



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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12th May 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a strange 2 weeks that was. Punctuated by industrial action and two bank holiday Mondays it is good to have a clear few weeks coming up. We said all the best to students in years 13 and 11 this week. We know that they will be very successful in the future and we wish them all the best in the examinations and in their future ventures. For parents/carers, who have been associated with the school for many years, I thank you for your ongoing work and support for the school.

Over the last few weeks we have led safeguarding assemblies in the school. Students have been introduced to a facility for them to report any safeguarding concerns that they have about themselves or about another young person and this has been in use over the last few weeks. There are a committed team of safeguarding officers in the school working alongside Ms Glen (student welfare manager) and myself. We are both Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

Auditions took place this week for the summer showcase next half term. We look forward to a packed programme of performances at this final showcase event of the year.

This half term finishes on Friday 26 May at the normal time. Next half term starts on Monday 5 June at the normal time. It will be Week A. The summer term finishes on Wednesday 19 July at 12.15pm.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS UPDATE

CONTINGENCY DAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS SITTING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

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 2023 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 at a later date (on the contingency day), so that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications. The examination contingency dates this year are as follows:

- 8th June 2023 – Afternoon
- 15th June 2023 – Afternoon
- Wednesday 28th June 2023 – 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 and until Wednesday 28th June 2023, including 8th June 2023 (afternoon) and 15th June 2023 (afternoon). This decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates in all schools.

Parents, carers and students should note the dates of the contingency days in the event that an exam board needs to invoke its contingency plan. They should also ensure **that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate** and updated, as necessary, so that students can be contacted quickly.

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.

YEAR 11 ARRANGEMENTS

As from Monday 15th May, study leave operates which means that Year 11 students attend school only to sit their public examinations. If they are unable to go home between examinations, students 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.

EARLY LUNCHES

Light lunch items will be available to Year 11 students from the 'Food Cube' (NOT the canteen) at the earlier time of 12.15pm to 12.45pm, as from Monday 15th 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.

COLLECTION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS

A Level results are published on **Thursday 17th August** and will be available for collection in the **Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.00am - 10.00am 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.

Year 12 students collecting **GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics results** should come into school on **Thursday 24th August from 9.00am - 11.00am** and go the **Performance Space**. (See information below)

GCSE and BTEC examination results are published on **Thursday 24th August** and will be available for collection in the **Performance Space from 9.00am to 11.00am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents 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. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS: COLLECTION OF LEVEL 3 BTEC RESULTS

Level 3 BTEC results for current Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 17th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 10.00am - 11.00am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be distributed to students at the beginning of term in September.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parfitt or Miss O'Connor (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations.

Ms Minnis, Deputy Headteacher

Attendance

There is a new School Attendance Policy at Blackfen please see a fully copy on our website. However, just to remind parents/carers of the following:

- Absence must be reported on the absence line by 8am DAILY (i.e. every day the child is absent – we cannot presume when they are returning from an illness)
- Absence of 3 days and over must have medical evidence or will be recorded as unauthorised
- leave of absence during term time is granted by the headteacher only in 'exceptional circumstances' such as:
 - ✓ acute family trauma
 - ✓ terminal illness or death of a family member
 - ✓ if a family member serves in the Armed Forces - Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays
 - ✓ health professional advice
 - ✓ special out of school programmes

Please contact me at the school during 7-12.30 if you need help or further clarification .

Mrs Sheila McGee
Attendance Officer

Mathematics Faculty.

Over the last couple of couple of months we have entered some of our students in the UKMT Maths Challenges which is a national maths competition.

All of our students who took part did really well with some being recognized with rewards.

In the Junior Maths Challenge (years 7 and 8)

Our students achieved 1 Gold, 6 Silver and 26 Bronze awards.

In the Intermediate Maths Challenge (year 9 and 10)

Our students achieved 1 Gold, 6 Silver and 23 Bronze awards.

With one student making it through to the very challenging Pink Kangaroo competition.

In the Senior Maths Challenge (year 13)

All students who took part got a Bronze award.

The Mathematics faculty are delighted with all students who took part in this national competition and our congratulations go to all students who took part.

Ms McMahon

Faculty Leader of Mathematics

Elevate Webinar

Dear Parents,

RE: Upcoming webinar for parents: *How to Help Your Child Manage Their Stress & Wellbeing*

We are excited to announce that Elevate Education's second free webinar of the Summer Term will be taking place on Tuesday 23rd May.

Elevate Education 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 you can help better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school:

Tuesday 23rd May (6-7pm)

How to Help Your Child Manage Their Stress & Wellbeing

[Click here to register for free](#)

In this webinar, Elevate will be showing parents:

- ✓ How to spot your child's stress symptoms early
- ✓ How to start a conversation about emotional wellbeing
- ✓ Techniques your child can use to self-manage stress

Student Community Rewards Spring Term 2022 – 2023

It has been a busy term for Staff who have been issuing achievement points for students in years 7-11. Reward Postcards have been sent to all students who are one of the top 20 highest reward point achievers in their community. In addition to this we also randomly pick one of the top 20 highest reward point achievers in each community to win a £10 gift card. The students who were selected this term are:

Arisha – Blue 8
Lily – Green 6
Christina – Purple 6
Lacey - Red 9
Martha – Yellow 7

Well done!

Remember if you are one of the highest reward point achievers you will be entered into the draw each half term with the chance of winning a gift card.

Points have been tallied up to the end of Spring term and the community reward table is as below.

Community	Rewards
Blue	4886
Green	7692
Purple	5208
Red	6458
Yellow	6391
Grand Total	30635

At present we have **Green Community** taking the lead with Red Community in second place! Well done to the following forms for being the highest achievers, your form prize will be with you shortly-

Blue 5
Green 5
Purple 1
Red 4
Yellow 2

We look forward to accumulating the points up to half term in May to see if there has been a change in the lead for the title! Good Luck!

Miss R Padbury & Mrs K Smith
Reward Co-ordinators

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 18 th May 2023	Governors Finance Audit & Risk Meeting
29th May – 2nd June 2023	Half Term
Wednesday 7 th June 2023	Catchup Vaccination Day
Thursday 8 th June 2023	Governors Staffing Meeting
21 st – 23 rd June 2023	Year 12 Eastbourne Trip
Thursday 22 nd June 2023	Governors Finance Audit & Risk Meeting
Tuesday 27 th June 2023	Summer Showcase
Thursday 29 th June 2023	Challenge Day 3
Friday 30 th June 2023	Induction Day Year 12
Tuesday 4 th July 2023	Year 6 Induction Day/Evening
Monday 17 th & Tuesday 18 th July 2023	Discover Days
10 th – 14 th July 2023	Celebration Presentations
10 th – 21 st July 2023	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 19 th July 2023	Summer Term Finishes students leave early
Thursday 20th & Friday 21st July 2023	INSET Days