



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

TGAT Monitoring and Evaluation Team Visit

I am delighted to share feedback from two review days carried out by the Trust's Monitoring and Evaluation Team last week. This review looked at the quality of both our teaching and learning and personal development and was overwhelmingly positive. This was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the hard work and success of the students and the achievements of the staff that support them.

Teaching and Learning

Over two days, the review team visited 38 lessons and observed calm, respectful classrooms where pupils were engaged and eager to learn. They praised the strong relationships between staff and students, which created a supportive atmosphere and well-established routines that help everyone settle quickly and focus on learning.

Teachers were seen regularly checking students' understanding using a variety of strategies, such as mini whiteboards and paired discussions. This ensures that students receive the help they need at the right time and that teachers have a secure understanding of their groups.

The team also noted that students take pride in their work, as reflected in the quality of their books and the care they put into their learning.

Personal Development

We offer students exceptional opportunities for personal development, both within lessons and through a wide range of extracurricular activities. The Monitoring and Evaluation Team highlighted the value of the Student Leadership Award, which is open to all students. This award provides every student with the chance to participate in enrichment activities and gain recognition for their involvement, helping to build confidence and develop leadership skills.

The team concluded their visit by reaffirming that our school is a place where outstanding practice is evident and where staff and students demonstrate hard work and passion. They noted that students are consistently polite, well-behaved, and fully engaged in their learning. Many were confident in discussing their work with visitors.

The team also spent two lunchtimes interacting informally with students, which gave them a well-rounded view of our student body, and their feedback was extremely positive.

As a staff team, we are immensely proud of the work our students do and the young adults they become under our care. However, this would not be possible without your encouragement and support as parents and carers. By promoting good attendance, encouraging participation in activities, and reinforcing positive attitudes to learning, you help us maintain the high standards recognised in this review. Together, we will ensure every student succeeds and aspires to their full potential.

Finally, As an essential part of our school community, there are many activities for families to share with their children from [helping them to prepare](#) for the upcoming TA1 assessments in December, completing reading together from the [RSA reading list](#) or following their achievements on the school Instagram account, @robertsmythacademy.

Kind regards,

Kate Nicholson
Associate Principal