



BOW SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2011



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PLUS MUCH MORE...

OF MATHS AND COMPUTING

FAREWELL FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I feel very sad as I write what will be my final piece for the Bow School newsletter, having written to all parents back in February to tell them of my departure at the end of the current academic year. I can hardly believe that almost six months have passed since I announced my news, time seems to have flown. I arrived at Bow in September 2000, with the intention of staying for five years and here I still am 11 years on; even now I am standing down with great reluctance. Though devastated to be leaving, the time is right and I am looking forward to a more relaxing lifestyle, while keeping an active interest in education.

I have many happy memories of my time at Bow and take with me the successes of two whole generations of secondary school boys. I remember with fondness so many students and colleagues and a vast number of events and projects in which our boys shone. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with boys who are without doubt the most warm, welcoming and talented that I have ever come across. I am immensely proud of what they have all achieved and admire those who have succeeded in spite of challenges. However, none of their success would have been possible without the dedication of Bow staff who have gone above and beyond in their roles, supporting and encouraging students.

It is so pleasing to be leaving Bow following a successful Ofsted inspection. All at Bow were delighted with the positive outcomes of the May report, more details of which can be found on page 1. There was one comment from the Lead Inspector, which particularly resonates with me as to what makes Bow School so special. She said that Bow "has a very strong and positive ethos; is a uniquely harmonious community and has a vision which all staff share and are working towards."



We are delighted to welcome our new Headteacher Cath Smith.

After 11 happy and productive years I believe that I am leaving Bow with a lasting legacy of improving examination results and a happy and vibrant school community. There have been many challenging times but we have made significant improvements and these have been recognised both locally and nationally. I am passing on the reigns to Cath Smith who joins as Headteacher from September 2011; Cath will take the school on the next phase of its journey to excellence. We have been working closely together to ensure

a smooth transition and I am confident that your son will continue to be offered the very best opportunities to succeed.

I wish you all a very good summer holiday, my warmest regards for the future and look forward to hearing about the continued success of Bow School.

With best wishes, Beverly Dobson

OFSTED

We are delighted to announce that Ofsted inspectors, who came to Bow School in May, recognised the significant improvements made since our last inspection, particularly in the areas of teaching and student progress. Ofsted inspectors found Bow School to be offering students a satisfactory and improving education, with the majority of areas rated as 'good'. We are determined to build on the successes achieved to date and look forward to working with the entire school community to improve in the areas outlined in the report. Ofsted inspectors found that:

"ATTAINMENT IS RISING"

"STUDENTS SHOW THEIR ENJOYMENT OF SCHOOL IN THEIR HIGH ATTENDANCE. THEY SAY THAT THEY LIKE COMING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OTHERS ARE WELCOMING AND THEY HAVE - POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO LEARNING"

"STUDENTS PRAISE THE MANY EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES"

STUDENTS ROCK THE O2

A group of Bow students recently performed part of "The Wall", on stage with Pink Floyd at the O2 Arena. Not only did students get the chance to sing, but they also performed a sequence of movements on stage in front of 20,000 people. Three of the students: Ben Lucraft, Henrique Dos Santos and Jake Taplin, Year 9 were so impressive they were asked to perform a solo dance routine based on their own choreography, putting them in the spotlight in front of the enormous crowd. A real achievement!



ANYONE FOR TEA?



In May, the Year 11 Gifted and Talented students who have been involved in the Rothschild Mentoring Programme were invited for a traditional English afternoon tea at the Rothschild offices with their mentors. This was to mark the students' commitment to the programme and as a way of saying goodbye to the mentors.

It was a lovely afternoon and students enjoyed being treated like royalty with silver cutlery and waiter service. Tasty tea and delicious sandwiches of all varieties adorned the tables, but the piece de resistance was certainly the huge selection of tempting cakes and scones with clotted cream and jam. Even the hungry Year 11s couldn't manage to finish them off.

