



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

16th July 2021

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very challenging and difficult year for schools across the country. We have all struggled at times and it is testament to the hard work of staff at Blackfen that we have managed to keep going even when the going has been very tough. On your behalf I thank the staff and governors for their work in keeping the school going.

Alongside this, I know how difficult it has been for you, as parents and carers and families, to simply keep going with the constant reminders of the presence of Covid-19 and the devastating effect that the pandemic has had on so many lives. I thank you for your support throughout this year.

Finally, our young people have given up so much in the last year and have had to adapt to many changes in their lives, not least in the school. I thank them for everything that they have done in the school this year.

I am optimistic that things will improve and that things will start to change. If we continue to work together, in partnership, we will meet the challenges that lie ahead and ensure the success of all members of the Blackfen school community. You have my word that I am fully committed to this.

Start of next term – Provisional plans

At the start of next term all students, for whom we have consent, will be tested twice in school. On the first occasion students will come in to school at an appointed time, have a test and then go home. This is similar to what we had to do in March. The second test will be completed 3-5 days later in school during a normal school day.

The provisional plans for the start of the new term are outlined below. Please note that these are subject to change. I will write to you all again in August to confirm the arrangements.

Provisional plan for first two weeks of term

Wednesday 1 September – INSET day 1 – no students in school

Thursday 2 September – INSET day 2 – no students in school

Friday 3 September – Testing day 1 – Years 7, 11, 12. Students come in for test and go directly home afterwards. Appointment times will be sent out in August. No other students in school

Monday 6 September – Testing day 1 – Years 8, 9, 10, 13. Students come in for test and go directly home afterwards. Appointment times will be sent in August. Years 7, 11 and 12 are not in school. No other students in school.

Tuesday 7 September - Year 7 in school – 9.00 – 2.00. Familiarisation day.

Year 11 in school – 11.45 – 2.45.

Year 12 in school – 9.45 – 1.00.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 in school – 1.45 – 2.45. Collect timetables and meet other members of the community group.

Wednesday 8 September – All students in school. Normal timetable. Testing day 2 – Years 7, 11, 12. Students will be called out of lessons for this

Thursday 9 September – All students in school. Normal timetable. Testing day 2 – Years 8, 9, 10 and 13. Students will be called out of lessons for this.

Friday 10 September – All students in school. Normal timetable.

The normal school day/times in September will be 8.30am – 2.45pm everyday. There are no staggered starts or finishes to the day. Students should be in school at 8,20am for an 8.30 start.

In my letter in August there will also be important information about the start of the term and how the school is interpreting the government guidance on Covid-19 moving forwards.

I thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a relaxing and restful summer.

At the end of the year we say farewell to several members of staff.

Mrs Evans has been a science laboratory technician at the school for 20 years. During her time, she has seen many changes in the teaching of science in the school and has been a stable influence throughout. We wish her all the best in her new ventures.

In our SEND area we say farewell to Ms Shaw, SEN manager, who has been at the school for over 10 years. During that time, she has worked with many students and teaching assistants ensuring that needs are met. Miss Taylor also leaves at the end of term to take up a position in another local school. She has been instrumental in developing the curriculum in our Jigsaw provision in the school. As ASD champion, she has led strategies to support young people with a range of learning needs. We thank them both for their work.

Mrs Zareen, Subject Leader for Computing, will be leaving to take up a position in a sixth form college in Oldham. She has led significant curriculum developments in this area over the last few years and we will be sorry to see her go. We thank her for her work.

In PE, we say farewell to Mrs Whinder. We would like to thank her for her work in the PE department over the last few years and we wish her all the best in the future. Ms Dolke, PE, is moving on to a new school in September. We wish her all the best in the future and thank her for her work. In Science, we thank Ms Chandy for her work over the last 2 years as a key member of the science team. We wish her all the best in the future.

Miss Nash is leaving in History to take up a teaching position abroad and Mr O'Loughlin (Music) also leaves to take up a full time position in another London school. We thank them for their work. Finally, two members of our team are leaving to start training as teachers. Miss Divall (TA) and Miss Hodkin (Cover supervisor) both leave to take up PGCE courses in September. We wish them all the best as they embark on teaching careers.



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors Message

As the school year ends we can reflect on a challenging but successful one. The demands placed upon everybody by the spectre of Covid-19 have been relentless but no matter what new threat emerged or requirement issued by government the school's response has been measured and flexible. Every member or associate of the school can look back on a job well done. The stop-start nature of the year has been unprecedented and staff, students, parents and carers have all responded incredibly. Now is the time for everyone associated with the our school to look forward to a hard earned vacation.

The formal business of the year for the Governing Body was completed with its final meeting in July. A full agenda was discussed and included a comprehensive report from the Head Teacher, which highlighted the school's handling of the Covid-19 crisis and in particular the implementation of blended learning and the strategy for dealing with Centre Assessed Grades this year. The school's overall strategy for the next academic year was also outlined. This will be considered in depth by the Full Governing Body when it meets in September for its Business Meeting where preparations will be made for taking the school forward.

Unfortunately our regular barbecue event was not able to take place this year due to Coved-19 restrictions. Hopefully we can reinstate this next year.

The Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a happy and relaxing summer break. Also we wish those leaving the school and moving on to new challenges every success in the future and look forward to a less stressful year for those returning to the School.

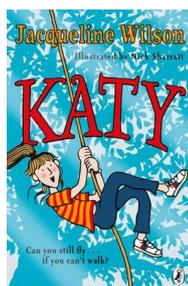
Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader class trophy for the most books read and quizzes taken on Accelerated Reader this year goes to 7B who between them have read 254 books and gained 1159 points. Altogether they have read 8.5 million words. Congratulations to them!

Mrs Kingsbury-Barker, School Librarian

Governors' Book Review Competition Summer Term 2021



53 students entered the Governors' Book Review competition this term.

The winning entry was from Lily in 8H for her review of Katy by Jacqueline Wilson. The Governors described her presentation as neat and well organised, and they liked the enthusiasm with which she writes. They said 'She achieves what a good review should achieve ie to attract the reader to the book in question'.

Runner up was Thamina from 8C who wrote a review of The Court of Wings and Ruin by Sarah J Maas which the Governors thought was a lively and enthusiastic account. They liked the way she quotes from the book to illustrate what she likes about the book.

Congratulations to both girls who will receive a certificate and prize.

Both books are available to be borrowed from the school library and don't forget, if you read a book over the summer holidays you can write a review for next term's competition.

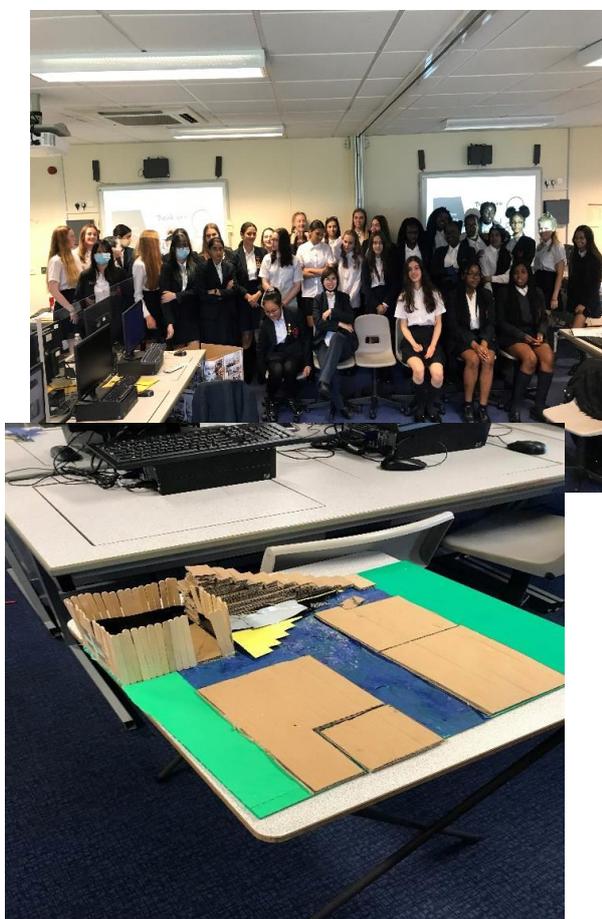
Mrs Kingsbury-Barker, School Librarian

Careers and Work Experience

Virtual Work Experience – Year 10

Last week I attended the DEC (Design, Engineer, Construct) virtual work experience. Due to Covid, we were unable to do work experience as normal. Whilst it may not have been the same as attending a company and seeing first-hand what they do, the teachers who supervised and made this possible allowed us to have an accurate interpretation of what we students can gain from doing work experience. The objective of this week was, as groups, to create our own house which was suited to each of the case studies given (e.g., people with disabilities, large families, people who are deaf, etc...). From the week, I gained an understanding of how to draw a floorplan, use Planner5D to create a 3D model of a house, make mood boards to show certain aspects included within the interior and exterior of the house but also how to work with other people and ensure all ideas were included. For me, this is certainly a career path I am interested in for the future and am grateful to have more knowledge of it.

By Keira, Year 10



Mrs Smith
Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Free School Meal vouchers

For those students eligible, Free School Meals will be provided over the summer holidays. Edenred voucher codes will be sent out to parents as soon as they are received.

Finance Office

Tennis Coaching Opportunity

Crescent Lawn Tennis Club in Sidcup is looking for new members – especially students from the school. The club's website is www.crescenttennisclub.co.uk. If anyone is interested in receiving coaching please contact coaching@nbtennis.co.uk.

School Uniform

At this time of year when items of new uniform are usually being purchased for students we ask all parents/carers if they would donate any school uniform no longer required to school.

We have a uniform store made up of donated uniform for other parents to come and look through if they wish.

If you would like to donate or look through the store please call the school first to ensure there is a member of staff in school to assist you. If you are donating please could you ensure the clothing is washed before bringing it in.

Thank you

Kooth

We would like to remind you of the availability of www.Kooth.com, throughout the summer holidays. Kooth is an online service designed to support your wellbeing. Kooth provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support, for young people across London.

Kooth offers you the opportunity to have a text-based conversation with a qualified counsellor. Counsellors are available from 12noon to 10pm on weekdays and 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, every day of the year on a drop-in basis. You can access regular booked online counselling sessions as needed too.

Outside counselling hours' you can also message the team and get support by the next day. There is also a huge range of articles, forums and discussion boards to support you with your well-being available on the website.

Whilst you may choose not to use the service, as part of supporting our students, we are ensuring you are aware of provision for when the school is closed over the summer holidays.

Kooth