



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

## **Welcome Back!**

It has been fantastic to welcome our students back into school this week following the summer break. I would like to sincerely thank families for ensuring that standards of uniform and punctuality were so high, which inevitably makes the lives of all staff easier, so that they can focus on teaching. This has been brilliant.

## **Induction Day (Year 12)**

On Wednesday, our new Year 12 group participated in an Induction Day, which included a wide range of activities, discussions, and exercises designed to help them meet new people, including peers and staff members, and prepare for their first day of term. We look forward to welcoming all Year 12 students on Monday morning. **Please note that Tutor Time begins at 8.45 am and that the Sixth Form Dress Code will apply.**

## **First Day (Year 7)**

Year 7 students also started the academic year on Wednesday morning. It was a privilege to welcome all students and to lead their first Expectations Assembly as Principal. The word around school is that they have started brilliantly and look to be a superb year group!

## **Expectations Assemblies**

As part of our school routine, it is a tradition that the Principal will welcome students back during an Expectations Assembly. As I have done previously, I felt that it might be helpful to share some of the messages that have been shared with all students reflective of our School Values and the Behaviour Policy:

- Students were reminded of the importance of our school values in all they do so that they can always be the best versions of themselves (**Respect, Succeed, Aspire**).
- We reiterated our approach to merits, golden tickets, postcards and rewards.
- Students were reminded of the importance of always following the one-way system. This is especially important in the Autumn Term, as the school has grown in population to over 1,300 students, and we are expecting the new building to open for use in January; therefore, calm corridors are essential.
- We reiterated the 'red lines' in the Behaviour Policy, and students were presented with risks in our community, including the prevalence of substances such as cannabis in Harborough. Students were left in absolutely no doubt that prohibited items have no place in our school and may lead to the most serious consequences.
- Students were reminded of the names and roles of every member of the Safeguarding Team. We have explicitly asked that students come forward and report any concerns including the use of the My Voice application on the website homepage and posted onto Satchel One.
- We reminded students of the consistent learning routines they would see in lessons to promote their progress and attainment; this includes the importance of using whiteboards to engage in learning.
- Students have been notified that their conduct in school may impact their invitation to attend educational visits or other events such as school trips or The Prom, for example.
- We have reminded students that mobile phones may not be used in school. If they are, they will be confiscated for 48 hours, and a strong sanction will be applied, with no exceptions.
- We have reminded all students that the pursuit of the College Cup (2025) begins again with Logan College beginning the title defence. All positive points accrued count toward this competition.



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- Students have been asked to **maintain their books** to show pride in their work so that these are artefacts that represent their learning as well as serving as a tool for future revision (see below):

| ★ <b>BOOK EXPECTATIONS</b> ★                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Respect – Succeed – Aspire</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |
| Be proud of your learning – let your book show it!                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                |
| What to Do                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Why It Matters for You                                         |
| Stick your Learning Journey in your book.                                                                                                            | So you can see how far you've come and what you've learned.    |
| No doodling or ripped pages.                                                                                                                         | Shows pride in your work and keeps the learning space focused. |
| Neat handwriting on the lines.                                                                                                                       | Helps everyone read your work and builds good exam habits.     |
| Add date and title and underline them.                                                                                                               | Keeps everything organised and easy to find.                   |
| Stick sheets in neatly and use every page.                                                                                                           | Keeps your book tidy and shows care for your learning.         |
| Mark and correct key questions.                                                                                                                    | Helps you see what you're doing well and where to improve.     |
| Use purple pen for self-assessment and to respond to feedback.                                                                                     | Shows you're thinking about your learning and progress.        |
| Use Thinking Side & Writing Side for sentence stacking tasks.                                                                                      | Makes writing tasks easier by helping you plan your ideas.     |
| Keep your book looking great – it tells the story of your learning!                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                |
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- Students have been reminded of homework expectations (included below for reference) with the inclusion of regular engagement on the **Sparx Maths** platform. I have reminded all students that passing English and Maths remains a key priority for their future progression and opportunities:

## Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9):

- 1 x weekly homework task in English, Maths and Science
- 2 x half-termly homework tasks for History and Geography
- 1 x half-termly homework task for all other subjects
- MFL - Students will have a vocabulary test fortnightly on a list of words (in addition)

## Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11):

- 1 x weekly homework task for English, Maths and Science
- 2 x fortnightly homework tasks for all GCSE Option subjects
- MFL - Students will have a vocabulary test fortnightly on a list of words (in addition)

## Key Stage 5 (Year 12-13):

- For each hour of class teaching, students will be set an hour of homework.
- Students will use 'Private Study' time to complete A-Level coursework, homework and revision.



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## Parent Code of Conduct

As we begin the new academic year, please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the guidelines that underpin all communication between parents and the school.

## Key Guidance for Parents – Tudor Grange Academies Trust

- **Respectful Communication:** Parents are expected to engage with staff, students, and other parents in a respectful and constructive manner, both in person and online. If this is not the case, the Academy has the power to restrict communication and access arrangements.
- **Response Times:** Staff aim to acknowledge emails or queries within 48 hours during the working week. Complete responses may take longer depending on the nature of the query. Please remember that the priority of our teachers is teaching.
- **Appointments and Meetings:** Parents are required to book appointments rather than arriving unannounced. This ensures staff availability and a productive discussion.
- **Social Media Conduct:** Concerns should be raised directly with the school, not via social media. Online behaviour should reflect the same standards of respect expected in person.
- **Supportive Partnership:** The Trust values collaboration with parents to support student wellbeing, learning, and behaviour. Parents are encouraged to reinforce school policies at home.

## Reminder: Jewellery

- Students may wear **one pair** of plain gold or silver discreet stud earrings (one in each earlobe).
- In Years 10 and 11 only, students may also wear **one** plain gold or silver ring and chain.
- Nothing else is permitted, e.g. **no nose studs or other body studs or bracelets** are to be worn.

## Full uniform policy

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2024/08/RSA-Uniform-Policy-2024.pdf#uniform-policy/>

## School photographer (Monday)

On Monday, our school photographer will be in school to photograph students in Year 7, 10 and 12. These pictures will be used as part of our registration system. Please ensure your child is suitably prepared!

## Open Evening (Thursday)

Finally, please note that the school will close earlier than usual on Thursday next week in preparation for the annual Open Evening event. **The school will close at 12.40 pm** in preparation. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be able to attend Sixteen07 (our canteen) at 12.40 pm to collect a packed lunch on this day.

We look forward to the first full week of term next year and the work towards the first key assessments at the end of the Autumn Term.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

D Clery  
Principal



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