

28th March 2025



INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Upcoming Events and Key Dates

A day in the life of a Year 9
Student

Curriculum: Art

Award Winning Art

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The Richard Dimbleby Lecture

Bow Extra!

As we reach the end of another productive and engaging Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and milestones our students have accomplished over the past few months. It has been a term filled with determination, curiosity, and responsibility, as our Bow School community has continued to thrive in both academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Our students have shown exceptional dedication, whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through their involvement in various clubs and activities. From the excitement of Pi Day, to inspiring performances in drama and full engagement in our third personal development day. We are also looking forward to more generous contributions to the local community, through our second #BowGivesBack week starting next Tuesday. Throughout the week students will be participating in a range of fundraising events as well as volunteering in the community demonstrating the values of responsibility and respect that we hold dear here at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their ongoing commitment to the development and well-being of every student. Their tireless support ensures that we continue to create an environment where all young people can grow, learn, and succeed.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we are excited for the opportunities and challenges it will bring. As always, we will continue to strive for excellence and encourage our students to reach for their highest potential.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break, and for those celebrating, a joyful EID and peaceful Easter period. I look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Mr. Lye - Headteacher

Student Success - A day in the life of a Y9 Students as the begin to think about their GCSE Options



“As the day ends, I head home more confident about my choices. The years ahead are going to be full of possibilities. I can’t wait”

It’s a busy Tuesday morning for me, as I navigate my way through Y9, but I’m ready to tackle the day.

I’m looking forward to my lessons, I’ve got some of my favourites today, and I’m in the middle of choosing the subjects I want to study for my GCSE options. I’ve got a pretty good idea what I’m going to choose but want to be sure that I choose a good combination of subjects which will keep me interested and give me the best chance of doing well in my GCSE exams.

As I arrive to school, early, I go into breakfast club, grab a bagel and hot drink before heading to Table Tennis Club with coach Zion. This is a great opportunity to improve my skills with some specialist coaching. After club, I head out to the playground for line up. This is where all students in Y7, 8 & 9 line up, in the playground, greeted by our tutors before heading into the building for a calm start to the day.

Pd 1 is English, with one of my favourite teachers, we’ve been studying poetry and Miss is brilliant at getting us to think creatively and critically. English, as a core subject, was always going to be a GCSE, so no need to stress about whether I should choose it or not. Once English finishes I head to Computer Science with Mr Ahmed. We are learning how to use of programming skills to create simple computer games. I’m definitely interested in Computer Science and keen to see how I can fit this into my choices. After break, spent relaxing with my friends, I head to science where we’re doing an experiment testing the rate of chemical reactions. I’m in Set 1 and so I’m hoping to take triple science, too,

After science, it’s time for lunch in the dining room. Lunch today, some tasty noodles, is pretty good. The new chef is definitely raising the standards of school lunches! After eating and walking around the playground, I go to the library with my friends to check out some new books.

Pretty soon, lunch ends, and I head to Art class, before finishing the day with Geography. I’m pretty keen on both of these subjects too but I don’t think I’m going to be able to fit them both into my choices. I’ve definitely got some big decisions ahead. She’s drawn to the subject’s mix of science and global issues and thinks it

As the day ends, I head home more confident about my choices. The years ahead are going to be full of possibilities, I can’t wait!

What’s happening in the Art Curriculum next term?

As we head into the Easter Break, Mr El-Salahi (Head of Art and DT) is pleased to share details of the summer term curriculum in his faculty. Our first class Art and DT department, has an exciting, challenging curriculum planned for their students and, as the quality of work and GCSE outcomes show, this curriculum supports students in achieving the very best.

In Y7, students will be exploring the life and work of Xavier Corbero and Henry Moore, and building their skills through gridded observational drawing, to explore the formal elements of line, tone and texture through pencil • Anatomy and the frame manikin • Thumbnail with Pencil.

Their peers, in Y8, will be looking at the role that Art has played, historically, in protest movements. Through this study we will be designing and cutting stencils, using these to print our own work inspired by protest movements.

In Y9 students will be getting their hands dirty designing and making their own ceramics to explore natural forms.

Our GCSE and A Level students will be busy preparing for their final exams, of course, while in Y10 students will be exploring the work East London group to develop their acrylic painting techniques and skills





Award winning Art

Outstanding, award-winning student artwork, was exhibited recently at an annual art exhibition the private view of this year's annual art exhibition at Mile End. Visitors to the exhibition, including school staff, enjoyed the opportunity to see the amazing work being produced by our young people.

