



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

17th January 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely break at Christmas and have optimism in abundance for the new year.

It's been a very positive return to school for the Blackfen community and I would like to express my gratitude to families for their resilience in the return to school, especially as it has been so cold and cold and flu season is definitely here. We are delighted that attendance to school has significantly improved since this time last academic year. We know that, for some students, attending school can be really challenging. Well done to each and every student making the effort to improve your attendance and to your family for supporting you. Every day does make a difference and we'll do all we can to help.

I've included in this letter a description of the findings of our parents' survey in early October. We know as a school that we will always have work to do to improve our provision. Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to fill in a survey and who has written or called to share both the positives and the negatives. Your feedback really does help us shape our improvement strategy, and we welcome your contact with us as a chance to get better.

Our students have started the school year so positively. Long may it continue!

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

EVOLVE

Free Parent Webinar: How to Help Your Child Make Better Notes

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their first free parent webinar for the term on **note taking** on January 21st.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn **how you can help your child to take notes in the right way for effective revision.**

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

Tuesday 21st January 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Helping your child to structure their notes effectively
- ✓ Helping your child to remember what they learn
- ✓ Using deliberate practice with your child to improve their grades quickly

Mr Shaw
Raising Attainment Coordinator Year 11

Careers Guidance support to students in Year 9

Our new careers adviser Marion Schoberth and Mrs Smith will start group work with Year 9 students in preparation of their Key Stage 4 Course Selection. These group sessions will take place during February.

Your child was issued with the 'Year 9 preparation for Key Stage Course Selection booklet' during a community session in December. The booklet will help her to reflect and think through the selection process, with sections of the booklet to be completed together with your child. The booklet should be completed at home and community time and your child should bring it to their small group careers interview and their final Key Stage 4 course selection meeting with Blackfen School's Leadership Team on **Wednesday 12th March.**

The Key Stage 4 course selection is a guided process of which family support is essential and to ensure that your child has the best possible choice of training, study and employment at the end of Year 11 we ask you to take time with your child to complete the booklet. **Once you have completed please sign to confirm on page 1 of the booklet.**

Mrs Smith will be present at the Year 9 Information Evening on Thursday 6th February operating a drop-in service in the Interview Room in the Sixth Form building (no appointment necessary) if you have any questions relating to the course selection process.

Save the date! Annual Careers Forum Tuesday 4th March 2025

We will be holding our Annual Careers Fair on Tuesday 4th March 2025 from 3.00pm until 6.00pm. We would like to see as many students attend as we expect this evening to be interesting and informative with many representatives attending. Further details to follow.



More information on Careers and Work Experience, including the school Careers Policy, is available on the school website under Policies and Curriculum.

Work Experience - 14th – 18th July 2025

Only 10 weeks left until placements need to be input to Unifrog by Monday 17th March 2025!



Year 10 Work Experience is progressing with many students already successfully securing their placement. Placements are quite limited this year so I would ask students to make every effort to find their own placement. Feedback received shows that employers really appreciate receiving letters, emails, phone calls or visits from students as it shows great initiative.

Many exciting placements have already been secured and I would like to thank all the Year 10 students and their parents/carers for the work they have put in to secure these placements.

If you have already found a placement and need help loading the details onto Unifrog please visit Room 106 for assistance.

Please remember that if you have not secured a placement you will have to attend year 9 lessons in full school uniform during the work experience period.

Mrs Smith
Careers Advisor

Wellbeing

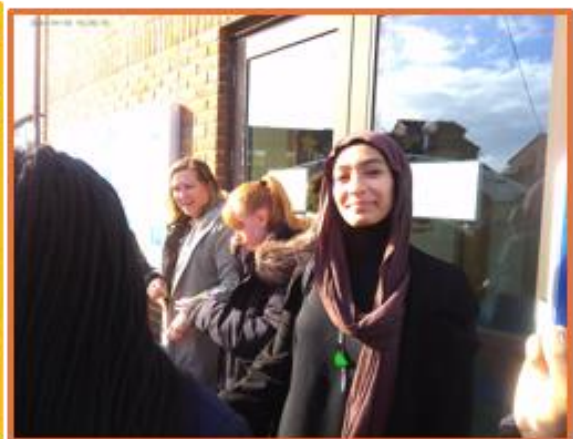
An overview of last term's achievements and what we can look forward to these coming months...

We have a newly trained up team of Mental Health Ambassadors consisting of year groups 9 and 12.

Some of the work that has been implemented has been...

This is always a busy and recognised stand and highlights the importance of reaching out when needed.

Our yearly Mental Health Awareness stand. This is a time for sharing and sign posting and a time for recognising signs of people in need. We celebrate this with cookies and leaflets and the green badge pins being handed out and our Mental Health Ambassadors team on hand to talk. This is always a busy and recognised stand and highlights the importance of reaching out when needed.



Five members of our team are doing a fantastic job, supporting students on a one-to-one basis by way of mentoring. This is to offer a listening ear and to be a steady, kindly presence during the school week. Peer support has proven to be a valuable support system, and our mentors debrief with any concerns that may arise.



Another two of our team have expertly delivered a wellbeing presentation to a lower year's form time. This was a presentation based on how to cope with negative thoughts on a Sunday with the impending start of a new week ahead and how to process any negative thoughts and help ease us into a new week with a positive mindset.



Our Mental Health Ambassadors Team are doing a fantastic job at representing themselves and highlighting the importance of a healthy approach to schooling.

We look forward to more endeavours this coming term.

Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you will start having positive results.
Willie Nelson

Mrs Latif
Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer

Social, Political and Cultural Studies

Students in Social, Political and Cultural Studies have been engaging with thought-provoking topics that challenge their understanding of life, society, and the world around them. Year 7 have explored philosophy, tackling big questions about existence and knowledge, developing their critical thinking skills through thoughtful discussions.

