



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Bereavement support

This week, our thoughts and prayers remain with Chloe's family and friends after her tragic death. I have now addressed all students in our school over the last week during face-to-face assemblies, I have also written to Welland Park Academy, Kibworth Mead Academy, and local primary schools to ask that they share this awful news with their communities so that support can be made available for those impacted. I felt that it might be useful to share some key messages that all students have heard from me in those assemblies so that parents know how to respond at home:

"The most important message I want you to understand is that **any response to the news of a death is an appropriate response**, some of us will want to cry, some of us may feel numb, many of us just want to retain our normal routines as our way of coping. Some of you might feel nothing – these responses are entirely normal so please don't worry if you are unsure what you think".

"In school we will be trying to **keep everything as routine as possible** for you as this is what people often find the most helpful at such a difficult time. Of course, this does not mean that we are not feeling sad and some of us may be finding it hard to maintain normal routines, but this is very important for our whole community as we come to terms with this news".

"Naturally, all our thoughts should be with Chloe's family at this terrible time for them. Out of respect for the family and for Chloe, **we would ask that you do not comment on social media platforms**. In time, we will look at ways we can pay our respects to Chloe, and we will let you know how best to do this".

"If you feel at any time that you would like to talk to someone about how you feel, then please **report to Student Services or the Safeguarding Team**. Don't bottle it up"

Message from Mick Stott (Bereavement Support)

I have been conducting one-to-one meetings and assisting in classrooms as required. This has been helping all to understand why and how they have reacted to this sad event, embracing its impact. My main aim has been to help students create their own strategy for dealing with grief and accessing resources that create a positive learning mindset. There is a wide selection of resources for parents on this [website](#).

Next week, our Safeguarding Team will continue to sustain support for students. Mick will be in school on **Thursday** to continue to offer additional support for students.

We have also commissioned a **Parent Workshop on Thursday at 5.30pm** on this subject. This will include:

- **Definitions of trauma**
- **Individual reactions**
- **Creating strategies**
- **Moving forwards**

If parents wish to attend this workshop, then they should sign up [here](#)



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

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Robert Smyth Academy

Student Leadership Applications (2022/23)

We are pleased to launch the largest application round for Student Leaders in the recent history of the school. We are proud to work in a school ranked in the **Top 20% of schools in England** across key performance measures but this is not the limit of our ambitions, and we want our students to help us to shape the next chapter of school development.

- Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 can apply to become a Student Leader by writing a letter of application following the publication of a role description.
- Student Leaders will be decided upon through an interview process.
- See job description sheet

School improvement

The main aim of the Student Leaders will be to make the school a better place for students to learn. Leaders will help run and take part in a Student Council where they will communicate with Sixth Form prefects to discuss teaching and learning, gather views of the student body and work toward a school improvement priority with the senior team.

Student Leader Role Description

Being a Student Leader is a fantastic opportunity for students to represent the school. As a leader you will have the opportunity to act as a role model to other students, contribute to school life and shape the teaching and learning that you and your peers will experience.

You can apply if you are in Year 7, 8 or 9. To apply you must write a letter of application outlining why you think that you would make a good Student Leader and an area of school improvement that you are passionate about. Outlined below are the characteristics we are looking for in a leader, so incorporating these into your letter would be helpful.

Essential characteristics and experience

- Enthusiasm
- Positivity
- Ability to work as part of a team
- A willingness to be involved with academy-based activities
- Confidence
- Involvement in at least one extracurricular activity

How to apply

Please write your application letter by **Monday 12th December** and **hand it in to Student Services**. All letters must be addressed to the Principal (Mr. Cleary). Interviews and announcement of Student Leaders will take place in January.

Candidates will only retain their role as a Student Leader if they meet common expectations for all students related to attendance, courtesy, behaviour, and hard work.



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Robin Ince Book Signing and Talk by Mrs Coxon (Reading Coordinator)

On Friday 18th November, Elwood, Kristian and Reu attended a Book signing and talk by Robin Ince. Along with Mrs Coxon and Ms Dix. The talk was held in the Eco-village events hall and arranged by Quinn's book shop who are mentioned in Robin Ince's new book Bibliomaniac, An Obsessive's Tour of the Bookshops of Britain.

The talk was an eclectic tour de force about Robin Ince's passion for reading, collecting books, donating books and his recollections of the bookstores and people he met on his book tour last year.

Robin told us about his recent diagnosis of ADHD and that his mind is extremely active and goes on diverse journeys as things pop into his head. It made for a fast-paced hour with a mix of comedy and pathos and filled with how books had influenced and broadened his horizons. He spoke about the feeling of difference and not fitting in and how instead of trying to mould yourself into something other people think you should be; to explore books and seek where you fit in and who you really want to be.

He spoke about a diverse range of books, the joy of finding a letter once used as a bookmark long ago, how he loved finding an old library book and seeing the patterns of how often certain books were taken out and he spoke poignantly about a book entitled Galaxies and Quasars.

This was a fantastic enrichment opportunity for the students, and we encourage all students to embrace reading and to visit us in the library to find a text that allow them to access new worlds of thought.

Key dates – reminders

- **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 2023:** Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023:** All students return to school

Thank you for your ongoing support during a difficult week.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



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