



12 November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As part of our drive to increase communication with you, please find below some Pastoral updates for the start of Autumn Term 2.

Remembrance Service

As you may have seen on our Twitter account, our students were exceptionally behaved in our Remembrance Service yesterday. Our Head Boy and Girl read a poem and Mr Crawford played the last post – learning the trumpet specially for this event. It was a sombre, respectful occasion and your students were an asset to our school.

Lates

We thank parents for supporting us to ensure the number of students late to school is decreasing. Our expectations are that students should be onsite at 8.25am to be sat in their tutor room or assembly at 8.30am. Arriving after the register is taken at 8.30 will result in a late mark. Currently, 2 or more lates in a week will result in a 20 min detention.

We thank you for your continued support as we review our systems to raise standards at Bower Park Academy to ensure all students have full access to our academic and pastoral programmes which are delivered in Tutor Time. We are currently reviewing our sanction for lateness and will update you next week on our final decision.

From this week, we are pleased to have reinstated our text messaging system so we can inform you daily if your child is late to school. We also intend to use this system more regularly to remind you of upcoming detentions now that daylight hours are shortening to keep your child safe. If Head of Year detentions are missed, students are put into our Principal's Detention. If this is missed, we will have to escalate the sanction to our Internal Inclusions Room (TIER). Repeated time in this room could lead to a Fixed Term Exclusion which are keen to avoid so please do support us by regularly checking Edulink, discussing achievement and behavioural points and making sure that detentions are attended.

School Nurse

Did you know we have a school nurse who drops in fortnightly to support our students?

Through tutor time, we will be advertising how to access our school nurse 'drop ins' to students soon. If your child is worried or embarrassed about something and they can't talk to you fully or you can't get a GP appointment - maybe this can help? They can also inform their Support and Guidance Manager if they would like a meeting with the school nurse.



Social Media

It has come to our attention that there has been some offensive footage on Tik Tok using edited images and recordings of our some of our members of staff, taken from our school website. Due to the upsetting nature of these videos, we have reported the accounts to both Tik Tok and the Police and this is currently being investigated. Using and editing photos of others without consent is a criminal offence. This week we have met with students who have liked or followed the accounts and advised them to unfollow them so they are not linked to the investigation; parents of those spoken to have received separate communication. We have also encouraged our staff to report the videos to the police separately as some comments are defamatory. We hope that you will support us by having a conversation with your child about the importance of using social media responsibly and by checking their social media accounts to check what is being posted. In addition, this investigation has highlighted how many Tik Tok accounts have 'open' settings and we advise you to check your child's settings to ensure they are using social media safely as well as responsibly.

Rewards

Following the success of our half termly rewards assembly, we are about to launch a new praise point initiative; there will be a substantial prize for two students in each year group who collect the most praise points in a 3-week window, starting on Monday. Please monitor Edulink to discuss your child's praise points and encourage them to engage with this competition and ask for points- we have a great prize for learning and for leisure.

Charity

Miss Dawe has recently launched our Christmas Box Appeal on behalf of the local charity, Smile. It aims to bring gifts to families who cannot afford presents. If you have any toys, games or unused gifts that can be donated, we would be very grateful. It is a charity that is important to the school and benefits the local community. We thank you in advance for your contribution.

Yr 11 Student Leadership Team

Last week our wonderful Student Leadership Team were leading assemblies and working with our Yr 7-11 Student Council Reps to lead our new student questionnaires. This is part of our commitment to ensure all students contribute to our 'student voice.'

After the mock examinations, our Student Leadership Team will be launching a range of clubs and initiatives for younger year groups covering the themes of:

- well-being, anti-bullying and peer mentoring
- Diversity and equality
- Environment and recycling
- Literacy and creative writing support
- Charity and mental health awareness

Free School Meals

An increasing number of students are telling us that they don't eat in the school day, they don't have money on their SCOPAY accounts or they skip breakfast in the morning.

Please can we remind you that we are a cashless school and we do not allow overdrafts on SCOPAY. If you need access please contact Finance@bowerpark.co.uk

Sometimes we find out that these same students are entitled to Free School Meals but aren't accessing the funding. Below is the link to Havering FSM support and applications:

[Free school meals | School support | The London Borough Of Havering](#)

No child should come to school hungry or thirsty. If you are struggling to feed your child breakfast or have to go to work very early and can't monitor this, please contact the SGM who can invite your child to breakfast club. Food fuels the body and mind and breakfast club is an opportunity for students to sit in a warm, safe environment providing a positive start to the day's learning.

Breakfast club is starting on Monday 22nd November at 8.15am in Mr Browne's Art Room.

TIER Room

Following the retirement of Mrs Balding, we have appointed a new TIER supervisor. TIER is our in school internal exclusion room- it is for the minority of students who cannot follow our school rules or whose behaviour may disrupt the learning of others.

From 6th December, students who are placed in TIER as a sanction will stay on site until 3.30pm, leaving later than their peers. If they do not follow the rules or complete a good standard of work, the sanction will be repeated. Parents will receive a text message on the day of the TIER sanction to remind them of the longer day.

If a student fails to follow our rules in TIER, they will be sent to another school to complete this sanction. We do not want this to happen so include our 4 school rules below which are displayed in classrooms and around the school.

1. Arrive to lessons, appropriately dressed, motivated and equipped to learn
2. Respect other people's right to learn by listening, speaking and behaving respectfully.
3. Follow instructions from our staff, first time, every time
4. Respect the environment and other people's space and property

Thank you for your time and we wish you a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Deen
Principal