



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

TGAT Monitoring and Evaluation Team Report

I'm delighted to share with you the highlights from our recent Monitoring Review Day, led by professionals from our Multi-Academy Trust. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our progress and celebrate the fantastic work happening across our school. The purpose of this visit was to review the progress that the school is making toward our improvement priorities.

Across 27 lesson visits, reviewers observed very strong teaching practice and student engagement. The use of mini whiteboards was a strong feature of teaching practice, with students confidently participating in activities and learning routines. Students used whiteboards with great precision, responding with focused answers. The review team observed excellent teaching of vocabulary across subjects, and students demonstrated strong knowledge because of their concentration during recall tasks.

The Review Team observed excellent examples of students purposefully discussing their learning in lessons and teachers effectively using questioning to challenge thinking and identify misconceptions. Students were hardworking and engaged. The quality of planning and the impact of routines were standout strengths. The Review Team was particularly impressed by the work that the school is doing to promote reading and felt that the selection of texts as part of the Tutor Reading programme is excellent.

Observers described the behaviour and attitudes of students as exceptional, and they were impressed by the calm and purposeful climate for learning that was observed around the school campus. Students had the opportunity to describe their understanding of equality legislation, and they articulated this confidently due to the programme of study they are taught in the PSHE curriculum and through the assembly programme. The Review Team reviewed the enormous breadth of personal development opportunities available to students as part of the extracurricular programme, including trips, educational visits, productions, performances, and sporting fixtures, and deemed this work to be excellent.

We always receive glowing praise for the conduct and industry of our students, and this is never taken for granted. This is a reflection of the incredible support and ambition that our families bring to the school, and I would like to thank you for your continued support. We are proud of our students and staff, and we look forward to building on this positive momentum, particularly as students continue to complete key assessments across the school.

Finally, amidst a hotbed of emotion today, and at the Year 11 Final Assembly, I wish our students well during what should be a busy half-term full of revision and hard work, both in Year 11 and 13.

Students have started well in the GCSE and A-Level exams, but the job is not done, and the work must continue so that every student maximises their chance of ultimate success in August.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



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