



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Revision and Exam Preparation: Year 11

As our magnificent Year 11 students embark upon the big final push, we have held an assembly to explain the process for the following weeks ahead. I outlined this information to parents in my letter dated 22nd March. At this stage, parents should assist students with testing their knowledge more regularly to build confidence ahead of the impending national examinations. Of course, whilst Dance and Art assessments took place this week and MFL speaking assessments will shortly commence, many students will rightly have an eye on Friday 10th May, following the Bank Holiday weekend when all students will undertake their GCSE Science (Biology) examination in the morning as a whole cohort. On mornings like this, we strongly encourage students to come into school early for a complimentary GCSE Examination breakfast in Sixteen07, and we will be on hand to encourage them and keep them calm so that all students can do their best. We thank parents for taking a proactive and supportive role in the coming weeks – the students have been well prepared and with ongoing revision, they have every reason to feel confident.

The Big Sleepover: Year 7

I want to thank our amazing staff and students for organising the ‘*The Big Sleepover*’ event to raise money for the Prom in the summer term. This was a great opportunity, and I particularly enjoyed seeing the energy and enthusiasm from students who participated in a marathon ‘Just Dance’ session with Miss Dowling’s instruction at the beginning of the evening. I know the students had a great time.

Mass Movement

Thank you to Mrs Routledge and a special congratulations to the RSA Dance Company for participating in and contributing to this year’s ‘Mass Movement’ event in Leicester. This event showcases the best talent in the region, and our students have contributed fantastically to a dance festival. I want to thank Mrs Routledge for her ongoing enthusiasm and passion, which are infectious and valued by students.

County Champions: Year 10 - Football

This week has been an incredible showcase of the sporting talent of our school. I must congratulate the boys who won the County Cup on Wednesday participating in a hard-fought win against Rawlins Academy at the official training complex adopted by Leicester City FC. I wish to pay tribute to Mr Harrison and Mr Scully for their support of the boys and the captain, Riley and vice-captain, Ronnie, for their leadership. Beyond the victory, what I was most impressed with was the valiant way that the boys played and their excellent conduct.

County Champions: Key Stage 3 - Swimming

Following on from this report on our footballing successes, I must congratulate the Key Stage 3 Swimming Team for winning the County Championship this week, an incredible achievement! Our Key Stage 4 group also performed exceptionally well and came second in their competition. My sincere congratulations to all involved!

Music for Youth Performance by Mr Hughes (Head of Performing Arts)

On the first Saturday of the Easter holidays, Mr Hughes and Miss Tidley took the Academy’s Jazz band, Secret Choir, and Soul Patrol to the Music For Youth (MFY) Regional Festival at Northampton School for Boys. The Music For Youth festivals occur across the country at many locations and are a way to gain performance experience and receive feedback from professional music ‘mentors’.

There were three other ensembles performing from local private schools and music services, so we were very much dominating the session, but it was great for our students to hear the other ensembles performing in different styles and at different abilities, as well as perform in the beautiful ‘Cripps Hall Theatre’ at the school.



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First up was the 6th form 'Secret Choir' who started their set with a 7-part acapella arrangement of 'Hold Back the River' by James Bay, followed by a 4-part arrangement of 'Stand by Me' by Ben E. King. They concluded their set with a 6-part performance of 'Higher and Higher' by Jackie Wilson.

The Mentors' comments included:

- Wonderful energy to the singing. Sonorous, rich and such an open and communicative style
- Collective sound and feeling of unity well managed through the breath - which had a rousing effect!
- A rousing, confident and soulful performance

Next was the Jazz band who started their set with 'Shake, Twist, and Jump' by Erik Morales, followed by 'Grooved Pavement' by Victor Lopez, and concluded with this year's Jazz band favourite, 'Sing, Sing, Sing' by Louis Prima. All pieces featured solos by 6th formers Freya and Zach on Saxophone, with Olly in year 10 unleashing a drum solo towards the end of the set.

The Mentors' comments included:

- You're really good at that Jump/Jive feel with a solid swing.
- Your music is really pacey and your drummer provided a really solid backbeat throughout.
- The soloists were fantastic and made very strong opening statements to all of their solos, which is vital when crafting solos.

Our final performers were 'Soul Patrol' who performed 'Mustang Sally' with Liam on lead vocals, followed by 'Lady Marmalade' featuring many vocal solos.

The Mentors' comments included:

- Wow! This is a big band and it was very good that you opened up with a big statement.
- The drop ins and out were very tight.
- I felt that this band has a firm grasp of rhythm and groove.
- Vocals had such a strong projection.... lovely to hear the gravel in the voice too!

If you would like to see some of the performances, then please access the Performing Arts account on X by searching for @RSAPerfArts.

Warmer weather

Despite the imposition of yet more rain, we are hopeful that the summer will appear at some point soon. In preparation for this we remind parents that students should bring a water bottle to school as bottle filling stations are available and that we do not give out temporary plastic cups.

We also ask that students do not bring in aerosols and deodorant sprays as they are not appropriate for school, and they are known to impact people with asthma.

I hope you have a great weekend ahead enhanced by warmer and brighter weather.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



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Key Dates: Summer Term

- **Thursday 2nd May:** Year 7 Careers Morning
- **Monday 6th May:** Bank Holiday (school closed)
- **Monday 7th May:** Reading and Spelling Test Week
- **Wednesday 8th May:** Dance Show
- **Thursday 9th May:** Year 13 Leavers Dinner Bistro Live
- **Thursday 23rd May:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 27th – 31st May:** MAY HALF-TERM

- **Monday 3rd June:** Year 7 Humanities Residential
- **Friday 7th June:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Monday 10th June:** PE Adventurous Residential
- **Tuesday 11th June:** Year 8 Careers Day
- **Monday 17th June:** Sports Awards Evening
- **Friday 21st June:** Year 10 Faith Forum
- **Monday 24th June:** Year 9 MFL Residentials
- **Monday 24th June:** Year 10 Work Experience Week
- **Tuesday 25th June:** Year 12 Road Safety Day
- **Tuesday 25th June:** Year 12 UCAS Information Evening (6-7pm)
- **Wednesday 26th June:** Year 12 Careers Day
- **Wednesday 26th June:** Key Stage 3 Enterprise Day
- **Thursday 27th June:** Year 12 Faith Forum
- **Thursday 27th June:** Year 11 Prom (From 6.30pm)
- **Friday 28th June:** Teacher Training Day (school closed)
- **Monday 1st July:** Year 6 Meet the Tutor Evening (5-8pm; times TBC)
- **Tuesday 2nd July:** Year 6 Induction Day
- **Tuesday 2nd July:** Year 10 Careers Day
- **Wednesday 3rd July:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Wednesday 3rd July:** Summer Concert
- **Thursday 4th July:** Summer Concert
- **Thursday 4th July:** Sports Day (a change to the previously publicised date)
- **Wednesday 10th July:** End of Year Trips

- **Thursday 11th July:** SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS

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](#).