



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

20th July 2023

Head Teacher's Message

The school year draws to a close this week and I would like to take this opportunity to do two things. Firstly, to thank staff, on your behalf, for all their work this year. Secondly, to thank you on behalf of all staff for all your support during the last year. At times I am sure it has not been easy but, through working with us, we know that these partnerships enable young people to be successful.

The term ended with plenty of activities taking place. Sports day was mildly interrupted by the rain but we managed to get out there eventually. My thanks to Mr Momodu for his work and Ms Magrowski for her work in leading this event. Sports day was followed by two fantastic days of activities during DiscoverPride. My thanks to Ms Dunsdon for leading on this. Work experience, again, has been a great success and this has been led by Ms Smith. We thank her for her work. We look forward to welcoming our new year 7 to the school next week until Wednesday for their summer school. Thank you to Ms Hayford for leading this.

School office hours during the summer holiday

The school office will be manned from 7th August to 31st August on most days, if you need to come into school please do call first to arrange.

Staffing news

There are some staff leaving the school at the end of the year taking up a variety of roles, position or retirement both in the UK and abroad. We wish them all the best in the future.

Ms Threlfall

Ms Threlfall has led changes in the music department during the year and she was instrumental in leading students during the recent showcase. We wish her all the best in her new school.

Ms Johnson-Newell

Ms Johnson- Newell has worked at the school over the last few years covering in art and in social sciences. We wish her all the best in the future.

Ms Glen

Ms Glen returned to Blackfen school in January 2023 having previously worked in the school. During her relatively short time in the school she has led the student welfare team and has been responsible for safeguarding in the school. We will miss her expertise and work with young people as she takes up a role in another school. We wish her all the best in the future.

Ms Davis

We wish Ms Davis all the best as she moves on to a new school which is nearer to home. She has given 7 years of fabulous service to the school. During this time at the school she has built up and led the dance and drama area of the curriculum. Ms Davis has led many performances within the school and she will be greatly missed by us all. Students have gained confidence, displayed outstanding performance skills and had a great deal of fun while working with Ms Davis.

Ms Wood

The school now has a fully fledged crochet club due to the work of Ms Wood, who is leaving to take up a position in a primary school after 7 years working at Blackfen school. As a key part of the technology department, Ms Wood has led the development of textiles in the school and I thank her for her specialist input to this area. Always seeking new ways with different, especially waste, materials, I know that Ms Wood has inspired many young people during her time at Blackfen school.

Ms Pena

After 2 years of great work in MFL, I would like to thank Ms Pena all the best as she returns to Spain to continue her teaching career. We are hoping that she will return to us after a year working in Spain. So this is adieu or adios rather than farewell.

Ms White

Ms White, a former student of the school, joined our science department in September 2022. We wish her every success as she continues with her teaching career in her new school.

Ms McInnes

When Ms Doyle became temporary assistant head teacher in the school, Ms McInnes was appointed as subject leader for RS. At the end of this year she will be leaving and we thank her for her work in the school during her short time at the school.

Ms Kaur

We wish Ms Kaur all the best as she takes up a new role in a school in London. Ms Kaur was the first head of year we have had at the school for many years. I thank her for all her work in developing this role.

Ms Parfitt

After more or less exactly 20 years at the school, Ms Parfitt, who is one of our examinations officers in addition to being a departmental clerical assistant, is leaving to take up a full time examinations officer role in another school. Over the years, Ms Parfitt has overseen huge changes to the examination system including leading this area when examinations did not run during Covid. Always a calm face for young people, Ms Parfitt has been instrumental in making sure young people are entered for the correct examinations along with being one of the faces they first see when they receive their results. We wish Ms Parfitt all the best in the future.

Mr McGee

Mr McGee retires at the end of this school year after a total of over 30 years services to education working in secondary schools. He joined Blackfen in 2004 as assistant head teacher with responsibility for the mathematics and computing specialist status at the school. He has led many areas in the school and has been the strategic leader of ICT in the school. Mr McGee is fully committed to making a difference for all young people and he has combined his role at Blackfen with that of being a governor at a local primary school. An avid Chelsea fan, which we won't count against him, Mr McGee is looking forward to his retirement when he can spend more time with his family as well as going to see his favourite bands across the world. I thank him for all his work, his leadership and his friendship during the time I have worked with him at the school.

The following staff are changing their roles slightly in September. Ms Davies, English teacher, will stay at the school as a cover supervisor. I thank her for her work in English. Ms Langridge who was teaching in the resource provision when it was first established many years ago, will remain in this area as a teaching assistant rather than a teacher. Ms Doyle will move back to her faculty leader of humanities role and Ms Hoad will move back to her assistant head teacher role. I thank them both for their work as part of the school's leadership team.

