



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

15th March 2024

Head Teacher's Message

Dear parents/carers,

It was good to see so many young people and parents/carers at the recent Careers Forum. It was even bigger and better this year with more organisations being represented. A great evening with plenty of opportunities for young people to talk about future choices and career pathways. The event is run by Kellie Smith, Careers Adviser. My thanks to her for all her work. On Wednesday we met with all students in year 9 to discuss their subject selection choices for year 10. We also held a next steps evening for young people and parents/carers in year 12.

Earlier this week we were treated to a musical extravaganza with the 2024 music show. There were a great variety of performances from young people. All of this was led and supported by Ms Linaker and Ms Lopez. Thank you for all their work.

The ski trip to France leaves this weekend. We hope that they all have a great time. My thanks to Mr Woods for leading on this and for all the staff who are supporting this trip.

This term finishes on Thursday 28 March 2024 at 12.15. The summer term starts on Monday 15 April 2024 at the normal time

Best wishes

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS UPDATE

1 - EXAMINATION CONTINGENCY DAYS FOR STUDENTS SITTING PUBLIC EXAMS

The examination contingency days are arranged by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of all of the examination awarding bodies and apply to **all** students taking BTEC, GCSE and A Level (or equivalent) examinations. 'Contingency days' will be used in the event of "sustained national or local disruption" during the Summer 2024 examinations. In these circumstances, the awarding bodies whose examinations are running at this time will have the option to postpone their examination and to rearrange it for one of the contingency days, so that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications.

The contingency dates for Summer 2024 examinations are as follows:

- Thursday 6th June 2024 - afternoon
- Thursday 13th June 2024 - afternoon
- Wednesday 26th June 2024 – all day

All examination candidates at Blackfen School must be available to sit GCSE, A-Level and BTEC examinations from the date of their first examination until Wednesday 26th June 2024. This decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates, in all schools. Parents, carers and students should ensure that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate and updated, as necessary, so that students can be contacted quickly.

2 - MORNING AND AFTERNOON PUBLIC EXAMINATION TIMES

All students in Year 11 and Year 13 taking public examinations should note the following arrangements for morning and afternoon start times. There is no late admittance to public examinations:

Morning examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 8.45am

Afternoon examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 12.45pm

Mobile phones, mobile devices and digital watches must be handed in at the beginning of all GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations. They are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables.

3 - YEAR 11 ARRANGEMENTS

Year 11 study leave operates as from Thursday 9th May which means that Year 11 students attend school only to sit their public examinations. If students are unable to go home between examinations, they should go to the classroom in their normal timetable to work independently. They do not have permission to go to other areas in school while lessons are taking place.

Year 11 early lunches

Light lunch items will be available to Year 11 students from the 'Food Cube' (NOT the canteen) at the earlier time of 12.15 pm to 12.45 pm, as from Thursday 9th May. We strongly recommend Year 11 students to have something to eat and drink before afternoon examinations. Bottled water - with the label removed - is allowed in examination rooms, but no other still or fizzy drink.

4 - COLLECTION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS

- A Level results are published on **Thursday 15th August** and will be available for collection in the **Sixth Form Learning Zone from 8.00 am - 9.30 am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends. Parents/carers may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.
- Level 3 BTEC results for current Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 15th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.30 am - 10.30 am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be distributed to students at the beginning of term in September.
- Year 12 students collecting GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics results should go to the **Performance Space on Thursday 22nd August from 9.00 am - 10.30 am**. (See 'GCSE' information below).
- GCSE and Level 2 BTEC examination results are published on **Thursday 22nd August** and will be available for collection in the Performance Space from **9.00 am to 10.30 am, only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join students in the Performance Space for this special occasion and may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.

5 - ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS IN BLACKFEN SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

In order to confirm their place in Year 12, Year 11 students need to enrol on-line on **Thursday 22nd August by 11.45 am**.

1. Go to the '**Sixth Form**' tab on the Blackfen School website (www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk).
2. Click on '**Enrolment**' on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Complete the form by entering your GCSE results and confirmed course choices. Then click on '**Submit**'.
4. You will receive a confirmation email with a unique ID. **Save this email**.

Any queries on the day should be emailed to: sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk You must have the correct entry requirements for your course choices. We will only contact you (via email or mobile phone) if there is a problem with your course choice.

Please contact Miss O'Connor or Mr Maun (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations. Please contact Ms Brewer, Head of Sixth Form, regarding enrolment in Blackfen School Sixth Form.

Ms Minnis
Deputy Headteacher

GCSE POD

Congratulations to the top 20 GCSE Pod watchers from www.gcsepod.com with a special mention to Alysha with 313 views!

Student	Pods Watched
Alysha B2	313
Vanessa Y5	92
Bethany G3	75
Lottie P1	69
Oluwateniola B9	67
Ollie 12B	63
Evie G9	62
Time R7	60
Alyssia R9	59
Ava B1	59
Sara B1	59
Shriya P9	55
Milly G2	54
Morgan R1	49
Saulene P5	49
Georgia R8	48
Jessica B8	48
Rosie B4	48
Elisabet P3	47
Priyanshi P3	47

Lateness

If you need to report lateness for any reason, please leave a message on the attendance line.

Any students who are leaving school MUST sign out at reception. If students are late they MUST sign in at room 1B. It is imperative that we know who is and isn't in the school so we can keep the students safe.

Many thanks,

Ms McGee
Attendance Officer

Elevate

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **supporting your child during exams** on March 19th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can improve your child's exam performance by **helping them to establish a good routine in the run-up to an assessment.**

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

Tuesday 19th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- Helping your child prepare in the week before an exam
- Establishing a good routine for your child the night before
- Helping your child to optimise their exam performance

We hope to see you there!

Careers Forum

Our Careers Forum on Tuesday 5th March was a huge success with the highest number of representatives attending we have ever had! With over 40 organisation's many career sectors, further and higher education establishments were represented.

Feedback from students included **'gained some great information – now time to research', 'very informative'** and **'really well organised with lovely careers ambassadors to show us around'**. Equally the representatives commented on **'really well organised and well attended'** and **'the layout worked really well this year'**.

The representative from **'Law Choice Recruitment'** remarked **'I am pleased to commend the students who attended the event. Their attitude was exemplary, displaying politeness and engagement throughout. A true reflection of what a Blackfen student is'**.

Welcomed to the Forum for the first time were 9 new representatives including: By Charn Aesthetic Beauty, Bexley Neighbourhood Health (Medical and Healthcare sections), Cory Group, Escape Studios, JGF Electrical, PRCA, SAE London and University of Leicester.

This year also saw around 74 Year 10 and Year 11 Hurstmere School students join us, the highest number ever attending!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our representatives, parents, carers and students in making this event extremely successful especially the Careers Ambassadors who helped at this event.

Law Choice Recruitment



Oxleas NHS



Cory Group

Aberystwyth University

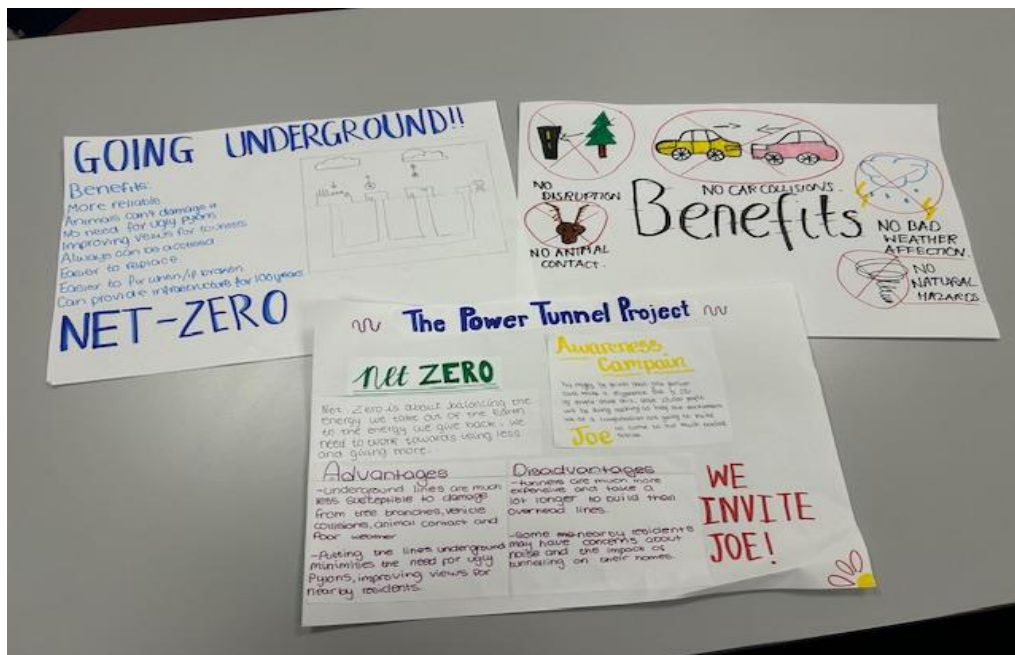
Mrs Smith, Careers Adviser

National Grid – Year 9 London Power Tunnels STEM Workshop

We were delighted to welcome a representative from National Grid to deliver a workshop to discuss the issue of climate change, the causes, effects and how it is related to political campaigning. One of the objective's was to develop a comprehension of National Grid's core purpose and how the London Power Tunnels project contributes to their role in society.

Students explored the idea of net zero and how it is related to National Grid and its current and future endeavours. They completed an activity to quantify their own energy consumption and appreciate how their personal actions contribute to climate change.

The session concluded with students developing a group presentation, conveying the benefits of large-scale engineering projects, using persuasive language to articulate rationale and reasoning in favour them. All students took part in this challenge and produced some excellent ideas and work to persuade the general public of the benefits of the London Power Tunnel project. Our Year 9 students found this workshop to be informative, beneficial and gave them a better understanding of careers in this industry.



Group presentation posters
Mrs K Smith
Careers Adviser

Blackfen Culture Carnival

On Friday 1st March, Blackfen held it's second Culture Carnival in celebration of the diversity of our school community. Students and staff were invited to come to school wearing their traditional cultural clothes or the colours of their national flag. The vast majority of students and staff took part, resulting in a glorious rainbow of colours filling the school for the day and spreading a joyous atmosphere.

Chef, Mr Milton, and his team in the canteen helped with the celebration by providing a fabulous array of international dishes throughout the week leading up to the carnival. Dishes ranged across several continents and were matched to the nationalities of our school community, including items such as; Zapiekanki – a Polish French-bread pizza, Thai curry, and Turkish falafel. Feedback from students and staff was very positive and most of the dishes sold out. Some of the dishes proved so popular that Mr Milton will be adding them to the canteen menu rotation going forward.



Jerk chicken



Zapiekanki



Falafel

All Key Stage 3 students had been completing work on cultural diversity in their different subjects. The best pieces of work were then put on display in the performance space and all students in Key Stages 3 and 4 were invited to come and view the exhibition during period 5 on carnival day. The exhibition led into the carnival itself, which took place in the performance space after school. Many students entertained carnival goers with performances from their culture. The performances ranged from Year 7 singing a song in Spanish, and Year 10 and 11 students reciting poetry about their culture, to a fabulous Bharatanatyam dance performed by Kavya in Year 9. All performers did brilliantly and we thank them for their dedication and for sharing their amazing talents with us. The highlight of the carnival was the fashion show, where students and staff dazzled spectators with a colourful array of cultural clothing in a true celebration of the diversity of our school community.

In total, the Blackfen Culture Carnival raised £779.30 for the charity Freedom from Torture. We have been in contact with the charity and they have expressed their deepest gratitude for the substantial donation, and told us how it will help refugees fleeing torture to access vital trauma therapy sessions and legal aid.





Ms Dunsdon
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Lead
Student Co-ordinator

Anti Bullying Training

On 27th of February, myself, and Miss Steggles along with our school's Mental Health Ambassadors attended a full day's training on Anti Bullying, led by the Princess Diana Trust.

Us, along with 13 other schools (mostly out of borough) took part in this highly informative training day held at Townley Grammar. We have learned a lot from this training day and have shared some wonderful ideas to raise awareness within our school community.

We all thoroughly enjoyed this day, our students presented exemplary behaviour and were extremely proactive, mixing with the other schools attending and sharing knowledge.

Mrs Latif & Miss Steggles
Wellbeing Team



Interborough Book Quiz 2024

On Tuesday 5th March five Year 7 students took part in an interborough book quiz at Townley Grammar School. They answered questions about books and authors and competed for a trophy and book voucher prizes. All competing teams received a certificate and the afternoon was enjoyed by all who took part. Blackfen were very pleased to finish in third place.

'I was so excited when I found out about the trip and couldn't go one day without thinking about it. It was a great way to bond with my friends, especially on the bus. It was great testing my reading skills with my team mates. The other schools were really good too and I loved competing against them. This was a great experience and I feel proud to have represented the school and to have been called a Blackfen Book Worm. I hope that next year the participants have just as much fun. Hopefully they win!' **Daniela P**

'I was happy that I could take part in the Quiz with my friends. Although it was a tiny bit scary it was also fun. When Hannah noticed that all the schools were Grammar Schools except for us I felt a bit more nervous but then we came third which I was pleased about.' **Isabella B**

Well done to Isabella B, Hannah W, Daniela P, Heidi P and Arwen J for taking part in this event.



Mrs Kingsbury-Barker
School Librarian

(answers next time)

NEWTON'S NUMBER TRACK PUZZLE

Each number in the number track is made by adding the previous 2 numbers.

Example

-3	5	2	7	9
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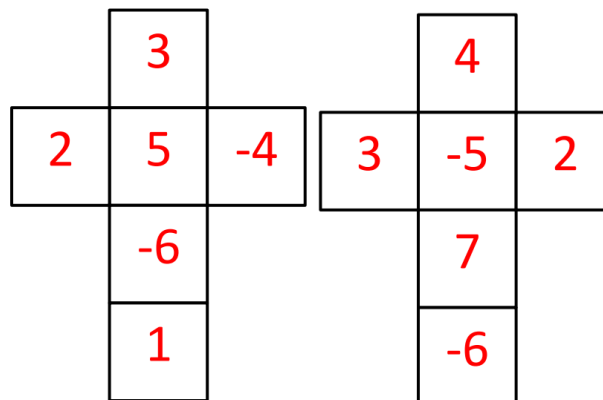
- The 3rd number is made by adding the first 2 numbers: $-3 + 5 = 2$.
- The 4th number is made by adding the 2nd and 3rd number: $5 + 2 = 7$, etc.

Fill in the missing numbers in these number tracks.

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| 1) | 7 | 6 | | | |
| 2) | 70 | 40 | | | |
| 3) | 0.3 | 0.5 | | | |
| 4) | 0.4 | 0.8 | | | |
| 5) | 8 | -5 | | | |
| 6) | 3 | -4 | | | |
| 7) | -7 | | -9 | | |
| 8) | 0.5 | | 0.9 | | |

Last puzzle answers:

Please note that there are several solutions for each cross puzzle. As long as the number in the center of the cross is the same as the solution below, and the rows and columns contain the same numbers then the answer should work even if the





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events scheduled so far

DATE	EVENT
16 th to 23 rd March 2024	Year 9/10 Ski Trip
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Year 13 Trip to Westfield Shopping Centre
Tuesday 26 th March 2024	Year 10 Resilience Event Year 9 DTP Immunisation catch ups
Thursday 28 th March 2024	End of Term – early finish
Friday 29th March 2024	Bank Holiday
Monday 1st April – Friday 12th April 2024	Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April 2024	Summer Term starts
Thursday 25 th April 2024	Year 7 Parents Evening
Monday 29 th April 2024	Year 8 HPV Immunisations Year 10/11 Citizenship Trip to Royal Courts of Justice
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	Year 10 Drama Theatre Trip
Monday 6th May 2024	Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 th May 2024	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th & Friday 10 th May 2024	D of E Bronze Final Expedition
Thursday 16 th & Friday 17 th May 2024	D of E Bronze Final Expedition
Thursday 16 th May 2024	Year 12 Parents Evening

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024	Half Term
Wednesday 26 th June 2024	Year 8 HPV immunisation catchups
Thursday 27 th June 2024	Challenge Day 3
Friday 28 th June 2024	Year 12 Induction Day
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Year 6 Induction Day Year 6 Parents Induction Evening
Monday 8 th July 2024	Year 8/9 immunisation catchups
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th July 2024	Celebration Presentations
8 th – 19 th July 2024	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 11 th July 2024	Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th & Thursday 18 th July 2024	Discover Days
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last Day of Term – early finish