



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families

This week I wanted to write to inform you of a great initiative that began this half term for Year 9 students. We are delighted to be offering our students the opportunity to take part in the *Unbox Your Future* programme, an innovative careers initiative designed to bring learning to life through real-world experiences.

The aim of this programme is to help young people better understand the world of work by connecting classroom learning with genuine business challenges. Students work in teams on a project set by a local employer, giving them the chance to apply their knowledge, develop key skills such as teamwork, communication and problem-solving, and gain insight into different career pathways.

As part of the programme, students also engage directly with employers, learn about a variety of job roles, and visit a workplace environment. This helps them to build confidence, raise aspirations, and make more informed decisions about their future education and careers. Overall, *Unbox Your Future* is designed to support students in becoming more work-ready, motivated, and aware of the opportunities available to them beyond school.

We are very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with three businesses, Market Harborough Building Society, TGW and Welcomm Communications all based in Market Harborough, who have enthusiastically engaged with this project and volunteered their time, staff and facilities to work with our students. The staff that have attended with our Year 9 students have been impressed by the work-related learning package that has been offered.

This is just one example of the wide range of work-related learning and career opportunities that form part of careers education throughout students' time at RSA. Each year group participates in a specialised day, carefully sequenced across Key Stages 3 and 4, to build students' understanding of themselves, including their strengths and areas of interest, as well as their awareness of the pathways and opportunities available to them.

We have also successfully maintained our offer of a full week of work experience in Year 10, which takes place next week. This is particularly significant in a national context where there has been a marked decline in access to such opportunities. This experience remains a vital component in supporting students as they navigate the important decisions they must make about their future pathways.

At RSA, we try to take every opportunity available to us to facilitate student engagement with the wider community. We know that this has a multitude of benefits for students, the school and our community partners. Other current examples of community engagement include:

As well as Unbox Your Future, MHBS are currently working with another group of Year 9 students on an intensive mentoring programme, as well as a group of Year 12 students participating in a Young Enterprise activity.



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Work Experience next week will be followed with a Year 10 Careers Day in school, culminating in an individual mock interview for all students with one of our local business volunteers.

This week, Year 7 have fully ignited their careers education journey with a careers morning yesterday followed by their Enterprise Day today. Again, this is supported by an enthusiastic group of volunteers from local businesses.

Last week, the Student Council visited Ridgeway Primary School to provide sessions as part of their Life Skills Day for year 6 students. RSA students stayed for the whole day to both support and help form meaningful connections with the world of secondary school.

As part of our wider careers offer, Human Library talks have continued with a recent presentation by Alex from Bridgewater Homecare to raise awareness and understanding of care and dementia. Alex was very impressed with student engagement levels and is keen to offer further events/activities to continue raising awareness of this important subject.

Careers education and community engagement sit alongside our PSHE curriculum and extra-curricular offer as part of an aspirational vision of personal development that is at the heart of RSA values in practice.

Recent extra-curricular activities have included the Year 7 Geography Residential to Swanage, the Year 8 Residential to Morzine, D of E trips, the Summer Concert and the regional Athletics finals. Next week, Year 9 residential go out to Normandy and Barcelona.

A reminder that, as parents, you can access the RSA Instagram account for glimpses into that wider offer and the fantastic experiences it provides for our students.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards

Lorna Kirk
College Leader



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W/b 22/6/26 Extra-Curricular Activities after school

	Training	Fixtures
Mon	Year 7 College Rounders	Year 7 College Rounders – meet 3.15pm - college teams – event finishes at 4.25pm
Tues		Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills Event at RSA – selected leaders meet 9.15 am. Event and event planning and clear up runs all day until 3.15pm. You may arrive and remain in RSA PE kit all day. Bring a packed lunch as lunch is different to school lunches
Weds	Staff meeting	
Thurs		Year 3 and 4 Mini Olympics – selected sports leaders meet at RSA Sports Hall at 8.00am. Come to the top gate at 8.00. All day event – finishes at 3.15pm. Arrive to school in PE kit. Bring a packed lunch as lunch is different to school lunches. U15 Boys Cricket County Final (Knight Stokes Cup) at Sileby Town CC against Rushey Mead – players will need to meet at the RSA Sports Hall at 12.00pm Return likely to be 5.45pm. Spectators are very welcome. I will email home with regard to those on work experience. Please wear PE kit. Start time is 1.30pm - 20 overs a side
Friday	Inset Day	
- All clubs finish 4.15-4.30. There is no need to sign up, all are welcome just turn up at PE straight after school to get changed. PLEASE NOTE THE TIMETABLE CHANGES WEEKLY – it will also be on Satchel One. - Note - Fixtures finish times as stated are approximate – transport is provided to and from all away fixtures (except in Market Harborough). Consent will not be asked for each game; this has been provided previously through whole school communication for fixtures - Parents/Spectators may attend fixtures in a supportive manner but there is no parking on site and no access before 3.30pm. Access must be from the top gate, and you should head to the sports hall area. - For fixtures – students tick their name off in PE on the team sheet and tell their team manager if they cannot play (including if ill on day of game – please email Mr Scully mscully@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk or the team manager)		

Come and join our team!

Are you a girl keen to play football?

Are you in Year 9 this September?



Harborough Town's friendly U14 Wildcats are looking for new players and we'd love to meet you!

INTERESTED?
Contact John Deane
07980 650 678

TRAINING:
Fridays
5.30-6.30pm

MATCHES:
Sundays

LOCATION:
Harborough Town FC



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