



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

Happy New Year to you all. It was a pleasure to welcome students back to school on a very snowy Tuesday morning; the wonder on their faces as larger flurries of snow fell during break time was very endearing!

Thank you for sending your children in with proper shoes, coats and all the other bits of winter clothing needed to keep them warm this week. I know it can be a battle at times but it really is in their best interests to keep them wrapped up during such inclement weather.

On the theme of student appearance, at the start of a new term, please can I remind you of our dress code expectations. Students should not be wearing any make up, have natural coloured nails and hair (which should be tied up at all times), one ear piercing and no necklaces or rings. If you could support us in ensuring students meet those expectations we would be very grateful.

This week in school, as well as settling back in, students may have undertaken their second reading age test of the academic year. Over the first two weeks back, all students will be tested and I am very much looking forward to seeing how they have improved. The whole school reading culture we are working hard to establish is definitely becoming more embedded and I am sure that will be reflected in their progress.

You can also support the development of a reading culture by helping your child engage with the Bookdrop newsletter that was attached to the email directing you to this update. This is full of suggestions for the next book they could read and a great way to find the right book for your child.

In addition, the government has designated 2026 as the National Year of Reading. As ever, I am proud to say that RBA is well-ahead of the curve in this regard but it is also great that there is a national push on getting young people reading. If you would like to find out more, please visit the National Literacy Trust website by clicking [here](#).

Looking ahead, next week we have our first virtual Parent/Carer evening for 6X band (for students in forms 6A - D). Those of you with children in that band will receive an email on Monday to help guide you to your appointments. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to make appointments, our value of community is one I hold very dear and this is one of very few occasions on which we get to converse with you on a one-to-one basis about your child.

On Tuesday of next week, we have another round of student photos. This is for **year 8s** (who are having a whole year group photo) and **year 5s** (who are having tutor group photos) only. We have made the decision not to have tutor group photos for years 6, 7 and 8 as very



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few families purchase them. Students in years 5 and 8 should attend in full uniform and bring their PE kit in with them in a bag please.

Next week is also Careers' Week at RBA and part of their lessons will be devoted to occupations linked to each subject area. I know the world of work is a long way off for them but having a conversation about the jobs they liked the sound of is a great way to get them thinking about their futures and their studies.

Looking even further ahead, the deadline to apply for a middle school place is the 15th of January. If you, or anyone you know, is planning to apply to RBA (and why wouldn't they?!), please remind them that it needs to be done by that date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email; your children have returned to school brilliantly and it has been a pleasure to see them this week.

I hope you have a great weekend.

John Linehan
Principal



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