



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

## Thank you

As we ride the rollercoaster of adolescence together, I wanted to take a moment to express my thanks to all families for their continued support for our amazing staff team. We all know that supporting young people through their teenage years is tough and that there will be highs and lows, but we consistently value the support of our parents as we promote respect, success, and aspiration from all. There have been so many success stories this year and our students can approach the summer recess having achieved a great deal. We aspire to provide brilliant opportunities to our students in the forthcoming academic year and we will be excited to welcome them back at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

I hope that this letter provides you with key information that you need to prepare for the new academic year.

## A-Level Results Morning

Examination results will be available for collection on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August** between **8.00 – 9.15am**. Students will be required to confirm their destinations information on arrival at the Main Reception to the school. Results will be collected from Bragg Hall. The Sixth Form Team will be on hand to support students.

## GCSE Results Morning

Examination results will be available for collection on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August** between **8.00 – 9.00am**. The Sixth Form Team will be on hand to assist students with queries regarding Sixth Form Enrolment. However, we ask families to note that results will only be collectible until 9.00am and thereafter they will be posted.

Results may only be collected by a parent or guardian providing they have a letter of consent, signed by the student, and suitable identification is produced. **Results cannot be given by telephone, via e-mail or to a friend.** When the examination results have been issued, examination boards have asked that any queries you have are directed through the Academy. For data protection reasons, they are unable to enter any discussion regarding a candidate's individual results over the telephone.

## Sixth Form Enrolment

Sixth Form registration will take place between **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August**. If students have any concerns after GCSE results are collected, the Sixth Form Team will be available to offer guidance. For example, if a student meets our overall entry requirements but does not meet the relevant subject entry requirements, we can discuss options in other subject areas.

## Term Dates: 2023-24

Please note that the forthcoming term dates can be accessed [here](#) (transcribed below):

### Autumn Term 2023

**TERM STARTS for Year 7** - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

**TERM STARTS for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13)** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August

**TERM STARTS for Year 12** - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**INSET DAY** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

**INSET DAY** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**HALF TERM** - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

**TERM ENDS** - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (at midday)



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## Spring Term 2024

**TERM STARTS** for all year groups - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**INSET DAY** - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

**HALF TERM** - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**TERM ENDS** - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

## Summer Term 2024

**Bank Holidays** on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May

**TERM STARTS** - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April

**HALF TERM** - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**INSET DAY** - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**TERM ENDS** - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

## Where can I access support while the school is closed?

After the last day of term, **the school will be closed until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August**. During the summer holidays families can access the following sources of support:

- **Childline:** <https://www.childline.org.uk/> or by calling **0800 1111**
- **Children's Services:** <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/>
- **NHS England:** Call **111** or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/>
- **Market Harborough Food Bank:** <https://www.harborough.gov.uk/foodbanks>

## Suicide prevention

I want to remind you of the support available via [Papyrus](#); an organisation dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. Suicide is the biggest killer of young people under 35 in the UK and every year thousands more attempt or contemplate suicide, harm themselves or suffer alone, afraid to speak about how they are feeling. **If you are the parent of a young person who experiences thoughts or feelings of this kind, then we would strongly advise that you seek an appointment with your GP** and that you access the following support:

**If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINEUK for confidential support and practical advice.**

**Call: 0800 068 4141**

**Text: 07860 039 967**

**Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)**

## National Online Safety

In recent years, there has been a dramatic growth in internet communication via social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat and a major factor in this rise is the increased accessibility to the internet using 'smart' phones. I have previously referenced the significant risks posed to young people because of this phenomenon and you will know that this has formed a cornerstone of our curriculum and our investment in pastoral care and mental health support.

I would like to invite you to complete the following **National Online Safety (NOS)** courses to improve your knowledge and to gain advice and guidance on how to support your child online.



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## National Online Safety (cont...)

Please use the following unique self-enrolment link to sign up to the hub if you did not do so earlier this year. As parents or carers, you will receive access to NOS's parent's online safety courses, their library of explainer videos- and the helpful platform guides, which are released weekly, available [here](#).

We would invite all parents to spend a small amount of time to complete the following module, [here](#).

We are highly committed to the safeguarding of our students, and we sincerely thank you in advance for your support because we know how important this issue is to our parent community. We hope that by working together our community can be recognised by achieving National Online Safety Mark.

## Behaviour Policy update

The updated Behaviour Policy and related information can be found on the website [here](#).

Please note two key changes which will be reinforced in the Autumn Term:

- We have found that whilst almost all students arrive to school on time and ready to learn, there are a small minority who are consistently late. In response to this, we have decided to implement a same day breaktime detention for those arriving after 8.45am. **This means that there will be a detention assigned at first break on the same day of the incident of lateness.** If this detention is missed without good reason such as a medical appointment, it will automatically convert to an after-school detention.
- All **check-ins** with members of pastoral staff will occur at the beginning of each day, in **Sixteen07**, unless a pre-booked appointment has been made. If your child has a appointment, they will be given a slip.

## Uniform

There are no changes. Please note that all students will be expected to return in **full school uniform**. We would be grateful if parents could remain mindful that **we do not permit the following**, as per the uniform [policy](#):

- Nail polish or false nails
- Unnatural hair dye
- Multiple ear piercings (one single stud in each ear maximum)
- Nose piercings
- False eyelashes

We will specifically follow up on these features of our uniform policy to ensure high standards from all at the beginning of the academic year:

- Blazers to be worn in school with shirts tucked in
- Grey pleated skirt, regulation length, on or just above the knee

Thank you once again for your fantastic, ongoing support. This will be my last letter to parents before the summer recess and so ahead of the final three days of term next week, I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary  
Principal