It was a great way to mark the end of the mentoring programme for these boys; we would like to thank Caroline Pyke and the Rothschild mentors for all of their help and support over the last three years. We wish our Year 11 Gifted and Talented boys well in their futures and look forward to them coming back to Bow as Rothschild mentors themselves.

A NEW HOME

We are currently involved in the detailed planning stage for the new school building, looking at layout and new facilities which will include: exciting performance areas, a fitness suite and multi-use games area. We are also ensuring that the ICT at the new school is state-of-the-art. Landscaping of the grounds has also begun on our attractive, canal facing site which we are keen to keep as green as possible with lots of quiet seating areas, as well as space for outdoor games and football; there will also be a pond and foliage to encourage butterflies and birds. In our efforts to make the new school site perfect we have visited other schools for inspiration, consulted with parents and students and are currently surveying students on the best name for the new Sixth Form. We look forward to our promising future in a new, state-of the art learning environment.

CHANGING ROOMS

A group of Year 8 and 9 boys were given the task to re-design and make-over the school family room, used for meetings between parents, students and staff. The school wanted it to be transformed into a 'welcoming, warm, friendly, calm and positive space'. Working with Bow Arts Trust, and contemporary artist Daniel Lehan, the six students, were given the opportunity to respond to the brief and work collaboratively to transform the space. After drawing workshops with the artist, brainstorming, group discussions and some internet research, the group came up with some fantastic ideas. They defined the type of materials and style of work they wanted and presented their final design to school staff: their hard work paid off and their ideas were all met with approval.

Their designs included a giant mural of Hokusai's 'The Wave', a play area for younger siblings, a display wall for rotating students' artwork and achievements and inspirational slogans and quotes on the walls. Students chose the colours they wanted, painted the room themselves and then completed their wave mural and painted slogans. They even worked with the School Business Manager to pick out the furniture and other decorative and functional items they wanted purchased for the room. Ten after-school sessions later, the result was a professional, quality finished room that responded to the original brief.

This project gave the young people the chance to work with a professional artist to further their artistic talent and experience and allowed them to experiment with new materials on a large scale. It also gave them a sense of pride and ownership over their school environment and developed key work skills such as team work, budgeting and responding to a brief. The artist and school staff were impressed by the boys' consideration to create an area for younger siblings, who may be waiting while their parents are having a meeting, and a display wall to celebrate students' achievements.

YEAR 7 VISIT KINGSWOOD

Eighty-five Year 7 boys recently spent three days at Grosvenor Hall Activity Centre in Ashford, Kent, a centre that offers activities from archery to quad biking, abseiling to problem solving. The trip provided a great opportunity for the boys to work together effectively, offering each other support in completing a number of tasks and focus on their self management skills. The residential trip to be incredibly popular with the boys, who all felt they had learnt valuable skills from the different tasks.

THE BOW DOUBLE CLUB IMPRESS AT THE EMIRATES STADIUM



Earlier this term, eight boys in Years 7 and 8 from the Arsenal Double Club programme, took part in a 5 aside tournament at the Emirates Stadium, the home of Arsenal FC. The Arsenal Double Club programme has been running for a number of years at Bow and is designed to combine extra literacy and numeracy support through the medium of football. The programme has been well attended and continues to achieve results.

The boys played remarkably well against some very strong teams. In the first game we were well defeated, a situation mainly down to nerves; the second game saw the boys on excellent form and winning the overall match. The final group match was a straight play-off, the winning team would qualify from the group; the game started very tight with both teams passing the ball well and defending hard. Then, at the half way stage, the opposition scored a goal and led 1-0. The Bow Double Club pushed really hard for a goal, knowing they needed to win the game; it became attack after attack but the opposition defence stood firm. With three minutes to go, Bow's best attempt, Joe Hyland struck a free kick from just inside the other team's half and it crashed against the bar with Mejan following up; it looked to be a great chance to score, but was well saved by the keeper. Despite the disappointing ending, the day was a great success and a fantastic opportunity for the boys to play at an impressive venue.

