



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

This week, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on both a challenge facing our community and, importantly, the reasons I remain so optimistic about the young people we serve.

Last weekend, following the Harborough Town match against Telford United, there was a significant period of anti-social behaviour within the town centre. Through communication with the police, we have become aware that a small number of our students were involved. It is important to stress that this does not reflect the actions of the overwhelming majority of those who attended the match. Many of our students and families are proud supporters of Harborough Town and represented themselves, their families and our community exceptionally well.

Where concerns have been identified, we will be contacting parents directly so that we can work together to prevent young people becoming involved in this kind of behaviour in the future. As a school, we are committed to supporting our young people to make positive choices, but we know that the strongest impact comes when school and home work in partnership.

What can you do as a family?

There are several simple but effective ways in which families can help. Regular conversations about where young people are going, who they will be spending time with and what their plans are can make a significant difference. Ensuring that you know your child's whereabouts, making use of mobile phone location sharing where appropriate and having clear expectations around curfews can all provide reassurance that young people are safe and reduce the likelihood of them becoming drawn into situations that place them at risk.

What we are doing in school.

In school, we will be responding proactively. Over the coming weeks, our PSHE programme will focus on personal safety, responsible decision-making and keeping safe in public places. Students will have opportunities to discuss, ask questions and explore the consequences that poor decisions can have for individuals and the wider community.

Alongside this work, assemblies will reinforce these messages for all students. We will remind them of the importance of personal responsibility, making positive choices and understanding how quickly situations can escalate when poor decisions are made within groups. We will also revisit the values that underpin our school community: respect, kindness, responsibility and looking out for one another. Our aim is not simply to respond to a particular incident, but to equip young people with the confidence, judgement and resilience needed to make safe choices whenever they are out in the community.

At the heart of this work is a simple belief: every young person deserves to feel that they belong.

They deserve to be celebrated for who they are. They deserve to understand that caring for others is a strength. They deserve to learn that their loyalty should be given to those who genuinely want the best for them.

Sometimes young people make mistakes. Sometimes anger, isolation or misplaced loyalties draw them away from the communities that are trying to support them. When that happens, our responsibility as adults is not only to challenge poor choices, but also to guide, support and educate.



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The reason I remain so hopeful is because every day I see examples of young people choosing the right path. While the actions of a few inevitably attract attention, the true story of this school is written by the many students who demonstrate kindness, courage and ambition every single day.

This week alone:

- **Jasper, Tom and Adam** approached staff with plans to establish three different student clubs, determined to create opportunities for others to connect, belong and thrive.
- **Charlie** won a photography prize from Creative Harborough for his outstanding wildlife and landscape photography.
- **Ellie May** shared her excitement about her experiences with the F1 Academy, including the opportunity to meet her racing heroine.
- **Ruby** demonstrated exceptional courage and compassion when she stood up for a fellow tutee during a difficult moment.
- **Jamie, Isabella and Otto** overcame their nerves and delivered excellent speeches at our Sixth Form Welcome and Raising Achievement evenings respectively.

These moments may seem small in isolation, but collectively they tell us something important. They remind us that our young people are capable of remarkable kindness, leadership and resilience. They show us that most young people want to contribute positively, support others and play an active role in building a stronger community.

That is the story I see every day, and it is the story that gives me great confidence in the future.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, challenging poor choices, celebrating positive ones and ensuring every young person feels they belong, we can continue to help all our young people thrive.

Kind regards,

Kate Nicholson
Principal

Calendar Dates:

Thursday 24th September – Parent Forum 6pm
Friday 25th September – Charity Football Match 3.30pm
Monday 28th September – Y11 & Y13 in class assessment week starts
Friday 2nd October – INSET day (school closed to students)
Thursday 8th October – Y7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 14th October - Y7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 14th October – Y11 Careers Day
Thursday 15th October – Y7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre Trip (half of Year 7)
Friday 16th October – Y7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre Trip (other half of Year 7)
Monday 19th to Tuesday 27th October – Half term
Wednesday 28th October – School open to students
Wednesday 28th October – Raising Achievement Evening Y13



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

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