



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

The week began with members of our Eco-Council planting a birch tree in our tiny forest to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of BEST. Our CEO, Dr Alan Lee, commented that those same students might come back to RBA with their own children in the future and see the way in which the tree has grown over time.

That comment really resonated with me because one of the best things about RBA is the community feel and the links we have with the families of students both past and present: I really hope his prediction comes true!

On Wednesday of this week a number of year 8s went on a trip to the University of Warwick to develop their aspirations and to give them a sense of what it would be like to go to university. The students really enjoyed the day and some who had not been considering that route through education ended the day far more inspired by the idea of doing a degree. I am also delighted to say that it was remarked upon - by more than one member of staff - that RBA children were the best-behaved students there (as expected!).

On Thursday, we had our external audit on the quality of education and the culture and ethos of the school and I am pleased to tell you that they were glowing in their praise of our school and students. The audit looked at many aspects of our provision at RBA, from safeguarding and attendance to reading and SEND, and each aspect was fulsomely complimented - it was very gratifying to have external verification that the experience we give our young people is of an excellent standard.

Throughout this week it has also been lovely to see our new long jump track being used during PE lessons. We invested around £20k in upgrading that facility for the students and they are certainly benefiting from the improvement.

In other news, a group of Year 8 students took part in the Raspberry Pi Foundation 2026 Coding Challenge in March. Students participated across two categories for block and text-based coding and Aurelia, Primrose and Savanna received a distinction for their outcomes. Hannah, Ethan W and Elizabeth C came joint first place for block coding and William achieved the best results in school for his Python coding (despite only learning how to do that this year!). Well done to all the students who participated - Mrs Sherman is very proud of you all.

We are hoping for similar levels of excellence this Saturday when three of our students will be participating in the National Gymnastics Finals in Stoke on Trent. Albie in year 5, Hannah in year 6 and Taylor year 8 are all incredible gymnasts and we wish them every success.

Finally, as of our return to school on Tuesday next week, there will be four school days left until the year 6 students sit their SATs. They have worked incredibly hard to get ready and we are looking forward to what they can achieve. If you are worried about them, or have any questions about the SATs, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The best thing you can do to support them is to encourage them to use the 'little and often' approach to home learning and to reassure them that they just need to try their best when the examinations come around.

Thank you for your time this week - although the weather might not be looking as nice as it was today, I hope that you are still able to have an enjoyable Bank Holiday Weekend.

John Linehan
Principal



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