



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

26th April 2024

Deputy Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term – although the new season didn't seem obvious as we waded through last week's torrential rain, hailstones and gale-force winds!

It is the Summer term which marks the season of transition and change in school. This year, the change is made all the more significant as Carrie Senior takes up the baton from Matthew Brown as Blackfen School's new Headteacher. You will have read Ms Senior's first letter, last week and noted her intention to meet parents and carers, as well as the Governing Body's plan to send a survey to Blackfen families. Change provides a good opportunity to pause, reflect and take stock, and I hope you will participate in these events to shape the next chapter in the history of Blackfen School.

Year 11 and Year 13 students have started practical examinations in their GCSE, BTEC and A level qualifications. We recognise the hard work and personal resilience required of our students at this time, and wish them every success in these tasks, as well as in the written examination papers. We are grateful for the family support which makes all the difference to the examination experience. Please continue to stay in touch with the welfare teams in school.

The traditional celebrations for Year 11 and Year 13 students will be communicated to parents and carers shortly. Year 11 students will be invited to their event on Wednesday 8th May 2024 and, as is usually the case, the school will close slightly earlier on this date for all other students. I would like to thank you for your understanding, as we mark the end of their Key Stage 4 education.

The school will also be closed on Monday 6th May for the bank holiday but there are no other planned closures, except for the May half term break.

Best wishes,

Miss Minnis, Deputy Headteacher

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

Careers and Apprenticeships



Apprenticeship Careers & Curriculum Webinar Series 22nd - 26th April

Monday - Barclays, Jacksons Civil Engineering
Tuesday - Defence Equipment & Support, Tideway East, Wates
Wednesday - National Grid, Balfour Beatty
Thursday - Redbridge Council, Atkins Realis, CTRL-S
Friday - Scott Brownrigg Architects & more!



The London ASK Programme in association with the four London Careers Hubs cordially invite you to join our 'Apprenticeship Careers and Curriculum' webinar series. Many young people are enticed by the benefits of apprenticeships but are unsure as to what apprenticeships their subject strengths at school/college lend themselves to. Therefore, we have assembled an ensemble of apprentices and professional contributors, who will link their roles and other opportunities in their organisation to curriculum subjects, including English/Humanities, Maths, Science, Digital and ICT, and Art/Creative subjects. Contributors will discuss what A-Level/GCSE options were required for their role, how the skills acquired in the classroom have supported them in their apprenticeship and provide a flavour of the range of exciting apprenticeship opportunities that are open to young people who wish to take learning from their favourite subjects into the world of work.

Students are encouraged to attend, but we are also tailoring the sessions to parents, so that they discuss apprenticeships with young people more effectively.

Please note, the link to the live webinar will be sent to your email address you registered with 1 hour before the starting time.

Monday 22nd - English / Humanities
Tuesday 23rd - Maths
Wednesday 24th - Science
Thursday 25th - Digital & ICT (International Girls in ICT Day)
Friday 26th - Creative and Art

Monday AM English / Humanities Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculumenglishhumanities-session-1-tickets-863732977587?aff=oddtcreator>

Monday PM English / Humanities Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculumenglishhumanities-session-2-tickets-863749647447>

Tuesday AM Maths Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-maths-session1-tickets-863778694327?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday PM Maths Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-mathssession-2-tickets-863780630117?aff=oddtcreator>

Wednesday AM Science Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-science-session1-tickets-863782365307>

Wednesday PM Science Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-science-session2-tickets-863803789387>

Thursday AM Digital and IT Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-digital-and-ictsession-1-tickets-863805013047>

Thursday PM Digital and IT Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-digital-and-ictsession-2-tickets-863805865597>

Friday AM Creative and Art Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-art-andcreative-session-1-tickets-865356754347>

Friday PM Creative and Art Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-careers-and-curriculum-art-andcreative-session-2-tickets-865360575777>

Mrs K Smith, Careers Adviser

Science News

Last term Year 7 and Year 8 students got involved in the British Science Week Poster competition where they had to create a poster with the theme 'Time'. There were many entries from which to choose: however five posters from Blackfen were selected to send off to the British Science Week organisers, where they will be judged with many more entries across the country.

Our Five Winners were: Ami (Y7), Poppy (Y7), Tien (Y7), Hannah I (Y7), Mia (Y8)



These students will receive a prize and certificate from the Science Department this term. We hope some of our winners go on to get prizes from the British Science Week organisers! Keep your fingers crossed for them!

Ms Masunda
KS3 Science Co-Ordinator

NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

QUADRA'S OPERATION PUZZLE 5

In each box, choose a sign: +, -, x, or ÷ to make the calculation

correct.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (12 \div 3) \times (5 - 2) = 12 \\
 & (7 \circ 4) \circ 5 \circ 6 = 9 \\
 & (3 \circ 6) \circ 2 \circ 4 = 5 \\
 & 2 = (21 \circ 5) \circ (2 \circ 4) \\
 & 27 \circ 3 = (11 \circ 7) \circ 2 \\
 & 8 \circ 4 \circ 12 = 10 \circ 2 \\
 & (12 \circ 3) \circ (7 \circ 2) = 3
 \end{aligned}$$

Last puzzle answers:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \\
 \\
 \\
 \\
 \hline
 1 \\
 7 \\
 6 \\
 8
 \end{array}$$

Head Lice Guidance

We have had a few of cases of headlice reported at school this term and wanted to take this opportunity to remind families how to check for head lice at home.

Please follow the checklist below:

- Check your child’s hair once a week
- Use proper detection comb to trap head lice
- If head lice are spotted, take a close look at the hair of all the family
- If you find live lice, consult a pharmacist for treatment advice immediately
- Make sure to check especially behind the ears and the nape. If you find head lice, the following treatment steps will need to be followed.
- Please treat your child with a clinically proven treatment
- Leave the treatment on for the recommended time for maximum effect
- Repeat the treatment for a second time seven days after the original treatment to kill any eggs that may hatch after the first treatment
- Check that all head lice have gone within two to three days after the final application of head lice treatment to complete the process.
- Continue to check for head lice on a regular, weekly basis.

It is important to remember that head lice are a very common occurrence and nothing to be embarrassed about. For further information on head lice please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events Scheduled so far

DATE	EVENT
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
Tuesday 18 th June 2024	Carnegie School visit
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

