



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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22nd September 2023

Head Teacher's Message

A warm welcome to all new students, parents/carers, staff and families to Blackfen school. And, a warm welcome back to those who were with us last year. It has been a busy summer in school which culminated in us celebrating examination results success with young people in years 11 and 13 last year. We wish every single one of them all the best as they embark on the next step in their learning, training or career. I would like to thank all staff who have worked through the summer getting things ready for the start of the term. Last week, Mr Morgan led assemblies to outline our new food offer at break and lunch and our new building – the glasshouse – which should be ready for use in the next few weeks. I am really looking forward to working with you again this year and we look forward to seeing the successes of every member of our community.

Parking

Please can you ensure that, if you are parking in the vicinity of the school to pick up your child at the end of the school day, that you do so safely and legally. Please make sure that you do not park across driveways. If you are dropping off in the morning please do so safely. Thank you for your co-operation.

Future dates

The school is closing early for students on Friday 13 October 2023 for mandatory safeguarding training for all staff. Students will be in normal lessons until 12.45 on that day.

Half term

The school finishes for half term at the normal time of 3.00 on Friday 20 October 2023. We reopen for students on Monday 30 October 2023 at the normal time.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

Careers and Work Experience

Work Experience Successes

The Year 10 work experience programme in July 2023 was one of the most successful our students have ever completed! Feedback from employers was mostly excellent with many of our students' receiving offers of apprenticeships at the end of Year 11, summer holiday temporary work and part-time Saturday jobs.

Work experience is essential to advance in any career path because it teaches you about yourself and you gain skills in the process. Usually, any work experience is better than no work experience. Relevant work experience prepares you for more senior and advanced positions in your career path. It is an opportunity for you to test out your career ideas, improve your skills and show your commitment and enthusiasm.

Please look out for the Careers Newsletter which will be sent out during September containing many ideas for work experience whilst in the mean time please see below some individual success stories:

Blackfen goes to 10 Downing Street!

Five students were able to complete work experience with the Metropolitan Police which included visits to their helicopter base, police horse unit and even 10 Downing Street!



'I really enjoyed my time at my work experience, it is a good opportunity to get to know the career area in policing. What I enjoyed most about the experience was having the opportunity to visit 10 Downing Street-it felt like a once in a lifetime event as it was gated and heavily guarded with these specialised police guards with guns. I most definitely recommend and encourage other people to take the opportunity here as it was an amazing experience, and it was incredibly fun'

By Kimmi, Blue 6

Stephanie in Red 6 completed a successful placement with the NHS East London Foundation working with occupational therapists and rehab support workers.

Annie in Red 2 excelled in her nursery work experience placement that she continued to work with them for the whole of the summer holidays and has been offered an apprenticeship with them when she finishes Year 11.

Paige in Blue 1 also completed her work experience in a nursery and impressed them so much that she was offered an apprenticeship for after Year 11.

Cherry in Red 9 for continuing with her beauty work experience placement for the whole of the summer and was offered a Saturday job and an apprenticeship after Year 11.

Sophie in Yellow 9 for continuing with her retail work experience placement for the whole of the summer.

Kajana in Blue 7 was outstanding in her pharmacy placement and was invited to come back at any time in the future.

Well done to all our Year 11 students who completed successful work experience placements!



One of the biggest problems facing the aviation industry is a lack of diversity. Limited support and systemic barriers make it hard for underrepresented groups to access the exciting opportunities on offer in the Airline Pilot industry.

Fantasy Wings is on a mission to change the status quo. As the only programme of its kind, this pioneering course brings together pilots from leading airlines, aviation professionals and flight training organisations to help launch BAME people and women into the aviation industry.

Fantasy Wings provides a safe space to learn about pilot and aviation studies, offering real networking opportunities, career prospects and personal development for women and BAME youth interested in the Airline and Aviation industries. What's more, students are in with one three chances to receive sponsorship for an accredited Private Pilot Licence (PPL).



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'Fantasy wings was an amazing opportunity that I was fortunate enough to be offered. This is a programme designed to explore and educate young people on the various career paths within aviation.

