



Principals Newsletter

BOWER PARK ACADEMY

Friday 26th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Walled Garden Trip

Last Thursday, the BPA Gardening Club visited Bedford's Walled Garden where they met Lois Amos and her amazing team of volunteers. The team were very welcoming and eager to share their knowledge and passion for gardening and the students learnt about the history of the gardens, visited the bee hives, polytunnels, greenhouses and fruit cages. They were impeccably behaved and really enjoyed their visit.

Bedford's Walled Garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays and definitely worth a visit. My thanks to Mrs Davis for coordinating the event.



PGL-Liddington

At the weekend, twenty-seven of our most sporty Year 8-10 girls attended a PGL trip to Liddington where they all had a wonderful time. They participated in exciting activities such as Jacobs ladder, paddle boarding and a giant swing and had eventful evenings singing karaoke and playing archery tag. Our girls blossomed and challenged themselves throughout the entire weekend and were impeccably behaved and well mannered. Well done!

Cycle Confident

We are excited to be working with Cycle Confident to offer our current Year 7 and 8 students the opportunity to take part in Level 1 and 2 Cycle Training at the Academy in September. Spaces are free but extremely limited. Please note, this opportunity is open to Year 7 and 8 students only. Please sign up

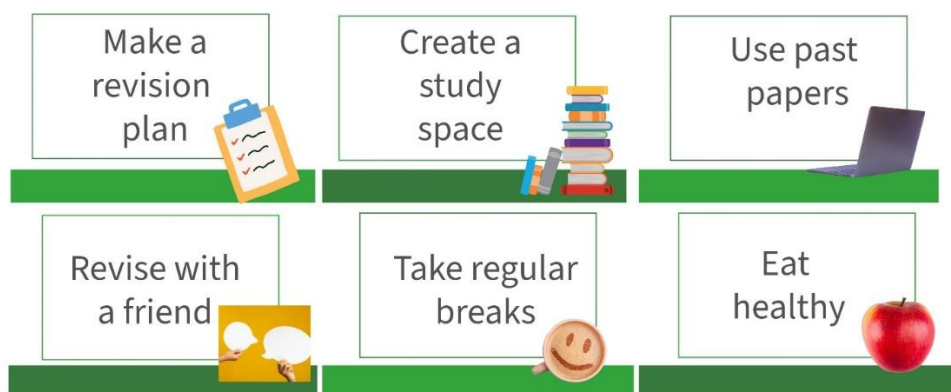
here if you would like your son/daughter to take part; [Schools Levels 1 & 2 Cycle Training \(cycleconfident.com\)](https://cycleconfident.com)

Year 11

Well done to our Year 11 Geographers that completed their pre-release drop down day on Monday. This day helped students with exam techniques for their Paper 3 exam.

Also, a huge well done to our MFL students for completing their GCSE Speaking exams this week.

With GCSE exam season only two weeks away, it is important the Year 11 are revising. Don't let the stress of revision overwhelm your son/daughter. Help them stay in control with these top tips;



Uniform

We have seen a vast improvement to uniform this week. Well done to our students, the majority of your uniform has been very smart. Thank you to Parents/ Carers for supporting us in our mission. Our uniform checks will continue this term and as mentioned in our previous Newsletter, any student who does not adhere to our uniform policy will receive a detention at the end of the school day.

Parent Coffee Morning

On Tuesday 30th April, we will be holding a Coffee morning for Parents/ Carers to attend to discuss Personal Development and developing the whole child. The session will be run by Ms Freer and Mr Browne at 9am in the South Hall. All Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr E Aylett
Principal

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISSING ITEMS



Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

SCAMMERS AND PHISHING



Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

DATA MISUSE



Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

FAKES OR REPLICAS



It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

SLOW REFUNDS



While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

MISLEADING DESCRIPTION



Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practises even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP



It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS



Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

CHECK REVIEWS



Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

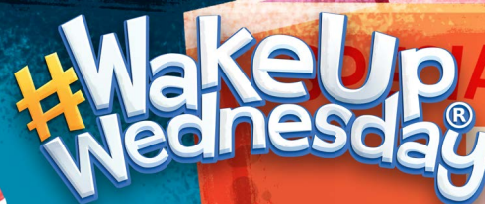
KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER



Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps

Kick your mental health in to shape with Football and counselling.



Thanks to Go! London, in conjunction with You & Me Counselling and Bailey Football Academy have teamed up to offer FREE mental health and football support for young people at risk of anti-social behaviour

This is a great opportunity to have a mental and physical workout!

OPEN TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HAVERING

PROJECT REBOOT

EVERY THURSDAY: FREE FOOTBALL & COUNSELLING

VENUE: DRAPERS ACADEMY, SETTLE ROAD, HAROLD HILL, ROMFORD, RM3 9XR

STARTING THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024 5PM-7PM

ALL GENDERS AND ABILITIES WELCOME (11-16 year olds)

THEY WILL NEED THE CORRECT FOOTWEAR (TRAINERS & ASTROS)

SPACES ARE LIMITED. CONTACT: INFO@YOUANDMECOUNSELLING.ORG.UK, CALL 01708 477663 OR GO ONLINE @ WWW.YOUANDMECOUNSELLING.ORG.UK TO REGISTER INTEREST



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CHANGING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE



You and Me Counselling

Together we can find solutions