Year 8 and 9 students have focused on grief, examining both religious and non-religious perspectives on loss. This has given them the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and understand different cultural views on coping with sorrow.

In the coming weeks, students will explore topics related to their rights and responsibilities as citizens, helping them understand how their rights are linked to duties towards others. These lessons will encourage students to reflect on their roles in the community and how they can contribute to a fairer society.

Throughout these lessons, students have shown great enthusiasm and engaged thoughtfully with each topic. We look forward to seeing how their insights continue to shape their understanding of the world.

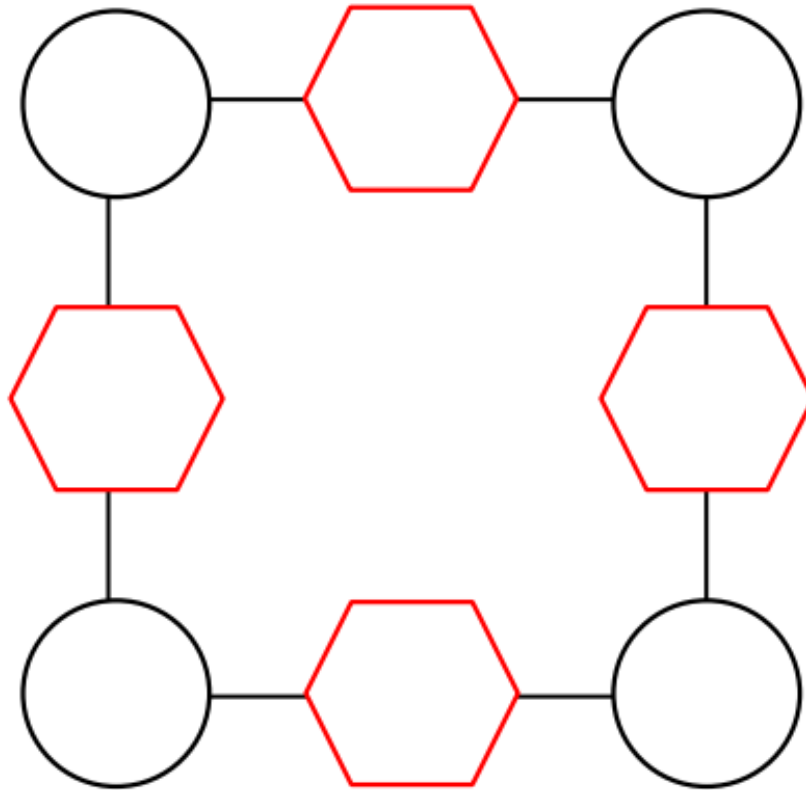
Mrs Laryea-Daniels
Social Sciences Faculty Leader
Teacher of Politics, Citizenship & SPCS

(answers next time)

QUADRA'S ADDITION SQUARE 4A



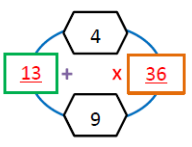
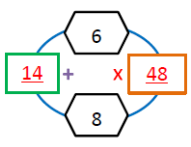
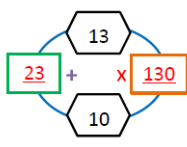
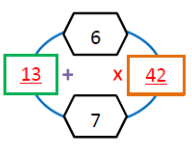
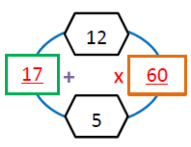
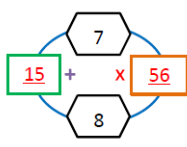
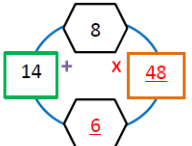
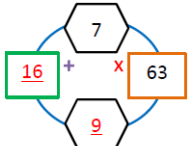
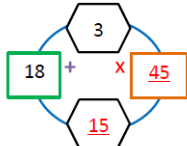
Write the digits 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7 and 0.8 so that the numbers in the hexagon are equal to the two numbers in the circles added together either side.




Last puzzle answers:

TOTAL PRODUCT PUZZLE 4A ANSWERS



Mrs Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Thursday 23 rd January 2025	Citizenship Fair (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
26 th – 31 st January 2025	Year 11/13 Trip to New York (Citizenship students)
3 rd – 7 th February 2025	Year 13 Trip to Berlin/Krakow (RS students)
Wednesday 6 th February 2025	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection evening 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 12 Next steps evening 5pm – 6pm Governors Meeting
17 th – 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	Year 10/11 Royal Courts of Justice trip (PPE selected students) Showcase
Tuesday 25 th February 2025	Year 9 DTP Vaccinations
Thursday 27 th February 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm
W/B 3 rd March 2025	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 13 A-Level PPEs
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Careers Fair 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Governors' meeting
Friday 7 th March 2025	Year 10 Dance Trip to Excel Centre 'Move it'
8 th – 15 th March 2025	Year 8/10 Ski Trip to France
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 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 th March 2025	Year 12 Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm Governors Meeting
W/B 24 th March 2025	Achievement Assemblies (students only)
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Year 9 DTP vaccination catch ups
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Disney Trip (Years 8/9 selected dance students) information meeting
Wednesday 2 nd to Friday 4 th April 2025	Disneyland Trip (Years 8/9 selected dance students)
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Governors' Meeting
Friday 4 th April 2025	End of Term Students finish early (12.00pm)
Monday 7 th – 17 th April 2025	Easter Holiday
Monday 21 st April 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Students return to school (Week B) 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 4.00pm – 6.30pm
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 4.00pm – 6.30pm 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 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)