



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **UPDATE – Coronavirus**

Firstly, I would like to commend all students for the way that they have adapted to the new routines regarding face coverings and for their excellent conduct during testing arrangements. I would like to remind parents that it is important that students continue to take a lateral flow test, twice weekly, ideally on Sunday and Wednesday evening. I would ask that all parents with children who exhibit cold like symptoms take a lateral flow test as an extra precaution to reduce the risk of transmission. Students should collect lateral flow tests from Student Services as part of their routine.

Perhaps predictably, this has been a challenging week due to levels of staff absence. As a result, the Senior Leadership Team has prioritised covering lessons for absent teachers to ensure that students have the best educational experiences and to reduce disruption to their education. I am grateful for your understanding and ongoing support at this time.

## **NHS Flu and Second Coronavirus Vaccinations (Year 7-11)**

We have communicated with you regarding the vaccinations that will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January (next week). These vaccinations will be organised and administered by the NHS, and we will base their vaccination team in the Main Hall. **Please note that the Main Hall will be closed to students during lunchtimes on these days.** As we expect cold weather, we advise students to wear a coat on these days due to the limited amount of indoor space available.

## **Reports for students in Year 7-10**

Before Christmas, all students completed key assessments which they will be debriefing with their class teachers in the coming weeks, if they have not done so already. Due to operational pressures arising from the present situation, we aim to finalise reports for parents so that these can be sent home by February half-term.

## **Dates for the diary**

- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 13 Parents Evening on School Cloud from 4.00 – 6.30 p.m.
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January:** Teacher Training Day (closed to students)
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 11 Achievement Evening from 6.00 – 7.00 p.m.\*

\*This will be a remote presentation for all parents in Year 11. During this presentation we will outline any changes to GCSE examinations announced by Ofqual in the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February and outline key revision strategies for February half-term.

Please note that the **Sixth Form Open Morning, Parent Forum** and **Dance Recital** in January have been postponed until further notice and will be rearranged later in the term.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. I am particularly grateful to parents who responded to my request for participation in a Parent Association before Christmas and I look forward to sharing further updates on these developments in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary  
Principal