YEAR 8 VISIT LORD'S CRICKET GROUND

In June, students from Year 8 visited the world famous Lord's Cricket Ground to watch Essex take on Middlesex in a floodlit T-20 match. After toying with the opposition, the mighty Essex came out on top, at least in part due to the fine support provided by the representatives from Bow (except Mr Himri who backed the losers). A great day out was had by all.





BOW OLYMPICS AT MILE END STADIUM

In the summer term, Bow boys participated in the latest inter-form competition, a mini-Olympics of their own. To date, each year group have participated in a 5 aside football game and a round of dodge ball. Each form had to select their best athletes to compete in numerous track and field events. All events were competed to a high standard with numerous school records being broken. With the competition so fierce, all is left to play for in the final round which will involve a game of Softball at the end of term.



ROLLAPALUZA CYCLING CLUB

In June, Rollapaluza cycling club visited us to find the top cyclists from Year 7. For one morning, the activities hall was turned into a 250 metre time trial where boys competed one on one. The fastest 16 were put through to the Champions League quarter finals and the Europa Cup quarter finals; the former a competition for the eight fastest cyclists and the latter a competition for the second tier of the fastest eight.

Rollapaluza brought in two racing bikes wired up to a score board which tracked the times of the competitors and showed arrows identifying the positions of the racers, culminating with the winner of each race. The competition was hotly contested from the beginning, with lots of close races but it wasn't until the first sub 14 seconds time was recorded by Nathan Ackie-Bangura that the excitement levels hit fever pitch. A new challenge had been set! From that moment, every competitor seemed to find a little more energy to try and topple Nathan, with quick times being recorded from a number of boys including Habibur Rahman, Jaynul Islam and Rene Haynes. Rene in fact replaced Nathan as the man to beat with a new record time of 13.82 seconds, which is over 40 MPH!

After the qualification rounds came the quarters and semi finals for each competition, the highlight being a sub 13 seconds time set by Nathan Ackie-Bangura, an incredible time. At the end of these rounds we were left with two very competitive finals. The Europa Cup of Rollapaluza between Shakir Khan, Form 7A and Yhamin Hussain, Form 7P, saw the former finishing triumphant, whilst the nail-biting Champions League final was fought between the two fastest boys of the day; Rene and Nathan, with Rene taking home the title of ultimate victor. The fastest 10 performers have been put forward to represent the school in the London cycling challenge, with an opportunity to become the champion of London. Well done and good luck to the talented cyclists!

BOW BOYS PRESENT AT THE BANK OF AMERICA

Three students: Rubayed Ahmed, Azim Khan and Dedipya Rimal were successful in getting through to the grand final of the Bank of America and Merrill Lynch presentation skills competition final. This competitive event was held in King Edward Hall in the headquarters of Bank of America Merrill Lynch Financial Centre on 14 June. It was hosted by Jonathan Moulds, President of Europe and Bank of America Merrill Lynch, who was also the chair of the

judges. The Bow students spoke on complex subjects such as the impact of current government policy on the young and whether taxation was fair. Azim started the competition and deserves tremendous praise for setting such a high standard. The flair, passion and intelligence demonstrated by both Azim and Rubayed was remarkable; Dedipya's command of the stage was noted as a special talent. Spectators commented that the boys showed great promise for the future. The standard of the presentations was the highest it has ever been with judges finding it incredibly difficult to choose the winner. The ultimate prize went to a student from Mulberry School for Girls. All the students in the final received a medal, a certificate and £200 of vouchers. Well done to our boys for their confidence and impressive delivery.



LEARN TO EARN

The Year 9 students were recently taught about the financial sector and how to make money as part of the enrichment 'Learn to Earn' programme. Students were given lessons on the value of everyday items and the type of job they will need to do in order to earn their desired salaries. This programme has sparked the enthusiasm of the students, raised their aspirations and helped them to consider their ideal career options; we are hopeful that the next Richard Branson or Alan Sugar will be a Bow boy!

