



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Last week, the Academy advanced to four county finals, demonstrating not only skill but also perseverance. Our students worked tremendously hard to earn the opportunity to compete at this level, and their journeys show that effort and experience matter greatly, whether the outcome is victory or the growth of resilience.

Two teams achieved County Champion status, and their success was the result of sustained dedication and determination. The U18 boys' football and U16 boys' rugby teams realised long-held dreams with their wins and should be extremely proud of their achievements. The Year 7 and U18 girls' football teams competed with the same passion and commitment; although they did not finish first, the experiences they gained are just as valuable in building resilience, confidence and character.

These matches followed earlier sporting success in badminton, basketball and netball, with all teams reaching county finals. Too often, young people are criticised for lacking resilience, for giving up, taking the easier path, or avoiding adversity. These teams are powerful examples of the opposite. It is our shared responsibility, both at school and at home, to support young people when they encounter challenge. For this reason, particular thanks must also go to the PE staff, who dedicate countless hours outside of the school day to coaching, encouraging and supporting our students.

What matters most is that students commit to being part of something, in this case, a team. They experience moments of celebration as well as disappointment together, forming memories that will stay with them long after the final whistle. I am exceptionally proud of how your children continue to embrace opportunities at RSA, something that is especially evident at College sports competitions, where participation from students, tutors and pastoral staff is always prioritised.

Above all, participation is at the heart of what we value. Taking part, supporting one another and being willing to step forward are what truly shape our young people for life beyond the academy. Sport is one powerful example, but these lessons reach far wider into every opportunity where students work together. Thank you, as families, for your continued encouragement, commitment and support. Your role makes these opportunities possible, and together we ensure that our students are confident, resilient and ready to face future challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Nicholson
Associate Principal



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