



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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27th January 2023

## Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of January we can reflect on a very busy month. I would like to thank you for all your support for all the events that have taken place this term so far. I have written to you separately about the industrial action on 1 February 2023. This is just a reminder that there will be further action on 2 March and 15 and 16 March 2023. I am working closely with the governors with regards to the industrial action and each day will be dealt with as a separate event. The industrial action, alongside other public service workers, is for improved pay, funding for pay increases, improved conditions and improved funding for all schools so that the needs of all young people can be effectively met in schools across the country.

This week the PPE/Citizenship subject area led, with year 11 students, a very successful Citizenship evening. It was a thought provoking and interesting evening. We were joined for the evening by Louie French, MP, who attended Blackfen school 6<sup>th</sup> form. He engaged with students and staff at the event, where young people were able to raise issues and ask questions. Well done to all staff and students involved.

### Staffing news

We say goodbye to Ms Horrigan, TA, next week. We thank her for her work and wish her all the best in the future.

We also send our congratulations to Miss Davies, Art & Photography, on the birth of her baby boy,

The last day of school for this half term is Friday 10 February 2023 at the normal time. We return to school on Monday 20 February 2023 at the normal time. It will be Week A when we return.

**Matthew Brown, Head Teacher**

## Elevate webinar

Last week's webinar on **Note Making** was extremely successful and had over 6,000 parents in attendance! 82 came from Blackfen School for Girls, which is amazing to see!

Dear Parents,

RE: [Upcoming webinar for parents – How to Help Improve Your Child's Memory](#)

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents on Tuesday 7th February.

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 7th February @ 6:00pm (GMT)

*How to Help Improve Your Child's Memory*

[Click here to register for free](#)

In this webinar Elevate will be showing parents how to:

- ✓ How memory *actually* works (and how it has nothing to do with brain capacity)
- ✓ The most effective environments to assist in memorisation
- ✓ 3 techniques you can implement overnight to improve revision

[Click here to register for free](#)

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## Careers and Work Experience

### **Year 10 Work Experience 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

Year 10 Work Experience is moving along with only 4 weeks to go until placement forms are due in!

Placements are quite limited this year so I would ask students to make every effort to find their own placement. If you have been offered a placement but still need confirmation or for the employer to complete the form please chase them up.

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. 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 by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February will attend school during the Work Experience period attending Year 9 lessons in school uniform.**

Please can I remind you that all completed forms must be handed in to the WEX co-ordinator by **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Please note that Bromley Education Business Partnership that support our Work Experience scheme imposes this deadline to allow enough time for each placement to be visited to ensure that everything is in place regarding health & safety and required insurances.

**Save the date! Annual Careers Forum Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**



We will be holding our Annual Careers Forum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 4.30pm until 7.00pm. We would like to see as many students attend as we expect this evening to be interesting and informative with many representatives attending. Further details to follow.

More information on Careers and Work Experience, including the school Careers Policy, is available on the school website under Policies and Curriculum.

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Liz will be present at the Careers Forum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Cambridge University – Targeted Workshop on applying for competitive Universities – Thursday 19th January**

We were delighted to welcome Gwyneth Hamand from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University to present two workshops to with aspirations on applying for competitive Universities including Cambridge and other Russell Group Universities.

The first session was for year 12 students who are looking to build upon their ‘super-curricular’ activities to enhance their personal statements when they apply in year 13. Advice was given on how to make an application to a competitive university which will be useful for when they embark on this in year 13.

The aim of the second session for year 10 and 11 students was to raise awareness, dispel myths and encourage students to apply to competitive Universities. This session discussed ‘Why go to University?’, the 50,000 courses available, Russell Group Universities, subject choices for A level and a typical timetable of a first year STEM student at Cambridge University. This shocked some students as they didn’t realise that some lectures are on Saturdays and can even go on until 6.00pm! A little different from the school day!

The workshops finished with Gwyneth wishing our students good luck for their studies and applications and looking forward to hearing their success stories in the future.

**Mrs K Smith**  
**Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator**



# Dance and Drama

## Winter Showcase- December 22

In December we had the Blackfen's Winter showcase, with over 140 students taking part, both performing and behind the scenes.

The evening consisted of performances from Dance, Drama and Music. The students worked incredible hard and we are very proud of them!

We will be having a Summer showcase towards the end of this year.

