



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



@BlackfenSchool



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9th October 2020

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

Head Teacher's Message

Let us build bridges not walls." Martin Luther King

This month is Black History month and I want to use this part of the newsletter to remind us all of what happened earlier in the summer and our response to Black Lives Matter. Under no circumstances must we allow other news to get in the way of our commitment as a school community. At the time, I made it clear in my email messages to the Blackfen community that we all need to act. A reminder, below, of extracts from my email and school statement.

The quote above, by Martin Luther King, is so poignant. In the summer there were numerous protests around the world, following the death in police custody of George Floyd. This was a truly sad, devastating and abhorrent incident which shocked the world. Whether it was filmed or not is not important and we must be clear that this is not just about one incident. Instead, it raises a huge number of questions and we have seen solidarity against these brutal actions and against racism and discrimination.

Most importantly, we have seen solidarity through worldwide protests and some of you may have joined local or regional Black Lives Matter protests. Black Lives do Matter and we must now urge each other to work towards an inclusive society. We should not have to wait for an event of this magnitude to make us do this. It should be something that we are always working towards. I wrote, earlier in the summer, about the opportunity the situation we are in at present gives us to build a better future world for us all and the important role that we all play in ensuring this.

In many ways, it has brought to a head again just how fractured our society is. There is no place for racism, discrimination, injustice and inequality and there is no place for such violence against another human being. Over the last few years, we have often talked about injustice in the world, human rights and racist attitudes. We have been very clear that there is no place for racism in society. Many students and staff have been involved in events in the school, under the leadership of students and the PPE faculty, which celebrate diversity and difference and aim to build bridges rather than put up walls and barriers. I hope that the events you have seen across the world have made you think about injustice in society but more importantly has made you want to do something about it. These events and these protests must not be confined to history.

The young people are our future leaders and they can make society what they want it to be. We need to work together to build a better society for us all. This is now about doing something

sustained and not just something that lasts a short time and is then forgotten about before it happens again. So, let us pause for thought and reflect on the words of Martin Luther King. What bridges are we going to build to help society to heal its wounds and how are we going to help to take down the walls and barriers which exist and ensure that these barriers are not just put up again in the future?

Events are taking place in the school to celebrate Black History Month and we must ensure that these events help to lead to more systemic change in society. We need to use them as a vehicle to go beyond raising awareness to ensure that we all take sustained actions to create a fairer, more just and equal world. In school, both Ms Blatch and Ms Wainwright have been seconded to the leadership team for 2 years and Ms Wainwright will be leading on the equality and diversity agenda with Ms Blatch leading on the RSE curriculum and other curriculum initiatives. I look forward to their work impacting significantly on the school community over the coming years.

"Let us build bridges, not walls."



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Raising Attainment News

Many thanks to all of our parents who listened to our information for Year 10 Parents Information Evening which went live on our website last Wednesday. If you did not get chance to watch this yet, you can find the video, slides and a digital copy of the booklet in the Parents section of our website here:

<https://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk/page/?title=Information+Evening+presentations&pid=47>

We would strongly recommend that you watch both of these videos and read through the information booklet together with your daughter. There is also a short video with some advice from one of our current year 11 students.

Tutors enjoyed catching up with their tutor groups last week in their year group bubbles. It is great to see how our students have settled into a new way of working. This week, year 7 met with their tutor for a catch up on Monday and you should have received a call from your daughter's form tutor, if they are in year 7 for an update. If you have not yet spoken to a tutor, please contact your daughter's SSO and they will liaise with the form tutor to find an appropriate time to call you.

I also wanted to let you know we have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series: **Empowering Parents to Reinforce Study Skills at Home.**

Topics Covered:

- **22/09 - Independent Learning:** How to know that your child is focusing on the right kind of work that gets top marks.
- **14/10 - Time Management:** How to resolve battles over homework and workload, get on the same page and help balance life & academics.
- **10/11 – Exams:** Developing a pre-exam roadmap with your child to maximise their chances of success and keep overwhelm at bay.

- **01/12 - Stress & Wellbeing:** Understanding your child's stress triggers, symptoms, and a tool-kit for stabilising during tough periods.

Register here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

Webinar Format: The webinars run **online** from **6pm – 7pm**. The webinars are live, where a senior presenter shares Elevate's key research and skills, plus answers questions so parents can get the specific tools they need.

We hope this might help with supporting your child with their home study

Miss Hand

Deputy Headteacher (Raising Attainment)

School Reminders

Uniform reminder

As you will be aware from our risk assessment, ventilation (e.g. opening windows) is important in classrooms.

As the colder weather approaches, we would like to remind students that they will now need to dress appropriately as coats are not suitable to wear in the classroom. Please remind your daughters/sons that it's about layers – you can take a layer off if too hot but you can't put one on if you haven't prepared.

So, additional appropriate wear is as follows:

Under the school shirt – PLAIN white coloured T shirt (so NO logos on it please)

Under the sweatshirt – PLAIN coloured lightweight cardigan or jumper (to be completely covered by sweatshirt, but hoodies, as usual are NOT acceptable)

Layers – it's all about layers as you can take layers off if too hot!

Headlice

Please may we ask parents to regularly check their child's hair and if necessary take advice from their local pharmacy regarding the latest treatments.

Autumn Term English Department news

A warm welcome to all our students who have been settling back into the new regime and working very hard. It has been an exciting start for our year 11 and 13 students who have now begun their final year of examination study for GCSE and A Level and very exciting to meet our new year 7 students who have also been fantastic settling in.

Library lessons are still happening in the class room running a new 'click and collect' service with full catalogue available on SharePoint and our librarian has been to see all KS3 classes to show

and explain how to do this. We are still asking students to bring back any books they may have not returned from last year.

The department is running its annual Halloween competition for Year 7, so time to get your spooky thinking caps on! Details will be given out by English Teachers during lessons.

The Governor's Book Review is also happening and English teachers will announce further details for entries during lessons.

We also have some excellent poems from our year 7 students.

7A class ACROSTIC. We wrote this poem together.

Best secondary school!
Loving teachers
Amazing lunches
Caring friends
Kind people
Friends all around
Excellent education!
Nice headteacher

7c Our second class Limerick:

"Corona-virus"

Corona-virus why did you stay?
We couldn't go out and play!
Boris got you -
Then Trump did too!
Now *please* will you just go away!

7F Our class Limerick

"Flowers"

Flowers are blooming all day,
And I picked a big bunch back in May,
How very colourful!
And very wonderful!
Now I have a beautiful bouquet!

Ms Rawlinson, 2ic of English & Ms Perryman, Teacher of English

Calendar of Events 2020 - 2021

Dates scheduled so far

Date	Event
26th – 30th October 2020	Half Term
Monday 9 th November 2020	Virtual Jack Petchey Event
Wednesday 11 th November 2020	Sixth Form Open event
Thursday 12 th November 2020	Year 13 Parents Evening
Thursday 26 th November 2020	Year 10 Parents Evening
7 th – 11 th December 2020	Achievement Assemblies
Monday 14 th December 2020	Year 7 Flu Immunisation
Friday 18 th December 2020	Early Finish (time to be confirmed)
21st December 2020 - 5th January 2021	Christmas Holiday & moving days
Wednesday 6 th January 2021	Spring Term Starts
Monday 25 th January 2021	Year 9 DTP/MenACWY Vaccinations
15th - 19th February 2021	Half Term
Wednesday 24 th February 2021	Year 9 DTP/MenACWY Vaccinations catch ups
Tuesday 30 th March 2021	Year 9 HPV1 Vaccinations
2nd -16th April 2021	Easter Holidays (incl bank holidays)
Thursday 22 nd April 2021	Year 8 HPV1 Vaccinations
Friday 21 st May 2021	Year 8 HPV and 9 HPV Catch up
31st May - 4th June 2021	Half Term
Friday 16 th July 2021	Last Day of Term
19 th /20 th /21 st July 2021	INSET DAYS

Please note that the above events are subject to change and may be virtual events.