

September 2018



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Robert Bloomfield Academy and to a new school year. As your new Principal, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students and families of this brilliant community, but feel I have only scratched the surface. I look forward to meeting many more of you in due course.

On the back of some truly magnificent GL Assessments and Y6 SATs results in the last academic year, we will continue our drive this year to ensure students make robust and rapid progress in all subjects to ensure they reach a secure academic standing, ready for their transition into GCSEs and A Levels when they leave us to join their Upper School.

Family Survey - Thank you to the 400+ families who took time to complete the online survey last week. It was clear from your responses that there is a need to streamline our 3rd party sites into one, easier to use system. We will be working hard on this over the next few months. Thank you specifically for the insightful comments on how we can further develop our systems and I want to reassure families that keeping our community informed with up to date information is one of my priorities as we begin this school year. To this end, I will be emailing a monthly bulletin (such as this) to all students and families. We will then have a more involved, detailed newsletter at the end of each term with pictures and summaries of all the events which have occurred.

Year 6 SATs

Please make sure **no appointments** are made during school hours for the:
Practice SATs Week: **week commencing 28 January 2019**
&
National SATs Exam Week : **week commencing 13 May 2019**

Pupil leadership opportunities - The pupil leadership application booklet is now in the LRC for pupils to collect. There are lots of new opportunities this year as well as the ones from last year - please encourage your child to put an application in.

Uniform - The standard of uniform as always remain very high at RBA and the pupils have come back to school looking very smart. Please note, pupils should not wear trainer socks, plimsolls, trainers or hoodies (and zoodies... which are, I am reliably informed, a genuine thing!) as part of their school uniform.

Recycled uniform - We have a large number of all items of school uniform in very good condition. If you are in need of a few extra items please pop into reception and we will be able to help you find what you need.

School bus no show - please could we remind families to ensure their children know alternative procedures should the school bus not arrive on a morning. If the bus has not arrived after 25 mins your child should put their alternative plan into operation. The school office will forward any info (by email) we have about late buses as soon as we receive it from the bus company.

School buses - Pupils must present their bus pass every time they get on their school bus. Pupils can only travel on the school bus they have a pass for and must remain seated for the entire journey on the bus. Thank you for your support in sharing and enforcing this message.

Absences - The switchboard is staffed from **8am** and there is also a dedicated **attendance answerphone system**. When calling to notify us of an absence, simply provide the basic details (name of pupil, form, brief reason / length of absence). It is only necessary to telephone on the first day of absence. May we also remind you that the Government classifies any pupil with attendance below 90% as a 'persistent absentee' and this level of absence could involve the intervention of the Central Beds Education Welfare Officer.

Pupil mobility - If your child has an injury that will affect their mobility around the school (on crutches / in a wheelchair) please could you escort them into school on their first day back so that the office staff can complete an PEEP (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan) - this will help ensure their safe movement throughout the school and provide them with a buddy to support them, alongside specific information on safely exiting the building in an emergency.

Exit routes from school for walkers - All pupils leaving via Bloomfield Drive and George Street should exit the school by the rear exit. All pupils leaving via Kingfisher Close should exit via the Front Gate. Please could we politely ask parents not to congregate at the front gate as this is a very busy area at the end of school.

Parent parking - Unfortunately there is no provision on site for parent parking at the start or the end of the school day (except for specific after school events). If your child has a particular need that requires you to assist them into school, a site parking permit can be issued by the office staff.

School Café and School Meals

The Café opens each day at 8am for breakfast. Lunch is served in two sittings – Key stage 2 at 12:10 and Key Stage 3 at 1:10, where pupils can purchase a hot school meal priced at £2.30. There is also a wide selection of sandwiches, light snacks, pasta dishes and jacket potatoes daily as well. Pupils are also permitted to bring a packed lunch to school, but can I please take this opportunity to remind families of our **no-nut** policy and to ensure no nut based foods or foods made from nuts or peanuts are used in children’s packed lunches.

Due to their later lunch hour, Key Stage 3 are also able to use the Snack Bar during their mid-morning break. With our **cashless catering system**, families can load money onto their child’s account via the online link here (<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/#core/login>), the Parentmail (PMX) App or manually in school via the reval machines in the pupil reception area.

Biometrics - Apologies for the early teething problems some of you experienced during the migration of our new pupils onto the system, everything should now be rectified, however if you still have an issue please contact the front office.

Social Media - If you haven’t done so already please have a look at our Facebook and Twitter sites and give us a like. You will find up-to-date news items and good news stories about our school and pupils.

Extra-curricular clubs - Once again we have a full programme of extra-curricular opportunities for the pupils either before school, at lunch or after school. Please encourage your child to take up some of these opportunities. There is something for everyone whether it is sporting, musical, dramatic or creative.

Cycling to School - We are keen to encourage pupils to take the healthy option by cycling to school and are happy to continue to provide storage for bicycles - as long as families have confirmed, **in writing**, via the pupil planner, that consent to ride has been authorised. Please ensure that if your child cycles, they bring a security lock with them and note that the responsibility of this key/lock lies with the student.

‘Bikeability’ proficiency courses will be organised in due course. For your child’s safety, we must insist on appropriate clothing and a safety helmet to be worn at all times. Should a pupil fail to comply with this request, we will not be able to accommodate them as a cyclist, and alternative travel arrangements to and from school will need to be made.



Emergency Procedures

School closure is extremely rare, but with winter approaching, it's worth a refresh on the procedure.

In the event of a closure the school will:

1. Complete the Central Beds SOS system - this will automatically inform the radio stations - Heart FM and BBC 3 Counties of a closure. A list of schools that close will be posted on the Radio station's website.
2. Post a message on:
 - the school Website
 - the school Facebook page
 - the school Twitter page
3. Send a Parentmail (PMX) to all Parents and Carers informing them of the school closure. Further updates will follow throughout the day.

And Finally – App it! Please can we encourage you to download the Parentmail (PMX) App - this will enable you to pay for school trips, receive emails, load up dinner money and check your child's spending history. It is available on the App store and Google Play.

