

BOW SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2012

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WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER



As my first term as Headteacher of Bow School draws to a close, it is a pleasure to look back and reflect on the achievements of all of our students.

Year 11 have thoroughly impressed me with the way in which they have approached the beginning of this challenging year; all aware of their targets and the work they need to do to in order to achieve them, setting them up for their future. There is a truly industrious spirit evident in all of their lessons. The collective aim of our Year 11 students is to make sure that the Bow class of 2012 is the most successful we have ever had; so impressive that they will overshadow the Olympic celebrations for London 2012! It has been lovely to meet with so many parents at the two evenings we organised in the autumn term. The events were aimed at offering support to parents of Year 11 students to cope with the pressures facing them and their son in the lead up to the all important GCSE examinations in the summer.

Across the school we have witnessed students combining hard work and commitment in lessons, in a determined effort to broaden their achievements and abilities across all areas, from the classroom to the sports arena, and from the business related activities to the enrichment activities offered by so many subjects. Over the next few pages you will read about excitement, success, challenge and ambition, all key aspects of student life at Bow School.

Our connections and partnerships with other organisations have continued this term. Students have been working with Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Rothschild, Into University, Brighton University, and many others. We are also actively involved in the Olympic 'Get Set' programme; over the course of this year we plan to ensure that our students have the opportunity to be part of preparations for London 2012 and the Olympic Games.

The staff have been active in their support of charities - you will read, for instance, about 'Movember' – and, as I write, many members of staff are rehearsing for the staff pantomime. All of this is in addition to their ongoing dedication to raising standards in the school and improving the outcomes for all our students, ensuring each child reaches his full potential.

Plans for the new school development have been moving rapidly this term; we now have a wonderful design team working hard to realise our requests for great teaching spaces and an exciting, state-of-the-art learning environment. More details about our building developments can be found in this magazine.



We hope you enjoy reading about some of the many achievements and our exciting future.

Cath Smith, MA

GCSE RESULTS CONTINUE TO SOAR AT BOW

We are delighted to bring you news that over the summer, we celebrated our best ever set of GCSE results. Over the past five years, our school has been on a remarkable journey, with the overall number of students achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE improving by a staggering 20% to 62%. The number of students achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths has also seen a remarkable increase of over 10%.

A huge congratulations to all staff and students who worked enormously hard for these fabulous results. We look forward to another record breaking year in 2012.

CELEBRATING STUDENTS' SUCCESSES



AWARDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

During the summer holidays, the Year 8 students had to complete an exciting project in maths, English and science. The purpose of the project was to enhance what they had learnt throughout Year 7 and to help them prepare for the new challenges they would face in Year 8.

When they returned to school in September the projects were handed in and assessed by their teachers. The standard of work among the boys was very high, it was clear they had worked very hard and had produced some fantastic pieces. Of the submitted projects, 37 of the students were identified as having exceptional pieces of work and to commend their efforts and dedication over the holidays, all 37 students received an Academic Award from the Headteacher. Congratulations boys and keep up the good work!

MATHS MENTORS

Boys in Year 10 recently enjoyed the opportunity to take part in an early morning maths peer mentoring scheme. Through the scheme, Year 11 students who have proved they excel in maths, mentor a Year 10 student. The boys pass on their knowledge, skills and experience to help their student improve at maths. All the boys involved are enjoying the sessions and really benefiting from them; they have proved very popular, with excellent attendance.

"I have had a lot of really positive feedback from the mentors – hopefully in a few years time our best mathematicians will all be maths teachers at Bow!"

Mr Hall, Head of Mathematics



BOW PROFILES

Mitu Miah Headboy



Why did you want to become Headboy?

Other people's successes, as well as my own, are really important to me and I wanted to be a part of supporting the school and its students, to meet and exceed its targets as I am extremely proud of Bow. I believe I have the ability to lead people well and motivate them when needed.

What are your main duties as Headboy?

I am in charge of managing the prefect team which I take great pride in. I am also responsible for helping run events such as assemblies, parents evenings and open evenings. On top of that, I also play an active part in meeting and greeting visitors to the school, ensuring their time at Bow is enjoyable.

What is your favourite part of being at Bow School?

I have achieved lots to be proud of here at Bow: reaching the London Cup Final, being sports captain and becoming student councillor two years in a row are just a few of my highlights. My most recent achievement has to be being nominated to the role of Headboy and joining the prefect team, which I value a great deal.

What are your plans and ambitions for the future?

I hope to continue my studies at university and eventually become a PE teacher. This will require hard work and effort, which I am more than happy to put in.

Tell us something interesting about you...

I am willing to try new things and I aim high; I think it's the best and only way to achieve your dreams.

