



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 13

I would like to start my letter by paying a huge tribute to the fabulous students in Year 13 who now begin their study leave before the start of A-Level examinations. They have been a fantastic year group who have represented the school with distinction. We know that they will do great things in the future and we look forward to supporting them in the coming weeks as they undertake their final exams.

GCSE Exam Breakfast

Next week, our brilliant Year 11 students begin their GCSE examinations. I would like to start by paying a tribute to their hard work and determination over this academic year and to thank their teachers and support staff for the superb guidance that they have offered along the way.

We will offer a **GCSE Exam Breakfast for students who have a morning examination** from next week. This will be available from Sixteen07 from 8.15 a.m. Students will be required to produce their exam timetable to be able to access this breakfast. The breakfast options will consist of a sausage and hash brown bap **or** plain croissant **or** porridge. Tea, coffee **or** juice **and** fresh fruit will also be available.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, we have marked Mental Health Awareness Week by teaching students about the **causes and consequences of loneliness**. All students have considered how they can help others and gain further support themselves if this is something that they encounter. Students have also spent time reflecting on **Stress Awareness Month** as part of the PSHE curriculum and they have been taught about the impact of stress and strategies that are proven to manage and reduce stress. This has been a priority as children have approached key assessments in all year groups. We will continue to revisit these strategies as part of the mental health education that we provide as a school. Parents can find out more about this issue by visiting [Mind](#).

Progress Tests

Over the next two weeks Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be completing online progress tests. This will allow us to measure progress from last summer for Years 8-9 and from the autumn term for Year 7. **Students do not need to worry about these assessments and cannot prepare/revise for them.**

Each student will need to use earphones to access the tests. **They will need to bring their own earphones into school to use.** These need to have a jack that fits into a round port (not the newer iPhone headphones, for instance). All assessments will take place in a computer room and will be completed online.

Reminders

- Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place next week on **Thursday 19th May**
- Year 9 Parents' Evenings on **26th May** and **9th June**
- **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 at 3pm

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope you enjoy ever improving weather over the weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Cleary
Principal