



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents, Carers and examination students,

## Public examinations Summer 2026: Contingency date and Malpractice policy

I am writing to you because students in Year 11, Year 12 (GCSE Mathematics re-sit) and Year 13 are starting their final preparations for GCSE, A-Level and BTEC public examinations in the Summer term. There are two important points of information that parents, carers and students should understand now: firstly, the Examination contingency date for Summer 2026 public examinations and, secondly, the school's Malpractice policy, which can be viewed on the ['Examinations Information'](#) page of the school website.

### 1 - Contingency date for Summer 2026 public examinations: Wednesday 24th June 2026 – all day

**All students sitting Summer 2026 public examinations at Blackfen School must be available to sit GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations from the date of their first examination until Wednesday 24th June 2026. This decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates, in all schools.**

**The Examination contingency date** has been put in place to be used in the event of “sustained national or local disruption”. In these circumstances, the exam boards whose examinations are running at this time will have the option to postpone their examination and to rearrange it for the contingency date. This means that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications. The decision to change the date of an examination to the contingency day is *not* taken by the school, nor by parents and carers, nor by students.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) makes the following point: “If students are not available because they are on holiday and one of their exams is rescheduled to this day, they will not be eligible for special consideration by the exam boards. For this reason, the JCQ requests all schools inform parents and students of this date so that it can be taken into account when making plans for the summer.”

Parents, carers and students should note the examination contingency date in the event that an awarding body needs to invoke its contingency plan. Please ensure that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate so that students can be contacted quickly, in these circumstances.



## 2 – Formal warning: Malpractice in coursework or examinations

Secondly, and regrettably, this letter is also the **formal warning to students, their parents and carers, that the school will always take action regarding evidence of candidate malpractice or cheating in public examinations or in the coursework tasks that form part of a qualification course.**

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) defines ‘Malpractice’ as the failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. It includes any act, default or practice which is listed below but is not limited to these examples:

- a breach of the Regulations
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates
- compromises public confidence in qualifications
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre

### Candidate malpractice

‘Candidate malpractice’ means actions taken by a candidate, such as those listed above, in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper. I would draw your attention to the [Examinations policy Malpractice 2025-2026](#) in the [Policies](#) section of the school website which covers these points in greater detail.

The responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the completion of school work is also covered in the Malpractice Policy and should be noted. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Parents and carers are probably familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard. Blackfen School recognises that AI has many uses to help students learn, but may also lend itself to candidate malpractice in terms of cheating and plagiarism. Students may not use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
- To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text *is presented as their own work*

The golden rule for all students is to check with their teacher *before* using any form of AI and always to tell the teacher where AI has been used in their work, so that it can be properly referenced. This will protect students’ work and ensure that their qualification is achieved. I strongly recommend that

parents, carers and students browse the JCQ document called [Information for candidates - Coursework assessments 2025 FINAL.pdf](#), posted in [JCQ Information for candidates](#) in the 'Examinations' section of the school website alongside other relevant information.

### Publication of examination results

On a more positive note, the 'Examinations Information' page also posts information to support students and their parents and carers in preparing for examinations. Click on the Ofqual '[Coping with exam pressure – a guide for students](#)' for advice and guidance on how to cope with pressure associated with test and exam anxiety and [Resources to help students prepare for exams and assessments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

I am very grateful to parents and carers for their extra work and willingness to engage with the school to support students' preparation for public examinations. To this end, you are warmly invited to join students in school to receive and celebrate their results on the following dates:

A Level results: Thursday 13th August 2026

GCSE results: Thursday 20th August 2026

Please don't hesitate to contact the Examinations Team in school by way of their dedicated email: [exams@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:exams@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) or via telephone extension 3143, should you have further queries about the information in this letter.

Yours faithfully,



**Miss F Minnis**  
**Deputy Headteacher**