VITALITY • OPPORTUNITY • INDEPENDENCE • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

Dear RBA Families,

At the end of an excellent half-term, I am delighted to start this week's update with the news that RBA has once again been awarded another National Attendance Award, placing us in the top 10% of all schools in the country for attendance last academic year. This outstanding achievement is a reflection of the wonderful, engaging learning environment created by our staff and, above all, your unwavering support at home. Thank you for ensuring our students come to school ready to learn every single day.

The positivity felt throughout this half-term was in full effect on Thursday when we had our first, half-termly, VOICE Reward Event in form groups. Students had a fabulous time celebrating them having lived our values and demonstrating such positive behaviour over the last seven weeks.

Our commitment to reading continues to go from strength to strength, both within our school walls and out in the wider area. This week, a group of our Year 8 students visited Shefford Lower School to read with Year 3 and 4 pupils. It was a lovely piece of community outreach, and our older students did a brilliant job supporting the younger children with their reading progress.

On a related note, please can I ask that parents/carers encourage students to maintain their reading over half-term. They are making excellent progress and we want that upward trajectory to continue; 15 minutes a day is all it takes to keep their reading proficiency on track.

Looking ahead to next half-term and upcoming events, preparations for our annual Winter Fair are now well underway, and our PSA is looking for raffle prizes to help make the event a huge success. If you, your family, or any local businesses or contacts might be able to donate a prize - such as gift vouchers, hampers, or special experiences - we would be hugely grateful. Every contribution directly supports our school community. If you have a prize to donate, please hand it in to Reception or let Mrs Crowley know by Monday 23rd November.

We also have a quick request on behalf of a local community club: the Shefford Saints Under 14 Reds girls' football team is urgently in need of players (currently in Year 8 or Year 9) so they can continue to fulfil their fixtures this season. Football is a fantastic way for our young people to stay active and build teamworking skills, so if your daughter is interested, please do consider getting involved. Please also feel free to share this appeal with anyone who might be interested.



For parents and carers looking for practical support and guidance at home, we are pleased to again highlight our partnership with FACE Family Advice. FACE offers self-paced online courses, CPD-accredited modules, and live Zoom sessions covering a wide range of topics, including supporting neurodiverse children, understanding emotions, and managing behaviour.

The latest timetable of talks is attached to this update email. You can browse and book live talks by visiting facefamilyadvice.co.uk and navigating to the *PARENTS – Live talks* page. To access these sessions free of charge (normally £24 each), please use our dedicated RBA access code: **RB110926**. *(Please note that this code is strictly for RBA parents and staff and must not be shared with other schools).*

Finally, I would like to offer a few important safety reminders as we head towards the autumn break:

- **Road Safety**: As the darker evenings approach, please take a moment to speak with your children about crossing roads safely, especially if they are on bikes or scooters.
- **A507**: If relevant, please speak with your children specifically about crossing the A507. We had a recent report of a student wearing RBA uniform acting unsafely on that busy road. Please reinforce the importance of staying vigilant and using safe crossing points at all times.
- **Parking**: Please be mindful of our local residents during drop-off and pick-up times. Please do not block driveways or drop pupils in hazardous spots so that we can minimise disruption to our local community.
- **Coats**: With the weather turning colder and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm, waterproof coat after half-term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and community spirit. I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break.

John Linehan

Principal