



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Welcome Back!

Firstly, I would like to wish all parents and students a very Happy New Year. I hope that you were able to enjoy a relaxing and restorative Christmas break with your respective families and friends. Of course, January brings with it the opportunity for reflection and renewal, and this has been a focus of my key messages to all students during key assemblies this week. I will be speaking to Sixth Form students in the coming weeks.

## High Expectations

I must begin by once again extending my thanks to all parents for the high standards of uniform and punctuality that we have seen this week. We feel very fortunate to work in a community that share our high expectations, and this allows us to support them so that they get the best experiences. Again, this has been excellent.

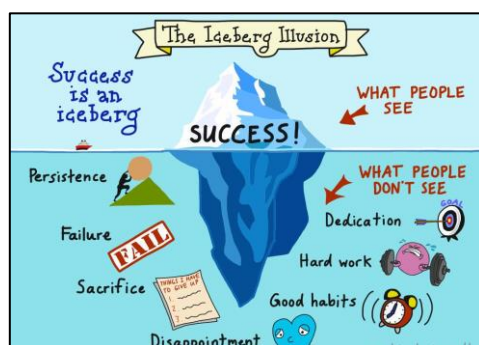
## Purpose

The purpose of Expectations Assemblies is to ensure that students have high ambitions so that they work hard, take every opportunity in school, and enjoy their experiences. We also bring students together to restate our ethos, values, and commitment to respect for all, inclusion, social responsibility, and student safety.

## Key Themes

This week, I focused my main messages around the importance of using January as a point of renewal. I spoke to students about the origins of the word January as derived from the Roman deity, the two-faced God, Janus who was depicted by the Romans as looking backward (to reflect) and forward (to aspire). I have encouraged students to think about their achievements and areas that they want to improve upon and to take that spirit forward into the new term particularly following key assessments.

I have outlined the importance of separating achievement from the work required to get there. I did this by using 'The Iceberg Illusion' as an example of good habits and positive responses to failure. All students have been told of the value of learning from failure and other difficult experiences for personal growth to happen.



All students have also been given clear direction and explanation on the excellent attitudes to learning that we expect and the importance of mutual respect. I have explained the 'red lines' that we do not accept, and that discriminatory abuse has no place in our community.

Finally, all students have been reminded of the key sources of support available to them including the way that they can access the Safeguarding Team. We have reassured students that we have not forgotten about the impact on students who have been impacted following Chloe's death and we have reassured them that further support will be put in place throughout the Spring Term. I have reassured students that we will seek to commemorate Chloe when the time is right and with the express consent of her family.



# Robert Smyth Academy

## Uniform

Standards of uniform have been very high this week, but please be reminded that 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 **continue to 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**

## Key reminders

We know that Christmas is a busy time and so if you missed the key dates for the Spring Term, here they are:

## Spring Term – Key Dates for Parents

### Half-term 3

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

### Half-term 4

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

I hope that this gives you a brief insight into the key messages that we have communicated to students during a very positive first week back. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary  
Principal