



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Celebrating the Opening of the Lime Building

We are delighted to share the exciting news that the Lime Building, our brand-new Maths and Science teaching facility, is nearing completion and will officially open later this month. This landmark development represents a 100-year investment in the future of education in Market Harborough and reflects our commitment to academic excellence.

Named by Mr Hawker, our Senior Site Technician and a proud former student of RSA, the Lime Building continues our tradition of naming teaching blocks after trees, reflecting our connection to the Hammond Arboretum and the natural world. The **lime tree**, known for its vibrant growth and resilience, symbolises both the freshness of new ideas and the deep-rooted strength of scientific and mathematical thinking, qualities we nurture in every student.

This state-of-the-art facility includes:

- **Five new science laboratories**
- **Eleven modern classrooms**
- **A new canteen; the Lime Tree Café**
- **New toilet facilities**
- **High-grade CCTV to safeguard the site**

The Lime Building is more than bricks and mortar; it's a place of inspiration, designed to put students at the heart of everything we do. It stands as a testament to the incredible popularity of Robert Smyth Academy, a school that Leicestershire County Council chose to invest in due to consistently high levels of oversubscription. This project is also the result of investment and support from Tudor Grange Academies Trust since the school joined the group in 2017 and would not have been possible without the trustees' support.

Science is in the spotlight nationally this week, and we are proud to be ahead of the curve. Our Bragg College is named after Sir William Bragg, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist and pioneer of X-ray crystallography, a fitting tribute to our scientific heritage and ambition. This investment mirrors our students' achievements. For example, this year, **80% of our students achieved Grade 4+ in GCSE Science**, a figure that significantly exceeds the national average and reflects our long-standing prioritisation of science education and securing the best teachers. We continue to see a great uptake of students pursuing the science route at A-level.

This week, Year 11 students have been prioritised for lunch in the new canteen as they sit their Trial Exams. Later in November, a grand opening will take place, and then we plan to occupy the new building and make timetable changes to accommodate this ahead of the Christmas break, to ensure a smooth transition.

For a sense of scale, I invite families to enjoy the recent drone footage on the RSA website homepage.



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust



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We look forward to welcoming you to the Lime Building and celebrating this milestone together. Thank you for your continued support in making RSA the school of choice for our community.

Friday 19th December – End of Term Arrangements

As we prepare to close for the Christmas break, we want to ensure that every student leaves school feeling supported, included, and well cared for. On Friday, 19th December, we will be adjusting the school day slightly to allow all students the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal before heading off for the holidays. This is particularly important so that children eligible for Free School Meals take this benefit to which they are entitled. A staggered exit is also likely to benefit students on the last day, when all can be forgiven for feeling a more heightened sense of emotion, at the end of a busy, and challenging term.

To manage this effectively:

- Students in Years 7 and 8 will finish at 1.15 pm
- Students in Years 9 to 13 will finish at 2.15 pm
- School buses will depart after 2.15 pm

For those younger students who finish earlier but need to wait for the bus, we will provide a supervised space where they can relax, complete their Sparx Maths homework (A7 and A8), and clear the decks before Christmas. Confectionary incentives will be provided.

Before leaving, all students will sign in with their teacher at the end of lunch, giving us a chance to wish them well.

We appreciate your support in helping us make the final day of term a positive, inclusive, and festive experience for all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Cleary
Principal