



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

4th March 2022

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we started this half term we heard of the increasing escalation of Russia's potential invasion of Ukraine. With devastating effect, this has now become reality and I am sure you join me in the shock and great sadness of the impact of these actions on the people of Ukraine. Our hopes, as a school community, are for peace in this region as soon as possible. As Head Teacher, I am also aware of the effect that this escalating situation is having on well being. Our young people are no exception to this. Over the last week, in community time, I have virtually spoken with young people about how they can deal with hearing about very scary world news. In addition, Ms Magrowski (Senior lead for mental health), has provided resources for young people so that they can be supported in their mental well being at this time. We are hoping to create a quiet area available for young people to go to during lunchtime if they need somewhere quiet to go to and to reflect on events. Adults will be on hand in this area to listen to any concerns that young people have. In the PPE curriculum, there will be a curriculum focus on the situation with another opportunity for young people to ask questions.

Summer examinations

Students in examination groups are preparing for examinations which will take place this summer, after 2 successive years of there being no examinations. Year 13 and year 12 BTEC students will be taking PPEs next week and year 11 will be doing their PPEs the following week. We wish them all the best.

Careers Forum

This takes place on Tuesday 8 March 2022. We look forward to seeing you at this very important event where young people can be provided with information about possible future and next steps. A big thank you to Ms Smith for leading on this event.

September 2022

We are excited to have received the list of students who will be joining year 7 in September. I cannot believe that this time has come around again. We look forward to working with young people and their families as they make the transition from year 6 to year 7.

Respect for school staff

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents/carers and family members for your ongoing support and for the way in which you work alongside the school especially during challenging times. I would like to remind all parents/carers and family members of the importance of respect in all dealings with the school. We are fortunate to have staff who are hard-working, caring and

dedicated and who always do their best to solve any issues you or your young person has. Aggressive behaviour and abusive language towards staff will not be tolerated and we request that all staff are treated with respect.

Staffing news

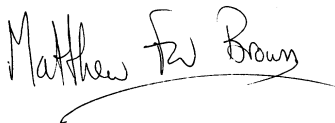
We welcome Ms Horth to the school as a teaching assistant.

End of term

This term finishes on Friday 1 April 2022 at 12.15pm

The summer term starts for students at 8.20 for 8.30 on Tuesday 19 April 2022. It will be Week A when we return.

I close this newsletter with the same message as above. Our hope is for peace throughout the world at this time.



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors Message

Since the last Newsletter three important meetings have taken place. The Curriculum Committee, where a full agenda was discussed, including the presentation of a comprehensive overview from Ms Minnis of the School's ongoing Teaching and learning strategy. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, where a careful review of the budget post-Covid restrictions was given, including contingency planning and budget projections for subsequent years. Lastly the Premises Committee, where plans for maintaining and enhancing the School's premises were considered.

I am pleased to report that a comprehensive timetable for the resumption of all link visits is now in place and reports of these will be presented in due course at Full Governing Body meetings. The resumption of visits will include participation in School functions. One to note is the annual Careers Fair which will be attended by members of the Governing Body. There is great anticipation about attendance at events after the difficult times we have had during the Covid crisis.

Finally I am sorry to announce that Mrs Jane Andrews has decided to leave the Governing Body. Mrs Andrews has been a governor for many years and her experience and guidance will be greatly missed. Her expertise in the safeguarding area has been invaluable to the School. All the Governing Body wish her well in her future activities and thank her for her long-term support, particularly in the safeguarding area.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Social Media Warning

We would like to raise some awareness over a problematic app that has recently had some media attention. The app "YUBO" formally known as "Yellow" is being touted as a dating app for under 18s referred to as "Tinder for Teens". This alone raises some alarm bells and some of the most worrying features of the app are that it heavily promotes live streaming as the primary chat method, allows chat groups to be set up with no filter on content or topics along with features very akin to apps like "Tinder" such as swiping left/right on profiles for people in your area.

There have been reports of sexual offences after meetings arranged through this app and [The Times](#) did an article about the appalling content young people can be exposed to using it, along with other media outlets such as [The Sun](#) and [New York Post](#).

Certainly an app to be aware of, especially if parents or guardians are unaware of what it does or is used for.

Below is the app logo should you see it.



Sarah Cascarino, Deputy Head Teacher

Careers Forum - Tuesday 8th March - 4.30pm - 7.00pm

This is a reminder that the Blackfen Careers Forum will be taking place on Tuesday 8th March - 4.30pm - 7.00pm. The attendees so far are:

Goldsmiths-University of London, University of Creative Arts, University of Greenwich, University of Kent, University of Sussex, University of Derby, University of Essex, Kingston University, St Mary's University Twickenham, Canterbury Christchurch University, University of East London, Royal Veterinary College, Hadlow College, Capel Manor College, London South East Colleges, North Kent College, Fashion Retail Academy, British Academy of Jewellery, RAF, British Army, Royal Navy & Marines, London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police, Oxleas NHS, London Ambulance Service, Rose Bruford College, Bird College, Reynolds Training Group, London College of Performing Arts, apprenticeship providers including Apex Lifts, Bailey Garner (Architects), Berkeley Homes, HB Hair Academy, Inspire Hair and Beauty Academy, London Care, National Citizen Service (NCS) and many more.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Kellie Smith
Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 8 th March 2022	Careers Forum in school
Thursday 10 th March 2022	Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening in school
Thursday 10 th March 2022	Year 11 PFS afternoon (in school)
Wednesday 16 th March 2022	Year 9 Selection Interviews
Thursday 17 th March 2022	Year 12 Parents Evening (online)
21 st – 25 th March 2022	Achievement Assemblies (Daily during Community Time)
Wednesday 30 th March 2022	Year 9 HPV 2 vaccinations
Friday 1 st April 2022	Last day of term – early finish
4th -18th April 2022	Easter Holidays
Monday 18th April 2022	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19 th April 2022	Summer Term starts – lessons begin at 8.30am
Thursday 21 st April 2022	Year 8 HPV1 vaccination and Catch ups Year 9s
Thursday 28 th April 2022	Year 7 Parents Evening (online)
Monday 2 nd May 2022	Bank Holiday
Monday 9 th May 2022	Year 10 HPV2 vaccination
Thursday 12 th May 2022	Year 8 Parents Evening (online)
Friday 20 th May 2022	HPV Year 8 and 10 Catch up vaccinations
30th May – 3rd June 2022	Half Term
Thursday 30 th June	Challenge Day 3
2 weeks beginning 4 th July 2022	Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 5 th July 2022	Year 6 Induction Day
Friday 8 th July 2022	Year 12 Induction Day
11 th – 15 th July 2022	Provisional dates for Community Presentation Celebrations
Friday 15 th July	Sports Day
Monday 18 th July 2022	Student Choice Day 1
Tuesday 19 th July 2022	Student choice Day 2
Wednesday 20 th July	Last day of term – early finish
Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd July 2022	INSET DAYS