Here, at Bow, we are super proud to announce that our students' work was, once again, nominated for prizes. Luka's moth-themed stained-glass window won the Bronze award. Take a look at the fantastic work!

The honourable mentions and acknowledgements, from the judging panel, were also extended to Bow School staff when Ms Denny (Art Technician) was acknowledged in the staff art category and honoured by the judges.



Literacy Leaders

Since the beginning of the year, Year 12 students have had the privilege of participating in the Literacy Leaders programme every Monday and Friday.

Literacy Leaders is an initiative designed to support Year 7 students in developing their reading skills. The programme not only helps them become more confident and capable readers but also encourages a deeper interest in literature, allowing them to see reading from a new perspective.

This initiative has a several benefits. It enhances the reading abilities of the younger students while fostering a lifelong love for books. For the Year 7s, it provides an opportunity to settle into Bow School, make new friends, and express themselves more freely as they build confidence in both their academic and social lives. Additionally, we've seen incredible improvement in the reading age and proficiency of our students, crucial in helping the access our exciting, challenging and ambitious curriculum.

The interactions between the Year 7s and Year 12s help cultivate a strong, supportive community, giving the younger students the environment they need to thrive. Meanwhile, the Year 12s gain valuable leadership and communication skills through their regular engagement with the younger cohort, preparing them for future roles both academically and professionally.

"Luka's moth-themed stained glass window won the bronze award at this year's annual art exhibition at the Mile End Pavillion"





Alumni, Outstanding Offers and Record Breaking Applicants

We were delighted, recently, to welcome back Yamin Ahmed, a former Bow Sixth Form student who is currently studying Economics with Management at Oxford University.

During his break, Yamin spent two weeks mentoring our students and supporting staff in lessons and delivered an insightful assembly on exam preparation and effective revision techniques. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and wish him continued success in his studies.

This is an exciting yet nerve-wracking time for students awaiting university decisions. We have been absolutely thrilled with the range of brilliant offers made to our students, to study fantastic degrees at some of the best universities in the country. Among them, offers to study Mathematics and Statistics at Oxford University, and from Cambridge University to study Medicine. This is testament to the dedication and hard work of the students, the Sixth Form team and the teachers who support them. We are proud of all our students and look forward to supporting them as they prepare for their exams.

Looking ahead, we can see a busy period for both our Sixth Form students, and staff, as our Y12 students continue their studies, our Y13 enter the exam period and our colleagues begin the considerable job of interviewing applicants for our 6th Form, this year. We are absolutely delighted to have received so many applications including a record number from our own students as well as external applicants too!



The Dimbleby Lecture - Sir Gareth Southgate

In his recent Richard Dimbleby Lecture, Ex-England football manager Sir Gareth Southgate shared insights that struck a chord with many of us, especially regarding the pressures facing young people today.

In his address, Sir Gareth Southgate highlighted how boys, in particular, are grappling with unrealistic societal expectations of masculinity—expectations that often discourage emotional expression, vulnerability, and seeking help. These pressures, compounded by the constant comparison fostered by social media, can lead to anxiety, self-doubt, and isolation.

At school, we aim to create an environment where boys can thrive emotionally as well as academically. By promoting emotional intelligence, resilience, and self-awareness, we help our students understand that strength lies in vulnerability and growth. Our pastoral support, wellbeing workshops, and open discussions about mental health are vital in challenging the stigma around boys' emotional wellbeing.

Sir Gareth also emphasised the importance of positive male role models. He encourages leadership rooted in empathy, humility, and integrity—qualities that are essential for boys to develop a healthy sense of self-worth. We continue to provide opportunities for our boys to engage with role models who show that emotional strength, respect, and authenticity are key to success in life.

As we move forward, it's crucial that we work together—parents and educators—to support our boys in navigating these complex challenges. Let us help them build the resilience, confidence, and emotional intelligence needed to lead fulfilling lives.

As always, if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a young person please seek help at the school by calling us or contacting safeguarding@bow-school.org.uk

“as a society, we must do more to help young people... we must create a world where they find comfort in their own identity and a sense of belonging to those around them; where they feel they live in a culture that doesn't judge them only by how well they succeed, but by how much they grow... by the effort they put in... and the character they develop; and where they know there is always someone there to provide the love and support they need, especially in difficult times.”

Sir Gareth Southgate

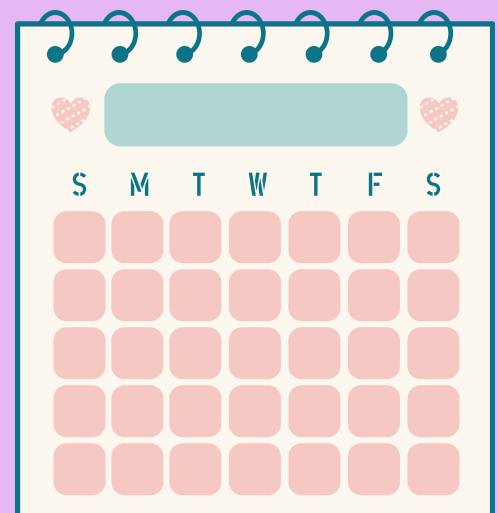


Mr Emin, Deputy Headteacher

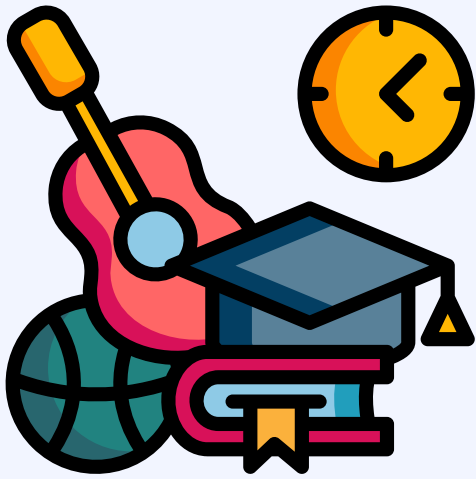
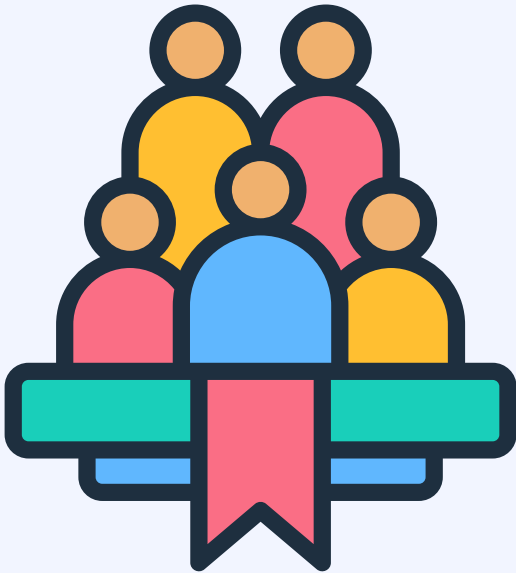


Upcoming Dates and Events

- 31.03.25: Eid-al-Fitr (School Closed)
- 01.04.25 - 04.04.25: #BowGivesBack Week
- 02.04.25: Y8 Parents' Evening (4.00-6.30pm)
- 22.04.25 - Start of Summer Term
- wb 28.04.25 to 09.05.25 - GCSE Speaking Fortnight
- wb 05.05.25 - GCSE Exams begin
- wb 12.05.25 - A Level Exams begin
- 23.05.25 - Last day of half-term



Bow Extra! Enrichment and Flexible Learning



At Bow School, we believe that education extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. Our BowExtra! enrichment curriculum is designed to provide students with a wide range of opportunities that foster personal growth, broaden their horizons, and encourage a lifelong love of learning. The programme is an integral part of our ethos, aiming to enrich our students' academic experiences while developing key life skills.

The BowExtra! curriculum encompasses a diverse mix of activities, ranging from academic challenges to creative pursuits, sport, and leadership opportunities. Students are encouraged to explore areas outside of their standard curriculum, helping them to build new interests and discover hidden talents. This holistic approach to education aims to nurture well-rounded individuals, ready to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Our enrichment activities are tailored to support the personal development of every student. From debating societies to coding clubs, art workshops to music ensembles, BowExtra! offers a wide array of clubs and societies, each providing a platform for students to excel and develop skills that extend beyond academic success. The programme also includes sports teams, allowing students to engage in healthy competition while fostering teamwork, resilience, and leadership.

In addition to extracurricular activities, the BowExtra! curriculum integrates opportunities for community engagement and service. Our students regularly participate in volunteering projects, local initiatives, and environmental sustainability efforts, giving them a sense of responsibility and the chance to make a positive impact in the wider community.

At Bow School, we are committed to empowering students to realise their full potential. Through BowExtra!, students not only gain new skills and experiences but also develop confidence and a sense of purpose that will serve them well in their future studies and careers.

We encourage all our students to take full advantage of the BowExtra! curriculum, exploring new passions and developing a broader understanding of the world around them. It is, after all, the extra opportunities that often lead to the greatest personal growth.

You can find out more about our #BowExtra offer on our website - www.bow-school.org.uk

