

April 2019



Dear Parents/Carers

This has been another successful half-term for Bower Park Academy.

Our Year 11s are now in their final preparations for the summer exams. Their second round of mocks indicate that this will be a successful year. Year 11 continue to work hard and are attending the extra intervention sessions that we are providing. No doubt, they will be very busy over the Easter period revising, with just a few weeks left until their first exam. We wish them the very best of luck. They deserve every success given their hard work and endeavour to date.

Our PE Department continues to shine and succeed, especially in handball. Congratulations to the under-15 girls who became London champions and have now qualified for the national finals once more. The under-13 girls were also successful and become runners up in London.

Mr Aylett was very successful in securing funding through Erasmus and this has enabled a number of students to travel to Europe on various projects. Countries that we have been to include Poland, Italy and Turkey. One of our pledges is to ensure students have an international experience so Erasmus is helping us to achieve that goal. Thank you to the staff who have given their free time to make these trips possible.

The Junior Leadership Team organised a Wellbeing Week where the focus was on strategies to help deal with issues such as mental health and anxiety. They prepared resources for form time, staff adapted lessons to cover the theme of wellbeing and to conclude the week, on Friday 15 March, we supported the BBC's Red Nose Day.

Uniform

Thank you to parents for your continued support on uniform. One issue that has arisen over the winter has been the colour of coats that some students are wearing to school. Our uniform policy clearly states that only black coats are permissible. Obviously, it is too late in the season to ask parents to replace coats that are not black, but please bear this in mind for next year and ensure that, if your child wears a coat to school, it is black.

A reminder that earrings are not permitted at school; the only jewellery allowed is a wristwatch.

Also, a reminder that skirts need to be knee length and not rolled up.

We have a clear policy that only shoes are allowed – The type of shoes were shown in the last newsletter. We can only permit trainers if the student has a medical reason for not wearing shoes, supported by a doctor's note; otherwise we will provide shoes for the day.

Activities Week

We are in the process of organising an activities week for the final week of the summer term. The purpose of this will be to help develop the LORIC attributes (see below for further explanation). Our aim is to make this an exciting and enjoyable week for every student. However, we will need to ask for a small contribution from parents to help fund the activities. Further details to follow.

Attendance

Last year our attendance was in line with national average, which was fantastic. Having good attendance is a key element to success at school. Hence we encourage every student to have attendance that is at least 95 per cent. This year our attendance has dipped a little, although it is now recovering back towards the national average. We encourage parents to send their children into school unless they are really too unwell. There is very strong evidence to show that good attendance is a vital element for success at school.

LORIC

At Bower Park Academy our vision is to strive for excellence to transform the life chances for every student.

In effect we want to ensure that every student is life ready by the time they leave the Academy. A key ingredient for this is to achieve the best possible examination results. Another key ingredient is to develop the attributes and qualities that will give them the edge when applying for college, universities or work. The LORIC attributes of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication have been identified by business as the qualities they are looking for from young people.

LORIC is the golden thread that runs through our curriculum and we want every student to develop their LORIC attributes during their time at Bower Park Academy. This can be accredited through PiXL.

All students have been issued their personal login details for the PIXL Edge website which enables them to log their activities and work towards their LORIC qualification. The website can be found at <https://theedge.pixl.org.uk/>.

As a parent/carer, you can support your child by logging on with them and discussing their chosen activities, they can be accredited for work both in and outside of school, including for extracurricular activities. This could include; attendance at guides or scouts, volunteering for a community initiative, part-time work, sporting activities or drama groups.