



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

British Values

As we begin the new half-term, I'd like to share with you the key messages from our recent **College Assembly**, which focused on the values of **tolerance** and **equality**; principles that are central to our ethos at Robert Smyth Academy and especially pertinent as we approach **Black History Month** in October.

This week, we reminded students that tolerance is more than simply accepting differences; it's about embracing them. Whether it's beliefs, lifestyles, or backgrounds, we encourage our students to be patient, understanding, and inclusive of others. Similarly, equality doesn't mean sameness; it means ensuring everyone has equal access, opportunity, and respect, regardless of their differences. As a comprehensive school, we treasure the diversity of thought and individuality that our students bring.

The assembly also highlighted the **Equality Act**, which protects individuals from discrimination. We believe it's vital that our students not only understand these protections but also stand up for them in their daily lives. One way we encourage students to do this is through their discussions with Form Representatives and the School Council, which represent the student body and their views.

Road Safety

As the days grow shorter and darker, we also want to take this opportunity to remind families about the importance of **safe cycling**. Many of our students cycle to school, and we ask for your support in ensuring they do so safely:

- **Always wear a helmet.**
- **Use lights and reflective gear** to stay visible.
- **Cycle at safe speeds**, especially on busy roads and near school grounds.
- **Follow road rules** and be mindful of pedestrians and other vehicles.

Please note that any student who is not demonstrating safe cycling behaviour will not be permitted to bring their bicycle onto our school premises. We will continue to provide duty staff outside of school each day to monitor this, ensuring that students cycle responsibly and with caution.

Sparx Maths Superstars!

It would be fair to say that one intended consequence of last week's letter was to encourage our students to continue to engage positively with Sparx Maths. This week, we have seen lots of healthy competition, and so in response, I am delighted to provide an updated list of students who top their respective groups:

- **Year 7:** Shaylan, William, Edie, Shane, Joanna, Lara, Lucas
- **Year 8:** Brandon, Avani, Max, Sonny, Jake, Imogen, Holly
- **Year 9:** Joshua, Kaya, Harriet, Noah, Ben, Sebb, Tommy
- **Year 10:** Bethany, Lance, Berfu, Eva, Louis, Sam, Avyanna
- **Year 11:** Musa, Carla, Ewan, William, Freya, James, Samuel

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal