



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

September Structure

Establishing good routines in September sets the tone for the rest of the school year. Clear habits around attendance, homework, and behaviour help students stay focused, organised, and ready to learn—leading to better academic outcomes and personal growth.

The road to the results that students will achieve in their assessments all starts now!

Parents and families play a critical role at this stage. Whilst the sheen has not worn off the new uniform, the books have been well-organised, and no one has caught a cold, this is the optimum time to ensure that students have embedded good routines so that they have the most positive year. To repeat the phrase that RSA students often use for this, *"I'm locked in"*. We love to hear it, but it will only last if the habits are formed.

Helping your child to succeed

At Robert Smyth Academy, success is one of our core values. Over the years, our parents have been pivotal in helping us provide a 'one-stop shop' for all the information they need to ensure their child achieves the very best outcomes and can be successful, including:

- **Curriculum information**
- **Revision guidance**
- **Homework expectations**
- **How to contact the Special Educational Needs Team**
- **Advice on regular reading**
- **The RSA Reading List**
- **An organisational checklist for students**
- **A list of tips regarding further support you can offer as a parent or family member**

All families should visit this guide so that they know how to support their child best:

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/parents/helping-your-child-to-succeed/>

Our view, as evidenced in the most successful schools in the country, is that almost all students can develop excellent attitudes toward learning. This will make them happier, more respectful, successful, aspirational, and better qualified. Families play a crucial role in helping children develop and maintain excellent habits.

The cornerstone of achievement is the hard work that students do beyond the classroom. This is a snapshot of the amount of homework we expect students to complete.

Robert Smyth Homework Policy

Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9):

- 1 x weekly homework task for English, Maths and Science.
- 2 x half-termly homework tasks for History and Geography.
- 1 x half-termly homework task for all other subjects.

Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11):

- 1 x weekly homework task for GCSE English, Maths and Science.
- 1 x fortnightly homework task for all GCSE Option subjects.

Key Stage 5 (Year 12-13):

For each hour of class teaching, students will be set an hour of homework.



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Sparx Maths

Students will also have a login to complete work on Sparx Maths, including assignments and additional work. This resource is limitless, allowing students to earn extra points ("XP") for their hard work. We will be tracking this in school and starting a rewards system to promote learning mathematics. No student can claim that they "don't have any work to do"; **there are always more opportunities** for improving mathematical fluency using Sparx Maths.

We expect Year 11 students to use this platform alongside past papers and paper-based tasks in pursuit of their GCSE Maths qualification, as securing a Grade 4/5 is crucial for children to achieve future success.

Revision

We have produced a page dedicated to **revision** on the website, which includes helpful guides for students, **including those approaching critical assessments in Years 11 and 13:**

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/students/revision-support-for-students/>

Additionally, this week, students have all been assigned a notice on Satchel One, which provides them with advice and guidance on preparing for their GCSE and A-level examinations. We will also provide students with knowledge organisers to enable them to continue their revision throughout the year.

Year 11 Intervention: Core Subjects

To further support students, Heads of Faculty have provided the following additional interventions:

- **Tuesday** after school: Combined Science intervention (by invitation)
- **Wednesday** after school: English intervention (by invitation)
- **Wednesday** after school: Separate Science Stretch Drop In
- **Thursday** after school: Sparx Maths Drop In will take place in A7 and A8 (open to all)
- English mentoring will take place in the Library at Tutor Time day TBC (by invitation)
- Maths mentoring will take place in Bragg Hall at Tutor Time day TBC (by invitation)

Raising Achievement Evening (Year 11)

Thursday 18th September: 6.00 – 7.30 pm

We remind families that one of the key events for all Year 11 students and their families will take place on Thursday, 18th September, at 6:00 pm in the Main Hall. On this evening, we will provide families with information about apprenticeships and prepare them for GCSE revision and the year ahead.

On this evening, students will receive their Projected GCSE Grades based on Year 10 Summer Assessments, so that they have the best understanding of their current trajectory at an optimum time for them to put in the work and improve upon their grades.

Calendar

Finally, to assist in organisation, the following link allows families and students to prepare for the academic year and key events: <https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/calendar/>.

Thank you for ensuring that your child is working hard outside of school.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal