



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



@BlackfenSchool



<http://www.facebook.com/BlackfenSchoolForGirls>
www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

20th December 2024

*Wishing you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New
Year from all the staff at Blackfen
School for Girls*



Governors' Message

As the Autumn term draws to a conclusion staff and pupils can reflect on a busy and productive one.

The Governing Body too have been busy, with continuing committee meetings and numerous visits. The closing meeting of the term was the Full Governing Body meeting which took place last Thursday. This was well attended with a full agenda being discussed, including the Head Teacher's Report, consideration of the Trust's Financial Report and the conclusion of a governance review from which extremely useful enhancements to our practice has been gained.

The Governing Body welcomed the appointment of Mrs McMahon as a Staff Governor and would like to thank Mr Hammond who has resigned from his role as an Appointed Governor due to work commitments, for all his hard work whilst a governor.

Finally on behalf of the Governing Body I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils, parents, carers and staff a relaxing festive break and a prosperous New Year.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Vocational

Law Department:

The Law Department has made a great start to the school year with a large cohort of students studying for both the A-level and the BTEC qualifications.

We are hoping our students will gain relevant and exciting work experience in various legal companies, repeating the success of our year 13 students last year.

Lola enjoyed her time at Aletta Shaw Solicitors where she gained experience contacting barristers, sorting relevant files for civil cases and court hearings.

Ella completed her work experience at the prestigious firm Birketts LLP in Ipswich where she was assigned to one of their London trainees. This gave her a good flavour of life as a trainee. Ella spent time with various practitioners in a number of different departments. She gained experience in real estate, family law and employment law, extending her knowledge of the law beyond those studied at A-level.

Lyla was based at Bromley Magistrates' Court working with the legal adviser and being party to the conversations between the magistrates, as well as sitting in court to observe the cases and sentencing.

These experiences have enhanced the students' depth of learning and understanding of the English legal system and will enhance their applications to further study or to the workplace.

We hope for some exciting placements again this year.

Ms Gilles-Terry, Faculty Leader Vocational Faculty
TLL Law

Health and Social Care

It has been a busy term for all Health and Social care students. Year 13 and 11 are preparing for their January exams. Year 12 and 10 are producing coursework with strict deadlines.

Year 10 First term of Health and social care

Health and Social, at first it was very stressful and took some time to adapt to, as there was a lot of coursework and not a long time to complete it. The deadlines are strict and we were not used to managing our time. However, we got used to it and understood how to do the coursework and got into a routine of knowing when to do the coursework it got easier. It's a very interesting subject and we enjoy

learning about the development of infants and adolescents and how it affects them physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially (their PIES). We also learnt about attachment and the effects of noise, air and light pollution on infants and adolescence. If I was talking to my year 9 self, I would advise them to be prepared to do lots of work and know that there will be work to do outside of school, but the work is interesting and the more work I do the better the grade will be.

Olivia 10MSA-8

Year 12 Level 3 Health and Social Care

When I began Health and Social Care, Level 3 I had never done Health before, so joining this class was a new experience. During this term we have begun to cover unit 1 and unit 5. Unit 5 is coursework, and I have enjoyed it although it has been harder as it is more demanding with the deadlines than my other courses. However, if you plan it well and have good time management, you will be fine I also feel it allows me to become more independent, as I do my own research around the topics and about the case study given. Unit 1 is taught to us so we can apply our knowledge for an end of year exam. I have enjoyed learning about the genetic diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis and Huntington's disease. I have also found that unit 1 is taught at a very fast pace. However, I enjoy this because it encourages me to revise more frequently, this will help me get a good grade. Overall, this topic has given me a general view of Health and Social Care and I believe it will benefit me in the future when seeking out specialised jobs in the healthcare profession.

Rose 12C-CDA

Ms Morris

Subject Leader of Health & Social Care

English Department

KS5 – English Literature Lectures

On the 5th December, 30 Year 12 and 13 A Level English Literature students attended a series of engaging lectures on *The War of the Worlds*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Dracula*. The students impressed the visiting lecturer with their focus and enthusiasm.

Everyone involved has spoken positively about the experience, noting how it provided insightful ideas as well as valuable practice for engaging with lectures and discussions in the university world. A special mention goes to Libby in 13D for always asking interesting and thought-provoking questions. A big thank you to all who participated!

Year 11 Christmas Pudding Initiative

This term, the Year 11 Christmas Pudding initiative encouraged students to excel in their English lessons by rewarding good work, class participation, or any behaviour their English teacher deemed as excellent practice. Students had the chance to earn a 'Christmas Pudding' token, which entered them into a raffle to win a £20 Amazon voucher.

Congratulations to **Ameerah in 11LLY-9**, who won the £20 Amazon voucher, and **Louisa in 11JBE-3**, the runner-up, who received some chocolates!

A huge well done to all students who earned a Christmas pudding token—keep up the hard work as you continue preparing for your GCSEs!

Year 10 Jack Petchey

This year, we were lucky to receive funding for 58 Year 10 students to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop day, which took place on 26th November 2024. The workshops allow students to take part in a range of speaking and listening activities and gain confidence in structuring and delivering presentations. They also learn how to improve skills such as moderating tone, projection, gesture and engagement with an audience.

Feedback at the end of the day reflected that: 85% of students now believe they can succeed at new things; 77% believe they have improved their ability to stay focused and think clearly under pressure and 93% confirmed they had learnt skills they can apply in the next stage of education, training and employment.

Congratulations to Gifty (10DST) and Arisha (10MSA) who were highly commended on the day and to Ava (10RHE), Martha (10RHE), Helens (10KJH), Tanya (10LET), Yinka (10LET), Arabella (10LET), Talia (10KNS), Zara (10AOW), Poppy (10EKI) and Misha (10AOW) who will receive further mentoring and have a chance to represent Blacken at the Bexley Regional Speak Out final.

Year 7 Halloween Story Competition

We were pleased to receive some excellent entries from Year 7s this year for the Halloween short story competition, which were lively and imaginative. A selection of entries are available for viewing in the school reception area and this year the governors will be judging the winners. These will be announced shortly.

Chess Tournament

Blackfen held its first Chess Tournament of the school year on Tuesday 10th July. The students have been progressing and improving week on week during the weekly chess club, so it was always going to be an interesting battle for the prestigious Blackfen chess title.

It went down to the last match between Suha and Iris to claim the title and it was Iris who won by checkmate to retain the title Blackfen Chess Champion.



Congratulations to Iris and to all the students who took part.

Mr Love
TLL of English

Social Sciences

Year 12 & 13 Politics Debate:

Well done to our Year 12 and 13 Politics students for participating in a lively debate on Thursday, 12th December. The topic, 'Should controversial statues remain in place or be removed?' sparked thoughtful discussion and showcased impressive skills of analysis from both teams.

A special well done to Year 13, who emerged as the winners this time. However, Year 12 will have an opportunity to redeem themselves in a future debate—watch this space!



Well done to all for their efforts and thought-provoking arguments.

Parliament Trip:

Citizenship students in Year 11 took a trip to Parliament on 11th December 2024. They were able to see part of the House of Lords debate on hereditary peers and also chanced upon, 3rd place contestant of I'm a celebrity Nigel Farage MP. The students had a lovely time and upheld the school values as we walked around the palace of Westminster. We also saw hundreds of tractors along the way as the farmers protested about changes to inheritance tax. Our students were able to see citizen participation and democracy in action.



Annual Citizenship Fair:

On **Thursday 23rd January 2025** we will be holding our annual Citizenship Fair in the Performance Space after school from 3.30pm-5.00pm. All GCSE Citizenship students are expected to attend this event to complete the final element of Theme E. Our students have been writing letters to people in power which includes our local MP, Mr Louie French, who we have invited to attend this event. We have also invited the Mayor of Bexley and various charities and organisations to support our students as they use their power and influence to make a positive change in the society they live in. We would also like to invite you to come along to this event to support your child and our students and see the wonderful work they have completed so far. For many of our students this will be just the beginning of the positive change they will make in society.

Request for Donations:

We are also appealing for any donations of the products below which will be donated to Bexley Women's Aid. Bexley Women's Aid is a local charity supporting women, girls & children experiencing domestic abuse, violence in their homes. All items listed below will be given to the women, girls & children who use the services of Bexley Women's Aid.

- Sanitary items, pads/tampons
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Tissues
- Shower gel
- Bubble bath
- Bath sponge/puff
- Hairbrush/comb
- Hand cream
- Body lotion

Any donations can be handed into Room 202 to Miss Jahan. These will go a long way to help the women, girls and children in the local area. These will be presented to a representative of their organisation at the Citizenship Fair.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Laryea-Daniels
Social Sciences Faculty Leader
Teacher of Politics, Citizenship & SPCS

Sociology & Psychology News:

Year 13 students have been busy working hard on their Pre-Public Exams. This is a reminder to students about the amount of work they need to do in preparation for success and the importance of a growth mind-set! Students have been using their PLC's (Personal Learning Checklist), and practice exam papers to support their revision. It has been lovely to see how hard some of the students are working and how much they care about their studies. Although we know students have found it stressful, this is really important practice for their final exams and will all be worth it in the end. Plus, it has been lovely reading some of their papers and seeing them develop as A' level students. For those who were disappointed with their marks, we hope they will use their Growth Mindset to review their current practice/level of work and learn from their mistakes. In Psychology lessons we have been learning about Schizophrenia, symptoms and issues with diagnosis. With Miss Reid, students have been learning the new topic of Forensics, including profiling, the different approaches, whether this works and different explanations for criminal behaviour including Eysenck's personality type. In Sociology with Miss Smith, students have been learning about the conflict approaches of Marxism and Feminism. And with Miss Purbrick students have just started Crime & Deviance, looking at statistical trends in crime and how we define crime/deviance.

Year 12 Sociology students have been learning about Class and Education with Miss Smith and how we can create more equality within the education system. What can governments do to reduce the gap between middle class and poorer students, and how effective these policies are in making education fairer? With Miss Purbrick they have been looking at Families & Households, demographic trends/changes and different theoretical perspectives associated with this.

Year 12 Psychology students have been learning about research methods with Miss Smith, a topic I'm sure they are keen to finish, as it has been quite a slog! However, this will pay off when they start to apply their knowledge of research methods to actual psychological research. With Miss Purbrick students have been doing Attachment, how/why do young children make attachments and what are the consequences of these for future relationships? With Miss Reid students have been looking at social psychology including research into obedience. This has practical application to events such as the Second World War, and compliance within the COVID pandemic. Students have also been looking at whether people would behave the same nowadays, if this research were to be repeated?

We wish all our lovely students a happy and restful Christmas, have fun, but remember to do some independent study too! Remember to use our department library and TEAMS pages for additional reading/research.

Ms Smith
Subject Leader for Sociology/Psychology

Modern Foreign Languages

Year 10 and Year 11 Trip to Paris, France – November 2024

During our amazing trip to Paris in November, we had the opportunity to visit many beautiful and historic landmarks: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Cœur, Notre Dame, les Champs Elysée, Montmartre and more. We also visited Disneyland for a day which was great. It was a fantastic experience, especially when we were able to climb the Eiffel Tower and see the breath-taking view of Paris.

We also had the privilege of trying new French foods along with practising our communication skills by ordering in French in lots of different restaurants.

Overall, we are very thankful and grateful for this incredible opportunity.

Catherine 11JBE-3, Christina 11SDA-6



Ms Carter
Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Expressive Arts

Performing Arts Update:

As always it's been very busy over in Dance and Drama: The students have been working incredibly hard on the lead up to the Winter Showcase rehearsals with over 120 students performing, rehearsals have been in full swing since October half term.

There has also been a huge buzz in the department with GCSE moderation just around the corner and students producing high quality creative pieces. Disney rehearsals are flying with 6 minutes of our 20 minute show completed, pink sparkly dresses have been fitted and we're all ready for a sneak preview in the Winter Showcase.

Dance Company are continuing to wow, and have just submitted their most recent dance to Trinity Laban Conservatoire for a youth project.

Over in Drama our buzzing drama club can't wait to show what they've been working on in the winter show and are planning big things for 2025. Our LAMDA drama lessons are proving successful with examinations hopefully at Easter, if you would like to sign up for the Spring term there is still time.

Finally, we have cast our summer musical – 'Matilda' and are very proud of our incredibly talented cast of actors, singers and dancers. Rehearsals will commence in the new year and we are so excited for the Show in July.



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

Art & Photography

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER!

Congratulations to our amazing KS3 for their contributions to the Christmas card competition, we really have such lovely talented artists at Blackfen.

Our Winner is...

Olivia (Year 9) – received 10 Christmas cards of her own design, £10 voucher and a large selection box

In Second place...

Suha Alam 8SEK-7– received a£10 voucher & selection box

In Third place...

Chloe Bragg 7MHU-3 – received a £10 voucher & selection box

TATE BRITAIN KS5 ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

ART
Department



We took our Year 12 Photography and Art students to visit two exhibitions at the Tate Britain on a very cold Wednesday this month. 'Turner Prize' and 'The 80's: Photographing Britain' exhibitions enhance students' awareness of art beyond the school environment and build on their observation skills whilst visiting London. These opportunities enlighten and educate our students providing inspiration for their coursework projects, contributing towards their component 1.

A LEVEL FINE ART
AQA

Why study this subject?
Fine Art encourages personal and creative expression through the understanding of media and skills. Students will do a series of workshop work in 3D and 2D using a variety of media such as drawing, painting, mixed media, printing, ceramics, photography, sculpture and installation to develop their skills and knowledge to show both observational and imaginative work.

As the course progresses each student begins to follow an individual Personal Investigation. They will research and investigate areas related to their own needs. Making informed analysis and evaluating their responses, whilst showing links between their work and that of artists and designers. Their work will be realised through their sketchbook, supported by a personal essay to show understanding behind their creative ideas. Trips to the Tate gallery and London stimulates and inspires outcomes.

How will I be assessed: 2 years duration:
Component 1 - Art and Design - Coursework and Personal Investigation Essay (3000 words) 60%
Component 2 - Externally set assignment 10 hours 40%

Project: 'Passions and Obsessions' and independent study, artist inspirations:

Rebecca Rutter Oil painter	Ian Murphy Painted/mixed media	Milly Sainsbury Illustrator	Jimmy Saville Painter	Adam Riches Pen & Ink

Future course and possible careers:
An A Level will be essential for all students wishing to undertake a foundation/degree course at Art College. The possible career paths are almost endless, including: Accessory Designer, Advertising Director, Archaeologist, Architect, Art Consultant, Art Coordinator, Art Critic, Art Teacher, Art Therapist, Artist in Residence, Camera Operator, Cartoonist, Comic Strip Artist, Designer, Fashion Designer, Filmmaker, Fine Artist, Furniture Designer, Illustrator, Jewellery Maker/Designer, Make-up Artist, Movie Art Director, Painter, Photographer, Printmaker, Sculptor, Television Art Director, Textile Artist or Web Site Designer.

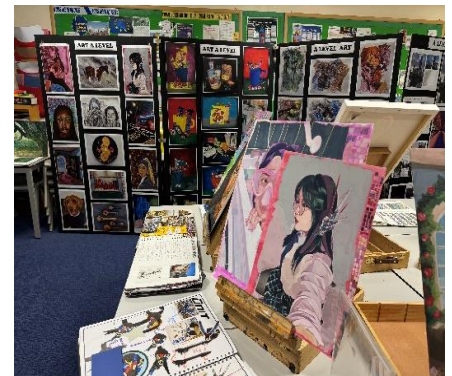
Students work

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

ART
Department



Another successful Open Evening for the Art and Photography Department. Supported by our students, who were ambassadors for Blackfen school and spoke confidently to both parents and prospective students.



ART
Department

CELEBRATING KS3 ART WORK

We have welcomed two more amazing Art teachers to our department – Ms Curzon and Mrs Virdee. All our staff bring a wealth of Art knowledge that allows us to build a fabulous new scheme of Learning. The students have loved the new projects, been very engaged and contributed to our Winter Showcase Exhibition.

YEAR 8 SHAPE AND FORM INSPIRED BY ARTIST CHRISTO



Students have been focusing on Shape and Form. Understanding how Christo wraps objects like buildings and trees. The tin wrapping and texture added using string, paint and pastel. These have then been used for a personal photoshoot. Students have then used their images to draw final outcomes.

YEAR 9 – STILL LIFE INSPIRED BY ARTIST AMIRIA GALE



Students have been focusing on Still Life. Shell drawings took on many forms through researching Amiria Gale and creating pastiche copies focusing on watercolour and layering technique.

