



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 2024/5 academic year. I would firstly like to thank our wonderful pupils for their hard work this year and recognise the staff for their contributions to the learning and progress of our young people. We recognise that it's our whole community that supports and helps our students grow-so a huge thank you also to our parents for all the hard work we know you do in raising your children to work hard, behave responsibly and respectfully, and demonstrate resilience when things get tough.

This year has been jam packed with activities (ranging from exploring lunar rocks to dancing at the Copper Box), with 105 trips, 6 overseas adventures, fundraising and lots of learning. We are proud of our strong links with the local community, particularly our primary schools. We are especially pleased with our expressive arts outreach and our local primary schools have benefited from the leadership and skills of our art, drama and dance classes. Many of your children delivered workshops to primary school learners and we've received such lovely feedback from the students and their teachers. This outreach will continue next academic year as we continue our work towards the Arts Mark Award. We're proud that we nurture an appreciation and love of the arts and creativity in every one of our students.

Our school magazine, The Insight, has come to national attention in the Shine Media awards-congratulations to our team who won the Rising Star award-a huge achievement with only our second edition!! Congratulations to the team who have produced a wonderful array of stimulating and challenging articles for us to read over the summer. If you are short of anything to do over the break, do take a read.

The school will begin the process of closing for the summer break with our end of term celebration on Friday. Summer school runs next week for our new year 7 cohort. A huge thank you to the staff who will be working hard to prepare our new year 7s for September! We are excited to see the results of our year 11s and 13s, and to meet our new students, towards the end of the summer. You will receive information about the return to school over the summer break, but in the meantime, we hope you and your families have the chance to relax and enjoy the summer.

Have a wonderful summer break with your families and friends, take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

**Carrie Senior**  
Headteacher

## Governors' News

As the school year ends, we can reflect on a challenging but successful one, particularly the strong performance in the Ofsted visit. All members of the school are to be congratulated on the outcome, given that the visit took place so soon after the change of school leadership.

The formal business of the year for the Governing Body was completed with its final meeting in July. A full agenda was discussed and included a comprehensive report from the Head Teacher, which highlighted important teaching, learning and assessment developments during the year. The school's overall strategy for the next academic year was also outlined, including budget monitoring and enhanced infrastructure. This strategy will be considered in depth by the Full Governing Body when it meets in September for its Business Meeting, where preparations will be made for taking the school forward.

Parents' evenings and events have been attended by members of the Governing Body. This included in particular the excellent Matilda production.

The Governing Body has seen changes this year with the departure of governors and the recruitment of new. I would like to thank Miss Mary Gough for her excellent work as a Staff Governor and wish her a happy retirement. I am pleased to welcome Mrs Sirin Peache as a Parent Governor, Terry White as a Staff Governor and Mrs Temitope Osekita as a Local Authority Governor. I wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to working with them.

Finally, the Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a happy and relaxing summer break. Also we wish those leaving the school and moving on to new challenges every success in the future and look forward to a successful year for those returning to the School in the Autumn.

**Stuart Fitz-Gerald**  
**Chair of Governors**

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## Examination Results

### 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 8.00am - 9.30am**. 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 9.30am - 10.30am**. 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 9.00am - 10.30am in the Performance Space**. (See 'Collection of GCSE results', below).

## 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 9.00am to 10.30am**. 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.

## 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 11.45am**.

1. Go to the **'Sixth Form'** tab on the Blackfen School website ([www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://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.**

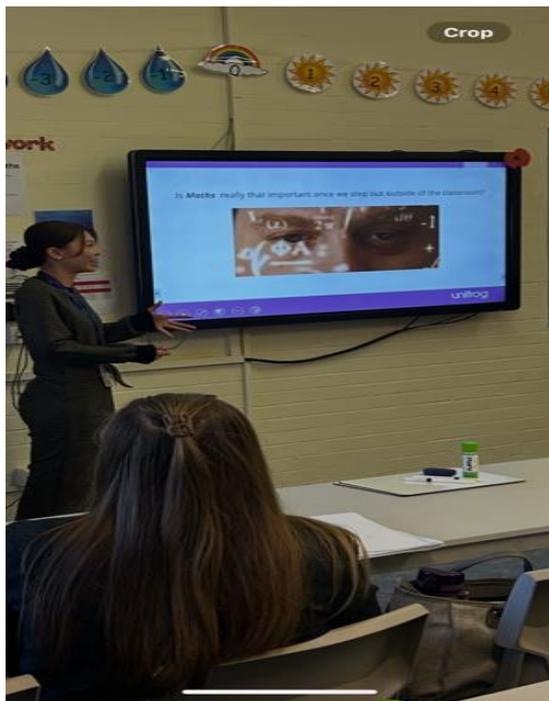
Any queries on the day should be emailed to: [sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) You must have the correct entry requirements for your course choices. We will only contact you (via email or mobile phone) if there is a problem with your course choice.

