



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

10th November 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Dear families

I hope that you had a good half term break despite the almost incessant rain. I am sure that some of you were lucky enough to visit warmer and drier climates! We have now returned to the second half term, which is always one of the most exciting in the school calendar. It is also one of the busiest.

Just prior to half term I announced that I would be retiring from my position as Head Teacher at Blackfen school at Easter 2024. I would like to thank you for your kind and thoughtful messages received since then. The governors have now started the process to appointing a new Head Teacher at the school and parents/carers will be kept fully informed of this process during the coming months.

Students in year 12 have been taking external examinations in mathematics and English this week and these examinations continue into next week. Year 13 students have started their PPEs (Pre Public Examinations) this week and year 11 students will be embarking on their PPEs this month.

Congratulations to the years 11/10 football team who played in the 3rd round of the French League Cup this week. Although they did not progress, they played well, fought hard and put maximum effort into the match.

Staffing news

We welcome Mr Ginn to the school as a member of the site staff. Ms Brown started as a science technician last week along with Mr Owoeye as behaviour mentor.

We said farewell to Ms Dimond-Banks this week after almost 11 years at the school. She began here as careers and work experience co-ordinator before becoming a temporary student support officer (SSO) and then the permanent SSO for the purple community. During those 9 years, Ms Dimond-Banks has supported countless families and students. We thank her for her work and wish her all the best in the future.

Future dates

There is an INSET day on Monday 27 November 2023. No students are in school that day. The last day of term is Thursday 21 December 2023. School closes at 12.15 on that day. We reopen for students on Monday 8 January 2024.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Elevate Webinar

As part of the Elevate programme parents are still able to access the live webinar taking place next week. The details are as follows:

How to Help Improve Your Child's Memory

Tuesday 14th November 6:00-7:00pm

With time for a live Q&A at the end

<https://go.elevateeducation.com/e/891981/uk-schoolwebinar/q4p4f/646302582/h/8h0chBtArcGs8j2rFZ7OULaq9pkOUTquKz2P2piMwFQ>

This session will show parents how they can help their child remember the content they learn this term by using some of the **tried-and-tested techniques** we at Elevate Education coach students on in our memory workshop.

These sessions, when paired with our student workshops, can really impact how students approach study and revision.

Parents can register by clicking on the link above.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at Blackfen

As you may know, October is Black History Month, and we were very lucky to have some dedicated students deliver an excellent assembly to our school community on this topic. The theme of this year's Black History Month was 'Saluting our Sisters' and, with some help from Ms. Daniels and Mrs. Allam, Deborah and Gabrielle in Year 12, and Saniya and Lea in Year 11 delivered a truly inspiring presentation on the importance of sisterhood. All students also got to learn about the contributions of the Black community to their specific subjects as lessons were expanded to incorporate this important focus. To coincide with Black History Month, the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion focus for last half-term was Black History and Culture. Mrs Dunsdon, the EDI Lead for Blackfen, has produced a booklet brimming with information relating to Black History and Culture, including offering advice on how better to be an ally to people of colour within our community. The booklet is available for parents/carers to read on the school website, it can be found under the 'School Life\Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion' tab.

The EDI focus for this half-term is Religious Diversity. So far, the students have been learning about the Hindu and Sikh festival of lights, Diwali, via assemblies given by Assistant Headteacher, Ms. Woodhouse. As the half-term progresses there will be further opportunities for students to learn about the different religions represented throughout the school and the local community. These opportunities will take place both in subject lessons and in Community Time. Mrs Dunsdon will be creating another booklet for parents/carers regarding the focus of Religious Diversity at Blackfen and it will soon be available for you to read on the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion page on the school website.

Finally, and staying on theme, the Multi-Faith Prayer Room has been moved to a much larger space and is now located in Room 76 above the Dance and Drama studios. The prayer room is open to people of all faiths and none, as a space in which to practice religious observance or a space for quiet contemplation. We now have a sink area so that visitors to the prayer room can wash before praying, should their faith require it. We do request that all visitors to the prayer room remove their shoes and outdoor clothing in the washing area. This is to ensure the prayer space remains clean and available for use. If you have any questions regarding the prayer space, please see Mrs. Dunsdon in Room 10 or email her via admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk FAO Mrs Dunsdon. We are also very happy to accept any religious artefacts, texts, or prayer apparatus to enable our community to utilise the prayer room to its fullest.

Mrs Dunsdon
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Lead
Student Co-ordinator
Teacher of History

Reminder

Please may we remind parents that students who suffer from Asthma and have been prescribed an inhaler, it should be carried on them in school at all times. We cannot guarantee to always have a spare inhaler available in school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events scheduled so far this term

DATE	EVENT
Monday 13 th November 2023	Jack Petchey Speak Out event
Wednesday 22 nd November 2023	Challenge Day 1
Monday 27 th November 2023	Staff Inset Day – students not in school
Thursday 30 th November 2023	Year 12/13 Photography trip to Tate Modern
Thursday 7 th December 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening Ski Trip Information Evening starts at 6.15pm
13 th – 19 th December 2023	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Parents Information evening – New York Trip
Thursday 21 st December 2023	End of Term – early finish
Friday 22nd December 2023 – Friday 5th January 2024	Christmas Holiday
Monday 8 th January 2024	Spring Term starts