



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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17th March 2023

## Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this newsletter piece there has been a return to slightly warmer weather. The evenings are lighter. The daffodils and blossom are out. There is a real feel of Spring in the air. Even though we are only just over half way through this year, we have started our planning for the next academic year and beyond. The key things that we are looking at in terms of site development are a new and additional catering facility on site, further improvements in security on the site and further improvements to our toilet facilities. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the review of the school uniform through surveys and questionnaires. Ms Hayford has led on this and proposals will be going to the full governing body to further discuss. However, just to put your mind at rest, there are no plans for wholesale changes to the uniform. There are some tweaks that should make the uniform more affordable whilst still being smart.

On Tuesday the KS5 performing arts, dance and drama students led a showcase of their work. This included music solos, monologues, dance, drama and other performances. It was a fantastic evening and the students were fully supported by other students and staff. Well done to all the staff and students involved.

We continue to aim to offer more trips for our young people. As a result of this a ski-trip will be held next year, our first one for 4 years. This will be for students in years 8 and 10 next year. Mr Woods is running this and any queries should be directed to him.

### End of term

The last day of term for students and staff is Friday 31 March 2023. Students are in school uniform for this day and normal lessons will run for lessons 1 to 3. Students will be dismissed at the end of lesson 3 at 12.15.

The new term starts on Monday 17 April 2023 at the normal time of 8.25 for an 8.30 start. It will be Week A

### Bank holidays

Next term, please note that the school will be closed on the following days for the May bank holidays – Monday 1 May 2023 and Monday 8 May 2023.

**Matthew Brown, Head Teacher**

## Elevate Webinar

This is a reminder of the [Upcoming webinar for parents: Exam Room Skills - Minimising Stress and Maximising Marks](#)

Elevate Education will be continuing their free parent support series on **Tuesday 21st March at 6pm**, with their webinar focusing on how you can help your child keep stress levels down and maximise marks on the day of the exam. Please feel free to sign yourself up to attend by clicking the link below.

As a reminder, 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 21st March @ 6pm**

***Exam Room Skills - Minimising Stress and Maximising Marks***

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering:

- ✓ What to do in the final days before any test or assessment
- ✓ How to establish a good routine for the night before
- ✓ How to optimise exam-room performance

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## Careers Forum 2023

Our Careers Forum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March was a huge success with a high number of students and parent/carers attending even though snow was forecast and the weather was extremely cold! With over 35 organisation's many career sectors, further and higher education establishments were represented.

Feedback from students included **'helpful evening – glad we came'**, **'We will definitely return next year'** and **'really useful evening'**. Equally the representatives commented on **'liked the staggered timings'**, **'appreciated the help from the Career Ambassadors'** and **'Blackfen do a great job in providing their students with excellent progression pathway information'**. The representative from **'North Kent College'** remarked that she had found it beneficial talking to our students as they were interested in various different course areas.

Welcoming to the Forum for the first time were London South Bank University, Coventry University, Northeastern University, Aberystwyth University, Law Choice Recruitment, Astro – IT Company, Jardine Motors and Travel Counsellors.

It is also worth mentioning that we had two Blackfen alumni present Natasha Windibank, representing Law Choice Recruitment and Sophie Elull representing NHS Oxleas. It was lovely to see them both in their chosen careers and willing to come back to Blackfen to encourage our students interests in these two career sectors.

This year also saw around 69 Year 10 and Year 11 Hurstmere School students and four members of their staff join us, the highest number ever attending!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our representatives, parents, carers and students in making this event extremely successful especially the Careers Ambassadors who helped at this event.



**London Ambulance Service**



**Law Choice Recruitment**



**London South Bank University**

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

## Student Community Rewards 2022 – 2023

It has been a busy 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 highest reward point achievers in their community. Points have been tallied up to half term of Spring term and the community reward table is as below.

Community	Rewards
Blue	3453
Green	6270
Purple	4478
Red	5108
Yellow	5146
Grand Total	<b>24455</b>

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

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

**Blue 5**

**Green 5**

**Yellow 2**

**Red 4**

**Purple 1**

We look forward to accumulating the points up to the end of term in March 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**

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## Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Please note the Year 10 Parents Information evening scheduled for March has been postponed until 20<sup>th</sup> April

Date	Event
20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Achievement Assemblies
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>Spring Term Ends – Students leave 12.15pm</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
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Year 7 Parents Evening
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	D of E Practice Walks
<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
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Bank Holiday
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>