



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

Straight after a restful half-term, we find ourselves moving at pace into another busy period here at RBA, and I am delighted to share some news regarding our students' continued commitment to excellence.

Before I look forward, I am incredibly proud to share further cross-country success that happened last half-term. After finishing in the top 8 of their races at the County Schools Championships, both Isaac and Lucy in year 8 have been selected to represent Bedfordshire at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Liverpool. This is a phenomenal achievement as only eight students per team are selected across the entire county - and both Isaac and Lucy have secured their spots despite being in the lower year group of their category - well done to both and we wish them the best of luck.

At the start of next week, our annual book sale will take place in the LRC. Please send students in with some money to spend on the wide selection of books we will have on offer. We will also still gratefully take any donations that you are able to give so please send those in if you can.

We finish off a literacy focused week with World Book Day (which is on Friday the 6th of March for us). All students are encouraged to dress up as a character from a story they enjoyed. There will be prizes for the best costumes, and a range of activities throughout the week, so we are greatly looking forward to celebrating books and further nurturing a love of reading.

Looking even further ahead into March, we are excited to take part in the Big Walk and Wheel from the 16th to the 27th. As the UK's largest inter-school active travel challenge, it is a fantastic opportunity for families to choose walking, wheeling, scooting, or cycling. Not only does this help create a healthier community, but we will be competing daily against other schools to see who can record the highest proportion of active journeys so let's go RBA!

As our final set of year 6 mock exams begins next week, it feels like a timely moment to share some advice on how best to support your children during what can be an anxious time.

To help keep the pressure low and the focus high, please consider these five tips:

- **Stick to Routines:** Prioritise consistent sleep and a healthy, slow-release breakfast to keep their energy and focus stable.
- **Keep it Low-Pressure:** Reassure them that exams are just a "snapshot" of progress and that their best effort is what truly matters.
- **Little and Often:** If practicing at home, keep sessions to 10–15 minute "bursts" to avoid burnout and keep spirits high.
- **Read Daily:** Spending 20 minutes reading together is the most effective way to build the stamina and vocabulary needed for these tests.
- **Celebrate Effort:** Plan a fun activity for the end of the week to celebrate their hard work, regardless of the eventual results.



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If you want to feel more confident helping your child with maths and English SATs, Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) is offering free online courses which are designed for parents and carers to help you support learning at home. Please click [here](#) to complete an expression of interest form.

Lastly, I would also like to take a moment to encourage you all to participate in the BEST Big Community Listen survey. Our school values spell VOICE for a reason as it is important we listen to everyone in our school community. Your feedback is invaluable to our Trust and you can find the link to give your views [here](#).

Thank you in advance for sharing your views and for your time in reading this update - I hope you have a great weekend.

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Principal



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