

BOW VOICE

The magazine for Bow School | Autumn 2018



Highlights:
Meet our new Headteacher
This summer's remarkable exam results
Career ready students
Partnerships in action

Encouraging Ambition Uncovering Talent Delivering Excellence



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Bow Voice. We produce this magazine because we are incredibly proud of our staff and students' remarkable achievements and want everyone to share their successes.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school and introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Bow School. Many of you will be aware that I have worked at the school for several years now, most recently as the Associate Headteacher. During my time at Bow, I have witnessed the school navigate its transformational journey and its progress is there for all to see.

The last academic year was no exception! There are too many highlights to name them all, but I was thrilled with Ofsted's positive feedback following their inspection, the launch of a number of exciting new initiatives, the continuing expansion of our partnership-driven curriculum and the expanding opportunities provided with BowExtra!

One of the best things about my job is the daily reminder that our staff's desire to achieve the best outcomes for our students and ignite their passion for learning knows no bounds. As you will see, their perseverance was rewarded this summer as we jubilantly celebrated our GCSE and A Level results (see website for further information).

I am reassured by our record-breaking results, coupled with the depth and variety of our graduates' career and university destinations, that our approach to education is not only affording students the perfect platform to pursue their dreams, but that they leave us with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to make them a reality.

This year promises to be yet another to be excited about and I look forward to sharing our future successes and ambitious plans in coming editions. For those considering which secondary school is right for your child, we have several opportunities throughout September and October to visit us and see for yourself why Bow could be the right place for your family.

Danny Lye, Headteacher

MEET THE TEAM

Here's a chance for you to meet some of the excellent staff at Bow that help to make it the school it is. We couldn't be more grateful to our team; they constantly go above and beyond to make sure students are supported and challenged.



Kath Franklyn: *Deputy Headteacher*

How long have you been at Bow?

I joined very recently – only in February 2018 – but I already feel like part of the family. The team are great at helping people to settle in quickly.

What are your main responsibilities?

I'm one of the two Deputy Headteachers at the school so I work closely with Mr Lye, our Headteacher. My main focus is on the curriculum and teaching and learning. We have absolutely brilliant teachers at this school and it is a pleasure to see their passion for the job.

How does your role help fulfil the school's vision?

I like to think that my role is to enable teachers to deliver the very best learning opportunities to our students, who are increasingly independent and resilient learners and rightly expect more and more from our school.

Why did you want to teach at Bow?

The main thing that attracted me to the school was its commitment to meeting the needs and interests of all its students.

What makes Bow different from other secondary schools?

There are a lot of answers to this question, but I'll focus on our broad curriculum based upon the Philosophy for Children (P4C) model. It truly enriches and enhances learning.

What's your favourite thing about working at Bow?

Undoubtedly it's the welcoming staff and students. The climate controlled building doesn't hurt though!

Emily Bennett: *Year 7 Learning Manager & Head of Transition*

How long have you been at Bow?

I started in September 2017 and it has been such a thrill to see my first group find their feet at Bow and flourish in so many different subjects and activities.

What does Bow School offer Year 7 students?

This is not the kind of school where younger students are neglected when it comes to development opportunities. Within the classroom they have a rich curriculum which is balanced with academic and creative excellence; outside of it there are multiple activities that all students can get involved in – we really do have something for everyone here.

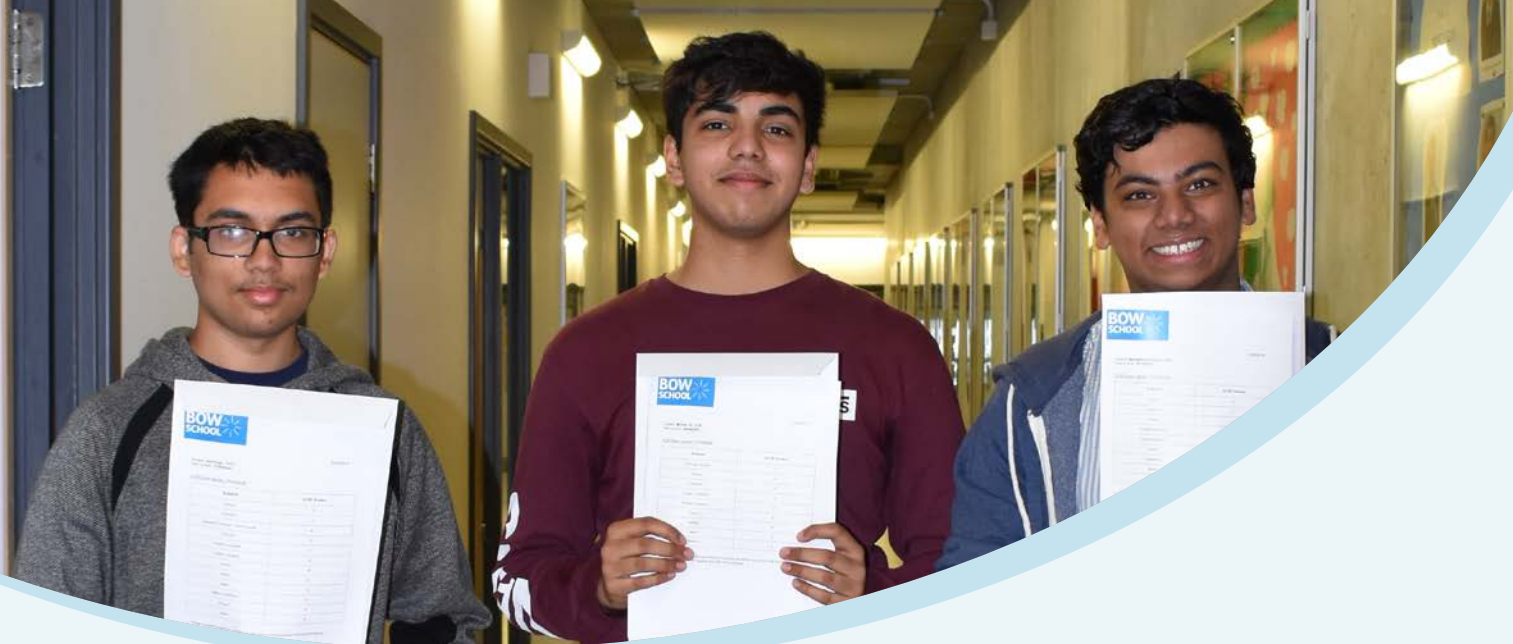
What are your main responsibilities?

My main responsibility is looking after Year 7. This starts from when they are still in primary school as our transition programme starts in March when they are first offered a place, and continues until every single student feels comfortable in their new surroundings.

What inspired you to teach at Bow?

Martin Luther King once stated that 'The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education'. I believe that Bow School encapsulates this perfectly. There is a continuous desire to give every child the skills to enter the ever-changing world and develop into well-rounded human beings.





JUBILANT EXAM CELEBRATIONS

We are delighted to report that over the summer our students have been celebrating some remarkable exam results, both at GCSE and A Levels. Their achievements are not only testament to their hard work and dedication, but also to the high quality teaching they receive at Bow.

Our Headteacher, Danny Lye, was full of delight with the progress being made across the school: "These results highlight that our ongoing improvement plans have delivered the results we were hoping for. The breadth of subjects in which students are exceeding expectations indicates that we are delivering on our promise to parents to nurture academic, entrepreneurial and creative young learners."

A LEVEL: AIMING FOR OXFORD

We are delighted that in excess of 40% of students received a top grade, ranging from B to A*, proving that success is not just an aspiration but a reality at Bow School. Here are some of our top performers, all of whom we look forward to welcoming back to school in future years to share their progress.

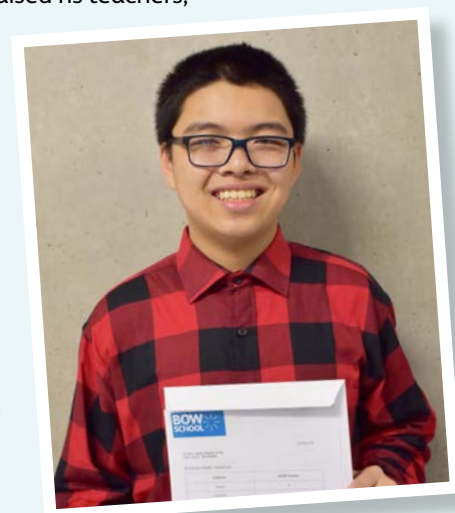
William Evans achieved highly across the board with an A* in History and As in Biology and Government and Politics. We are thrilled that following his outstanding results he is now reapplying to Oxford for 2019 and a number of other top universities. On the assistance he received while at Bow School's Sixth Form, he commented: "The school provided me with a range of support to help me achieve my goals. It's the best place to study because of the small classes, the high standard of teaching and the personal support with applications."

Mohammed Raihan is moving onto Loughborough University to study Computer Science having achieved 2 As and a B in Maths, Chemistry and Physics. He has dreams of using his degree to help him establish his own IT consultancy and fulfil his ambition to work abroad, namely Japan. Of Bow's Sixth Form he said: "I have loved it. The teachers always have time for you because the relationship between students and staff is so strong. I wouldn't have had that if I'd gone to a college."

GCSE: A SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS

Amongst the many success stories, **Riazul Ikram** achieved four 9s, four 8s and a 7, and will now take a sought after place in Bow's Sixth Form. He commented: "Through the school's targeted support I was challenged to go beyond what I initially thought I could achieve. I have honestly never heard of a school that cares so much about its students."

Jacky Huynh, who joined us from Old Palace Primary School, secured 11 GCSEs at 7 and above, including three 9s, three 8s and two A*s. He praised his teachers, highlighting that they know how to help students reach the next level, and of his future commented: "I plan to continue working hard at Bow's Sixth Form and I'm excited to see what I can achieve. I know this is the right place for me to be the best I can be."



EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Bow, education is not restricted to making sure students achieve the best grades. Of course we want everyone to excel academically, but we also want a future for our students that sees everyone thrive in careers that not only interest, but inspire them too. We endeavour to expose our students to an abundance of varying opportunities so they have the chance to find what it is that stimulates them.

UNITING TO TAKE ACTION

At the end of June, the WE charity hosted the 'WE Won't Rest' celebration event at Morpeth School, bringing together and celebrating schools who have done tremendous work in shining a much needed light on the current homelessness crisis facing many parts of the UK.

Students took part in workshops and activities to consider action planning, while developing leadership and reflection skills. Students from Bow School and Yeading Primary School carried out a two-minute presentation on their WE Won't Rest project.

The workshops were an incredible way to educate our young people about the taboos and stereotypes surrounding homelessness and to inspire them to take world-changing action! It was incredible to see how passionate they all were about the cause.



UNITED NATIONS

At the end of term, KS4 students attended a professional Global Classrooms London Model United Nations conference. It focused on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Students became 'delegates' attending a UN summit where they considered how the international community can promote equality and the empowerment of women. Prior to the conference they had to do a lot of research to prepare themselves for the negotiations ahead.

During the conference, through discussion and negotiation and committees, students worked towards a resolution on how the international community should respond to areas of gender equality.

The students gained valuable insight into existing world problems and will now continue developing their leadership skills when they train a new team of delegates for further conferences.



WRITING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

This year, students' creative juices have been flowing to produce their very own masterpieces and throw their hat in the ring to be crowned champion of the Tower Hamlets writing competition. The standard of entry was remarkably high, but after much deliberation the judges decided that Jannatul's short story exploring the challenges around race, religion and identity was a worthy winner.

Jannatul's creative piece follows the story of a young girl trying to fit into a society where tensions are high; she is torn between two identities and her struggle to reveal who she really is stirs fury in the one she trusts the most. It really is a must-read!

Alongside other winning students, Jannatul was invited to take part in a writing workshop with the acclaimed children's author Beverly Naidoo. Well done to everyone who took part – we hope to see even more involved next time!

EXPERIENCING THE SIXTH FORM

Hear from our Head of Sixth Form

“The exam results that our graduates achieved this summer show that our Sixth Form is providing a platform for students to achieve their goals. I am delighted that every one of our leavers has secured a pathway into what they want to do next. Our role is not to dictate what our students pursue after school – whether that be university, apprenticeships or employment – but to help them make informed decisions and provide them with the resources needed to realise their ambitions. We have a much smaller group of students than you would find in a college and so we are able to offer everyone a level of support that they wouldn’t receive elsewhere. This is one of the reasons that so many of this year’s GCSE class have decided to stay with us.” Surinder Wilkhu, Deputy Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form

5 REASONS TO BE A BOW SIXTH FORMER

There are a multitude of reasons why our Sixth Form is a fantastic place to prepare for life after school. Here’s just a few:

- 1 Bespoke experiences:** our size means that we can take the time to get to know each individual and be flexible with the curriculum and opportunities we offer so everyone has the right resources available to them.
- 2 Trusted tutors:** Bow Sixth Form students benefit from specialist sixth form tutors, who are trained to provide specific post-16 guidance. They are knowledgeable about university progression, career options and effective working habits, enabling students to achieve the best results.
- 3 Access to Higher Education:** personalised application and interview support, university visits, guest lecturers and work with partners all combine to ensure students know their options and how to maximise their chances of being offered a place.
- 4 Preparing for the workplace:** internships, mentoring and CV workshops ensure students are exposed to industry, senior leaders and activities that will supplement their academic endeavours when applying for jobs.
- 5 Powerful partnerships:** whether it’s the Rothschild Bursary (£5,000 funding per year for Bow students at university outside of London), internships with Bank of Merrill Lynch or accessing higher education with *Into University*, our network of partners delivers tangible outcomes.

WHAT OFSTED SAY

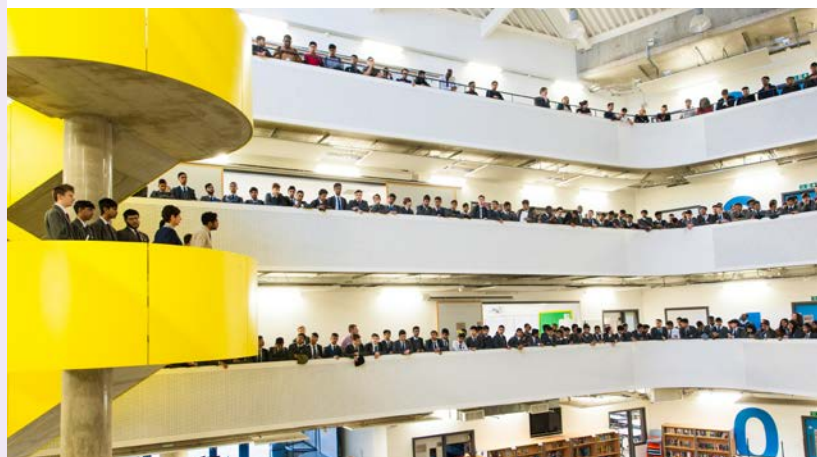
In March the school was inspected by Ofsted, at which time the Sixth Form provision was rated Good. Here is a flavour of their glowing feedback:

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“The leadership of the sixth form is good.”
.....

.....
“Across a range of subjects, students are confident in debate and discussion. The high quality of students’ written work reflects their enthusiasm for their studies.”
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“Post-16 students have access to a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including university days, visits to the theatre, sporting activities and debating.”
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.....
“Leaders have ensured that a strong programme of careers advice and guidance prepares students for their next steps in education, employment or training.”
.....



SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS ADVICE



Integral to the education we provide is the mantra that we are preparing our students for the world of work so that when they finish their education they can confidently leave us as young adults, prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow.

We want our students to be aware of and open to the endless possibilities ahead of them. We believe that it is our role to show them what they can be. Careers advice is one of the tools we use to achieve this.

“Pupils are increasingly well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment because they are taking appropriate qualifications and achieving well. Combined with good quality careers advice, this is giving pupils the self-confidence to progress successfully to appropriate places of education, training and employment.” Ofsted 2018

MEET THE CAREERS TEAM: FREYA ELDRID & HELEN O'KEEFE



What are your main responsibilities?

As Careers Coordinators we are primarily focused on making sure that our external partners are helping us to deliver unique experiences that have a genuine impact on our students' thinking and approach to life after school. We also organise all of the work experience that our Year 10s take part in.

How do you ensure students get opportunities to experience the workplace that have a meaningful impact?

We are constantly benchmarking all of the activities that students take part in. Accompanying staff provide feedback so that we can help to evaluate their appropriateness or success. We also take into account what students say and we plan new experiences based on our current cohorts aspirations.

What makes Bow so successful at supporting students' career needs?

So many things! Firstly, the depth and variety of our offer. We're fortunate to have incredible partners across a multitude of sectors so it's rare we don't have a useful contact. Students

also have access to a qualified, independent careers advisor, who gives them bespoke one-to-one advice and a careers action plan. Finally, it's the quality of real life opportunities; work experience, shadowing senior staff, mentoring, talks from industry leaders, mock interviews with employers etc – it's incredible what students have access to now.

We really should certainly mention the Rothschild bursary too. All Sixth Formers can apply for £5,000 of funding per year throughout their undergraduate studies if they attend a university outside of London. We're always staggered that our students can benefit from this generosity!

How do you get younger students involved and thinking about their futures?

Good question! Too often younger students can be neglected when it comes to thinking about careers. We make sure our KS3 students are involved in career-focused workshops; PSHE activities focus on emerging careers, key skills and linking study skills to careers; and Year 9 Pathways Evening encourages them to discuss the suitability and options of their career aspirations with teachers and parents/guardians.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

As our regular readers will know, we constantly endeavour to offer fresh and exciting challenges and experiences to students through our extensive partnerships network. This mentality is embedded across the school so that students' experiences are enhanced. Here are a couple of examples of what's been happening.

STRICTLY BOW DANCING

In June our GCSE dance class, alongside some of our younger talented performers, visited Rothschild's office in Bank to celebrate the successful relationship we have shared with them and Sadler's Wells to support the delivery of GCSE dance at Bow.

Our supremely gifted dance leader, Miss Anderson, has worked for many years with Sadler's Wells to provide students with workshops from professional dancers, and visits to shows, which have been funded by Rothschild.

These experiences have inspired our students' dances, and they showcased some of these at the event. Every Bow student performed their dance perfectly and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

The CEOs and other senior leaders were not only dazzled by students' dance moves, but in the way they confidently, articulately and eloquently spoke about the benefits of the partnership and the impact it has had on their education.



Bow Open Events

Open Evening:
Monday 24th September,
4.30–6.30pm

- Introduction from our Headteacher
- Guided tours of the school
- Meet our aspirational students
- Interactive demonstrations in every department

We're also hosting a series of open mornings and afternoons:
Tuesday 18th September, 10am–1pm
Thursday 27th September, 2pm–3pm
Tuesday 9th October, 10–11am



SPEAKING WITH KWAME

As part of BowExtra!, the music department invited Kwame Kwaten – a British manager, music consultant, musician and record producer – to the school as part of the Speakers for Schools Programme.

Not only does Kwame own an artist management and consultancy firm, but he is also a co-founder of Cr8ing Vision, a nonprofit company that offers young people a range of educational programmes, seminars, workshops and opportunities in both the music and sports industries.

Our esteemed guest spoke at length with our BTEC music students and those on our gifted and talented programme. In sharing his experience, Kwame was able to broaden students' view of the music industry, offer confidence that there are opportunities to forge a successful career and motivate them to work hard to fulfil their potential.

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