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.

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## Careers

### Embedding Careers in the Curriculum - Unifrog and Maths Careers



Gatsby Benchmark 4 refers to one of the eight *Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance* used in the UK to improve career education in schools and colleges.

#### **Gatsby Benchmark 4** is about: **Linking curriculum learning to careers**

"All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths."

The Maths department delivered a lesson to show students how mathematical concepts are used in real-world careers and help them to see the relevance of their studies and to inspire future career choices.

Students discussed how an understanding of statistics and geometry can give professional athletes a strong advantage over their opponents. Statistically, when defending a penalty, a goalie is more likely to dive to the right if their team is

behind. This was discovered by the University of Amsterdam when studying World Cup penalty shoot outs.

One of the objectives was for students to find three surprising careers that involve the application of Maths, using the Unifrog Careers Library to help them find what element of their mathematical knowledge would be needed to support them in their role.

Students explored the role of animators who need to use a huge amount of mathematics in their roles. Trigonometry helps to rotate and move characters across scenes. Algebra is then used to create special effects that dazzle audiences of millions.



The lesson concluded with students discussing in a group how relevant maths is to all careers. Our Year 9 students found this lesson to be informative, beneficial and gave them a better understanding of how important maths is for all career pathways.



**Mrs Smith, Careers Adviser**

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## Health & Social Care

### Trip to Blackfen - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Steggles and Mrs Kemp had the privilege of taking two of our year 10 students out to Blackfen High Street as part of their Health and Social Care course. We visited the Co-op, Tesco Express and then Premier where Sameeha and Layla conducted some primary research to compare product prices. They concluded that convenience foods were cheaper to buy than fresh foods.

Both students wrote up about the trip.

Sameeha said: *I went to the Co-op, Tesco Express, and Premier. In each shop, I looked at the food prices and also looked at the prices per kg. I enjoyed the trip because I looked at different food prices and I noticed that when you walk into shops the first thing you see is snacks, so you're more likely to buy the snack even if you weren't thinking about it before.*

Layla said: *I went to the Co-op, Tesco Express, and Premier. I looked at different products, including milk and chicken goujons, to see what they cost and the price per kg. In Premier and the Co-op, I noticed it was unhealthy food that had been put at the front, whereas in Tesco, they had the fruit and vegetables where I entered. This is good, because when I walk into the shop, I'll go to the vegetables first, because I'll see them first. I enjoyed walking in the sunshine and looking at some foods in different shops that looked really nice and made me hungry.*

We were very impressed by the excellent behaviour and good manners presented by the girls. They are great ambassadors of Blackfen School.

**Miss Steggles and Mrs Kemp**

# Matilda the Musical

Directing this show with such a passionate and talented cast of girls has been nothing short of inspiring. Matilda is more than a musical — it's a celebration of bravery, intelligence, and standing up for what's right, even when the odds seem stacked against you. These themes have resonated powerfully with our cast, who, like Matilda, are discovering the strength of their own voices.



From mastering tricky choreography to delivering bold, heartfelt performances, every girl in this cast has brought something truly special to the stage. Just like Matilda, they've reminded us that "even if you're little, you can do a lot." Their commitment, creativity, and camaraderie have been the driving force behind every magical moment in the performances. The cast performed 4 shows in total, two matinees, one to Blackfen students and one to three local Primary schools, and then two evening shows on. The performances went amazingly well and we are immensely proud of all of the students involved!



**Ms Padbury**  
Subject leader of Drama and Dance

## Dance and Drama

It's been an exciting end to the year with our students representing the school by leading outreach projects, at the London Games, in workshops and vocational exams.

### London Games Finals

We are pleased to announce that our dance entry to the Bexley Games came in first place. Our group of our students then got through to the London Games finals and performed beautifully. We are all very proud.



### LAMDA Drama Exams

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July we had our first cohort of LAMDA examinations. LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) qualifications are practical exams in speech, communication, and performance and are recognized by ofqual. The exams went very well and all students will be progressing to the next grade. If you would like to participate in LAMDA lessons in school, please email [lamda.blackfen@gmail.com](mailto:lamda.blackfen@gmail.com)



### Royal Academy of Dance, Hip Hop workshop

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July we hosted the Royal Academy of Dance who led a three hour Hip Hop workshop to 30 year 7 and 8's. The students grew in confidence throughout the workshop as they learnt repertoire and created their own choreographies which they performed at the end of the day.



### Outreach projects

In the last week of term we led two more workshops, this time at Upton Primary School in Dance and Art. The Blackfen students led activities and taught the primary school students a range of skills. Throughout the workshops our girls represented the school beautifully. They were able to show their leadership skills by teaching the Primary students confidently. This year we have led outreach at four primary schools and invited them in to see our showcases and musical. Throughout these projects we have not only given our students vital experiences but shared their great work with the wider community.

