



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you have had a great summer and that your child has been able to rest and relax so that they feel recharged and ready for the start of the Autumn Term.

GCSE and A-Level Results (2022)

Firstly, I am delighted to inform you that we have celebrated some of our best ever results over the last three weeks with students achieving and exceeding more target grades than ever before. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this has led to a significant number of applications for Sixth Form places and we are delighted to welcome back many of our Year 11 students and many new students from other institutions as they begin their A-Level journey with us. This is a good news story and it should give all students the encouragement to know that with great attendance, enthusiasm, and hard work, they can achieve the highest grades and access the broadest opportunities in the future.

Message to Year 7 Parents – Summer School

Secondly, I wish to thank all parents who participated in Robert Smyth Academy Summer School this year, in preparation for the first term in secondary school for Year 7. This was a fantastic week and our staff really enjoyed getting to know the children. It was very fulfilling to see so many of the students make new friends and settle in during this week and we are confident that they will have been well served by this experience. If your child could not attend, then there is no reason to worry, we have a great team of Form Tutors in place who are ready to make the start of term a success for all children and we will ensure that they have an opportunity to get to know their peers this week.

Message to Year 11 Parents – Robert Smyth Academy Sixth Form

As planning for post-16 pathways will continue in the Autumn Term, we offer all students the opportunity to find out more about Robert Smyth Academy Sixth Form. We highly recommend that parents make a note of the key information listed below and begin having discussions about

- **Sixth Form Open Evening** for 2023 entry will be held on **Wednesday 9th November 2022**
- **Course information** is available [here](#). However, please note that an updated prospectus will be issued in the coming weeks and will include the revised entry requirements for A-Level study which require students to attain a minimum of **40 points** from their best 8 GCSE qualifications

If you have any specific questions about our Sixth Form, please email Mr. Luhrs, Head of Sixth Form – gluhrs@robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk.

First week back arrangements

This week, the following year groups will return to school according to this schedule:

- **Wednesday 31st August: Year 7, Year 11, Year 12** (induction day) and **Year 13 only**
- **Thursday 1st September: All students in all year groups** except for Year 12
- **Monday 5th September:** Year 12 begin A-Level timetable

Students should arrive in school so that they are at their Form Tutor room by 8.45am for the start of PSHE. Note that the gates will be locked at **8.45am** and students who arrive after this time will be admitted with a 'Late' mark. If students accrue more than one mark per half-term, they will be placed in detention after school.

The school day ends at **3.15pm**. We ask parents and students to take care on Burnmill Road at peak times.



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Reminder: What will the format of the day look like this year?

On Friday 6th May, we communicated the new structure to the school day based on revised expectations from the DfE regarding a minimum length of time during the school week.

We made the changes outlined in the table below:

- An **increase in the length of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons in Form Tutor groups** by 5 minutes, every morning
- An **increase in the length of the morning break** by 5 minutes, every morning
- An **increase in the length of the lunchtime** by 5 minutes, every afternoon
- A reduction in the length of lessons **from two-hours to 100-minutes** to reflect feedback from students who have told us that they struggle to sustain concentration during two-hour lessons. This will also mean that all lessons have a consistent length. **Please note there is no reduction to curriculum time**

Outline of the school day from August 2022:

Years 7 and 8							
PSHE 8.45 - 9.15am	Period 1 9.15 – 11.20am			Period 2 11.20 – 1.35pm			Period 3 1.35 – 3.15pm
30 mins	65 mins	Break 10.20 – 10.45am (25 mins)	35 mins	65 mins	Lunch 12.25 – 1.00pm (35 mins)	35 mins	100 mins

Years 9 - 13						
PSHE 8.45 - 9.15am	Period 1 9.15 - 10.55am	Break 10.55 – 11.20am	Period 2 11.20 – 1.00pm	Lunch 1.00 – 1.35pm	Period 3 1.35 – 3.15pm	
30 mins	100 mins	25 mins	100 mins	35 mins	100 mins	

Please note that Sixth Form students may also have additional **'Period 4' lessons** from **3.25 - 4.15pm**

We have informed both school bus providers who will be able to alter their service provision to match the new times of the school day. This will not impact students or parents.



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School Improvement Priorities (2022)

In August, the Senior Leadership Team and the Local Governing Body evaluated the key strengths and areas of development for the school. Our evaluation included assessment information but was certainly not limited to GCSE and A-Level examination results. Rather, we considered evidence from a wide range of sources including quality assurance evidence, student feedback, parent surveys, and statistical information (i.e., attendance). Ultimately, we have chosen to prioritise six-key areas to improve the experiences of all students.

We feel very proud to serve a strong and successful school that is providing high-quality education, experiences, and outcomes. We are unashamedly aspiring to become an 'Outstanding' school, not because we want to impress Ofsted but because we want students to get the very best education. We know that they only get one chance at school, and we are all determined to make that count.

Parents have a vital role to play in the education of their child and therefore, we hoped that by sharing an overview of the school improvement priorities for the forthcoming academic year you can feel informed about our school improvement journey.

We hope that this will also explain why we will be placing such a strong focus on good attendance this year. The evidence clearly shows the link between good attendance (95% and above) and attainment and we are grateful for your support in ensuring that your child attends regularly and makes the most of their opportunities.