Moshin Raja Deputy Headboy

Why did you want to hold a position of responsibility at Bow School?

I think the four years I have dedicated to being a school councillor demonstrate that I have the leadership qualities required to take up a position of responsibility. I am also passionate about Bow School and want to contribute to its successes.

What are your main duties as Deputy Headboy?

Skills I find myself using a great deal in this role include communication, leadership and confidence. Of course good attendance and punctuality are also essential.

What are your plans and ambitions for the future?

I have intentions of going to university to study for a degree.

Tell us something interesting about you...

I am creative, independent, proactive and imaginative. I love a debate - I am skilled, persistent and effective in my arguments!



Jamie Burnett Deputy Headboy

Why did you want to be part of the prefect team?

I wanted to become a strong and positive role model to other students at Bow and to work with the school to provide the best opportunities for students. This is really important to me and something that I have really appreciated throughout my time here at Bow School - the opportunities we are offered are excellent.

What are your main duties as Deputy Headboy?

My role involves giving support, advice, leadership and motivation to other students.

What is your favourite part of being at Bow School?

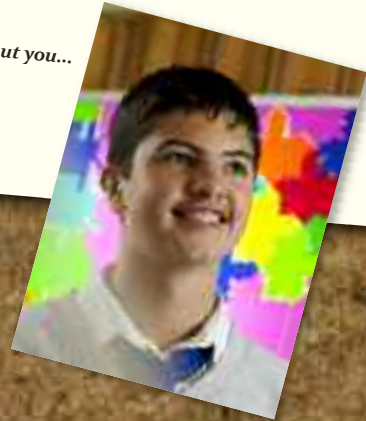
I enjoy being an active member and leading figure in the year group.

What are your plans and ambitions for the future?

I have a desire to further my education and continue my studies at university.

Tell us something interesting about you...

I am a passionate musician.



AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR BOW

Bow School is facing an exciting future with a move to a brand new and superbly equipped building in September 2014. Our new location, next to Bow Locks, will offer our students a first-class learning experience in a school that will retain its 'family' feel.

We will enjoy cutting edge ICT facilities to ensure that our students leave Bow fully prepared to meet the challenges of life in the technology-driven 21st century. There will also be a large learning resource centre and specialist learning facilities for curriculum areas such as Visual and Performing Arts and Technology. In addition, we will gain access to our own outdoor sports facilities.

The move to the new site will coincide with another exciting development for Bow School; the expansion to include Sixth Form provision for our students. From 2014, we will be offering our students learning opportunities up to the age of 18, in an environment where they are nurtured, challenged and supported by staff members who have known them since the beginning of Year 7.

The sports facilities, the assembly hall and the dining area of our new building will all be available for community use out of school hours, ensuring that the school remains at the heart of its community and continues to be a facility enjoyed by all residents.

As the population of Tower Hamlets continues to expand, with more families moving into the area looking for successful schools for their children. Bow School has been identified as having the best potential to expand and is one of only two secondary schools in Tower Hamlets being offered a complete rebuild as part of the expansion programme. Our current school site does not have sufficient space for student numbers to grow. We have therefore found a nearby site onto which we can develop a brand new facility with great learning spaces, games areas and places for students to relax at break and lunchtimes.

Key to our development plans is accessibility. Therefore, we are working alongside the local authority and the Highways Agency as well as Transport for London, to improve pedestrian and cycle access to the new site and to ensure the provision of adequate transport links including drop off and pick up points for parents, coaches and taxis.

This hugely exciting project will benefit young people in Bow for many years to come. The design of the building provides a stimulating and inspirational environment for young people in which they can achieve great results and enjoy learning. The opportunity to completely design a new school is rare and we consider ourselves very fortunate as we look forward to an exciting future for Bow School.



The student council have been working closely with Headteacher Cath Smith on the designs for the new school building.



SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT



GET SET... GO!

AN OLYMPIC RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Bow School recently joined the Get Set Network in our efforts to get involved with the 2012 Olympic Games. The Get Set Network is the London 2012 education programme; it focuses on involving children and young people in the excitement and inspiration of the Games. The network provides resources, ideas and opportunities to help schools make the most of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our membership of the network means that Bow School is actively finding ways to enhance the curriculum through exploring the Olympic values and messages.

Already, the impact of the Games is evident through some of our lessons...

...in Science:

The Year 7s have been learning about food groups and what kind of diet an Olympic athlete might have. They have been discussing what makes a balanced diet and using their knowledge, created a range of posters and diet plans suggesting appropriate meals for an Olympic athlete, which is high in carbohydrates (energy foods) and contains lots of vitamins and minerals. Through their work, they have learnt which foods are required for all different types of people.

