



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

ELECTRIFYING THE MIDLAND MAIN LINE

I am writing to inform you that the railway between Kettering and Wigston will be **electrified** as part of the ongoing programme to electrify the Midland Main Line.

As parents, you should talk to your child about the potential dangers and inform them to take extra care when in the vicinity of the railway:

From 28 July 2024, the overhead power lines suspended above the track from Kettering station to South Wigston station will be electrified and will remain electrified.

The overhead line will be energised at 25,000 volts, alternating current at 50Hz frequency. It is extremely dangerous for anyone to be in proximity (9ft) to the equipment, including supporting masts, switch feeds, and cables.

To learn more about the Midland Main Line upgrade, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk/mml

Thank a Teacher Day – Wednesday 19th June 2024

Wednesday, June 19th, is national 'Thank a Teacher Day'. The campaign recognises school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff.

We strongly urge families and students to take 2-minutes to complete a nomination via the website below. These messages are amongst the best moments of the year for teachers and support staff:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Message from Mrs Coxon and the Eco-Committee

The eagle eyed among you may have noticed that we have had bird boxes installed here at school. The bird boxes are designed to tailor swift nesting sites across Leicestershire. Thanks to James and Andy, the boxes were installed over the half term by Jools and Julie from Swift Action.



The Eco-committee at Robert Smyth are proud to be part of an initiative to help increase nesting sites for swifts which have been in a sharp decline in recent years. The boxes have been placed on North facing walls with an electronic bird-calling system which mimics the swifts' calls, to attract potential nesting pairs. The swifts are known to nest in colonies and have a fascinating life cycle.

Swifts only land after 2 – 3 years, they eat, bathe, sleep and mate on the wing, they are very amenable nesters, cause little disruption with very little mess around their nests.

If you would like to find out more or have a tailored swift nest on your property, see the following website:

<https://harboroughfm.co.uk/swift-boxes-installed-in-bid-to-boost-threatened-bird-population/>



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Educational Visit Report: Blood Brothers Review by Soraiya (Year 10)

On Sunday 19th May, a group of excited students watched an amazing performance of Blood Brothers (the play version) at Market Harborough Theatre. With Alistair Beeson as Mickey and Norman Nickason as Edward, the dramatic tale of the twins separated at birth was masterfully staged, with minimal but impactful set and props.

As the lights came up in the opening scene, Mrs Johnstone (Lisa McLean) sang an emotionally charged rendition of 'Marilyn Monroe'. This was a powerful way to open the show, with the warm lighting of her home contrasted with the cold blue light that appeared as the narrator stalked onto the stage, possibly symbolising the darkness and sorrow that was to come.

Later in the play, Edward and Mickey meet outside Mrs Johnstone's house. Both actors had mastered the mannerisms and emotional expressions of seven-year-olds, with Mickey employing an intelligently crafted vocal tone that changed and matured as the show continued.

At the show's climax, tensions were high as shots were fired and revelations made. One highlight was when Mrs Lyons burst through the doors at the bottom of the auditorium, wild-eyed and furious, and Mrs Johnstone tumbled down the stairs, spotlit and scared. The acting from all in this scene (and throughout the play) was of high calibre, the atmosphere was intense and dramatic, and the use of lighting was clever – especially the use of strobe upon the brothers' deaths, calling to mind police lights or a heartbeat. In short, it had all the important elements of a great show.

After the bows, the actors and director, Howard James, answered several interesting questions from eager students – it was very insightful!

In summary, Market Harborough Drama Society's production of Blood Brothers was very impressive, with well-considered characterisation, and I am sure many students would love to return!

Message from Caterlink: Catering Survey

As your catering provider we value feedback from all stakeholders to help us improve our service to you and your pupils. This term we are opening a parent survey on meal provision. Parents can complete this survey to share their views: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CN9XYWJ>

The survey will close on 31st July, and we will provide an update in the Autumn Term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's letter. I must sign off with two final reminders: firstly, as we approach a General Election, I should remind our older students that they can register to vote [here](#).

Finally, in advance of the European Championships, I would ask that all students continue to be optimistic about the fate of the England National Football Team, even when older, more emotionally bruised and embittered supporters (self-description ends here...) probably know how it will work out, in the end.

Don't stop believing!

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



Robert Smyth Academy

Key Dates: Summer Term

- **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 (6-7 pm)
- **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 6.30 pm)
- **Friday 28th June:** Teacher Training Day (school closed)
- **Monday 1st July:** Year 6 Meet the Tutor Evening (5-8 pm)
- **Tuesday 2nd July:** Year 6 Induction Day
- **Tuesday 2nd July:** Year 10 Careers Day
- **Tuesday 2nd July:** Rock recital showcase (3.30– 5pm) Main Hall
- **Wednesday 3rd July:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Wednesday 3rd July:** Summer Concert
- **Thursday 4th July:** Summer Concert
- **Thursday 4th July:** Sports Day
- **Tuesday 9th July:** Art, Design and Textiles Exhibition (5-7pm) Main Hall and Bragg Hall
- **Wednesday 10th July:** End of Year Trips
- **Thursday 11th July:** SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS

Teacher Training Days (Summer Term)

- **Friday 28th June**

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



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