



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

## **Remembrance**

Last week, it was again my privilege to join Mr Davies (History), Mr Markham (Business Studies), students, staff, and Staff Sgt. Brassington in an assembly of remembrance for the fallen former students and all people impacted by wars across the world.

During this assembly, I shared the story of Donald and Roland Keech who grew up in Northamptonshire as part of a farming family and who attended The Robert Smyth Academy over one-hundred years ago. Both boys left behind their mother, father and sisters in the rush to war in September 1914. They enlisted alongside a million more volunteers to fight in the First World War. Both men would have experienced the terror and brutality of the Western Front and they were involved in a particularly awful day of fighting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1915 during the Battle of Loos. Their commanding officer recorded that the battle on this day started at 6.30am and did not end until 11.00pm, with all men in a constant state of combat with no time to eat or to stop due to the ferocity of fighting. Sadly, they were both killed in this battle along with another 400 more of their compatriots.

It was my privilege to honour their memory and their names feature on a commemorative board in Bragg Hall along with other former students who lost their lives in the World Wars. As ever we invite our students to reflect and consider the dreadful sacrifices made so that we can strive toward a future in which peace prevails.

On this note, I wish to pay a special tribute to Evie, Mason, and Harry for their contribution to remembrance ceremonies last weekend, alongside all our other children with any affiliation or connection to the military services. I must congratulate Evie for being selected to contribute to the ceremony at the Cenotaph in London. This is a significant honour, and we are all proud of our association to Evie – a true representative of our values.



***Many students participated in the Remembrance Service in Harborough on Sunday***

Credit: Mason



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## Year 11 Post-Trial Exams

Well done to Year 11 students for completing their first set of Trial Exams. We have been delighted with the approach they have taken during these key assessments. Marking of these is now underway and it is important that students engage fully with the feedback provided by their teachers. Listening carefully to teacher feedback and acting on the advice given can make a real difference to outcomes next summer.

These assessments are just one step on the journey towards success this summer and it is important that all students continue to revise regularly in the coming weeks and months. All students have been given a new Knowledge Organiser this week to support with revision, revision classes will continue to run, and students should be attending these. Details of revision sessions and tips on how to revise can be found here: [Revision support for students - Robert Smyth Academy \(tgacademy.org.uk\)](https://tgacademy.org.uk/revision-support-for-students)

## Sixth Form Admissions

It was fantastic to be able to welcome over 700 visitors to our annual Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday night including many of our Year 11 students who we know have worked hard during Trial Exams this week. We hope that this evening will have been an uplifting opportunity for students to think positively about their future and all the opportunities ahead of them.

- **The Sixth Form Prospectus (including A-Level courses)** is available [here](#)
- **The Robert Smyth Academy - Sixth Form Application Form** is available [here](#)

For all applicants, **applications should be sent to us by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024** by completing the form above. Applications after this date are possible, but there are likely to be some restrictions on the courses available as our timetable is constructed using the choices of those applying before the deadline. For questions relating to joining Robert Smyth Academy in Year 12 please contact Mr Luhrs, Head of Sixth Form.

## Sixth Form Taster Lessons

Year 11 students at RSA will be soon invited to sign up for A Level taster lessons during the final week of term, the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> December. This process will be managed by Year 11 tutors.

## Anti-Bullying Week

This week, PSHE curriculum time has been dedicated to ensuring that all students understand the impact of bullying. Students have had the opportunity to discuss physical, verbal, psychological, and online bullying so that they can recognise this behaviour and know who to go to for support.

We continue to promote the importance of speaking out so that if any student is struggling, they know who they can go to for help. Students are familiar with the 'Don't bottle it up' message, which is reinforced in assemblies, tutor time, and through communications around school. **However, we know that often children speak to their parents first, and we would invite and urge any parent with concerns about bullying to get in touch.** As parents, you may also find the information provided for Anti-Bullying Week useful. This can be found here: [Anti-Bullying Week 2023 - Parent Pack FINAL.pdf \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-parent-pack-final.pdf)

## Parent View Survey

Following my previous letter sent on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, please note that our annual Parent View Survey will close at the end of this week. If you would like to respond to this before it closes, then please do so [here](#)

Thank you again for your great support.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary  
Principal



# Robert Smyth Academy

## Key Dates

- **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<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**



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