



Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Sapientia et Doctrina

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Dear Parent/Carer

Alexander, Year 9 Vaccinations – Thursday 22 January 2026

Welcome to my weekly update letter. This week has been challenging for everyone associated with the Academy.

Alexander

The news about Alexander came as a complete shock and our hearts go out to his family at this most awful of times. I have spoken to Alexander's father and want to assure you all that Alexander was really happy here, loved his subjects, was proud of his A level teachers and had settled well into the sixth form. Moving forwards, the Academy will not engage in any communication without their permission. Even this letter content has been agreed with them before publication.

We will continue to talk to them, when they feel able, whilst respecting the need for some balance as they come to terms with the news. I have informed the staff and extend the same sentiment to our parents and carers, that the only person to share anything with regard to Alexander on behalf of the Academy will be me. Any other source is not to be trusted.

My own experiences of Alexander have always been positive. He was determined to wear his suit and tie each and every day in Year 12 although the dress code is more relaxed in RP6th, wore his smile well and possessed the rare gift, for someone so young, to be able to hold a conversation with anyone and leave them feeling warmer at the end of it. Shortly before the Christmas break, he came to see me to ask if I would consider allowing him to complete his Year 12 work experience at school, a message he delivered with such politeness, respect and grace. Now usually we don't like to do that, in order for our youngsters to spread their wings, but he came so well prepared and with such a compelling argument that he pitched perfectly, all I could do was smile and agree because he had thought it through so well. He also loved volunteering in a local book shop where he was cherished by his colleagues. Without doubt, Alexander was clearly bound for Cambridge and worked tirelessly to learn, whilst continuing to grow into a fine young man. I have rarely met someone with such a bright soul and I am personally devastated at his passing, as we all are.

Alexander was also proud of his friends and had formed some wonderful relationships with our youngsters, especially in RP6th. From spending quite a bit of time with them this week, it is abundantly clear that Alexander's footprints will be sorely missed in their daily lives. But I have also watched them, together in adversity, come together more closely to talk, think and feel as a group. I am steadfastly proud of them all as they face these times looking after each other and you can be sure that we will stand with them as they grieve.

My staff team have been immense all week without exception, for which I am so grateful. I must take the time to mention Mr Griffiths, Miss Burch and Mrs Lewis, in particular as the RP6th core team, who have had a terrible week but have been there for our students without exception. The SRPA family means so much to them too and they join me in doing their level best to enrich the lives of our youngsters. This mission will continue without forgetting the finest amongst us who can no longer attend.

Staff and students continue to be supported with care and counselling services. This will be made available for the foreseeable future on an individual, group and drop-in basis. I would also like to thank our community for the many heartfelt emails offering condolences, resources or services to support the SRPA family at this time. We are in the process of replying to all of them but please bear with us. We remain extremely grateful.

Lastly, I have already received several enquiries about memorial services etc. It is far too early for us to contemplate that and, in any event, we will be led by his parents and will only communicate what they agree to and when there is information to share. Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Year 9 Vaccinations – Thursday 22 January 2026

The School Age Immunisation Team will be coming to the Academy on Thursday 22 January 2026 to give the Dual Td/IPV & Men ACWY vaccinations for Year 9 children. Full information has been provided to parents and carers.

I don't have the words for my usual signing off quote this week. Anything offered would have trivialised the situation. Normal service will resume in due course.

Try to have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster

