



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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3rd March 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you had a good half term break. We are now starting the final countdown towards end of course examinations for students in years 11, 12 and 13. Time seems to go really quickly and I cannot believe that we are back to March again. We know how much work is going on to support our young people and we know how hard they are working in preparation for the final examinations. Our recent successful challenge day helped to support students on revision techniques in year 11. International women's day was celebrated in year 8 and year 7 all visited the Tower of London. It was a really good alternative day.

On one Saturday in February, the school supported the Turkish school in being the centre to receive donations in support of those people affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We were all amazed at the response and anyone driving past the school will have seen the huge amounts of donations brought in during the day. Three of our students volunteered to take part and were here for most of the day – Skylar, Saniya and Lea. My thanks go to them. The site staff – Mr Wood and Mr Pallen – worked alongside members of the Turkish school in making sure all donations were boxed up and taken away. I thank them for their work, which was also voluntary.

Staffing news

We said farewell to Ms Langham at the end of last half term. We wish her all the best in the future. We also said goodbye to Ms Blackburn, science technician and we wish her all the best. We welcome Ms Norris to the school as teacher of PE.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Careers and Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience 10th – 21st July 2023

Many exciting placements have already been secured (including IT, veterinary, police, law and dentistry and I would like to thank all the Year 10 students and their parents/carers for the work they have put in to secure these placements. I will be seeing the small number of students who have not yet returned their form over the next few weeks. **If you have been offered a placement but still need confirmation or for the employer to complete the form please chase them up.** Many students are also completing a virtual work experience placement as due to the pattern of hybrid working many companies are still working from home. If this appeals to your child please ask them to come to Room 106 and speak to me regarding places.

Students who have not secured a placement will attend school during the Work Experience period attending Year 9 lessons in school uniform.

Blackfen School for Girls Careers Forum Tuesday 7th March

We will be holding our Annual Careers Forum on **Tuesday 7th March from 4.30pm – 7.00pm.**

Information has been sent out my email with a reply slip. **If you have not returned your reply slip you are still able to attend the Careers Forum between the following times:**

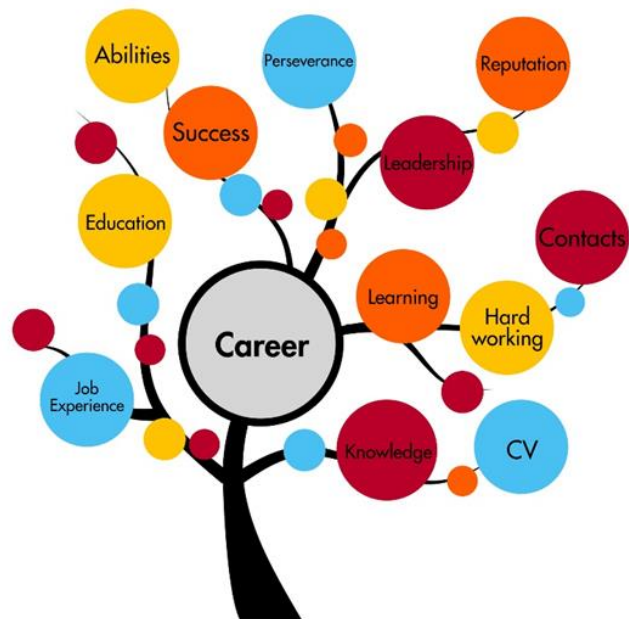
4.30pm – 5.15pm

5.15pm – 5.45pm

5.45pm - 6.30pm

6.30pm – 7.00pm

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity for both students and parents to find out more about a wide range of careers and the choices available for both Further and Higher Education, by providing you with the chance speak to the representatives of these organisations and establishments.



to

We would like to see as many students/parents (year 8 – year 13) attend as we expect the evening to be both interesting and informative.

Careers Guidance support to students in Year 9

Our new careers adviser Liz Wynn Owen from CER has started group work with Year 9 students in preparation of their Key Stage 4 Course Selection. These group sessions will continue until Thursday 8th March.

Your daughter was issued with the 'Year 9 preparation for Key Stage Course Selection booklet' during a community session in December. The booklet will help her to reflect and think through the selection process, with sections of the booklet to be completed together with your daughter. The booklet should be completed at home and community time and your daughter should bring it to her small group careers interview and her final Key Stage 4 course selection meeting with Blackfen School's Leadership Team on **Tuesday 14th March.**

The Key Stage 4 course selection is a guided process of which family support is essential and to ensure that your daughter has the best possible choice of training, study and employment at the end of Year 11 we ask you to take time with your daughter to complete pages 2-10 and page 21 of the booklet. **Once you have completed these pages please sign to confirm on page 1 of the booklet.**

Liz will be present at the Careers Forum on Tuesday 7th March from 4.30pm if you wish to speak to her. It is not necessary to book an appointment as she will be available all evening.

Careers Ambassadors – 2022-2023



Our team of Careers Ambassadors are now settled into their roles and are ready for their first event, which is the Careers Forum on 7th March where they will greet our exhibitors and make them feel welcome at Blackfen School. They are currently promoting the Careers Forum by talking to their form classes about what to expect at the Careers Forum and some of the exhibitors that will be attending. They hope to see you at the Careers Forum on 7th March!

Careers Ambassadors:

Ruby Purple 7, Year 8
Temilayo Yellow 2, Year 8
Blessing Yellow 5, Year 9
Blaise Purple 9, Year 10
Gabby Blue 3, Year 10
Kiera Red 4, Year 10
Madiha Blue 1, Year 10

Mrs K Smith

Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Challenge Day

Year 8

International Women's Day

Students spent the day learning about positive body image and the influence the media has on Women's perceptions of themselves (linked to mental health). Helen from Bexley Women's Aid spoke to students about the work she does in the local community to support Women. In this

session and others, students learned about the importance of healthy relationships and about contemporary influential women and women in history who have contributed to the opportunities we all have today. Student feedback on the sessions was positive.

Mrs Laryea-Daniels
Social Sciences Faculty Leader

Year 9

Dance and Drama

On Tuesday 21st February 2023 Year 9 had their Dance & Drama challenge day. This consisted of a mixture of Dance and Drama workshops and sessions throughout the day. Across the day Year 9 worked really hard and enjoyed the range of activities. Below are two accounts of the day from two of the Year 9 students who took part.



Lily U Year 9

We all took part in a challenge day. This challenge day was one of the best we have had so far. The theme for Year 9 was Dance and Drama and the workshops we all partook in were incredibly entertaining. We had 5 different activities to do in total ranging from learning dance choreography (which was very chaotic but fun none the less) to watching and analysing the Hairspray musical. My favourite activity was definitely the Drama workshop where we had to create an idea for a play from a piece of music. The man running the workshop was from London College of Performing Arts, he was incredibly nice and it was interesting to see how other people interpreted the music. Overall, I had lots of fun completing the activities and I'm sure most of my year would agree that we all would like to do something again like this in the future.



Willow D- Year 9

In year 9, for this term for challenge day we took part in activities revolving around Drama and Dance. Our first lesson of the day was learning a dance routine by a professional dancer- Jade Barrett (an ex Blackfen Student) which included a range of movements. In our second lesson we watch a production of the musical "Hairspray" and answered questions on how lighting was used, and costumes designed in the style of the decade. Not only was it fun, but it was also especially useful for anyone, including myself, wanting to take Drama as a GCSE subject. Our third lesson we teamed up in pairs to perform to our groups a duologue taken from the play "My mother said I never should." Then our next lesson was Dance for Camera where we got ourselves into groups and directed, filmed, and choreographed a contemporary dance. Our final lesson of the day was a Drama workshop taken by London school of performing arts creative director Gary Watson. Where in groups we tried to get into different letters and numbers, acted as different characters and even made up our own film Story. Overall, the day was a lot of fun!



Jade Barrett



Gary Watson from LCPA

Miss R Padbury
Subject Leader of Drama & Dance

Year 10

Game of Life

The Vocational Faculty departments delivered an interesting and interactive day of fun and learning, to the Year 10s, on Challenge Day.

The Business Department got students playing the Trade Game where each group had to make as much money as possible using only the materials they were given. Some groups had more resources to represent the richer countries, and others had less resources to represent the poorer countries.

Students could make money by manufacturing and selling goods.

Groups could trade between each other – for example if one group had no scissors they could pay another group for a pair of scissors. The price of the scissors was chosen by the group selling them – so it was up to the students to barter! Lexie said it made her appreciate how lucky she was to live in England and Millie decided she would be a brilliant negotiator in business transactions.

Students had to produce and cost a new business idea recreating Dragons Den for their Economics task. Maisie thought it was very difficult to try and think of new ideas and felt she'd probably never be an entrepreneur, whereas Lily had so many ideas and is very glad she has chosen to study Business at GCSE so that she may, in the future, develop some of her ideas.

The Health and Social Care session required students to research dementia, signs, symptoms and how it impacts on people's lives. Samantha found it very interesting as her Grandma suffers from dementia and she found some useful new information. Isabelle also found it very interesting and is now considering a career in nursing.

Students were debating for and against suggested new laws in the Law session. The groups were arguing in favour of and against a Back To Remote Learning Act. Thankfully the majority vote was against and the students prefer to be in school. The second proposed law was Banning School Uniform Act – the majority voted in favour!

Ms Gilles-Terry

Vocational Faculty Leader

PE News

PE are now delivering more sports towards our extra curriculum programme this term! Students should look out for the NEW PE CLUB posters around the PE department and on Teams.

Students should make sure to check the days for when each sport is running and arrive after school with their full PE kit. This will be a great opportunity to enhance their skills and enjoy the sports they love! We look forward to seeing them all.

Sports will range from - Football, Netball, Rugby, Table tennis and Basketball

Mr R Momodu

Subject Leader for PE

Bexley LGBTQ+ Think Tank

Blackfen takes action to improve inclusivity in Bexley

On 31st January Blackfen hosted the termly Bexley LGBTQ+ Think Tank. This provides members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies an opportunity to network and to work collaboratively with school students from across the borough, the borough council, the metropolitan police and other agencies to improve inclusivity in education. Each meeting has a theme and ours was Valentine's Day. Attendees had the opportunity to decorate wooden hearts, create paper roses, and decorate Valentine's Day cards with an LGBTQ+ twist.

We had a fantastic turn out, with over thirty young people from several schools in the borough coming together to discuss inclusivity in Bexley schools. We learned what is working well in some schools, such as having access to inclusive toilets and a dedicated safe space, an LGBTQ+ club where members of the community and their allies meet regularly to celebrate diversity and encourage inclusivity, and how some schools were celebrating LGBTQ History Month with assemblies and school wide activities.



Those present also came together to discuss what changes they would like to see in their schools moving forward. These included greater access to literature and media created by the LGBTQ+ community and that explores diversity through character and themes, greater representation across the curriculum and increased training for staff. Blackfen takes great pride in our involvement in the think tank, and we look forward to continuing to work towards improving inclusivity in our school and across the borough. Should any member of the Blackfen school community (LGBTQ+ or ally) wish to take part in future think tanks we would love to hear from you, please contact Mrs Dunsdon in room 10.

Mrs Dunsdon
Teacher of History, Student Coordinator

Turkey Earthquake Appeal Donations.

A report by Skylar, Red 9.

On Saturday 11th of February 2023, I received a phone call from my dad who was working at the school to ask me if I would help with the appeal because it was getting extremely busy. I arrived

at the school 20 minutes later. When I turned up, I saw many cars coming in and out of the school carpark to drop off bags of donations.

I walked down to Sherwood Park school's carpark and saw multiple bags and boxes piling up around me as more people were arriving to drop off their donations. This is when I began to help unload cars and even the people who were donating kindly wanted to stay back and help.



I then walked down to the performance space where I have never seen it so busy. There were people everywhere and piles upon piles of black bags, this is where people were sorting the clothes, toiletries, towels and various other items into boxes ready to load onto the vans outside which we all helped do.

By 1:30pm we had to shut the gates and stop taking donations as it became so overwhelming. I spent the rest of the day helping to pack boxes. It was such a great atmosphere with everyone working together. Several different Turkish restaurants donated meals so we could all eat. At one point I thought we was never going to finish.

Everyone worked so hard together, and we finally finished at 10pm. I ended up being there for 12 hours. It was such a great experience, there was laughter and tears, but we all pulled together and I met some great people. I am so glad I gave up my Saturday to help with such a great cause.



Thank you to the staff at the Turkish school, Mr Wood, Caretaker and Mr Pallen, SSO and to everyone who donated and helped out on the day.

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Tuesday 7 th March 2023	Careers Forum 4.30-7.00pm
Thursday 9 th March 2023	Year 11 Preparing for Success (PFS) appointments
Friday 10 th March 2023	Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	Showcase – times to be confirmed
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection Interviews
Thursday 16 th March 2023	Year 12 Parents Evening Governors Finance Audit & Risk meeting
20 th – 24 th March 2023	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 23 rd March 2023	Year 10 Parents Information Meeting
Friday 31st March 2023	Spring Term Ends – Students leave 12.15pm
3rd – 14th April 2023	Easter Holidays
Monday 17 th April 2023	Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations
Thursday 27 th April 2023	Year 7 Parents Evening
Saturday 29 th April 2023	D of E Practice Walks
Monday 1st May 2023	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 3 rd May 2023	Year 8 HPV1 and Year 9 HPV2 catchups
Thursday 4 th May 2023	Governors Premises Meeting
Thursday 11 th May 2023	Year 8 Parents Evening Governors Curriculum Meeting
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
Thursday 22 nd June 2023	Governors Finance Audit & Risk Meeting
Thursday 29 th June 2023	Challenge Day 3
Friday 30 th June 2022	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