...in French:

Year 9 students have been thinking about French tourists coming to London during the Olympics, and have created leaflets advertising and providing information about the city of London. These leaflets were written entirely in French and show how talented our Year 9 students are as linguists and artists.



SLAMMING VICTORY IN BADMINTON

Earlier in October we saw eight boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 represent Bow School in the Tower Hamlets Badminton Tournament held at Bethnal Green Technology College.

The event saw teams from Year 9 and a combined Years 7 and 8 team, compete with students from schools across the borough. Competition was fierce and all of the participants played well, displaying great sportsmanship and bringing great credit to their schools.

Unfortunately, despite a valiant effort from the Year 9 boys, Shafin Ahmed and Mohammed Hassan did not manage to qualify from the group stages. They played well and were very close to victory but their nerves seemed to get the better of them in the latter stages of their matches.

The boys in the Years 7 and 8 tournament fared much better. Samuel and Jaman finished third in their groups, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals while Aman and Kibria, after a dramatic turn of events when a scoring error was discovered, won six out of their seven games and took their rightful place in the tournament semi-finals.

The semi-final became a nervous affair for the recently reprieved duo as the score kept swinging back and forth. Despite the see-saw nature of the match and tense finish, the boys claimed their place in the final!

Aman and Kibria, now had to take on the only team they had lost against, and by a huge margin of 7-1. It soon became clear that they had adjusted their tactics to combat the power of the tall and strong opposition from Stepney Green. The game remained very close with the boys neck and neck; suddenly the boys won eight straight points, claiming victory with 11 points to 3 for Bow School.

Many congratulations to Aman and Kibria for a well-deserved victory and well done to all the boys who represented Bow School at the Badminton tournament.

TRAINING SPORTS LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Bow School recently opened its doors to 40 Year 5 students from four local primary schools. Pupils spent five weeks on Monday and Thursday evenings with Bow School's very own Mr Cooper who has been running a Young Sports Leaders (YSL) course at Olga and Halley Primary Schools.

YSL is a programme of leadership training for young people between the ages of 9 and 13 that prepares them for working with younger children by teaching leadership skills through a range of games and activities. The Young Leaders 'learn by doing' and by the end of the course they have the confidence and ability to lead others and also have knowledge and experience of a range of games and activities.

The students completed the final day of the programme at Bow School on Saturday 15 October and enjoyed the added bonus of a street dance session delivered by our very own Ms Woods and Ms Sagan.

The students worked really hard on a routine which they then performed to their parents and Headteacher, Cath Smith, who handed out awards at the presentation later in the day. Everyone involved took great pride in what they had achieved over the last five weeks and Bow School was pleased to have opened its doors to the Young Sports Leaders of the future.

It has been a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to run this qualification and coach such a willing group of young people. I am sure these youngsters will go on to be leaders and ambassadors for their community and I believe that they are helping to promote positive values through sport to all those around them.

Mr Cooper



A 'HAIR-RAISING' MONTH AT BOW

Members of Bow School staff have been working together, or rather 'growing' together to raise funds for charity as part of Movember. Each year throughout November, the aptly named Movember campaign is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces around the world, all in aid of prostate cancer. Movember helps to raise awareness for prostate cancer and other serious health concerns affecting men; the campaign originates from Melbourne, Australia and has raised over £106 million for the cause.

Bow School feel it is important to highlight the seriousness of these health issues and therefore, members of staff have agreed to grow a beard or moustache and are being sponsored to do so by fellow colleagues and students. All of the funds raised will go towards Movember to support the charity in continuing its work, changing attitudes and habits relating to men's health.



“One in nine men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, so I'm donating my top lip to the cause for 30 days in an effort to help change the face of men's health.”
Mr Cooper from the PE department

BOW STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD



On 18 October the Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony took place at the Genesis Cinema in Mile End. Winners from across all schools in Tower Hamlets took part in the prestigious ceremony, which included performances, speeches from special guests and the presentation of awards. Each winner was presented with the Jack Petchey Award Medallion on stage in front of a large crowd of teachers, parents and other students. Bow had four award winners at the ceremony; congratulations to Omar Deera, Jay Peasy, Minhaj Chowdhury and Hubibul Islam. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of these students.

“I am happy to have won this award, my family are very proud of me. Thank you to the teachers and students at Bow for nominating me and recognising my hard work.”
Minhaj Chowdhury

“I was shy about getting on the stage to receive the award as there were hundreds of people watching, it made it easier when everyone applauded though. It was a great event.”
Jay Peasy

Key Dates 2012

Start of Term: Thursday 5 January
Half Term: Monday 13 - Friday 17 February

Staff Training Day: Friday 30 March
Easter Break: Monday 2 - Friday 13 April



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