



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents/Carers,

25th August 2021

I hope that you are having a good summer. A warm welcome to the Blackfen school community to all new parents/carers and young people. I am looking forward to seeing all young people back in school in September ready to face the challenges ahead. Although there remains some uncertainty, we are all looking forward to a consistent and less disrupted year ahead as we aim to build capacity, working collaboratively over the coming months. As always, I am writing to you in August to re-emphasise some key points and to provide further relevant information which is up to date at the point of writing this letter.

Before young people return to the school in September we will be putting in place all the protocols and procedures issued to schools as Covid 19 operational guidance. The plan is to have an updated risk assessment in place which will be followed to continue to mitigate risk. We are awaiting further guidance from Bexley on this.

In early August we issued examination results to young people in years 11, 12 and 13. It was good, once again, to be able to do this in person and to share in the celebration of success of our young people. The successes were shared across the school community and they are the result of a good deal of very hard work by students, staff, parents/carers and governors. I send my wholehearted congratulations to each and every young person on their great achievements in very challenging times. I also thank staff, on behalf of those young people, for all their work in the unprecedented examination season where the responsibility was put on schools and staff to act as the examination centre for this year. We will be particularly working with new year 11 and 13 students in September to prepare them for what we know about the examination season for May/June 2022.

The start of term arrangements were outlined in a letter at the end of last term and these are published again for you below.

Confirmed plan for first two weeks of term

Wednesday 1 September – INSET day 1 – no students in school.

Thursday 2 September – INSET day 2 – no students in school.

Friday 3 September – Testing day 1 – Years 7, 11, 12. Students come in for test and go directly home afterwards. Appointment times will be sent out in due course.

Monday 6 September – Testing day 1 – Years 8, 9, 10, 13. Students come in for test and go directly home afterwards. Appointment times will be sent in due course. Years 7, 11 and 12 are not in school.

Tuesday 7 September

Year 7 in school – 9.00am – 2.00pm. Familiarisation day.

Year 11 in school – 11.45am – 2.45pm.

Year 12 in school – 9.45am – 1.00pm.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 in school – 1.45pm – 2.45pm. Collect timetables and meet other members of the community group.



Wednesday 8 September – All students in school. Normal timetable. Testing day 2 – Years 7, 11, 12. Students will be called out of lessons for this.

Thursday 9 September – All students in school. Normal timetable. Testing day 2 – Years 8, 9, 10 and 13. Students will be called out of lessons for this.

Friday 10 September – All students in school. Normal timetable.

There will be an additional letter with regards to arrangements for testing.

As you are aware, last year we amended the timings of the school day and the structure of the school day in response to Covid 19. We have kept some of the same timings in the new school day for September 2021. The school day for students from the start of the term will therefore be as follows:

The school day – September 2021

This plan is for one year. The school day timings will be reviewed during the year to put in place a new school day in September 2022.

	Years 7, 8 & 12	Years 9, 10, 11 & 13
08:30 Session 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
09:30 Session 2	Break	Lesson 2
09:55 Session 2	Lesson 2	
10:30		Break
10:55	Community Time ALL	Community Time ALL
11:15 Session 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
12:15 Session 4	Lunch	Lesson 4
12:45	Lesson 4	
13:15		Lunch
13:45	Lesson 5	Lesson 5
14:45	School Ends	School Ends

This “new” school day structure is under review this year as we start to plan for September 2022.

Lockers will be available this year for students to use.

Students must bring the correct equipment in to school in support of their learning and the full equipment list is detailed below.

Pencil Case containing:

- Black or Navy Blue Pen (Biro or Fountain pen or similar) +spare
- Pencil + spare (including a 2B pencil for art)
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Protractor
- Ruler (30 cm ruler)
- Pair of Compasses
- Scientific Calculator- Casio fx-83GTX
- Green Biro
- Black drywipe pen
- Coloured pencils (recommended good value art set: (<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Evolution-Original-Graphite-EColutions->

colouring/dp/B01EQ0XJJS/ref=sr_1_25?dchild=1&keywords=colouring+pencils&qid=1594214384&sr=8-25)

- Round topped/safety scissors
- Glue stick
- Highlighter(s)
- Fine liner (For technology)

Students are expected to be in full school uniform for the start of the term. Students will bring PE kit to school on days they have lessons and they will change for PE lessons in school (this is an important change from last year).

