



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

24th February 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term of 2025 seems to have whizzed by and I'm sure that you have enjoyed a well-deserved break. It's been another half term of celebrations, trips and events at school and we hope that your children have shared these with you.

We started off the half term incredibly positively, with some very exciting news about one of year 11 students. I won't name her to spare her blushes, but she took an early exam in Tamil, her heritage language, and we received her results in January. Not only did she receive her exam certificate with an A* grade in the results envelope, but the envelope also included an additional certificate because she had received the highest mark **in the world** in these exams. What a phenomenal achievement!

Our Year 11s and our Year 13s are reaching the final stages of their GCSE, A Level and BTEC/CNAT preparation and we are very proud of how well they are applying themselves to their studies. It's important to maintain a healthy balance of school work, revision, and breaks and hobbies, and we do urge parents to support study as well as relaxation and fun over the coming months. We do recognise that this period can be one that is worrying for some young people. Exam nerves are natural, of course, but please do get in touch if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing. The Advice Hub on our website has some support for students and parents should you need this and the contact us section tells you about how to contact your child's student support officer.

We look forward to welcoming parents to school in the coming weeks for our careers fair, which takes place on 4th March. We have a huge range of employers and further education providers this year. Please do make the effort to come along and support the event and find out about what awaits your child once their time at Blackfen is complete. A huge thank you to our careers lead Ms Smith who pulls together this fantastic event each year.

We look forward to seeing many of you very soon!

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Intermediate Maths Challenge – Years 9 and 10

On Wednesday 29th January ,120 students in Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The 60 minute challenge consisted of 25 multiple choice question, which encouraged mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency which really made the students think!

The Maths faculty are extremely proud of all students who competed in this national competition and some students were recognised with awards:

Silver award

Iris (10KJH)

Bronze award

Simran (9KRU)

Ellie (9FLZ)

Anaiya (9ACO)

Rivaa (9KRU)

Winnie (9IST)

Jasmine (9FLZ)

Yinka (10LET)

Eliana (10MSA)

Prisha (10MSA)

Anaum (10KNS)

Arabella (10LET)

Congratulations to all students who took part.

Miss Cole

Second in Charge Maths department

English News

Year 9 Valentine's Reward – Chocolate Love Heart Giveaway!

Year 9 students have the chance to earn a chocolate love heart by receiving a red heart in their English lessons for outstanding work or behaviour.

Love hearts will be awarded for good decisions, consistent effort, and increased dedication in lessons. English teachers will distribute them, and students can collect their chocolate reward from Miss Perryman in the office opposite room 2 on Fridays after school.

A great opportunity to recognise hard work and positive choices—keep up the great effort!

Exciting Theatre Performances for Years 10 & 11!

Year 10 and 11 students can look forward to a live performance of *An Inspector Calls* on 24th March, followed by a *Romeo and Juliet* performance for Year 11 on 29th April, delivered by an external company.

If you haven't already, please do check Wisepay to make payments for these performances. There are instructions on TEAMS.

Thank you for your support!

Students in year 7 and 8 have been taking part in a poetry writing competition!

The Young Writers company have been running national writing competitions since 1991 and we have asked students from Blackfen to take part. This term, the theme of the competition is "Escape" and the Young Writers company are asking for entrants to think about how writing can be used as a form self-expression.

The closing date for the competition is approaching but entries are already flooding in. The winner will receive an iPad mini and runners up can win £50.

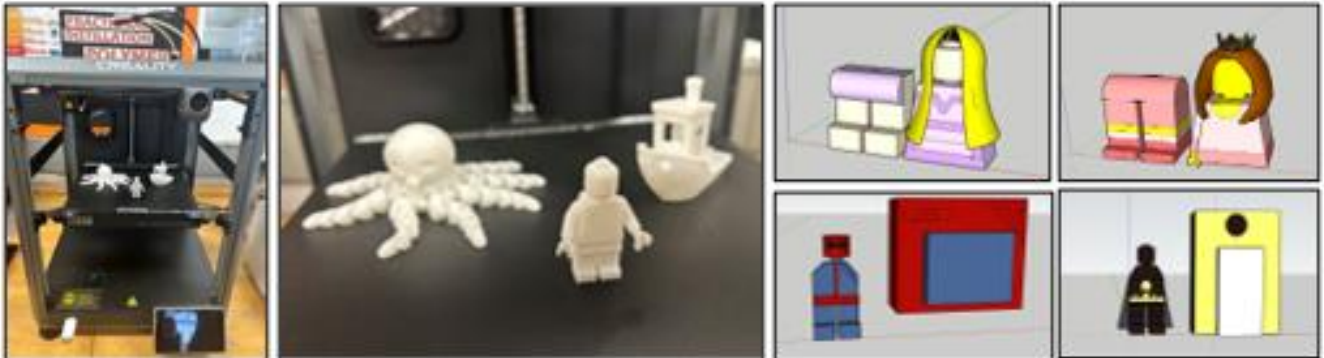
Good luck.

Mr Love
Faculty Leader for English

Another busy half term for Design Technology students at Blacken who continue to build their practical knowledge & skills from term1. KS3 students are part way through their new rotations & KS4/5 students are gearing up for their PPE's which will set them in good stead for their final summer examinations.

In product Design:

We've managed to purchase a new Creality 3D Printer, as part of our ongoing departmental improvement plan. This means the little Lego figures the students have been designing on 3D CAD software can turn into real 3D printed characters.



In Textiles:

Students in yr9 have been learning how to draw fashion croquis, then experimenting with turning 2D into 3D with mini paper manipulated outfits. In yr10 students are planning their biomimicry skirts, ready to manufacture after half term., where as yr11 have just started their exam unit.



In Food:

Students will have continued to bring home some delicious dishes, from year 9 shaping dough to bake bread, to year 10 mastering skills to cook ravioli & mango galette, to year 12 having a go at a high level patisserie of Mille Feuille.



Also.....

Some selected students from year 10 Food & Cookery, took part in an outreach skills workshop with the help of the Healthy Chinese Cooking Association (HCCA). Students were able to learn about regional Chinese cuisine and practise their knife skills, portioning and deboning chicken, marinating with a sauce, vegetable knife cuts and stir-frying. Yummy!



And Finally....

We are on the look out for any materials you may be able to donate to our department, specifically any fabric, sewing materials, newspapers or magazines. If so just pop them into reception, they would be gratefully received by our students.



Also we are always keen to foster a community partnership, so if you feel you have a skill that could benefit our students & you would like to come in & run a session with us, please do get in touch.

Ms V Knight Subject Leader Design Technology

Careers

St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences - Targeted Workshop on careers in healthcare and medical sciences

We were delighted to welcome Cynthia Simon from St George's School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences to present a workshop to selected year 10, 11 & 12 students with aspirations on applying for careers in this sector.

The aims of the workshop were to encourage young people in year 10, 11 & 12 to consider what they need to do now to support them making applications post-16 to this career sector.



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ST GEORGE'S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

"The Healthcare Science workshop was very insightful, interactive, and interesting. The visitor from St Georges School of Health and Medical Sciences spoke about her career pathway and choices she had made throughout her career. It was good to hear that she wasn't sure what she wanted to do when she was younger and that it's ok to try things out to get an idea of what you enjoy. Overall, I found this workshop highly beneficial, and it prompted me to reflect on my future decisions. Many thanks to Miss Morris for organizing this event."

Feedback above from Arzu – Year 10

A guest speaker from St Georges School of Health and Medical Sciences shared her story working in a hospital as a clinical physiologist. This eye-opening experience was very informative without being draining and allowed me to learn more about Allied workers along with other medical practitioner's work.

Feedback from Maya – Year 12



**Miss Morris – Health & Social Care &
Mrs Smith Careers Advisor**

Expressive Arts Leadership at Hurst Primary School

This week we have had the pleasure of leading Expressive Arts workshops for 360 pupils at Hurst Primary School. Blackfen students have led classes in Drama, Art, Dance and Music to the whole of KS2. The Blackfen students worked hard preparing performances and also activities that the pupils at Hurst could participate in. Our students represented the school incredibly well, showing leadership skills, talent and creativity. They motivated and encouraged even the shyest of pupils, resulting in every pupil participating thanks to the warmth and compassion of our girls.

Since September our commitment to Arts education and outreach in the local area has resulted in primary schools watching our showcases alongside the workshops. Our Expressive Arts teachers are also collaborating with the schools in the local area and sharing resources to ensure that the students in Bexley receive the highest quality provision in arts and culture.

Watch this space for lots more exciting activities and opportunities for our students including our journey towards gaining Artsmark.



Lateness to School

We have noticed that punctuality to school and to lessons throughout the school day is becoming a problem for some students. Lateness disrupts the learning of the student, leading to missed critical information and frequently an overall decline in academic performance. Students arriving late interrupt the flow of the lesson and can detract from the engagement of other students. Furthermore, habitual lateness can seep into many areas of life, causing problems in the future.

Please remind your child that the expectation is that they are on site at 8.20am to allow for an 8.30am start – a student arriving at 8.30am cannot be on time for their first lesson.

Congestion is a recognised issue in Bexley and the surrounding area – this should be considered when planning journeys.

Any student marked Late to school, will have a Break Detention on the same day in the Performance Space. If there is a valid reason for their lateness, then they should show a note at the beginning of the detention. A missed detention will be escalated.

Thank you very much for your support.

Changes to Site Opening Times – Blackfen School

From Monday 24th February 2025, the school gates will open at 7.45am. This will allow us to ensure that staff are present at the gate to welcome students into school. Any students arriving before 8.20am should head straight to the Canteen where they can get breakfast and socialise with friends before the school day begins.

Morning registration is at 8.30am at the start of Lesson One, so students need to be in school by at least 8.20am. Lesson 5 ends at 3.00pm, 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.

All students in school after 3pm must be in a supervised area of school.

Vaping – Understanding the Risks

As you will know from our communications and stories in the news, vaping is a growing concern for school-age children and their families in Bexley. Many young people are using vape devices, often without understanding the potential dangers associated with them. Recent reports from our PCSO team and conversations with colleagues in surrounding schools indicate that there are also rising incidents of vape pens being filled with harmful drugs, leading to serious health complications.

Unregulated vape pens pose a significant threat to young users. In Bexley, authorities have reported instances where students have fallen ill after using these altered vape devices. These devices can be filled with substances like THC, the active component in cannabis, or synthetic drugs known as Spice. Both THC and Spice can have severe psychoactive effects and are known to cause various health issues. For example, inhaling Spice through a vaping pen can lead to breathing difficulties, chest pain, heart palpitations, seizures, and even psychological effects such as anxiety and paranoia. In extreme cases, these substances can be life-threatening. Many of these pens are being distributed through social media platforms like Snapchat, making it easier for young people to access them without parental knowledge.

We are lucky at Blackfen School, that our local police officers are proactive in collaborating with us to monitor and share information about the dangers of vaping and we will continue to educate the students about this in assemblies and lessons. The importance of raising parental awareness regarding what their children may be using is also key.

We encourage parents and caregivers to use any of the resources below to have open conversations with their children about the dangers of vaping and the risks associated with unregulated devices. It is crucial for parents to understand that many young individuals may not be aware of the contents of the vape pens they are using. This lack of knowledge increases the risk of health complications and addiction.

As always, please contact your child's Student Support Officer or one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads where you have concerns.

Our safeguarding team and contacts

The designated senior leadership team member for child protection and safeguarding is Clare Glen, welfare manager. She can be contacted at school via main reception 0208 303 1887 or via email CGL@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk

The Headteacher Carrie Senior, Deputy Headteacher Ruth Makepeace and Assistant Headteacher Kim Brewer are all trained to designated safeguarding lead level (DSLs)

Resources regarding the risks associated with vaping:

1. Action on Smoking and Health (ASH):

ASH provides various resources about vaping, including factsheets, reports, and guidance on the impact of e-cigarettes on young people.

<https://ash.org.uk/resources>

2. National Health Service (NHS) Better Health:

The NHS provides information about the risks of vaping, including health implications and advice for young people.

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/> Please access this information which outlines the risks of vaping and gives advice on how to discuss these issues with your children effectively.

NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

MAKE 100



Use the numbers in the grid each time.

27	45	63	51	84
26	18	74	22	49
55	67	16	82	33

Challenge 1

Find pairs of numbers that add up to 100.

Try to find 6 different pairs.



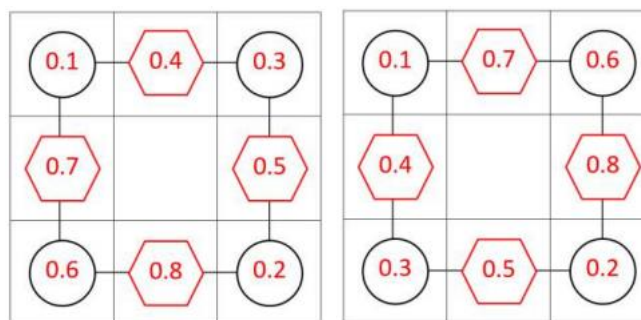
Last puzzle answers:

[QUADRA'S ADDITION SQUARE 4A ANSWERS](#)



There are 8 possible solutions, two of which are shown below.

The other 6 solutions are simply 'rotations' of the two solutions.



Mrs Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

Using Public Transport Respectfully and Responsibly

Unfortunately, Blackfen School has received a number of complaints about the conduct of a tiny minority of our students when using public transport. In particular, these relate to the B13 bus. There is an old saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we would therefore appreciate parental support in reminding students about the social norms and expectations when using public transport. We will of course remind the students in school too.

We expect students to queue appropriately at bus stops, refrain from pushing in (either by joining their friends or more generally) and to only board the bus when it's their turn, without pushing or shoving. We expect that all students make way for those less able to manage, and that once on the bus, they sit in the appropriate seats. This means not using the priority seats when there are other passengers who require these more. Please don't play loud music or scream and shout when you're on the bus.

I appreciate the fact that the vast majority of our students behave brilliantly in public and are great ambassadors, both for the school and their families. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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
Wednesday 26th February 2025	Year 13 Art & Photography Trip
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 3.15pm – 6.00pm Year 11 Geography Trip
Thursday 6th March 2025	Governors' meeting Year 11 Geography Trip
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 9 Theatre Trip 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
Wednesday 26th March 2025	Music Showcase
Thursday 27th March 2025	Disney Trip (Years 8/9 selected dance students) parents information meeting
Friday 28th March 2025	Year 10 trip to Art Gallery and Portrait Exhibition
Monday 31st March 2025	Year 10 Photography trip to Tate Art Exhibitions

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)