



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into the new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has already been an incredibly busy and positive start to term at Robert Smyth Academy.

Last week, we welcomed around 1,500 prospective parents and children through our doors for our annual **Open Evening**. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase what makes Robert Smyth Academy such a special place.

In my presentation, I spoke about our belief that RSA is a place where every young person can truly belong. We are a school built on the strength of our community, where students are welcomed, valued and supported to achieve their very best. I also shared how the positive structures, high expectations and care that underpin school life help our students to flourish both academically and personally. Alongside this, visitors had the chance to discover the extensive range of extracurricular opportunities available, from sports and performing arts to clubs, trips and leadership experiences.

The feedback we received from visitors was overwhelmingly positive. Many commented on the welcoming atmosphere, the confidence and enthusiasm of our students, and the genuine sense of pride that was evident throughout the evening. I would like to thank all of the students who contributed to the event. They were exceptional ambassadors for our school and played a significant role in helping visitors understand what it means to be part of the RSA community.

This week also saw our annual **Presentation Evening**, a highlight of the school calendar and a chance to celebrate the remarkable attainment, achievement and success of last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students. It was an inspiring evening that recognised not only examination success but also commitment, perseverance and character.

The comments shared by staff as they presented subject awards were truly moving. They brought to life the individual journeys, determination and personal growth of our students and served as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through hard work, resilience and ambition. Combined with some outstanding musical performances, the evening left everyone in attendance feeling immensely proud. I suspect that many of us, staff included, left reflecting on just how impressive the accomplishments of these young people really are.



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We have also been pleased to host another well-attended **SEND Parent Forum** this week. The forum continues to be an invaluable opportunity for parents and carers to work closely with our Inclusion Team. We are fortunate to have such a committed group of parents who share thoughtful insights, constructive feedback and practical ideas. Their contributions help us to continually develop and strengthen the support we provide for our students, and we are grateful for their ongoing partnership.

Looking ahead to next week, it will be the turn of our Year 11 families to join us for the first of this year's **Raising Achievement Evenings**. These events provide an important opportunity for students and parents to hear practical advice and guidance as they approach a crucial stage of their education. Our Year 11 students will benefit from hearing the experiences of former RSA students who have successfully navigated their GCSE studies, alongside expert advice from our Core Faculty leaders. We hope that families leave feeling informed, reassured and equipped with strategies that will help students make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead this year.

As these events demonstrate, Robert Smyth Academy is far more than a place of learning. It is a community built on aspiration, achievement and belonging. Whether welcoming future students, celebrating the successes of our alumni, working collaboratively with families to strengthen our provision, or supporting our current students to achieve their very best, the strength of our community is evident in everything we do.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to sharing many more successes and celebrations with you throughout the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Nicholson
Principal



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