



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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31st January 2020

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

Head Teacher's Message

We spent a fabulous Friday evening last week being entertained by the year 7 mass choir and by individual solo performances. It was a great event. I would like to thank all the students and staff involved and thank all families who came along to the spectacular performance.

During the next 2 weeks residential visits will take place in Berlin and Krakow (year 12) and India (year 11). These visits provide opportunities for our students to visit poignant historical sites, to reflect and to think about themselves as truly global citizens. They will all gain a great deal of understanding and empathy from the visits and will return culturally richer. We wish them a safe journey.

Well done to the IT staff and the Year 8 girls who have won the first round of the Cyber Security HQ competition are now through to the semi finals. Well done to all the students involved and we wish them all the best in the forthcoming semi final.

This week we have hosted the London Youth Games Dance competition. Two schools visited as part of this competition with our team led by Ms Davis and Ms Magrowski. The KS4 group won their competition and will now represent Bexley in the final at the Copper Box Arena.. Well done to all students and staff involved.

Staffing news

We say goodbye to Ms Mehmetoglu on Friday and wish her all the best in the future. Ms Savoy is returning to Australia and we thank her for all her work in science over the last term. We welcome Ms Faulkner and Ms Chandy to the school as teachers of science. We also welcome Mr Selby to the school as a science technician.

Building work

The site will be prepared over the coming weeks for building work to start during half term. We are very excited to see our plans starting to come to fruition.

Term dates 2020-2021

As the building works have started later than planned the expected finish date has been pushed back to the end of the Autumn term. With this in mind there have been some minor changes to the term dates for students to facilitate our move to the new building and to ensure that everything is operational. The significant change is that the end of the Autumn Term 2020 will now be Friday 18

December 2020 and not Tuesday 22 December. The updated term dates and a letter are attached to this newsletter.

Short term closure (adverse weather) procedure

This is just a reminder of what to do and how to find information in the unlikely event that the school has to be closed. A was sent home last term and is also available on the website. The short term closure procedure is available on the website. Please familiarise yourself with this information and keep it somewhere safe!

Future Dates

As last year, to ensure that all staff are updated on policies, procedures, current thinking and future planning we will be holding half termly staff meetings. The dates for these are 3rd March 2020, 21st April 2020 and 2nd June 2020. On these dates students should be in school by 8.40 for lesson 1 to begin at 8.45.



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors Message

The new term is now in full swing and I would like to update you on a few important matters.

Firstly, congratulations to Mr Brown and all members of the School involved in the recent Ofsted visit. The outcome reflects well on everybody, including parents and carers. The fact that the School was judged to be Good underlines the fact that Blackfen School for Girls is a fine place to study and lay the foundations for continued life-long learning and success. Members of the Governing Body were also involved, meeting the Lead Inspector during the visit and being given the opportunity to answer questions about how governance is handled within the School.

Secondly the normal cycle of meetings is taking place. The School Improvement Forum has already met where the progress of the Governing Body Action Plan was reviewed. Part of the discussions involved enhancing the Governing Body involvement with stakeholders. This will be the substance of the next Newsletter entry by the Governing Body. The Curriculum and Finance Committees will be meeting shortly, the outcomes of which will be reported to the full Governing Body when it meets.

Thirdly various governor visits to Faculty Leaders and the Leadership Team will continue for information gathering. Governors will also be participating in Bexley Governor Services training sessions to reinforce their overall skills set. These activities will also be reported to the full Governing Body meeting.

Finally, I would like to welcome Lisa Watkins who has recently joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governor.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald, Chair of Governors

News from the Vocational Faculty: the department of Law

To enhance their studies of the criminal court system, Year 12 students on the BTEC “Law and Legal Work” course enjoyed a visit to Bexleyheath Magistrates’ Courts, just before the Christmas break. Their coursework task required analysis of the process of a criminal trial and the different roles of the legal personnel involved. The students were suitably impressed by the ‘real-world’ version of the court process, compared to the popular television and film adaptations.

Molly James commented that seeing a trial in action helped her more clearly understand the process she would be describing in her report, whilst Chloe Pattison was surprised by the layout of the courtroom and found listening to the facts of the case very interesting. She added that she could use lots of the information gained in her visit to enhance her coursework.

Simron Begum and Jack Wickham agreed that the visit definitely helped them understand the task better and greatly improved their understanding of the court process. Amy Verdigi found the visit so interesting that she is seriously considering a career within the court system, while Madison Dobell was intrigued as to whether the defendant would be found guilty or not!

The Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the courts, as well as widening their knowledge of such legal matters. The experience proved, once again, the on-going appeal of vocational BTEC qualifications to students in terms of providing access to career paths which are interesting and worth pursuing.

Ms I Terry, Vocational Faculty Leader / Law Subject Leader

Careers and Work Experience 2020

Year 10 Work Experience - 6th – 17th July 2020

Only 2 weeks left until completed placement forms must be returned!

If you have already found a placement and still need to arrange for the placement form to be completed please ensure that it is returned by Friday 14th February. Students who have not secured a placement by Friday 14th February will attend school during the Work Experience period attending Year 9 lessons in school uniform.



Mrs Smith

Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Finance News

- The Finance office regrets that we are unable to offer change to students who bring in large note denominations (£10, £20 or £50 notes) for the purpose of using the cash loader in the canteen.
- Card payments, please be reminded that as of September 2019 the Finance staff can no longer process card payments on your behalf, this is due to Anti-Fraud regulations and the new 3D secure system that banks have implemented.

- The Wisepay App is now widely used by Blackfen Parents as a quick and easy method of making food and drink payment top ups, trip payments and classroom sales. To download the App, visit either the App Store (Apple users) or Google Play (Android users) and search for the Wisepay App. You will then need to input Blackfen School's Organisation code which is **66447546**
- We are often asked what the process is for collecting Revision guides when they have been purchased on Wisepay. Once you have purchased the Revision guide on Wisepay, your daughter should then visit the Finance office at Break time or Lunch time to have their planner signed by Finance to confirm the purchase. The student should then visit the Subject department office with their planner to collect the book.

Finance Department.

Calendar of Events 2019 – 2020

Dates scheduled so far

Date	Event
3 rd – 8 th February 2020	Trip to Berlin & Krakow
3 rd – 14 th February 2020	Year 9 Taster lessons
13 th February 2020	Year 9 Options Evening 5.30pm Green/Red 1 – 9 and Blue 1 – 4 6.15pm Yellow/Purple 1 – 9 and Blue 5 – 9
17th – 21st February 2020	Half Term
24 th February 2020	Year 11 Parents meeting 6pm
25 th February 2020	Challenge Day 2
27 th February 2020	Year 9 Parents Evening 1. 4.30 - 6.30 Green/Red/Blue 1-4
3 rd March 2020	Extended Staff Briefing – School starts at 8.45am
4 th March 2020	Sixth Form 'Next Steps' Information Evening'
5 th March 2020	Year 9 Parents Evening 2 Yellow/Purple/Blue 5-9
10 th March 2020	Careers Evening
18 th March 2020	Year 9 Subject Selection Interviews
19 th March 2020	Year 11 PFS afternoon
20 th March 2020	Year 9 DTP Catchup vaccinations
23 rd – 27 th March 2020	Achievement Assemblies
26 th March 2020	Jack Petchey Regional Final
27 th March 2020	Easter Concert date to be confirmed
3 rd April 2020	Last day of term school finishes at 12.50
6th – 17th April 2020	Easter Holidays
23 rd – 24 th April 2020	D of E Practice
30 th April 2020	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 8th May 2020	Bank Holiday
14 th May 2020	Year 8 Parents Evening
19 th May 2020	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
20 th May 2020	Year 12 A Level results Assembly

21 st – 24 th May 2020	D of E Final
25th – 29th May 2020	Half Term
2 nd June 2020	Extended Staff Briefing – School starts at 8.45am
5 th June 2020	Year 8 HPV Catchup vaccinations
17 th June 2020	Year 10 Work Experience Assembly
19 th June 2020	Year 11 Celebration
24 th June 2020	Exams Contingency Date
26 th June 2020	Year 12 Induction Day
1 st July 2020	Challenge Day 3
6 th – 13 th July	Celebration Presentations
7 th July 2020	Year 6 Induction Day and Parents Induction Evening
14 th July 2020	Sports Day
15 th & 16 th July 2020	Discover Days
17 th July 2020	Last day of Term school finishes at 12.50