Sgraffito another technique using oil pastels and toothpicks to scratch away at the surface, again producing beautiful outcomes.

Ms Russell
Subject Leader for Art

As we come to the end of the term, you will start to see all the lovely products our talented design technology students have been proudly working on making their way home to you. There has been a wealth of practical knowledge & skills on display across all disciplines & key stages.

At Key Stage 3:

In food technology, students have been learning how to prepare high risk food, making chicken nuggets. Along with developing knife skills and learning how to operate an oven to make pizza toast. Year 8 perfected the creaming method for some delicious Dutch apple cakes and year 9 created 'fake -aways' understanding how to cook a healthier alternative to takeaway food, along with filleting fish.



In product design Year 7 students have created their own MDF photo frames inspired by ALESSI, learning about different types of timbers and joints such as the mitre joint. Year 8 have manufactured a desk tidy/ phone stand applying their learning of polymer types. Finally year 9 have been creating metal pewter keyrings using CAD/CAM to design and laser cut their moulds, die casting their final pieces.



In textiles, students have been building their knowledge of the sewing machine & a range of new Fashion & Textiles designers. Year 7 completed their sewing machine driving licences before creating a 3D soft toy. Year 8 studied a range of fabric portrait artists to create their own portrait tote bags. And year 9 have completed a GCSE ready portfolio, showcasing a range of skills needed for when they are able to select Textiles as a GCSE option later this year.



At Key Stage 4:

GCSE Food & Nutrition students have been building on their knowledge from KS3, with a range of more advanced theory lessons to support their high level practical skills. Year 10 have been completing a wealth of cooking, such as fresh pasta, yule logs & advanced knife skills, where as year 11 have been completing their NEAs, trailing the dishes for their final practical exam.



GCSE Textiles students have been working hard through their component 1 coursework, 60% of their final GCSE grade. Yr11 are at the end of this component, finishing the term with their PPE manufacturing a corset based around an era of their choice, where as year 10 are just starting with their first component 1 project, experimenting with manipulating paper into 3D mannequin forms.



And finally, I hope you managed to get to see our faculty's winter showcase & sample some of the amazing bakes & laser cut decorations we had on show.

A reminder that if you'd like to keep up to date with what's happening in DT at Blackfen to follow us on Instagram, where you will see a range of student work & shared knowledge.

Have a lovely Christmas

Ms V Knight Subject Leader Design Technology

Ms V Knight Subject Leader Design Technology

Mathematics

Are you in KS3 and fancy taking part in some exciting and challenging maths problems? If you do, then come to the **Count on Us** maths club!

You will have the chance to try various different puzzles and challenges with the maths department. We will be looking to take two teams of **5** students to a practice tournament in March, and then one team of 5 students to represent the school at a London wide tournament in May.

If you want to come along and be in with a chance of entering the team, or just to have a bit of fun, then come to room 41, every Tuesday lunchtime.

Ms McMahon Faculty Leader for Mathematics

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)

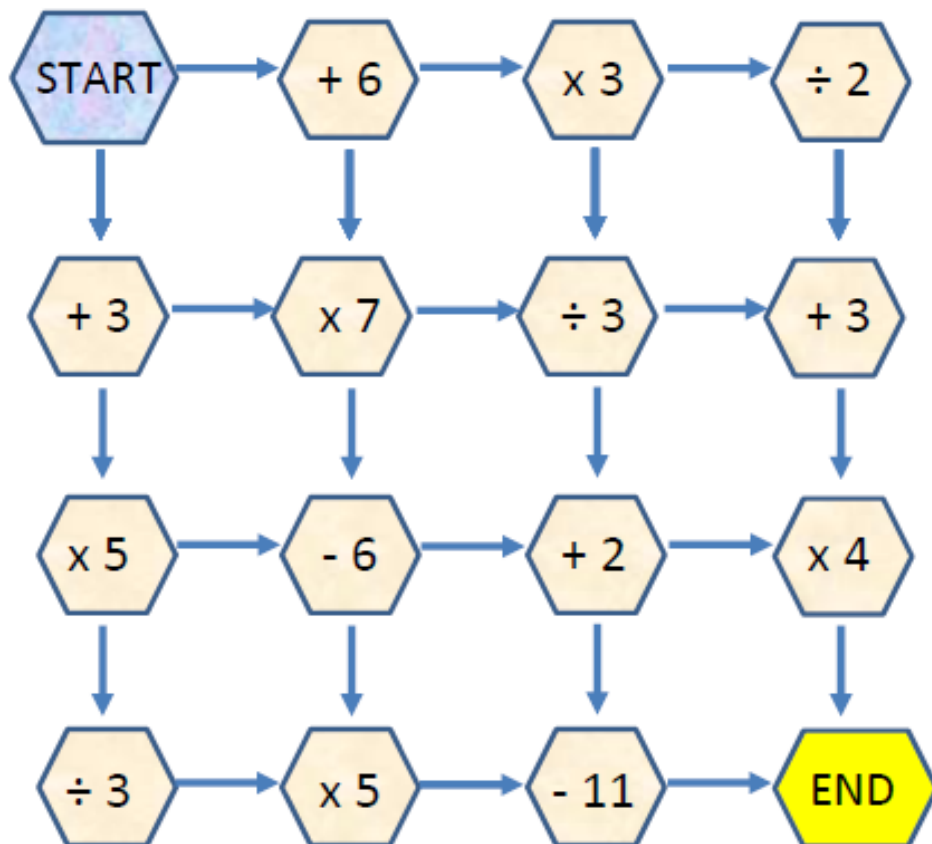
NUMBER MAZE: TARGET 64

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?



