



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

3rd October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Suddenly, it is already October and autumn feels like it is most definitely with us. With autumn comes the start of colds, flu and other seasonal illnesses-but also approaching fast is the October half term (two-week) break.

We'd like to remind everyone that **feeling a little under the weather is not a reason to miss school**; we are focusing on attendance this year as we know what an enormous difference good school attendance makes to GCSE and A level results; every day matters. In fact, on average, students with above 95% attendance achieved 5 whole grades better than students with low attendance, in every single GCSE they took last year. It can be really tricky to catch up if you're off school, so please do support your daughters to make every effort to attend. To reassure parents, we do always contact you if your child is unwell and needs to come home and we are aware of students whose medical needs may require additional time off. If your child is ever reluctant to attend school and you're not quite sure what's going on, please contact the student support officers. We are always ready to put support in place to help all our students attend.

It has been an incredibly busy September, with several hundred parents and year 5 and 6 students visiting our open evening and follow up open mornings. A huge thank you to all the students, especially the Year 8s and Year 12s, who acted as excellent ambassadors for the school as tour guides and represented each department for our visitors. We hope that you've all seen some of the highlights on Blackfen School's resurrected Instagram account-please follow us to see lots more about Blackfen life-there is always far too much going on to squeeze into a newsletter!!

Thank you as always for your ongoing support of your children in their educational journey at Blackfen. Enjoy the longer break when it comes-and to year 11s, get cracking with that revision over the half term break!

Best wishes,

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Narrative Alchemy

On Friday 1st October, Year 7 and 8 were treated to an excellent performance by Narrative Alchemy.

This theatre groups specialises in covering tricky issues young people face in an inclusive and engaging fashion.

Their performance "Invictus" focussed on young people building resilience in times of difficulty. It certainly gave us all food for thought.

Mrs Makepeace
Deputy Headteacher

English Faculty Newsletter

KS5 – Theatre Trip to watch *Hamlet – To be or not to be...*

On Tuesday 7 October, Year 13 are going to the National Theatre to watch Shakespeare's Hamlet to help support their A-Level study of the play.

Year 11 – Box Clever Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*

In January, Box Clever Theatre will deliver an in-school performance and workshop of A Christmas Carol for Year 11. This live event will reinforce knowledge of the classic novella and help students in the run-up to exams. Details of payment have been sent out on EduLink and also on the year 11 TEAMS page

Year 8 – Poetry Competition (Now Open)

Mr O'Connor's Year 8 Poetry Competition is underway. Students can submit an original poem on any theme. Shortlisted entries will make their way in to a book that can be purchased, with winners announced before Christmas.

Year 7 – Halloween Writing Competition

Mrs Norwood will launch The Halloween Writing Competition after half term for year 7. Year 7 students are welcome to enter short, spooky pieces (max 500 words). There are prizes to be won.

Year 11 – "Christmas Puddings" Incentive

Our Year 11 Christmas Puddings reward initiative restarts after half term. Teachers will award 'Xmas Puds' for excellent work, effort and participation. Students will enter a prize draw at the end of term if they receive a Xmas pud to win an amazon voucher.

Years 7–8 – After-School Reading Club

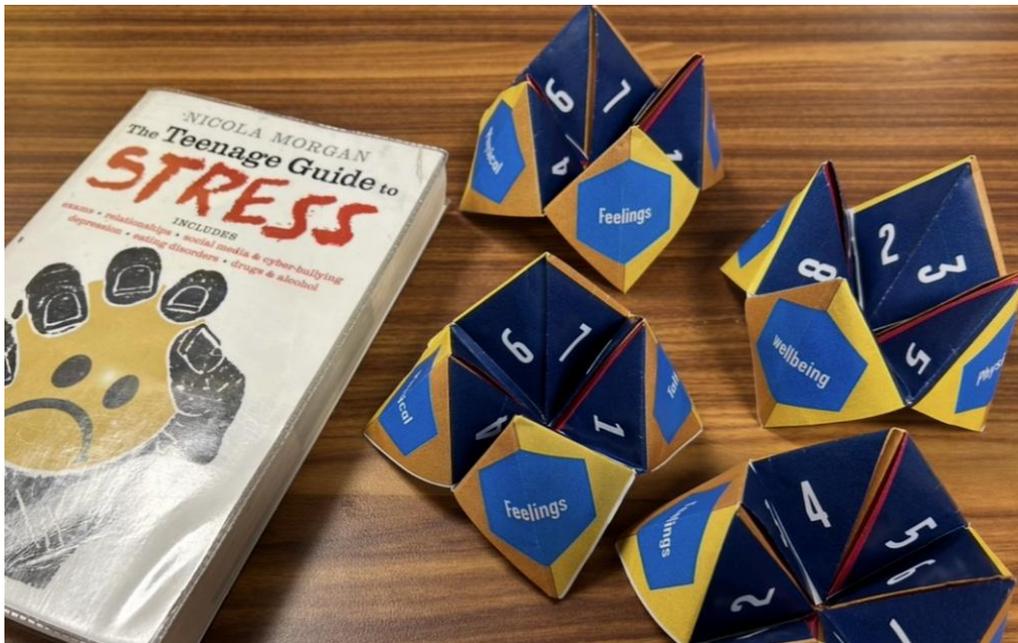
Mrs Norwood is running an after-school Reading Club for Years 7 and 8 to promote a love of reading and support students who want to build confidence and fluency. Strong reading underpins progress in every subject, so sessions will explore a variety of texts, including fiction, non-fiction, and articles to broaden vocabulary and boost comprehension.

Mr Love, Faculty Leader for English

Welcome to a very busy start to our new school year. Lots going on this term with new classes and teachers to get used to with new class dynamics and for some, the pressures of exam years starting. Other years also face their challenges, maybe your child is in year 9 and this will present decisions to make later in the year with option choices, our 8's are settling in and of course let's not forget our new intake of our year 7's where all is new, with everything to navigate. We have a lot of resources for any student that is feeling a little "wobbly" so please do not worry as this is what we do best, we are here to help!

So, new and exciting things underway for this school term. We have already had our open evening for the year 6's to visit us and what a fun and informative evening it was along with our open days. Our students turned guides and have done a brilliant job representing our school. I was joined by two lovely year 12's who helped to showcase what we do in the Wellbeing Hub.





We are also in the throes of recruiting our new Mental Health Ambassadors for the year. This is open to all year 9, 10 & 12 to apply. The role in question will be to support younger year students through mentoring, campaigns, assemblies and forums to help raise the awareness of good wellbeing health and all that it encompasses. The two year 12's that joined me on open evening, Aysha & Fatima have re-applied for this year as they did this role when they were in year 10.

As we fast approach the first half term break, I think we all appreciate that we need a little rest and recuperation.

Here are some ideas of what is available to us locally.

Hall Place Halloween Trail- for those with younger siblings to keep busy



Blackfen Community Library- great courses like Shine or Strength, please see their website.

STRENGTH COURSE

Thursday 2nd
October
5-6.30pm
for 6 weeks

BOOK IN NOW!



FREE SNACKS, DRINKS
'N' STUFF EACH WEEK

What is the Strength course?
A fun and interactive 6 week personal development course for secondary boys aged 11-15. Through fun activities, the sessions will help to develop a strong sense of personal identity, confidence, purpose for the future and the chance to make new friends.

AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

Mon 29 Sep for
6 weeks
5-6:30pm
AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

BOOK IN NOW!



THE SHINE COURSE

A fun and interactive 6 week personal development course for girls aged 11-15

Through fun activities, the sessions will help to develop a strong sense of personal identity, confidence, purpose for the future and the chance to make new friends.

Delicious drinks and snacks will be provided with a free gift each week.

blackfencommunitylibrary.org

Lessness Pump Station



Halloween Fun at Crossness Pumpkin Station

Don't miss out on a spooktacular day of fun on 31 October! Have you ever wondered what might be lurking down in London's sewers? Listen to the terrifying tale of the Rat of Crossness in the spooky surroundings of the 160 year old Beam Engine House. Then explore if you dare – and maybe spot the rat for yourselves!



Bexley Snapshots in Time, A celebration through pictures

A fascinating collection of archive photographs from both the Bexley Museum and Archive collections. See the borough's growth from rural landscape to urban expansion. On display at Thamesmead Library during opening hours in October.

Whatever you will be doing this October half term break... **keep learning, connect, give, be active, take notice. Above all be safe!**

Mrs Latif
Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer

Careers

Save the date! Annual Careers Fair Tuesday 3rd March 2026



We will be holding our Annual Careers Fair on Tuesday 3rd March from 3.15pm until 6.00pm (last entry at 5.30pm) in the Performance Space. We would like to see as many parents/carers and students attend as we expect this evening to be interesting and informative with many representatives attending. Further details will follow nearer the time.

More information on Careers and Work Experience, Local Labour Market Information including the school Careers Policy, is available on the school website under Policies and Curriculum



Year 10 Work Experience 13th – 17th July 26

I am writing to let you know that all year 10 pupils will be undertaking a one-week period of Work Experience next year from **13th July – 17th July 2025**. It is important to let you know at this early stage as the Work Experience Programme involves a great deal of planning.

The information letter was emailed to parent/carers by Edulink on 19th September. The letter details how the Work Experience Programme will run this year. We will be using Unifrog to input the placement information with no paperwork to return. Details of how to login to Unifrog were also in the letter. Your child would have received an email from Unifrog to their school email account.

All students will be visited in form time during October by Mrs Smith to show them how to input their placement details using Unifrog.

If you have not received the email I sent out on the 19th September please check your junk email and if still not received please email admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk to request another letter to be sent.

Placements are quite limited this year so I would ask students to make every effort to find their own placement early. If you have been offered a placement but still need confirmation please chase the employer.

The Programme is designed to give young people a better insight into the world of work and to acquaint them with the key skills necessary to succeed in adult working life. Therefore, the placement may not be directly linked with your child's career ideas. Taking part in the Programme is an excellent opportunity for your child to learn and develop many transferable skills that will benefit them in the future.

Please can I remind you that all placements must be finalised by **Monday 16th March 2026**.

Mrs Smith, Careers Adviser

Newsletter- Oliver trip

On 17th September, 30 year 9 students attended a dance workshop at Danceworks in Oxford Street where they learnt choreography from Oliver the musical.

They were taught by a cast member who is currently in the show. The workshop leader complimented the girls on their ability and speed at picking up the steps.

The workshop was followed by a Q&A session where the students could ask her about her training and tips for working in the industry.

The students then watched the matinee performance of Oliver.



Ms Jarman
Second In Charge- Expressive Arts Faculty
Subject Leader of Dance and Drama

Reminders

Parking and local roads

As we start a new school year and with many new students joining our community, this is a reminder to all parents and carers about being considerate when dropping off and collecting your children to and from school.

Please be mindful of:

- Parking illegally on double yellow lines (including zig zag lines)
- Parking over local residents drop kerbs (blocking access for the homeowner)
- Mounting the pavements (particularly the side roads) restricting access for pedestrians
- Tailgating other vehicles into the main school car park. Parking on school site is only in place for our vulnerable students only

We always encourage our local residents to report any of these behaviours to Bexley council and, the local enforcement team at Bexley continue to carry out adhoc inspections to enforce any illegal activity.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and hope you understand the importance of parking responsibly to keep our children safe.

Student Behaviour on public transport

A reminder to all parents and carers of children who take public transport to and from school about reinforcing etiquette and behaviour.

Students MUST:

- B - Be aware of other people who may be elderly, have young children or who have a disability
- U - Understand that queue pushing is **NOT** acceptable. It gives the wrong impression of our school community, especially when wearing school uniform
- S - Show respect and consideration to other people at all times

Bus stops near to the school are monitored by our Leadership team on a daily basis, however, as we cannot control areas away from the school grounds, it is really important that this message is reinforced by parents and carers.

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.

NUMERACY CORNER

Welcome to the Numeracy Corner Puzzle feature.

Each newsletter will contain a Numeracy Puzzle for you to challenge each other to complete. The answers will be published in the following newsletter. We hope you enjoy them.

ARITHMAGIC SQUARE

Can you fill in the blanks with the numbers from 1 to 9 so that each mathematical equation is correct? (The operations read from left to right and from top to bottom.)

