

BOW VOICE

The magazine for Bow School | Winter 2019

Featured this time:

Living our values

First term at Bow

Our Guardian angel



Adaptability | Respect | Curiosity | Determination



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Bow Voice. As ever, the first term was defined by everyone's dedication to achievement. Students across the school seized the opportunities presented to them and their hard work is already bearing fruit.

They continue to be driven by our 4 core values; determination, adaptability, curiosity and respect. These attributes define how everyone in our school goes about their day.

This spirit is embodied by our Student Council, in which every year group has a voice. In this edition we focus on their recent endeavours, which typify the spirit and will to succeed that I witness across the school every day.

Meanwhile, the work around our new curriculum (outlined in our Autumn edition) is already engaging the newest additions to the Bow family. Keep reading to hear from three of our Year 7s, who have taken time out of their busy schedules to share some of the fantastic experiences they had in their first term at the school.

Their older peers are throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the final push before their GCSE and A Level exams. It's amazing to think that these are just around the corner! They have all carried out their mocks and we're thrilled by the positive results.

All of these students are ambassadors for our school and, along with our staff, their diligence and positivity are testament to the school's rising popularity. Both Year 7 and Year 12 are the largest we have ever had, showing that our community recognise that this is a school where anyone can achieve their dreams.

I hope you enjoy reading the following pages, all packed with great examples of what makes Bow School so special. If you want to come and see us for yourself then please do – we're happy to organise tours because we want people to see us at our best, when students and staff are working together.

Danny Lye, Headteacher

OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

We are delighted to share the news that one of our incredibly talented students has been featured in a national newspaper.

Kelvin Murray, a professional photographer, came in to take pictures as part of his For the Love of Music project. Of his experience of capturing this outstanding image, he commented:

“This image is of a young and incredibly gifted pianist. When I met him at his school, he sat and played without sheet music, moving from piece to piece seamlessly. The music flowed from inside him. I hope the world is kind to him and his obvious talent finds reward”.

This is just one example of how we help students to achieve their goals. It's important that they have a platform to showcase their talents, and that's what our students know we do for them.

This student commented:

“I honestly cannot thank you enough!! It was amazing to have the experience of performing in front of a camera crew. The moment I found out my photo was in The Guardian I started screaming ‘I WAS IN THE GUARDIAN MUM!’ and she laughed and said how she was proud of me”.

“I WAS
IN THE
GUARDIAN
MUM!”



LIVING OUR VALUES

We believe that our new values - determination, adaptability, curiosity and respect – provide the perfect platform for students to thrive at school and beyond. Our core belief is they will instil characteristics that will help nurture them into strong, resilient learners.

There is no better example of students living and breathing these values than in our Student Council. Every year group is represented and, supported by 2 Sixth Formers, also forms a subcommittee on a specific area.

This year those are:

Year 7 – Community & Social

Year 8 – Fundraising & Environment

Year 9 – Health & Well-being

Year 10 – Equality & Diversity

Year 11 – Student Voice

We hope you enjoy reading about everything they have been getting up to recently!

DETERMINATION

Year 7 are resolute in their desire to challenge youth violence. As a passionate group, they want to play a role in helping their community. They are involved in numerous initiatives:

- A community cohesion project with the HEC Global Community Centre and four European partner schools
- Working alongside the Crib Project (youth service) and our Safer Police Officer to put together a 45min workshop called 'Lives without Knives' aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils in Tower Hamlets primary schools
- Creating a short film which highlights the impact of youth violence with the help of Shone Romulus (actor, known for Top Boy) and Crib project



ADAPTABILITY

The Year 8 committee is focusing its attention on making us a more environmentally conscious school.

In December the committee members took part in a 'WE Go Green' campaign action planning workshop, delivered by WE Charity Ambassador Ella Porter. Ella talked about many of the environmental issues facing our communities today, and together they explored a project plan to get them started.

Students are carrying out a waste reduction audit, and their work will bring about an end to polystyrene cups, sugar sachets and plastic spoons at the school.

"It was lovely to hear from someone who knows so much about how we can help the environment. It's really important that we do our bit and Ella has helped us focus our efforts." - **Year 8 committee member**



OUR VALUES

DETERMINATION
ADAPTABILITY
CURIOSITY
RESPECT



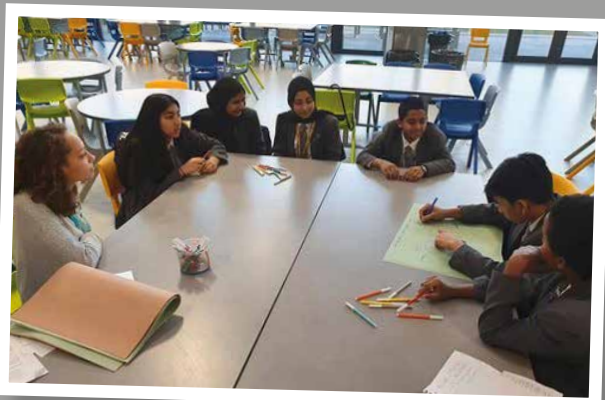
CURIOSITY

Year 9 were particularly interested in discovering how they could do more to improve the health and wellbeing of their peers.

Over the course of a month, members completed a Level 1 Health & Nutrition course with Spotlight, a local creative youth service that has been partnered with the school for some time.

Once the course was completed, students then attended a well-being ambassador training session hosted by a Place2be Schools Manager. Place2be is a national charity providing in-school emotional support to children and young people in over 600 schools nationwide.

Students are now busily working on a series of events that will run throughout Children's Mental Health Week, a national event. This year's theme is "Finding your Brave" on the basis that life is all about taking small brave steps every day.



RESPECT

Year 10 students have formed the Equality and Diversity Committee, working alongside the Equalities Champion (Miss Akinroyeje) to ensure that Bow students' voices are heard in relations to equalities issues.

In December, students attended the Dove Youth Summit, hosted by the Osmani Trust, to participate in 2 workshops:

- Self-esteem issues exploration, covering impacts of negative body image, dangers of social media, celebrities' influence etc.
- Social planning workshop, in which students brainstormed how they plan to tackle issues of body confidence and self-esteem.

At the end, each group submitted its self-esteem project idea. Students will now enter the Dove Self-Esteem Project Competition and have the chance to be awarded up to £750 to turn their ideas into action. Fingers crossed for them all!



SPOTLIGHT ON... THE FIRST TERM AT BOW

Regular readers will remember our Spotlight feature, in which we focus on one aspect of the school in more detail. This time we're looking at what it's like for those students who have most recently joined Bow School.

Transition: making everyone feel at home!

We know how nerve-wracking it is for our new students to leave primary school behind. That's why we do everything we can to make sure they find their feet as quickly as possible.

Our transition programme starts the day students receive an offer. A series of events before the start of term allows every student to make new friends, learn their way around the building and get to know their teachers.

We know that this reduces anxiety and allows students to hit the ground running. They don't waste any time getting stuck in, but don't just take our word for it. Here are three of our star Year 7s who are already making waves.



Roman (Joined from Solebay Primary School)

Were you nervous about joining Bow?

Not at all! I had attended the summer school and made so many friends that I was just excited to see them all again.

What else did you enjoy about summer school?

I liked the debating that we did. We had an introduction to politics and then we argued different sides. Also, I really enjoyed the Pizza!

What subject are you enjoying most?


Maths is my favourite subject. I find the work interesting and stimulating because my teachers make sure it is always challenging.

What have you got involved in outside of the classroom?

I'm normally really scared of talking in front of a crowd, but my teacher encouraged me to audition for the school play, Hairspray, and I managed to get a really good part. It's taken me out of my comfort zone but I'm loving it.

Why would you recommend Bow school?

If you have a hobby, then the school will have a club to encourage you and allow you to get better at what you enjoy doing.



Raquel (Joined from Marnar Primary School)

How long did it take you to settle in at Bow?

By the end of the first day when my tutor asked! The activities we all did before I started helped, but there were still nerves on the first day. They all went away though after we did our introduction sessions on induction day.

What have you enjoyed the most?

I love that we've got to do things in PE that I hadn't tried before. I love trampolining and I've already learnt how to do a backflip.

What are you most proud of since you started?

The other day we were all asked to create an imitation of a Robert Delaunay picture and our teacher said mine was the best in the class.

Why would you recommend Bow School?

There are so many interesting subjects! I'm learning a lot of new things.

Cherno (Joined from Manorfield Primary School)

Did you attend the summer school?

Yes, and I'm glad I did because we got to go on a visit to Oxford University. I'd never been to a university before, but our teachers wanted to show us what we could achieve if we work hard. It was great to explore what there was to do and I couldn't believe that that could be me one day!

What were you thinking before your first day?

I couldn't wait because all my friends were joining Bow because it's so close to my primary school.

Did that make it easier to settle in?

Yes. It gave me a safety blanket to make so many new friends in the first week. Our teachers partnered us with people we didn't know in class and form time, and in others we were challenged to learn new things about someone we didn't know before.

What piece of work have you really enjoyed?

In English I wrote something about 'a day in school' and I wrote about my first day, where I discovered a love of basketball. I enjoy creative writing a lot and I was so pleased to get a very high grade. One day I'd like to become an author.



UNIVERSITY OFFERS ROLL IN

Bow Sixth Formers celebrate offers from 5 of the UK's top 10 universities!

We are delighted to be able to report that our amazing Sixth Formers have secured offers from numerous top universities, including Cambridge and Imperial College London.

Together with our hugely experienced support team, students have worked tirelessly on their applications and interview skills to make sure they can achieve their dreams of going to their preferred university.

Our Sixth Form team are experts in guiding students through this process. Here are just some of the activities students have been involved in.

- 1-1 guidance on completing the application
- Writing a great personal statement workshop
- Mock interviews

Students' courses range from English to Engineering, and other offers have come from the length and breadth of the UK; including the likes of St Andrew's, Durham, UCL, Queen Mary's and Bristol.

Come results day in August, we are expecting great things for our outstanding Sixth Formers!

Offers received from top 10 universities:

Cambridge
St Andrew's
Imperial College London
Durham
Bath
And many, many more!