### **Ms Jarman**

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

# Rewards Bowling Trip

On Tuesday, 15th July, 50 Key Stage 3 students participated in a rewarding trip to Bexleyheath Bowling Alley. This excursion was organised to recognise and celebrate the top achievers in the school this year, each having earned over 230 points.



The event provided an enjoyable experience for both students and staff. Participants had the opportunity to play two games of bowling, enjoy the arcade facilities, and some treated themselves to refreshments such as slush puppies and fries.

We look forward to continuing this tradition with more Rewards trips in the coming year.



**Miss R Padbury**  
Subject leader of Drama and Dance  
Rewards and Recognition Co-ordinator

## KCL Access Labs Trip – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

A group of our budding scientists went to visit King's College London at the Franklin Wilkins' Building to carry out experiments, find out about university life and studying Chemistry.

Our students extracted pure caffeine from tea and used different analytical methods to find out if the medicine samples they were given were paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin.

Here are some quotes from our students and pictures of what they got up to!!!



'It was a very joyful experience'

'It was very informative and practical'

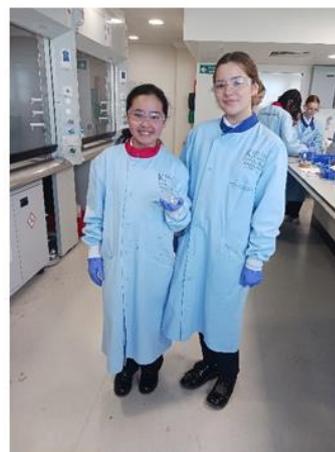
'The people were so sweet and they also explained everything clearly'



'The activities were challenging but also not too easy'



'It made me want to explore other universities that are best for the subject I want to study'



**Ms Nengou**  
**KS3 Science Coordinator**

# NUMERACY CORNER

(answers below)

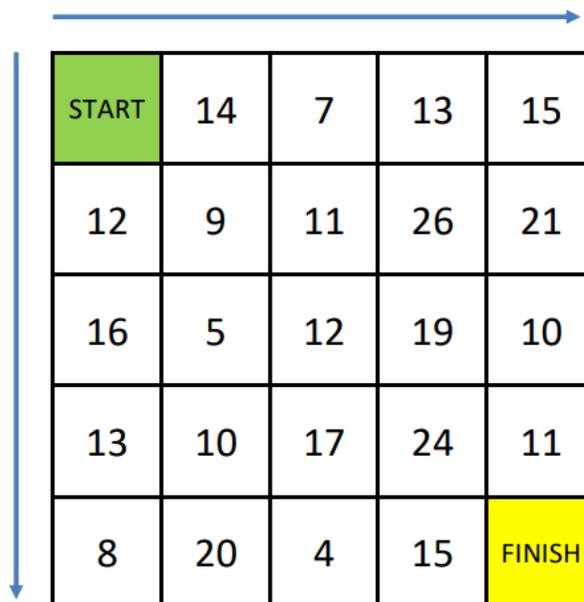
## NUMBER GRID CHALLENGE 4: TARGET 100

Start the maze with zero.

You have to finish the maze with a total of 100.

Your route can go **right** or **down** at each turn.

There are 3 possible routes. Can you find them?



START	14	7	13	15
12	9	11	26	21
16	5	12	19	10
13	10	17	24	11
8	20	4	15	FINISH

 Last puzzle answers:

### **Challenge 2**

Try to find sets of 3 numbers that add up to make 100.

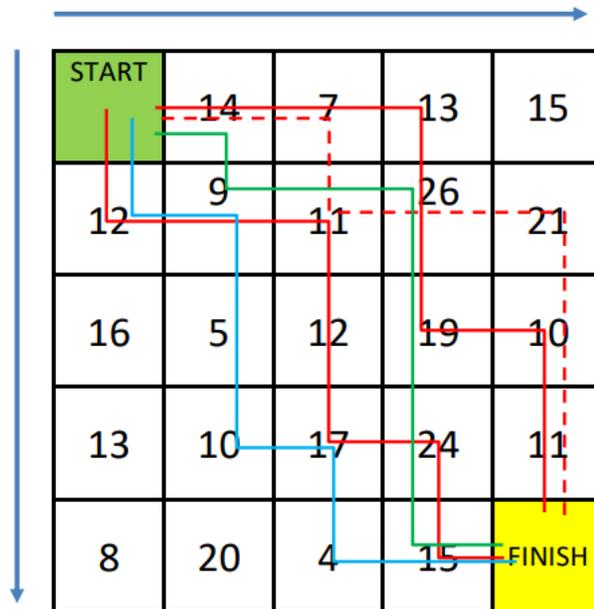
Try to find 3 different answers.

**33+22+45    45+18+37    51+33+16    49+33+18**

# Included puzzle answers:

## NUMBER GRID CHALLENGE 4: TARGET 100 ANSWERS

There are 3 possible routes. Can you find them? Marked in red.



Ms Tregenna