



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

21st March 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter, and a very warm welcome to Spring! It's been wonderful to enjoy the sunshine over the last few days. It has certainly brightened our spirits.

As you are no doubt aware, the school welcomed Ofsted last Tuesday and Wednesday for our expected inspection. The report will be published in due course and I would very much like to thank the students who participated on the many student panels that met inspectors, the parents, students and staff who completed questionnaires and all the staff body who continue to work hard to serve the Blackfen community. We can't tell you the outcome as yet but will share the report as soon as it is published with you all.

We are delighted that so much that is special about Blackfen is included in this edition of the newsletter, especially news of all of the trips and experiences we offer our students. So far this year, we've had 7 overseas trips and 22 others, ranging from our Year 8s and 10s hitting the slopes in France, to our KS3 students visiting local primary schools to deliver arts workshops to younger students. We believe that these rich cultural experiences really broaden the minds and the horizons of our young people. Good luck to our Year 8 and 9 dancers who perform at Disneyland Paris in the next couple of weeks-and thank you for the stunning previews we've had in assemblies this week.

As we approach the Spring break, many of our thoughts will be with our examination cohorts in years 11 and 13 as they prepare for the final push before the start of the formal exam series in the summer term. We're proud of the work they've put in this year and know this stands them in good stead for the exams coming up. As always, if you are concerned about your daughter (or son) in the run up to these exams, please do let us know.

Let's hope that spring stays in the air for the next few days!

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Examinations update

1 - Morning and afternoon public examination start times

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 taking public examinations before Easter and in the Summer term should note the following arrangements for morning and afternoon start times. There is no late admittance to public examinations:

Morning examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 8.45am

Afternoon examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 12.45pm

Mobile phones, mobile devices and digital watches must be handed in at the beginning of all GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations. They are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables.

Year 11 early lunches

Light lunch items will be available to Year 11 students before the start of afternoon examinations from the 'Food Cube' (NOT the canteen) at the earlier time of 12.15 pm to 12.45 pm, as from Thursday 8th May. We strongly recommend Year 11 students to have something to eat and drink before afternoon examinations. Bottled water - with the label removed - is allowed in examination rooms, but no other still or fizzy drink.

2 - Examination contingency days for all students sitting public examinations

The examination *contingency days* are arranged by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of all of the examination awarding bodies and apply to all students taking BTEC, GCSE and A Level (or equivalent) examinations. Contingency days will be used in the event of "sustained national or local disruption" during the Summer 2025 examinations. In these circumstances, the awarding bodies whose examinations are running at this time will have the option to postpone their examination and to rearrange it for one of the contingency days, so that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications.

The contingency dates for Summer 2025 examinations are as follows:

- Wednesday 11th June - afternoon
- Wednesday 25th June - all day

All examination candidates at Blackfen School must be available to sit GCSE, A-Level and BTEC examinations from the date of their first examination until Wednesday 25th June 2025. This decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates, in all schools. Parents, carers and students must ensure that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate and updated, as necessary, so that students can be contacted quickly, should one of the contingency days be activated.

3 - Collection of A Level examination results / Year 12 GCSE examination results / Year 12 Level 3 BTEC unit results

- A Level examination results are published and will be available for collection on **Thursday 14th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 8.00 am - 9.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends. Parents/carers may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport and this arrangement has been agreed and processed by the Exams Office before the end of this term.
- Level 3 BTEC unit results for current Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 14th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.30 am - 10.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be distributed to students at the beginning of term in September.
- GCSE Mathematics examination results for Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 21st August from 9.00 am - 10.30 am in the Performance Space**. (See 'Collection of GCSE results', below).

4 – Collection of GCSE results

GCSE examination and BTEC Level 2 results are published and will be available for collection on **Thursday 21st August 2025 in the Performance Space from 9.00 am to 10.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join students in the Performance Space for this special occasion and may collect results on behalf of students as long as this arrangement has been agreed and processed by the Exams Office before the end of this term and suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.

5 - Year 11 student enrolment in Blackfen School Sixth Form

In order to confirm their place in Year 12, Year 11 students need to enrol on-line on **Thursday 21st August by 11.45 am**.

