

31/08/2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Start of Autumn Term Arrangements

I hope you, and your families, are well and that you have had and restful and enjoyable summer.

Here, at the school, we are busy preparing for the return of students next week and are eager to get another exciting school year started, following another hugely successful summer for our Y11 and Y13 students in their exams.

We are so proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to be able to let you know that all students who applied to university, or an apprenticeship, from Y13 have been placed. This is excellent news.

Our Y11 students excelled too and, despite the challenges of the last few years, achieved some fantastic outcomes which show significant growth since the last time students sat exams, unaided in 2019. For further information about the outcomes achieved you can visit the school's website or our twitter feed @Bowschool1

Our congratulations to each and every student, and their parents, who should be justifiably proud.

Start of Term Arrangements

This is to confirm that, as I wrote to you in July, Students will return to school from Tuesday 5th September 2023, as detailed below:

	Tuesday 5 th September	Wednesday 6 th September	Thursday 7 th 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

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.

Pleased let me remind you, also, about the **Universal Free School Meals for all secondary school children** which is being introduced. As confirmed, in July, 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 the 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/lgnl/education_and_learning/school_finance_and_support/free_school_meals.aspx

Uniform Update

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 – students who arrive to school in such items, will be sent home to change in line with our uniform policy (see below).

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.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. D Lye
Headteacher