



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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## Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations: Next steps

Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I trust this letter finds you well, as we approach the end of the academic year.

In school, the end of Year 10 in July is less of a 'conclusion' and more the start of an exciting journey to students' first steps of independence as confident and successful young adults. By this time next year, students will have completed their public examinations, marking the end of Key Stage 4 and you will have celebrated this milestone alongside your daughter, at the Year 11 celebration picnic.

### Looking ahead

Looking ahead to September 2025, we know that successful Year 11 journeys are never designed as solo expeditions: the students who thrive and achieve well tell us that support at home makes them feel grounded and secure in facing the demands of Year 11. Their parents and carers tell us that understanding the school's expectations at key points in the year helps them to achieve a healthy balance between priorities in school and at home, which supports everyone's well-being.

Establishing quality partnerships between staff, students and their families is the first step to achieving success in next year's public examinations, as well anchoring the vision that we all share: to raise the aspirations and release the potential of every Year 11 student in Blackfen School. Keeping this point in mind, I am inviting you and your daughter to attend the **Year 11 Information Evening at 5 pm on 18th September 2025**.

The purpose of this meeting is for students and their families to:

- Meet the staff team leading students' personal and academic preparation for Year 11 examinations.
- Know how to help students manage stress and build emotional resilience.
- Be confident in supporting academic preparation for Year 11 examinations at home, as well as in school.

The Information Evening in September is an established and well-received event which students and their families find helpful in managing the rest of Year 11.

### Key findings from the Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations for parents and carers

As teachers and students review Year 10 PPE results in lessons, this is a fitting moment for parents and carers to reflect on this year's examination experience *at home*. Your involvement in the examination process is invaluable. Whether you assisted your daughter in creating a revision timetable, provided a quiet environment for study, or promoted healthy routines such as adequate sleep and balanced nutrition, your contribution had a tangible impact on her academic progress.



These are the areas of examination preparation *at home* that should be discussed with your daughter, alongside her Year 10 PPE results:

- **Punctuality:** Arriving on time in school is crucial. Simple steps like setting alarms and planning travel routes the night before are worth your consideration and input. *Are you sure that your daughter is arriving in school well in advance of 8.30 am* and with time for a comfort break, to read through revision notes and – in Year 11 – to attend the ‘Top Tips Revision’ session at 7.45 am? Parents/carers should talk through travel arrangements, even when the route is familiar, in order to cover unexpected events that might occur, e.g. the usual bus route is diverted.
- **Examination communication:** Students who check their exam timetables the evening before each assessment to confirm timings and rooms tend to approach examinations with more composure and focus. Inevitably, there are some last-minute changes to examination arrangements and parent, carers and students are informed via Edulink. *Have you signed up to Edulink and are you receiving notifications?* If not, please contact the school office urgently to sort out these arrangements, so that Year 11 updates are delivered securely and you and your daughter do not miss vital communication about examination arrangements.
- **The night before:** Students who sleep well, work well. *Do you ensure your daughter always gets a good night’s sleep the night before examinations?* Parents/carers need to monitor revision at home, so that exam preparation starts and finishes at a sensible time. Stopping screen time at least 90 minutes before sleep time helps the brain to power-down and go into rest mode. Preparing equipment for examinations such as a clear pencil case with several black pens, pencils, rulers, calculators, protractors and compasses, calms students and makes them feel ready for success. Using a checklist the night before reduces stress the following morning.

As Year 10 students start their Work Experience, we hope they will see clear parallels between the skills developed during the Year 10 PPEs - such as good punctuality, personal organisation and preparation, and following instructions directly - and the same skills required in the workplace. These are the attributes and character qualities that will drive examination success in Year 11 and beyond.

### Next Steps

Save the date of the Year 11 Information Evening at 5 pm on 18th September 2025. We strongly encourage all students and their parents and carers to attend so that – together - we make a good team and make a good start to Year 11. Please tell your daughter to keep safe a luggage label that will be issued to her in September. The Information Evening finishes with Ms Hoad’s **Riotous Raffle** and the luggage label is essential to claiming the goodies on offer!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I look forward to meeting you next term.

Yours sincerely,



Miss F Minnis  
Deputy Headteacher