1. Go to the '**Sixth Form**' tab on the Blackfen School website (www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk).
2. Click on '**Enrolment**' on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Complete the form by entering your GCSE results and confirmed course choices. Then click on '**Submit**'.
4. You will receive a confirmation email with a unique ID. **Save this email.**

Any queries on the day should be emailed to: sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk You must have the correct entry requirements for your course choices. We will only contact you (via email or mobile phone) if there is a problem with your course choice.

Please contact Miss J O'Connor or Mrs H Hill (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations. Please contact Ms K Brewer, Head of Sixth Form, regarding enrolment in Blackfen School Sixth Form.

Elevate

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **supporting your child during exams** on March 25th.

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 improve your child's exam performance by **helping them to establish a good routine in the run-up to an assessment.**

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

Tuesday 25th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

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

- Helping your child prepare in the week before an exam
- Establishing a good routine for your child the night before
- Helping your child to optimise their exam performance

Mr Shaw

Raising Attainment Co-ordinator Year 11

Careers Fair

Our Careers Fair on Tuesday 4th March was a huge success with the highest number new representatives attending we have ever had! With 38 organisations' attending many career sectors, further and higher education establishments were represented.

Feedback from students included **'thank you for a useful and informative Careers Fair', 'very informative'** and **'an excellent range of careers options'**. Equally the representatives commented on, **'I wanted to say how impressed I was by the wider work you do with careers' and 'well organised'**

The representative from **'Birkbeck University'** remarked **'I really enjoyed the fair, and I must say – Birkbeck University is popular! It was an amazing experience, with a great turnout'**. Welcomed to the Fair for the first time were 11 new representatives including: Bexley Wellbeing Partnerships, Birkbeck University, Centre Stage, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Frankham Construction, Heyne Tillett Steel, Lancaster University, Monaghans Consultancy, Oxford Brookes University, Cavendish Consulting and Southampton Solent University.

The event also saw Year 10 and Year 11 Hurstmere School students attend.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our representatives, parents, carers and students in making this event extremely successful especially the Careers Ambassadors who helped at this event.

London Ambulance Service



Monaghans Consultancy



Lancaster University



Baily Garner

Mrs Smith, Careers Adviser

Science News

Last term, our talented year 13 Biology students had the opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills by participating in the prestigious British Biology Olympiad (BBO). This nationwide competition, organized by the Royal Society of Biology, challenges students to apply their understanding of biological concepts beyond the classroom and test their ability to analyze and interpret complex scientific data.

The BBO consists of multiple-choice questions covering various aspects of biology, from genetics and ecology to human physiology and biochemistry. Participation in the British Biology Olympiad is not only a fantastic way to challenge oneself academically but also a great opportunity to gain recognition in the scientific community. It helps the students to develop critical thinking skills which will support them in their studies.

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the Olympiad! Your enthusiasm for biology is inspiring, and we are eagerly awaiting the results of the competition - Dr Bentley

British Science Week

During the week of 10th - 14th March our Year 7 and 8 students were celebrating British Science Week and its theme - Change and Adapt. As part of the week, our students were looking into how we can change and adapt our practices to have more sustainable practices in fashion, improve biodiversity in our current spaces, adapt new technologies for the food we eat and so much more.

To celebrate more female scientists working in science, Year 7M and 7T made telescopes to recognise Maggie Aderin Pocock, a Black female space scientist who made her own telescope as a young child, inspired by her love for space physics.

