



Dear Parent/Carer

We are already coming to the end of the first term of 2018-19 and we have plenty to report.

Year 7

We welcomed another full intake of 190 Year 7 students, showing the increasing popularity of the school in the admissions process. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Year 7 parents to the Robert Napier community. I would also like to congratulate the majority of the Year 7 students on an excellent start so far in relation to their behaviour, efforts and courtesy around school. However, a number of Year 7 students have struggled this term to meet the much higher expectations of them here at The Robert Napier School and also the significant change that comes with taking on 13 different subjects across a 50 period timetable. We have recruited 2 extra Learning Support Assistants to support Year 7 classes starting after the half term.

Examination results

Many of you will have seen on our Facebook page the news about the excellent results in the summer. The improvement in GCSE results has been an excellent reward for all of the hard work from the students, staff and parents. The school significantly improved the outcomes of students in Maths, which has been a major area for improvement from our last Ofsted inspection, improving by 21% at Grade 4 and above, bringing its progress in line with our English department. Overall, across all subjects, our attainment improved by 8% at Grade 5 or above and by 6% at Grade 4 or above. Our initial Progress 8 score has remained similar to last year at -0.15 and is in the DfE Average category. Our progress score is close to, and above, many other 'Good' Medway non-selective schools. This has been achieved despite the fact that there have been massive changes to many of the specifications, and also some subjects have been removed from the performance measures this year, meaning the school has had to work extra hard to address these issues and those subjects impacted by the changes. We also estimate that the curriculum we have in place for some students has a further impact on a progress score, but it is nevertheless the right curriculum for our students. When you take this into account, the performance of our students last year was even better. The other area where we closed the gap in performance was for our disadvantaged students, which was another target from our last Ofsted, again showing our sustained improvement across many areas of the school.

Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

I am also delighted to report that our latest internal and Trust wide review of teaching and learning show the school to be in a very good position, ready for our next Ofsted. We expect to be inspected in the next 5 months and hope that we can secure the first 'Good' rating in 13 years at the school. You have a role in this both in your feedback to Ofsted, but also in how you reinforce the school's expectations at home. If we achieve a 'Good' in our next inspection, it will support our progress further in making the process of future recruitment of students and staff, giving us every chance to aim for 'Outstanding' in the future.

Behaviour and Standards

While we are very focused on the expectations of behaviour of our students in school, it is important that students also represent the school on their journeys to and from school. Can I please ask that you also remind your son/daughter of the importance of thoughtfulness and harmony in your community and to highlight the risks of dangerous riding while on bikes and the nuisance of antisocial behaviour. The school does not tolerate this type of behaviour, as it brings the school's reputation into disrepute.

I would also like to highlight to you the very real and growing risk of gangs and drugs across the Medway towns. We have regular talks with students in school and it forms part of our curriculum to educate students about managing themselves and avoiding risks. Recent reports in the local press are not exaggerating the issue, and we urge you all to be very vigilant with regard to your son's/daughter's whereabouts, but also to take a stand in the community against this and report anything suspicious to the Police.

Attendance matters!

Last year our attendance improved slightly on the previous year to 93.9%, but we are still seeing a wide range of unnecessary absence. We will tackle low attendance very robustly and last year we had the largest court referrals for attendance in Medway, demonstrating our high expectations about attendance. I want us to aim for a very challenging 95% this year. Please continue to notify the school with any absence before 9.00am on the day of absence, but you must also consider whether the absence is really necessary. Please be reminded that holidays in term time will be unauthorised and are likely to result in a penalty notice and fine.

Awards Evening 2018

Our Awards Evening showcased some of the amazing progress and efforts that many students are showing across all of their subjects, and I was delighted to see the awards go to a variety of students this year, reflecting our recognition of a range of skills and talents. I was delighted to welcome Dominic Irvine, who is an international business leadership training provider and world record holder for the tandem bike ride between Lands End and John-O-Groats. He gave a very inspirational speech to students about the benefits of their investment in their education and how many doors it can open in the future. The highlight for me at the evening was the two musical pieces delivered firstly by our choir and band – 'This Is Me' from The Greatest

Showman and then the superb individual solo from Sinead Taylor, with a stunning performance of 'I Dreamed A Dream' from Les Miserables. We certainly have some stars of the future being developed by our Music department.

Please be reminded that we finish this term on Friday 19th October at the normal time of 2.55pm. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 5th November, ready for another fantastic term.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Minchin
Headteacher

2018-2019 Term Dates:

Term 2

Monday 5th November 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018
Trust Inset Day - Friday 23rd November 2018

Term 3

Thursday 3rd January 2019 – Friday 15th February 2019

Term 4

Monday 25th February 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019

Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 24th May 2019

Term 6

Monday 3rd June 2019 – Tuesday 23rd July 2019
Inset Day – Monday 1st July 2019



Behaviour for Learning – Non Negotiable Standards

As students of Robert Napier we will work very hard to make behaviour in our school outstanding by following the recipe for success which students and staff created:

1. All Robert Napier Students will respect the authority of the adults in the school:

- a. Adults' instructions must be followed without question
- b. We should accept consequences of our own actions without argument
- c. We will respect the time and effort put into marking and planning of lessons, showing our appreciation to teacher for this

2. All Robert Napier students should show a readiness for learning at all times:

- a. We will be properly equipped and will have planners, books, knowledge booklets and equipment on the table ready for learning
- b. We will take pride in our work and produce our best at all times
- c. We will not use mobile phones in lessons unless asked to
- d. All of us will follow the SLANT process in all lessons to support our learning:
 - Sit up straight,
 - Listen,
 - Answer questions,
 - Never interrupt and
 - Track the teacher (or text or speaker)

3. All Robert Napier students should move through the school quickly and in an orderly manner:

- a. We will be punctual to school and to lessons and ready to start learning straight away
- b. Changeover of lessons should be within 2 minutes – seat to seat and in silence inside the school building
- c. Everyone in the school should walk on the left side of corridors in single file if necessary
- d. We should ensure no student feels unsafe by our own actions

4. All Robert Napier students should be well mannered at all times:

- a. We should open doors for each other and for guests
- b. We should speak to staff and to each other with respect and courtesy at all times
- c. We should not swear in any part of our conversations with staff or other students
- d. We should challenge poor manners and actively model the correct behaviours to younger students

5. All Robert Napier students should present themselves in the correct uniform at all times:

- a. We will avoid confrontation with staff by wearing the correct uniform
- b. We will represent the school to high standard by wearing a uniform with pride to and from school

6. The school community should be a clean, safe and calm environment for us all.

- a. We will challenge others that drop litter, both in our school and in our local community
- b. We will never eat chewing gum or drink fizzy or high energy drinks
- c. We will never participate in any form of anti-social behaviour
- d. We will show kindness to each other and will not intimidate or threaten other students through our direct or indirect actions

7. All Robert Napier students and staff should support each other and the school to **consistently** achieve the six areas above.

