



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Supporting Our Students; Every Step of the Way

As we move into the colder and darker months, it's natural for some students to feel a little more tired, unsettled, or in need of extra reassurance. We want to remind families that a strong network of support is available throughout the school day. Whether it's a quick chat with a trusted adult, a quiet moment in Student Services, or a check-in with a familiar face during lesson transitions, help is always close by. We encourage students to reach out whenever they need to; **there's always someone ready to listen and offer guidance.**

The best thing about working at Robert Smyth Academy is the privilege of working with so many amazing students, and their safety and wellness are a top priority. We want every young person to know that if they are struggling, whether academically, socially, or emotionally, there is always someone they can turn to. From their Form Tutors and subject teachers to staff on duty at break and lunch, our team is here to listen and help. Senior Leaders are present at every lesson changeover, and our dedicated Student Services team is always available to offer support. We encourage all students to speak up and seek help early; no concern is too small, and no student is ever alone.

Reporting a concern (students)

We remind families and our students that our philosophy is that students should not 'bottle it up' and that our Safeguarding Team are here to help and support them if they need us. Students can raise concerns, such as things that are worrying or troubling them by reporting this to a member of staff in school, or alternatively, they can use the following form via the school website, and a team member will respond:

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/about/safeguarding/myvoice/>

Who to contact if you need help

We remind families that the school takes the safety and wellness of our students very seriously, and further information about the key people who can be contacted, or relevant information can be accessed here:

<https://www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/about/safeguarding/>

As we head into the half-term break, we encourage all students to look after themselves and each other. Whether out with friends, online, or simply enjoying some downtime, it's important to make safe choices and stay aware of their surroundings. We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the new half-term.

We remind our Year 11 students that they will be undertaking **Trial Examinations** on their return, so it is important that they turn up the volume on their revision and efforts a notch or two as they get ready for key assessments. Please also note that many GCSE option subjects will be undertaking Non-Exam Assessments (coursework, practical work) throughout the academic year, which contribute to the overall grade. In a nutshell, the quest for qualifications is well underway. Students should take every opportunity to position themselves for maximum success.

Our school is a family, and we can all find strength in unity and a sense of belonging, which typifies what it means to be part of Robert Smyth Academy. My sincere best wishes to all our students over the half-term.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal