



Principals Newsletter

BOWER PARK ACADEMY

Friday 14th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Problem solving workshop

On Tuesday, The Maths department hosted an exciting and educational event titled 'Escape Bower,' designed to reward students who consistently complete their homework and to ignite a passion for the practical uses of mathematics. This engaging escape room activity transformed the drama studio into a maze of mathematical challenges and puzzles, providing a unique hands-on experience that demonstrated the real-world applications of the concepts they had learned in class. As students navigated through a series of challenges, each filled with intricate problems and cryptic clues, they had to use their mathematical knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork skills to unlock the doors and progress to the next stage. The immersive experience not only reinforced their understanding of mathematical principles but also showcased the excitement and relevance of mathematics beyond the classroom.

'Escape Bower' was designed to foster the development of problem-solving skills in a fun and interactive environment. By incorporating a variety of puzzles that required logical reasoning, pattern recognition, and numerical calculations, the activity highlighted the diverse ways mathematics can be applied to solve real-life problems. Students were encouraged to think creatively and work collaboratively, enhancing their ability to approach complex tasks with confidence and determination. The event was a resounding success, leaving participants not only with a sense of accomplishment for their efforts but also with a renewed enthusiasm for mathematics. 'Escape Bower' served as a testament to the power of engaging, experiential learning in motivating students and reinforcing the importance of consistent academic diligence in respect to home-learning. Well done to all of the students involved and a huge thank you to the Maths Department for coordinating the event.

Parent Coffee Morning

Our final Parent Coffee morning of the academic year will take place on Tuesday 18th June at 8:50am in the South Hall. The focus of the session will be for parents of children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) and will be an opportunity to meet other parents, share experiences and learn more about how we support our EAL students. We look forward to welcoming you then.

Year 7 Progress Evening

On Wednesday 19th June, we look forward to welcoming Year 7 Parents on site for the Year 7 Progress evening. The event will take place in the Sports Hall from 3:15pm-6:15pm. All details have been shared via Edulink.

Year 11 Leavers Day

For our Year 11 students, next week marks the end of your journey with us at BPA. In five years, you have developed from children into young adults who have their future before them. On Thursday 20th June, Year 11 students will have the opportunity to sign shirts and say farewell to teachers and staff in the South Hall between 10am-12pm.

Have a great weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Mr E Aylett
Principal

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FAIR PLAY AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION

In school sports, fair play and friendly competition are important for character development. Fair play embodies respect and integrity while good-natured competition balances rivalry with camaraderie. This guide addresses potential challenges – like the pressure to win – and offers practical tips on instilling values of fair play and cultivating a positive sporting environment for young athletes.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents, carers and teachers should try to exemplify fair play: demonstrating respect for opponents, coaches and officials. Children frequently learn by observing adult behaviour, so displaying a sense of fair play sets a powerful precedent for them to follow in their own actions on and off the field.

2 EFFORT OVER OUTCOME

Encourage children to focus on giving it their all, rather than basing their entire performance on whether they win or not. This fosters a growth mindset, where the journey and the process of improvement are valued just as much as the end result. It also reduces the pressure to “win at all costs”, which can be a harmful outlook in some situations.

3 SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Establish clear guidelines and expectations for behaviour before, during and after sporting events. Ensuring that children understand what is considered acceptable conduct helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes a positive, respectful atmosphere.

4 HIGHLIGHT COOPERATION

Underline the value of teamwork and cooperation in achieving success. Success isn't just about individual achievements, but about how well the team communicates, encourages each other and works together towards a common goal. A strong focus on cooperation fosters camaraderie and mutual support among players.

5 DISCUSS ACCEPTING DEFEAT

Help children to understand that they can't win every contest – that losing occasionally is a natural part of both sport and life in general. Teaching them to accept defeat gracefully and learn from their mistakes promotes resilience, humility and the ability to bounce back stronger from setbacks. Taking a loss in one's stride is also an admirable trait and can help children and young people garner respect in their future life.

6 ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Promote an environment where all children feel welcome and valued, regardless of their skill level. Prioritise the importance of participation and enjoyment over winning, creating a supportive atmosphere where every child can thrive and develop their abilities without unnecessary pressure.

7 FOSTER CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS

Teach children how to resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully, both on and off the field. Providing them with strategies for effective communication and problem-solving helps build stronger relationships and enhances their ability to navigate challenges, which can be a huge boon to them throughout their adult lives.

8 TEACH RESPECT

Emphasise to children the importance of respecting everyone involved in the game, regardless of the outcome. Respect for your teammates, opponents, coaches and officials helps to create a positive, inclusive sports environment where everyone can feel valued and appreciated.

9 GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

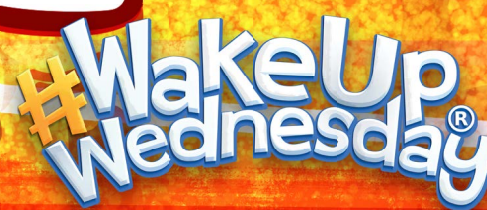
Offer feedback that focuses on areas for improvement rather than unfiltered criticism. Praise what a child has done well and advise on how to improve, rather than simply pointing out shortcomings. Encouraging a growth mindset and highlighting progress helps children to develop confidence, resilience and a desire to continue striving for excellence.

10 CELEBRATE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Try to avoid solely drawing attention to children's physical performance on the field. Recognise and celebrate acts of sportsmanship, fair play and kindness, too. By spotlighting positive behaviour, you reinforce the importance of such conduct and inspire children to practise this in the future, creating a culture of respect and camaraderie within the sports community that does wonders for morale.

Meet Our Expert

Caroline Holder is a PE consultant based in Staffordshire. Having worked across all age ranges delivering PE in schools, she now trains teachers and works with schools to develop their provision and ensure it achieves maximum impact for pupils. She passionately believes in the impact that PE, sport, and activity can have on children.



The National College



Pembroke Gardens
Dagenham RM10 7YP

Tues-Fri,
30 Jul - 23 Aug

9am - 1pm or
2pm - 6pm

Holiday fun for SEND kids!

ACTIVITIES & FOOD

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