



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Presentation Evening

It is my privilege to summarise what has been another superb week by thanking and congratulating all our prize winners in Key Stage 4 and 5 following our annual celebration event on Wednesday. The students and families in attendance were greeted by a keynote speech from Darren Turner (Executive Principal) and we were delighted to spend this evening celebrating and applauding their hard work and brilliant efforts. We wish all the best of luck to our former students who are about to progress to their universities of choice, apprenticeships, or entry into the world of work. We are proud of every single one of them!

Sixth Form: Extra-Curricular Opportunities

On Tuesday morning, our Sixth Form came to life with a kaleidoscope of opportunities and activities for students as part of a Freshers Fayre. We provide a broad range of opportunities for Sixth Form students to enrich their learning opportunities and experiences alongside high-quality A-Level study. These include:

- **Catering Forum**
- **Charitable Action in Robert Smyth (CAIRS) Committee**
- **Core Maths**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award**
- **Mandarin**
- **MFL Mentoring**
- **Musical ensembles (a very wide range!)**
- **Prefects**
- **Reading Buddies**
- **Sports Leadership**

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Focus

This week, all students have followed a programme of extended lessons to support their broader development. The general themes of each subject, taught by Form Tutors, included:

- **Year 7:** Mental Health and wellbeing
- **Year 8:** Parliament and Democracy
- **Year 9:** Managing Relationships – Friendship
- **Year 10:** Ethical Dilemmas (Kantian and Utilitarian philosophical ethics)
- **Year 11:** Business Ethics

To further enrich the curriculum that students have been studying, they have each participated in College Assemblies led on the broad theme of democracy.

NHS Advice – Sickness and absence

As the temperature has now started to cool, it is inevitable that we will see an increase in seasonal colds and mild illnesses. As you might imagine, we monitor this situation regularly following the years of COVID disruption that we have seen in recent times. We would ask all parents to consider the following [guidance](#) when deciding whether their child is well enough to attend school.

It also feels pertinent to share the most recent advice from the Chief Medical Officer, published last week:

“There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that **school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing, and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly**”.



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My Child at School

We thank families for their patience with My Child at School over the past fortnight. We have experienced IT problems, and we know that login information sent to parents had expired by the time that it had been read. This is because each login has a time-limit of four hours. Login information will be sent out again to ensure all parents who have not been able to sign up, have that opportunity. If you have already signed up, you need take no further action.

We have also noticed that the system is taking time to update during the working day and so we ask parents to remain calm if their child's presence mark has not been updated. We will contact parents if their child is not in school and so we recommend that this tool is not used to monitor attendance in real time.

We believe that My Child at School will be an invaluable way of allowing parents to be better informed about how well their child is progressing at school once we have managed the teething issues.



Year 10,11 and 13 Media Studies Visit to Warner Brothers Studios - A Review

Mr Millar – Deputy Head of English

On Tuesday 12th September, 75 of our media students took advantage of the opportunity to discover the real magic behind the hugely popular Harry Potter franchise in an extensive tour of Warner Brothers Studios in Leavesden. Inside this sprawling complex, the true scope and scale of the individual components that form the building blocks of motion pictures were brought to their attention with stunning accuracy. Beginning with full-scale recreations of iconic Hogwarts' settings, our pupils boarded the Hogwarts' Express on Platform 9 3/4, trod the marbled floor of The Great Hall, strolled through the streets of Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley, and took cautious, tentative steps through the Forbidden Forest - a notable challenge for those who suffer from arachnophobia! Whilst these examples gave an insight into the impressive magnitude of the story world created by JK Rowling, students were also given privileged access to the smaller details: the exotic fabrics and delicate weaving of character costumes, the expert crafting of masks and prosthetics; the intricate details of props that were only given several frames of screentime, each and all showcased the talented output of the creative minds, artists and technicians that worked tirelessly to bring the pages of Rowling's books to life.

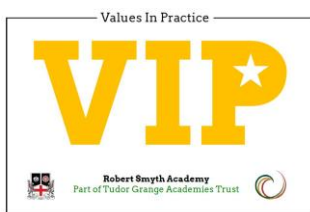
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Whilst this no doubt piqued our students' interest in film, provided a consolidation of their understanding of media studies, and perhaps allowed them to reflect on their own treasured memories of their much younger selves - demonstrated in the palpable joy that persisted in their expressions throughout the day - it also enlightened our bright young stars to the multi-disciplinary nature of the cinematic medium, and in turn highlighted the career opportunities that await them should they wish to choose this exciting pathway. Furthermore, it is safe to say that the knowledge and skills required for a career in this industry begin in our very own halls, classrooms and workshops at RSA, with clear connections to cinema emerging from the narratives of our English curriculum; the coding in our computer science classes; the creativity in our art, textiles and design technology workshops - the opportunities to utilise their existing and growing talents to attain a rich and rewarding career are many and various. With more and more content being written and created for the ever-expanding output of film studios, TV channels and streaming services, there has never been a better time to turn ambition into reality!

Overall, I believe this spectacular, immersive experience of Warner Brothers Studios will linger long in their memories and is just one of the many opportunities we deliver in our commitment to enrich their lives beyond the classroom.



To conclude this letter, I want to take a moment to celebrate two special achievements from RSA students who have demonstrated **RSA Values in Practice**. For context so far, we have already awarded **over 5,000 achievement** points including Merits, Golden Tickets and Postcards to recognise the hard work of students.

Firstly, I want to commend **Freya (Year 13)** for her incredible triumph in raising nearly £1,000 by swimming the [Solent](#). Freya has done this to raise money for the charity "Aspire" to help those with spinal injuries.

Secondly, I was delighted to be contacted by a **former student, Beatrice**, this week. Beatrice has successfully organised a sponsored [sleepover](#) at Anfield Stadium to raise awareness and funding for those facing homelessness. Beatrice has written to thank the PE Faculty for inspiring her to achieve this great event.

These are two fantastic contributions from young people who are making a difference.





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Wellbeing Books in the Library

As you know, we have a well-stocked and well-used library, overseen by our Librarian and Reading Co-ordinator, Mrs Coxon.

A recent addition to the library is a carefully chosen selection of books on various topics to do with student wellbeing. These books were curated by our student leaders and offer the information and 'safe place' that students sometimes need to access and consider difficult issues. Some books provoke debate, but all topics also feature in our PSHE materials and contain content it is important for students to have the freedom to explore. Students have access to these books to seek out information and they may wish to discuss some of the topics at home or with staff. At Robert Smyth we encourage wider reading and encourage discussion on these topics.

Key Dates for the half-term

- **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**

I hope that you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal