



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus vaccinations

Firstly, I would like to thank all members of staff involved in supporting the NHS coronavirus vaccination scheme on Tuesday. As a result of their hard work we were able to facilitate nearly 500 vaccinations to children who had parental consent to receive the vaccine. I would like to commend students for their conduct on this day.

Year 11 Trial Examinations Timetable

I am pleased to be able to share the Year 11 Trial Examinations with you. This timetable is available [here](#) and students will be given a copy in tutor time.

Students have already been provided with knowledge organiser folders and should have written a revision timetable. We will be teaching explicit revision skills as part of the curriculum in the coming weeks. However, all students are now in a position whereby **they should be revising**. This is a model that works well and parents can support at home, this is what an hour of revision could look like:

1. **Do** – Revision starts with activity (**doing**). This could be writing cue cards or drawing a mind map. This might take 20 minutes of work, for example. It is often useful to put on a timer to bring about focus
2. **Review** – Parents can help their child to revise by taking the revision materials and simply asking questions. This increases memory retention and is known as the ‘testing effect’. This could be 20 minutes. Parents don’t need to understand the material, they just need to ask the questions; very easy.
3. **Go back through** – Now is a good time for the student to go back through misconceptions or things that they didn’t know or could not remember. This is a way of ‘plugging the gaps’ and could take 20 minutes

More information about the trial examinations will be given nearer to the time including the expectations of examination conditions. Year 11 and 13 students will have an assembly on Monday 1st November to clarify this process. The assessments will take place in the Main Hall.

Dyslexia Awareness Week

This week, we have recognised the importance of supporting young people with dyslexia as part of our teaching and learning focus. We know that dyslexia comes with many challenges, but many people in our community feel like their struggles are unseen. To this end, we have been returning to our early identification strategy and reiterating the top tips for supporting children with dyslexia. This has complimented the work that we already do to support dyslexic children such as using dyslexic friendly exercise books, providing personal provision plans, investing in high-quality, dual coded texts in the library and providing subject vocabulary books.


We remain committed to supporting every child who is dyslexic. If any parent or child wishes to discuss this issue further then you can contact:

- **Mrs. McNair** (Strategic Lead for SEND): vmcnair@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk
- **Mrs. Finnemore** (SENCO): nfinnemore@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk



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

National Deaf Children's Society

I am very proud that **Toby** (Year 10) has been working with the National Deaf Children's Society's Young People's Advisory Board. This is a huge accolade as Toby is influencing decisions at a national level.

Toby and the Board have created a campaign titled '**Hands Up**'. The aim of this is to reach as many deaf people as possible who have been in any form of education. We would encourage you to ask any deaf relatives or friends that may be interested to participate by visiting this [website](#). All respondents have the chance of winning a £20 gift card.

You can see more of Toby's work to influence the national debate [here](#).

On the theme of star students, I would also like to take a moment to congratulate **Owen** (Year 11) on his qualification for the National Brass band finals as the youngest participant. He successfully performed at the Royal Albert Hall last weekend, a huge achievement.

Hammond Arboretum Open Afternoon on Sunday 10th October at 2.00 – 4.30 p.m.

We are delighted to invite you to visit the Hammond Arboretum as part of the National Gardens scheme. The Arboretum can be accessed by gate number 1 at the lower end of the school.

The Arboretum is a 2 1/2 acre site containing an unusual collection of trees and shrubs, many from Francis Hammond's original planting dating from 1913 to 1936, whilst he was headmaster of the school.

The Arboretum will be open from 2.00pm - 4.30pm on Sunday 10th October 2021 and cream teas will be available to purchase and served by the Robert Smyth Academy Parents' Association during the open afternoon.

To pre book tickets please follow the link to the NGS website [here](#). Alternatively you can pay cash at the gate; Adults £5.00 children Free. We hope to see you there.

Parent Teacher Association

One of the many benefits of working at Robert Smyth Academy is the brilliant and diverse range of talents of our community. In that context, I am delighted to inform you that we are now seeking parents who would be interested in working with the school to form a **Parent Teacher Association** in the interest of raising funds to further enrich the experiences of our students.

If you are interested in joining the **Parent Teacher Association** then please let us know by emailing Mrs Read (PA to the Principal) at: aread@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk



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

Virtual Wellbeing Box

This week, the leadership team reviewed the comments raised by students. We have written in response, below:

Q. Please could we have lockers?

A. This is something that is not possible at the moment due to the nature and layout of the school site. However, this remains an option for consideration for the future as building developments take place.

Q. I am finding the unit of work on the Hillsborough Disaster (Drama) really scary. What should I do?

A. Firstly, it is important that you talk to someone because these are very natural feelings. When we talk to someone it can relieve the weight of our worries and allow us to access further help, if we need it. This can be your friends, family, or Form Tutor. In school, you can also speak to any member of staff including those on duty at break and lunch and we will always listen and help you. The key thing is that you should not bottle it up.

The second thing to acknowledge is that the Hillsborough Disaster was a deeply troubling event and it is very important that we learn about it. The themes of this unit of work will be sensitively taught and students will have time to express their own reflections throughout. As you will discover through the scheme of learning, this was a tragedy that was subject to distortion and misrepresentation by powerful institutions. We believe that we have a responsibility to empower our students to recognise societal injustice and to be able to form their own views.

Q. Will we go back to 5 lessons (1 hour each) in the future?

A. No, we do not believe that this is the model that will best serve students. However, we are reviewing our curriculum structure because we know that whilst many students have enjoyed the opportunity for deeper learning over 2-hour lessons, this has been difficult for some students. Clearly, there is a balance to be found here. We are working on a model that would give the best of both worlds based on the possibility of a structure with 3 x 100 minute lessons in a day by August 2022. These plans are in the early phase of development and we will communicate confirmed changes in the summer term.

Q. Why do we use plastic forks in the canteen if there is a push to be environmentally friendly?

A. We have shared this feedback with our Catering Manager. This is something that we will be exploring after half term to reduce the impact of single-use plastics.

Yours sincerely,

Dan 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