



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Industrial Action Plan

Following the most recent day of industrial action on Wednesday, I can confirm that the next two days of strike action will take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.

Having reviewed the impact of previous strike days, we will be able to continue to sustain arrangements for **Year 11, 12, and 13** to be in school on these days. Work will be set via Satchel One for remaining year groups. We will again invite students from key groups to attend school to complete this remote work on site.

Whilst this is a national issue and not one that is within my gift to resolve, I do wish to express my sincere empathy with parents and students for the disruption caused. Clearly, this will be a source of frustration for many, and we will do everything that we can to manage this with the interests of the students in mind. We hope for a resolution to the current impasse at a national level so that further disruption is prevented.

## World Book Day

Following feedback from the School Council, this week we embarked upon a celebration of World Book Day. This day included members of staff dressing up as characters from books and graphic novels alongside some fantastic student efforts as well. We have captured some of the images in the presentation that is attached to this letter. At the end of the day, there was a 'Virtual World Book Day Prize Draw' and a brief presentation about the joy of reading in all the forms available. It was my privilege to describe the impact of reading the graphic novel 'Maus' for the first time and to describe the increasing quality of graphic novels based around totemic texts such as '1984', in the hope that this inspires more students to engage in reading outside school.

## Key Events including The Prom

We hope that all children can participate in enriching events, trips, and visits. Of course, invitations to participate in these special events including the Year 11 Prom **remain contingent on good behaviour**. College Leaders have been proactively discussing this with all students and this has also been a theme of assemblies. By the end of next week, we will have contacted all parents where we have concerns.

## Key dates

- **Today** - Year 9 Options deadline
- **w/b 6<sup>th</sup> March**: Year 11 Trial Exams Continue
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March\***: Year 10 Parents Evening 4.00-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**: High School Musical Production (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

*\*A changed date due to industrial action on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March.*

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary  
Principal

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