



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



@BlackfenSchool



<http://www.facebook.com/BlackfenSchoolForGirls>

18th October 2018

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Successful students of the Goldsmiths University writing project (see inside for details)

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the first half term draws to a close we can reflect on a very busy and productive start to the year. Year 11 students, led by Ms Doyle, returned from Italy last Friday after a week exploring Rome and Naples. The students had a great time in visits to many important historical sites and some newer ones. My thanks to all the staff on this trip.

Year 11 students are preparing for PPEs after half term. Parents and students attended an important assembly this week on the theme of "Ready, steady, go" as they face the challenges ahead. They are also starting to make decisions about choices of study post-16 and we were delighted to welcome many of our young people and year 11 students from Hurstmere and from across the borough and neighbouring boroughs to our 6th form information and open evening. We look forward to our students continuing their educational journey with us.

The governing body strategically lead the school working with the leadership team, staff, parents and students. We presently have vacancies for two parent governors and a letter is

*Blackfen School for Girls
Blackfen Road
Sidcup*

DA15 9NU Tel: 02083031887

Next Issue: 9th November 2018

attached outlining the process to nominating someone to be a parent governor. Being a governor is a fulfilling role. Governors help to shape the future direction of the school. If you would like an informal discussion about what being a governor involves please contact my PA, Nicola Rogers on extension 3007 and she will put you in touch with the vice chair of governors who can tell you about what a governor does at Blackfen school.

The work to fit the new boilers in the school has now been completed and the system has been fully tested. The new boilers are more energy efficient and also allow us to zone our heating system. They are a welcome addition to moderating temperatures in our main building. We continue to explore the possibility of extending our main building alongside replacing our remaining temporary classrooms. Last year we successfully gained planning permission for the new build. However, we were unsuccessful with a bid for money last year and we are now working closely with our consultants on preparing a bid for this year.

Staffing news

At the end of this week we say farewell to Ms Tuersley, TA, and Mr Baidoo, technology teacher. Earlier in the week we said goodbye to Ms Ngoma, science teacher. We thank them for their work in the school. We welcome Ms Dickinson to the school as teacher of science.

Future dates

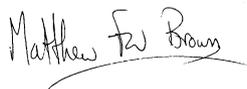
The term dates for 2019-2020 have been approved by the governors and these have been placed on the website.

As last year, to ensure that all staff are updated on policies, procedures, current thinking and future planning we will be holding half termly staff meetings. The dates for these are 6th November 2018, 15th January 2019, 5th March 2019, 30th April 2019 and 4th June 2019. On these dates students should be in school by 8.40 for lesson 1 to begin at 8.45

A reminder that the half term finishes for students at the normal time of 3.10 on Thursday 18 October 2018 (Friday is an INSET day). Next half term starts on Monday 29 October at 8.25 for an 8.30 start. It will be Week B when we return.

I hope that your son/daughter has a good half term break.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Year 11 and going for gold in their PPEs!

This week began the final countdown for year 11 on their approach their final exams. They were given their PPE timetable and their PPE revision planner and we met year 11 and their families for an assembly to remind them about how we are all with them to support them. The Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) in December are a really important practice event for the actual GCSE examinations and they will be used to measure students' current progress and to estimate their final GCSE grades.

Experience has shown us that families who use the Year 11 PPEs to practise home routines that make revision effective are building the foundations of success in the actual GCSE examinations in May and June. The Year 11 PPE timetable has now been sent home and students will revise for their examinations during November and December. They need adult encouragement; a calm learning environment; effective time management that fits family schedules and practical support, such as being tested on memorised information or being timed to complete written tests. These are the exact elements that will make students successful in their Summer GCSE examinations.

Thank you in advance for helping your child stick to their revision plan and for keeping their motivation up, thank you for topping up their supply of pens, rulers, paper and revision snacks and thank you for continuing to be the most important teacher your child will ever have.

Miss Hand Deputy Headteacher, Raising Attainment

This week year 11 students have had assemblies preparing the students for their year 11 Pre Public Examinations that take place at the end of this term. Obviously this means that the girls will be revising for these exams. It is vital that students get into good revising habits both for these exams and their real exams in the summer. I know that you will want to support your daughter in their exams so here are some tips for effective revision.

Interleaving

It is really important for students to revisit topics that they have already learnt. This makes it easier to remember. Sometimes students try to revise everything in blocks, e.g. all of the work they have done on The American West in history. It is far better to break this down into smaller chunks. Learn a smaller chunk, say the lifestyles of American Indians and then learn a chunk on the first American settlers in the American West. As they are doing this interleave with their gained knowledge of the American Indians, before moving onto the next chunk. Students should try to do this for all the subjects they study. Their studying at home should always include going back and revisiting a small chunk of the course that they have previously learned maybe in year 10. Constant revisiting of chunks of previously gained knowledge will help students to remember their courses far better than spending hours revising a whole course.

Distilling

Students should try to reduce their previous work into smaller chunks. One way of doing this is the use of flash cards where they reduce pages of information onto a card that has the main concept or topic and then has quotes, diagrams or bullet points on that topic. This could be produced after they have finished a topic in one of their subject areas. Use this to prepare

answers to past questions. On one side of the card write a past question and then on the other plan an answer using bullet points only. Keep these cards with you so you can refer to them in lessons or create a card for a topic you find difficult.

Floria

When preparing revision information students can put the most important information **first** and **last**. They should think about how they can make information **Outstanding. Repeat** important facts. Make key information **Interesting** using images, mnemonics, diagrams etc. Make links so that **Association** takes you from one fact to another.

Transform It

Just reading through their notes is NOT revision. Transforming it means them taking their notes and transforming them into something else. This makes it more likely that they will remember it. For example, turning notes into a Venn diagram, audio recordings, flashcards, timelines etc.

Practise, practise, practise

They should be reviewing subject content repeatedly and understand it is never too early to revise. They need to apply this remembered knowledge to the types of questions they will get in your exams. Use the past questions your teachers give you, but it's a good idea to see if you can create your own in the same style once you have revised a chunk.

I should point out that this advice applies to ALL students in ALL years.

Good Luck!!

Simon Neil
Assistant Headteacher

Whole School Literacy

We are very proud to announce that two of our Year 10 students, Santiya Manivannan and Varunegha Sureskumar, have succeeded in having their poetry and creative writing published in an anthology called 'Places of Power'. Their pieces formed part of a collection of writing by London Students who participated in a project run by Goldsmiths University.

Santiya and Varenugh attended a celebration ceremony at Goldsmiths on 2nd October 2018, where they read their work to a live audience, received certificates and a copy of the published anthology. We would like to congratulate them on this significant achievement.

The project will be running again this year and a creative writing expert from Goldsmiths will be working with our current team of Literacy Ambassadors.

Ms Norwood, Literacy Co-ordinator

Jigsaw

Our Year 7 JIGSAW Students have settled in well and have been working so hard in English.

They're learning about Roald Dahl and have successfully ordered a timeline about his life and learnt lots of facts without giving up! Did you know that the famous author only wrote in pencil on yellow paper? Visit us in Room 81 if you have any Dahl facts - we'd love to hear them!

Miss Taylor, JIGSAW

Book Club trip to Poetry Performance and Workshop

On Tuesday 16th October we went to Bexleyheath Library and watched Dan Simpson perform some of his poetry. He also led a poetry workshop afterwards and we learnt about different types of poetry such as shape poetry (which you write in a shape) and list poetry (where you list the same word throughout the poem). For the list poetry we used the phrase 'I come from' at the beginning of each stanza and we made it our own and performed it at the end which was really fun.

Overall we thought the workshop was great to be part of, especially since we got refreshments! We'd like to say thank you to Mrs Kingsbury-Barker, our School Librarian, the members of Bexleyheath Library and obviously Dan Simpson.

Leena Cheung and Daya Sehota Year 8

Careers Information

Year 11 Careers Interviews

As part of the Year 11 careers provision all Year 11 students will be invited to attend a 1-2-1 interview with Jody Phillips our Careers Advisor from Prospects Services.

These informal interviews have been taking place throughout this term and will continue until next year. It will be very beneficial for your daughter to attend her interview as it will give her the opportunity to discuss her future career options thus enabling her to make the right choices.

Year 10 Work Experience 8th – 19th July

All Parents/Guardians should now have received a work experience pack with full details of the work experience programme. Full details were emailed home last June and also a copy has been sent home via your daughter in September. If you have not received a pack please ask your daughter to come to Room 106 to collect another copy.

I will be visiting every student in Year 10 to speak to them about what type of placement they are interested in or are looking for. Some work experience placements are extremely

competitive so to be successful you need to begin your search early. The longer students leave it, the less chance they will have of finding a suitable placement. This term students also had the opportunity to attend a CV Workshop which enabled them to prepare a CV and an application letter to send off to prospective employers.

If any student is having difficulty gaining a placement I am available to help Tuesdays – Thursdays in Room 106.

Good luck on your search I look forward to receiving your completed placement forms!

Key dates:-

Deadline for finding placements

Friday 8th February 2019

Work Experience Period

Monday 8th – Friday 19th July 2019

Mrs Smith, Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Additional Notices

Medication

Please may we remind parents that as per the school's Medical Policy, students should not be carrying any medication on their person in school unless it is for a life threatening illness such as diabetes, epilepsy, seizures, asthma etc. Medication should be given in to the school office for safe keeping and administering.

