



Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to this issue of the Bower Park Academy (BPA) Newsletter.

The end of a very long half-term is fast approaching. We started this term with a refocus on our expectations after the disruptions to learning in the last 18 months. Thank you for your support with uniform this half term. However, in the last two weeks, we have been concerned about the increasing number of students wearing jewellery; jewellery has never been permitted in our school uniform policy. We would like to inform you that from 1st November, Support and Guidance Managers will be confiscating jewellery at the school gate, like we used to do before Covid restrictions. To avoid this, please could you support us by ensuring your child does not wear jewellery when they come to school, including clear retainers or second ear piercings. The students have adapted to our new processes really well and I am pleased with how the majority of students are working in their lessons.

We have had to do a number of things differently this year including our 'Open season' events - Our open evening was done virtually and promotional videos and the new school prospectus are available on the school website; please take a look. We have done many school tours during the day for prospective Year 7 students in the last three weeks. Visitors have been really impressed with the learning atmosphere in the school and all have been keen to send their child to the school next year. I have also visited many local primary schools to answer questions that year 6 students may have; many are looking forward to the next step in their education.

As we move into next half-term I do have some reminders on COVID. As you are aware COVID cases are rising nationally and we have had some positive cases in the school. We are following government guidelines. However, to ensure education is not disrupted, it is important that students continue using lateral flow testing over the half-term and before they return to school. We will be giving out more tests to students; however, these are widely available from pharmacies or local authority buildings in the area.

I hope that you all enjoy the half-term break, it will be a time to refresh and recharge batteries ready for the next half-term.

Staff Leaving

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Cheeseman, Mrs Balding and Miss Grainger. Mrs Cheeseman and Mrs Balding are retiring and Miss Grainger is moving on to a new role. We are immensely grateful for their service and for the valuable contribution they have made to Bower Park and wish them well for the future.



Year 11 Student Leadership Team

At Bower Park Academy, we are delighted to introduce our new Year 11 Student Leadership Team made up of:-

Head Boy: Stanley McPeake

Head Girl: Lillie-Mae Smith

Deputy Head Boys: Mason Jones, Lenny Cook

Deputy Head Girls: Lily Morris, Lily Kerrigan

Ambassadors: Jennifer Barthram, Maddie Burley, Sarah Concannon, Meghana Pudur, Isabelle Jelinski, Gracie Hickman, Ana Kolesnyk, Keira Donohoe, Lily Chapman, Ruby Burchell, Zuzanna Ustrobinska, Neeha Dharsandia-Patel, Tori-Belle Pitt.

Over the course of this year, our Student Leadership Team will be working with our younger year groups and leading whole-school projects on:-

- Equality and Diversity
- Peer Mentoring
- Anti-bullying
- Environmental Awareness
- Literacy
- Charity

We look forward to sharing their future successes with you in future updates as they work with younger year groups on their projects.





Bower Park Fast Pass

Congratulations to our three students who have designed the Bower Park Fast Pass. The Fast Pass is a half-termly reward given to students who are working very well in class, so they can jump the lunch queues.

The winning designs for our half-termly awards scheme come from:-

Poppy Whitcombe, Lainey-Rain Smith and Attila Portik Hegyi

We look forward to using their designs this year.



Covid Vaccinations and testing

Students are encouraged to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing at home during the half-term break and when they return to school after the half-term break.

Face Coverings and Public Transport

The DFE recommends that children aged 11 and over continue to wear face coverings when travelling on dedicated transport to school and college. This guidance will apply to dedicated transport provided by the local authority, including commissioned taxis. As you will be aware, TfL have also announced that the wearing of face coverings will be a condition of carriage, and pupils/parents should be advised to follow the TfL advice here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings>



Equipment Reminder

Please ensure that your son/daughter comes to school with:-

- Two working black pens
- A purple pen
- A ruler
- A highlighter
- A glue stick
- A mathematical set
- A scientific calculator





Mobile Phones

The school will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones, headphones, earpods or any other electronic devices. In line with the advice issued by the Metropolitan Police, the Department of Health and the Department for Education, the school strongly discourages students from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school. We do so because these are valuable items that can be lost and because they place students at serious risk of becoming victims of crime and online bullying. To prevent any disruption to learning, if a student brings a mobile phone or other electronic devices to school, it must be switched off and kept out of sight once the student is on the school premises. It cannot be used during the school day, including breaktime and lunchtime, or whilst leaving school at the end of the day. It cannot be used anywhere on the school site. If a mobile phone or electronic device is seen or used on the school premises at any time up until the end of the school day they will be confiscated by the member of staff in accordance with the Department for Education advice on Searching, Screening and Confiscation.



Attendance and Punctuality

From next half term, Support and Guidance Managers will be checking students who are late on the gate.

Tutor time begins at 8.30 am and we expect students on site for 8.25am. This year our students follow a focused timetable with their form tutors which includes Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, Literacy support, Current Affairs and Skills Builder work – a new programme we are introducing that builds communication and social skills which is recognised by employers and will be detailed on CVs. We want students in tutor time to get their mark and to have this important pastoral input to set them up for their day's learning.

With the clocks changing, please can you encourage your child to get up early and get into school on time. Late marks can result in detentions and eventually, fines. If you have a problem getting your child to school on time, please contact the Support and Guidance Manager to discuss this.



Sport News

For the first time Bower Park girls have entered the English Schools National Cup football competition. Four out of five year groups have made it through three rounds and now move into the last 64 schools in the country.

The U12s have a home draw, the U14s are away to Woodbridge school, U15s are waiting for their draw and the U16s are away to Alexandra Park. It has been a great run so far which has seen players scouted for football clubs. Rose in year 9 has been representing Essex in a recent match.

Keep up the good work Bower.





School Calendar 2021/2022

Autumn Term 2021

Half-term 1: Wednesday 1st September 2021 to Friday 22nd October 2021*

Half-term break: Monday 25th October 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021

Half-term 2: Monday 1st November 2021 to Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Half-term 3: Tuesday 4th January 2022 to Friday 11th February 2022

Half-term break: Monday 14th February 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022

Half-term 4: Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Half-term 5: Tuesday 19th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022

Half-term break: Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Half-term 6: Monday 6th June 2022 to Thursday 21st July 2022

INSET days

1st and 2nd September 2021, 1st October 2021, 4th January 2022 and 27th June 2022

Parents' Meetings

Wednesday 8 th December 2021	Year 11
Wednesday 12 th January 2022	Year 10
Wednesday 26 th January 2022	Year 7
Wednesday 9 th February 2022	Year 9
Wednesday 23 rd February 2022	Year 11
Wednesday 9 th March 2022	Year 9 options evening
Wednesday 30 th March 2022	Year 8
Wednesday 22 nd June 2022	New Year 6 parent information evening