



## December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy end to the term. With Bake Off, concerts galore, sport fixtures, assessments, and the daily mixture of creative, memorable lessons, students have demonstrated fantastic resilience and organisational skills to ensure the superb extra-curricular programme is balanced perfectly with their own studies and learning.

I am also very pleased to report that on the back of our annual external Safeguarding Audit, where we have been graded as *exemplary practice in all aspects of safeguarding*, students and staff participated in a very successful full Lockdown drill. Student and staff safety is a responsibility we take very seriously.

And finally from me, after many years at RBA, Mrs Michelle Carter has gained a well-deserved promotion and we wish her well in her future projects. We thank her for her careful nurturing of so many pupils over the years, and she will be missed by both the children and her colleagues. We are delighted to welcome Miss Taylor Wood to take over 5R from January. Miss Wood joins us from Canada and is very excited about taking up her post at RBA. We will also be bidding farewell to Mr England who is taking a career break. We also welcome Miss Webb to our Maths and Science departments in January. She was a Bloomfield student herself and remembers one or two of the staff!

May I take this opportunity to say how privileged I am to have completed my first full term as Principal at the Academy. The pupil's attitude to learning is wonderful, Teaching and Learning is exemplary and it is great to be part of the RBA community. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

Sam Farmer  
Principal



### Year 8 Drama - Pantos

Wow wow wow, I cannot believe the courage our year 8 drama options students had in performing their pantos to the whole of year 5 and their teachers. After writing the scripts, organising music and lighting and creating their own props and costumes, the year 8s had the year 5s laughing, booing and cheering all the way through, oh yes they did!

### Basketball

Our district basketball seasons have drawn to a close over the past few weeks, with some fantastic results. Both the year 7 & 8 boy's teams comprehensively won their respective titles, both scoring over 250 points along the way. Both girl's teams took part in their competitions on 10th December. The year 7's ran out runners up to a very strong Woodlands, whilst the year 8 team won all their games to scoop the district title. Good luck to all our teams in the county finals in January.



### Indoor Athletics

Well done to our year 6 & 7 athletes who competed at the district championships. Both boys and girls dominated the track and field and were crowned District Champions and will now go on to the county finals in January.

### Netball

Another successful half term of netball seeing all four year groups battling at the top of their leagues against some tough competition. Some outstanding play by all squad members, showing their commitment to the school teams. The year 5 girls, our newest squad have lots of rising netball stars, Pixie being one to watch, demonstrating excellent attacking and defensive skills. The year 6 team are going from strength to strength, with the most improved girls this year being Ruby and Emma. Our year 7 squad effort was outstanding, unbeaten in the league, each player giving their absolute all. Commitment from all girls, with excellent shooting from Olivia and most versatile player being Amy. The year 8 team has gone from strength to strength, with the introduction of some new players Elise and Blythe enjoying their first league at RBA. Well done to all!

## House News Competition

Pupils have fully embraced the House competitions this term and proudly represented their Houses and forms in a number of events. There has been something for everyone ranging from Sports (Cross Country, Indoor Athletics) to academic (reading challenges, maths challenge) and creative (Christmas tree decorations). Tolkien have opened up a lead but that can easily be made up with all the events coming up in 2019. All Houses are still in contention and we look forward to seeing the league table update next year.



## Textiles Inter-form Competition- Design a Christmas Tree Decoration

Congratulations to everyone who took part in designing a Christmas tree decoration for the tree in the front entrance of the school. The creativity, quality of finish and ingenious use of recycled materials was outstanding. It was extremely difficult to judge because there were so many fantastic and original decorations. Pupils can collect their decorations from the front entrance on the last day of term (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December) during lesson 3, which is form based, so they can be hung on their Christmas trees at home.

## Ensemble Music Concert

Our most recent ensemble music concert took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December in front of a large studio theatre audience. Once again the ensemble music concert was a very enjoyable and rewarding event with a varied programme of music performed by the RBA orchestra, string group, guitar group, keyboard group, brass group, Pop Choir and Vocal Zone. Very well done to all the pupils for working hard in the build up to the concert attending rehearsals each week and for performing so well at the concert.

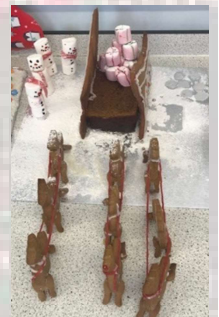


## Gym & Dance

Congratulations to all those who performed in this year's gym and dance display, you were all amazing and did the school proud. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the show happen, especially those behind the scenes doing the music and lighting.

## GBBO

The fourth year of the 'Great Bloomfield Bake Off' brought us the theme of 'Gingerbread'. KS2 were set the challenge of making 24 ginger bread biscuits decorated with a Christmas theme and KS3 were pushed a bit harder, having to make a ginger bread structure. All years rose to the challenge and produced some amazing bakes! There were a couple of Bake Off bloopers but it happens to us all, we learn where we went wrong and it makes us better chefs/bakers. A special mention to 8H who quite literally 'thought out of the box' and made Mount Vesuvius destroying Pompeii! They didn't want to go with the traditional Christmas Theme. The winners will be announced to the students during their form times. Well done to all of the participants, you worked so well for two hours to produce such great bakes.



## Anthony Glen - A Christmas Carol' Year 6

On the morning of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Anthony Glenn came in to RBA and shared his one-man performance of Charles Dickens' famous story, 'A Christmas Carol' with the whole of Year 6 in the Studio Theatre. In his amazingly energetic style, he managed to bring to life the miserly character of Ebenezer Scrooge, and with the help of many willing members of the audience, the rest of the characters who make up the story of one man's journey to Christmas joy! Year 6 certainly enjoyed the performance and will be very confident in their knowledge of the story, which they will touch on in English lessons this year, and revisit in more detail in Year 7. A special mention must go to Mrs Tapley, who almost managed to steal the show with her portrayal of Scrooge's spurned fiancée!

## Snowzone Trip

The Snowzone trip leaves school at 8.00am on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 with pick up at 2.00pm and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on the Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019



## Onatti Theatre Company

The whole of Year 7 were lucky to get a chance to see this amazing performance about a trip into Space - *Un Ticket Pour L'Espace*. As ever, some audience participation was needed and there was no shortage of volunteers. The two actors - one French and one English - led us through a dizzying array of scenes, introducing us to a whole range of characters, including a green alien! The mixture of French and English encouraged students to have a go at using French and enabled them to understand far more than they thought they would. The vocabulary reflected what they have been and using in French lessons with a few new words thrown in for good measure. All in all, a great show.

## Edale

Once again, Year 8 had a fantastic week in the high Peaks. From weaselling to high ropes, caving to abseiling, all students did themselves proud- they overcame challenges, made new friends and, most importantly, had lots of fun. We are looking forward to next year already! More pictures can be found on our school Facebook site.



## Author Visit

At the beginning of December we were delighted to welcome author Tom Palmer to the school to talk about his many books and his life as a writer. Tom was fantastic and enthused the year 5 & 6 students with his Football Reading Game - half reading quiz, half penalty shoot out - which makes reading fun and relevant. Having Mr Fox in goal made the year 5 pupils even more determined to answer the reading questions for the opportunity to try and score past him! All the pupils were on their feet cheering and chanting - it was an absolute hit!



Tom also held a workshop session with some of the students during which he explained how he gets his ideas, researches and constructs his stories. The pupils got the chance to brainstorm ideas with Tom and they wrote some great short stories. We finished the day with a 'meet and greet' & signing session. It was a thoroughly enjoyable visit and many of the pupils have been inspired to borrow his books from the LRC.

## SWA Transition

The transition of RBA pupils to SWA has already begun. A huge thank you to the SWA staff that accompanied our year 8 residential trip to Edale. The experience was invaluable and gave the staff a chance to start to get to know the pupils. We also held a getting to know you session for some of our pupils and the SWA LSA's on Monday 10th December. Another really successful event as we continue to strive for seamless transition within the TRUST. Plenty more events to come in 2019.