We return to our “normal” behaviour charter in September rather than our Covid 19 one and a copy of this is provided with this letter for your reference. We are mindful that there is a DfE consultation presently taking place on behaviour in schools and the charter and policy will have to be amended in response to any new guidance or legislation. What won’t change is the school’s statement of intent that, “Every young person has the right to learn in an environment where good behaviour, self-discipline and respect for others are the expectation.” Our mantra is, “doing what you are told when you are told to do it.” I would particularly like to draw your attention to two areas in the behaviour charter.

1. The home school agreement. This is printed in the charter and in the student planner.
2. Mobile phones. Mobile phones **MUST BE switched off and not used during the school day at any time.** Any student seen using a phone will have the phone confiscated in line with our policies and procedures. This same rule applies to all other electronic devices.

A copy of our teaching and learning charter is also provided for you. This sets out the outstanding standards of teaching expected at Blackfen school every day and every lesson. The charter makes clear the expectations we have of our teaching staff and our students and challenges everyone at the school to aspire to excellence every lesson.

The school operates a cash free system for all purchases – Wise Pay. This includes the purchasing of food in the food outlets on site. We are awaiting final guidance on whether this will be via the use of biometric technology.

After the success of using the car park for dropping off students last year we will continue with this in the first instance this year. We appreciate that there is no longer a staggered start to the day and this may cause too much congestion in the car park but we are going to see how it goes. Cars should enter through the main vehicle gate and drive towards the exit gate. As close to the exit gate as possible, students should alight as quickly as possible and cars should then drive off through the exit gate. Drivers must take great care and students will need to be watchful for other vehicles. Unfortunately, due to car parking constraints, we cannot provide a facility for pick up at the end of the day. If you are parking in the local area please adhere to all road markings and be considerate to our local residents by not blocking entrances.

Lessons start at 8.30am in the morning and students should therefore be in school by 8.20am to enable learning to start promptly. The school gates for students open from 7.45am in the morning. The library will once again be open for students at the end of the school for supervised work until 3.45pm.

The school has continued to invest in an on-site cleaner all day every day. This means that key areas will be cleaned and sanitised regularly during the day.

Staffing contacts

The following staff are Student Support Officers:

Mr Pidwell – Yellow Community extn 3012

Mrs Keenan– Green Community extn 3112

Mrs Dimond-Banks – Purple Community extn 3036

Mr Loughlin – Red Community extn 3038

Ms Osborne – Blue Community extn 3039

Mrs McGee - Attendance officer extn 3156

Mrs Clayton - Office & Admissions Manager extn 3006

Mrs Stannett & Mrs Piercy - School Office & Medical Room extn 3003/3069

In the sixth form, the following staff are led by Miss Brewer, Head of Sixth Form:

Ms Purbrick – Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Ms Drewer – Year 12 Transition Co-ordinator

Mrs Eiffert – Sixth Form Co-ordinator and Admissions Manager

In order to help your communication with the school, the following are Faculty Leaders:

English – Miss McCarthy

Mathematics – Mrs McMahon

Science – Ms Gough

Humanities – Mrs Doyle (The subjects in this faculty are history, geography and RS)

Expressive Arts - Ms Magrowski (The subjects in this faculty are technology, art, photography, music, PE, dance and drama)

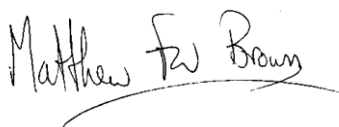
Vocational – Ms Gilles-Terry (The subjects in this faculty are law, IT, business, economics, health and social care and child care)

Social Sciences – Ms Blatch (The subjects in this faculty are citizenship, government and politics, Spanish, French, PPE, sociology, psychology and media)

Ms Cascarino is the school SENCO.

I would like to close this letter by thanking you for all your ongoing support for what we do at Blackfen school. I look forward to a successful year in 2021-2022. I know that many of you will have further questions and queries. Please send these in to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk and someone will respond to you.

With my best wishes,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher