



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Community,

It has been a great second week back to school and the students are well and truly settled in. We have been thrilled with the start, especially with the positive behaviour and attitude to learning we have seen from all students. Positive behaviour points are up and negative behaviour points are down - so this truly is an excellent start!

This week year 5 students were blown away by the author's visit from Paul Coomey on Wednesday. It was great to see them getting the book we gifted them signed by him and to start nurturing the reading culture we are seeking right from the start of their time with us.

In the same vein, all students have been taking their baseline reading tests this week so that we can see their current reading ages and track their progress throughout the year. Please continue to encourage them to read daily and to quiz their books on Accelerated Reader (please click [here](#) to see more details on our website).

For those of you with links to a child in year four, a date for your diaries is Thursday the 13th of November. Our Year 4 Open Evening is taking place on that date and we hope for another jam-packed night. This event is always a highlight of my year as we get to welcome so many new members of the community into RBA and we get to show off how amazing we are!

Although it seems a long way off, the application process is already open so please spread the word to any interested parties.

In other news, we shared a change to our approach to home learning with you this week. Last year, parents/carers said that they would like the school to be more robust around our approach to the non-completion of homework and so, in response to that, we have introduced a zero behaviour code for this. It does not have any negative points, and does not stop children from getting VOICE days, but it does provide a minor consequence for not completing the work set. In this way we hope to gently encourage students to complete the tasks and to start to build those independent learning skills that they need in the future.

Next week, year 6 students will be undertaking class-based SATs style tests in order to baseline their attainment and to allow us to tailor our support to their needs. These will be delivered in a low stakes and nurturing way to avoid any undue worry.



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Lastly, you may have already seen via our social media platforms that a memorial football match will be taking place for Stephen Fox on Friday 26th September at Shefford Football Club (7:30pm kick off). If you are kindly able to come along and support, you will see the silky skills of both former and current RBA staff members, including: Mr Marshall, Mr Guiney, Mr Bhattacharjee and Mr Sullivan (as well as me puffing around the pitch trying to get close enough to someone to tackle them).

In addition to this event, we will be having a MUFTI day at the school on the same day. As with all MUFTI days at RBA, a voluntary donation of £1 is requested. We are encouraging students to wear sports kits where possible in honour of Stephen’s love of sport. All proceeds from the day will go to a charitable foundation which has been set up in Stephen’s name.

Thank you as ever for your time - I hope you have a great weekend.

John Linehan

Principal



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