



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



@BlackfenSchool



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

22nd November 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for your ongoing support as we navigate this difficult time as a school community. We are very grateful to our parents and carers for your understanding and compassion.

I would like to remind all parents of the resources that are available on the school website to support your child, whether academically or on a personal level. If you have any further recommendations of resources or information that you would like to see on the school website, please do let us know. We do very much want it to be a useful source of information for you.

Following the parents' and students' surveys completed earlier this term, we will be sharing the findings with you in a special edition of the newsletter to come. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback. You will remember that we also launched a consultation with parents about a two-week October half term. The consultation feedback from parents was overwhelmingly in favour of the shift to a two-week half term in October. The next stage of this process is the submission of the proposed term dates and times of the school day to the Governing Body of Blackfen. This will take place in December and then the new approved term dates and times of the school day for 2025 onwards will be shared with you. Please don't book anything until we have confirmed these dates as we do not authorise holidays in term time.

We do hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Carrie Senior

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Business Studies News

Here at Blackfen we offer two different Business qualifications for Level 2 that girls can pick when they take their options in year 9. We have GCSE Business and BTEC Enterprise.

GCSE Business – During term 1 girls have been learning about the different business ownership options and the meaning of limited and unlimited liability. We have also looked at market segmentation and customer needs. In preparation for the year 11 exams, we have also made a start on exam technique and making sure our girls know how to answer questions. PECS paragraphs all the way!!

In BTEC Enterprise the two classes have been working on the first few tasks which go towards their first piece of coursework. We have had to complete some research on an enterprise and



then answer questions. We have been lucky to have received help with this from Grace's Nursery based at Ruxley.

They provided detailed information which helped the girls talk about the activities they carry out in their childcare business. Other girls have completed independent research of other small enterprises including:

Love It Hair Studio in Welling, Divinty Nails in Welling, Crook Log Gym, Tulips Café in Sidcup, Gragg Snacks in the Reach Climbing centre in Woolwich. The girls have embraced the challenge and are working well. Onwards and upwards!

Ms Cawley
Subject Lead for Business and Economics
Teacher of Business

Careers and Work Experience

Key Stage 4 course selection: Guidance and support for Year 9 students

Next term, Year 9 students will select their Key Stage 4 courses for study in Year 10 and Year 11. The process of selecting Key Stage 4 courses marks students' transition from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4, as well as their first consideration of post-19 education, training and employment. These decisions are important, which is why family support and input is unquestionably essential. It is my pleasure, as the school's Careers Adviser to offer guidance to Year 9 students and their families, as they consider the range of Key Stage 4 courses on offer and think ahead to future training and employment in the world of work.

Students will shortly be issued with a guidance booklet called '**Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 course selection**', which is designed for completion at home with input from parents and carers. Please read the booklet carefully, as there are specific sections to be completed in discussion with your daughter. The purpose of the booklet is to guide students, with parental support, to reflect on their personal character traits and qualities and their academic strengths and learning journey. Developing a clear and honest understanding of these two areas is the starting point for choosing Key Stage 4 subjects and is most successful when supported by family adults.

Key Stage 4 course selection at Blackfen School is always a guided process. We recognise that these choices will influence, to some extent, the courses selected by students for study in Key Stage 5 and then the kind of training and education they select at the end of Year 13, so your input is much appreciated at this time. Please complete the booklet with your daughter and then sign on **page 1** of the booklet to confirm that you have read and discussed the content of these pages with them.

Year 9 students must bring the completed booklet to their small-group careers interviews (January – March 2025), as well as to other meetings with senior staff in school. Families should ensure that the on-line Key Stage 4 course selection form is completed by **Wednesday 12th March 2025**. There will be no further changes accepted to students' selection of subjects after this date.

We have taken time to develop resources that enable our students to fully explore and research their future education, training and career options. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at

school, if you would like additional information about any aspect of our on-going careers guidance.

Year 8 STEM Careers Day

Careers day for Year 8 was to help students explore their STEM knowledge and different careers within the world of work. Students took part in a practical session with 'The Royal Navy'.

The Royal Navy session got students to take part in a mock humanitarian session where they had to build a satellite tower to help an island where a hurricane had destroyed all their power cables. They had to use ropes, nuts, bolts and a wheel to build a tower almost 2 metres tall.

The day also included access to Unifrog an online careers platform. Unifrog helped students to find out what career sectors they may be interested in and what type of characteristics, traits and interests they have as a person. This will help them to make important decisions in the future.

