



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Feedback

Our school is committed to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment by actively seeking and responding to feedback from our community. We have established several channels to ensure every voice is heard and valued. Our Staff Well-being Forum provides a dedicated space for our staff to share their insights and suggestions, while the School Council empowers students to contribute their perspectives on school matters. The Parent Forum and SEND Parent Forum offer parents and families opportunities to discuss their experiences and provide valuable input on various aspects of school life. Additionally, our Tutor Briefings facilitate regular communication between Form Tutors, Heads of Year, Assistant College Leaders and College Leaders, ensuring that individual needs and concerns are addressed promptly.

We also prioritise daily interactions with students during lesson visits and on corridor duty, allowing us to gather real-time feedback and foster a supportive school atmosphere. To give you a sense, this involves a rota of 200 specific duty points over the timetabled fortnight; it does not happen by chance! Together, these initiatives help us continuously improve and create a positive learning environment for all.

Key Themes

Our Staff Well-Being Forum met two weeks ago, and the meeting was **highly positive**. The staff were enthusiastic about the **lesson length, behaviour around school, learning routines, and private study**. Similarly, we have had the privilege of meeting with the School Council, who have reflected positively on the **lesson length change** and the **introduction of VIP Cards to ensure good behaviour in corridors**.

We welcomed a SEND Parent Forum two weeks ago; many parents attended this session. Parents reported the **60-minute lesson length's positive impact on behaviour and well-being at home**, making a big difference in learning. This was also a great opportunity to discuss the **communication channels** available.

Last week, we welcomed a group of parents to school for a Parent Forum, and we were so grateful to this group for their insights. We had a great discussion about their children's school experience, which was **wholly positive**, including their experience of **homework and private study** in Sixth Form. We discussed parental interest in the elements of the school being more visible on social media and a request for a presence on Instagram in the future. We are delighted those parents reflected on the **excellent quality of communication they receive from the school**, and we will continue to make this a priority.

As a next step, we will provide all students with access to a survey in the coming weeks to find out more about how the term has started for them, and we invite you to complete a separate Parent Feedback Form to let us know more about the sort of information that you would find to be most valuable:

<https://forms.office.com/e/LBiZ0aATCk>

Parent and Community Governor Vacancies

We are keen to recruit a Parent and Community Governor as we have two vacancies. If this is something that interests you, then you will need to read the attached letter containing guidance on how to apply.

Thank you once again for reading this letter. I know there is so much information to manage as a parent, and we aspire to ensure that you are well-informed to best support your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal