



14 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Pastoral Curriculum (Tutor time)

This Spring term, our whole school focus is on 'working hard and being kind.' Weekly literacy support continues in tutor time to enhance students' vocabulary and reading skills, and our current affairs and British values curriculum will also continue, developing students' social and moral perspectives. In addition, all students have had input this week from our Safer School's police officer on being safe in the wider community.

Using government funding, we will be launching catch-up tuition over the Spring term, with an initial focus on Year 11 students, who are preparing for national examinations in May. They will also be completing bespoke weekly revision support in their tutor time, to help prepare them to work independently at home over the coming months, so do ask them about the techniques that we cover.

Launch of our Kindness initiative and end of year rewards trip

Our pastoral team is very excited to have launched our #workhardbekind initiative, which will underpin the pastoral ethos for the rest of this academic year.

In tutor time, students will discuss acts of kindness, and they will be rewarded for displaying acts of kindness in the Academy. Kindness points will be one of the key criteria linked to our subsidised end of year rewards trip, for which students will vote later this half-term.

Kindness points can be achieved for a whole range of acts, including how students speak, behave and treat others in the Academy. They may be recognised for simple things like opening doors, having good manners or supporting classroom learning, and, during the half-term, students will have the opportunity to nominate their peers when they have seen kindness take place. Over the next term, our whole school goal is to achieve at least 20,000 kindness points, which will be collected on Edulink and monitored weekly by form tutors. Every child must achieve 10 individual kindness points over the spring term to be eligible for the whole-school rewards trip. Alongside this, students must not accumulate more than 2 late marks a week (at the start of and during the day) in a half-term, or acquire no more than 10 behaviour points. If a student truant's tutor time or lesson time from Monday, January 16th, they will lose their chance to be on the rewards trip.



This initiative is a reward for all students who meet our high standards at Bower Park Academy, and we truly hope that ALL students will meet Academy expectations and join a day of celebration in the summer term.

Students' Wellbeing

In liaison with our Year 11 Student Leadership team, we are currently creating new student-centred displays close to student toilet areas to support students' mental health, wellbeing and safety outside school. Our Student Leadership team will update these displays with current information regarding local and in-school support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your own child and how to support them outside school to keep them well and safe. Please use support and guidance managers as your first point of contact.

Attendance and Lateness

Since September, attendance rates in schools continues to be a national concern, and attendance figures are checked regularly by the local authority. Good attendance in school has a direct correlation with good achievement. Our Pastoral team is working hard to ensure that all students are in school, every day, accessing their curriculum to ensure the best outcomes. Please support your child by ensuring that they come to school every day, to ensure consistency in their teaching. If they are isolating due to COVID-19, they can access their work via Teams.

Anti-social behaviour

At the end of term, there was some reported anti-social behaviour involving Bower Park Academy students on local buses. If your child gets a bus to school, please can you remind them of the behaviours that should be displayed on public transport to ensure all members of our community feel safe.

Rewards and Sanctions

This week, we have communicated our reviewed system of rewards and sanctions through virtual assemblies. We have made some small in-year edits to our current system to make it easier to reward student achievement and monitor student conduct. In short, Edulink categories have been simplified. In line with our half-termly reward assemblies and our Academy values, all praise is now linked to the following categories: Respect, Effort, Aspirations, Progress. In addition, we have introduced a Kindness criterion to record points towards the end of year rewards trip.

To support students to meet Academy standards, our consequences are now reported against the four school rules as below:

- Arrive to lessons, on time, appropriately dressed, motivated and equipped to learn- *this will show on Edulink as 'Ready to Learn'*
- Respect other people's right to learn by listening, speaking and behaving respectfully - *this will show on Edulink as 'Respect Learning'*
- Follow instructions from our staff, first time, every time - *this will show on Edulink as 'Follow Instructions'*
- Respect the environment and other people's space and property – *this will show on Edulink as 'Respect the Environment'*

Quite simply, we want to move students away from judging any sanctions by a letter and number, such as C1 or C2, and move them towards understanding what rules they have broken, in order to positively reflect on any negative behaviours.

In addition, all future rewards and behaviour incidents will be logged as one point rather than a scale of 1-5, this will bring us in line with the other ELAT secondary schools to compare data and to plan action.

Truancy

Truancy is a safeguarding concern. If a student does not turn up to a lesson, and they cannot be found on site with a member of staff, we will contact you at the earliest opportunity to inform you of this concern. From now, if a student chooses to arrive late to a lesson or miss a lesson, they will receive a one-hour detention on the next nearest detention evening, which will be Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, to complete the work they have missed.

Self-isolation for those with COVID-19 can end after 5 full days following 2 negative LFD tests

From Monday 17 January, people with COVID-19 in England can end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6.

- People self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature, from Monday, 17 January.
- Individuals who are still positive on their rapid lateral flow tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.

It is crucial that people isolating with COVID-19 wait until they have received 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests on 2 consecutive days to reduce the chance of still being infectious.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on day 6 and day 7 to release from isolation.

It is essential that 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests are taken on consecutive days and reported before individuals return to their job or education, if leaving self-isolation earlier than the full 10-day period.

For instance, if an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on both day 6 and day 7 to release from self-isolation, or positive on day 6, then a negative test is required on days 7 and 8, and so on until the end of day 10.

Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 6 are strongly advised to wear face coverings and limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home if they can do so and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

The default self-isolation period continues to be 10 days, and you may only leave self-isolation early if you have taken 2 rapid lateral flow tests and do not have a temperature, in line with guidance.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final flourish.

Shahid Deen
Principal