



Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

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16 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Change of Latin Motto, Pride Month Artwork, Internal Examinations, Canteen Credentials, Anna Freud Centre Anxiety Resources, Extra-Curricular Activities, Uniform and PE Kit Donations, Green Team: World Refill Day, Community Speedwatch Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome to my end of week update letter. I hope you have enjoyed the weather this week. The Academy has ploughed on unabated, despite the heat, with some sensible, but temporary, modifications to uniform as we 'weather' the season in a 1953 building. Nevertheless, it has been a busy and productive time. More below:

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This week, we have been hosting the SRPA Jubilee Bake Off. Mrs Hodson has selected recipes across the last 70 years which have seen some remarkable entries. In staff terms, Mrs Murdoch's culinary masterpiece takes the prize. Special thanks must go to Bea L for her remarkable gluten free cupcakes. As a special reward she will receive a prize in our next Full School Assembly! Really well done to all of our participants!

Cultural Capital fortnight begins next week. Dr Kissane is leading on this piece of work and has a huge number of activities planned for PD lessons and beyond. Students will receive lessons about the history of the school/Academy, there will be a quiz, House competitions and an art exhibition as well as much more.

Change of Latin Motto

As it is our 70th anniversary, the Full Governing Body have decided to change our Latin motto on our Academy badge which will stand the test of time for the next 70 years. After a close-run public vote, the winning motto is 'Sapientia et doctrina' 'Wisdom and learning'.

As mentioned last week, this will not affect any parent at all in terms of expenditure. We will update the website, letterhead and minimal internal signage to begin with and begin a lengthy process of transfer.

Pride Month Artwork

This month is Pride month and our LGBTQ+ community is well-represented. Our flag is flying for the duration in support. In addition, Miss Hett and Miss Smith are leading on an art initiative to produce a large and very colourful permanent piece to commemorate the month and their role in our Jubilee.

I hope to be able to share this with you in the coming weeks as we prepare for a proper unveiling somewhere very prominent within the Academy. As it states on the sign in our main reception "Everyone is equal, but not everyone is the same."

Internal Examinations

Dependent upon year group, we are underway with internal examinations. The heat certainly doesn't help, so I encourage good hydration and plenty of sleep to prepare. Hopefully by now, students have been revising well with support from home as well as school. I wish all of our youngsters success in their end of year assessments.

Canteen Credentials

We have seen a rise in students who cannot remember their four-digit passcode and their thumbprint is not working. Students have been directed to the several terminals around the site to reset their credentials and have been supported by IT colleagues in the canteen. No child has been left without food contrary to some feedback, but it is important that students take responsibility for their own data too.

Anna Freud Centre anxiety resources

Please see the attached link some useful resources to support 11 -13 year olds with anxiety: <https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/let-s-talk-about-anxiety-animation-and-teacher-toolkit/>

Extra-Curricular Activities

A reminder that the new timetables for departmental extra-curricular timetables are live on the website here:

<https://srpa.co.uk/extra-curricular-clubs-activities/>

Uniform and PE Kit Donations

In order to ensure that we have enough stock in our second-hand uniform shop, we are looking again for any donations please, especially in larger sizes (thinking of leaving Year 11s). We have become somewhat depleted of late in this area and would value the kindness of others in this cost of living crisis to support across our community. Thank you.

Next week, we will return to normal uniform. As the weather cools, we will make an internal decision at the time about the wearing of blazers during the Academy day.

Green Team: World Refill Day

Today is World Refill Day – a campaign to choose to reuse and join millions of people around the world taking action to reduce plastic pollution. Every year, the plastics industry produces more than 400 million tonnes of plastic, with half of this being single use. Globally, between 8-12 metric tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean every year, impacting wildlife, human health, and the ocean's ability to store carbon. It is estimated that at least 20% of plastic packaging could be replaced by reusable systems, but reusable packaging currently represents less than 2% of packaging on the market.

This week, R2L groups have focused on the Environment Value, considering how they could get involved in World Refill Day and beyond. You can find tips to get started here: <https://www.refill.org.uk/10-ways-to-refill-this-world-refill-day/> The Green Team would love to see more of our students choose to reuse to help our environment!



"This is a calm, happy and caring school."



Community Speedwatch Volunteer Opportunities

This week, I attended my first meeting of the North Hykeham Town Council Community Committee as a co-opted non-councillor member.

In what was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, I took away some useful local knowledge and learnt much about the community I serve. In the bargain, there are some useful opportunities for me to signpost local residents to some really good initiatives. This is one such opportunity - the Council are looking for CSW volunteers in order to continue their worthy activities. Councillor Briggs explained the initiative and gave some useful context. I promised to let parents and carers know that volunteers are being sought. For further details please contact Mandy Parker, Town Clerk, using townclerk@northhykehamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

On Wednesday this week, I had the privilege of being interviewed for our first ever Academy podcast with a Jubilee focus. I really enjoyed Livia B, our Sixth Form Senior Leader in charge of Social Media, talking to me about the Academy, the Jubilee and much more. We hope to publish the final version to you via our website and socials very soon. Next week, we will be adding another podcast with wider student participation. This is just one of the ways in which we are reinventing our communication with all of our various stakeholders with more to come over the coming weeks and months.

This week has been a tough week for the City of Nottingham. Two students from one of my old universities have lost their lives, the caretaker of one of the primary schools from my old trust was killed and the community is hurting. Contrary to some of the headlines over time, Nottingham is a close-knit community and will come together over this. Regardless, the loss is just shocking and puts life into perspective. I served as a primary and secondary adviser in the city for over three years and then became a Deputy Head there. Some of the road names mentioned in news reports I know like my own backyard. I can't help wondering what it would feel like if something so terrible happened here and I feel blessed. We will soon be running a drill for if we received unwanted visitors onto our campus and this now feels more timely than ever. More about that in due course. For now, I have spent some thoughtful moments amongst the usual business of the week and am firmly reminded of the words of American author and disability rights activist Helen Keller, who said "Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Have a lovely, sunny weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster



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