



# ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Dear RBA Families,

I have been in the privileged position of attending the Newquay residential trip with 140 Year 7s this week; I am constantly gratified by the wonderful community spirit we have at RBA and this week has been no exception to that rule.

Whether it is the parent helpers on duty from 7am until 11:30pm each day supporting the students; the RBA student that helped a disabled member of the public get on to a ride; the tens of students who overcame their fear of the sea, heights or jellyfish (and in many cases all three!) or the exceptional behaviour and manners the children displayed throughout - I could not be a prouder Principal.

Although it meant subjecting the students to seeing me in a wetsuit, myself and the other staff and parents/carers joined in with the coastering, kayaking, surfing and body-boarding and it was brilliant to see the students engaging in those activities and growing in confidence day by day.

A particular highlight of the trip was watching the England match at the hotel together, with limited television options, it was down to myself and Mr Russell - with the A-Team tune playing in our heads - to use a projector, Bluetooth speaker, a bedsheet and mattresses (yes, mattresses!) to create a viewing space suitable for the students. The fact that they got to watch that exciting England win (thank you Sir Harry) with their friends after a full day of activities was a very special moment.

Lastly on this topic, a special thank you to Mrs Cooper and Mr Monte for working tirelessly before and during the trip to give the students the best experience possible.

Back home, our students have also been demonstrating incredible community spirit through their fundraising efforts. Last weekend, Isla in Year 6, alongside Brooke and Bonnie in Year 8, raised a fantastic £565.00 for a close friend's charity page, supporting The Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charity. They spent Friday through to Sunday selling raffle tickets at a local darts competition, doing an amazing job despite the intense heat. On top of that, Piper and Maddie in Year 5, Lola and Immy in Year 7, and Jessica in Year 8 organized a massive cake sale at Meppershall Social Club on Saturday. They baked a wonderful array of goodies and managed to raise an incredible £535.00. Well done to all of you for such selfless and impactful efforts.

As we look toward the summer, we are starting to plan several site improvements to keep our school environment looking as fresh and inviting as we can for the students. While more projects are planned, that work has already started with repairs to our MUGA over the last fortnight and a new fence to protect our brand-new long jump pits. We have also already provided our Year 8 students with nine new benches to create a dedicated seating area in the courtyard where they spend their breaktimes. Furthermore, over the summer holidays, we have a complete refurbishment scheduled for all the windows at the front of the school, stretching from reception all the way around the path up to Shefford Lower School. We hope



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this will help make the environment look and feel much better for the students to learn and thrive in.

Today ended the week with our step-up day, and it was an absolute joy to welcome our new Year 4 students into school. They brought a wonderful energy with them and showed us just how beautifully they will settle in and start living our school values. Of course, this time of year is always bittersweet; as we prepare to welcome a new cohort, it also marks the beginning of us saying a fond goodbye to our wonderful Year 8 students as they prepare for their next big steps beyond RBA - we will miss them but they are ready for their next steps.

So, after a packed week of navigating Cornish waves, dodging jellyfish, and inventing mattress-based cinema screens, I am officially off to find a very dark, very quiet room for a long lie-down. I promise to be fully recharged—and safely out of my wetsuit—by Monday!

I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing weekend.

John Linehan

Principal



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