



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Success Story: NHS Flu and Second Coronavirus Vaccinations

Firstly, I am delighted to inform you that the vaccination programme went very well on Monday and Tuesday this week. As a result of the hard work of the NHS staff as supported by Mrs Wood and our support staff team, we were able to facilitate vaccinations for over 600 students. This is good news and we hope that this will offer them another layer of protection in the winter months. We have been informed that there will be no further Covid or Flu vaccinations provided in school this year and so if students have missed vaccinations then their parents will need to arrange this through their GP.

Consultation outcome

Before Christmas, the school published a set of proposed [changes](#) to our Admissions Policy and shared these proposals with all parents. I am delighted to confirm that all proposals attracted a positive consensus and the Local Governing Body has taken the decision to adopt the proposed changes, effective from August 2023.

The Admissions Policy changes will be relevant to those parents who will be seeking a place for their child in Year 7 in forthcoming years and I would also recommend that parents of students in **Year 10** note the changes to entrance requirements for Sixth Form that will take effect next year. Students will be required to secure a minimum of **40 points** from their best eight GCSE qualifications rather than **36 points**.

The result of the public consultation has been posted onto our website [homepage](#). You can find out more about the consultation proposals and outcome [here](#).

Responses to student questions raised in the Virtual Wellbeing Box

Q. Will there be exam leave for students in Year 11?

A. This is a question that is under discussion at the moment. We feel strongly that students who have missed time in school should not be placed at further disadvantage as a result of matters beyond their control (i.e. national lockdown, periods of self-isolation). However, we feel that it would be prudent to continue to monitor the situation in the coming weeks and months before making a decision particularly as we are awaiting guidance from Ofqual in February regarding any adjustments to summer assessments. As soon as a decision has been made, we will communicate this to parents and students in a formal letter from the Principal.

Sixth Form Reports

Please note that Year 13 reports have been released this week and Year 12 reports will follow next week.

Reminders

- **Friday 28th January:** Teacher Training Day (closed to students)
- **Wednesday 9th February:** Year 11 Achievement Evening from 6.00 – 7.00 p.m. (remote)
- **Thursday 10th February:** Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4.00 – 6.30 p.m. (remote)
- **Thursday 24th February:** Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4.00 – 6.30 p.m. (remote)

Thank you again for taking the time to read this letter and for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal