



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Carrie Senior MA (Oxon) NPQH

Blackfen School for Girls,  
Blackfen Road,  
Sidcup, Kent.  
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing with some important information and updates regarding the next few weeks.

## PPEs (mocks)

BTEC students have PPEs w/b 3<sup>rd</sup> March. These are practice exams in preparation for their actual external examination units that will take place in May. We will report the grades to you and put interaction in place for any student we are concerned about.

A level students have PPEs w/b 22<sup>nd</sup> April. These are important indicators of progress and will give us a current grade which can then be used to predict grades for UCAS and apprenticeship references.

There is a parents evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March where you will be able to discuss progress with subject teachers. BTEC students will receive their external exam results on the 14<sup>th</sup> August.

## Attendance

Attendance to all lessons, every day is of utmost importance in ensuring academic success. You will be notified by letter if your child's attendance fails below 90% as this indicates a student is missing on average a day a fortnight. Punctuality to school and all lessons is of equal importance – lessons start at 8.30am and therefore students need to arrive in good time to get to their classroom ready to start at 8.30am. Any weekly accumulated Lates times are expected to be 'made up' after school on a Monday and you will be informed of this on a weekly basis. You can track your child's attendance on EduLink.

## Super-curricular / enrichment

It is highly important that students take the opportunity to enhance their CV/application to university by taking part in as many activities as possible. This can include: volunteering in or out of school; virtual work experience, subject taster days, insight days, on-line courses and wider reading. All completed activities should be recorded in Unifrog.

## Careers support

We were excited to welcome back a number of ex-students as part of National Apprenticeship week. The students are all currently on apprenticeship schemes and held talks for our current students to find out more about securing an apprenticeship and what it is like to be on an apprenticeship scheme. There are many insight opportunities held by highly regarded firms and organisations for students to participate in (these are advertised on the 'Year 12 work





# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Carrie Senior MA (Oxon) NPQH

Blackfen School for Girls,  
Blackfen Road,  
Sidcup, Kent.  
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

experience and opportunities' Team. On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we are holding our careers day in school. All year 12 students will attend 2-2.30pm and parents/carers are welcome to join after school. Students who are considering university have already been introduced to the UCAS hub and 'course search' in Unifrog. The application process will start in the summer term.

## PSHE

All year 12 students must complete a PSHE programme which consists on sessions on a Wednesday afternoon and within the tutor programme. The following topics are covered within the programme:

Road safety, healthy relationships, consent, mental health, sexual health, first aid, personal finance, work and career, study skills, religion & Ethics, drug and alcohol awareness. We have had a number of guest speakers in to school to deliver some of these sessions. More information about the programme can be found in the Sixth Form section of the school website. All PSHE sessions are a compulsory part of your child's programme of study so students must not arrange appointments during lessons etc. during this time.

## Work experience

Year 12 will complete a one-week placement w/b 30<sup>th</sup> June. All students need to secure their own placement which should be challenging and either related to their career plan or to a subject they are studying. It must not be paid employment. All paperwork for the placement must be completed on [Unifrog](http://Unifrog) under the 'placements' section. Students must have contact details of the employer in order to complete their form. Please contact Mrs Eiffert [sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) if you have any queries regarding work experience.

## Charity work

A massive thank you to all students who contributed towards our charity collections last term. We collected enough money for five Crisis at Christmas packages for homeless people and took a car load full of food and toiletries to our local food bank. In addition, we raised over £200 for McMillan during our coffee morning and a group of students went Carol singing at a local day centre for elderly people.

## Dress code

Sixth Form students must follow our Sixth Form dress code. Our students are role models for the lower school and we expect them to be in smart dress wear. All students must wear a tailored jacket every day. Skirts must be of a suitable length, no jumper dresses, leisure wear, hoodies or trainers. Trousers must be tailored material and smart jumpers may only be worn with a jacket, not instead of. Students must wear their ID lanyard at all times (safeguarding purposes).





# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Carrie Senior MA (Oxon) NPQH

Blackfen School for Girls,  
Blackfen Road,  
Sidcup, Kent.  
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

## Part time jobs

Many of our students now have part time jobs which we do support. However, there can be a lot of pressure placed on young employees to work extra hours which is highly detrimental to their education and really does have a knock-on effect on their grades. Students should work a maximum of 12 hours a week and should not work more than one week day evening.

## Bursary

There is money available to support educational needs of young people from low-income families, if you think your child may be entitled to the bursary payments, please look at the details on the school website. Payments can be made to eligible students for one off specific items or equipment they need for their studies. If your child was in receipt Free School Meals during secondary school you should check if they are still eligible for this in the sixth form.

## Mental Health

We are very aware that being a young person can be very stressful and we want to ensure you and our students that support is in place.

All students have a tutor who they see on a daily basis who they can talk to if they need any support. In addition, myself, Miss Purbrick and Mrs Eiffert are here if your child needs to talk to someone in school.

To help your child to manage their mental health please encourage them to do the following:

- Open communication – encourage your young person to talk to family about their day and any concerns they have.
- Physical activity: regular exercise can significantly improve mental health. This can be as simple as going for regular walks.
- Healthy sleep habits: Ensure regular and restful sleep. Limiting screen time before bed is essential for mental health.
- Limit social media: taking breaks from social media or limiting screen time can reduce feelings of inadequacy, anxiety or comparison.
- Focus on nutrition: a balanced diet rich in nutrition supports mental clarity.

### Support:

Kooth.com is an online counselling and emotional well being service for young people in Bexley.

headscapebexley.co.uk : a website for young people in Bexley A 'one stop' service of self-help.

youngminds.org.uk : young minds also has a parent helpline for advice: 0808 8025544





# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Carrie Senior MA (Oxon) NPQH

Blackfen School for Girls,  
Blackfen Road,  
Sidcup, Kent.  
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns: [sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
and I look forward to seeing you at the Parents evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Brewer  
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

