



# SEND Newsletter

## WHAT'S IN THIS TERM'S ISSUE:

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## PUPIL PROFILES


Every student on the Special Educational Needs Register at Robert Smyth Academy has a Pupil Profile. They help teachers working with students to understand them better and know how best to support them.

A Pupil Profile is based on current advice and strategies for each student to support their learning and increase their independence in lessons. Sometimes advice and strategies are provided by a student's Education Health and Care Plan as well as input from professionals from outside agencies working with our students.

Teachers also make recommendations based on what works for each student too. The type of support is dependent on each student's level of need.

Pupil Profiles ensure a consistent approach so that each student receives similar support in all their lessons. Sometimes support from a student's Pupil Profile is delivered by Learning Support Assistants.

Pupil Profiles are regularly updated so that teachers have up to date advice and guidance on how best to support the SEND pupils in their class. Where possible we include parent and student voice about what they think are their strengths and weaknesses too.

SEN SUPPORT/EHCP		PUPIL PROFILE	
		<b>Name</b> <b>Date of Birth</b>	
		Diagnosed condition or difficulty, Area of SEND	
<b>My strengths:</b>		<b>Strategies to support me:</b>	
<b>What I struggle with:</b>			
<b>Parent/Guardian view- What I think you should know about my child.</b>			
<b>Access Arrangements:</b>		<b>Useful websites:</b>	
<b>Intervention:</b>			

Above is an example of a SEND profile. Check your inbox to find your child's. It is never too late to add your views by email to [rsasend@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:rsasend@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk)

## YEAR 11 MOCKS

We would like to wish all our Year 11 students the best of luck in the mock exams which continue the first week back after half term. Revision support and timetables have been sent out via email to parents. We strongly encourage students to continue their revision after their mocks and maintain a consistent level right up to their final exam.

We look forward to the positive results which will come as a result of their hard work and preparation.



## STUDENT VOICE

“When reading out loud in English and history I can read more fluently.”

“When I find words tricky I put them into syllables and I can spell it from there.”

“Today in science, I used my whiteboard to check how to spell something.”

## YEAR 9 OPTIONS

The Options Booklet is available on the RSA website, at this link: [Year 9 - Robert Smyth Academy](#) Can I ask that you read this carefully especially if choosing between two subjects. Please note that your child is not allowed to study Art alongside Textiles as it is the same GCSE.

To support our SEND students, we have held question and answer meetings to relieve some of the pressure this important time brings. Many of the students found the sessions useful because the opportunity to talk to members of staff about their ‘options’ has helped them make the best choices.

The final deadline is Friday 1st March.

The Options Form, can be found below: [Year 9 Options Form](#)

## WHAT IS ABIGAIL STEEL PHONICS?

Sometimes students reach Robert Smyth Academy without the basic literacy skills needed to successfully access the Key Stage 3 curriculum. In response to this area of need, we identify students for immediate intervention to support them straight away and prevent them from becoming disaffected, developing low self-esteem or displaying low engagement in lessons.

Mrs Spencer provides a phonics intervention programme that is presented in an age appropriate way. Often students with basic literacy skills close the gap best when they follow a step by step approach. Also the bitesize content means we can fit this much needed support around their timetable.

The program consists of three workbook levels; each level takes approximately 12 weeks to complete. A student can commence the program at any level dependent on their need. When the course ends, the student retakes the baseline assessment to record the increase in their phonics knowledge.

## SEND FORUM

In January, we held a SEND Forum where Mrs McNair spoke to parents about how students are supported in lessons and interventions. She also asked for input about what is most useful to parents regarding how we communicate to share concerns and progress. Mr Walker presented his assembly about Redwood too.

It was a very positive experience and allowed the opportunity for parents to offer views and suggestions. Please see our SEND website which has been recently updated based on the suggestions made by parents at the forum.

### Website:

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/about/special-educational-needs/>

### Contact us:

RSASEND@ROBERTSMYTH.TGACADEMY.ORG.UK