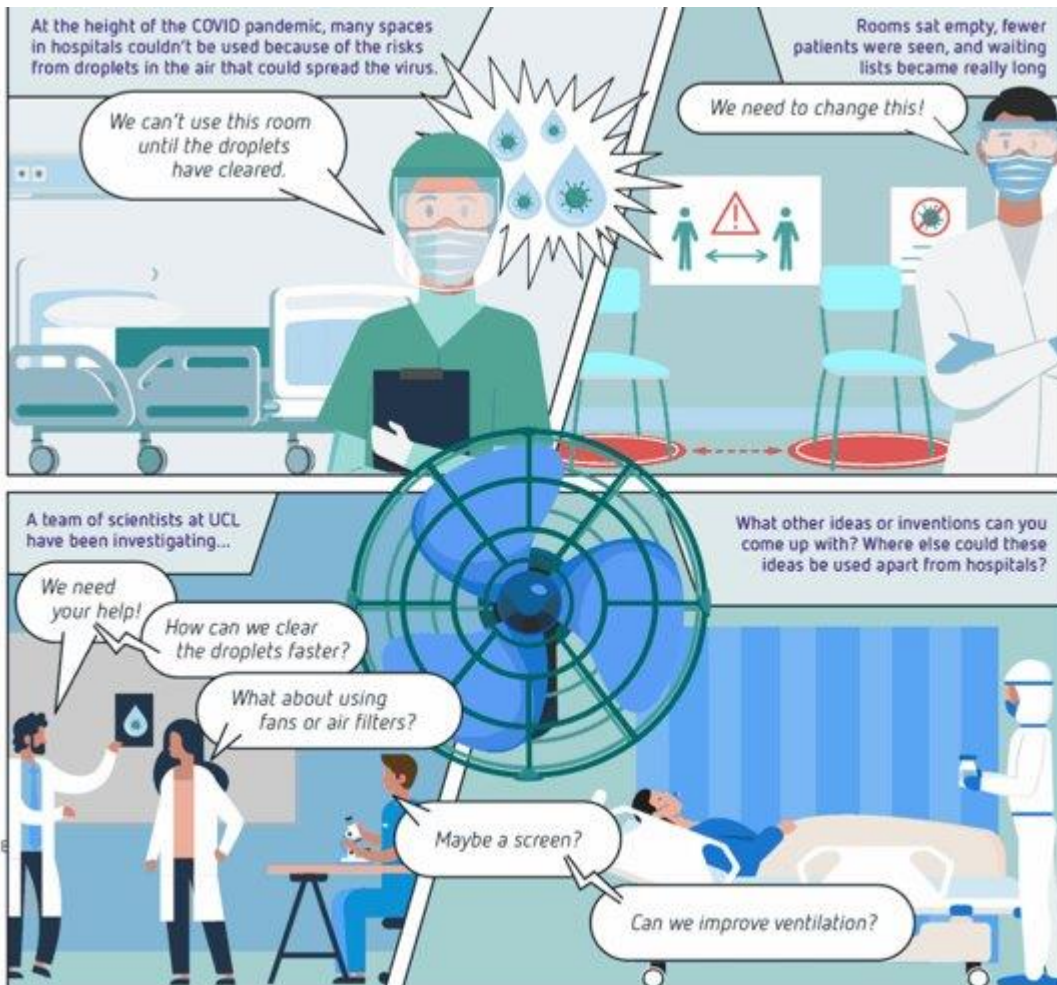


Poster Competition

Although British Science Week is over, during the next few weeks, we are encouraging our KS3 students to enter into the BSW Poster Competition.

The task is to:

- Choose an indoor space where you often spend your time
- Come up with an idea or invention to change the air, making it healthier to breathe
- Describe and explain how it will work
- Could it be used in other public spaces too?
-



Rules:

- You can work in a team
- Your poster must be on A4 or A3 paper only
- 5 top entries will be picked and receive a gift from the school
- The deadline will be Monday 31st March 2025 - to hand in to your teachers.

Good luck and all the best with your entries - Ms Nengou, KS3 Science Coordinator