(answers next time)

	+		÷		=	2
+		+		+		+
	×		-		=	2
÷		-		-		+
	+		÷		=	1
=		=		=		=
2	+	0	+	3	=	5

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	

Ms Tregenna
Teacher of Mathematics

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Wednesday 8 th October 2025	Open Morning
Thursday 9 th October 2025	Open Morning
Friday 10 th October 2025	Year 11 (Dance) Trip to LABAN Conservatoire
Wednesday 15 th October 2025	Year 7 information meeting 3.40 – 4.30pm
Thursday 16 th October 2025	Open Morning Governors Resources Meeting 5pm
20th – 31st October 2025 – 2 weeks	Half Term
W/B 3 rd November 2025 for 2 weeks	Year 13 A-Level & BTEC PPEs
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Governors Curriculum meeting 5pm Year 10 information Evening 5pm Governors Pay & Performance Meeting 6.30pm
Saturday 8 th November 2025	Young Entertainers Award at Goldsmiths University (29 year 9/10 students)
Thursday 13 th November 2025	Sixth Form Open Evening
W/B 17 th November 2025	Year 11 GCSE & BTEC PPEs
Tuesday 18 th November 2025	Choreography Competition 5.30pm
Thursday 20 th November 2025	Governors Resources Meeting
Tuesday 2 nd December 2025	Jack Petchey Speak out Challenge
Thursday 4 th December 2025	Year 13 Parents Evening Year 10/8 Ski Trip Information Evening 5.30pm
8 th – 12 th December 2025	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 11 th December 2025	New York Trip Information Evening time tbc
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Winter Showcase time tbc
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Governors FGB & AGM meeting 5pm
Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5 th January 2026	INSET DAY Staff Training
Thursday 8 th January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening 4.00 -6.30pm
Sunday 11 th -16 th January 2026	Trip to NYC (Year 11/13 Politics/Citizenship)
Monday 19 th January 2026	Box Clever Theatre Company performance
Thursday 22 nd January 2026	Citizenship Fair times tbc
25 th – 30 th January 2026	Maths Seminar at Disneyland Paris
Thursday 5 th February 2026	Year 9 Information Evening: KS4 Course Selection
Wednesday 11 th February 2026	Year 9 course selection meetings (careers)
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 11 Drama Exam Governors Resources Meeting 5pm
Friday 13 th February 2026	Year 11 Drama Exam
16th – 22nd February 2026	Half Term
23 rd February - 7 th March 2026	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 11 PPEs
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Year 9 DTP/MEN Immunisation
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam Year 9 Parents Evening 4.00-6.30pm
Friday 27 th February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Careers Fair
Thursday 5 th March 2026	Governors Curriculum Meeting 5pm
Saturday 7 th – 14 th March 2026	Year 8 & 10 Ski Trip
Tuesday 10 th March 2026	GCSE Dance Showcase 5.30pm

Wednesday 11 th March 2026	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection interviews with LT
Thursday 12 th March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening
Friday 13 th March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam
Monday 16 th March 2026	Year 12 PPEs begin
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening 4.00 – 6.30pm Governors Resources meeting 5pm
W/B 23 rd March 2026	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 9 DTP/Men immunisation catchups The Music Show 2026 5-7pm Governors FGB Meeting
30th March – 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
W/B 13 th April 2026	Year 10 PPEs all week
Thursday 23 rd April 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 27 th April 2026	Year 8 HPV Immunisation
Tuesday 28 th April 2026	Drama Showcase
Monday 4 th May 2026	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 th May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day KS3 Dance Showcase
Wednesday 6 th May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day
Monday 11 th May 2026	Public Exams start Year 12 Work Experience one week
Thursday 14 th May 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm Governors Resources meeting
25th – 29th May 2026	Half Term
Thursday 4 th June 2026	Year 8 Parents Evening Governors Curriculum meeting
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Governors Resources meeting
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	Year 8 HPV immunisation catchups
Friday 26 th June 2026	Year 11 end of exams celebration
Monday 29 th June 2026	Sixth Form Induction Day
Friday 3 rd July 2026	Year 8/9 immunisation catchups
W/B 6 th July 2026	Provisional Community Celebration assemblies
Tuesday 7 th July 2026	Year 6 Induction Day and parents evening
Thursday 9 th July 2026	Summer Showcase
Friday 10 th July 2026	Sports Day
W/B 13 th July 2026	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Discover Day 1
Thursday 16 th July 2026	Discover Day 2
Thursday 16 th July 2026	Governors FGB meeting
Friday 17 th July 2026	Last day of Summer Term