Medication cannot be administered to students without written permission from parents/carers. This includes paracetamol, ibuprofen etc. as well as prescribed medication. A copy of the permission slip is available from reception or the school office when required. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Lost Property

Please may we ask parents/carers to ensure that their daughter's uniform is labelled with their name. We are having increasing numbers of students looking for items lost and whilst we have a small lost property area, it can take a while for some items to make their way down to us. PE kits in particular are mislaid and left around school and if they are not named we are unable to reunite them with their owners. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs Clayton, Office Manager

Year 7 Lockers – update

We are expecting the lockers to be delivered during half term and will send out a parentmail when they have been installed and the website is reopened for booking. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Mr Morgan, Business Manager

Calendar of Events 2018 - 2019

Date	Event
Friday 19th October 2018	School closed Staff Training
22nd – 26th October 2018	Half Term
Tuesday 6 th November 2018	Extended Staff Briefing – School Starts at 8.45am
Thursday 8 th November 2018	Challenge Day 1
Thursday 15 th November 2018	Year 13 Parents Evening
19 th – 23 rd November 2018	Year 13 A-Level PPEs (1)
Thursday 29 th November 2018	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 30 th November 2018	Year 7 Concert
3 rd – 7 th December 2018	Year 10 Trip to New York
3 rd – 14 th December 2018	Year 11 PPEs
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	Christmas Carol Performance
Friday 21 st December 2018	Last day of Term School finishes at 12.50pm
24th December to 4th January 2019	Christmas Holidays
Monday 7 th January 2019	Spring Term Starts 8.30am
7-18 th January 2019	Year 9 Examination week
Tuesday 15 th January 2019	Extended Staff Briefing – School Starts at 8.45am
Wednesday 16 th January 2019	Year 11 PPE Exam results assembly
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 28 th January 2019	Year 9 Vaccinations (DTP/Meningitis)
Thursday 31 st January 2018	Year 12 Parents Evening
4-8 th February 2019	Year 13 Trip to Berlin & Krakow
4-8 th February 2019	Year 9 Taster Week
Tuesday 5 th February 2019	Challenge Day 2
Thursday 7 th February 2019	Year 9 Options Assembly
9-20 th February 2019	Trip to India 9th to 20th February
Thursday 14 th February 2019	Year 9 Options Evening
18-22nd February 2019	Half Term
23-26 th February 2019	Year 10 Business Disneyland trip
Thursday 28 th February	Year 9 Parents Evening (Green/Red/Blue 1-4)
4-10 th March 2019	Barcelona Music Trip
Tuesday 5 th March 2018	Extended Staff Briefing – school starts at 8.45am
Wednesday 6 th March 2019	Sixth Form University Information Evening
Thursday 7 th March 2019	Year 9 Parents Evening (Yellow/Purple/Blue 5-9)
Tuesday 12 th March 2019	Year 9 Vaccinations (Catch up session) Careers Forum (Evening)
Wednesday 20 th March 2019	Year 9 Selection Interviews
Thursday 21 st March 2019	Year 11 Trip to Hastings Year 11 PFS (meeting with Form Tutor)
Friday 22 nd March 2019	Challenge Day 3
Friday 29 th March 2019	Easter Concert 6pm
1-5 th April 2019	Sixth Form Work Experience
Friday 5 th April 2019	Last Day of Term school finishes at 12.45pm
8-19th April 2019	Easter Holidays
Monday 22nd April 2019	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 23 rd April 2019	Summer Term starts 8.30am
29 th April – 3 rd May 2019	Year 12 A Level PPEs

Tuesday 30 th April 2019	Extended Staff Briefing – school starts at 8.45am
Thursday 2 nd May 2019	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 3 rd May 2019	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Monday 6th May 2019	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 14 th May 2019	Year 8 Parents Evening
Monday 20 th May 2019	Year 9 HPV Vaccinations
Wednesday 22 nd May 2019	Sixth Form Oscars
27th – 31st May 2019	Half Term
Tuesday 4 th June 2019	Extended Staff Briefing – School starts at 8.45am
Friday 14 th June 2019	Year 9 HPV Vaccinations (Catch up session)
17-28 th June 2019	Year 10 PPEs
Friday 21 st June 2019	Year 11 Celebration event
27-28 th June 2019	Year 12 Geography Trip to Eastbourne
Friday 28 th June 2019	Penhill Trust Summer Festival Year 12 Induction Day
Tuesday 2 nd July 2019	Year 6 Induction Day Year 6 Parents Induction Evening
Wednesday 3 rd July 2019	Challenge Day 4
8-12 th July 2019	Celebration Presentations
8-19 th July 2018	Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 16 th July 2019	Sports Day
17 th & 18 th July 2019	Discover Days
19 th July 2019	Last Day of Term – School finishes at 12.45