



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

What a fabulous Book Week we had at RBA this week! We had special reading focused assemblies; a hugely-popular book sale; a masked-reader style quiz and World Book Day themed lessons - with the week culminating in our World Book Day fancy dress event.

My pirate costume (as part of a Peter Pan themed SLT ensemble) was put to shame by the multifarious outfits worn by the students. There were minions, aliens, a whole class of Wally's and even a wardrobe. From Katniss Everdeen to Gandalf the Grey, staff and students alike got into the spirit of the day and demonstrated their love of books and their favourite characters.

In this National Year of Reading, I am pleased to say that the focus on books and reading at RBA does not end there; on Monday of next week, we have our local MP Alistair Strathern coming into school to talk to a select group of KS3 boys about their attitudes towards reading and what he and the government can do to nurture a greater love of reading. We look forward to the VOICE of our students potentially being considered when decisions are made regarding reading and literacy in the future.

It seems a long time ago now but students may have mentioned that we started the week with an impromptu fire evacuation because the sensors were triggered in the food technology room. As ever, students conducted themselves incredibly well and we were able to get the site cleared before checking it was safe and sending them back in to continue their learning in record time.

As an aside, it says a lot about our school and students that the year 8s who were cooking at the time were worried that because of the interruption their food technology diploma dishes would not turn out as well as they wanted them to and asked me about having another chance to cook their dishes!

The fire alarm that disturbed lessons on Monday makes the determination and focus of our year 6 students during their last set of mock SATs examinations even more impressive. They took the evacuation in their stride and returned to their tests and carried on without a moment's hesitation. Throughout the whole week, students approached their tests with great maturity and we are looking forward to seeing both the progress they have made and where we can support them further in advance of the real examinations in May.

In other news, please can I ask that you speak with your child about any fidget toys they may have. As a general rule, anything that makes a noise, or can be used to whip people (such as a noodle) are not permitted. We have also taken the decision to ban squishy blocks and balls, mainly because we have had a number of them burst over the course of this term, and both the mess and the chemicals within them are not conducive to a calm and safe learning environment.

Lastly, our fabulous catering team has asked me to request that any Generation Juice coins that students have purchased and taken home, rather than spending in school, are returned. We are running a little bit low as some students have been collecting them!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this week's update - I hope that you all have a pleasant weekend.

John Linehan
Principal



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