



# Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Resilience**

At the beginning of this term, I met with all students in the Main School (KS3-4) to raise their aspirations and to make school expectations clear. At the heart of this presentation was an explanation of the importance of resilience so that they can achieve well and create the great works of their life. Many Robert Smyth students have resilience in abundance having traversed the enormous disruption of a pandemic and we feel that it is important that we continue to recognise the importance of this characteristic.

We provide many opportunities for students to develop resilience including a wholehearted commitment to extra-curricular activities including the chance to play sports, often the most obvious physical crucible of resilience. However, this trait is relevant in all areas of the curriculum and our most accomplished artists, musicians, historians, scientists, and mathematicians would, no doubt, explain the importance of determination and working through adversity to achieve success. I am sure that many parents reading this letter will be able to recognise that from their own working lives.

We will continue to champion students for their hard work and endeavour and to this end we are currently working with the School Council to finalise arrangements for End of Year Trips for Years 8, 9, and 10. We are also in the process of finalising arrangements for a new hallmark event that will take place in the summer term to celebrate the achievements of selected Key Stage 3 students as we do for our 'Key Stage 4 and 5 students in September. In addition, we will continue to promote the collection of merits, golden tickets, and celebrate our students in end of term assemblies.

## **Water Bottles**

At some point the weather will improve and the temperatures will start to feel less cold. To this end, we continue to advise students that it is important to stay hydrated and to prepare for the day ahead of them.

I would like to remind parents that all students are expected to **bring a reusable water bottle to school** and to fill this at break and lunchtime, as necessary. As part of our commitment to developing independence, we expect our students to be able to manage this without the need to interrupt their learning and to leave lessons. As it is not possible to teach effectively if many students request permission to leave lessons to refill their bottle, teachers will be reminded that students should not be given permission to leave lessons for this reason. This is a timely reminder that soft drinks and energy drinks remain prohibited including 'Prime'. If students have these drinks in school, they will always be confiscated, and a sanction will be applied.

## **RSA Dance Company**

Having written about resilience and independence, I did want to offer a sincere tribute to the resilient and fantastic performers of the RSA Dance Company. These students represented the school at The Curve Theatre in Leicester on Sunday at 'Mass Movement' and did so with absolute passion and energy. I would not count myself as an expert in this field, but I know what determination looks like, and these young people were the embodiment of this. My thanks to Mrs. Routledge for organising this brilliant opportunity.

## **Extreme Cornwall**

My final note for this week, is to sincerely thank the amazing teachers who coordinated and led our fabulous residential to Cornwall last week. It has been a real privilege to speak to the awestruck students who experienced The Eden Project and saw the amazing physical geography of the coast. I must offer a note of special thanks to Miss Cordwent who is a superb trip leader and my congratulations to our students. It was a highlight of my week to be phoned by a local business in Cornwall who described our students as, "*The most polite students that we have ever dealt with*". I can only hope that their supportive parents were extended the same courtesy when they returned after an exhilarating week away!

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 @RSA\_celebration



# Robert Smyth Academy

## Key dates

- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March:** High School Musical Production (**Ticket holders only**)
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** Leicester Tigers Trip (Years 7/8/9)
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Year 12 UCAS trip
- **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)
- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 6 Information Evening (Two sessions: 5.30pm and 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Ski Trip Departs
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April:** SCHOOL CLOSED DURING EASTER HOLIDAY
- **Year 11 Prom: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm.** More information will follow regarding Year 11 arrangements next week.

I wish you a good weekend and improving weather, at some stage...

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary  
**Principal**



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

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