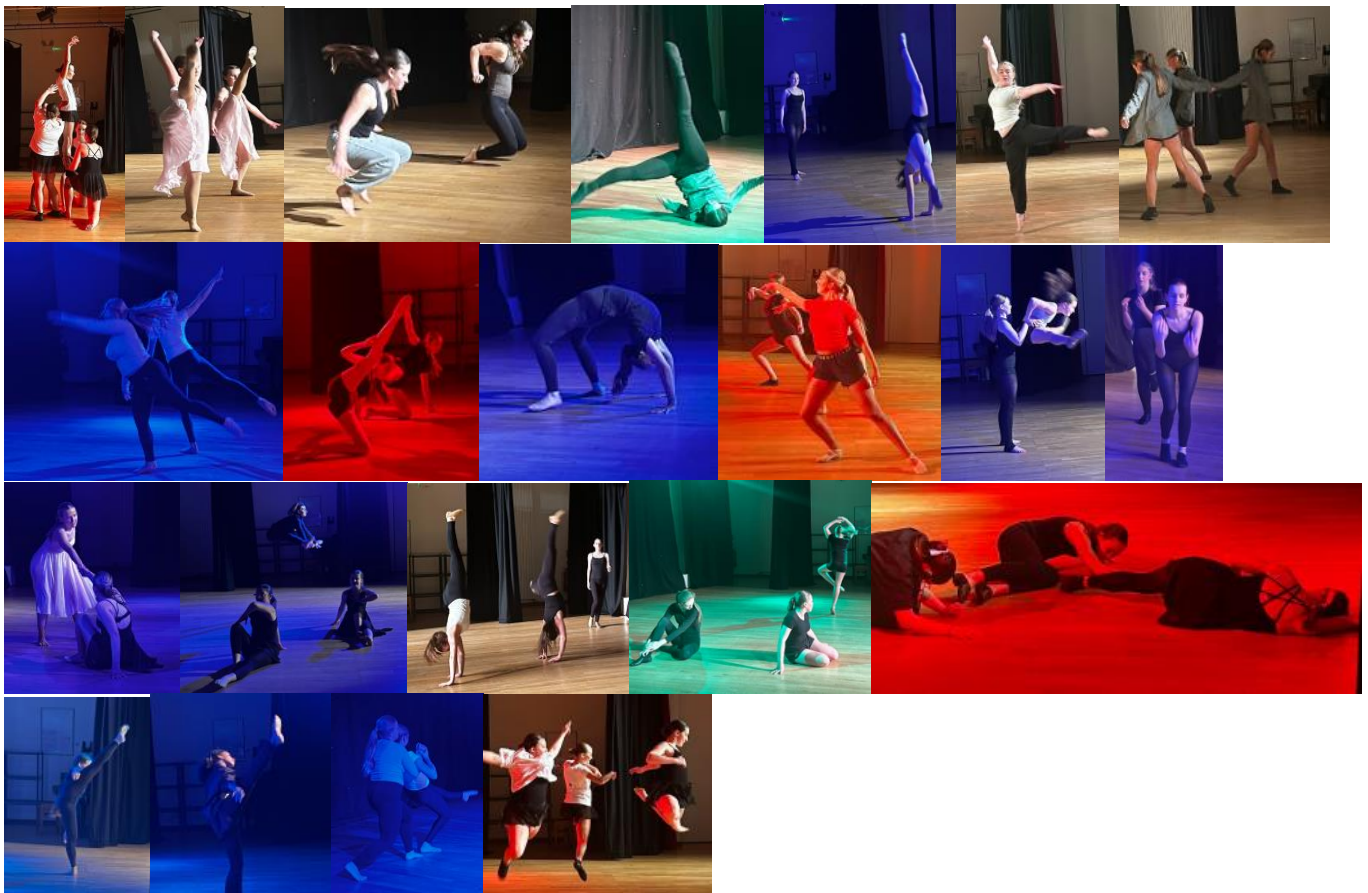
**Ms Gough MRSC
FL Science**

GCSE Dance Parent Showcase

On Monday 24th February we welcomed parents to the Performance Space to join us in celebrating the hard work of our GCSE students and lower school dancers. With only 10 days to go before their final practical moderation, it was a great opportunity for them to share their work and to have a rehearsal of their dances in front of an audience.

The showcase featured year 11 dancers but also students in year 7-10 who are performing in their choreographies. At Blackfen school we encourage lower school, gifted dancers to perform in GCSE pieces so they can gain an early insight into the GCSE course, have a wonderful experience being mentored by an older student and also collaborate with other students in different years. Seeing students from all different year groups come together and create high level work is one of the strengths of the dance department.

Throughout the evening parents were able to enjoy year 11 performance pieces and choreographies that communicated a range of themes and showcased the hard work and dedication of our students.



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

Year 13 Art and Photography

On Wednesday 26th February, year 13 Art and Photography attended the Tate Britain to visit an exhibition on 80s Photography as well as the permanent exhibition within the Tate Britain. This visit was an excellent opportunity for our students to obtain primary research, observe original artworks and achieve further inspiration for their exam project. These opportunities provide additional education to our students gaining insight to real artworks.



“I loved being able to finally see Ophelia in real life” –Connie, Year 13

“The 80s Photography exhibition was incredible, it was so insightful to the times of the 80s with really thought provoking topics” – Sophie, Year 13

“I have never been to the Tate Britain before and loved the trip, it was so lovey to see real life artwork”– Amy, Year 13

Ms Curzon
Teacher of Art & Photography

Bexley Book Quiz Competition



The school took part in the annual Bexley Schools Book Quiz and as you can read below the girls had a great time and did Blackfen proud!

