



Robert Smyth Academy



PROSPECTUS



Part of Tudor Grange Academies Trust

Welcome

When Robert Smyth founded the original Market Harborough Grammar School in 1607 he would not have known that, over 400 years later, his school would become the Robert Smyth Academy, a thriving and successful school at the heart of the local community. Today, the spirit of Robert Smyth lives on through the ambition, excellence and opportunity which are central to our ethos. We have a reputation for academic success, extensive curricular and extra-curricular provision and the personalised support and care that we offer to our students. We are proud to serve the young people of Market Harborough and look forward to working with you as you join our Academy.

You are joining us at an exciting time of change as we join Tudor Grange Acadmies Trust and, from September 2018, complete our transition to an 11 - 19 academy. This latter development will enhance continuity of the student experience and ensure maximum progression.

We are looking forward to working with all of our students during their secondary school experience and being able to follow, nurture and support them on their journey to adulthood. We have high expectations and set high standards. We will continue to inspire our students to reach their potential, achieve their goals and make a difference.

Richard Taylor, Acting Principal

“Pupils are very keen to learn and are eager to do well. The majority of pupils take great pride in their work.”

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Our Ethos

Robert Smyth Academy students...

RESPECT Academy expectations

- Take pride in themselves and the Academy
- Support each other and contribute to a positive learning environment
- Act responsibly and become positive role models and ambassadors
- Show empathy and understanding towards all members of the Academy and the wider community

SUCCEED through hard work, determination and resilience

- Are self-motivated, pro-active and use their initiative
- Recognise their strengths and the areas in which they need to improve
- Celebrate and learn from the achievements of others
- Are keen to communicate and share ideas and knowledge

ASPIRE and aim high

- Are fascinated by the world, curious to explore new ideas and try new experiences
- Make the most of the opportunities on offer
- Are fuelled by a love of learning
- Have team spirit and work collaboratively



Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver the highest quality education, ensuring that our students become confident, happy and successful adults who are empowered to play a positive and significant part in their communities and society at large.

We will do this by:

- having high expectations within a positive learning, caring and supportive environment;
- challenging students to reach their full potential, achieving success through our commitment to continuous improvement;
- recognising all staff and students as individuals, each with their own contributions to make;
- providing personalised learning pathways for all;
- developing the whole person through a wide range of opportunities and challenges.



Our Head Boy and Head Girl

Belong

The college system is an important part of the character and ethos of our Academy. All Key Stage 3 and 4 students who join the Academy are placed in one of four colleges, each with a historical connection to the Academy and the town.

Bragg College – This college is named in celebration of Sir William Henry Bragg, eminent physicist, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915 and a former student of the original Market Harborough County Grammar School.

Hammond College – Francis Hammond was Headmaster of the Market Harborough County Grammar School when it moved to our site on Burnmill Road in 1909. Our renowned arboretum is also named 'The Hammond Arboretum' in recognition of his contribution to the creation of this valuable resource.

Logan College – Logan college is named in celebration of the lives and work of local sisters Isobel and Nora Logan, who were both heavily involved in women's rights and suffrage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Moseley College – Mr and Mrs Moseley had long association with the Market Harborough County Grammar School. Mr Moseley was chair of governors for several years and Mrs Moseley was a district councillor in the 1950s and an enthusiastic supporter of the school, often attending awards ceremonies to give out prizes.

Our college-based assemblies, competitions, celebrations and charity events all foster a pride in belonging to a particular college. Students are encouraged to participate fully in the college-based events and activities.

Pupils show high levels of consideration and respect for others. They are confident and articulate. Pupils wear their uniform smartly and take pride in being a member of their school community.

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Achieve

We are very proud of the achievements and successes of all of our students.

Our results at A Level are very impressive, ranking us among the top Sixth Form providers in Leicestershire, and are consistently in the top 25% of the country. In 2017, over 90% of Year 13 students successfully gained a place on their university course of choice, including Oxbridge places.

Our GCSE results were well above the national average in Maths (84% 4+), English (80% 4+) and Science, with students achieving excellent results in many areas outside of the core including Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Economics, and Drama.

Our Key Stage 3 students experience a broad, balanced, differentiated and relevant curriculum with continuity, progression and coherence. This is centred on a strong core that focuses on developing basic skills and acquiring knowledge in preparation for the rigour of linear GCSE assessments and beyond into Further and Higher Education.

In 2018-19, we will be starting GCSEs with cohorts of students in Years 9 (three year GCSE) and Year 10 (two year GCSE). Please come along to our **Key Stage 4 Options Evening** on Thursday 12th October if you are considering joining us in 2018 in Years 9 or 10.

“Pupils make good progress and attain highly in a range of different subjects. Students in the sixth form make good progress, and achieve well above national averages.”

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Our Annual 24hr Charity Fundraiser "Lock-In"

We have valued the support that staff at the school have given both our children. They have thrived and we know that this is due to the hard work and dedication of your staff.

Parental feedback

“

There is a thriving sports leadership programme and the school has been able to provide a rich and diverse range of extra-curricular activities.

”

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Primary Multi-Sports Day

“

Without the support of the RSA Young Sports Leaders we would not be able to put on such an event and provide such an opportunity. Their conduct and behaviour are exemplary.

”

Harborough District Council, praising our students' involvement in the Tag Rugby Festival

Connect

In addition to academic excellence, we ensure that all of our students can achieve success in a wide number of fields including sports leadership, performing and creative arts.

Children from local schools enjoy a wide range of outreach activities provided by our students and staff. These include the Science Academy, Project Infinity, Year 5 Languages Day and the Mini Olympics. Through these opportunities younger children benefit from our specialist facilities and get to know Robert Smyth staff; in turn, we relish working with our future students. Our student-led CAIRS (Charity Action In Robert Smyth) committee organise concerts and events to raise money for a range of charities each year.



Mini Olympics



Heartsafe - Lifesaving Training



Gifted and Talented Music Workshop

“

We have all been impressed
with the students who
volunteered.

”

Steve Kendall, Dementia Harborough



Primary Science Conference

“

I was absolutely delighted that
both of my boys came home full of
ideas having had a brilliant day. They
truly had a fantastic time and didn't
stop talking about it for days.

”

**Parental feedback about our Primary Science
Conference**

Discover

Students take part in a wide range of educational trips and visits both at home and abroad. These include an annual ski trip, music tour and a thriving French exchange with our partner school near Strasbourg. Every two years students have the opportunity to participate in World Challenge where they undertake a life-changing expedition to places such as Peru and Laos and Tanzania. Our students also have the chance to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange programme, which has enabled students to experience family life and culture in the USA, Canada and Taiwan.



Visiting Warwick Castle with Exchange Students

“

Thank you so much for arranging the trip. My daughter says it is one of the best things she's ever done in her life!

”

Parental feedback on the French exchange



Music Tour to Venice

Pupils are actively involved in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. Pupils take part in team-building events, music tours and language exchanges. Visits to Auschwitz, theatres and the Houses of Parliament support pupils' strong cultural development.

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Skiing in Bormio, Italy



Year 7 Residential Trip to Yorkshire

“ It takes very special teachers to get involved in such an amazing experience. ”

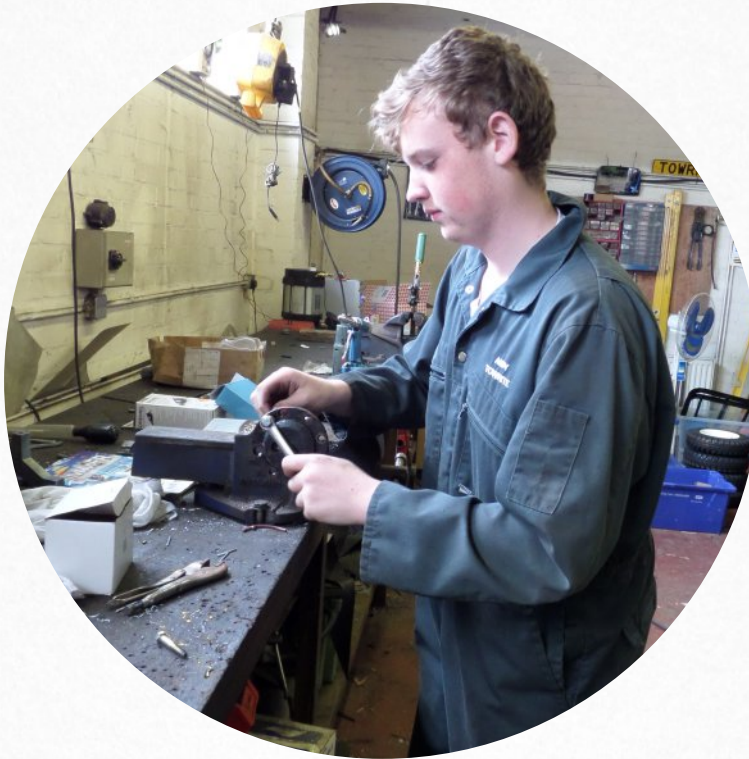
**Parental feedback on the
World Challenge trip to Peru**



World Challenge Expedition, Peru

“ My children have, in my opinion, benefited and learned a great deal from work experience. It gives youngsters an insight to the outside world yet they are still monitored and protected. ”

Parental feedback



Work Experience Teaches New Skills



A Chance to Learn from Professionals

Prepare

Alongside their academic qualifications, it is important that our students gain the skills and knowledge to prepare them for Higher Education and the world of work. A week's work experience and enterprise education are core entitlements for all Year 10 students. In Year 11 our students benefit from detailed and independent careers advice, preparing them for successful transition to post-16 education or training. Our Higher Education programme and support and guidance offered for UCAS applications are thorough and tailored to the needs of each student.

My teachers were easy
to talk to and always
supported me when I
needed help.

“ I'm really excited about
studying medicine at
Cambridge University ”

Pippa Ball



“

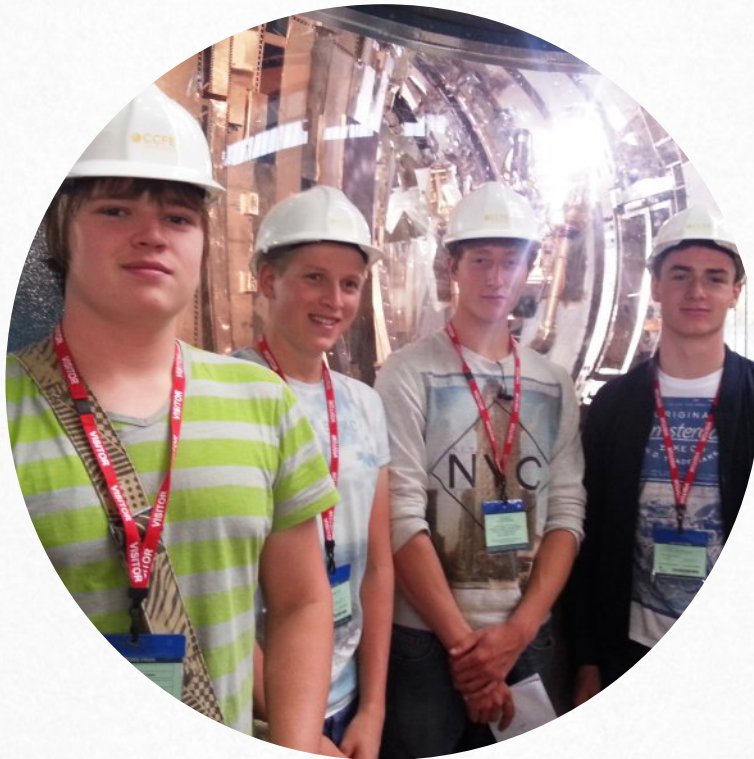
I wanted to thank you for believing
in my son, caring about him and
supporting him. It has meant a lot
to us both and goes beyond data
and results.

”

Parental feedback

Challenge

Our close association with the National Space Academy, and as a Further Maths Hub, exemplify our priority to offer opportunities to stretch and challenge students in every field. We challenge students to make the most of their time with us and to become confident, happy and successful young adults.



Extreme Physics, Oxford University

“

The Academy is blessed with many top band candidates. Work was ambitious and mature.

”

**Exam board feedback on A Level English
Literature coursework**

Lead

Our young leaders contribute widely both within the Academy and the local community. During their time with us students build their team work and organisational skills as well as their confidence by participating in a range of leadership activities and programmes such as Arts Award, Duke of Edinburgh, STEM Young Leaders and Sports Leaders UK. Our thriving student council, *Student Voice*, works alongside our prefect and peer mentor team to support other students, contribute to decision making in the Academy and act as student ambassadors at key events. Our prestigious Leadership Academy provides students with formal recognition of their achievements in this area.

“ I want to thank you for providing the opportunities for me to be a leader and hone my skills. **Student feedback after graduating from university and securing employment** ”



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Thrive

Our tutoring structure and highly successful Sixth Form provide mentoring and inspiration for younger students, supporting and encouraging them to make the most of the opportunities on offer. Students thrive within our College structure which encourages participation, collaboration and challenge across the whole age range. Our students take an active part in Academy life by supporting others, contributing to the local community and preparing themselves for the future.



Sports Day Tug-o-War Success

“ I can't thank you enough for the support you have given my daughter to help allay her worries. She knows that she can come to you at any time with any concerns. That is a great comfort to me too. ”

Parental feedback

“My son has worked so hard with your backing and support. He has had the benefit of dedicated and expert teaching. You have understood him not only academically, but also holistically.”

Parental feedback



Participating in Our Dance Showcase

“I really enjoyed being an RSA sports captain because it gave me a chance to lead and take an active role in sport for my House. Being a house captain can test you sometimes; however, when you achieve your goals and win matches, it's all worth it.”

Year 11 student

Excel

Sporting successes continue to be impressive. Many of our sports teams were area or county champions in 2016-7 across many sports including rugby, football, netball, cricket and athletics. We are also runner up in the 'National Sports Leadership Academy of the Year' competition. Each year, hundreds of our young sports leaders organise and run events in local schools and in the community.

Music success has been phenomenal with the Jazz Band, Big Band and Soul Band winning local, national and international acclaim. Our musical *We Will Rock You* was a sell out and demonstrated the huge talent that we have amongst our performing arts students and staff. This excellence in the performing arts has seen us receive one of the highest accolades in education, Artsmark Gold.



Just One of Our Winning Teams

Respect, Succeed, Aspire

“Wow – we’re still recovering from the phenomenal *We Will Rock You* show on Friday night! An outstanding production with amazing performances. My family couldn’t believe the school had so much talent under one roof.”

Audience feedback for *We Will Rock You*



"We Will Rock You"

“An extensive range of sporting, musical and cultural activities promotes students’ personal development well.”

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Specific course information is published in our **Courses Booklets** available from our website. Printed copies can be provided if you contact us.

If you have further questions about Robert Smyth Academy, including requests to visit, please get in touch.

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