



WELCOME TO BOW SCHOOL

BOW SCHOOL

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ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Bow School has a clear vision for the future, driving forward continued improvements and providing an excellent environment for learning. We are a vibrant, multi-cultural school in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets with a roll of 880 students and are proud of, and value, the diversity of languages, cultures and experiences that the students bring with them.

The school has excellent partnerships with businesses, sports and arts organisations. These partnerships are wide ranging and benefit our students both academically and socially. They include:

- Business Mentoring with Bank of America Merrill Lynch;
- Enterprise education with Bank of America Merrill Lynch;
- Art Partnerships with Bow Arts Trust;
- Rothschild G & T Mentoring;
- Public Speaking and debating with a number of City and Canary Wharf businesses.

In our most recent Ofsted report in 2013, Bow School was described as “a good and improving school”. The inspectors noted the rapid improvements that the school is making in ensuring that standards rise quickly and that students are well prepared for their next steps. It highlighted that:

- standards are good and rising;
- student behaviour and engagement in their learning is good;
- leadership and management at all levels in the school is good;
- the school has high expectations of the students

An Exciting Future

In June 2014, we moved into a much larger building with state-of-the art facilities. Our new home was carefully designed to support good quality teaching and learning.

2014 also saw us beginning a programme of growth; we started a Post 16 provision as well as increasing in size. September 2014 saw our first intake of girls at year 7 and we now have mixed gender year groups across the lower school with the proportion of girls making Bow their school of choice increasing year-on-year.

We continue to grow steadily, each year, and our aim is that in 2018 Bow School will be an outstanding and oversubscribed 11 – 18 school with a thriving Sixth Form. Standards will be above the national average and there will be no significant differences between groups. Our dynamic learning community will have strong partnerships with a range of businesses and higher education establishments and will be at the centre of partnerships with other local schools. Bow School is already an exciting professional community of teachers and educational staff and we intend to grow and strengthen in this area over the next few years.

‘The Bow Way’

At Bow School we:

- Work together
- Rise to each challenge
- Celebrate success
- Learn from every situation
- Respect each other
- Embrace diversity

Share our vision: come and be part of a success story at Bow School

SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

When you come and work at Bow School you will be able to benefit from a structured and comprehensive continuing professional development programme. As a valued member of staff we want to ensure that you have access to the benefits available to you. Your first year in post will be crucial to ensuring your success as a member of staff and to maintaining the ongoing success of our school. For this purpose we will put in place systems to ease you into the school and give you wide-ranging support.

Induction and Career Development

The staff at Bow are very supportive towards each other with a great camaraderie existing throughout the school. Professional development opportunities include:

- A well established and comprehensive mentor programme for all newly qualified teachers, OTTs and Teach First;
- A strong personalised programme of professional development for teachers and support staff;
- Strong links with other local schools for partnership working and support;
- Personalised coaching
- We also have a strong community spirit and there are regular staff social events, competitions and challenges as well as a staff football team. All staff are able to use the fitness room and other sporting facilities.

Tower Hamlets has its own dedicated Professional Development Centre (PDC). This centre is the focus for educational training for teachers and support staff. It provides up to date facilities for CPD and houses the School Library Service, which Bow subscribes to.

Staff Benefits

- Tower Hamlets Rewards Compass – offers and discounts on shopping, toys & gifts, electronics, food & drink, entertainment & days out, home & garden, financial, utilities, health & fitness, child care vouchers
- Staff Loan Scheme for annual season ticket
- Cycle to Work Scheme

Staff Wellbeing

Bow School is committed to staff wellbeing and to further developing its wellbeing programme which has now been running for three years. The school offers a variety of activities, classes and services which include: fitness challenges, weekly yoga stretch class, staff football, badminton and volleyball, circuit training, annual staff wellbeing week, staff socials, on site Occupational Health provision (general advice on health and wellbeing, BP and Cholesterol checks, Flu vaccines) and counselling services.

Childcare

Tower Hamlets Family Information Service (FIS) provides free, impartial information and advice on childcare as well as general information on a wide range of services for children, young people, parents and families. The service can be contacted on 020 7364 6495 or by emailing fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

Housing

Housing help and guidance is available through the government's keyworker initiative.

If you are eligible, the Key Worker Living Programme means that you can get help with home ownership if you:

- are a first time buyer
- are a homeowner and need to buy a larger property to meet your household needs (e.g. family sized homes)
- need to take part in shared ownership schemes
- need to rent at affordable prices.

The scheme is only open to specific keyworkers in London and the South East and East of England.

The programme offers three different kinds of help:

Open Market Home Buy

An 'equity loan' to help buy a home on the open market. This can be up to 50 per cent of the total property value. An equity loan is a loan where the lender shares in any rise (and sometimes any fall) in the value of the property over the course of the loan.

Open Market Home Buy Scheme - New Build HomeBuy

If you are eligible you can buy at least 25 per cent of the cost of your home and pay a reduced rent on the remaining share.

New Build Home Buy Scheme - Intermediate Renting

Rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords and the accommodation is provided by a landlord registered with the Housing Corporation (Registered Social Landlord).

Additionally Bow School has access to rented accommodation through a local housing association. Please email robertsonc@bow-school.org.uk for further information.

LIVING AND WORKING IN EAST LONDON

East London is becoming an increasingly vibrant, prosperous and exciting area to live. Tower Hamlets, traditionally known as the heart of the East End, is part of this spectacular regeneration. The local economy has been subject to massive change over the last three decades following the rapid decline of the traditional dock-related industries. The last 20 years has seen a remarkable period of regeneration, with warehouse conversions and the construction of Britain's first skyscrapers.

The massive changes experienced in recent years are set to continue over the next decade. Tower Hamlets has adopted a strategic approach to regeneration in order to ensure that it contributes to the social, economic and environmental well-being of all those who live and work here. The council aims to ensure that poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion are tackled quickly and effectively and that regeneration brings increased benefits in terms of housing, education, community safety and health.

Transport links within the borough are good with national rail connections, access to Central, District, Jubilee, Hammersmith & City and East London underground lines and the Docklands Light Railway. There is a comprehensive network of buses and roads. London City airport is within easy access and there are fast trains to Stansted airport from Liverpool Street Station.

Tower Hamlets is a growing community with a population expanding at a rate three times the national average. The cosmopolitan nature of our population contributes to a rich cultural diversity and more festivals are held here annually than in any other London borough.

Venues in East London present entertainment across the board. Tower Hamlets has a thriving arts scene and is home to many aspiring and recognised artists. The Whitechapel Art Gallery is one of London's leading contemporary art establishments and is a vital focus for local artists. The Bow Arts Trust is the largest independent studio organisation in London providing affordable space for artists. The area also houses some of the capital's most cutting-edge bars and clubs and there are a variety of restaurants lining the borough's waterways.

East London is also famous for its street markets. On Sundays, the Columbia Road Flower Market is a horticulturalist's dream while in Petticoat Lane, with over a thousand stalls, there is something for everyone. Brick Lane Market, also on a Sunday and part of the popular Shoreditch Triangle, is run by the local Bangladeshi community. There are numerous local weekday markets and, close by, Billingsgate Fish Market and Spitalfields Market, now one of London's most popular markets selling everything from arts and crafts, organic food, furniture and books and records.

For fitness fanatics, there are many sports clubs and leisure centres in the area providing both indoor and outdoor amenities with opportunities for individual or group activities. A short distance from the school, in the Borough of Newham, is [Westfield, Stratford City](#), located next to Stratford station. Westfield Stratford City, home to 300 stores, is one of the largest shopping centres in Europe. [The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games](#) had their main base at the [Olympic Park](#) in Stratford, which contained a significant number of venues including the [Olympic Stadium](#), [Aquatics Centre](#), and [London Velopark](#). What was the athletes' [Olympic Village](#) is to be restructured as the new [East Village](#) development, providing 3,500 homes, half affordable and half private. The post-Olympics legacy plans have included the opening of the largest new urban park in Europe for over a century, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

For further information on what Bow and Tower Hamlets can offer, visit: www.mytowerhamlets.co.uk or www.towerhamlets.gov.uk