



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of my time as Principal of Robert Smyth Academy, I wanted to take a moment to write to you directly. My last day as Principal will be next Friday, and this will be my last letter, and I suspect that for many of you, that may provide a moment of light relief!

After eight years at this fantastic school, it is difficult to put into words what this community has meant to me. I have had the privilege of serving your children, working alongside dedicated staff, and engaging with families who care deeply about education and opportunity. It has been an honour in every sense.

I am, of course, very excited to be moving into my new role within the trust, where I will have the opportunity to support even more young people across our schools. However, that excitement sits alongside a genuine sadness at leaving a place that I believe, without hesitation, is truly special.

Robert Smyth Academy is a great school because of its people, its students, its staff, and its wider community. The culture that has been built here does not belong to any one person; it is something we have shaped together. I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved and confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength. The high standards, strong values, and commitment to doing the very best for young people will always remain at its heart.

If I could leave one message with humility, it would be to challenge you all to be champions of our values, because our young people deserve no less and, increasingly, our society needs people to stand tall and do the right thing. Your partnership with the staff in this school remains our greatest strength, don't exchange it for the world.

I will continue to monitor the school's journey with great pride, and I look forward to returning in the summer to celebrate with students on Results Days. I have every confidence that their success will reflect the dedication and care that defines this school.

Thank you for your support over the years. It has meant a great deal to me personally, and it has made a lasting difference to the life of the school.

Robert Smyth Academy will always hold a special place in my heart.

Have a great weekend and beyond this, a fantastic half-term when it arrives.

D Cleary
Principal



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