



Principals Newsletter

BOWER PARK ACADEMY

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Head Students

I am delighted to announce our new Head Students for 2024-2025 are; Lucian (Head Boy), Hera (Head Girl), Jack (Deputy Head Boy) and Christabel (Deputy Head Girl). Head students can be identified by their purple ties and they will ensure our students have a voice. Their passion and desire for wanting to represent students shone through during the interview process and I am incredibly proud of them. Congratulations to each of you and I look forward to seeing how you inspire BPA students to Achieve, Enjoy and Excel.



Post 16 Meeting

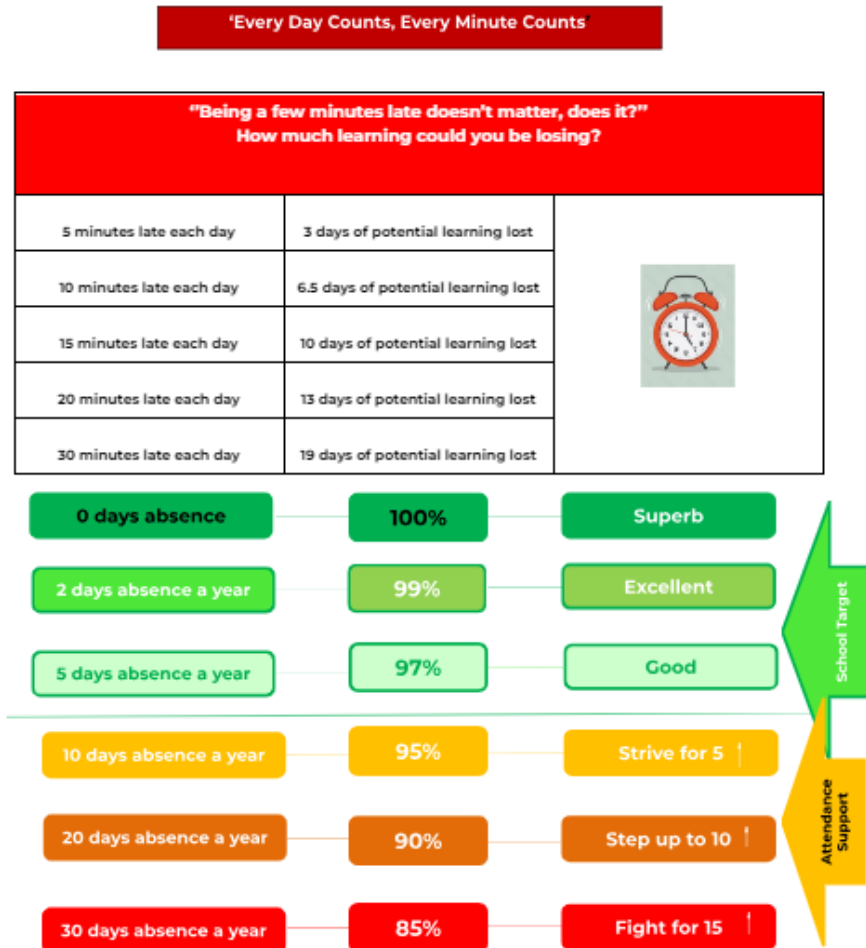
On Wednesday 23rd October, we will be holding our annual Post 16 meeting, previously known as College Transfer evening, for Year 11 students and parents/carers. Students will have the opportunity to speak to representatives from colleges/ Sixth forms and listen to presentations as well as ask questions about courses and entry requirements. The evening will begin at 5pm in The South Hall.

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

We will be holding our Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening on Thursday 24th October. The evening will be an opportunity to meet your son/ daughters tutor to discuss how they are settling into life at Bower Park Academy. Further details have been emailed out via Edulink.

Attendance

Students often find the first term in school very tiring, coupled with the closing in of the dark nights and cold wintery mornings. However, it is important to stress the importance of attendance for students to reach their full educational potential. There is a proven link between good attendance and positive academic outcomes. Punctuality is also key factor to success. Please see below how lost learning time can have an impact on attendance.



Lost Property

If your child has lost any item of uniform or had any items confiscated, please tell them to speak to the Office Team who will be able to look through the lost property. All unclaimed lost property items will be disposed of after half-term.

Yours faithfully,



Mr E Aylett
Principal

Friends of Bower
Park PTA present



BACK AT THE ART DEPARTMENT

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Break & Lunchtime

MAKE SURE YOU BRING CASH

All money raised goes back into
the school





Calls for deodorant warnings amid viral cold burn challenge on Tiktok - with children as young as TEN admitted to hospital

Children as young as ten have played at a dangerous deodorant challenge online

Wounds are caused by very low temperatures – and is better-known as frostbite

The wounds are caused by very low temperatures – and is better-known as frostbite. A 15-second burst of aerosol deodorant held just two inches away has been shown to reduce skin temperature by more than 60C – enough to cause the extreme burns.

The surge has been blamed on a social media craze where young people film themselves spraying deodorant on to their skin at close range for as long as bearable.

The stunt leaves a red, circular mark on the skin that children then share on TikTok.

If you or your child are aware of any young person taking part in this challenge, please contact the school.

Thank you

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

TOO SCARED?

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

HAVERING YOUTH SERVICE WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2024

MONDAY

THE OFF STREET
CLUB @ SAPPHIRE
CENTRE, COLLIER
ROW

5-6PM = 13-14 YRS
6-7PM = 15-18 YRS

TUESDAY

JUNIOR REVELLERS
S.E.N.D. CLUB @
MYPLACE

7-9PM
11-17 YEARS

WEDNESDAY

SAFE CLUB @
MYPLACE

7-9PM
13-18 YEARS

THURSDAY

SENIOR REVELLERS S.E.N.D.
CLUB

@ RAINHAM ROYALS
7-9PM 18-25 YEARS

SUNDAY

TEAM GYM S.E.N.D. CLUB @
HARROW LODGE LEISURE CENTRE

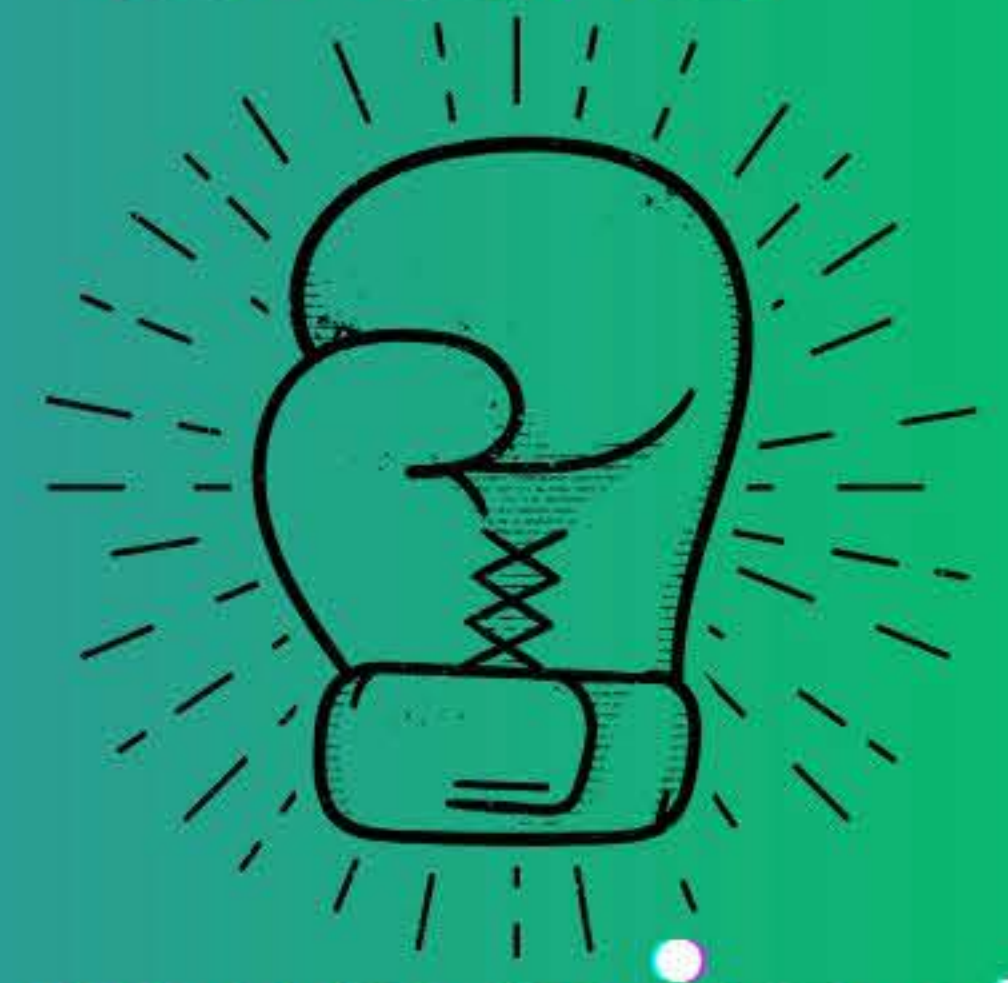
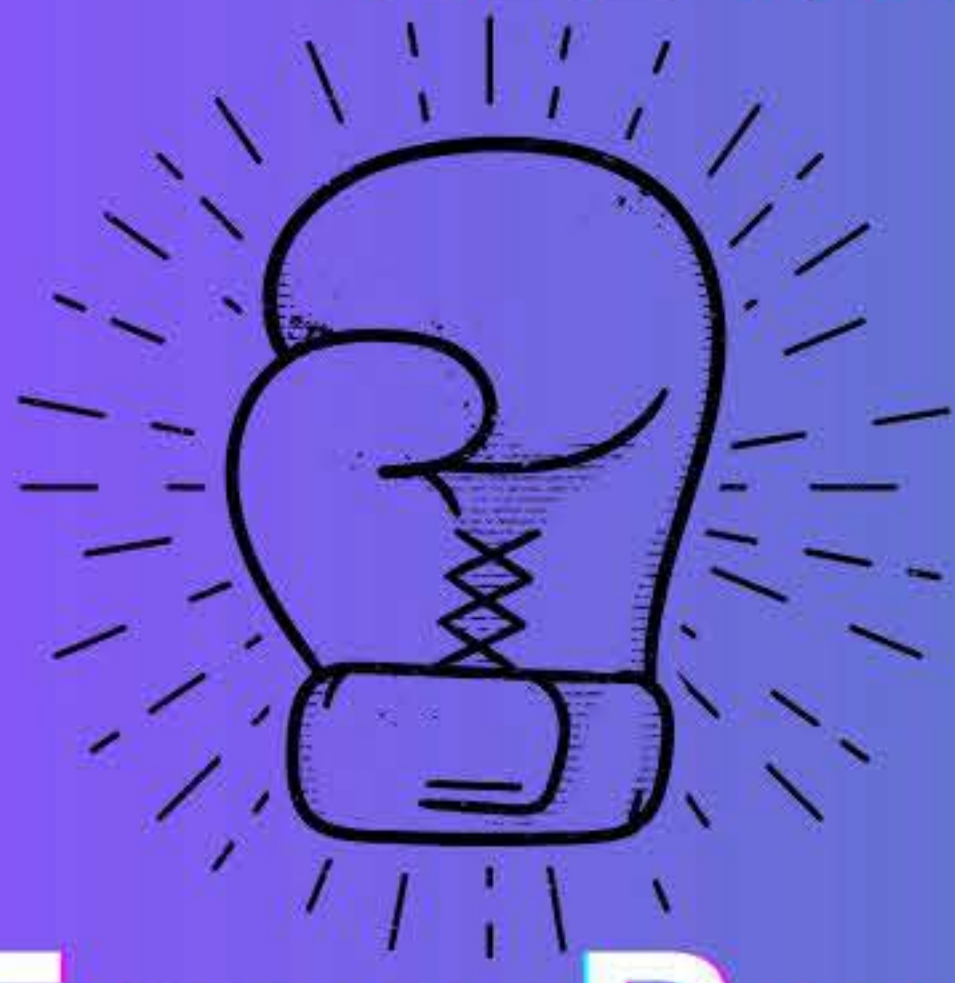
10:45-12:45NOON
16-25 YEARS

REFERRAL GROUPS: GOODFELLAS, GO-GIRLS &
THE YEAR 6/7 TRANSITIONS GROUP (APR-OCT)

CONTACT: YOUTHSERVICE@HAVERING.GOV.UK
FOR MORE INFO. OR SCAN QR CODE ➔



The Off Street Club



**Free Boxing sessions running
until October Half Term**

Monday evenings

5pm-6pm for ages 13 to 14 years

6pm-7pm for ages 15 to 18 years



**The Sapphire Jubilee Community
Centre in Collier Row,
RM5 3DQ**



**Contact: youthservice@haverling.gov.uk
to find out more**



Haverling
LONDON BOROUGH