



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Everyday Hero Winner (2023)

I must begin this final letter of 2023, by wholeheartedly thanking all families for their amazing support of the school. This has been such a strong theme of the last two weeks of term with the 300+ nominations for members of staff at Robert Smyth Academy toward the 'Everyday Hero Award'. We have shared all your kind words with the staff who have been recognised and this week it was my privilege to visit lessons to congratulate colleagues who received the highest number of nominations.

I am delighted to confirm that the winner of this year's overall prize is **Mr Harrison (Teacher of History)** who received the most nominations for his sterling work and dedication. Congratulations to Mr Harrison!

Peer Mentoring Opportunities (New in 2024!)

Robert Smyth Academy aspires to be the best place of student leadership because of the hotbed of talent in our school and as a result, we are launching a brand-new Peer Mentoring scheme in the Spring Term.

What is Peer Mentoring?

Peer mentoring is a form of mentorship that involves individuals of similar age, experience level, or background providing support, guidance, and advice to each other. It is our hope that whoever is successful in securing one of these roles will be instrumental in promoting and instilling our core values of respect, success, and aspiration.

Who can apply?

Students from Year 7-11 who feel they could offer their peers support and guidance within the school setting. **See job description on Satchel One (posted on Monday 18th December).**

When will mentoring take place?

Students will be expected to use some of their social time to deliver mentoring.

How can students apply?

Those interested will be required to write a letter of application (no longer than one side of A4) to Mr Cleary (Principal), detailing why they feel suited to the role and how they would apply their skills to support others. Training will be compulsory and provided by the school, however, please note that most of this training will be completed at home. **The deadline for applications is Wednesday 17th January.**

Students who apply for this position will be selected for interview with the Mr Cleary (Principal) and will be provided with a detailed debrief on their performance. Students who are successful will be awarded with a **Peer Mentoring badge** and the **opportunity to complete the SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation.**

We are really looking forward to welcoming applications from our students!

Merry Christmas

Whatever your family convention at Christmas, whether you celebrate with the traditional lunch or subscribe to the phenomenon of seeking out a local KFC (very popular in parts of Japan). I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas together and I look forward to warmly welcoming our students back for a super 2024.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



Robert Smyth Academy

Key Dates

- **Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January 2024: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**
- **Monday 8th January:** All students return to school for the first day of the Spring Term.
- **Tuesday 16th January:** Sixth Form Open Morning
- **Wednesday 17th January:** SEND Parent Forum (6-7pm)
- **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 25th January:** Parent Forum (6-7pm)
- **Friday 26th January:** PSHE Dropdown (P1), Science Live Conference
- **Monday 29th January:** Trust Inset Day (school closed to students)
- **Thursday 1st February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Saturday 3rd February:** Primary School STEM Conference
- **Wednesday 7th February:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (appointment only)
- **Thursday 8th February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 12th February:** Year 9 Options Evening (6 – 7.30pm)
- **Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February: FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**
- **Tuesday 27th February:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Monday 4th March:** Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- **Tuesday 12th March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 18th March:** Year 7-9 in-class assessments begin (4-week window)
- **Thursday 21st March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April: EASTER HOLIDAY**

Parents' Evening Dates (Summer Term)

- **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 (Summer Term)

- **Friday 28th June**

Term Dates (2024/25), as previously communicated, can be found [here](#).



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust