

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: End of Summer/Start of Autumn Term Arrangements and other important updates**

My apologies for the length of this letter. However, it contains some important updates which I need to make you aware of, including:

1. End of Summer Term Arrangements
2. Start of Autumn Term Arrangements
3. School Meals
4. Uniform Update
5. Mobile Telephone Policy Update

Firstly, though I would like to offer thanks to you for your ongoing support of the school over what has been an incredibly interesting and inspiring year. Our students continue to amaze me with their skill, talents, ambition and interests. They are a credit to their school, the community and to you, their parents, of course.

This year there has been much to celebrate this year including the school achieving the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award (Silver), the introduction of our student Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Our Cricket Team reaching the Middlesex T20 Final and much more besides. I am incredibly proud of all of our students, and staff, and their achievements.

In particular, may I offer my thanks to all of those parents, with students in Y11 and Y13, who have been supporting their child during this current exam season. These young people deserve huge credit for the serious and determined way they have approached their important exams. I look forward to celebrating their success in the summer when they receive their examination results.

All of which is evidenced by the incredible 227,909 achievement points issued to students, by staff, over the course of this school year so far. A number which outweighs those issued for poor conduct by a ratio of 5:1. A huge well done to all students for their incredible achievements this year.

Sadly, as is always the case at this time of the school year we also have to bid farewell to some colleagues as they move on to pastures new. This year we bid farewell to:

Mr D Jones – Deputy Headteacher	Mr A Islam- Business/Economic Teacher
Ms I Ali – Humanities Teacher	Mr S Landa – Computer Science Teacher
Ms L Augustine – Business Studies Teacher	Ms S Moynihan – Maths Teacher
Ms K Burt – PE Teacher	Mr I Murray – Business/Economics Teacher
Mr L Gladwell – English Teacher	Mr F Noor – Academic Mentor
Mr C Handley – Facilities Manager	Mr MA Gaffar – Teaching Assistant
Ms A Isaacs – Humanities Teacher	

We wish them every success in their new ventures and thank them for the hard work and dedication that they have provided to our young people. I would like to offer particular thanks to Mr Jones, who many of you will know. Mr Jones has served Bow School with incredible dedication, and commitment, for over 15 years and has been a crucial part of the success of many students including in his role as a Head of Year but also, more recently, in overseeing the improvement in the school's support for students as they prepare for their exams.

## End of Autumn Term Arrangements

I can also confirm that Wednesday 19th July will be the last day of Summer term.

Please note this will be a half-day with students being dismissed, for the summer, at the following times:

Y7 12.00 PM  
Y8 12.00 PM  
Y9 12.10 PM  
Y10 12.10 PM  
Y12 12.00 PM

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

As is tradition, the last day of term will also be a non-uniform day in support of a charity. This term we will be raising funds in aid of **School Food Matters**, who are a charity that works with schools and local authorities to ensure that no child goes hungry and that school meals are nutritious for all.

From Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July parents will be able to make their £1 donation via the Arbor Parent Portal App, alternatively young people can bring their cash donations into school and hand this to their form tutor. Please note that, while this is a non-uniform day, students should ensure that they are appropriately dressed for the school environment. Clothing which does not meet this expectation may result in students being sent home to change.

## Start of Term Arrangements

Students will return to school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, as detailed below:

	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 7	8.30 AM	8.30AM	8.30 AM
Year 8		8.30AM	8.30 AM
Year 9		8.30AM	8.30 AM
Year 10	8.30 AM	11AM	8.30 AM
Year 11		8.30AM	8.30 AM
Year 12	8.30 AM	11AM	8.30 AM
Year 13		8.30AM	8.30 AM

If this poses any significant challenge to you, please contact Mr. Emin ([eminm@bow-school.org.uk](mailto:eminm@bow-school.org.uk))

## School Meals

As you will be aware, the school is committed to ensuring that students have access to high-quality, healthy food options every day. This includes access to a wide range of healthy, nutritious, and exciting hot and cold lunches, break time snacks and grab-and-go items. I am pleased to confirm that we have **recently appointed a new catering provider** (Olive Dining) who are busy, working in the background, to get ready to launch their service in September.

This promises to be a real step up in the quality of school catering, offering our young people a great meal every day.

Parents may also be aware that the Mayor Lutfur Rahman has introduced a scheme of **Universal Free School Meals for all secondary school children**. I am pleased to be able to confirm that Bow School will be one of the first schools to benefit from this scheme and **will be offering a free meal to every child, every day** from the start of term in September.

## Free School Meal Eligibility

Although Mayor Rahman's scheme provides a free meal to all school children, it remains **incredibly important** that you apply for free school meals if you are eligible. FSM status, as well as identifying that a student would be eligible for free school meal **is also used to identify additional important funding for the school**. For example,

**pupil premium funding** is allocated to the school each year and is **directly linked** to a child's **FSM status**. This funding is worth an **additional £900 of funding per eligible student**.

If the number of parents claiming FSM drops this risk **losing the school many thousands of pounds** which are used to support the delivery of the curriculum, the purchasing of resources and the provision of fantastic enrichment activities to students.

Please, therefore, **check your FSM eligibility** at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or [https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/education\\_and\\_learning/school\\_finance\\_and\\_support/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/education_and_learning/school_finance_and_support/free_school_meals.aspx)

### **Uniform Update**

The summer break provides a good opportunity to stock up or refresh items of uniform. Details of the school's uniform can be found here: <https://khalsaschoolwear.co.uk/school/bow-school/>

*Please note that compulsory items of uniform are the school blazer, school jumper/cardigan, and school tie. Other items such as trousers, skirts or kameez can be purchased elsewhere but these must be grey in colour.*

### **PE Kit:**

A reminder that students are allowed to wear PE Kit to school if they have PE during Pd1. This will be identifiable on their new timetable in September. Students are expected, in such cases, to have their uniform ready to change into following their lesson. Details of the school's PE uniform are to be found below:

<https://khalsaschoolwear.co.uk/school/bow-school/>

*Please note that the school PE kit is Navy Blue and that the branded school PE Jersey or T-Shirt are compulsory items of uniform.* Parents are free, however, to purchase PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or PE leggings elsewhere but these should be navy blue also. **Non navy blue items of sportswear are not acceptable.**

### **Uniform Non Compliance:**

As is published policy students arriving to school without correct items of uniform, including PE kit, will be sent home to change or get the item unless they have a signed note from you detailing the issue and when this will be resolved. **Please do ensure that you provide you child with such a note in these circumstances.**

In such cases the school will provide a grace period of up to 5 school days to rectify the issue.

### **Mobile Telephones**

Please be reminded that the school's policy around mobile phones operates on a simple 'not seen, not heard' basis. This means that students' phones should be switched off and stored safely during the school day.

When students do not adhere to this expectation phones are confiscated and placed in the school safe for collection.

On occasion, this can be made difficult because parents choose to call or to take calls from their child during the school day. While we understand that there are times when parents wish to get a message to their child, calling in this way can be disruptive and cause unnecessary difficulties.

School reception is more than willing to ensure messages are passed on to children. Please, therefore, use this route if you wish to communicate with your child during the school day. We appreciate your support with this matter.

With my thanks, and best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. D Lye  
Headteacher