They also got the opportunity to make Vision Boards. Vision boards are a collage of images that can represent their future goals and dreams. They had to visualise what they would like to be doing in 2034, 10 years away! It was good to identify where they see themselves in the future.

Finally, they completed a sustainability session where they had to plan who they would take to an uninhabited island and how they would be able to live sustainably on the island. It was good to draw the island before and after they had planned it.

Overall year 8 careers day was enjoyed by everyone!

I enjoyed the Royal Navy session best as it helped me to use my problem-solving skills and teamworking skills to get the best results. I learned about all the different careers in the Royal Navy which were interesting to find out about. There were also prizes for the students who worked well as part of a team during the careers day.

By Daniela, Year 8



Best Teamwork and Best Build

The following students all received a prize for their effort and contribution to the day:

Mehak V	Sophie W
Evie T	Adelina
Yaarthiha	Tharmini
Olivia M	Lucille B
Lize S	Lillie A
Sejal G	Hannah M
Breann	Darcie
Heidi P	Isla
Eliza T	Husnia
Emmie	Meeyah
Ava	Izel
Rosie O	Courtney D
Daniela	Mia C
Jessica P	Ersila



Mrs K Smith
Careers Adviser

Blackfen School, Winner of 'Performing Arts School of the Year 2024'

We are proud to announce that Blackfen School for Girls was nominated and WON 'Performing Arts School of the year 2024' The reasons were:

- Variety of performance opportunities given both in school and externally to perform.
 - The vast amount of students participating in shows and cohort sizes at GCSE.
 - The range of offer including dance leaders, LAMDA, GCSE and Arts Award.
 - The varied curriculum at KS3
 - Broad offer of clubs (drama, cheerleading, dance company, dance club)
 - Inclusive clubs and performances
 - Networks with local schools, colleges and companies (Royal Opera House, Local primaries and local dance schools)
-
- Trips: Theatre productions, move it, college visits and many more.

This award has spurred us on to work even harder and we are excited for all this year has to bring.



Ms Jarman
Subject Leader of Dance and Drama
Second in Charge, Expressive Arts Faculty



NUMERACY CORNER



Welcome to the Numeracy Corner Puzzle feature.

Each newsletter will contain a Numeracy Puzzle for you to challenge each other to complete. The answers will be published in the following newsletter. We hope you enjoy them.

(answers next time)

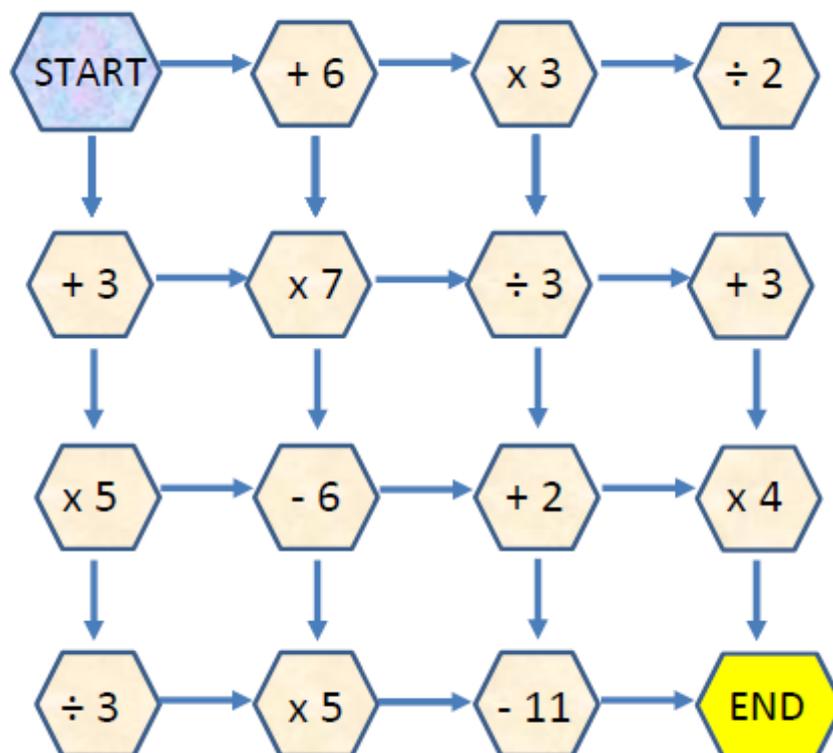
NUMBER MAZE: TARGET 64

Start the maze with zero.

