



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Firstly, I hope that you have had a well-deserved and restful break over the summer recess.

It has been fantastic to welcome the students back this week and I must begin by offering my thanks to all parents because the standards of uniform and punctuality have been **exceptionally high**. We all recognise the hard work and investment that is required when parenting secondary aged children and they have been well set up for success this week; a sterling effort by parents and families.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the aims that we have for all students, which have been communicated in **Expectations Assemblies** this week, and to provide key information to allow you to navigate the year ahead.



Values in Practice

Our mission is to provide students with fantastic learning opportunities, pastoral support, and an excellent currency of qualification at the end of their programmes of study. At the heart, our school values remain the key driver of everything that we do, and these values are **Respect, Succeed, and Aspire**.

This week, I had the opportunity to present an **Expectations Assembly** to each year group to outline the importance of each of those values and how they relate to the history of the school. As part of that assembly, I have explained what our key values mean in practice so that students know how to be the best version of themselves when they are in school. Never before has our school crest been better understood!

I have also outlined 'red lines' relating to unacceptable behaviour, taken from the [Behaviour Code of Conduct](#).

All students have also been given advice on how they can report concerns to our [Safeguarding Team](#).

To reinforce expectations, teachers will provide feedback and recognise 'Values in Practice' by:

- **Providing praise and encouragement**
- **Assigning an RSA VIP Stamp**
- **Awarding a Merit or Golden Ticket**
- **Awarding an RSA VIP Postcard**
- **Contacting parents to share positive progress**
- **Nominating students for a Tutor or Subject Award**

How do I find out how my child is doing?

Despite the brilliant things happening at school, we know that students may physically recoil at the very idea of discussing their day with you, unless you ask about what they had for lunch! However, we know how important it is for you to feel informed and we all benefit from open lines of communication. To allow you to have a better picture, you can monitor the performance of your child by downloading the **My Child At School Application**. This will allow you to track their registers (**attendance and late marks**), **Merits, Golden Tickets**, and **behaviour points** to better inform conversations at home, so you can best support your child. An email will go home next week explaining how to do this.

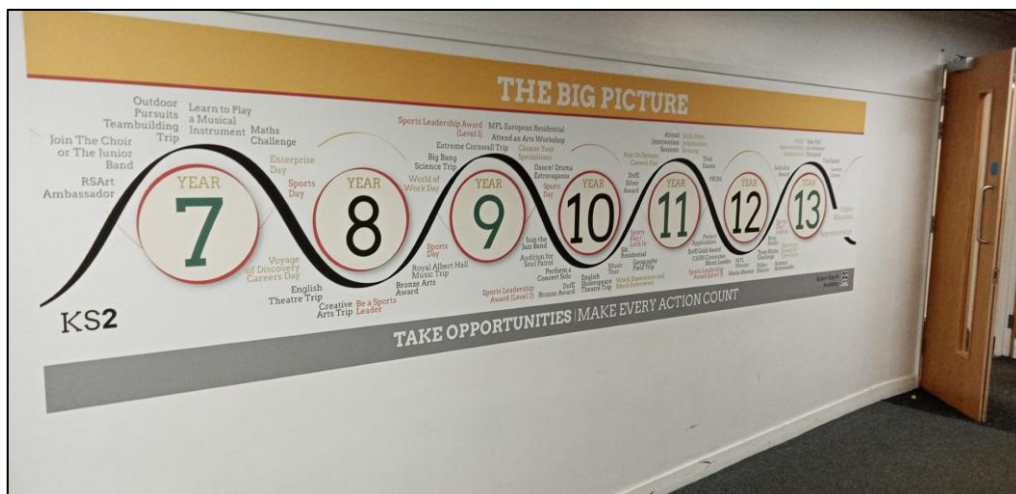


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The Big Picture

One of the great strengths of our school is the broad and diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities that we provide for students. We want them to take every opportunity and to make their actions count so that they love coming to school and we can supercharge their aspirations for the future.

This week, students have all seen a new infographic at the Student Services Entrance which gives them an insight into all the opportunities that they have ahead of them. It has made for some brilliant discussions already and we hope this will fuel participation in extra-curricular activities in the coming weeks.



Year 11 and 13 Revision

As you may be aware, this year all schools experienced the return of more challenging assessment criteria which was applied to students completing key assessments at **GCSE and A-Level**. It is important that students in Year 11 and 13 recognise that this means that they will be assessed to a higher standard than in recent years. Therefore, **the hard work needs to start now**.

Teachers will be preparing students for their assessments, and it is expected that every student in Year 11 and 13 will engage with regular revision throughout the academic year.

We have produced key [Revision Tips](#) that students can use to guide their planning. All students will be working with their Form Tutors to create revision plans in the coming fortnight.

For students who are revising for **GCSE examinations**, we continue to recommend [BBC Bitesize](#) as a good resource for most subjects across the curriculum. Students will be given additional information from their subject teachers.

On **Thursday 21st September**, we will host **Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening** in the **Main Hall** at **6.00 - 7.00pm** for all parents and students. This is a key event in the school calendar during which the timeline of key events will be outlined for students.

Year 13 students will be provided with similar key information as part of their assembly schedule as coordinated by the Sixth Form Team. There is more information available on our website [here](#).



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Key Dates for the half-term

- **Monday 4th September:** School Photographs for Year 7, 10 and 12
- **Thursday 7th September:** Open Evening – early closure for all students at 1.35pm
- **w/b Monday 11th September:** KS3 Reading and Spelling Tests – no preparation required
- **Tuesday 12th September:** Year 11 and 13 Media Trip
- **Wednesday 13th September:** GCSE and A-Level Presentation Evening (6.00 – 8.00pm)
- **w/b Monday 18th September:** KS3 Reading and Spelling Tests – no preparation required
- **Wednesday 20th September:** SEND Parent Forum (6.00 – 7.00pm)
- **Thursday 21st September:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (6.00 – 7.00pm)
- **Thursday 21st September:** School Admissions Tour (9.30 – 10.30am)
- **Thursday 28th September:** School Admissions Tour (9.30 – 10.30am)
- **Thursday 28th September:** Parent Forum (6.00 – 7.00pm)
- **w/b Monday 2nd October:** Year 11 and 13 Assessment Week
- **Thursday 5th and 12th October:** Year 7 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Friday 6th October:** Teacher Training Day – school closed to all students
- **Wednesday 11th October:** Year 11 Careers Day
- **Thursday 12th October:** Year 7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Trip
- **Friday 13th October:** Year 7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Trip
- **Friday 13th October:** School closes at the normal time for October half-term
- **Monday 23rd October:** School reopens

Parents' Evening Dates

- **Thursday 7th December:** Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Wednesday 13th December:** Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 18th January:** Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 25th January:** Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 1st February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 8th February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Tuesday 12th March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 21st March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 23rd May:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 6th June:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)

Teacher Training Days

- **Friday 6th October**
- **Friday 1st December**
- **Monday 29th January**
- **Friday 28th June**

Please note that the **Term Dates** can be found on our website [here](#).

I hope that this is a useful update at the end of term and we look forward to another great week to come enriched by beautiful weather and warmer temperatures!

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal