

October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We have made a very positive start to the school year. Students have returned and very quickly engaged in their learning.

Open Morning

We had a very successful Open Morning on 29 September with over 300 families visiting the school and we have received a huge amount of positive feedback. We anticipate being full next year in Year 7. Thank you to all the students and parents who came in on the day to help out. Thank you also to the staff who made a brilliant effort and were so engaging and enthusiastic about the school.

Following Open Morning, we have had a large number of parents coming on tours of the school to see Bower Park in action and, again, the feedback has been excellent.

They have seen a calm, purposeful environment with students engaged and working hard.

Data

Parents have asked how they know how well their child is doing. We assess students regularly throughout the year and will ensure that, after each data campaign, parents receive a review of their child's progress. This will include where they are in each subject against their target, plus an attitude to learning grade. In Key Stage 3 this happens three times a year and in KS4 it is four times a year.

Lockers

I have to apologise for the amount of time it has taken for the lockers to arrive. The original lease agreement did not meet the financial regulations for an academy so we had to re-tender the contract for lockers. That has now been done and the lockers have arrived. If you requested a locker for your child last year, one will be allocated to your child. Any students who now wish to have a locker need to collect a letter from the school office. The cost is £5 per term and students need to provide their own padlock. We will allocate them on a first come, first served basis.

Go4Schools

Go4Schools is our online portal where parents can log in and see praise points and consequence points for their child. It will also give an update on attendance. We had hoped to show each student's progress through this portal, but that has not yet been possible. Hence, we will send home data regularly throughout the year. If any parent has not got the login details for Go4Schools, please contact your child's House.

Communication

Finding a way that keeps parents informed about what is going on in the school has been a challenge. Giving students letters to take home can be hit and miss.

We use various Applications (Apps) for parents/carers to use to see real-time information on their child/children, to communicate with parents and for updating of personal information including contact details and addresses.

Two examples are:-

My Ed:

MyEd is a free parent app that gives you a number of communication and information features to stay in touch with what is going on at school. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance, timetable, absence records and much, much more. You will also see that we update and change the information in the app as the school year moves along. We are able to send you messages directly to the MyEd app relating to important information about your child's education and to remind you of events that are taking place at school.

You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages you send to us.

The MyEd app is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices and can be found using the links below

Step 1 – Go to your App Store

Step 2 – Search for My Ed

Step 3 – Download the free app: *Apple iOS App* or *Google Android App*

Once you have installed and opened MyEd, search for Bower Park Academy and follow the simple instructions to identify yourself. If you would like to enable a second parent to use the app, please send us a message via the app to allow access for the second parent. We will then add you both to our school system as 'Priority 1' contacts.

We hope you enjoy using the app and find it a useful source of information.

Go4Schools:

<https://www.go4schools.com/MobileApp.aspx>

Using GO 4 Schools, you will be able to access the following information at any time:

- Attendance
- Timetable
- Behaviour information

Your child's page is constantly updated, providing you with the latest information.

To access the site, please go to www.go4schools.com and click on the Parents icon at the top of the main page to arrive at the log-in screen. The email address you use to enter the site must be the one we have registered in our database for you.

If you would like to change this email address please contact us on office@bowerpark.co.uk