



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Trial Exams

All week, I have had the immense privilege of starting Year 11 Trial Examinations in the Main Hall and being able to talk to all students who have taken part in assessments in a range of venues. I wish to express how impressed I have been by the intent and seriousness with which our students have taken these exams. They will all have benefitted immeasurably from these experiences, and we are very proud of their efforts.

Today we had hoped that students would complete both Mathematics and Physical Education exams, but this has not been possible due to the adverse weather conditions which have forced school closure. Students will complete these assessments next week and will not be disadvantaged by the delay.

Industrial Action

A reminder that we face a further two-days of industrial action on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. We expect Year 11, 12 and 13 and specific student groups (including FSM eligible, EHCP) to attend school. All other year groups will complete work at home which will be set via Satchel One. Again, my sincere apologies for this disruption and my hopes that at the end of this week, we do not see a further continuation of industrial action into the summer term. Regrettably, it is unclear that this will be avoided if the national dispute continues.

NHS: 'Teen Health' Service

We are really pleased to be able to work with the NHS to provide their new 'Teen Health' service to our students. This is a service that provides support for mental health and student wellbeing as well as providing access, in an appropriate manner and space, to sexual health and contraceptive advice as well as the ability to sign up for the c-card programme. This scheme enables young people to gain access to free contraceptives with guidance and support, please visit the following website if you would like further information - <https://leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk/c-card>

There are three opportunities for students to access the Teen Health professional - Lisa Preston, on **Mondays**:

- Years 7 and 8 can access support during **lunchtime in Bragg Hall** for advice on their general wellbeing
- Year 9, 10 and 11 can access support and guidance on their mental health, sexual health, and contraception **after school in Room A3** - over 13s can also sign up for the c-card and receive appropriate guidance during this time
- Years 12 and 13 can access support regarding wellbeing and sexual health drop in the **Sixth Form Centre** between **1.00 - 1.35pm**

High School Musical

Please note that we will not be able to admit visitors to watch the 'High School Musical' production without tickets. We are expecting these performances to be busy nights and whilst there will be limited parking available, we anticipate the need for parking on Burnmill Road. Please take extra time and proceed with care.

Sustainable Schools

Earlier this year, we formed an Eco-Committee led by students, as part of their work towards the 'Eco Schools Award'. This is a national standard that challenges schools to function more sustainably and encourage others to do the same. The committee have done a fantastic job so far and I would like to pay a special tribute to all students for their campaign to promote the use of reusable bottles to reduce single use plastics.



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

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Human Library Series

Talk 3 – Wartime memories

This year, Mrs Coxon (Reading Coordinator and Librarian) has organised a series of amazing opportunities for students via the 'Human Library' initiative. In the most recent talk, a group of sixteen students were able to hear testimony from Ken, an eloquent 90-year-old who described his childhood memories of World War Two.

Ken recalled the Manchester Blitz, the incredible work of the WAAFs – Women's Auxiliary Air Force and the emotional experience of evacuees. *"Parents had to make agonising choices and decide if their children were better off staying with strangers in the countryside or taking the risk to stay with their families in cities. They had no idea when they would re-unite again"*.

Students were enthralled at the breadth and depth of Ken's experiences and asked him interesting questions. *"This has been brilliant Sir thank you so much for sharing your powerful memories with us. I will always remember them"*.

This was a great opportunity for students and our next Human Library talk is Thursday at 2pm on the topic of economics and politics. We would strongly encourage available Sixth Form students studying Business or Economics to attend this talk.

Ski Trip

I would like to thank Mr Cripwell for his sterling efforts in the navigation of the challenges of international travel on behalf of the students who have a place booked on the international Ski Trip to Bormio. As parents will know, this visit will leave one day sooner than planned in reflection of the logistical challenges facing all schools and we thank parents for their ongoing understanding and support.

Key dates

- **Tuesday***: Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm (remote via School Cloud)
- **Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th March**: High School Musical Production (**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)
- **Wednesday 29th March**: Year 6 Information Evening (Two sessions: 5.30pm and 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 30th March**: Ski Trip Departs
- **Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April**: SCHOOL CLOSED DURING EASTER HOLIDAY

**A changed date due to industrial action on Thursday 16th March.*

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



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