



# ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

The only place to start this week is the exceptionally hot weather we have experienced, and to reinforce my immense gratitude for the resilience of both our staff and students for how they have coped. We followed DfE guidance throughout the week, which encouraged all schools to remain open where possible and to implement measures such as taking regular brain breaks, scheduling increased water breaks, ensuring maximum ventilation, delivering more sedentary PE lessons, and maintaining a lower academic level of expectation, especially in the afternoons.

It was a difficult decision to remain open to everyone right up until Friday afternoon, as the non-air-conditioned areas of the school were very warm, but we prioritised staying open to support our working parents and carers and to keep students in school and learning. I hope that the optional Year 8 early finish on Friday did not cause families too much difficulty, and I would like to again reiterate my thanks for your many messages of support you sent in (and for the ice-lollies that a parent so kindly brought in for us!).

With so many great opportunities for students here at RBA, some inevitably slip through the net in my weekly updates! I forgot to tell you that last Friday, we took 40 of our Year 8 students to the Williams Formula One base. The trip gave them the chance to see a real Formula One car up close, drive a simulator, and learn all about engineering and aerodynamics. They had a fabulous time, and I am hopeful that some of them might go down an engineering career path in the future as a direct result of the experience.

Also, on Friday of last week, we had our first Bloomfield Golf Day in over 10 years! Over 20 KS3 students took part in the event, with many experiencing competitive golf for the very first time. Throughout the afternoon, there was some excellent play on display.

Last Friday was obviously an incredibly rich day of opportunities, as we also had our KS3 boys and girls' athletics teams also competing in individual events in the District Athletics competition at the Bedford International Stadium. Incredibly, RBA students won all seven categories and walked away with 20 individual district champions!

I also wanted to share an outstanding individual achievement from this weekend. Krish in Year 6 earned his black belt in Taekwondo on Saturday, making him his taekwondo school's youngest black belt at just 11 years old. He performed an excellent four-and-a-half-hour grading with great determination and confidence, and he should be incredibly proud.

Back at school this week, Miss Forte and some of our Year 6 students have been getting green-fingered and growing things, including sunflowers and potatoes. Well done to Laila, Emily, Ben, Poppy, Louie, Minnie, Annie, and Livia, who are actually going to eat the potatoes they grew this coming Monday. I hope they taste as good as they look!



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This week also saw our absolutely incredible annual school production. This year, the students performed 'Dare to Dream', with Disney hit after Disney hit being belted out by such a talented group of students. It was goosebumps all the way, and I even had a lump in my throat on a few occasions due to the sheer quality and emotion they put into their performances. Well done to everyone involved, and a special thanks to the staff that made it possible: Mrs Trim, Mrs Tudge, Miss K, and our amazing Director, Mrs Marshall oversaw another triumph and the show just keeps getting better every year.

If you liked our show, you can also support students engaged in the performing arts at Samuel Whitbread Academy by attending their upcoming performance of The Addams Family Musical. The show runs for three nights from the 8th until the 10th of July in the SWA Hall from 7pm.

Lastly, looking ahead to the summer, the Summer Reading Challenge is returning, organised by The Reading Agency and the UK public library network. This is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion, where children are encouraged to read whatever they choose, which heavily supports the evidence demonstrating the importance of reading for pleasure for educational success, empathy, and wellbeing.

This year's Challenge is called "Read to the Beat" and it's all about music, designed to tie in with the National Year of Reading 2026. Please see the newsletter attached to the email directing you to this update and encourage your children to take part over the summer as keeping up with reading is the best way to maintain the great progress they have made at school this year.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and for all your support this week—here's hoping for a slightly milder week next week!

John Linehan

Principal



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