



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Trust Review Feedback

On Monday, we hosted a teaching and learning review day organised by Tudor Grange Academies Trust. This review was extensive, and we benefitted from expertise from other Senior Leaders within our trust and a highly qualified school improvement partner with recent, relevant inspection expertise. I am delighted to report that reviewers were unanimous in their praise for Robert Smyth Academy and stated that:

- **Students are very proud to attend this school, they feel like they belong to a family.**
- **Students feel safe and have a trusted adult to whom they could refer if they have any worries.**
- **Behaviour is exceptionally good; students are attentive and enthusiastic.**
- **There is a very strong culture of mutual respect between staff and students.**
- **The school sets high expectations for students.**
- **Students work hard in lessons as evidenced by the work completed in their books.**
- **Students love the extra-curricular opportunities that the school provides.**

The review team picked out great teaching that included opportunities for students to discuss, debate and express their views. After half-term, we will be talking to students about how they can make the most of these opportunities so that they enjoy and learn even more in all subjects; an exciting development!

Trial Examinations Timetable (Year 11)

We have now shared the Trial Examination schedule with all students in Year 11. This is available for families [here](#).

We encourage students to really get stuck into revision during half-term so that they have the best chance of success in November. Revision tips for students are available [here](#).

Parents - remember to keep testing their knowledge over half-term, this is a key time when gains can be made!

Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre (Year 7)

Students in Year 7 have had a phenomenal experience at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, and this concludes a very positive start to secondary school for them. We hope that many of the stories from these days will be told around the dinner table over the coming week and that they might have even dried out!

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the families of our newest students for the way that they have contributed so richly to our school and for the way that they have embraced our school values. We are a richer, better school for the addition of so many great students this year, a sentiment that applies equally to those new Year 12 students who have joined from other institutions. We have a fantastic student body who we love to work with.

After half-term

As many families and students will have already noticed, we return to school on Monday 23rd October and begin a nine-week half-term until Friday 22nd December when we will break for the holidays.

To support student wellness during a longer term, we have organised a Teacher Training Day on Friday 1st December which we hope will provide students with an extended weekend. We also know that it is important to keep students motivated and enthused and so we will broadcast a 'Christmas Countdown' presentation for students which will feature a daily prize draw with a range of great prizes including gift cards, vouchers, confectionery, stationery, and experiences. This will begin on Thursday 30th November. As in previous years, we will also organise a 'Golden Ticket Party' for students who have secured the most positive achievement points at the end of term. All these opportunities have been planned to further encourage our students through the course of the term.



Robert Smyth Academy

Key Dates (after half-term)

- **Monday 23rd October:** Year 11 Exams Assembly
- **w/b Monday 23rd October:** Revision skills week in PSHE and Year 13 Geography Residential
- **Wednesday 25th October:** PSHE Dropdown (Lesson 1)
- **Tuesday 31st October:** Sixth Form Politics Trip
- **Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd November:** Year 10 Battlefields Trip – History Department
- **w/b Monday 6th November:** Year 11 Trial Exam week
- **Friday 10th November:** Whole School Remembrance Assembly
- **Monday 13th November:** Year 13 Exams Assembly
- **Wednesday 15th November:** PSHE Dropdown (Lesson 1) and Year 12 Health Day
- **Wednesday 15th November (evening):** Sixth Form Open Evening (6-8pm)
- **w/b Monday 20th November:** Year 7-10 in-class assessments
- **Wednesday 22nd November:** Sixth Form Open Morning
- **w/b Monday 27th November:** Year 12 in-class assessment week
- **Friday 1st December:** INSET Day – school closed to all students.
- **Tuesday 5th December:** Christmas Concert
- **Thursday 7th December:** PSHE Dropdown (Lesson 1) and Year 9 Careers Day and Workshops
- **Thursday 7th December (evening):** Year 11 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 13th December (evening):** Year 11 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **w/b Monday 18th December:** Year 13 Trial Exam week
- **w/b Monday 18th December:** Year 11 A-Level Taster Lessons
- **Friday 22nd December:** *Early finish at midday.*
- **Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January 2024:** CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Parents' Evening Dates

- **Thursday 7th December:** Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Wednesday 13th December:** Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 18th January:** Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 25th January:** Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 1st February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 8th February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Tuesday 12th March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 21st March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 23rd May:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 6th June:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)

Teacher Training Days

- **Friday 1st December**
- **Monday 29th January**
- **Friday 28th June**

I wish you and your family a happy and restful half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal