



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Summer Term - updates

It has been a fantastic week at school, beginning with the annual Sports Awards Presentation Evening, and I must start by expressing my thanks to our PE Team for their organisation of this event and their ongoing hard work to provide students with so many sporting and leadership opportunities, this is great work. Students in Year 10 have all participated in the Faith Matters Forum which is an important opportunity to meet and engage with representatives of the major world faiths. I know that students have had an intense fortnight of assessments, and this is all an important investment into future success in Year 11 and GCSE Examinations.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to all our many staff who have been away from home in the last fortnight as part of providing fantastic residential experiences for students including two great visits to Derbyshire and France and as part of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The kaleidoscope of opportunities will continue as students venture to Normandy, Cologne and Barcelona next week.

As part of our enrichment programme for students, I wanted to draw your attention to forthcoming events:

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Next week, the majority of Year 10 students will be out of school on work experience placements and we hope this week goes well. A lot of work has been invested by both parents and staff in making these placements happen, particularly in light of a recent legislation change. However, it is time well spent as these are invaluable opportunities for students, many of whom will continue a relationship with their employer beyond next week.

On Monday, students had an assembly with final instructions regarding work experience and were given a log book to take to their placements and complete. A key thing to remember is that in case of illness, please contact the employer to report absence, not the school.

Work experience will be followed on Tuesday 2nd July with a Year 10 Careers Day for all students including a mock interview scenario with volunteers from local workplaces. This is another key opportunity to access careers education and feel better informed and prepared for the world of work.

Year 12 Enrichment Week

In the week beginning 24th June we have a series of events to enrich the curriculum of our Year 12 students:

Monday 24th June

UCAS Discovery Event at the NEC, Birmingham

Students will be able to speak with representatives from over 100 UK universities as well as apprenticeship providers. Students should register and then meet at the playground outside the Sixth Form Centre at 9.00am.

Tuesday 25th June

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service are delivering a programme of activities to raise awareness of the dangers associated with driving. The content will be hard-hitting at times but will arm students with the knowledge and advice to avoid accidents and injury. In the afternoon we will be joined by Paul Hannaford, a speaker with experience of the dangers of drugs and crime.



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Wednesday 26th June

This full day has a focus on post-18 planning, with workshops to support university admissions as well as apprenticeships and job-seeking. The day will provide space for students to work on aspects of their post-18 planning with the help of the Sixth Form Team. In the afternoon, representatives from several career paths will be presenting to groups of students about their work, with the opportunity for questions to be asked.

Thursday 27th June

This half-day is about faith and belief. We have representatives from major world faiths joining us for an event focused on the big questions.

KS3 Enterprise Day

Next Wednesday, all students in Year 7 will take part in our annual Enterprise Day. Students will be entrepreneurs for the day and will work in teams with support of an advisor from a real business enterprise. It is a fantastic day, and we are looking forward to identifying the entrepreneurs of the future.

Lockdown Simulation

We take our responsibility for the safety and welfare of our students very seriously and we have a statutory responsibility to manage a range of policies to ensure that every child is kept safe.

As a school, we adhere to a lockdown management procedure which has been developed in partnership with emergency management specialists who have facilitated training for our staff and as a next step we will conduct a lockdown simulation exercise before the end of term so that we can evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of our current arrangements.

What is a Lockdown Procedure?

A Lockdown Procedure provides the steps that can be taken to prevent threats and intruders from gaining access into school buildings and preventing them from moving through the building until the police arrive to take control of the situation. This is achieved through actions and physical measures in response to warnings of threats that are about to happen.

Misconceptions...

This is not to be confused with a COVID related lockdown, whereby children are sent home from school nor is it the same as a fire evacuation procedure whereby all children and staff are gathered at the assembly point.

What is the purpose of a Lockdown Simulation?

The purpose of the simulation exercise is to ensure that staff and students can understand how to respond in the event of a genuine lockdown scenario. This follows the basic premise of conducting a fire evacuation procedure; to ensure that everyone is kept safe from harm because everyone understands the procedures.