## SMSC

In order to raise awareness of SMSC (the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our students), and to help our pupils develop into well rounded members of the school, we have been running a manners competition for all year groups. Each day tutors have opened an advent calendar to reveal a new challenge for pupils to complete in exchange for a token. It's been a pleasure to see so many doors help open, teachers thanked for lessons and conversations with new friends started. Well done to everyone on demonstrating fantastic manners at the end of a long term.

## Year 6

An amazing first term for year 6. The generosity has been overwhelming. Starting the term with such amazing fundraising efforts over the summer and such original ideas. We have continued with a raffle, Christmas sale, personalised canvas bags and much more. The children continually come to me with new ideas as to how to fundraise for MAGPAS. We have now set up a fundraising committee of year 6 children who will meet once a month and discuss fundraising proposals. A thank you to parents for supporting our "Name the Bones" fundraising event. The children now regularly refer to their femur or carpal when discussing any injuries! The Winter Fayre donations provided excellent entertainment for the children at the Fayre. Those year 6 children who ran the stalls were a credit to year 6 and it was great to see teddies, games and books recycled. Alongside our fundraising, the children have enjoyed taking part in House Competitions and enjoyed the variety of opportunities on offer. We mustn't forget the hard work they are putting into their lessons and I look forward to them reaping the reward of this in the Summer term.

## Study Club

Study Club provision has been extended and will now be open **Monday – Thursday** from **3.30pm - 4.30pm** in the LRC and **Friday** from **3.30pm – 4.00pm**. Pupils have access to over 3000 books and can search the internet on any of the 6 i-desks. Study club is supervised by one of our Teaching Assistants who is able to support and encourage the pupils in their studies. There is no charge for this service and we politely ask that you collect your children before 4.30pm Monday – Thursday and 4.00pm on Friday. **We are not able to extend these hours any further and would ask that families are aware of the end times.**

## Communication to School

We would like to remind and help all parents / carers with understanding our communication channels, contact information systems and the referral procedures we operate in school. Your child's homework diary highlights day to day concerns / issues and states who to contact at school, please see pages 21 & 22. Initial concerns should be directed to the school office on 01462 628800 especially if this is an urgent message that needs passing on. The information you provide will then be directed to the relevant member of staff who will make contact within 24 hours – these are working days. Contact received on a Friday will be returned on Monday.

For non-urgent contact please email [RBA-Enquiries@Bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:RBA-Enquiries@Bestacademies.org.uk). This email is checked periodically throughout the day and again the information you provide will then be directed to the relevant member of staff who will reply within 24 hours.

Please can we remind our families that if you come into school without a pre-arranged appointment, the reception team will only be able to pass on a message onto the relevant member of staff, as they will more often than not be teaching. **It is always advisable to pre-book an appointment with the relevant member of staff, via email or telephone.**

We are also deeply concerned and disappointed to have to report that in recent months some of our staff have been verbally threatened by members of the RBA community either on the telephone or face to face in reception. Please can we take this opportunity to remind all families that RBA is an environment built on the principles of safety and mutual respect. We always appreciate feedback, but ask that it is done so in an appropriate manner. Verbal abuse or threats to any member of staff will not be tolerated and will be passed onto the police.

## Admission Arrangements 2020

Please see our website for the proposed BEST admission arrangements for September 2020 together with a cover letter highlighting the changes.

As per the School Admissions Code, we will undertake a six-week consultation commencing on Tuesday 20th November 2018 and concluding on Tuesday 1st January 2019. A link to the page is below.

<https://www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk/page/...>

## Emergency Procedures

A timely reminder of the “in case of emergency” information for families - School closure is extremely rare, but with winter approaching, it's worth a refresh on the procedure. **In the event of a closure the school will:**

- Complete the Central Beds SOS system - this will automatically inform the radio stations - Heart FM and BBC 3 Counties of a closure. A list of schools that close will be posted on the Radio station's website.
- Post a message on:
  - the school Website
  - the school Facebook page
  - the school Twitter page
- Send a Parentmail (PMX) to all Parents and Carers informing them of the school closure. Further updates will follow through the day.

### Year 6 SATs

Please make sure **no appointments** are made during school hours for the:

Practice SATs Week: **week commencing 28 January 2019**

&

National SATs Exam Week : **week commencing 13 May 2019**