On the first Saturday of every month, for 10 months, I attended a Fantasy wings seminar that had a different speaker. For example: British Airways attended, Easy Jet and various other speakers.

They all discussed and explained the different paths into the aviation industry, along with describing what their job consisted of and the things they enjoyed the most about their job roles.

This experience has broadened my understanding of aviation, the opportunities available and importantly how to enter these fields. I have rubbed shoulders with very interesting people and enjoyed the journey. The final session included student selections for free trial flights and opportunities.

I would definitely recommend this experience and say that I have enjoyed every minute of it.'

Keira – Year 10 – Last year's cohort who attended the course

Mrs K Smith

Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Student Achievement

Congratulations to Morgan in Year 11, Red 1 for her success in July at the Gymstars MAG/WAG International 2023 competition. Morgan is a member of ASG Gymnastics Club and had the opportunity to compete in Malta in an international competition!

Morgan achieved 2 individual medals and also came away with the team trophy!
Well done Morgan!



Mrs K Smith & Mr K Loughlin
Student Support Officers, Red Community

Congratulations to Poppy Warren who became the current Blackfen Chess Champion just before the Summer holidays. Poppy was undefeated as she pipped Ellie in P7 to the crown. Well done to all of the students who took part.

Mr Love
FL for English



Dear Parents,

RE: Upcoming webinar for parents – Helping Your Child Manage Their Time

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents on time management on October 3rd.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact- workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your children at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to balance their priorities and stay on top of their workload.

How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time

Tuesday 3rd October 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

Click the link below to register for free

https://go.elevateeducation.com/e/891981/uk-schoolwebinar/prtrf/547535286?h=V466WhKJ_wm7qymiFd8UXIKaL0yQUZUldGzt68ktyPo

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

- ✓ **Align expectations** on homework with your child
- ✓ Help your child **balance their schoolwork and social life**
- ✓ Set up a **weekly planner tool** with your child

Student Community Rewards 2022 - 2023

Points have been tallied up to the end of the school year 2022 - 2023 and the community reward table is as below.

Community	Rewards
Blue	7288
Green	9153
Purple	5303
Red	7321
Yellow	7693
Grand Total	36758

Congratulations to **GREEN COMMUNITY** 🏆 who achieved 9,153 the most reward points for the whole of 2022 – 2023 and are our Reward Champions!

In second place was **YELLOW COMMUNITY**, third place **RED COMMUNITY**, fourth place **BLUE COMMUNITY** and 5th place **PURPLE COMMUNITY**!

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:

Florrie – Blue 3

Amelie – Green 7

Rebecca – Purple 4

Grace - Red 5

Mia – Yellow 2

Congratulations!

A special mention to **Red 4** as they are the highest achieving form with 2010 points!

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

Blue 3

Green 1

Purple 1

Red 4

Yellow 2

We look forward to accumulating the points up to the end of Autumn half-term to see if there has been a challenge in the lead for the title! Good Luck!

Mrs K Smith

Reward Co-ordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events scheduled so far this term

DATE	EVENT
Monday 25 th & Tuesday 26 th September 2023	Open Mornings
Thursday 28 th September 2023	Year 12 Information Evening
Monday 2 nd October	Flu Immunisations years 7-11
Wednesday 4 th and Thursday 5 th October 2023	Open Mornings
Thursday 5 th October 2023	Year 7 PFS afternoon
Wednesday 11 th October 2023	Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Friday 13 th October 2023	Staff Safeguarding Training – students leave school at 12.45pm
Monday 16 th October 2023	Year 11 visit to Supreme Court (Citizenship)
Wednesday 18 th October 2023	Open Morning
Thursday 19 th October 2023	6 th Form Open Evening
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023	Half Term
Thursday 9 th November 2023	Black History Month 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 7 th December 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening Ski Trip Information Evening
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th December 2023	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 21 st December 2023	End of Term – early finish
Friday 22 nd December 2023 – Friday 5 th January 2024	Christmas Holiday
Monday 8 th January 2024	Spring Term starts