



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Male Mental Health Focus

Last week, an assembly was delivered to all students in Years 7-11 on the subject of Male Health. This aligned with Movember, an initiative started in 2003 and now internationally recognised, meaning this month is an annual opportunity to shine a light on male mental health awareness. The assembly was led by Mr Copp and covered aspects of both mental and physical health with a particular focus on seeking help and communicating with others if you need support.

This is an important topic for us to cover because of the statistical evidence that shows that males are much less likely to actively seek out the support they need.

Mr Copp was joined by Mr Markham and Mr Tucker to discuss male role models and the invaluable part they can play in an individual's life. By sharing their personal experiences, they were able to show how role models can come from within our families, from members of staff and also from peers.

Mr Copp also highlighted how individuals can seek support if they need to talk about any of the issues raised. This includes **My Voice** on the RSA website and **Teen Health**, who visit the academy regularly to support individual students with a range of issues they are dealing with. Students can also access good information and support via the **Kooth** website www.kooth.com and a text based mental health service **SHOUT 85258**.

The most important message was to communicate, so we appreciate you discussing this subject at home as well.

Term Dates (2025/26)

I can confirm that we have set term dates in line with Leicestershire Local Authority for the new academic year.

These dates have been published on the school website. All Teacher Training days (INSET) will be confirmed by the end of the Spring Term:

Thursday 14th August 2025 – A-Level Results Collection Day (Year 13)

Thursday 21st August 2025 – GCSE Results Collection Day (Year 11)

Autumn Term (2025)

Tuesday 26th August – INSET Day

Wednesday 27th August – Year 7 start & Year 12 induction

Thursday 28th August – Years 7, 11 and 13 in school

Friday 29th August – All year groups in school *except for Year 12*

Monday 1st September – Year 12 lessons commence

Monday 20th – Friday 24th October – October Half-Term

Friday 28th November – INSET Day

Friday 19th December – Final Day of Term (school closes at midday)

School closed for Christmas.



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust



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Spring Term (2026)

Monday 5th January 2026 – First Day of Term

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – February Half-Term

Friday 27th March – Final Day of Term

School closed for Easter.

Summer Term (2026)

Monday 13th April – First Day of Term

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 25th – Friday 29th May – May Half-Term

Friday 10th July – Final Day of Term

School closed for Summer.

Christmas Countdown

Next week, we will begin a daily **Christmas Countdown Prize Draw**. This draw takes place across the school at 9.05am and it is presented by Miss Nicholson and I during the final weeks of term to allow students to reflect on school values and for us to inject a bit of fun at the conclusion a long, intense term. Students will only be eligible to receive their prize if they are in school on the day of a successful draw (i.e. “in it to win it...”).

Finally, a reminder that the school is closed to all students **tomorrow, Friday 29th November**, as this is a Teacher Training Day. We hope that students will appreciate the opportunity for an extra day of rest and that this makes the first advent chocolate of the season even more enjoyable on Sunday morning. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday, the first Christmas Countdown Prize Draw, to offer further encouragement and, perhaps even a shade of levity, toward the end of term.

Have a great weekend and good luck with the Christmas shopping!

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal