



Principals Newsletter

BOWER PARK ACADEMY

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the beginning of the Autumn Term! We hope you had a great summer break and are ready for the new academic year ahead. The beginning of term is a time of change as students and staff settle back into school routine. However, we have lots coming up this year to look forward to from school trips to enriching experiences to make this year memorable and nurture your child's growth and development.

GCSE Results 2024

Bower Park Academy students celebrated exam success on 22nd August 2024. In a successful OFSTED year, we are pleased with the improvements made and look forward to continuing the journey. Among the many success stories, one student achieved an exceptional set of results, securing 7 grade 9s, an 8 and a 6. There were also several students who received excellent sets of grades. These achievements are a testament to their hard work and determination as well as the supportive learning environment that Bower Park Academy provides. Congratulations to all of our students on their achievements in the 2024 GCSE examinations and thank you to the staff for all of your hard work.

Welcome Year 7

A very warm welcome to Year 7 students and their Parent/ Carers. It is great to see our new students eager to learn and excited for the new year ahead. The transition from Primary to Secondary school can be very daunting but it is important to remember that our students will be supported every step of the way. Each year group has a Head of Year and a Support and Guidance Manager (SGM) who they should go to for support if needed. For Year 7, the Head of Year is Mr Jasper (WJasper@elatschools.co.uk) and their SGM is Ms James (JamesK@elatschools.co.uk).

New Staff

We also welcome a number of new staff members who have joined the Academy- Mr C Deane has joined us as Assistant Principal, our new non-teaching Heads of Year Ms Agyemang (Year 8) and Mr Jasper (Year 7), Ms Egbeyemi and Mrs Mahmood (Teachers of Maths), Ms Feeney (Teacher of Food Technology), Mr Halil and Mr Thain (Teachers of PE/ Science) and Mrs Khan (Teacher of English). We also have trainee teachers Ms Choudhury (Biology), Mr Mehmood (Maths), Mr Hazelwood (Geography) and Mrs Khan (English). We are excited to have you on board and share our vision to inspire our students to strive for excellence.

School Photographs

On Wednesday 11th September, our school photographers will be visiting Bower Park Academy to take individual photographs of students. All parents are requested to pre-register for instant access to your child's photographs once they are ready, pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Register in 3 easy steps in less than a minute:

1. Head to www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk
2. Enter your unique code : JRM26N4
3. Include your child's full school register name.

Parents who pre-register will receive an exclusive 10% discount code for digital prints! This will be sent via email by Carmel Jane Photography once the photos are ready.

Cycle Confident- Year 8 and Year 9 students

We are excited to be working with Cycle Confident to offer our current Year 8 and 9 students the opportunity to take part in Level 1 and 2 Cycle Training at the Academy in the week beginning Monday 23rd September. Spaces are free but extremely limited. Please note, this opportunity is open to Year 8 and 9 students only. Please sign up here if you would like your son/daughter to take part; [Schools Levels 1 & 2 Cycle Training \(cycleconfident.com\)](http://cycleconfident.com)

School Hire

We are excited to announce that Bower Park Academy is now available to hire. If you would like to make a booking for a classroom, the hall or one of our facilities after school hours or Saturdays, term-time only, please see website; <https://schoolhire.co.uk/>

Year 11 Leadership Team

Applications are now open for our Year 11 Leadership Team! Positions available are Head students, Deputy Head Students, Senior and Junior Prefects and Change Makers. Please see slides for more information later on in this Newsletter. Applications close on Friday 13th September with interviews taking place week commencing Monday 16th September.

New School Day Timings

This Academic year our school day has slightly changed again. However, the start and end time remains unaffected. Transition time has been removed and there have been 5 minutes added to Form and Break time. Please see below the new school day;

Arrival Time	8:25am
Form Time	8:30am-8:55am
Period 1	8:55am-9:55am
Period 2	9:55am-10:55am
Break	10:55am-11:20am
Period 3	11:20am-12:20pm
Period 4	12:20pm-1:20pm
Lunch	1:20pm-1:55pm
Period 5	1:55pm-2:55pm

Year Teams

This year there are some changes to Year Teams and SGMs. Some year groups have a new Head of Year and some Years groups will share an SGM this year. Please see below to familiarise yourself with your child's Year Team;

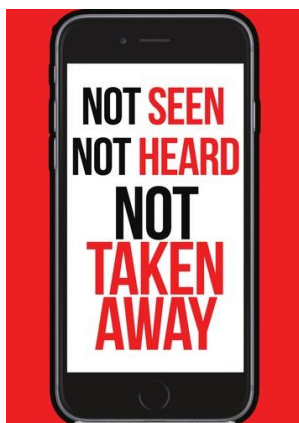
Year	Head of Year	SGM
7	Mr Jasper	Ms James
8	Ms Agyemang	
9	Mr Sherwood	Mrs Whitcombe
10	Ms Evans	
11	Mr Mayhew	Mrs Lucas

New Year, New Start

As we kick off the new Academic Year, it is a good time to reset and remind our students of the Academy's rules and expectations. Please see below;

Mobile Phone Ban!

At Bower Park Academy, students are allowed to bring phones to school **to contact parents/ carers before and after school only, however, the use of mobile phones during school hours is strictly prohibited.** If a student is seen using their mobile phone in and around the Academy, the mobile phone will be confiscated and Parents/Carers may be called to collect the phone on their child's behalf. There is no reason students should be using their mobile phones during school hours. If Parents/ Carers need to be contacted, students should go to the main office who will make calls home. Students will also need to ensure their timetables are copied into their planners as they will not be allowed to check Edulink during the school day.



Attendance

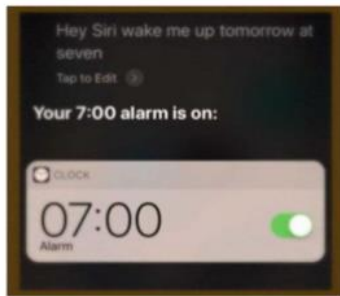
Parents are responsible for securing their child's regular attendance at school. Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school. Therefore, attendance and punctuality are paramount to learning and to avoid gaps in learning. The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and this will continue to be a key focus for Bower Park Academy in the new academic year.



Planners

As part of our efforts to encourage good organisational habits and regular communication between home and school, we kindly request that you sign your child's planner each week. Tutors will be checking and signing the planners during our form time every Monday. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated, as it helps reinforce positive habits and keeps us all on the same page regarding your child's progress and upcoming events.

Equipment checks



To get ready for school:

- Set your alarm so that you get up on time
- Leave the house on time to travel to school
- Check your route the night before to see if buses/trains are running; they may be operating a limited service. We will encourage you to cycle or walk to school to avoid public transport as much as you can, if you can, obviously!

Get your uniform ready

- If it is cold, remember to bring a jumper/coat, because windows will be open
- Check that you know where your PE kit is and what day you have PE. You will need to carry your kit with you throughout the school day

Get your bag ready

- Pack your BPA Student Booklet
- Bring your reading book every day
- Have you checked where you need to go before school and for period 1?
- Pack your equipment, including a black pen for writing, a purple pen for editing your work and a scientific calculator.
- You will also need a pencil, ruler, eraser and spare pens for writing

Exercise books and folders

- Bring the correct books for your timetabled lessons
- Pack the books in your bag the night before
- Make sure any loose sheets are glued in

What's coming up this Academic year?

Date	Event
Wednesday 11 th September 2024	School Photographs (All years)
Wednesday 25 th September 2024	Parent Information evening 4pm-4:30pm
Thursday 3 rd October 2024	Year 6 Open Evening
Wednesday 23 rd October 2024	College Transfer evening 5pm
Thursday 24 th October 2024	Year 7 Tutor Evening 3:30pm-6pm
Monday 28 th October 2024- Friday 1 st November 2024	October Half-Term

After a busy first week back, have a relaxing weekend!

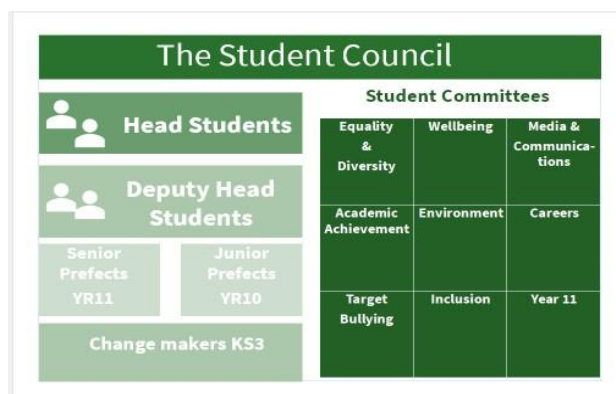
Yours faithfully,



Mr E Aylett
Principal

Year 11 Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership team



- Applications are now open for the positions that we need! Year 11, you were emailed the application details before Summer.
- Your tutor will go through each of the committees and the application process



Positions Available



Head Students	Deputy Head Students	Senior Prefects, Junior Prefects & Change Makers
<p>Be the face of calendared events, including open evening, parents evenings and options evening.</p> <p>Lead tours of the school for visitors.</p> <p>Lead a Student Council Committee.</p> <p>Lead the Year 11 Committee, helping to organise prom and final day arrangements.</p>	<p>Be involved in calendared events, including open evening, parents evenings and options evening. Deputise for the Head Students when they are not available.</p> <p>Lead tours of the school for visitors.</p> <p>Lead a Student Council Committee.</p> <p>Support the Year 11 Committee, helping to organise prom and final day arrangements.</p>	<p>Undertake one break and one lunch duty per week.</p> <p>Be involved in whole school events, such as open evening and parents evenings.</p> <p>Lead and deliver a Committee, helping the Student Council to make important changes to Bower Park.</p>



Year 11 Student Leadership Team

Deputies, Senior Prefects, Junior Prefects and Change Makers



Equality & Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture• Tolerance• British Values	Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Champions<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports• Clubs, trips and experiences	Media & Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photography• Student Council newsletter• Celebrations & rewards
Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer reading• Oracy & debating• Academic mentoring• Attendance mentoring	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single use plastics• Green spaces• School facilities	Careers & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Options• Careers advice• Trips & experiences
Target Bullying <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindness• Anti-bullying• Peer mentoring	Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Station• Identity	Year 11 Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prom• Final Day• Hoodies• Yearbook

We will have 9 committees next year.

Deputies and Senior Prefects with Junior Prefects will lead one committee (with support from a member of staff).

Each committee will plan and deliver whole school projects that will improve students' experiences at Bower Park Academy and support students emotional and physical health and their academic achievement.



Applications Deadline Friday 13th September

Interviews week commencing Monday 16th September

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.



2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.



3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.



4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.



5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.



6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.



7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.



8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.



9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.



10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.



Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Parenting Drop-in

Rolling 6 week programme for parents and carers to drop in and receive advice around the following topics:

- Positive Role-Models/Quality Time
- Communication/Active Listening
- Praise
- Identifying and Prioritising Problematic Behaviours
- De-escalation
- Self-Care



Tuesdays 6.00pm- 7.30pm virtually via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact us to find out more
and join the programme

Tel: 01708 432 636

Email: parenting@havering.gov.uk



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH