



Dear RBA Families,

Welcome back to school!

Despite the rain attempting to wash us away on our return this week, it has been a fabulous first week back at RBA! The new year 5s are a delight and it has been fabulous to meet them and to see them already start to find their feet.

It was also very pleasing to see how many Year 6 students had taken part in the 'Chili Challenge' over the summer - we will be putting their names in the hat for the Chromebook prize draw next week. Thank you to all parents/carers for encouraging them to take part and for helping them get a strong start to their important SATs year.

We have had some communications about the selection of food provided at lunch time as the full range of what we offer was not fully reflected on our website. Please rest assured that there are a number of options, including healthy versions, available to students and that our in-house catering team works very hard to provide students with a wide range of quality food. I am really enjoying the salad bar as I try to shift the weight I put on over the summer!

Our website will be updated in the next few days to provide a clearer picture of what is on offer and I apologise that this was not done in time for the start of term.

Our regular, early-year, Parent/Carer Information/Meet the Tutor Evenings will be taking place in the coming weeks. More information about how to book an appointment will be shared soon but for now the dates and focus of the evenings are listed below:

- **Tuesday, 30th September - Year 5:** this is an opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's new tutor and to learn more about RBA from a presentation given by the senior team and I. There will also be an opportunity to look around the school.
- **Thursday, 2nd October - KS3:**
  - **Year 7:** parents/carers will be able to meet their child's tutor and talk through the start of KS3
  - **Year 8:** parents/carers will have a slot to meet the tutor and will also be shown a presentation about their year 8 journey, including: careers, transition to upper school, the VOICE Diploma and leavers' week
- **Tuesday, 21st October - Year 6:** this event will include a slot to meet your child's tutor as well as a presentation to help you learn more about the SATs and how you can best support your child at home to be as successful as possible this year.



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# ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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We greatly value the chance to get parents/carers into school for face-to-face conversations and hope that a high proportion of you will come along. The evenings will all run from 5:30 to 8pm and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

This academic year we are continuing the good work we did last year on building a culture of reading - we saw some massive improvements in reading fluency and reading ages as a result of a number of strategies, in particular our implementation of the Accelerated Reader programme. Please continue to support that by encouraging students to do a minimum of 15 minutes a day at home.

In addition to reading, we are focusing on writing this year. Students will have many more opportunities to write across the curriculum and I am especially excited about the inclusion of a new journaling session on Friday mornings, in which students will have the opportunity to write freely about anything they wish. Research shows there are great mental health benefits to be had from expressing yourself through writing and we are confident that this will have a positive impact on their academic performance and well-being.

Lastly, although all of our VOICE values are important, we are having a special focus on **Independence** this year. We are keen to teach students strategies to build their resilience, confidence and motivation so that they can be more autonomous. While this will help them in their studies, more importantly, it is a life skill that will see them become more successful adults if properly nurtured. I will share more about this with you in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first update of the year - I hope that you all have a great weekend.

John Linehan

Principal



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