Ms Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

Humanities

Year 11 RS GCSE Trip to Rome – November 2024

Back in November, a group of Year 11 RS GCSE students, along with myself, Ms Hayford and Mrs van der Gulik, set off to Rome for a four-day trip. Leaving school at 3am on Monday morning, we arrived at Heathrow in good time. Following an uneventful flight, we found ourselves at our hotel in Rome before midday! A lovely hotel just near the Vatican; perfect location for us to explore. A quick trip on the Metro from our hotel and we were at the Spanish Steps. Here the students had some time to get something to eat and explore (and have the obligatory group photo), whilst staff ate lunch in peace.



As the weather was still so mild, we decided (much to the disappointment of the students) to walk back to the hotel from the Spanish Steps, with a minor detour via the Trevi Fountain – which we sadly found to be without any water! As we later found out, Rome is preparing for a Jubilee year (starting just after Christmas this year and running for the whole of 2025), expecting millions more tourists. As part of the preparations for this celebratory year, lots of the fountains and buildings were empty or covered, being given a thorough clean, hence the empty fountain. Still, a bridge had been built over the water area and some of the students took the opportunity to walk across. Some time back at the hotel to check in properly and for students to get their rooms sorted, and a later trip to McDonald's and a supermarket for snacks, and that was us done for the day!

On Tuesday we had an early reservation at Castel Sant' Angelo. Also known as the Mausoleum of Hadrian, it is an iconic fortress located on the banks of the Tiber River in Rome. Breakfast at the hotel was good, lots of options available, and after a decent breakfast for most, we headed out in the sunshine to walk to our destination. A wander around the castle, finding out all about its history, built originally between 123 and 135 AD, as a mausoleum, a prison, a fortress and now, a tourist attraction. The castle has also served as a refuge for various popes for nearly a millennium, since the



installation of a (then) secret elevated passage – the Passetto di Borgo – connecting the Vatican directly to the castle. Today it is a museum that houses the history of the building, along with numerous collections of ceramics, paintings and sculptures. It also offers some amazing views across the city, especially if the weather is right!

We opted to take a walk to the Pantheon – free entrance as we were a school group, bonus! Only a few grumbles about the walking so far. After a stop for



lunch in Piazza Navona, we headed back over to the Vatican for a wander round the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Some of the students got a blessing from a priest inside the chapel (their choice), but unfortunately, no sighting of the Pope. Having seen a lot of marble statues and other artefacts we headed round to St. Peter's Basilica only to find a very long queue. Deciding against standing for hours in the queue, we took some pictures and then headed off to find a restaurant for dinner. Stopping at a quaint Italian restaurant on the way back to the hotel, we squeezed in and enjoyed a variety of pizzas and pastas...and fries for some. A quick stop at the supermarket for more snacks and also at a delightful Gelateria for



some delicious gelato, and it was back to the hotel to relax after a lot of walking.

On Wednesday we had our guided tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum. Lots of walking and lots of history, but our tour guide was fantastic. Her English was fantastic, and she knew her stuff and how to make it interesting for the students too. All this walking made the students hungry, so this was followed by an early lunch, and then more walking, taking in the sights and sounds of Rome. We found ourselves over near the Trevi fountain again, close to a huge Zara store – the most important shop to visit whilst in Rome – with time for shopping, in Zara and for souvenirs, for more gelato, and for lunch at a more lunch-y time for those who wanted it (i.e. staff).



Another walk through the streets took us back to the Vatican and this time we did join the queue (much shorter) for St. Peter's Basilica. Students had some time to wander around inside the cathedral to look at the statues and painting, or take advantage of the pews to take a seat and sit quietly...as many did; the walking was finally beginning to take its toll. After the double lunch options of the day, and the gelato, the unanimous decision for dinner was made for a supermarket snack stop, a second gelato stop AND a McDonald's stop, to satisfy all the hunger options of all the students.



After an hour or so back at the hotel we were picked up for a Rome by Night Illuminated tour; students were very pleased to learn that this was on a coach and there was no walking involved! Other than a quick stop at the Colosseum for a group picture. The sights of Rome were beautiful lit up.



Thursday morning was free for us to pack up and head out for some final souvenir shopping. A short Metro ride and we found a shopping centre where the students were able to do some final shopping bits, spending the last of their euros on presents (for home and themselves) and to have a decent lunch before heading back to the hotel to pick up (and for some, repack) our suitcases before heading to the airport. An uneventful flight and journey home saw us arrive back at school around 9.30pm. Students were not impressed when reminded that they should be in school the next day, but they managed it.

Overall, it was an enjoyable trip, with a great bunch of Year 11 students and lovely weather in a wonderful European city. The students explored lots of the sites and did, for many, the most amount of walking they could have imaged (despite the warnings from myself and Ms Hayford). One student even said, when commenting about the amount of walking, that they hadn't believed us and thought we'd exaggerated when we'd warned them about the number of steps they'd do, but realised that we were definitely not exaggerating.

Thanks to both Ms Hayford and Mrs van der Gulik for joining me on the trip and for all their work and support; to the students for being so well behaved and a pleasure to take away, and to parents and carers for supporting the school and enabling us to run these trips for the students.

Mrs Nadine Doyle

Humanities Faculty Leader and Subject Leader for Religious Studies (RS) and Social, Personal & Cultural Studies (SPCS)

News from the Resource Provision

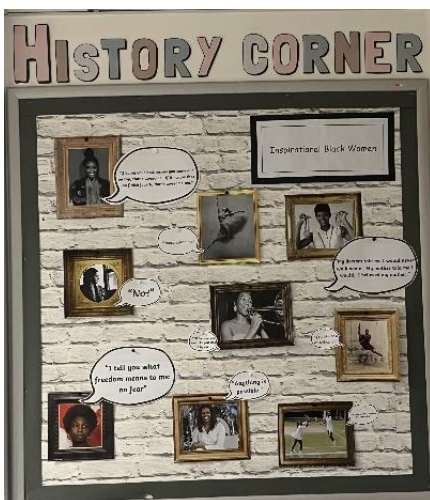


What a busy term it has been! Year 7 have settled in well to the school routines and together with the Year 8's, they have worked so hard, having already completed two assessments in Maths. Students have studied a number of topics finishing with properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Here they have used their knowledge of shapes to build and decorate a Christmas Tree. To consolidate learning, students have even practiced their wrapping skills when looking at the properties of 3D shapes to go under the tree. How funny it was to hear one student say "This is why my mum doesn't let me help her!"

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to their Entry Level in Maths qualification and only have two final assessments to complete. The students have shown such resilience when completing work independently and we have been able to celebrate their individual success with some exceptional assessment grades.

Year 10 and 11 have continued to work on their individual qualifications in Maths and are working incredibly hard in preparation for their exams next year.

In History, Years 7, 8 and 9 students have learnt about the past by looking at timelines and evidence. To celebrate Inspirational Black Women during Black History Month, students researched individual women who have made a difference in their field of interest. It was an absolute delight to read the fact sheets the students created.



As we move towards the Spring term, I look forward to seeing what the students can achieve!

Ms Baker

Teacher of SEN

Discover 2025

Discover is back for July 2025.



Our Key Stage 3 students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities across two days, 16th and 17th July 2025. Activities this year range from excursions to London tourist attractions, matinees of a West-End show, and adrenalin fuelled fun on the water, to an in-school Disney spectacular, Makeup tutorials from a professional MUA, and archery, with much more in-between.

All students in Year 7-9 will have a Discover assembly in the week beginning 13th January 2025, where the process and expectations will be explained in detail. A letter will also be uploaded to the school website and a link sent home to adults via Edulink. This is so the letter can be translated to any language via the translation tool on the school website, meaning that all adults at home can access the information equitably.

As in previous years, applications for Discover will be done via a digital form. Further details about this will be in the letter and in the assemblies. Keep checking your Edulink email, and have an enjoyable winter break.

Mrs Dunsdon
Student Co-ordinator

Work Experience 2024

The 2024 Work Experience fortnight in July was a great success with students a credit to themselves and to Blackfen. I hope that the students found their Work Experience beneficial and can build upon the skills that they learned.

All students that complete Work Experience receive a certificate which is presented at an achievement assembly. It was a difficult decision deciding on whom to award prizes to for outstanding Work Experience as many of our students received excellent feedback from their employers. The following students that received excellent feedback in all employability areas such as problem solving, team working, communication, business awareness and self-management were awarded a commendation certificate and earned community points:

Amber	11AAL	Daisy	11LLY	Ava	11CBL
Aysha	11AAL	Emma	11LLY	Gracie	11CBL
Chloe	11AAL	Melanie	11LLY	Jessica	11CBL
Faith	11AAL	Ruby	11LLY	Olivia	11CBL
Isabelle	11AAL	Sarvika	11LLY	Chloe	11SDA
Rosie	11AAL	Aniya	11MJA	Christina	11SDA
Aimee	11JBE	Imogen	11MJA		
Chloe	11JBE	Yasemin	11MJA		
Erin	11JBE	Audrey	11RRE		
Zahra	11JBE	Blessing	11RRE		
Caitlin	11JLO	Ella	11RRE		
Sahella	11JLO	Emily	11RRE		
Gracie	11JST	Grace	11RRE		
Lolade	11JST	Luiza	11RRE		
Maleha	11JST	Scarlett	11RRE		

The standard of Work Experience feedback was extremely high this year but after careful consideration I am delighted to announce that the winner of outstanding completion of Work Experience was **Faith in 11AAL**. Faith completed her placement in a veterinary surgery. Faith received excellent feedback in all 13 areas of the employer's feedback form and comments included '***She showed great initiative and was one of the best work experience students we have ever had here***'. Well done Faith!

We also have three runners up awards this year; they are **Aniyah in 11MJA**, **Erin in 11JBE** and **Caitlin in 11JLO**.



Congratulations to them and well done all our students who completed their Work Experience!

**Mrs Smith
Careers Advisor**

Rewards

This term students have been working really hard to earn Achievement points. In January, they will be able to cash in the points in for Reward Prizes, or Bank the points to use next term.

Students have earned points for a multitude of reasons, some examples are-

WHAT DO YOU GET REWARDED FOR?

- ★ Being resilient ~ facing and overcoming challenges
- ★ Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities
- ★ Attendance
- ★ Excellent Progress and Effort
- ★ Competition participation and winning
- ★ Receiving a Jack Petchey Award
- ★ Positive behaviour e.g. good organisation and being polite and respectful
- ★ Random Acts of Kindness
- ★ Sports Day participation and winning
- ★ Attending Revision Sessions
- ★ Positive contribution to the wider school

The Reward prizes they can receive are-

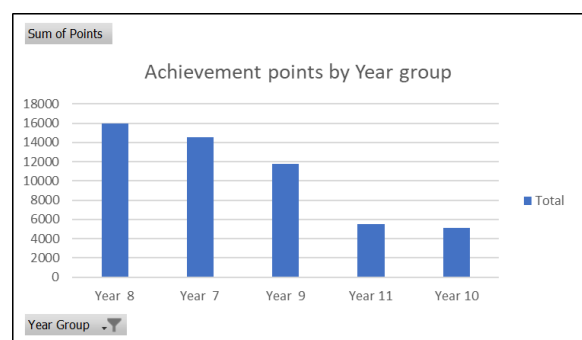
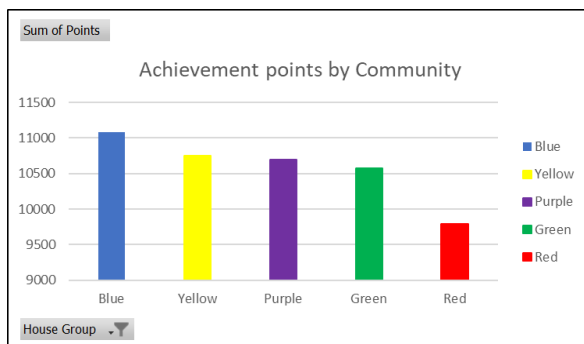
AWARDS RECEIVED

- ★ 25 points ~ sweets OR Chocolate OR Pen
- ★ 50 points ~ 'Jump the Lunch Queue' voucher
- ★ 75 points ~ Stationery pack
- ★ 100 points ~ 100 badge and certificate
- ★ 150 points ~ £5 Amazon voucher
- ★ 200 points ~ £10 Amazon voucher

- ★ Achieve 3 x 100 points (3x 100 badges and certificates, not 300 points) across any Key Stage and get a £20 Amazon Voucher

Additionally, each term, one student per Year group ~ randomly selected from the top 20 students with the most reward points ~ will be awarded a £10 One for All gift card

The current achievement point totals and rankings for Year groups and Communities are-



A Huge well done to Year 8 and the Blue Community for being the current top achievers.

Miss R Padbury
Subject leader of Drama and Dance
Rewards Co-ordinator

Reminders/notices

Parking and local roads

This is a reminder to parents and carers about being considerate when dropping off and collecting your children to and from school.

Please be mindful of:

- Parking illegally on double yellow lines (including zig zag lines)
- Parking over local residents drop kerbs (blocking access for the homeowner)
- Mounting the pavements (particularly the side roads) restricting access for pedestrians
- Tailgating other vehicles into the main school car park. Parking on school site is only in place for our vulnerable students only

We always encourage our local residents to report any of these behaviours to Bexley council and, the local enforcement team at Bexley continue to carry out adhoc inspections to enforce any illegal activity.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and hope you understand the importance of parking responsibly to keep our children safe.

Student Behaviour on public transport

We have had a few recent complaints from members of the public about our students and inappropriate behaviour in and around the Sidcup/Bexleyheath areas when on public transport or waiting to alight/board a bus. Some students are also being inconsiderate to other people waiting at the bus stop who may be elderly, have young children or who have a disability.

Bus stops near to the school continue to be monitored by our Leadership team on a daily basis, so if your child does use this service to get to and from school, please can you reinforce the etiquette when using public transport and conducting themselves in an appropriate manner.

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.

Warm Wellbeing Wishes Over the Winter Break



Top tips & Activity Ideas

Here we are with the winter festivities looming and although this is a fun time and hopefully a time for catching up with friends and family and that all important re-charge, it can also be a challenging time for some. The nights are long, the days are short, along with the colder weather and unstructured time, this can sometimes prove to be a challenging time, especially when it appears that all around us, people are seemingly happy

Top Tips to stay Well

Talk to someone: It is so important to connect especially at this time of year. Take notice of how you feel and take notice of others too. Having an acceptance that not all feelings are positive, and this is normal, but when things become a little overwhelming, then that is the time to **talk-reach out-connect**.

Monitor your social media usage: social media, although it can connect us and give us great ideas, it will also keep your anxiety high. Just try and limit how much you use it and take notice

of your dependency on it. A good idea for these holidays is to de-clutter your social media accounts- remove or un-follow accounts that you know make you feel worse.

Keeping a routine: It is holiday time right, no getting up for school in the morning, so why not stay up late, and why not indeed, however be sensible and when things are becoming overwhelming, recognize that you need your sleep. A healthy sleep pattern is a major factor in keeping our mental health in check and improves a low mood.

Healthy eating & outdoor activity: While it's all too tempting to overindulge at this time of year and a little of the naughty treats will not hurt, however overeating the high fat/sugar filled foods and at irregular times will also have an impact upon our mood and wellbeing along with our physical health. Wrap up warm and try to get outdoors for festive walks. This is so good to shake off that low mood after all the sugar highs. Take note of what you see, breathe in the sights and smells, and notice who is around you.

Activity Ideas for You



The idea of staying at home and having time away from our daily commitments can be fun and relaxing, just as it should be- no early alarms going off and the morning rush. On the other hand, too much time on our hands can lead to boredom- back to social media or leaves us with too much thinking time, then sometimes the anxiety can creep in.

Arts & Crafts: Christmas time can be a fun time for crafting, even get a bit enterprising and think of some ideas that could be sold. Pinterest is a great site to learn new and exciting crafting ideas. There are many benefits of arts and crafts, developing your motor skills, your innovative skills, encourages self-expression and boosts your self-esteem.

Exercise: We know the benefits of exercise and being outdoors. There are lots of great videos online to watch and do this with a friend or a family member, it costs nothing and is good for us on many levels. Why and not set up your own boot camp!

Read & Write: The wintry weather makes us want to hibernate, so why not snuggle down with an enjoyable book? Writing is an amazing skill, so even if you are not the next JK Rowling, jot down your thoughts and feelings, this can be a useful tool to work out and process situations and feelings.

Activities Near Me: Look at what is around during these holidays. There is the penguin sculpture walk in London or Horizon 22 and see London in miniature form. Or google local gardens and see what is on. There are many things on that will not have to cost more than a bus or train fare.