Annually, schools from all around Bexley compete in the, you guessed it, Bexley Book Quiz. This year it was hosted at Townley Grammar School. I, alongside five of my peers, got the wonderful opportunity to compete in it. On Tuesday we caught the bus up to the school and went up into their library. Yes, our library was bigger – but did that mean that we were better? In total there were six schools- Us, Townley Grammar, Leigh Academy, Bexley Grammar, St Catherine's and Chis and Sid. Representing our school was Amelia, Scarlett, Emily, Zara, Rosie and Amber. Overall, we and Townley scored 3rd place (57 points), closely behind Chis and Sid with 58. The grand winners were Bexley Grammar with 62 points. Although we didn't win, I'm sure we'll remember it for years to come!

Zara 7AVA

As a participant in the 2025 Book Quiz, I had the best time ever! We all had such a fun time together, answering the questions and waiting for the results.

Rosie 7MMO

They enjoyed visiting a different library, working as a team and meeting other school Book Clubs and we were very proud to come third.

Mrs Kingsbury-Barker
School Librarian

The Wellbeing Hub News

Young Minds is a well established mental health charity founded by a group of mental health professionals in 1993 and has grown in strength ever since and are indorsed by NHS. Their services are used by individuals and establishments, like us nationally and have a wealth of information and help for young people.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/about-us/>

Some exciting news is that they have paired up with Marks & Spencer to launch a design competition to be sold in their stores nationally to raise awareness of Mental Health. And... this is where our students can get involved.

IT'S TIME TO LET YOUR IMAGINATION SHINE!

We're looking for inspiring designs to feature on two special pieces in our 2025 Young Minds Hello Yellow kidswear collection – on a yellow sweatshirt and a yellow hoodie that will be sold in M&S stores and online.

So what would you say to a friend who needs you? How would you brighten their day? Whether it's words, drawings, or doodles, we're looking for something that stands out and reminds everyone that one chat can change everything.

If you're aged 5-11 or 12-16, we'd love to see your ideas. You can design a hoodie or a sweatshirt, and we'll choose two lucky winners (one winner from each age category). The winners have their designs featured on our Hello Yellow pieces, with all profits supporting Young Minds.

Be bold, be bright, and put what's inside on the outside. Good Luck!

To enter, ask your parent or guardian to upload your entry by 11.59pm on 31 March 2025.

THE PRIZE!

The winners will see their designs come to life on a sweatshirt or hoodie sold by M&S and gain exclusive behind-the-scenes access to watch their creations become a reality.

The winner (along with a parent or guardian) will be invited to visit the M&S office in London to see their designs transformed into artwork or tour the supplier factory in the Midlands to watch them printed live.

They will also participate in the September launch event.

Additionally, the winners will receive enough sweatshirts or hoodies featuring their winning design for every student in their class to wear on Hello Yellow Day, 10 October 2025.



Click on the website below to see the steps for entering.

<https://mnsyoungdesignercompetition.powerappsportal.com>

Competition closes on 11.59pm on 31st March so with parents and carers consent, get those designs in, you don't even have to be a great artist, just try as you never know, we could see one of our students proudly having their design launched in high street stores nationally and fly the flag for good mental health!

For any of you that want to try at this competition, but are not too sure where to start, then please pop by and see me and we can share some ideas that you might like to try.

Good Luck!

Mrs. Latif

Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
W/B 24th March 2025	Achievement Assemblies (students only)
Tuesday 25th March 2025	Year 9 DTP vaccination catch ups Concert Trip to Barbican Trip to Mansfield College Trip to exel centre
Wednesday 26th March 2025	Music Showcase Trips to Chislehurst & Sidcup School for workshops
Thursday 27th March 2025	Year 10 Photography trip to Tate Art Exhibitions Disney showcase and parents info meeting 5pm-6pm
Friday 28th March 2025	Year 10 trip to Art Gallery and Portrait Exhibition
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 Year 10 trip to theatre - Clueless
Thursday 24th April 2025	GCSE Citizenship trip to Supreme Court
Friday 25th April 2025	GCSE Citizenship trip to Supreme Court
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
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	A-Level Geography trip to Docklands
Thursday 5th June 2025	Governors' meeting
Friday 6th June 2025	Dance Students theatre trip
Friday 13th June 2025	A-Level Geography trip to Lewisham
2 weeks W/B 16th June 2025	Year 10 GCSE / BTEC PPEs
Thursday 19th June 2025	Year 12 River Darent Trip Governors' meeting
Thursday 26th June 2025	A-Level Geography trip to Seaford
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)