



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ski Trip

I wanted to start this letter by offering my sincere thanks to Mr. Cripwell (Trip Leader) and the team that went out to Bormio, Italy as part of the Ski Trip. I know how much fun our students had on this trip, and I thank parents for their generosity exemplified in the many kind messages received in the last fortnight. We will debrief on this visit in the summer term and communicate with you about future opportunities in due course.

Expectations Assemblies

This week, I have had the privilege of speaking with all students in Year 7-11 as part of their College Assemblies.

The messages that I hope students will have taken from my presentations relate to the importance of patience and hard work as habits to promote success. I have used excerpts from Rousseau's '*Social Contract*' to express the virtues of patience and determination to achieve success. I have reminded students of the value of learning a new language as part of their curriculum and explained the role that patience plays in progress. Learning a new language is a great joy and a magic trick that we want all students to have by the End of Key Stage 4.

All students have been reminded of the expectations outlined in our Behaviour Policy and the aspirations that we have for every child to be a good citizen within our school which means demonstrating respect for others. This is a characteristic that many of our students exemplify, and we aspire to raise standards further so that they all continue to become fantastic citizens who contribute to the school community.

Industrial Action

As expected, and predicted in my previous letter, it is now confirmed that there will be another two strike days on **Thursday 27th April** and **Tuesday 2nd May**.

We remain concerned by the level of disruption that this causes our students and families, regrettably it appears that this may be an ongoing theme during the months ahead as there does not appear to be progress toward a national resolution and so all schools will be impacted.

Our aim is to invite as many students in school as possible. Having learned from the previous strike days, we have reviewed the available teaching capacity and we can sustain the attendance of **Year 11, 12, and 13** groups in school on **both days**. We continue to prioritise year groups approaching terminal assessments including Year 12 as they can use the Sixth Form Centre for independent study if their lessons do not take place as planned.

We are also exploring the possibility of moving **Year 7 Careers Morning to Thursday 27th April** so that we can invite Year 7 students into school. We will confirm arrangements for parents and students next week.

We will continue to set work for all **other year groups** using **Satchel One**.

I hope that this is a useful update, and we will confirm finalised plans next week.

I wish you a restful weekend. I wish you a belated Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



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Key dates

- **Thursday 4th May:** Year 7 Careers Morning – **MOVED to Thursday 27th April**
- **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
- **Wednesday 28th 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.**