

20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: End of Autumn/Start of Spring Term Arrangements

Firstly, I would like to offer thanks to you for your ongoing support of the school. In addition, my thanks to all of the young people for their hard work, focus and commitment this autumn term. It was delightful to greet our new Y7 and Y12 students, but also to walk around and see all of our students engaged in purposeful learning, working hard with diligence and determination. We have packed a huge amount into this term including sporting success in Cricket, Athletics and Football, anti-bullying week, personal development day supporting enrichment and safeguarding and, most recently, the first of this year's #BowGivesBack charity weeks. I am pleased to confirm that as well as donations to the Whitechapel Mission and Bow Foodbank our school community has raised well over £500 in support of local good causes. You can find details of all of the exciting opportunities our students have experienced by visiting the latest news section of our website (<https://www.bow-school.org.uk/News/Latest-News/>), or by following our social media accounts on Twitter @BowSchool1 or Instagram @bowschoolofficial .

End of Autumn Term Arrangements

- School will finish for the term today Friday 20th December 2024

Final day dismissal

Please note students will be dismissed from school on today, at the following times and locations below:

- Y7, Y8 and Y9 @ 11.45am
- Y10, Y11, and 6F @ 1200pm

Those entitled to a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch at this time.

Start of Spring Term Arrangements

Students will return to school, at the usual time, through the usual entrance on Monday 6th January 2025. Please note students should be at their entrance gates ready to come into school, in full uniform and with full equipment by 08:25 am. We look forward to greeting students, raring to go and ready to learn at the start of the new term.

Upcoming Mock Exams for Y11 and Y13

Following their recent, successful, first set of mock examinations. Students in Y11 and Y13 will be their next set of exams in early February. These important exams will help the school to identify which learning gaps still exist and plan for intervention to support young people with these. Students in both year groups should have a revision plan in place and should be preparing for these exams over the holiday period.

Readiness to learn

School breaks are, of course, a good opportunity to ensure that students are ready to learn by making sure they have all they need to be successful at school. This includes ensuring they have the minimum equipment they need and all items of uniform. As a reminder details of the school's uniform expectations can be found below.

Uniform	
Boys	Girls
Grey trousers* Black school shoes * White shirt* School tie (Lower: silver, Upper: blue) School jumper/cardigan (Lower: blue, Upper: grey) School blazer Black school shoes * black or grey socks*	Grey trousers*, or grey pleated skirt* or school salwar White shirt* School tie (Lower: silver, Upper: blue) School jumper/cardigan (Lower: blue, Upper: grey) School blazer School headscarf* (optional) Black school shoes* Black tights or black or white socks*
PE Kit Must be brought to school on days when games and PE take place. The PE Kit is:	
Navy Blue Bow school Rain Jacket (optional) Bow School Football Jersey Navy Blue Shorts* Navy Blue Socks* Trainers*	Navy Blue Bow school Rain Jacket (optional) Navy Blue Bow School Polo top Navy Blue Shorts* Navy Blue Socks* Trainers*
Items marked with an * are generic items and can be bought at any retailer Items in bold are branded items and must be bought at the school's official retailer: https://khalaschoolwear.co.uk/	

How can you help?

In line with our policy, we will send students home to rectify any issues with their uniform if they do not have a valid reason or valid note from their parent/carer.

Please ensure, therefore, that should there be an issue you provide a clear note, signed by you, which indicates the problem with the uniform and when you expect this to be rectified. Please note that the school will support a 'grace' period (up to the one-week maximum) where issues are being rectified and a note provided. We also recognise that, in the current circumstances, there are cost pressures on families. If, therefore, you are struggling to rectify any issues with uniform (because of affordability) please do let us know as we may be able to support you with this.

Attendance and Punctuality

As always, I would like to emphasise the need for excellent attendance and punctuality. We have a clear expectation that students should aim for 100% attendance every year. We will be rewarding tutor groups with the best attendance as well as individuals throughout the year. Attendance is important for academic progress, social interaction with peers and the opportunity to participate in clubs and try new activities, (details of our BowExtra Enrichment offer can be found here: <https://www.bow-school.org.uk/BowExtra>). Unfortunately, some students have been finding it difficult to attend school on time – as such in line with school policy we will be ensuring that students (who are late without a reasonable excuse) will be sitting a lunchtime late detention on the same day they arrive late.

How can you help?

You can help in several ways:

- By ensuring that your young person has prepared their bag/uniform the night before.
- By ensuring that they get a good night's sleep (approximately 8 hours)
- By making sure they do not take their mobile phone or another device to bed with them. The light emitted by these devices stimulates the brain, making it much more difficult to get to sleep and thus increasing fatigue
 - By making sure they leave home in plenty of time each morning – if they use public transport build in contingency time in case of delays
 - By giving them a note, signed by you, if there is a reason for their lateness

Mobile Phones

A reminder that the school has a simple policy concerning student mobile phones and other devices (such as ear pods). This is that while we recognise many parents want their child to have a mobile telephone (for reasons of communication) these not be seen or heard on school premises. In such cases, the school will confiscate the mobile phone/device and put it in the school safe. We also have clear references to the use of mobile phones for negative behaviour in our behaviour for learning policy

(https://www.bowschool.org.uk/docs/Behaviour_Policy_2021_011221_FGB.pdf). Unfortunately, we often find ourselves dealing with negative incidents which are, in some way, related to the inappropriate use of a mobile phone outside of the school premises. This may be because of the inappropriate sharing of information or use of social media or other related issues.

We have some advice for parents in supporting young people with their use of social media on our website. This can be found here: <https://www.bow-school.org.uk/Online-Safety-02082022132906/>

How can you help?

You can help in a number of ways:

- Talk to your child about responsible use of their mobile phone
- Routinely review their use of their mobile phone/social media with them, ensure they have the right privacy settings and read the 'how to guides which can be found here: (https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA1sucBhDgARIsAFoytUtAdlGsbzZHgWjskJJ8qxFgtw5b8fkk2rnLyHxreRijOpCTxajhXLQaAlyKEALw_wcB)
- Ensure that they don't have social media accounts for which they are not old enough – for most sites this is at least 13 years' old
- Put in place routines, if you don't have them already, that mean they don't have their phone/device when they go to bed.
- Remind them of the school's rules related to mobile phones/devices
- Communicate with them, should you need to, during the school day via the school's reception as opposed to calling/messaging them on their phone.

My thanks for all you do to support us and, in advance, for all of your help with the above. With best wishes for a peaceful and joyful break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D. Lye
Headteacher