



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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<http://www.facebook.com/BlackfenSchoolForGirls>

30th April 2021

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Vivien Donovan

I am starting the newsletter with some very sad news. At the end of last week we heard that Vivien Donovan had sadly passed away. Viv, as she was affectionately known, was a midday supervisor at the school from 1 January 1974 – yes 1974 - until her illness meant that she could not work any longer and she retired in early 2020. She knew the students well and she was passionate about her job and the difference she could make to young people. Viv also ran the creche facility during the open evening events. Always immaculately dressed, nothing was too much trouble for her as she zipped around the school during lunchtimes, and she was very fast on her feet! Our thoughts, sincere condolences and best wishes are with her family and friends at this very sad time.

It has been good to see young people back in school after the Easter break and it is good to see that students in KS3 are now doing practical dance and drama lessons. We are hoping that, in the coming weeks and months, we are able to extend our curriculum opportunities for students as we ease out of lockdown. To enable us to do this, students must continue to self-test at home twice weekly and report their test result on the NHS app and on the Microsoft form on the school website. More test kits will be distributed to students next week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Assembly reflections

During the first 2 weeks of term we have been able to reflect on several important events. We remembered Prince Philip following his recent death at the age of 99. It was national Stephen Lawrence day on 22 April. A day to remember his life and his tragic death in a racist attack in Eltham. The theme for the day this year is Community matters now more than ever. The assembly gave us a chance to reflect and think about how we can take action to make society fairer and more inclusive.

Last week was international Earth day and, during the assembly, young people were asked to reflect on their role in making the earth and environment more sustainable for future generations.

The theme for Earth day this year was Restore our earth. Again, the day is about raising awareness but, more importantly, about taking action.

Full time meals

Ms Thomas has written to all parents/carers this week about the full time meals campaign. Marcus Rashford has continued the work he started last year and his latest project aims to end food poverty. He has teamed up with chef Tom Kerridge and the pair have launched a series of recipes and online video lessons, which will be available each week on Instagram. These meals will be cost effective and simple to make. The dishes include Mexican-style chicken, Spaghetti Bolognese and fish finger sandwiches. The idea is that no one has to go to bed feeling hungry. Please take a look at the information on this.

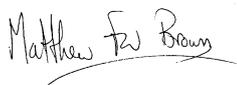
Staffing

Ms Keenan has been appointed as permanent student support officer for the Green community. Ms Smith joins us as finance assistant on 4 May 2021.

Future dates

3 May – May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 7 June – Additional INSET day (as notified in the letter this week)



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors Message

Welcome back to everyone from the Easter break, we hope you all enjoyed the easing of lockdown.

On behalf of the Governors, I would like to express our sadness at the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The school has been associated with the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for many years. The students who have taken part over the years have acquired valuable skills which the curriculum in school is not able to cover. Many have achieved the Gold Award. The skills learnt can assist them in their future life and are also extra credits to include on their CV's for future employment as the scheme is thought very highly of by employers.

Each year the Governors participate in a 'Governors Day' where guest speakers are invited to share their expertise on a variety of subjects pertaining to governance. Due to the pandemic the day went ahead virtually on Teams very successfully. However, there was great disappointment as the bacon rolls didn't quite come up to their normal standard as virtually they lacked taste!

This term is normally the run up to GCSE and A'Level examinations. As you have all been advised, the students are being assessed internally for their final grades. We wish all participating students good luck and hope they achieve their required grades.

As the end of this lockdown is approaching here's to a happy Spring and Summer Term to you all. The Governors would like to take this opportunity on congratulating all staff, students and parents on the successful uptake of all the procedures created by the pandemic. It's been a very challenging and difficult time for all.

Take care and stay safe.

Carol Townsend, Vice Chair of Governors

NCS Summer 2021

For parents of year 11

Please see attached information we have been asked to forward to you from Charlton Athletic Community Trust regarding the NCS programme. In previous years, Blackfen Students who have taken part in the programme have found it to be extremely valuable and we wanted to share with you the opportunity this year for your daughter to participate.

Careers

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair on Wednesday 26th May

We are encouraging students to take part in the **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair on Wednesday 26th May** (12:00-18:00). This free event features a multitude of universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers from around the UK, along with 10 interactive webinars and **virtual campus tours**. It is aimed at years 10, 11, 12, and 13 as well as parents. The event will provide your child with all the information they need to make informed decisions about their post-18 options.

Students, parents and carers simply need to register online at: <https://ukunisearchsouth.vfairs.com>

Students and parents can **chat directly** with a mixture of Russell Group, red brick, and modern universities from around the UK to find out invaluable information about courses and life at university, and discover what **admissions tutors** are looking for in UCAS applications. Attendees can also speak to colleges, universities and local and national companies about their **apprenticeship schemes**.

10 interactive webinars will run throughout the day on a variety of university and apprenticeship topics, such as UCAS Personal Statements, Careers & Employability, Clearing, Student Finance, and Apprenticeships. There is also a special webinar to help support parents and teachers taking place at 17:00. The webinars are run by university and apprenticeship professionals who will also host Q&A sessions after the presentations. You can view the webinar timetable using this link: <https://ukunisearchsouth.vfairs.com/en/webinar-timetable>

Students should try to register in advance to receive reminder emails with new exhibitor alerts, information on how the day will work and how your child can make the most of the exhibitor interactions.

Each webinar is recorded so students can watch any of interest after the live session has taken place. After 2nd June all webinars will be available to stream on StudentStream along with lots of other videos from universities: <http://studentstream.co.uk>

Please encourage your son or daughter to book their free place and view the webinar timetable here: <https://ukunisearchsouth.vfairs.com>

Mrs Smith

Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator



We are excited to announce that parents of our school have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series this year. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their

webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

The schedule for this term begins on the 27th April and is included below:

- 27th April** | Exam Preparation and Skills
- 11th May** | Memory Skills
- 25th May** | Time Management
- 15th June** | Motivation
- 6th July** | Technology

Registration is essential and is free for you as a parent of the school. You can register for free at: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

The webinar is run **live online from 6pm – 7pm** where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask them questions directly.

Should you have questions or would like to contact Elevate directly, their details are listed below.

☎ 01865 987 732

✉ ukcoaching@elevateeducation.com

🌐 <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

👉 www.facebook.com/ElevateParentsUK/

Additional Information

Please may we remind parent/carers to inform the Attendance Officer at school if your daughter has to leave school early or arrive late due to an appointment. It would also help if a note could be written in their planner to show their teacher. If it is a last minute appointment then please telephone the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Calendar of Events 2020 - 2021

Remaining dates scheduled so far

Date	Event
Monday 3rd May 2021	Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May 2021	Year 7 Parents Evening (online)
Thursday 20 th May 2021	Year 10 Parents Evening (online)
Friday 21 st May 2021	Years 8 & 9 HPV/DTP Vaccinations (Catchups)
31st May - 4th June 2021	Half Term
Monday 7 th June 2021	Additional INSET day
Friday 16 th July 2021	Last Day of Term
19th/20th/21st July 2021	INSET DAYS