



# ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

VITALITY • OPPORTUNITY • INDEPENDENCE • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

PROSPECTUS 2025-2026

# Welcome



Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. It should demonstrate to you just how exciting and successful Robert Bloomfield Academy is.

Situated in the heart of the Shefford community, students, parents and staff are incredibly proud of their school and reap huge rewards academically and pastorally over their four year journey with us. No stone is left unturned in the pursuit to maintain our outstanding school vision and you will find that the curriculum and opportunities presented to the students at Robert Bloomfield is above and beyond that of any other school.

We have a superb learning environment, enhanced by specialist facilities across numerous subjects, which enable us to offer a full range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We have a specialist Year 5 block of classrooms and a state of the art Learning Resource Centre. Our most recent Ofsted Inspection Report graded the school as 'Outstanding' in all categories in February 2025.

Above all, we are a caring community that values each child and provides them with the opportunity to fulfill their potential and enjoy learning. We believe in building a child's confidence, adaptability and resilience for the future within an ordered and structured environment, where high expectations are a habit.



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*Pupils thrive in this welcoming and exceptionally inclusive environment.*

Ofsted | 2025



# Our **VOICE** Values

Our **VOICE** Values were introduced in September 2023 and they built upon the existing, well-established, core values of community, opportunity and excellence. We have augmented these with two additional values of vitality and independence. These words combine to form our **V.O.I.C.E.** values, aimed at creating students who:

- V Vitality:** are enthusiastic, energised and healthy
- O Opportunity:** achieve and experience exciting things
- I Independence:** develop the skills to succeed in life
- C Community:** serve and respect the school community
- E Excellence:** are the best they can be at all times

VOICE

## Living Our **VOICE** Values:

As values should not just be words on a wall, they suffuse the school and are integral to many areas, including:

**Quality of Education** - our curriculum intent is predicated on our **VOICE** values and the inherent importance of oracy required of an institution where the values spell **VOICE**

**Teaching and Learning** - our lesson planning broadly follow the five part **VOICE** lesson and opportunities to promote oracy are threaded into teacher planning

**Behaviour and Attitudes** - our **VOICE** Note reward cards are carried by students every day; they ensure students live our values and are rewarded for doing so

**Personal Development** - the personal development curriculum is aligned to our values and students are encouraged to live these values at all times

**Leadership and Management** - leaders at all levels are mindful of stakeholder views and listen to understand before addressing any areas for development.

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*The 'VOICE' values are well-represented features of daily school life.*

Ofsted | 2025



COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

# Achievement and Standards

We are very proud of our academic achievements and indeed the effort and dedication of students to their studies.

Progress and attainment are rigorously tracked in all areas and our students excel in many different ways.

The journey through a Middle School is a unique one. The students make exceptional progress over their four-year journey, we use GL assessment on entry to RBA and when students leave us in Year 8 to track a student's progress over time and all students at the school regardless of starting point, additional needs or disadvantage make significant progress in their time with us.

We assess students in all year groups against Age Related Expectations, comparing the curriculum expectations in the National Curriculum in all subjects to the expected standard for a student in each year group. Students are then provided with the learning experiences to make progress against these curricula.

We continually monitor a student's progress and attitude to learning in relation to their age related expectation and report this to parents once per term.

We believe in prioritising the retrieval and retention of knowledge using the principle below:

**Acquisition** – students understand factual knowledge related to the subject being studied.

**Retention** – students retain this knowledge and can see how it is related to previous and subsequent new knowledge.

**Application** – students can apply this knowledge to different situations and issues.

We have high expectations of all our students and we believe every child has talents which can be nurtured with the right support and encouragement. The size and success of Robert Bloomfield means that we can continue to offer a balanced and modern curriculum which is second-to-none. We have an incredible array of educational visits and guest speakers to help enhance the learning experience. Added to the specialist facilities and expert subject teaching on offer, Robert Bloomfield is able to provide a curriculum with high academic outcomes and personal development for every child.



# Vibrant Facilities

We are very proud of the specialist facilities and resources we can offer our students at Robert Bloomfield Academy, and they provide our students with a fantastic environment in which to learn and work. In addition to well-appointed classrooms, our facilities include:

**Floodlit 3G Multi use pitch**

**Floodlit Netball courts**

**Purpose built Year 5 block**

**Learning Resource Centre**

**Specialist art & design studios with a kiln**

**Specialist graphic & IT suites**

**Design Technology workshops with 3D printers and laser cutter**

**Specialist studio theatre for drama & dance with seating to accommodate 200 people**

**Refurbished cafeteria with service stations & outdoor eatery**

**Full sized Sports Hall**

**Large field space**

**4 x Specialist Science Labs**

*My favourite memory of RBA was being part of the incredible productions, especially The Lion King.*

Best Memory | Year 8 Student



# Residential and Day Trips

School trips are an exciting part of school life at RBA. From a day trip to Harry Potter studios in Year 6 to residential stays by the coast or skiing in France.

We have a whole range of planned residential and day trips which are linked to, and enhance our curriculum.

Trips are available to everyone and are certain to be experiences that will never be forgotten.

Current trips include;

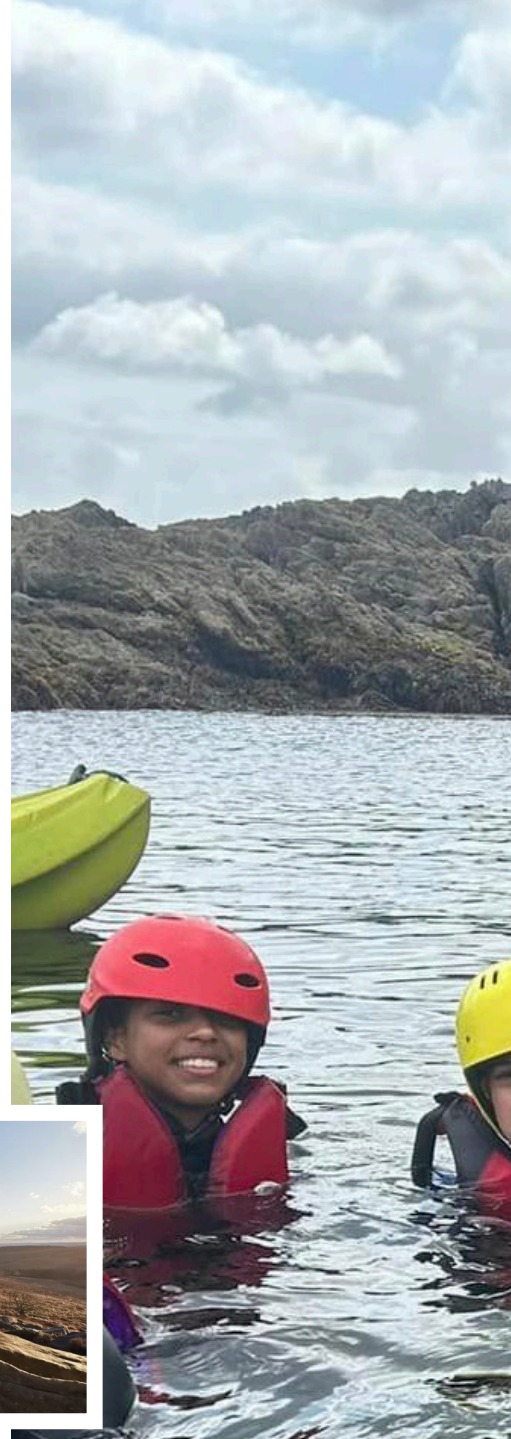
**Year 5** - Three-day outdoor pursuits to the Norfolk Lakes & Christmas Pantomime

**Year 6** - Residential Trip to Conover & Harry Potter studios tour

**Year 7** - Water-based pursuits in Cornwall & Skiing in France

**Year 8** - Skiing in France, a French Culture Residential & F1 Trip

**All Years** - Trips to both local and London Theatre's





*I have too many memories from my time at RBA to choose from. I just know that being at RBA will be a memory I'll never forget.*

Best Memory | Year 8 Student



# Curriculum

At Robert Bloomfield Academy, our **VOICE** values of vitality, opportunity, independence, community and excellence are the foundation of our curriculum. We set high expectations to ensure that every student excels across all aspects of academy life, and our aim is that all students make strong academic progress, comparative to their age-related expectations, curriculum stage and starting point.

We want our students to leave with knowledge and skills which will not only create excellent life opportunities but will also prepare them exceptionally well for life beyond the academy, and as such, we offer a broad curriculum that utilises our unique position as a middle school, with subject-specialist teachers and facilities

The curriculum at Robert Bloomfield is one that:

**Gives students an experience of a broad, deep and knowledge-rich curriculum;**

**Provides opportunities for all students to be literate and numerate;**

**Has high expectations for all students' behaviour and achievement;**

**Build students' character;**

**Develops students' cultural, social, moral, mental and physical development**

**Secures foundations for progression.**

**Develops student's oracy across all subject areas**

**Provides opportunities extensive opportunities for personal development**



Our Academy curriculum helps students to achieve high standards and make excellent progress. The curriculum is broad and students learn essential knowledge built around a 'learning journey' to ensure they have a clearly sequenced and progressive learning experience across a range of subjects. There are many opportunities built into lessons to secure the need to recall and retrieve previous learning so that knowledge is fully embedded.

*“ The carefully designed curriculum extends beyond national expectations. ”*

Ofsted | 2025





# Clubs & Activities

We are immensely proud of the array of extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Our sports range from Football, and Hockey to Table Tennis and Dodgeball and we cater for all abilities.

Other clubs include Debate club, Cheerleading, Drama, Warhammer, Model making, Maths club, Classic Disney drawing, Historical fashion, Chess and CAD amongst many, many more - there is something for everyone.

