

Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Via Diversa Vita Una



5 November 2020

Dear pupils, parents, teachers and Governors of SRPA Academy

I would like to congratulate the SRPA community on its spirit of unity and resilience during the past few months with the upheaval of COVID-19. The Academy has thrived on many fronts and I am incredibly proud of all our many parts, parents and families, staff and above all, our pupils.

I also want to acknowledge and applaud the adaptation and teamwork of the SRPA staff body, who enabled us to continue teaching and nurturing our children throughout. At all times the Head and his team made clear the dual mission to, first, support and educate while at home and, second, to welcome pupils back at school with safety and wellbeing as a top priority and consideration. Everyone's steadfast commitment has made this possible in a way that is clearly an exemplar. This has been no small feat!

On 18 March 2020 the Government announced the closure of schools. The SRPA team worked tirelessly to deliver Remote Learning to all years as soon as possible. It astounds me to think of all the demanding changes involved, not limited to continuing to deliver all academic subjects, overcoming technical niggles, changing the timetables and overcoming complexities on so many levels.

There have also been management considerations to ensure the school's operational and financial stability, renegotiating and reviewing budgets, and making the necessary decisions to ensure financial and practical sustainability.

Teachers, you have embraced the challenge. Many of you have young children yourselves at home, folk you are worried about, yet everyone worked hard behind the scenes. Crucially, the pastoral team have ensured safeguarding and wellbeing of students and staff alike. This has been monitored and multiple risk assessments are continually updated.

Remarkably, the fantastic pace of learning ensured that all years were on academic schedule resulting in very good results for our outgoing students and this continues for the rest of our students within this extremely challenging environment. You, the staff, are bearing a heavy load, sometimes literally moving heavy loads between 'bubbles'. Stunning commitment. THANK YOU.

Throughout all this, a great amount of detail was required to keep the health, safety and well-being of all members of the community as our top priority. Extra deep cleaning rotas, creating bubbles, changing the classrooms so that each tutor group would have



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the space they needed, ring-fencing indoor and outdoor spaces for each bubble, continually adjusting processes as the official advice was updated.

Senior Management Team and staff have had countless conversations with Local Authorities and I know Mr Hardy has liaised weekly with Heads to troubleshoot all aspects of the return to school and our ongoing functioning. Despite an occasional case, we have managed to 'contain' the disruption to a minimum. Many schools are struggling to achieve the same level of "steady ship" status and I hear that other schools have looked to us as an example of how to adapt and function, something of a compliment.

I have noted just how happy the children, parents and teachers have been; a huge number of parents have welcomed the weekly update from the Head. Recognising how vital SRPA has become, not just to our own students, but to other parts of the wider community to their well-being is wonderful to hear.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the parents, for your unwavering support and adaptability with the many changes we have all faced. We have been grateful for the support and thank you for the many letters and notes which helped to lift spirits during this difficult time.

This is a year to remember, or more accurately, we would all want to forget! The SRPA community has demonstrated resilience, enthusiasm, and a profound sense of togetherness. As I said in my opening, I am immensely proud and grateful for the remarkable way in which SRPA has risen to this extraordinary challenge. Thank you all!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Robson'.

Alan Robson
On behalf of all the Governors



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