At the start of July we welcomed the following new staff to the school. Ms Davis, teacher of drama, Ms Mitchell, teacher of health and social care, Ms Hussain and Ms Ahmed, both as teachers of mathematics. We wish them every success on their journey with us at Blackfen school.

Start of term – September 2023

A letter will be sent out in August to confirm all the details but the key dates and times are outlined below for you.

Tuesday 5 September 2023

Year 11 start at 8.30am

Year 7 start at 9am

Years 8-10 start at 12.15pm

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Year 13 start at 8.30am

Year 12 working at home today (Start in school on 7th September 8.30am)

Examination results days

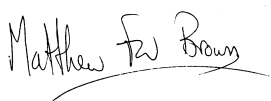
A Level results are published on **Thursday 17th August** and will be available for collection in the **Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.00am - 10.00am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends.

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.

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 to 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.

Finally, I wish you and your family a very pleasant and relaxing few weeks and I look forward to working with you again next year.



Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Governors Message

As the school year ends we can reflect on a challenging but successful one. The demands placed on us all by the spectre of Covid-19 seem to have receded, but adapting to the post-Covid World has been different but equally challenging. Every member or associate of the school can look back with pride on their flexible responses. Now is the time for everyone associated with the 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 post Covid-19 demands and the return to normal teaching, learning and assessment conditions. The school's overall strategy for the next academic year was also outlined, including budget monitoring and enhanced infrastructure. This strategy 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.

Parents evenings and events have been attended by members of the Governing Body. This included in particular the excellent Summer Showcase. The termly book review competition was again judged with some excellent and varied contributions. Governing Body members also attended the farewell gathering for Mr McGee's retirement. The list of his excellent contributions to the School is too long to itemise here. Suffice it to say without his wise counsel and strengths in Mathematics, IT infrastructure and Careers the School would have been a poorer place to study and work. We wish him well in the future as he takes a well-earned rest!

Finally 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 successful year for those returning to the School in the Autumn.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Year 10 Careers Challenge and Work Experience Challenge Day

On Thursday 29th June, Year 10 students were able to partake in a Careers and Work Experience Day. The aim of this was to prepare them for their work experience placements which started on 10th July. Please read the student report below:

"This year's year 10 Challenge Day was so much fun yet educational. The Rah Rah theatre company made the do's and don't's of customer service and work experience really interesting and showed us how to apply teamwork and communication in real life scenarios whilst keeping us engaged; also showing us statistics of how much- averagely- that particular job sector earns per annum. If that wasn't enough, the 26 different people that came to our school to talk to us about what it is like working in each industry really opened our eyes to the endless opportunities post-secondary education and gave us an insight in the career path to choose from if we have not already."

Gabby, Year 10, Blue 3



PPE Social Enterprise Project

As part of the PPE Social Enterprise project, students took part in various activities and came up with many business ideas to raise money for two local charities. We would like to say a massive well done and thank you to everyone to who helped to raise money through their social enterprise projects. Helen from Bexley Women's Aid has written a letter to say thank you for the kind donation. We were able to raise approx. £768 after expenses, half of which has been donated to Bexley Women's Aid. The other half of the money has been donated to the Anthony Fitzgerald Memorial Fund with CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

Mrs Laryea-Daniels
Social Sciences Faculty Leader
Teacher of Politics, Citizenship & PPE

"Dear Blackfen School for Girls Yr.9,

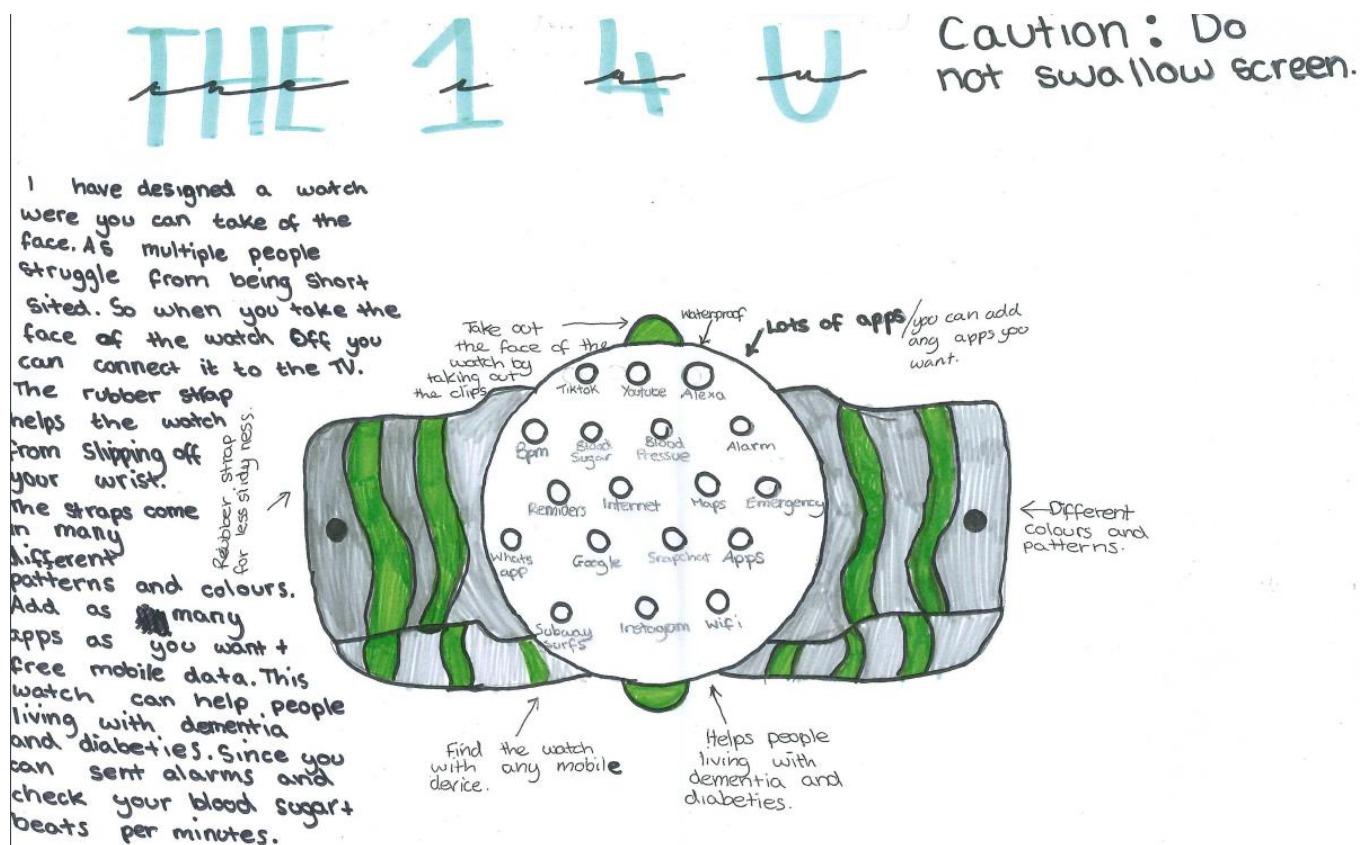
On behalf of the staff, women, children & young people we support at Bexley Women's Aid we would like to thank you for your AMAZING donation of £370.00 you have raised throughout the year. During the summer holidays we are taking our families to the seaside, many of the children & young people have not been able to go to the beach before due to their home circumstances. This will be a day to start building new & happy memories, for a safe future ahead. Your donation of plays a significant role in the services that we provide at Bexley Women's Aid, and will enable us

to keep providing as much as we can to the families we support. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity and hope that you will share our thanks with everyone involved.

Kind regards
Helen, Education & Prevention Service
Bexley Women's Aid"

Kingston University Engineering Competition

Huge congratulations go to Joanie B4 in year 7 - her design for the Engineering Competition has been Highly Commended (this means from our school she's the overall winner). She and her family are invited to Kingston University for the awards ceremony!



Congratulations also go to the following for being Shortlisted (in the final round of considerations) for the competition:

Balpreet B3, Kara Y3, Mia B5, Lyla R2, Maddie R8, Menahel G3, Mia G. and Olivia-Grace P6.

Emilie's Summer School

The Summer Holidays are very close by now and I would like to let you know I will be running a Summer Camp at St Paulinus over the Summer Break.

One day will be for KS1 and the other for KS2. It will be a Musical Theatre inspired Summer Camp. It will include Singing, Outdoor Activities, Confidence building and much more.

Classes will be 10am till 1pm. It will include 45min lunch break. Please make sure lunch is provided. It will be £30 for each day.

Dates below on when this will be running.
Also, poster attached with all information.

Wednesday 9th August 10 - 1pm
Thursday 10th August 10 - 1pm

Wednesday 16th August 10 - 1pm
Thursday 17th August 10 - 1pm

Tuesday 22nd August 10 - 1pm
Thursday 24th August 10 - 1pm

Tuesday 29th August 10 - 1pm
Thursday 31st August 10 - 1pm

Please let me know if you have any further questions email me at emilie.fitzgerald@btinternet.com
I look forward to welcoming the children who are interested. It's going to be so much fun.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 17 th August 2023	A Level Results Day BTEC Results Day
Thursday 24 th August 2023	GCSE Results Day
Tuesday 5 th September 2023	New Term begins (see details above for timings)