



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

I hope that you are well and that you have had a good week particularly as the darker, colder nights draw in. Before I share our key updates, I just wanted to start this letter by recognising the brilliant contributions that so many of our parents and families are making. We have had some of the best conversations with parents that we have ever had over the course of this term and often, this has come back to a real interest and invigoration around the values of our school which we promote with real passion. I know that some parents are now regularly using the RSA Values as a tool for discussions at home and it is so uplifting to see the way that this fantastic community can do great things together.

Being the parent of a teenager is not easy but the investment that we all make in our children is ultimately an investment in faith for them to have a bright and happy future. I sincerely thank you for your partnership with our school in the interests of our students.

Male Mental Health Focus

College assemblies this week have had a focus on male mental health and Movember. There are worrying statistics surrounding male mental health and the prevalence of males seeking help when they need it. These were shared with students, alongside a focus on how to speak out if you are struggling and how to reach out if you think someone you know could be struggling. We would encourage parents to discuss this topic with students to further the conversation around male mental health. There are a number of ways in which support can be accessed both in school and out of school. In school, students can speak to tutors, college and assistant college leaders and the safeguarding team. Outside of school, we recommend www.kooth.com and Shout, a text-based mental health helpline – just text the word SHOUT to 85258.

Term Dates (2024/25)

I can confirm that we have set term dates in line with Leicestershire Local Authority for the new academic year.

These dates have been published on the school website. All Teacher Training days (INSET) will be confirmed by the end of the Spring Term:

Thursday 15th August – A-Level Results Collection Day (Year 13)

Thursday 22nd August – GCSE Results Collection Day (Year 11)

Autumn Term (2024)

Tuesday 27th August – INSET Day

Wednesday 28th August – Year 7 only

Thursday 29th August – All year groups *except* for Year 12

Monday 21st – Friday 25th October – October Half-Term

Friday 20th December – Final Day of Term (school closes at midday)

School closed for Christmas.

Spring Term (2025)

Monday 6th January 2025 – First Day of Term

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February – February Half-Term

Friday 11th April – Final Day of Term

School closed for Easter.

Summer Term (2025)

Monday 28th April – First Day of Term

Monday 5th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May – May Half-Term

Friday 11th July – Final Day of Term

School closed for Summer.



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Reminders for next week

Please note that next week students in **Year 7-10** will continue to complete their **first key assessments** of the academic year and that Year 12 students will also begin this process.

Students in Year 11 will continue to receive their **Trial Examination feedback** in the coming week. Last week, all students were given their scores and feedback for **GCSE English and Maths**. Parents will receive a report based on these assessments before the end of term.

A reminder that the school is closed to all students on **Friday 1st December** as this is a Teacher Training Day. We hope that students will appreciate the opportunity for an additional day of rest and that this makes the first advent chocolate of the season even more enjoyable. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 4th December, the first day of our regular Christmas Countdown Prize Draw, to offer further encouragement toward the end of term.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal

Key Dates

- **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**