Governor Vacancy

Are you enthusiastic about education?

Do you have some time to spare?
If so, then you may be just the person we need!

We are looking for committed people to join Robert Bloomfield Academy’s Governing Board as Co-opted Governors.

We have two vacancies in the co-opted governor category and would welcome applications from people with experience in:

- Business Management and Strategy development/ review
- Financial Planning and Procurement Compliance
- Chairing and leading teams
- Experience working as part of or under a Board of Trustees
- Reporting findings based on first hand evidence

Please see our website under Governing Body for further information.

Dear Parents / Carers,

Although it is only a short term, this edition of the bulletin will demonstrate that every day, something exciting happens at RBA.

It is a good time to reflect on the fantastic data capture outcomes. Well done to every student who has put the hours in to develop and progress, staff are extremely proud of your efforts. Our Year 6 pupils are taking their Mock SATs as I type – thank you to the staff, families and students who have put in all the extra hours in preparation.

We are exceptionally proud of our new Careers and Aspirations programme this year. We had an extremely successful careers week, which culminated with an excellent Year 8 Electives Day, alongside a variety of work place visits. The students took part in a wide range of events, which included visits to the production facility at ‘My Fresh’, an Art Gallery, University of Bedfordshire, and a tour of Milton Keynes Theatre. More on this later on in the newsletter.

Also, special thanks to Annie for the “New Year, New Format” to our newsletter – hopefully this is rather more pleasing on the eye!

Sam Farmer
Principal
Parking and Road Safety
Yellow line restrictions must be adhered to and RBA continues to closely monitor the illegal parking on Bloomfield Drive, working with the Police and Central Beds Council to provide education to our community around road safety. We are very excited to be offering a unique opportunity in the coming weeks to Year 7 pupils to be a part of the Junior Road Safety Office initiative which is run by Central Beds Council. This is already being run at Shefford Lower School and a number of schools across the authority.

Following an introductory assembly, pupils will be invited to apply for the position of JRSO and the successful applicants will work with the Road Safety Officers from Central Beds to ensure a safe environment in the immediate area of the school, through education and student awareness. It’s an exciting opportunity to build student leadership and voice with a pressing community matter.

It is hoped that these initiatives will not only provide a greater awareness of road safety and potential hazards to our pupils, but also raise awareness of this important issue to our community and all road users in our immediate area. We also continue to press for additional Parking Enforcement Officers to ensure the safety of our pupils remains the absolute priority for everyone. We can all make a difference!

Pastoral & Pupil Support Update
Honey is now 9 months old and will be taking her PAT assessment within the next month, which is really exciting as she will then be able to take part in pupil interventions!

We are supporting 3 pupils who applied to be part of the Central Bedfordshire Council Youth Parliament. Their campaigns will be taking place over the next 3 weeks. All pupils will be able to vote in the 2 weeks before half term for who they want to represent them.

We are working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council to support Young Carers. A Young Carers club runs the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Pupil Support Room. For more information please email: rba-pupilsupport@bestacademies.org.uk

KS3 Textiles
Last term, KS3 pupils worked very hard in Textiles lessons to produce some high quality products. In Year 7, pupils learnt how to thread up and use the sewing machine to manufacture a cushion inspired by the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a British architect, designer and artist that they studied in class. Whilst in Year 8, pupils wrote their own design brief and designed and manufactured a bag (tote, drawstring or envelope) on which they created heat transfer image using CADCAM.
MFL News
The year 8 Spanish penfriend initiative is finally underway. All the year 8 pupils who are involved have been matched with one (or in some cases two) Spanish children from our partner school in Valencia. We have practised writing our introductory emails and are waiting for the first messages to arrive from Spain – hopefully in the next week. We are all very excited and looking forward to building positive friendships with our Spanish counterparts and improving our language skills. The organisation for the year 6 French trip is also well underway. Please make sure you are up to date with all payments – if there are any difficulties making a payment, please contact the school finance office sooner rather than later.

Attendance: Why is it important
Mr Robson recently delivered a Whole School Assembly to the pupils on the importance of attending school regularly. Here are some of the main points of the assembly.

1 week of 90% attendance = ½ a day missed.
1 Year of 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of school missed
5 Years (Secondary Journey) of 90% attendance = ½ a school year missed.

Less time spent at school could have an impact on the number of qualifications that you get.

17 missed school days a year = 1 grade drop in GCSE’S

How to keep your attendance levels high:
• Be resilient
• Let us know of any issues that you are worried about
• Be aspirational – focus on your goals

Gymnastics Squad
Congratulations to our gymnastics squad who competed in the Regional sports acro and tumble competition. All performers were amazing and did the school proud. Special mention to the following medal winners;

James Phillips - Bronze U14
Dougie Anderson - Bronze U11
Freddie Lee - Silver U11 (National qualifier)
Olivia Fox - Gold U14 (National qualifier).

More photos and videos on our Facebook Site: @Robert Bloomfield School

Photos on School Trips – an Update
With the amount of work involved in running day and residential trips, it is becoming increasingly harder to share photographs in real time. Often, the only real down time on a residential is at night, after all students are in bed, asleep - and we want to ensure our staff are able to switch off as well at this point to recharge for the next day. Uploading can often take hours as each photograph needs to be checked and then double checked for consent. We have also noticed an increasing number of disparaging comments appearing on our Facebook site questioning why photos are not loaded fast enough, or suggestions in the public forum that specific children are deemed to be forgotten. These comments then add an additional burden to the trip leads and, as I am sure you will all agree, we want their focus to be on student safety and enjoyment. We do communicate with families if there is a concern/ issue developing and continue to abide by the golden rule that no news is always to be regarded as good news. Whilst we appreciate this is often a comfort for the families, we need to draw a line here on managing expectations from our trip staff.

To this end, we have made the decision to post all photographs from trips after the visit. We of course will continue to share snapshots of the wonderful experiences we offer to your children if time and WIFI connections allow during the trip. Arrival and departure announcements will also still be made alongside return ETA updates.

This also gives us an opportunity to save the photos in a specific location for ease of access – currently they get lost in the general “mobile updates” section of Facebook.
Year 6 are now entering SATs season and are working hard, showing brilliant progress and determination to do their very best! As a school, we are 100% behind them - please find some of the key information here:

- **Practise SATs week - Week of 27 January.** An opportunity for pupils to see how much progress they have made so far and make sure they know what to expect in May in terms of where, when etc. Tests will be marked and analysed thoroughly and gone through with pupils highlighting successes and ways to improve. Papers are sent home to share with parents!

- **Parents Evenings (Wed 5 Feb 6x and Wed 12 Feb 6y)** are targeted specifically at English and Maths to update parents on pupils' progress and areas which pupils need to work on as well as how well they are doing!

- **CGP workbooks** - these are a superb resource, which we will use after half term for Maths and English. Parents should have received an email regarding these. The cost is heavily subsidised by school.

- **Revision guides** - Another superb resource to use at home - sold at cost price. See the CGP letter.

- **Revision homework** - After half term the homework timetable will change so pupils get Maths and English twice per week. These homeworks may be shorter than current ones, will use CGP books and move increasingly towards revision.

- **Study club** - Available every day to pupils at lunchtime to get help with any work or just to sit in the quiet (and the warm!) and get ahead. Staff support always available.

- **SATs evening for parents - Wednesday 22nd January** (parents should have received a parent mail). This will give parents an overview of the tests, how we support the pupils, how we organise the week and a wealth of tips and ideas to support your child.

- **Information on the website.** Following the SATs eve, the presentations will be placed on the RBA website (under curriculum > SATs preparations). There will also be links to websites and other useful resources.

- **SATs week - Save the Date! SATS are the week of 11th May - this is straight after the May bank holiday...please be aware!**

- **Subscriptions to websites used in school** (eg MyMaths - user name bloomfield, password robert). More details of others on the website.

- **Intervention** - we are fortunate enough to be able to run a very effective intervention programme targeting pupils with specific misconceptions and working individually or in small groups to address these and build confidence.

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SATs (and indeed all assessment tests that pupils do regularly) are part of school life for all year 6 pupils across the country. We aim to prepare pupils as thoroughly and robustly as possible - these tests are important for their GCSE targets, but we are always mindful of expecting pupils just to try their best and not to put undue pressure on themselves.
HOUSE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter we have been able to announce that Sofia will be our house captain and she will be helped by deputies Jess and Lucy. We have hit the £1500 mark for Teenage Cancer Trust after receiving an incredible amount from a fantastic group of boys in year 7 who raised over £500 by completing their Game-a-thon.

We are currently 3rd in the house totals but have pulled far away from 4th and are well on the way to hunting down Miller in 2nd. Norton will host a fundraiser for Teenage Cancer Trust before the end of this half term so please encourage all pupils to participate to raise as much money for our brilliant house charity.

Wow, what a great start to the year it’s been! We have already cleared 10,000 house points in less than two terms and have raised over £1000 for MAGPAS. Well done to everyone who has taken part in the inter-house competitions and helped us gain lots of points towards winning this year. Thanks to our House Captains, Amy, Zara and Gabriel, we have introduced a suggestions box in Mr Ward’s room which has already collected some ideas for fundraisers and competitions in the coming term. There’s lots more in the pipeline for the rest of the year and so much to look forward to.

We’d like to thank everyone who has taken part in inter-house competitions and helped gain lots of great memories for Abrahams. Your hard work has paid off as we are smashing the leader board! Well done to all the staff and pupils that have put in the effort to create a sensational Abrahams community.

We have enjoyed a full and busy half term in Turing house. We have seen lots of pupils enjoy a whole host of activities, including house competitions, clubs, fixtures and trips. We have also welcomed our newly appointed House Captains, Joe and Hazel - who have both had a very strong start as our House leaders.

We saw lots of Turing pupils entertain the school at Bloomfield’s Got Talent, I was so proud to see Turing putting out so many entries, showing real courage and talent across KS3.

On an individual level, Rose in year 7 has achieved an award for her piano grading and Ruby in year 6 for raising £112 for NSPCC by making and selling cakes in her local community. This brings our total up to £1247 with an amazing 57 contributions, thank you to everyone who has contributed. We are currently in the progress of brainstorming our next House fundraiser.

Our placings in the House Totals has fallen this last month, we are currently laying in 4th position, not too far behind Norton. As a House, we have lots to do and are looking forward to pulling together to climb our way back up again, as a team with a positive attitude and ethos!

It’s been a fantastic start to 2020 for Miller House and since we last touched base. At the tail end of 2019 we had some amazing individual student achievements including Rhenna’s 5 trophy haul at her Majorettes competition. At Bloomfield’s Got Talent we had numerous representatives, with Sam scooping 2nd Place and Lily taking the crown with an outstanding rendition of “On my own” from Les Misérables. The individual successes have continued into 2020 with Daniel winning a very prestigious cross country race just last week at Lincroft against state and independent schools from all over the region.

We are thoroughly looking forward to a successful 2020 for Miller, and as we speak our house captains are looking for new ways to fundraise for our relentless charity “Young Minds” so look out for these and we will keep you updated.
Over the past few weeks, Year 8 have taken part in their first round of Electives and have done RBA proud.

On Monday, Mr Marshall and Miss Wrigglesworth took 30 budding engineers to spend the day at RAR, a local engineering company based in Shefford. Students learnt all about robots and even managed to programme a robotic arm!

On Tuesday, 11 officers from the Royal Air Force visited the MFL departments from Chicksands and taught 30 lucky students Arabic, Russia and Farsi. Students learnt all about careers in languages and in the RAF.

On Wednesday, Mrs Burt and Mr Ward took 30 want-to-be lawyers to the University of Bedfordshire’s law department having had the afternoon with a local magistrate on Friday who watched over their mock trial.

Mrs Robson was also out with the PE Elective on Wednesday- also at the University of Bedfordshire exploring all the wonderful careers which a passion for sport can lead to.

The Art Elective went out to the Higgins Art Gallery on Thursday where they spent time exploring the Dreams and Nightmares current exhibition in the gallery completing a variety of tasks, and had the opportunity to take part in a needle felting work shop with local artist, Anne-Marie Abbate creating pieces inspired by the exhibition.

On Friday, Mr Langley inspired a group of 30 scientists as they worked with forensics to solve a mystery, whilst Miss Kinnear and Mr Richbell took their students to My Fresh- a local produce company where they saw food come from the ground to the plate. They then came back to RBA and cooked a delicious meal with My Fresh vegetables.

Next Wednesday, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Trim are off to MK theatre to watch a show and have a theatre tour, this was all after a morning at RBA with a local dance and theatre company learning all about careers in Performing Arts.

Round two of Electives is in June... watch this space...
Year 5 Art Club
We will be making Easter bunnies in clay. These will be carefully planned looking at various resources and drawn in detail.
They will then be made using a combination of techniques which include bowl moulding, coil building and thumb pots. Once fired they will be painted and varnished ready to take home to display in time for Easter!

Performing Arts
In Performing Arts this term, we will be focusing on our House Production of High School Musical. We are looking forward to getting rehearsals underway across all year groups and our cast working together to put on a fantastic show.
Our gymnastics squad have been training hard to compete at the Regional sports acrobatics competition and we wish them luck in their pairs routines and on the tumble run.
KS3 Drama club will be selecting our own scripts to perform a play.

Music
This term at orchestra rehearsals we are rehearsing a collection of traditional American folk tunes. At KS2 and KS3 guitar group rehearsals we are learning to play finger-picking patterns based around the chords of A, D and E and applying these skills to pieces such as ‘Chasing Cars’. At KS2 keyboard group rehearsals we are currently learning to play Beethoven’s ‘Ode To Joy’. At KS2 Ukulele group we are learning the shapes for chords C, Am, F and G and applying these skills to pieces such as ‘Stand By Me’. String group and brass group are both working hard at a selection of pieces from which they hope to choose two or three each to perform at our next ensemble music concert. Dr Henry’s Irish music group are working at a selection of traditional Irish folk tunes with a view to performing some of these at an assembly on St Patrick’s Day and also at our next ensemble music concert, at which they hope to be joined by Miss Hope’s Irish Dancing group. KS3 Rock Band pupils are rehearsing ‘The Chain’ and ‘Living On A Prayer’ in preparation for the Beds Band Factory competition which is due to take place in early March at Redborne Upper School. Pupils in all of the above groups are approaching the challenge of learning to play their respective pieces in a characteristically energetic and enthusiastic manner.
Pop Choir performed at the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena. More on that to follow...

KS3 Textiles Club
This term the KS3 Drop in Textiles Club is open to any Year 7 or 8 pupils who are currently on a Textiles rotation in DT lessons. Students use the session to catch up if they have missed practical lessons, work on their products (cushions or bags) and use the sewing machines to develop their independence and accuracy, challenge themselves and extend their products by creating more complex applique designs on their cushions or bags and use CAD/CAM (scan 'n' sew machines) to produce the design for their cushion or use Photoshop to produce the heat transfer image for their bag. It is a drop-in club so pupils do not need to attend every week but they do need to collect a laminated pass from the Textiles room (R21) at break on the Thursday.

KS3 Debate Club
This half term we are supporting the Central Bedfordshire Youth Parliament hopeful candidates. Three year 8s are putting themselves up for election and the whole school will be voting for their preferred candidates for the CBC Youth Parliament. Debate club are supporting the candidates as they write their manifesto, make campaign videos and present to all year groups. Debate club will also be debating and questioning the candidates and canvassing for votes.

Warhammer Club
We will be learning a bit about the game and creating and painting our own Warhammer pieces.
FROM OUR HOYs

Year 5
Year 5 have returned to school full of enthusiasm and seem ready for the challenges of their second term at RBA. Some students have completed their Bikeability course, the instructors have commented on how polite the students have been – well done to those Year 5’s.
As ever, we have a busy term ahead of us including a trip to Hazard Alley, which we are all looking forward to. I am hoping lots of pupils are going to get involved in some of the various House Competitions and different clubs which are on offer this term, as it is another great way to get involved in school life.
Mrs Brown

Year 6
Year 6 have been preparing for Mock Sats over the last few weeks - they have worked very hard and I am sure the results will reflect the children’s personal efforts. The SATS books are beginning to arrive in school and the pupils are already using them to help with their homework.
Several pupils also participated in Young Voices last week and went off to perform in the O2 arena. They had a fantastic time and were a credit to Year 6.
Our Awards board which recognises the achievements of the children in pursuits outside of school is looking fantastic. Please keep letting us know of your child’s achievements so that we can celebrate with them.
Mrs Barry

Year 7
Happy New Year to you all. We are now a full term into the school year and Y7 have settled well into KS3. With the Spring term notoriously being the ‘short’ term, we have lots to cram in during this time. A large number of Y7 students are attending the school ski trip and I know those who went for a practice session at the snow dome are raring to get on the slopes next month.
Please keep emailing in any successes your children have outside of the school activities they do. I am always keen to hear from you and celebrate those successes with the Year group.
Miss Kinnear

Year 8
Year 8 have had a busy start to 2020 with a firm eye on their transition to their next school. The year group picked electives and spent a day in the environment of their chosen career option and some were lucky enough to have a site visit to see work places in action, I’m sure seeing me in a beard and hair net as we visited a food factory was a highlight for many. We have lots of mentoring and paired reading happening throughout the school and our Year 8’s are being a credit by helping younger pupils in many ways. Our sports teams are firing on all cylinders with champions in Indoor Athletics, incredible basketball and football at national level, not to mention our chilly cross country runners who have performed so well, well done to all those involved, we are very proud to have you represent the school. As we move closer to transition, members of SWA have come in to lead assemblies on what to expect and to ease the transition process, this is something that is creeping up now at a rate of knots. We look forward to the half term break and the stories of the ski trip and the awesome displays of trickery on the slopes, or just the amount of times a member of P.E staff falls over in a day. As we come back we will be firmly focused again on the standards that we expect across the board with work, behaviour and uniform continuing the fine reputation that our Year 8 students have.
Mr Richbell
**RBA NOTICE BOARD**

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**From the Medical Room:**
Just a gentle reminder that it is your responsibility as parents / carers to ensure all medicines (including EpiPens) kept in school are in date.

**Y5 Maths Café Tuesday Lunchtime**
Maths Café allows pupils to play various maths games and solve puzzles. This can be just for fun or to help develop overall

**Instrumental Exam Results:**
- Phoebe 6B cello grade 2 (merit)
- Beth 6G piano grade 1 (merit)
- Aurelia 6A violin grade 1 (merit)
- Rose 7B piano grade 2
- Aimee 8F flute grade 5 (merit)
- Aidan 6E piano grade 1 (merit)

**New Content of Website**
Our Curriculum Maps and Journeys are now available to download from [this link](#)

**Year 8 Globe Theatre Trip**
Look out for letters informing you about the opportunity to visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in the Summer Term. It’s a trip you do not want to miss!

**Don’t forget**, on our journey to becoming paperless, all trip consent forms and information is now sent via Parent Mail.

Please find consent forms in the ‘forms’ section. Any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask main reception.

**Thank you** to the Date-Bah family for donating copies of two books to our school library.

Both books were written by family members. One an interesting read on the Supreme Court of Ghana and one a pre-teen novel.