



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

In December, we were visited by a Monitoring and Evaluation Team working on behalf of Tudor Grange Academies Trust. This team comprised a selection of highly experienced professionals with significant school inspection experience. The team conducted a thorough two-day review of the quality of education and experiences for students at Robert Smyth Academy, and we are delighted to share the feedback in this letter.

Quality of Education:

- Teachers are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their subjects
- Teachers create lessons that are engaging
- Teachers have strong relationships with students, making them feel comfortable and eager to learn
- Subject leaders plan thoroughly and have a clear understanding of what students need to learn

Support for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEND):

- Impressive support for students with SEND
- Pupil Profiles are detailed, up to date and help teachers provide the best support
- There is a proactive approach to improving reading with targeted support
- Redwood – our Communication & Interaction base was highlighted for its effective teaching methods and the confidence it builds in students

Behaviour & Attendance:

- High expectations for behaviour were commended
- Effective reward system
- Consistently applied behaviour policy
- Praised the support offered to help students improve their behaviour
- Praise for the above National average attendance figures
- Effective practices for helping to improve attendance

Personal Development:

- Highly positive about the personal development curriculum based on our school values
- Impressed by our 'Values in Practice' Award, which recognises students' participation and embodies our values
- Wide range of leadership roles and extra-curricular activities on offer
- One of the best careers' provision they had seen in a school

Sixth Form:

- Broad and ambitious offer of 26 A level subjects
- Strong attendance and punctuality
- High retention rates
- Rich personal development opportunities, including music, drama, sports and volunteering

Safeguarding

- High staff presence at all times
- Clear procedures in place to keep students safe
- Understanding amongst students of where to go to get help



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Student Feedback:

- Students are confident that the school will support them
- Students feel safe
- Students feel respected
- Students understand healthy relationships and online safety
- Students understand and agree with the school's values

Next steps – following this visit we are committed to improving further still by having

- A focus on expanding our extra-curricular provision to ensure **all** students have experiences outside of the classroom
- Prioritising rigorous checking for understanding in every lesson, using tools such as mini whiteboards

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

This was a hugely positive experience for the school and that would not be the case without your support. Ways to get involved:

- Parent forum – this will take on **Thursday 6th March 6-7pm** and parents of students in all years are welcome to join Ms Kirk and I to discuss our next steps and any other aspect of school life
- Parent governor – this is a great way to become involved at RSA, gaining an insight into the workings of the school. If you are interested joining this great team, then please contact Mrs Wood, Clerk to the Governors in the first instance cwood@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk

Final Words from the Monitoring and Evaluation Team

Every member of the team that visited said that they would be delighted for their children to attend Robert Smyth Academy – what better feedback could we have received from experienced inspectors? Thank you for making it possible, your contribution and support is vital.

I hope you have a restful and rejuvenating weekend.

Kind regards

Kate Nicholson
Associate Principal



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