



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.

## Additional Information September 2019

### The school day

Students receive twenty five hours of lesson time and just over two hours of tutor time each week.

<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>8.30 – 9.30</b>
<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>9.30 – 10.30</b>
<b>Community time</b>	<b>10.30 – 10.55</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.55 – 11.20</b>
<b>Lesson 3</b>	<b>11.20 – 12.20</b>
<b>Lesson 4</b>	<b>12.20 – 13.20</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>13.20 – 14.10</b>
<b>Lesson 5</b>	<b>14.10 – 15.10</b>

Morning registration is at 8.30 at the start of lesson one, so students need to be in school by at least 8.20am. Lesson five ends at 3.10pm. However, many students stay longer to take advantage of ICT and the Learning Resources Centre which stay open after school, or to participate in a wide range of extra curricular activities.

### Uniform and equipment rules and regulations

#### Policy Statement

At Blackfen School for Girls we believe that the uniform should reflect the school motto “Raising Aspirations, Releasing Potential”, and should demonstrate visibly that our students are aiming for excellence in everything that they do. We expect the very highest standards of dress for all students. Years 7-11 wear a uniform which is described in more detail in this booklet. The Sixth Form also have a dress code of either a trouser or skirt suit.

**All girls must wear school uniform which should be clearly marked with their name.**

#### **Indoor Uniform consists of:**

- regulation plain navy skirt with two box pleats back and front and/or regulation plain navy trousers
- regulation white blouse
- regulation navy or red school V-neck sweatshirt with the Blackfen embroidered name. No other sweatshirt may be worn
- regulation navy or red school cardigan with Blackfen embroidered name. No other cardigans may be worn

- a regulation blazer with school badge and the student's community flash on the central pocket
- socks which may be black, navy or grey. Alternatively tights may be worn and should be navy, black or grey. Leggings of any colour may not be worn. Socks/tights must be worn with shoes.
- shoes which should be: leather or leather-look; black, flat, plain and sensible i.e. no heels above 2 inches, nothing above the ankle bone and no large platforms. No form of Vans or Converse trainers are permitted, even if they are leather. Suede shoes are not permitted. Trainers, boots, canvas style, leisure or backless shoes are not acceptable. No trainers may be worn except for PE. Students will be provided with plain black plimsolls in the event that their footwear is incorrect. Students will not be permitted to wear alternative footwear unless they have an official medical note.

**Outerwear** should consist of a plain navy or black coat, jacket, raincoat, anorak/cagoule, or duffle coat. Coats of other colours or with large logos or brand names are not permitted and may be confiscated. **Denim, fur/ fake fur, leather or suede jackets are not acceptable.** Any hair decoration, including bandanas, must be discrete and in school colours; black, red or navy. All Hijabs must be plain black, red or navy.

No logos, lettering or symbols of any size are allowed on any piece of clothing except the school sweatshirt and trousers.

### Physical Education

All PE Kit is supplied by Macron Sportswear

Basic Kit:

- Andromeda shirt
- Nile top
- Mesa shorts
- Rayon Socks
- Campus Gym sack
- Shin pads

**In winter** – jogging bottoms and rain jacket are optional and may be worn for outdoor PE.

### Curriculum

At Blackfen, we are committed to providing a curriculum that meets the needs of all our students. We aim to ensure continuity and progression, focusing on the development of skills and experiences that lead to relevant qualifications.

Exciting, engaging and challenging teaching and learning strategies are at the heart of our learning process. From the start of their school career, students in Year 7 are equipped with resources to approach learning in any subject with confidence, both in school and in their future careers. We offer a unique learning experience of ongoing challenge in a caring environment. Blackfen sets out to challenge students from day one in year 7 to their last exam in year 13.

Staff see themselves as part of the learning community and provide first class experiences for the students through their expertise. There is a shared vision of high expectations and an emphasis on providing learning opportunities that promote resilience and determination leading to a Growth Mindset.

### Key Stage 3

Students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that includes: English, Mathematics, Science, French or Spanish, Religious Studies, PE, Dance & Drama, Technology, Geography, History, Art, Music, Computing, PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Enterprise) and PSHCE.

### Key Stage 4

Students continue to follow a core curriculum working towards GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, Religious Studies or Citizenship and a Core PE curriculum that includes Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Junior Dance or Sports Leadership award. Students choose, in addition, four option subjects in early 2020 from GCSEs in History, Geography, French, Spanish, Triple Science, Statistics, Art & Design (Fine Art), Art & Design (Photography), Drama, Music,

Business Studies, Economics, Food Preparation & Nutrition and Design and Technology and from Technical Awards in BTEC Enterprise, BTEC Sport, BTEC Performing Arts (Dance), BTEC Health and Social Care, BTEC Art and Design (Textiles) and Cambridge Nationals in ICT.

### **Key Stage 5**

Students remain at Blackfen into the Sixth Form where they can study a wide range of courses at A Level and BTEC. We also offer a Level 2 Foundation Programme for students who require an additional year before studying at Level 3. For more information, please visit our website.

### **Future Careers**

We believe that students should have aspirations and focus on future career pathways and opportunities and that this has a positive impact on achievement.

This means preparing students for future success through qualifications and also by equipping them with skills and experiences for living life to the full.

This starts in Year 8 where one of the Challenge Days focuses on Careers and students spend the day exploring different career paths. The School retains an independent Careers Advisor who works in the School one day a week. Students are actively counselled on choices of courses at Key Stages 4 and 5. All students must stay in education or training until the age of 18 and so during Key Stage 4 they receive full careers education and guidance on pathways into Blackfen's Sixth Form or alternative pathways elsewhere and during Key Stage 5 leading to pathways at university or via Higher apprenticeship schemes.

The School puts on a Careers evening in March of every year, to which all students are invited to meet representatives of local and national employers such as NHS, Accountancy, Law and Legal, as well as from Universities including Oxford & Cambridge and uniformed organisations.

Personal development is supported through a two-week work experience placement at the end of Year 10. All students undertake a work experience preparation day in the summer term. This course not only prepares the students for work experience, but also outlines employer expectations that will be useful for future employment. Students are encouraged to source their own placement or can use the opportunities offered by the school's excellent business links, which they can then add to enrich their curriculum vitae, when applying for further study or employment.

### **Governance**

Blackfen School is a stand-alone Academy. Although it is not part of a larger chain of schools Blackfen is a founding member of the Penhill Academies Trust along with Sherwood Park School and Hurstmere School. Bexley Grammar School and Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School are also members of the Trust. The five schools work closely together as part of an Umbrella Trust. Each school has a separate Governing Body. The role of the Governing Body at Blackfen is to strategically lead the school. The Governing Body works closely with the staff team in both supporting and challenging the work of the school ensuring that the raising aspirations-releasing potential vision of the school is realised.

### **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Students with SEN at Blackfen School for Girls are assisted by a team of Teaching Assistants in class and in the OASIS (Open Access Supporting Inclusive Learning).

Intervention programmes are available for Literacy and Numeracy support and include reading support during community times. Students with Statements are assigned a TA Key Worker, who meets them at community times and completes a weekly evaluation with them.

A lunchtime Club is offered on daily basis and includes dyslexia support, a Circle of Friends, Craft and homework support. Screening for Dyslexia is also available.

'JIGSAW,' is a resourced provision unit providing 16 places for young people with visual impairment, physical and/or neurological impairment, medical needs and speech and communication disorders.

This provision enables young people to access the mainstream curriculum whilst also attending small group support for English, Maths and Humanities lessons.

All students at Blackfen School for Girls will benefit from an improved level of understanding of the needs of young people with disability. Their empathy and experience of diversity, a paramount life skill, will develop as a result of engaging with disabled young people.

### **Working with Parents**

Students are issued with a Student Planner every year which provides an essential link between home and school. It is used to record details of homework given and important notices as well comments on attendance and behaviour. The planner helps parents and staff to work together in an effective partnership and ensure regular monitoring of student progress.

Consultation Evenings are held during the year which provides an important opportunity for parents to talk to subject staff about their child's progress.

Parents can keep up to date with school life via their own section on the website and the fortnightly Family Newsletter that is sent home. The school has an informative website and parental views are sought through questionnaires and surveys.

### **Home Learning**

The home learning policy is part of the school's overall learning and assessment strategy.

Teaching staff will ensure the home learning is recorded in the students' Student Planner, monitor the completion of home learning and assess where appropriate and ensure students are aware of how the home learning consolidates and extends on their work in school.

Students should record home learning set in their Student Planner and ensure it is completed by the deadline. Parents should monitor the Student Planner and to ensure that home learning is being set and completed. The school's full home learning policy is available on request.

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