



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Welcome Back!

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back to school this week after the summer holiday. The Year 7 Summer School was a great success, and the participants coped admirably in the heat to experience lots of fun activities with their new Year 7 peers. I would like to extend my thanks to all our families for ensuring that standards of uniform and punctuality have been so high. This support helps our staff focus their attention on teaching and learning from the very first day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Year 12 Induction Day

On Tuesday, our new Year 12 students took part in an Induction Day. The programme included a variety of activities, discussions and team-building exercises designed to help students get to know both their peers and staff, while also preparing them for the start of Sixth Form life.

We look forward to welcoming all Year 12 students on **Tuesday 1st September**. Please remember that Tutor Time begins at **8:45am** and that students are expected to attend in accordance with the [Sixth Form Dress Code](#).

First Day for Year 7

Our Year 7 students also began their journey with us on Tuesday morning. It was a privilege to welcome them to Robert Smyth and to deliver their first Expectations Assembly as Principal. Feedback from staff has been overwhelmingly positive, and it is clear that they have made an excellent start to secondary school life.

Expectations Assemblies

As is tradition at Robert Smyth, students are welcomed back each year through an Expectations Assembly led by the Principal. These assemblies reinforce the values, routines and standards that underpin our school community. Below are some of the key messages shared with students, reflecting both our school values and Behaviour Policy:

- Students were reminded of the importance of living our school values every day: **Respect, Succeed and Aspire**, enabling them to be the very best version of themselves.
- We revisited our rewards systems, including merits, Golden Tickets, postcards and other recognition opportunities.
- Students were reminded of the Behaviour Policy's non-negotiable expectations. We also discussed risks affecting young people within our local community, including the presence of substances such as cannabis in Harborough. Students were left in no doubt that prohibited items have no place in school and may result in the most serious sanctions.
- Students were reminded of the members of our Safeguarding Team and their roles. We strongly encouraged students to report any concerns, including through the **My Voice** application available on the school website and Satchel One.
- Students were informed that behaviour and conduct in school may influence eligibility to participate in educational visits and events, including trips and Prom.



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- We reminded students that mobile phones must not be used during the school day, this includes being used in Student Services. Any phone used in school will be confiscated for 48 hours and a significant sanction will be applied, without exception. I have also spoken with Year 13 students this week and will repeat the message to Year 12 next week regarding changes to government guidance surrounding mobile phone use around younger students. As a result, **Bragg Hall will no longer be an area where Sixth Form students may use mobile phones.**
- Students were reminded that the race for the **2026-7 College Cup** begins again this year, with Bragg College aiming to defend its title. Every positive point earned contributes to the competition.
- We reinforced the consistent learning routines students will experience in lessons, including the effective use of whiteboards to support engagement, progress and attainment.
- Students were encouraged to take pride in their exercise books, ensuring they remain a high-quality record of learning and a valuable revision resource for the future (see below).

★ BOOK EXPECTATIONS ★	
<i>Respect - Succeed - Aspire</i>	
Be proud of your learning - let your book show it!	
What to Do	Why it Matters for You
Stick your Learning Journey in your book. 	So you can see how far you've come and what you've learned.
No doodling or ripped pages. 	Shows pride in your work and keeps the learning space focused.
Neat handwriting on the lines. 	Helps everyone read your work and builds good exam habits.
Add date and title and underline them. 	Keeps everything organised and easy to find.
Stick sheets in neatly and use every page. 	Keeps your book tidy and shows care for your learning.
Mark and correct key questions. 	Helps you see what you're doing well and where to improve.
Use purple pen for self-assessment and to respond to feedback. 	Shows you're thinking about your learning and progress.
Use Thinking Side & Writing Side for sentence stacking tasks. 	Makes writing tasks easier by helping you plan your ideas.
Keep your book looking great - it tells the story of your learning!	
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- Homework expectations were also reviewed, including regular engagement with the **Sparx Maths** platform. Students were reminded that success in English and Mathematics remains crucial for future opportunities and progression.



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Homework Expectations

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

- One weekly homework task in English, Maths and Science.
- Two homework tasks per half term in History and Geography.
- One homework task per half term in all other subjects.
- Modern Foreign Languages: Students will complete a vocabulary test every fortnight alongside their regular homework.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

- One weekly homework task in English, Maths and Science.
- Two fortnightly homework tasks for all GCSE option subjects.
- Modern Foreign Languages: Students will complete a vocabulary test every fortnight alongside their regular homework.
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Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13)

- Students will be set one hour of independent work for every hour of taught lesson time.
- Private Study periods should be used effectively to complete coursework, homework and revision activities.

Parent Code of Conduct

As we begin the new academic year, I would encourage all families to familiarise themselves with the expectations that guide communication between home and school.

Key Guidance for Parents – Tudor Grange Academies Trust

- **Respectful Communication:** Parents are expected to communicate with staff, students and other parents respectfully and constructively, both in person and online. Where this expectation is not met, the Academy reserves the right to limit methods of communication and access arrangements.
- **Response Times:** Staff will endeavour to acknowledge emails and queries within 48 hours during the working week. Depending on the complexity of an issue, a full response may take longer. Please remember that teaching and learning remain our staff's primary priority.
- **Appointments and Meetings:** Parents should arrange appointments in advance rather than arriving unannounced. This ensures that the appropriate staff member is available and that discussions can be productive.
- **Social Media:** Any concerns should be raised directly with the school rather than through social media platforms. Online interactions should reflect the same standards of respect expected face to face.
- **Working in Partnership:** The Trust values positive collaboration with families to support students' wellbeing, achievement and behaviour. Parents are encouraged to reinforce school expectations and policies at home.



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Reminder: Jewellery

Please note the following expectations regarding jewellery:

- Students may wear one pair of plain gold or silver stud earrings (one in each earlobe).
- Students in Years 10 and 11 may additionally wear one plain gold or silver ring and one plain necklace.
- No other jewellery is permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, nose studs, other body piercings and bracelets.

Full Uniform Policy:

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2024/08/RSA-Uniform-Policy-2024.pdf#uniform-policy/>

School Photographer (Tuesday 1 September)

Our school photographer will be in school on Tuesday to take photographs of students in **Years 7, 10 and 12**. These images will be used as part of our registration system. Please ensure your child arrives ready for their photograph.

Open Evening (Thursday 3 September)

A reminder that school will finish earlier than usual on Thursday next week to allow preparations for our annual Open Evening.

Students will be dismissed at **12:40pm**. Those entitled to **Free School Meals** will be able to collect a packed lunch from **Sixteen07 (our canteen)** at break time.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to celebrating the achievements and successes of our school community with you.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss K Nicholson
Principal



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