Websites and Support

Make sure that you connect with people and if you are feeling that your mood is low and you need something more than who is available to you, then make sure you contact any of the registered charities below where they have trained staff to support you.

Kooth

Free and safe anonymous online support for young people

Chat 1-2-1 with a counsellor online

Access to tips on staying well.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Childline

Comforts, advice and protects children 24 hours a day and offers free confidential counselling.

Phone 0800 1111 (24 hours)

Chat 1-2-1 with a counsellor online.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

The Mix

Provides free and confidential support for young people under 25

Call: 0800 808 4994 11am-11pm or email on their webpage

Good Thinking

How to use Good Thinking Service

Good Thinking is an online service that helps Londoners look after their mental health and wellbeing in a way that works for them. In this short guide, we will take you through the various Good Thinking resources and suggest four ways you can access them.

<https://www.good-thinking.uk/>

Mostly from us, make sure you stay safe, connect and re-charge those energy levels and have fun. We will look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Lots of fun & Kindness from Mrs. Latif & Mrs. Magrowski



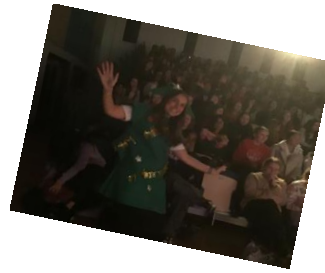
On Thursday 12th December we held a day of fundraising for two chosen charities.

Year 7 raised money for Bexley and Greenwich Hospice doing a Rudolf Run and Dance. They had fun chasing their Head of Year, Mr Williams, who was dressed as Santa, around the field in cold, wet weather and finished with a mass Dance in the Sports Hall

They raised a total of £619!



Year 8 took part in a Giant Sing-A-Thon, with their Head of Year, Miss Rehling dressed as a Christmas Tree. They sang their hearts out for the hour, along with guest appearance songs from Year 8 tutors, Mrs Magrowski and Mr Pidwell.



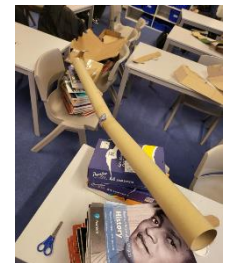
Year 9, took the challenge from their Head of Year Ms Donovan, to build Giant Sleighs, Gingerbread houses and Snowmen!



They showed amazing creativity and imagination.



Years 10 & 11 had their own team challenge in building Giant Marble Runs in each form room and showed great team work and initiative!



It was a fun festive day, with everyone dressing up and coming together as one community.

We raised a total of £1261 for Save the Children.

We would very much like to thank all Parents and Carers for your generous donations. We are proud that as a community we raised a grand total of....



£1880!!

Thank you so much

Hollie Magrowski – Assistant Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025	Xmas Holidays
Monday 6th January 2025	Students return to school (Week B)
Tuesday 8th January 2025	DofE parents' information 5.00pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 9th January 2025	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 16th January 2025	Sixth Form subject selection meetings
Thursday 23rd January 2025	Citizenship Fair (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
26th – 31st January 2025	Year 11/13 Trip to New York (Citizenship students)
3rd – 7th February 2025	Year 13 Trip to Berlin/Krakow (RS students)
Wednesday 5th February 2025	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection evening 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 13th February 2025	Year 12 Next steps evening 5pm – 6pm Governors Meeting
17th – 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Year 10/11 Royal Courts of Justice trip (PPE selected students) Showcase
Tuesday 25th February 2025	Year 9 DTP Vaccinations
Thursday 27th February 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm
W/B 3rd March 2025	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 13 A-Level PPEs
Tuesday 4th March 2025	Careers Fair 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 6th March 2025	Governors' meeting
Friday 7th March 2025	Year 10 Dance Trip to Excel Centre 'Move it'
8th – 15th March 2025	Year 8/10 Ski Trip to France
2 weeks W/B 10th March 2025	Year 11 GCSE / BTEC PPEs (2)
Wednesday 12th March 2025	Year 9 Options Interviews with LT
Thursday 13th March 2025	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 20th March 2025	Year 12 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm Governors Meeting
W/B 24th March 2025	Achievement Assemblies (students only)
Tuesday 25th March 2025	Year 9 DTP vaccination catch ups
Thursday 27th March 2025	Disney Trip (Years 8/9 selected dance students) information meeting
Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th April 2025	Disneyland Trip (Years 8/9 selected dance students)
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Governors' Meeting
Friday 4th April 2025	End of Term Students finish early (12.00pm)
Monday 7th – 17th April 2025	Easter Holiday
Monday 21st April 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Students return to school (Week B) National Stephen Lawrence Day
W/B 22nd April 2025	Year 12 A Level PPEs
W/B 28th April 2025	Year 12 A Level PPEs
Tuesday 29th April 2025	Year 11 Box Clever theatre performance
Thursday 1st May 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th May 2025	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Thursday 15th May 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm Governors' meeting
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Thursday 5th June 2025	Governors' meeting

Friday 6th June 2025	Dance Students theatre trip
2 weeks W/B 16th June 2025	Year 10 GCSE / BTEC PPEs
Thursday 19th June 2025	Governors' meeting
Monday 30th June 2025	Sixth Form Induction Day Year 12 Work experience week
Tuesday 1st July 2025	Year 6 Induction Day & Parents' information meeting
W/B 7th July 2025	Provisional dates for Community Celebration Presentations
Tuesday 8th July 2025	Year 8 and 9 HPV & DTP vaccination catchups
Thursday 10th July 2025	Governors' meeting
W/B Monday 14th July 2025	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July 2025	Discover Days
Friday 18th July 2025	End of Term – Early finish (12.00pm)