

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 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 <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

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 <a href="here">here</a>.

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)**

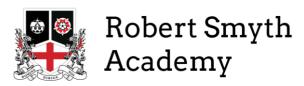
Students in Year 7 have had a phenomenal experience at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, and this concludes a very positive start to secondary school for them. We hope that many of the stories from these days will be told around the dinner table over the coming week and that they might have even dried 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October and begin a nine-week half-term until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **Key Dates (after half-term)**

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

# **Parents' Evening Dates**

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

# **Teacher Training Days**

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December
- Monday 29th January
- Friday 28th June

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

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary **Principal**