



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

## **Year 11: Key information**

On Monday, all Year 11 students attended an assembly to outline the support available to them as they head into a crucial time. **Students have only 13-weeks until the beginning of GCSE final examinations** and many assessments have already started, and some will happen before this date.

This is when the hard work will pay the greatest dividends, and it is essential that students have every opportunity to make this time count. In that spirit, we felt that it was appropriate to give families of Year 11 students the opportunity to gain an insight into key information that students have received so that we can continue to work in partnership to make the Spring Term as successful as possible, to maximise achievement for our students and uplift their aspirations for the future.

## **Intervention Classes**

One of the key messages that we shared with Year 11 this week was that we are in their corner and that we are all committed to helping them achieve well and open as many doors as possible in the future. As part of this, we have republished the GCSE intervention classes that will be available to students to support their preparation for GCSE success. We strongly encourage parents and families to give students the permission and support to prioritise their studies during this crucial time so that they are well placed to succeed in the future.

Parents can find the list of intervention classes [here](#).

## **Trial Examinations**

All students in Year 11 will embark upon their second set of Trial Examinations beginning on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** and then continuing after February half-term until **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. Students should have a copy of the Trial Examination Timetable at home either on the fridge, a bedroom wall or a kitchen table so that they have the best opportunity to prepare well.

This timetable is available to parents [here](#).

## **What revision should they be doing now?**

To achieve success and to avoid disappointment in the summer, all students should be engaged in regular revision activities in addition to set homework. We have reminded students of the key tenets of successful revision throughout their experience of Key Stage 4. Students will not achieve their potential or secure the best grades possible without hard work in advance of the final GCSE examinations.

Information about '**How to Revise**' is available to parents [here](#).

## **Sixth Form Applications**

### **Deadline: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

We are looking forward to welcoming another highly motivated and hardworking cohort to join our Sixth Form in September as they begin Year 12 and take the first steps towards Advanced Level Study (A-Level). In comparison with last year, we have already seen an increase in external applications, and we have reminded our students that they should complete our online application form by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**, if they intend to pursue A-Levels.

Parents can access the **application form** [here](#) and view the **course prospectus** [here](#).



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## **Raising Achievement Evening (invitation only)**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Following our Raising Achievement launch event in the Autumn Term, there will be opportunities to discuss the progress of individuals based on assessments. Teachers will contact parents of students who they wish to meet to review performance in their subject and revision with the aim of raising achievement prior to the examinations.

If you would like to get in touch to request a conversation to discuss your child's achievement, please email here: [office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk)

## **GCSE Preparation Time (Core PE only)**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, Year 11 students who would have been timetabled for **Core PE** during lesson two or three will participate in revision or intervention classes at this time and so they will not need a PE kit unless they have been selected to participate in the PE Lock-In event. On this day, Year 11 students should bring revision and independent study materials and they will be assigned to a teacher who will supervise revision or lead intervention depending on availability. Please note that all students will go to lessons as normal during lesson one and if they do not have a Core PE lesson on this day the timetable is unchanged.

The schedule for these classes will be published to students on **Satchel One** by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

## **GCSE Final Examinations**

A **timetable** for the **GCSE Final Examinations** is attached. Where this is a clash, our exams officer will factor a rescheduled exam into individual timetables. All students will receive an individual exam timetable nearer to the summer exam run.

Also attached are three other documents with key information relevant to the final examinations. This information comes directly from JCQ, the body who award qualifications and it is therefore imperative that the information is read and understood. Firstly **NEA Guidance**, which applies to any element of Non-Examined Assessment in any subject e.g. practical work. Secondly, a advice sheet on **how to prepare for exams**. Thirdly, guidelines on the **use of social media**. All students in Year 11 have been given a printed copy of all three documents.

We also need to make you aware that the **Exams Contingency Day** for both GCSEs and A levels is **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June** and students should not be booking holidays before then. In the event of any national disruption to the exam run, this is when exams would be rescheduled and students must be available until this date.

## **The Prom at Robert Smyth Academy**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

We have been busily working with the Prom Committee to prepare for another momentous celebration and occasion to honour and celebrate students in this year group. The Prom is a rite of passage that students will talk about for years to come, and we are looking forward to celebrating this in the summer. I must use this opportunity to remind parents that invitation to The Prom is a privilege and we will only permit attendance from students who have acted in accordance with our school values. **Please note that Senior Leadership Team may withdraw invitations due to poor conduct or behaviour.**



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## GCSE Results Day

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Examination results will be available for collection on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** between 8.00 am and 9.00am. Results may only be collected by a parent or guardian providing they have a letter of consent, signed by the student, and suitable identification is produced. Results cannot be given by telephone, via e-mail or to a friend.

Thank you again for your support. It isn't easy being a Year 11 student (or even their parent!) and it is so important that we encourage students to work hard and engage in revision. We have so many brilliant, aspirational students and we are committed to supporting them to achieve and exceed their target grades. We will publish information regarding Easter Revision and Study Leave after February half-term.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary  
Principal

## Key Dates: Spring Term

- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January:** Parent Forum (6-7pm)
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January:** PSHE Dropdown (P1), Science Live Conference
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January:** Trust Inset Day (school closed to students)
- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Primary School STEM Conference
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (appointment only)
- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 9 Options Evening (6 – 7.30pm)
  
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:** FEBRUARY HALF-TERM
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 7-9 in-class assessments begin (4-week window)
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
  
- **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** EASTER HOLIDAY

## Parents' Evening Dates (Summer Term)

- **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 (Summer Term)

- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

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