



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

## **High Expectations**

This week, it has been my privilege to lead Expectations Assemblies for all students in College groups. I felt this would be a good opportunity to share my key messages with families.

## **Purpose**

Student assemblies hold a unique role in shaping the experiences of our students. These gatherings aren't just about bringing students together; they are about fostering a sense of unity and belonging within the school community. Student assemblies provide a platform for celebrating achievements and reinforcing our school values; **Respect, Succeed, Aspire**.

At the risk of being a slightly broken (albeit hopefully welcome) record, I must express my sincere thanks to all parents for the exceptional standards of uniform and punctuality that we have seen in all assemblies. I can assure you that there is no College Leader or Form Tutor that takes your efforts for granted and it is your high expectations and aspirations that we promote in school. I would particularly mention the excellent conduct of Year 11 students who have been superb role models for the rest of the Main School and it gives me great joy to see the immense pride that our students have in themselves and in their school.

## **Key Themes**

This week, I have communicated the importance of our school values in everything that we do, we use the term, '**Values In Practice**' around the school as a daily reminder that it is our deeds as well as our words that count. Students have been reminded of the importance of respectful conduct, courtesy, and kindness in all that they do and it has been my privilege to remind them of the tradition and history of our school values

Students have all been reminded of the meaning behind our school crest which includes three key parts:

- The **Tudor Rose**: exemplifying our belonging to a wider family of schools and reflecting an era of peace and mutual respect achieved through harmony after the Wars of the Roses.
- The **Coat of Arms from the City of London**: a reference to the story of our founder, Robert Smyth, who walked from Harborough to London in 1598 and became the first Comptroller of the City of London. This reminds us of the importance of setting goals and pursuing success with bravery and courage.
- The **Market Harborough Grammar School** (*the school on stilts*): a symbol of the importance of aspiration to better ourselves and to benefit successive generations in the future including our peers.

I have also reminded students that there are no limits to what they can achieve and that they should not place any limitations on themselves, setting only the highest expectations.

## **Behaviour and Standards**

I have commended our students for their scholarship and the 32,000 achievement points earned so far, this term.

I have reiterated our expectations of behaviour and the '*red lines*' that we do not accept, as taken from our Behaviour Policy. I have also restated the school's policy on mobile phones and sanctions. At the heart of these messages there is a clear focus on the importance of respect for all and the unacceptable nature of discriminatory abuse of any form.



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## Safety and Support

We have an excellent culture of openness in the school, and this means that students share their concerns when they are worried or need support. I have reminded them of the names of our **Safeguarding Team** with pictures of each member of staff so that they know who to go to if they have any worries or concerns.

## Next steps

I hope that this gives you an insight into Expectations Assemblies this week. I always really enjoy leading these assemblies, and they happen once each half-term so that we sustain the ethos, values, and family environment that we have cultivated as a school. Ultimately, this is only possible because of your support. You are the key adults in the lives of your child, and we thank you for upholding our shared values so that students stay safe, have brilliant experiences, develop lifelong friendships, and gain great qualifications.

## Parent Survey

We are interested in the views of families, and each year we ask you to participate in our Parent View Survey. By taking part, you will be helping us to better understand your point of view. This information will be used to guide future development work:

This year, the survey will be open from **Monday 6 November** to **Friday 17 November**. It is available online and can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1cXHj9CsMd>

## Student Survey

At the same time, we will be launching an annual Student Survey, which will be posted onto **Satchel One** for students to complete from **Monday 6 November** to **Friday 17 November**.

This is an ideal opportunity to thank our student leaders, all those students who have used the Virtual Wellbeing Box facility, and the School Council for their continued support and sensible suggestions. Equally, thank you to all parents and families who have attended both the Parent Forum and SEND Parent Forum throughout the last year.

Thank you again for your ongoing support for our school.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary  
Principal



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## Key Dates (after half-term)

- **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
- **Wednesday 6<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<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> January**
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**