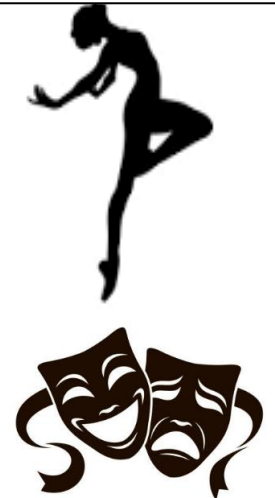


## GCSE Dance exam

Recently our Year 11 Dance class completed their Duet/Trio exams. They did amazingly well and we are looking forward to seeing their Choreography exam, and wish them luck with it.

## GCSE Drama exam

In February our Year 11 Drama class will be examined by a visiting examiner doing their final performance piece. Good Luck!!



## KS5 Showcase- March

On March 14<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a KS5 showcase, where our BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts and A-Level Drama Students will be performing their class and exam work.

This will count towards some of their exam grades. They have been working really hard and we cannot wait to see them. Tickets will be available on wisePAY for this.

## Year 9 Challenge Day

On February 21<sup>st</sup> we will be running the Year 9 Dance and Drama challenge day. Throughout the day students will take part in a range of Dance and Drama workshops led by outside practitioners and teachers. This will give them a taste of GCSE work and allow them to see what next steps there are available for them in education and the industry.



### Touring Theatre Company

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January we have a theatre company coming in to perform a play and run a workshop with Year 9. The play is called 'I Love you Mum, I promise I won't die' By Mark Wheeler. This is a text they have been studying before Christmas and is based on a true story about Daniel Spargo-Mabbs, which teaches students about the effects of Drugs and substances and the choices they have.



DANIEL  
SPARGO  
-MABBS  
foundation

### GCSE and Sixth Form Theatre Trip

In November we took 55 GCSE, A-Level and BTEC students on a trip up to London to watch 'The Woman in Black' at the Fortune Theatre in the West End.

This was a great opportunity for students to see live theatre, looking at the acting and technical theatre. This will also be used in Written Exams.

The students really enjoyed the show, even the jumpy and scary parts.



### DICE

Across Dance and Drama, we have a range of clubs that students can join in with. They focus on developing skills learnt in lessons, students having fun and socialising with new and different people.

Dance Club- Wednesday 3-4pm in the Dance studio.

Drama club- Wednesday lunchtime in Room 71.

Dance Company- Monday 3-4pm- This is audition only and the next set of auditions will be in September 2023.

Dance Company will be taking part in the London Youth Games Competition, competing against schools in Bexley to go and represent the borough in the Finals. They are also taking the lead on Bexley Big Dance. This celebrates Dance across all ages and abilities and the Dance Company will be choreographing a routine that will be taught across a wide range of schools in the borough.

## Student and public safety outside of school

We would like to remind parents to take care outside of school when dropping off/collecting students.

There are increasing numbers of cars making three point turns after dropping off students and letting their child out whilst in a traffic queue which is very dangerous, please pullover to a safe and legal place to let your child exit the vehicle safely.

Thankyou for your cooperation in this matter.

## Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Year 9 DTP Vaccinations
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Governors Finance Audit & risk meeting Year 9 Information Evening
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023	Challenge Day 2
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023	Year 9 Parents Evening 1 (Blue/Red/Green 1-4) Governors Curriculum Meeting
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Year 11 Trip to Hastings
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Year 11 Trip to Hastings
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	Year 9 Parents Evening Yellow/Purple/Green 5-9 Governors Staffing Meeting
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Careers Forum 4.30-7.00pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Year 11 Preparing for Success (PFS) appointments
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Showcase – times to be confirmed
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection Interviews
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Year 12 Parents Evening Governors Finance Audit & Risk meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	Year 10 Parents Information Meeting
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>Spring Term Ends – Students leave early</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	D of E Practice Walks

Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Year 7 Parents Evening
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023	Year 8 HPV1 and Year 9 HPV2 catchups
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Governors Premises Meeting
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Year 8 parents Evening Governors Curriculum Meeting
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Governors Finance Audit & Risk Meeting
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Catchup Vaccination Day
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Governors Staffing Meeting
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	Governors Finance Audit & Risk Meeting
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Challenge Day 3
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Induction Day Year 12
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Year 6 Induction Day/evening
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Discover Days
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Celebration Presentations
10 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Summer Term Finishes students leave early
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023</b>	<b>INSET Days</b>