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

As part of the school's enterprise education programme, the week commencing 6 June was dedicated to the theme of money. The week involved: special assemblies, competitions, lessons and educational visits, all focused on exploring issues surrounding wealth generation, improving financial literacy and developing knowledge of the economy. Below are some of the activities the various year groups were involved in.

Year 7 were introduced to the purpose and value of the enterprise programme and how the Bank of America, in partnership with Bow, will support their learning in this area. They received folders and the opportunity to take part in a competition aimed at developing numeracy and financial awareness. There were also special lessons delivered by

Michael Ireland from Tower Hamlets' Education Business Partnership on work-related finance.

Year 8 watched a fascinating presentation from TRAIID, a company that recycles unwanted clothes, preventing them from going to landfill. The profits raised support projects fighting inequality and exploitation in the global textile supply chain, and projects establishing environmental sustainability in some of the world's poorest communities. Issues raised by the presentation were then followed up in Geography lessons.

Year 9 participated in the Bank of America presentation skills competition. Students worked on producing presentations on complex topics such as taxation and government economic policy. In assembly the three semi-finalists

in the Bank of America competition stood up and delivered their presentations. They spoke about the impact of government policy on young people, the reasons the country is currently in a deficit and on Bill Gates' philanthropy.

Year 10 meanwhile visited the Bank of England. They were able to lift a gold bar and practise their safe cracking skills. Whilst there, they watched a film on how the economy works and listened to a talk by one of the professionals from the Bank. They learnt about the importance of interest rates and how they are used by the Bank of England to control inflation.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS

The month of May saw the Year 11s complete their time here at Bow School, having worked exceptionally hard this year in preparation for their upcoming exams, attending extra classes after school and in the holidays. The year group is full of outstanding young men and we are confident that their exam results will be Bow's best ever. It was an emotional farewell and they will be truly missed. Planning for their awards evening has been a real challenge as the year group is full of such remarkable talent; we have high flyers across the board, in core subjects, the arts and sport. Every student truly deserves to succeed and we wish them the best of luck in the future.



GOODBYE TO CHARLIE TEALE, BOW SCHOOL CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

In July our Chair of Governors, Charlie Teale, stands down after over 20 years of dedicated service. Charlie has been a great supporter of the school and has overseen a huge number of changes over the past two decades. The work of a governor is voluntary and requires a huge time commitment and Charlie has undertaken this role above and beyond what is required. His knowledge of the school and its community is extensive and he will be sadly missed by all. However, Charlie is confident that his successor, Adrian Thompson, will continue with the same level of dedication. Adrian is currently Vice Chair and in a really strong position to support the school as it moves into a new phase of its development. Adrian can be contacted at the school if required.

The new Vice Chair is Dave Lake, an experienced parent governor whose expertise will be a great support to the school. We all send Charlie our warmest regards for the future and know that he will continue to take an active interest in Bow School.

STOP PRESS

**BOW IDOL WILL TAKE PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY**

TERM DATES 2011-2012

TERM 1

5 SEPTEMBER – 20 DECEMBER 2011

STAFF TRAINING: 5 SEPTEMBER

START OF TERM: 6 SEPTEMBER

HALF TERM: 24 - 28 OCTOBER

STAFF TRAINING: 10 NOVEMBER

EID: 11 NOVEMBER

TERM 2

4 JANUARY – 30 MARCH 2012

STAFF TRAINING: 4 JANUARY

START OF TERM: 5 JANUARY

HALF TERM: 13 - 17 FEBRUARY

STAFF TRAINING: 30 MARCH

EASTER BREAK: 2 APRIL - 13 APRIL

TERM 3

16 APRIL – 20 JULY 2012

BANK HOLIDAY: 7 MAY

HALF TERM: 4 JUNE - 8 JUNE