



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

This week's letter is an update on a range of matters, as I suppose is the nature of end of year communications.

Change to Mobile Phone policy

The Government have recently issued updated statutory guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. Our policy is already robust, but the new guidance does mean that from September **6th form students will not be able to use their mobile phones or devices in Bragg Hall**, this is because the guidance is clear that younger students should not be able to see 6th form students using mobile phones or devices. Bragg Hall will remain a workspace for 6th form students and 6th form students will continue to be able to use their phones in the 6th form centre. The only other change is that **students in years 7 -11 must have their phones turned off and in their bags when they are on the school site** - they cannot keep them in trouser or blazer pockets. If you wish to review the policy in full, please follow this [link](#).

INSET days

We have now been able to finalise our INSET days for next year, the Trust board did support schools having another INSET day added to the school calendar, which you will see below.

Monday 24 August 2026

Friday 2 October 2026

Monday 26 October 2026

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Friday 29 January 2027

Friday 25 June 2027

Staffing updates

This year, we bid farewell to valued colleagues who have provided the Robert Smyth Academy with exceptional service. Firstly, I would like to thank Ms Hamnett (Teacher of English), Mr Paul Gowler (Teacher of Maths) and Mrs Amanda Fenton (Head of Drama) all of whom have served the school well and move on to new exciting futures. We also have to say goodbye to Mrs Vanderkloet (Teacher of English) and Mr Justin Vanderkloet (Teacher of Geography) who will move on to new opportunities, having joined us from Canada two years ago. All have been great additions to our team, and we thank them for all their investment in getting to know the children they have taught and in their participation in the life of the school.

We also thank the following Inclusion staff who are leaving RSA: Mrs Lisa Reynolds, Miss Ruby Lawrence and Mr Haamid Rahman, all of whom have had a positive impact on the students that they have supported and encouraged.

And whilst they may have only been with us for two years, we also wish our two apprentices, Miss Tamara Fordham and Miss Mia Stone lots of luck and best wishes in their new adventures and thank them for their efforts and hard work for the PE and Performing Arts departments respectively.



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At the beginning of Summer Term 2, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Forsberg as our new Cover Supervisor, she has settled in extremely well and has already become a valued member of the RSA team.

We are also delighted to welcome the following colleagues who will join our school in the Autumn term:

- Miss Niamh Ray - Teacher of English
- Mr Seb Moore-Friis - Teacher of English
- Mrs Rebecca East-Rudkin - Teacher of Design (Food & Nutrition and Art)
- Miss Isabel Howells - Teacher of Geography and Religious Studies
- Mr Edward Lamim - Teacher of Maths

I hope this information will enable students and parents to bid farewell and express their gratitude to valued colleagues as they conclude the academic year.

Hot weather

The weather is again set to become warmer next week and so I would like to remind parents and carers that students should come to school with a **water bottle, sunscreen and a hat**. We will communicate any changes to uniform so if you receive no notice then please assume that uniform remains as normal.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend and that students arrive ready on Monday for their final week of the year.

Kind regards

Kate Nicholson
Principal



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