Sir Robert Pattinson Academy
Sapientia et Doctrina

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Dear Parent/Carer

Catering Provision, PD Day 2 - Wednesday 2 December: Theme - Respect: Ourselves, Others and our Community, Santa Fun Run - Changemakers, Year 11 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 9 December, Christmas Charity Family Day – 12 December 2026, Year 13 and 11 Proms

Welcome to my end of week update letter. With three weeks until the Christmas break, there is still plenty to update you on.

Catering Provision

From January 2027, we have appointed a new catering provider. Taylor Shaw/Elior will be taking over the current Aspens contract. Taylor Shaw are nationally respected and already know the local landscape as they continue to run the catering services at Branston. I am currently holding weekly meetings with them to ensure we have new seating, new branding and renewed menus for our youngsters from January. I hope to publish more information in this regard prior to the break.

PD Day 2 Wednesday 2 December: Theme - Respect: Ourselves, Others and our Community

Day 2 focuses on developing students' understanding of respect, responsibility and positive relationships, both within the academy and wider society. Students will explore personal wellbeing, equality, diversity, safeguarding and the importance of making informed, responsible decisions. The day also supports students in developing essential life skills, strengthening their understanding of future education and career pathways, and recognising their role in building safe, respectful and inclusive communities.

Year 7

Students will explore the physical and emotional changes associated with growing up, developing their understanding of self-esteem, healthy lifestyles and personal wellbeing. Through activities exploring dental health, friendships and respectful relationships, students will consider how their choices affect themselves and others. Students will also be introduced to Unifrog, encouraging early reflection on their interests, strengths and potential future careers.

Year 8

Students will develop their understanding of respect and responsibility through exploring bullying, discrimination, safeguarding and cultural differences. They will consider how to recognise harmful behaviour, respond appropriately and contribute to a safe and inclusive community. An enterprise challenge will also encourage students to develop problem-solving skills while considering the environmental impact of waste tyres.

Please turn over.

Year 9

Students will explore the importance of equality and respect, examining disability discrimination, racism and the historical influences that continue to shape society. They will consider their responsibilities as digital citizens and how their online behaviour can contribute to respectful and inclusive communities. Alongside this, GCSE options taster sessions will support students in making informed decisions about their future education and career pathways.

Year 10

Students will develop their understanding of physical and emotional wellbeing, exploring first aid, recognising warning signs associated with suicidal thoughts and strategies for supporting positive mental health. They will also examine body image, fatphobia and the importance of respecting individual differences. Careers activities will support students in developing practical employability skills through the creation of a professional CV.

Year 11

Students will explore the importance of respectful and healthy relationships, considering issues surrounding abuse, teenage parenthood, misogyny and gender stereotypes. They will also develop their awareness of breast and cervical cancer, including common symptoms and risk factors, encouraging informed decisions about personal health. Careers-focused sessions will support students in preparing for their next steps through developing CVs, covering letters and application skills.

Year 12

Students will develop essential life skills and personal responsibility through practical sessions exploring car maintenance, personal safety and the risks associated with drink spiking. Careers activities will focus on developing effective CVs and preparing for future employment and educational opportunities. A sixth-form social activity will also provide opportunities to strengthen relationships and build connections across the sixth-form community.

Year 13

Students will focus on developing the communication, confidence and organisational skills required for successful transitions beyond sixth form. Mock interviews will provide opportunities to practise professional communication and interview techniques, while independent study and CV development will support preparation for examinations and future pathways. Students will also participate in a sixth-form social activity, encouraging positive relationships and a sense of community.

Santa Fun Run - Changemakers

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Santa Fun Run Competition, which also serves as the Champion of Champions event for all students who participated in the Community Fun Run earlier this year. This exciting event is part of the 12NA Changemaker Project, celebrating community spirit and festive fun.

The event will take place on Wednesday 9 December, in the afternoon. We kindly ask for donations via ParentPay to support our chosen charity, Guide Dogs, with a small proportion helping to fund festive treats and resources for participants. To spread the Christmas cheer, every student will receive a Santa hat and a cup of hot chocolate.

Year 11 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 9 December

School Cloud will go live for appointment bookings early next week and instructions will be sent out at the same time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Charity Family Day – 12 December 2026

Please see the attached flyer for the Christmas Family Day at the Fox & Hounds on Saturday 12 December.

Year 13 and 11 Proms

As you will all be aware from my weekly letters and from any visits to the Academy you may have been involved in, the building works are causing us to change the way we are operating this academic year. In relation to all evening events, it is clear that we need alternative plans. As a consequence, prom events will also have to be different.

For Year 13, they are a very small year group and are taking their prom off site in late June. This is a private event and is being led by the Student Senior Leadership Team in that year.

For Year 11, it is not as simple. For a year group of their size, we are absolutely committed to there being a prom, but it won't be able to run as an evening event. Therefore, we are currently finalising plans where the prom will take place on-site on one of the fields with a marquee in situ, music, food and drink but with an earlier start and finish time. Once we are in a position to publish specific details we will do so as soon as possible. One thing we are committed to is inclusion based on cost – no-one should be disadvantaged by being expected to wear suits/dinner jackets/dresses so this will remain optional with an open dress code to encourage attendance.

As we approach December and another respect-based PD Day, let me leave you with the words of Aesop, famous for his fables, who said "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Hardy
Headmaster