



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you had a fantastic Easter and some much needed rest with your family.

High Expectations

This week, the whole school started the week together by participating in a Virtual Expectations Assembly. It was my pleasure to be able to speak to all students and to welcome them back following the Easter holiday.

As part of this assembly, all students have had an opportunity to recall and discuss the nine protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act (2010) so that they are able to understand the importance of mutual respect. A good dinnertime question for this week might be to ask whether your child can list all nine protected characteristics – so far we have found that Miss McLeod's Tutor Group have been the best at this!

Bullying

We have deliberately focused our attention on mutual respect because we are determined to tackle bullying of any kind. Bullying has no place within our school and we have strong systems in place to tackle this, when it takes place. However, we are not complacent and this term we will start a project with [Equaliteach](#) who will be supporting our vision so that every child feels included. We have also invested in more mentoring support for students and social, emotional and mental health interventions to support their progress. On Monday, all teachers participated in training led by a [Thrive](#) practitioner to further support this aim.

Students have also been encouraged to think about a vision of being 'The best version of themselves'. We have brilliant students at this school and we will be seeking every opportunity to encourage and support them in the summer term. I would encourage parents to explore this conversation at home. We have used the '**Identity – Process – Outcome**' model used by James Clear in "*Atomic Habits*" and we know that this will promote great discussions in the coming weeks. We have also spoken with all Year 11 students about their GCSE examinations so that they approach their final weeks of school with real purpose and positivity. We know they can do it!

Key Assessments

Students in Year 7-10 and Year 12 have embarked upon the first key assessments of the summer term. These assessments will continue to take place over the coming fortnight and they are an important opportunity for teachers to assess the overall progress that students have made. Students will use the feedback from these assessments to address misconceptions, revise key topics and to build toward future success. The results from these assessments will be reported to parents by the end of the summer term.

Reminders

- Year 13 study leave will begin on **Friday 13th May**
- Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place on **19th May** and Year 9 Parents' Evening on **26th May**
- **May half-term** will take place on the week beginning **Monday 30th May**
- The school is closed to students on **Monday 27th June** as this is a Teacher Training Day
- The final day of the summer term is **Thursday 7th July**. School closes on this day

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I wish you a happy Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal