



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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16th June 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you had a good week at half term. We are now 2 weeks into the new half term and examinations continue for students in years 11, 12 and 13. Our year 10 students start their PPEs on Friday. This half term is going to be extremely busy as we welcome our new year 7 and year 12 students, make visits to primary schools across Bexley and beyond, hold our sports day and celebrate the successes of our young people in the celebration events near the end of term. There is also a summer showcase celebrating the work of the expressive arts faculty. I look forward to welcoming you to some of these events. These are just some of the things which are going on in school. We also have our Discover days during the last week of term which will provide opportunities for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to try something new. Year 10 students will be embarking on work experience later this term and we also have our last challenge day of the year.

As the examinations draw to a close I would like to thank the examinations team, Ms Parfitt and Ms O'Connor and the ever expanding team of invigilators for all their work under the leadership of Ms Minnis. Running external and internal examinations is a huge logistical undertaking involving staff from right across the school. I would like to thank the site staff for all their work in supporting the examinations.

The summer weather has been very welcome over the last 2 weeks. It is also good to see young people in school being very sensible, sitting in the shade at break and lunchtimes, drinking plenty of fluids and applying sunscreen before coming in to school. The pollen count has been very high and, like all schools, we have a number of hayfever sufferers. The office continue to support students with symptoms but we also aim to remind young people to take any appropriate medication for hayfever at the start of the day rather than after being on the field at lunchtime.

Staffing news

Congratulations to Ms Dubbey on the birth of her baby girl.

Dates

The term for all students finishes on Wednesday 19 July at 12.50pm. Arrangements for the start of next term will be published before the end of this term and there will be an August mailing to remind parents/carers of the detailed arrangements for the return to school. Term dates for 2024-2025 will be approved and published in the autumn term.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Governors Message

It has been a very busy year and it is hard to believe it is examination time again already! I hope everyone had a restful half-term in preparation for the final phase of this academic year.

The usual cycle of meetings have continued this term with meetings of the Premises, Curriculum, Staffing and Finance Audit and Risk Committees all taking place. The School Improvement Forum has met too, where the opportunity was taken to check the progress of the Governing Body's Action, which focuses the Governing Body's activities during the year. This meeting was an important preliminary session to prepare for the Governing Body's Training Day, which took place at the end of May. This was a well attended event where the key focus was on what makes effective governance. This question was addressed from a number of angles which included strategic vision, awareness and being able to access important data sources, conducting school visits and finally strategies for holding the Senior Leadership Team to account. The sessions were led by different speakers with numerous break-out sessions used to develop and discuss ideas. The Training Day was well attended and proved extremely useful. A warm thank you to all participants.

As indicated above school visits by governors are a crucial part of governance and these have been continuing regularly. The outcomes of these visits will be reported to the Full Governing Body when it meets in July for its final meeting of the year.

Finally the Governing Body would like to wish all students the best of luck in the public examinations which are now in full swing. We look forward to another set of fine results this year.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Attendance Update

Please can I remind parents/carers of the following:

- students should sign in if they are late (for any reason) in room 1B
- medical evidence must be provided after 3 days absence or it will be recorded as unauthorised
- please notify the school before 08.00 on the day of absence by text/email or phone call – do leave a message as it will be picked up
- you must ring in EVERY day of absence
- Please notify all absence. We cannot presume that students aren't coming in if they are sent home by medical on the previous day

Mrs S McGee
Attendance Officer

School Lockers

Please may we ask parents and carers to remind their children they need to empty their lockers before we break up in July.

The lockers are maintained and cleaned in the school holiday and any contents found inside could be lost.

This applies to the lockers outside technology and those inside school in the maths block.

Literacy Across the Curriculum

We would like to express our thanks to the many parents who provided feedback to our recent reading survey. We are, unfortunately, unable to respond to individual queries since the survey was anonymous, however I would like to address the most common queries.

Firstly, you asked for library lessons to take place. We are pleased to assure you that all Year 7 and 8 classes have one discrete hour's library lesson every other week where they may read, receive assistance with choosing books and sit reading tests and book quizzes using our Accelerated Reader Package. We also note that many parents were requesting recommended reading lists; these have always been available however, we have now updated our school website to make the library page and resources more easily accessible. Students can also obtain these lists as paper copies from the school library. Furthermore, parents also asked whether reading could place during form time. We already have a school policy whereby one CT session per week is dedicated to Drop Everything and Read and carrying a reading book is considered to be an essential item of school equipment.

Finally, many parents requested that wider reading be set by teachers as homework. I will be sharing that request with all staff. Please may I also make you aware that Year 7 and 8 already have reading logs where they are supposed to be recording independent reading they undertake at home - it has been an existing requirement that this should be 20 minutes every day. May I also remind you of the Wider Reading Across the Curriculum Booklet, which is available at parents' evenings and on the school website and has a list of texts to broaden student knowledge across all curriculum areas. Enrichment opportunities such as year 7,8 and 9 Book Club run throughout the school year.

I hope this has addressed your queries however please contact either myself or your child's English teacher should you have any remaining questions.

Please find enclosed some current resources to support reading at secondary level:

Ms Norwood
Teacher of English & Literacy Co-ordinator

Health and social care news

In September Year 10 started their option subjects. For those students who chose Health and social care they had the new experience of completing coursework in a set window of time. Here are some of their experiences:

Amber R3

Health and Social care is a good subject to take. One thing I was not prepared for was the number of things you had to learn in a short space of time. There is also a lot of coursework to do. To be able to meet the deadlines I had to change my routine and find extra time to get the work done. When I didn't leave the work until the last minute my work was much better and I had time to think through the work and not rush it.

Lily R6

I've been interested in the Health & Social care sector from a very young age, and so, I actually quite enjoyed the coursework. Unit 1 was about growth & development of different case studies, and Unit 2 was about the different Health & Social care services available. The only issue I had with it was that, quite often, it felt like we were running out of time. Despite this, I was able to get all of the support I needed from my teachers, and thanks to this, I was still able to achieve high marks despite the time restrictions. Overall, it's been a very successful first year for me, and I can't wait to see what this next year brings.

Lucy B4

I did not realise how much coursework there is to complete, but it was all worth the time it took to finish at the end when I received good marks. It took me 2-3 days to complete one task within the coursework. You need to make sure that you keep organised and make sure that all your work is completed and handed in by the deadline, otherwise you will fall behind and not get everything done.

Phoebe G9

Health and social care BTEC award is a brilliant subject to pick for year 10/11. When you reach the point of completing coursework (unit 1 & 2) there is a lot of typing and focus needed to get it done as quickly and as good as you can get. It took about 3-4 days to complete one task out of the 5. It was a stressful process to get through as you had to meet specific deadlines whilst also getting the coursework to a good standard but once it had all been completed and handed in the feeling is great and all the stress was worth it. We are now on unit 3 and our year 10 PPE, which prepares us for the exam in January 2024. This is less stressful, but you go into more depth of specific topics, so good revision notes and focus is needed to complete exam answers

Miss Morris

Head of Health and Social Care

Elevate Webinar

Dear Parents,

RE: [*Upcoming webinar for parents – How to Help Get \(and Keep!\) Your Child Motivated*](#)

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents on Tuesday 20th June.

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 20th June @ 6:00pm (GMT)

How to Help Get (and Keep) Your Child Motivated

[Click here to register for free](#)

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

- ✓ What impact does praise and reassurance have on your child's motivation?
- ✓ What are the best type of goals to be setting with your child?
- ✓ How can you help your child create meaningful and lasting motivation?

We hope to see you there!

Student Community Rewards May Half-Term 2022 - 2023

It has been a busy half-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 were:

Daisy – Blue 1

Sia – Green 8

Ellie – Purple 4

Liz - Red 4

Lucy – Yellow 6

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	6236
Green	9101
Purple	5493
Red	7415
Yellow	8140
Grand Total	36385

At present we have **Green Community** taking the lead with Yellow Community in second place!

A special mention to **Red 4** as they are the highest achieving form with 1942 points!

Well done to the following forms for being the highest achievers, your form prize will be with you shortly-

Blue 3

Green 5

Purple 1

Red 4

Yellow 2

We look forward to accumulating the points up to the end of Summer term 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
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 Cultural Day
Tuesday 4 th July 2023	Year 6 Induction Day/Evening
Thursday 6 th July	Year 7 Parents Evening
Monday 17 th & Tuesday 18 th July 2023	Discover Days
7 th – 14 th July 2023	Celebration Presentations
10 th – 21 st July 2023	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 13 th July 2023	Sports Day
Wednesday 19 th July 2023	Summer Term Finishes students leave early
Thursday 20th & Friday 21st July 2023	INSET Days