You have to finish the maze with a total of 64.

You must follow one of the arrows each time.

There are two possible routes. Can you find them?



Reminders

If your child is absent for ANY reason (**either for the whole day or just part of the day**), please can you contact the school BEFORE 08.00 on the day of absence. This is so that we can keep your child safe.

Please choose the phone option for absence as this can be much quicker than waiting for reception during busy periods.

If your child is absent because of illness, please could you clarify symptoms, as unwell or illness is not sufficient?

There are many ways to contact the school, i.e. text, email or phone us, but whichever method you use, please can you let us know the child's name, year group and reason for absence.

Please ring every day your child is absent.

Please may we also remind parents/carers there is no facility to drop off students or their belongings through the school car park. Please park off site and enter via the pedestrian gate.

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Monday 25 th November 2024	School INSET day
Tuesday 26 th November	Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge National Grid Workshop years 12/13
Thursday 28 th November 2024	Year 10 NYC parents' info meeting 4.30pm-6pm
W/B Monday 2 nd December 2024	Year 11 GCSE & BTEC PPEs
Thursday 5 th December 2024	Year 8/10 Ski trip Parents' Information Evening 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Sunday 8 th – Friday 13 th December 2024	Year 10 trip to NYC (selected students)
W/B 9 th December 2025	Achievement Assemblies
Wednesday 11 th December 2024	Year 11 Citizenship Trip to Parliament Year 12 Art Trip to Tate Britain
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Year 13 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm Governors' Meeting 5pm
Friday 13 th December 2024	BFI Southbank Trip Year 12
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	Winter Showcase performances
Friday 20 th December 2024	Students' last day (finish at 12.15pm)
Monday 30 th December – Friday 3 rd January 2025	Xmas Holidays

Monday 6 th January 2025	Students return to school
Tuesday 8 th January 2025	DofE parents' information
Thursday 9 th January 2025	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 th January 2025	Sixth Form subject selection meetings
Thursday 23 rd January 2025	Citizenship Fair
26 th – 31 st January 2025	Year 11/13 Trip to New York
3 rd – 7 th February 2025	Year 13 Trip to Berlin/Krakow
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 12 Next steps evening 5pm
17 th – 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	Year 10/11 (selected students) trip to Royal Courts of Justice Showcase
Tuesday 25 th February 2025	Year 9 DTP Vaccinations
Thursday 27 th February 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening
W/B 3 rd March 2025	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 13 A-Level PPEs
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Careers Fair
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Governors' meeting
Friday 7 th March 2025	Year 10 Dance Trip to Exel Centre
2 weeks W/B 10 th March 2025	Year 11 GCSE / BTEC PPEs (2)
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Year 9 Options Interviews with LT
Thursday 13 th March 2025	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 20 th March 2025	Year 12 Parents' Evening Governors Meeting
W/B 24 th March 2025	Achievement Assemblies
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Year 9 DTP vaccination catch ups
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Disney Trip (year 8/9 selected) information meeting Year 8/9 Disneyland Paris
Wednesday 2 nd to Friday 4 th April 2025	Disneyland Trip
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Governors' Meeting
Friday 4 th April 2025	End of Term Students finish early
Monday 7 th – 17 th April 2025	Easter Holiday
Monday 21 st April 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	National Stephen Lawrence Day
W/B 22 nd April 2025	Year 12 A Level PPEs
W/B 28 th April 2025	Year 12 A Level PPEs
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Year 11 Box Clever theatre performance
Thursday 1 st May 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Thursday 15 th May 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening Governors' meeting
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Thursday 5 th June 2025	Governors' meeting
Friday 6 th June 2025	Dance Students theatre trip
2 weeks W/B 16 th June 2025	Year 10 GCSE / BTEC PPEs
Thursday 19 th June 2025	Governors' meeting
Monday 30 th June 2025	Sixth Form Induction Day Year 12 Work experience week
Tuesday 1 st July 2025	Year 6 Induction Day & Parents' information meeting
W/B 7 th July 2025	Provisional dates for Community Celebration Presentations
Tuesday 8 th July 2025	Year 8 and 9 HPV & DTP vaccination catchups
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Governors' meeting
W/B Monday 14 th July 2025	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 16 th & Thursday 17 th July 2025	Discover Days
Friday 18 th July 2025	End of Term – Early finish