



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Uniform

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all families who ensure that our students leave home well-dressed and ready to learn and we expect all students to remain so whilst they are in school.

The standards of uniform from most students are exceptional. However, we have noticed several students who have not been wearing their blazers around school and a small number of students who have come to school wearing false eyelashes or wearing excessive makeup. Next week, Form Tutors will address both issues to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for school. We strongly recommend that students with false eyelashes remove them before returning to school next week, as we will address this in Tutor Time. There is no compelling reason to wear false eyelashes to school.

School Bus (Great Glen – Fleckney – Kibworth – Foxton – Gartree)

Following feedback from parents, I have contacted Ausden Clark to relay my concerns about the punctuality of the bus service and the arrival time of our students. As a result, the timetable has been changed so that students will be picked up 5-minutes earlier so that they arrive on time. We will monitor arrival times every day and continue to communicate with the bus provider to ensure that improvements are sustained.

LEAP Ensemble

Written by Mr. Hughes (Director of Performing Arts Faculty)

Last week we once again welcomed the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to Robert Smyth to perform with some of our amazing musicians in a special concert for the whole of year 7 and year 8. The 'LEAP Ensemble' are a 25-piece orchestra made up of conservatoire-level musicians, and their aim is to make orchestras exciting by playing a mixture of pop, rock, opera, folk, musical theatre, dance, and even Ukrainian folk music. They do this whilst being amplified through a loud PA, have extensive flashing and moving lights, and they also encourage their audiences to sing and dance along whenever they like. It is a unique orchestral experience, and we are very lucky to have struck up a partnership with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for the second consecutive year. We also welcomed local primary children to a separate performance in the afternoon through our partnership work with local primaries, and they spent a lot of their performance dancing around with their teachers and some of the singers who came out into the audience to dance with them. The performances, as always, are punctuated by our 6th formers setting off confetti canons during the last piece, which creates a thrilling climax to a scintillating performance. Huge credit must go to the 15 RSA musicians who played with the LEAP Ensemble this year, the Conservatoire said they are always hugely impressed by the standard and quality of our musicians and that they love coming to play with and for our students.

Final note

Finally, a reminder that the school will be open for **Year 11, 12 and 13 only on Tuesday 2nd May**, due to ongoing industrial action. I wish to repeat my apologies to families for the continued disruption of the strike days and while I would like to be optimistic, I fear that further industrial action looks likely in all schools given the ongoing national impasse between the government and professional associations and trade unions. There is no further information to share at this stage, and I will continue to keep you updated. As ever, we will continue to do whatever we can to keep students in school and learning.

I wish you a restful Bank Holiday weekend when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



Robert Smyth Academy

Key dates

- **Thursday 25th May:** Year 8 Parents Evening
- **Thursday 8th June:** Year 8 Parents Evening
- **Tuesday 13th June:** Year 8 Careers Day
- **Monday 19th June:** Sports Awards Evening
- **Thursday 22nd June:** Summer Concert
- **w/b Monday 26th June:** Year 10 Work Experience Week
- **Tuesday 27th June:** Year 12 Careers Day
- **Thursday 29th June:** Year 11 Prom
- **Friday 30th June:** INSET Day – school closed to students
- **Monday 3rd July:** Meet the Tutor Evening (Year 6 only)
- **Tuesday 4th July:** Year 6 Induction Day
- **Tuesday 4th July:** Year 10 Careers Day
- **Wednesday 12th July:** End of Year Trips / Last Day of Term. **The school closes at 3.15pm.**