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School Improvement Priorities 2022-2023

To improve attendance so that it exceeds pre-pandemic levels and national averages. To ensure there are fewer disadvantaged students who are persistently absent from school.



To improve the reading capabilities of vulnerable children and those with Special Educational Needs so that every child reads at their chronological age or better. To improve communication with families of children with SEND.



To improve the quality of curriculum in Key Stage 3 so that every child experiences a broad, challenging, and ambitious curriculum.



To improve enrichment opportunities and student participation rates in the wider curricular offer in Sixth Form to ensure every student has outstanding preparation for post-18 opportunities.



To improve the quality of education by securing stronger adaptive teaching and formative assessment so that all students, particularly disadvantaged students, make excellent progress in all lessons.



To improve the impact of leadership on the quality of education experienced by students, particularly those vulnerable to disadvantage.





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Key dates

- **Monday 5th September:** School photographs for Year 7 and 10
- **w/b Monday 5th September:** Reading and spelling tests (selected students)
- **Thursday 8th September:** Open Evening (6-8pm). *Early finish at 1.35pm following lunch*
- **w/b Monday 19th September:** Year 7 baseline assessment fortnight (no preparation required)
- **Thursday 22nd September:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (6-7pm)
- **Thursday 29th September**
: Parent Forum (6-7pm)
- **Friday 30th September:** Teacher Training Day (*closed to all students*)
- **Monday 3rd October:** Year 11 and 13 in-class assessment week
- **Thursday 6th October:** Year 7 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 12th October:** Year 11 Careers Day
- **Thursday 13th October:** Year 7 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Thursday 13th October:** Year 7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre visit
- **Friday 14th October:** Year 7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre visit
- **Monday 17th – Friday 21st October:** HALF-TERM

- **w/b Monday 24th October:** Revision skills week in PSHE
- **w/b Monday 7th November:** Year 11 Trial Exam week
- **Wednesday 9th November:** Sixth Form Open Evening (6-8pm)
- **w/b Monday 21st November:** Year 7-10 in-class assessments
- **w/b Monday 28th November:** Year 12 in-class assessment week
- **Wednesday 7th December:** Christmas Concert
- **Thursday 8th December:** Year 9 Careers Day and Workshops
- **Thursday 8th December:** Year 11 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **w/b Monday 12th December:** Year 13 Trial Exam week
- **w/b Monday 12th December:** Year 11 A-Level Taster Lessons
- **Wednesday 14th December:** Year 11 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Friday 16th December:** *Early finish at 1.35pm following lunch*
- **Monday 19th – Friday 30th December:** CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

- **Monday 2nd January:** Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023:** Spring Term starts (all year groups back)
- **w/b Monday 9th January:** Reading and spelling tests (selected students)
- **Thursday 12th January:** Year 13 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Tuesday 17th January:** Sixth Form Open Morning
- **Thursday 19th January:** Year 12 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 23rd January:** Teacher Training Day (*closed to all students*)
- **Thursday 26th January:** Parent Forum (6-7pm)
- **Thursday 2nd February:** Year 9 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 8th February:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (appointment only)
- **Thursday 9th February:** Year 9 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 13th February:** Year 9 GCSE Options Evening (6-7.30pm)
- **w/b Monday 13th February:** Year 13 in-class assessments week
- **w/b Monday 13th February:** Music Recitals week
- **Monday 20th – Friday 24th February:** HALF-TERM



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Key dates

- **w/b Monday 27th February:** Revision skills week in PSHE
- **w/b Monday 6th March:** Year 11 Trial Exam week
- **Thursday 16th March:** Year 10 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 22nd March:** School Performance Dress Rehearsal
- **Thursday 23rd March:** School Performance first night
- **Friday 24th March:** School Performance second night
- **w/b Monday 27th March:** Year 7-9 in-class assessments begin (start of a four-week window)
- **Thursday 30th March:** Year 10 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Friday 31st March:** Ski Trip Departs
- **Monday 3rd – Friday 14th April:** EASTER HOLIDAY

- **w/b Monday 17th April:** Year 7-9 in-class assessments begin (continue...)
- **w/b Monday 17th April:** Year 10 key assessments
- **Tuesday 25th April:** Vaccinations
- **Monday 1st May:** Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 2nd May:** Vaccinations
- **Thursday 4th May:** Year 7 Careers Morning
- **Thursday 4th May:** Dance Show
- **Thursday 11th May:** Year 13 Leavers Event
- **w/b Monday 15th May:** Year 12 in-class assessments and KS3 progress testing fortnight begins
- **Thursday 25th May:** Year 8 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June:** HALF TERM

- **Thursday 8th June:** Year 8 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Tuesday 13th June:** Year 8 Careers Day
- **w/b Monday 26th June:** Year 10 Work Experience week
- **Tuesday 4th July:** Year 10 Careers Day
- **Wednesday 12th July:** Final day of term. School closes for the summer from Thursday 13th July

Please note that further school events will be added during the course of the calendar year.

I hope that this letter allows you to navigate the first week of term and to make a start on organising your diary. We are looking forward to welcoming all of the students back into school and making a start on a brilliant year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Cleary
Principal