## Sport & Education

We are proud of both the standards in lessons and the mass participation in enrichment activities at RBA. The school gained Platinum Mark (with Distinction, one of only 100 in the country) Status - a national award that recognises excellence of provision for all kinds of sports opportunities for students across the spectrum (National competitions through to inclusive sports). We have an outstanding reputation for sporting excellence within the region, whilst our inclusivity is evidenced throughout our concept curriculum through our motto #PEforALL



## The Arts

We are very proud of the arts provision at Robert Bloomfield Academy and we have recently applied for our Platinum Artsmark. We believe that expression through the Arts is an integral part of shaping each individual's character and building confidence to support all areas of the curriculum. We perform yearly productions most recently Matilda, which was a rousing success with over 100 in our cast. Music has an important place in the school, teaching is structured within programmes of study centred upon composing, performing listening reviewing and evaluating.



*The provision for pupils'  
Personal Development  
is exceptional.*

Ofsted | 2025





## Sustainability at RBA

As a school we are committed to empowering students to be advocates of change for a more sustainable world. Students are provided with opportunities to make positive environmental decisions and are educated in climate change and sustainability.

We are currently creating our school Climate Action Plan (CAP), ensuring it aligns with DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy and four key areas;

**Decarbonisation** - Reducing emissions and supporting students to be part of the transition to net zero, including, providing a second hand clothes shop and reducing our litter and plastic waste by converting to refillable juice machines.

**Biodiversity** - Enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and connecting with nature, including planting trees and creating outdoor learning spaces.

**Adaptation and Resilience** - Adapting our buildings and grounds to prepare for the effects of climate change, including LED lighting across the school and solar panels.

**Climate education and green careers** - Prepare students for a world impacted by climate change through education, including eco related trips and guest speakers.

## Opportunities

Students are given the opportunity to apply to be on the school eco-council where they work together to develop school initiatives and raise awareness about environmental issues among students and staff. They are also invited to a variety of environmental related trips, including a sustainability conference held at the University of Bedford.

Across the school, students are visited by guest speakers from various sustainable backgrounds and take part in a variety of eco activities across the school calendar, recognising Earth Day, tree planting and outdoor learning opportunities.

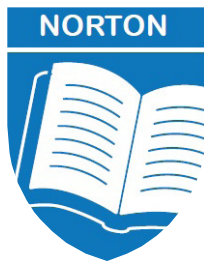
Students have access to the well-being garden and sensory garden, which are used for gardening club and by the pastoral team to help with behaviour management. Students have built bug hotels, grown vegetables and help to maintain the spaces.

## Achievements

Our students have worked hard to earn the school the Eco-Schools Green Flag award which recognises our commitment to environmental education, waste reduction, and energy efficiency. As well as being awarded the Anglian Water Eco Advocates Award 2025 for demonstrating and promoting eco-friendly practices in and out of school.

# RBA House System Catering

At Robert Bloomfield Academy we are proud of our school ethos encompassing Vitality, Opportunity, Independence, Community and Excellence. To further strengthen and build on this, we have our House system, which reflects the proud history and culture of Bedfordshire, along with the vision and the values of our Academy. We have based our House system on the four local people who not only embody our school ethos, but who inspired generations with their resilience and aspiration: Harold Abrahams, Alan Turing, Mary Norton and Glenn Miller.



## Special Educational Needs

It is the policy of the whole school to allow students access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, including the National Curriculum, with each child encouraged, supported and assisted to develop their abilities to the full. The schools Special Educational Needs department is led by Mrs Booth (SEN Co) Mr Bhattacharjee (Assistant SEN Co) and Mrs Hopkin (Learning Support Manager). As a school, we fully embrace a child centred approach to our planning and provision, alongside working with other professionals to provide the best opportunities for the child.

We run our kitchens on site and source our food locally. The standard of the food is excellent and we provide the students with a wide choice, from traditional school meals, jacket potatoes, pasta king, sandwiches, paninis and a salad bar. We run a breakfast club from 8am and hot and cold snacks are served at breaktime. We operate a fully cashless payment system (Biometrics) which enables parents to see exactly what their child has purchased as well as topping up their lunch money account online.

## Pastoral Support

Our pastoral team are here to support students to enable them to feel happy, confident and valued; creating an environment for them to thrive not only academically but also socially as well.

At the core of our pastoral ethos is the desire to develop, promote and maintain student's emotional well-being, giving them the skills and tools necessary to build resilience and meet all of life's challenges. Our team are made up of 4 Pastoral Support Officers, 2 Assistant Heads of Key Stage, 4 Heads of year and our Pastoral Director, Mrs Abbott. In addition, we have our therapy dog, Honey, who is fully involved in aspects of school life; she is in school to support students with their social and emotional learning, we are very positive about the affect she has on our students.





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 Robert Bloomfield School  robertbms



We're working towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts Council England

