



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term Celebrations

I would like to begin the final letter of the year by informing you that this week we have continued a focus on positive recognition. College assemblies have taken place during the week and Form Tutors have provided public recognition regarding the hard work of their tutees and this has been celebrated within the College. I have personally hosted two Christmas parties for students with the highest net score of achievement points to celebrate their achievements. We have also continued to award daily prizes as part of 'Christmas Countdown' to engender a sense of fun. At the end of this week, we also presented our teachers and support staff with Everyday Hero Awards as a result of your kind nominations. It has been a positive end to the term.

Year 11 and 13 updates

Year 11 students will have received their Autumn Report this week which will include the assessment outcomes for their GCSE courses. If you are a Year 11 parent, please make time to ask your child about this report. Congratulations to Year 13 for completing a suite of Trial Examinations this week in preparation for summer assessments. These exams went well, and students were well prepared.

Farewell to Miss Clipston

As we complete the Autumn Term, I would like to thank Miss Clipston (Teacher of English) for her great service and hard work for our students. Whilst we are saddened that she is leaving her post at the end of term, we wish her every success in her new journey in Australia and, in turn, every success in the future.

END OF TERM REMINDERS

- The school will reopen on **Tuesday 3rd January**. All students will be expected to attend from this day.
- The school is closed on **Monday 2nd January** as this is a Bank Holiday

Where can I access support while the school is closed?

The school is now closed until Tuesday 3rd January. During the Christmas holidays parents and students can access the following sources of support:

- **Childline:** <https://www.childline.org.uk/> or by calling **0800 1111**
- **Children's Services:** <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/>
- **NHS England:** Call **111** or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/>
- **Guidance on coronavirus:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- **Market Harborough Food Bank:** <https://www.harborough.gov.uk/foodbanks>

Suicide prevention

I want to remind you of the support available via [Papyrus](#); an organisation dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. Suicide is the biggest killer of young people under 35 in the UK and every year thousands more attempt or contemplate suicide, harm themselves or suffer alone, afraid to speak about how they are feeling.

If you are the parent of a young person who experiences thoughts or feelings of this kind, then we would strongly advise that you seek an appointment with your GP and that you access the following support:

If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINEUK for confidential support and practical advice.

Call: 0800 068 4141

Text: 07860 039 967

Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org



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Uniform

Please note that all students will be expected to return in full school uniform. We would be grateful if parents could remain mindful that **we do not permit the following**, as per the uniform [policy](#):

- Nail polish or false nails
- Unnatural hair dye
- Multiple ear piercings (one single stud in each ear maximum)
- Nose piercings

We will **specifically follow up on these features of our uniform policy** to ensure high standards from all:

- Blazers to be worn in school with shirts tucked in at all times
- Grey pleated skirt, regulation length, **on or just above the knee**

This is in response to a small minority of students attending school without a regulation blazer or wearing skirts at an inappropriate length (i.e., too short).

Spring Term – Key Dates for Parents

Half-term 3

- **Thursday 12th January:** Year 13 Parents Evening at **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 16th January:** SEND Parent Forum at **6.00 – 7.00pm**
- **Tuesday 17th January:** Sixth Form Open Morning
- **Thursday 19th January:** Year 12 Parents Evening at **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 23rd January:** Teacher Training Day – School Closed to Students
- **Thursday 26th January:** Parent Forum at **6.00 – 7.00pm**
- **Thursday 2nd February:** Year 9 Parents Evening at **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 8th February:** Year 11 Achievement Evening at **4.00-6.30pm** (Appointment only)
- **Thursday 9th February:** Year 9 Parents Evening **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **Monday 13th February:** Year 9 Options Evening **6.00-7.30pm**
- **Thursday 16th February:** PE Faculty 'Lock in' Charity Fundraiser – *selected students only*
- **w/b 20th February: SCHOOL CLOSED DURING FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

Half-term 4

- **w/b 6th March:** Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- **Thursday 16th March:** Year 10 Parents Evening **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th March:** High School Musical Production – *times TBC* (Ticket holders only)
- **Thursday 30th March:** Year 10 Parents Evening **4.00-6.30pm** (remote via School Cloud)
- **w/b 27th March:** Year 7-9 Assessments begin (4-week window)
- **Friday 31st March:** Ski Trip Departs
- **Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April: SCHOOL CLOSED DURING EASTER HOLIDAY**

I wish you all a very restful and enjoyable Christmas with your friends and families.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal