



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

1st March 2024

Head Teacher's Message

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you had a good half term. We have had a good start to this very short half term at the school with students in examination groups working hard in preparation for final examinations. Trips from New York and Berlin and Krakow returned safely prior to half term and this half term we have our ski-ing trip. On Saturday, year 10 students were involved in their Duke of Edinburgh practice. I thank all staff who have led on these trips or are leading trips this half term.

On Friday (today) we held our second cultural day. It is earlier this year so that all year groups are involved. My thanks to all those involved in leading the activities during the day and for planning for the day. I also thank families for giving up their time to support this. Money raised from the day is going towards the Freedom from Torture charity.

Our annual careers forum takes place on Tuesday 5 March 2024. This is always a busy event and a great opportunity for young people along with parents/carers to find out more about future choices. We have welcomed parent/carers of year 11 students to special assemblies this week, which focus on examination preparation.

Staffing news

Congratulations to Ms Tempest on the birth of her baby boy during half term. We have welcomed Ms Sharma (TA) and Ms Street (MFL teacher) to the school.

End of term

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

Best wishes

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Elevate

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **exam preparation** on March 5th.

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 maximise your child's marks in exams by helping them to prioritise the work that really matters over the next few weeks.

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams

Tuesday 5th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

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

- ✓ Prioritise your child's high-impact work to maximise marks
- ✓ Improve your child's time management to avoid last-minute preparation
- ✓ Help your child study effectively using past papers

[Click here to register for free](#)

We hope to see you there!

Challenge Day- Tuesday 22nd February 2024

Year 9

What did they have to do:

Throughout the day year 9 students participated in a variety of dance and drama activities to really stretch them creatively and challenge them to explore not only their inner performer but also their inner theatre critic, director, choreographer and editor.

Students participated in a Hairspray workshop with 'Alexander Rowles' a professional dancer where they learnt a routine from the show. They also worked collaboratively to create a 'dance for film' where students explored creating dance content specifically for film. They used different camera angles and had fun filming dance all around the school, these clips were edited and sent to Mrs Jarman who will create a whole year 9 video. The students also had time looking at and

performing a script from 'My mother said I never should...' a funny play which allows them to play a variety of characters and to finish off the dance and drama element of the day, they watched a live recording of hairspray and had their go at being theatre critics. They reviewed the lighting, set, costume and sound and evaluated its effectiveness.

The final session of the day was a safety on public transport talk. This was a fun, interactive and insightful talk which gave year 9 lots of useful tips and strategies for how to stay safe not only on their way too and from school but in all areas of life when using transport.

What did they like about each session:

Students commented that they 'loved' trying new things and being able to spend the day being creative. Another said that they loved learning the Hairspray routine from a dancer who was in the show, he encouraged and motivated them to have fun and build their confidence. The dance for film was a very popular hour with students being extremely creative using the school benches, art walls and field to create interesting concepts.

Overall:

Overall the staff were extremely impressed with the way year 9 conducted themselves throughout the day, they participated well with an open mind and a willingness to try new skills and improve. The whole day had a lovely feel and it was lovely to see year 9 not only enjoy themselves but thrive.





Ms Jarman
Subject Leader of Dance and Drama
Second in Charge, Expressive Arts Faculty

Year 10

Vocational Faculty Challenge Day

The Vocational Faculty shared aspects of their subject in more detail with the Year 10 students.

In ICT students learned how to create animations using Wick Editor, online animation software. This was something the students were unfamiliar with and thoroughly enjoyed using newly gained skills in engaging and fun activities.

Students researched and gained an indepth understanding of dementia in their Health and Social Care session. They gained knowledge on the symptoms, diagnosis and management of this condition, creating an informative poster to be displayed in the classroom. The business sessions enabled students to gain knowledge in relation to financial documents with a focus on the terminology and the meanings of words found on a payslip.

Students replicated the TV show Dragons Den in Economics, coming up with their own business idea, costing it and then selling it to the Dragons – their classmates.

For Law, students learned how laws are made by Parliament and then came up with some laws of their own.

All students engaged and seemed to enjoy the sessions, they hopefully gained some new knowledge and may have been inspired to further research these topics.

Ms I Gilles-Terry
Faculty Leader Vocational Faculty
TLL Law

Intermediate Maths Challenge – Years 9 and 10

On Wednesday 31st January ,120 students in Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge . The 60 minute challenge consisted of 25 multiple choice questions , which encouraged mathematical reasoning , precision of thought and fluency which really made the students think !

The Maths faculty are extremely proud of all students who competed in this national competition and some students were recognised with awards:

Silver award

Martha H (Y7)
Wei Qi Y (B6)

Bronze award

Prisha G (G8)
Dhimitra H (P7)
Amelia L (B3)
Lakshana N (B7)
Iris N (B6)
Maya T (R8)
Arshi V (R7)
Grace W (P7)
Sumayya A (G8)
Madison B (B9)
Emilia C (B3)
Daisy D (R9)
Sanjana E (Y4)
Jessica L (R6)
Adhira P (G9)
Hollie P (R2)
Alexia T (Y2)

One student in Year 9, Martha H, achieved such fantastic results they have now been invited to take part in the follow up Grey Kangaroo Maths challenge in March.

A big congratulations to all students who took part.

Miss Cole

Second in Charge Maths department

NUMERACY CORNER

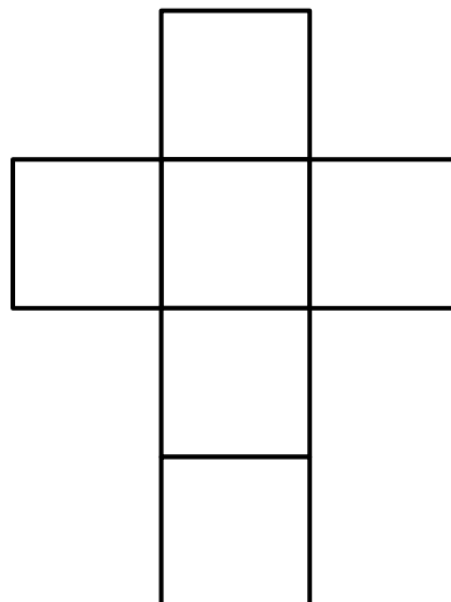
(answers next time)

NEWTON'S CROSSES PUZZLE 5A

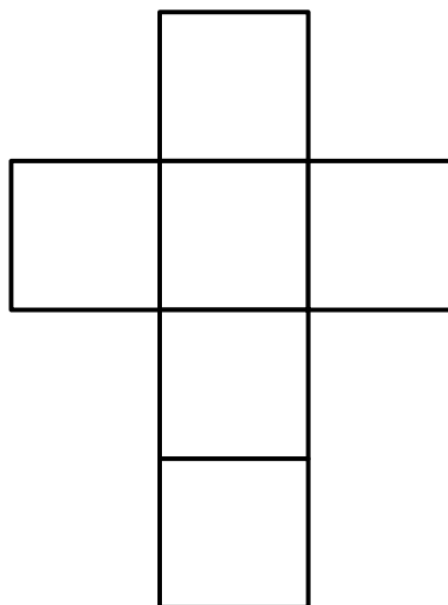
1) Write the numbers -6, -4, 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the correct place so that each line of the cross adds up to 3.

-6 -4 1 2 3 5

Total must be 3



2) Write the numbers -6, -5, 2, 3, 4 and 7 in the squares so that each line of the cross adds up to 0.

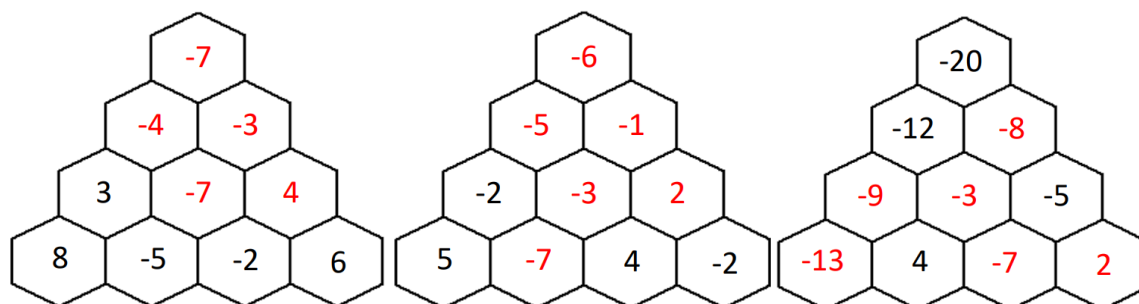


-6 -5 2 3 4 7



Total must be 0

Last puzzle answers:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events scheduled so far

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 5 th March 2024	Careers Forum
Thursday 7 th March 2024	Year 11 PFS Year 12 'Next Steps' Parents Information Evening
Thursday 14 th March 2024	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 15 th March 2024	Year 10 Dance Workshop
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 Thursday 16 th May 2024	D of E Bronze Final Expedition 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