



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Trial Examinations (Year 11)**

Sometimes these letters are easy to write because there is such an obvious point of focus during a week of many achievements and positive experiences. This week, I must begin by sincerely and wholeheartedly commending Year 11 students for the way that they have approached the first week of trial examinations. Every day, students in this year group have been organised, prepared, and they have worked hard during the time available. Perhaps more than any other year group that I can remember in recent times, this group have really taken a big step forward.

I feel strongly that we need to celebrate this as a community because we all know that the challenges facing our children have been very real over the last 18 months. Despite these challenges, there has been no shred of excuse or lack of belief from our students and they have been courageous in their effort and application.

The fantastic response that we have seen from this year group is reflective of the brilliant support of their teachers, form tutors, and key support staff. Crucially, it is also a demonstration of the quality of support offered by their parents as we know that so many students are now regularly engaging in revision and we have seen this as a regular feature of lunchtime discussions. **Thank you to all parents who have encouraged and supported their child this week.** Sometimes our job is to remind them of the bigger picture, and they have all moved one step closer to a brighter future and qualifications that they can be proud to have achieved.

## **Revision (all students)**

All students will undertake key assessments before the end of the Autumn Term and to support their success, we have produced three short video guides on **revision, knowledge organisers** and **mind maps** [here](#). We encourage all students to watch these before key assessments as part of their preparations. All lessons feature explicit revision activities and techniques as part of the curriculum to support the strongest outcomes.

## **Sixth Form Applications**

Following a successful Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November and a large number of enquiries we would like to remind students that the application form for places in the Sixth Form is available [here](#).

## **Virtual Wellbeing Box**

**Q. It would be great to have more gluten free options in Sixteen07. Would this be possible?**

A. Thank you for this suggestion. We have passed this on to our Catering Manager who has been meeting with students to update our food provision based on their feedback.

**Q. I am concerned that the traffic on Burnmill Road is very busy at peak times.**

A. We share this concern and we have written to Leicestershire County Council to request that a crossing is put into place. Unfortunately, we are yet to hear a response or a commitment to resolve this situation. At the beginning and the end of each day, we have a duty rota in place to make sure that there is always supervision on the road during these times to provide a supportive presence and we do regularly remind students to take care at these busy times of the day.



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 (cont....)

### **Q. When will the tree planting take place? How can I take part?**

A. Student leaders and community volunteers will take part in a great tree planting exercise on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The environment committee will be selecting students to take part in this project and places will be limited to 30 students. We are very excited about this project which has been inspired by our students.

### **Q. What happens when you get to 20 golden tickets?**

A. Students who attain 20 golden tickets by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December will be invited to a Christmas Party. This will take place in the final week of the term and students will also be rewarded with a special Christmas gift as a token of our appreciation of their hard work and commitment.

### **Q. I am concerned that images of people from the school have been circulated on social media without consent.**

A. If we become aware of any images being circulated/adapted without consent, this activity will be reported to the social media platform and removed and those responsible will be identified and sanctioned. In these cases, we will involve the police if we have cause to believe that a crime may have been committed.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying Week is coordinated in England by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and takes place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and it has the theme '**One Kind Word**'. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that '**One Kind Word**' has been chosen as the theme of our Anti-Bullying Week.

This week, the focus of our curriculum time has been to promote mutual respect and kindness by providing space for students to discuss the 'Bystander effect', the impact of language, the experience of their peers, the value of empathy, the damage done by bullying behaviour and an exploration of respectful, measured ways to express disagreement with other people.

We remain passionately committed to tackling all forms of bullying through proactive education, restorative and supportive work, consistent expectations communicated by all staff, and through the imposition of sanctions. As ever, our aim is to make sure that every child is happy and feels safe in school.

Thank you once again for your support during the darker, colder months. There is a great deal to look forward to as we approach the midway point of this half-term including brilliant extra-curricular opportunities, achievement celebrations, charitable fundraising events, and rewards for students who have collected golden tickets in response to their hard work and contribution.

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