What will happen during a Lockdown Simulation?

The school uses a signal that is known to all staff which will be used to initiate the lockdown. When this signal is given, all staff will follow the lockdown procedures which include ensuring that doors and windows are closed and that students do not leave their classroom or, if they are not in a classroom, that they go safely to the nearest available room. Students will be reminded that they should stay calm, and they will be asked to switch off their mobile phone devices and wait quietly and await further instruction.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Site Team will coordinate this lockdown to ensure that procedures are followed. This will mirror the dynamic approach that would take place in 'real time'.



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What will happen at the end of the Lockdown Simulation?

A signal will be issued to staff to notify them that the scenario is 'all-clear'.

We will then evaluate the exercise based on feedback from staff and students and a debriefing will take place in the Autumn Term, at the beginning of the new academic year when all students have started school.

What adjustments will be made for children who might be anxious or have Special Educational Needs?

All students will be provided with a briefing in College Assemblies so that they understand the key information as set out in this letter. We will proactively identify and provide personalised guidance for individuals who may need further support given specific needs.

I hope that this provides you with sufficient clarity. There is no need for students to feel alarmed or worried in advance of this event, it is a good opportunity to make sure that we have the capacity and resilience to manage in a worst-case scenario.

If you have any questions, you may contact office@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk.

Year 11 Prom and Leaver's Hoodies

Year 11 Prom will be held on **Thursday, June 27th**, with cars arriving from 6:30pm at the front of the Academy. The theme this year is **Met Gala**. To make the event a special occasion, the Prom Committee has worked very hard to raise funds and has booked the following:

- 3 full-size tipis with woven matting flooring and poles wrapped in fairy lights
- A festoon light walkway up to and around the entrance
- Vintage chrome spotlights
- Ivy-wrapped poles
- A parquet dance floor with a large disco ball
- A band extension to house our DJ and a drinks station serving mocktails and soft drinks
- The entrance of the tipi will be decorated with black and gold round paper lanterns and antique brass candlesticks.

Prom tickets will be issued via email upon return of all borrowed books and repayment of any monies owed to lunch accounts by June 21st.

We have also raised money for an official photographer for your arrivals. Prom photos will be uploaded directly to the Academy's website. However, in order to comply with GDPR, we will require students to sign a form to give authorisation for their image to be used. This will be available on the night for students to sign.

Alcohol/Smoking Policy: There is a strict no alcohol or smoking on-site policy for students attending the Prom. If students are found smoking/intoxicated or with alcohol, they will be escorted off-site immediately. The Academy retains the right to withdraw permission to attend if standards of attendance, punctuality, or conduct are a cause for concern.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



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Leavers Hoodies that have been pre-ordered are available from the Main Reception (not Student Services) from Tuesday 18th June.

Old Uniform can be donation at the main reception where there will be a box for pre-loved good items and a box for any unwearable pre-loved items that will be collected by a recycling company.

Tippex/Correcting fluids

A reminder that Tippex and other correcting fluids should not be brought into school. These products are sold as 18+ products because of the health hazards associated with them and, as such, should not be brought into or used in school.

Year 6 Induction

On Tuesday 2 July, Year 6 students will join us on Induction Day following their Meet the Tutor Evening on Monday 1st. This is such an important start to their time at Robert Smyth and I am confident that the Year 7 Form Representatives who are attending on the evening and assisting during Induction Day will do an excellent job of welcoming these students into our community and supporting them through their transition from primary school. It is a time for understandable nerves and so we remind students to be as welcoming and helpful as possible on those days. Meet the Tutor Evening takes place from 5.00pm-7.00pm and Induction Day from 8.45am - 3.15pm.

Teacher Training Day - Friday 28th June

A final reminder that the school is closed to all students on Friday 28th June as this is a Teacher Training Day.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this letter and I wish you a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



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Robert Smyth Academy

Key Dates: Summer Term

- **Monday 24th June:** Year 9 MFL Residentials
- **Monday 24th June:** Year 10 Work Experience Week / Year 12 Enrichment 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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