



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus vaccinations

On Tuesday, we will offer COVID-19 vaccinations to students who have parental consent. Whilst we will endeavour to offer a vaccine to every child in this category, **the NHS team have informed us that they may not be able to provide vaccinations for all students due to the number of respondents.** The NHS team will determine the order of priority and students who are not vaccinated will be provided with the information regarding alternative venues to allow them to get a vaccine. We would appreciate it if parents could discuss this at home before Tuesday.

Ofqual update

This week, the government published a [statement](#) confirming that **national examinations will go ahead next year.** The substance of this announcement is unsurprising and we are aware that schools will be required to collate assessment information as a contingency arrangement if exams do not go ahead. We will continue to monitor guidance and inform parents and students accordingly.

Virtual Wellbeing Box

This week, the leadership team reviewed comments raised by students. We have written in response, below. On Monday morning, I speak to all students via a weekly virtual assembly to discuss the themes of feedback:

Q. What support will we get with revision for exams?

A. We have shared a revision timetable template with all students in Year 11 and 13 which has been a theme of discussion in both assemblies and Form Tutor periods. We will be preparing all students with lessons on revision techniques and study skills after half term. The key message from former students is always, "start early!"

Q. Why were there days last week when it was difficult to buy hot food from the canteen?

A. We are sorry that this was the case for some students. Part of reason for this was staff absence. The catering team did an amazing job under increased pressure. However, we have shared this feedback with our Catering Manager and we will continue to do our best to make sure that high-quality, hot food is available for all students.

Q. Sometimes I feel worried when the teacher is asking questions because I might not know the answer or I feel concerned because I am worried that my work won't be good enough. What should I do?

A. There are times when everyone feels the same as you do and it is natural to worry if you don't know an answer. However, your lessons are safe spaces where you can give it a go and get it wrong. There is nothing wrong with this. The best thing that you can do is to try your best and over time you will feel more confident. Ultimately, our advice is to remember your strengths, qualities, and all of your good characteristics. Even if your work isn't where you want it to be (yet) you are always good enough.

Finally, a reminder that **Year 7 Parents Evenings** will take place on **Thursday 7th** and **14th October** (4.00 – 6.30 p.m.) via School Cloud and that these will be remote meetings. For more information please refer to page 2 of my letter dated 17th September, available [here](#).

I hope that you will have enjoyed reading about our plans for improved facilities [here](#). I would like to remind parents and students that these developments rely on your support. **You can respond to the consultation [here](#).**

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal

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

@RSA_celebration