must provide evidence of their GCSE results to successfully complete enrolment.

Oversubscription criteria for the Sixth Form


Where applications exceed the number of places available and after students with an Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the plan are admitted, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied. **All applicants will have to meet the academic admission requirements.**

- Children looked after by a Local Authority (in line with section 22 of the Children Act) and previously looked after children who are now adopted
- Children closest to the school, measured in a straight line from child's home*



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration



Robert Smyth Academy

Exceptional circumstances

Students who do not meet the academic admission requirements will not be admitted into the sixth form unless there are sufficient places available or exceptional circumstances apply. RSA reserves the right to apply exceptional circumstance protocols at its own discretion. Decisions relating to exceptional circumstances will be taken by the Sixth Form Admissions Panel

**When calculating distance from the school, the main entrance of the permanent home address of the child at the closing date of applications will be used. If parents/carers are separated and the child spends time at each parent's/carer's address, the address of the main parent/carer (where the child lives for the majority of the week) will be used. Parents/carers may be asked to provide documentary evidence to verify the child's address, such as being registered with his/her doctor.*



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7JG
01858 440770 office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

 @RSA_celebration