



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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17th October 2025

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this final message of the first half term finds you all well. It's been an extraordinarily busy first seven weeks of school, with the usual vast range of trips and visits, our open mornings and open evening, the wonderful 'Fen Factor' singing competition, rounded off with the visit of our partner French school on the last day of term.

A huge thank you as always to the staff who have organised these enriching activities and to the girls for their enthusiastic participation. I was particularly impressed by the year 8, 11 and sixth form tour guides who showed hundreds of families around Blackfen for our open days and to the very brave year 7s who volunteered to give speeches at the open events. What was particularly lovely was the way that the year 7s talked about already feeling part of the Blackfen community and feeling a strong sense of belonging at their new school. They had all joined a number of our DICE clubs and were getting excited about the opportunities to come at Blackfen, with the Year 8 and 10 ski trip a particularly anticipated event.

Finally, I must say a well done to year 11 and 13 who are working hard and now preparing for the first round of pre-public examinations. This is an important time to get into good study habits, and the time for parents to contact us at school if you do have concerns about your child's wellbeing, study habits or revision. Working together and communicating openly does help us ensure your child is as successful as possible and we do appreciate every time you come into school, email us or call.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Best wishes,

**Carrie Senior**  
Headteacher

# READY! STEADY! GO!

## Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

Thank you to Year 11 parents, carers and students for attending the Year 11 Information Evening at the beginning of September. It was great to meet you; review the key dates and actions in this important year and take your feedback. We agreed our shared and best strategy for Year 11:

- *Get ready*: Get your head around Year 11 *now*, so you're prepared from the start
- *Stay steady*: Stay in control and avoid nasty surprises
- *Go!* Boss your success

It's time to *Get ready, Stay steady and Go!* as we prepare together for the first major event of Year 11: the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) **17th November – 1st December 2025**.

**Get ready:** Get your head around it *now*

### ➤ **Everyone**

Download the '**Year 11 Preparing for Success**' booklet from the school website [Blackfen School for Girls - Examinations Information](#). It was distributed to families at the Year 11 Information Evening and spare copies are available from Ms Pascoe, Year 11 Student Support Officer. Go through the list of examinations on Page 4 and Page 5 and highlight the exams being taken in Summer 2026.

### ➤ **Parents/carers**

- Check out Page 24 in *Preparing for Success* and see the list of staff contacts. Contact Subject Leaders if you have subject-specific queries or the Assistant Headteachers if you're worried about academic progress and your daughter's personal well-being.
- Make sure *now* that everyone knows the schedule for the October half term, so that your daughter can plan revision effectively. A sensible balance of exam preparation and family time needs to be achieved

### ➤ **Students**

- Personalised versions of the Year 11 PPE timetable will be distributed shortly and will show exam rooms and exam finish times. Ask teachers *now* about the topics being set for exams. Make a revision schedule for *now* and up to the start of the Year 11 PPEs. Share it with your family and explain where you need help: either to get started – or to stop panicking.

**Stay steady:** Stay in control

### ➤ **Everyone**

Stick the Year 11 PPE timetable *and* the PPE revision timetable on the fridge. Know what and when it's all happening.

### ➤ **Parents/carers**

- Make revision part of the family routine in the way it suits you best. Sort out the place and time and talk about use of mobile phones. Check the revision timetable schedules treats, as well as tasks.

### ➤ **Students**

- Don't go it alone: be in school to use your teachers/attend revision sessions/pick up revision materials.
- Don't go it alone: use Team family. Schedule revision, do it, celebrate! The revision that you do now will *never* be a waste of time. Apps like Quizlet, Anki, and Evernote help to create flashcards, notes and organise study materials. For time management and focus, you might

find *Study Bunny*, *Forest* or a *Pomodoro timer* helpful, while *My Study Life* can be used to create revision timetables.

### **Go! Boss your success**

#### ➤ **Everyone**

- Arriving on time in school is crucial for staying calm and in control of examinations (instead of examinations controlling you). Get a lift. Get the early bus!

#### ➤ **Parents / carers**

- The night before: Know the exams scheduled for the following day. Stop screen time at least 90 minutes before sleep time. Have you signed up to Edulink and are you receiving notifications? Last-minute changes to examination timing and rooming will often be sent to families via Edulink.

#### ➤ **Students**

- An early night really makes all the difference! Check that you've got the right equipment: clear pencil case with several black pens, pencils, rulers, calculators, protractors and compasses. Set the alarm. Arrive in school with time to go to the canteen, get a warm drink, and look over revision notes. Do your best and you'll be the Boss. If it doesn't work this time round, you can still get it sorted for next time. There *is* time.

**Ms Minnis**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

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## **Maths News**

### **Sparx Success!**

We are excited to celebrate the amazing progress our students have made with Sparx Maths this term!

Keep up the great effort! If you haven't finished your Sparx tasks yet, don't worry — there's still plenty of time to catch up and earn rewards.

### **Sparx Success Highlights**

We're thrilled to share some fantastic achievements from our students on Sparx Maths this term!

#### **🌟 Top performers per year group:**

Year 7

Holly 7JLO-3

Arisa &NHH-2

Teddie 7MJA-7

Year 8

Habbah 8MMO-2

Shuruthi 8MMO-2

Trisha 8VKN-5

Year 9

Jessica 9GKO-6

Hannah 9AGR-3

Tien 9INO-9

Year 10

Chloe 10KVI-9

Kylah 10KVI-9

Angel 10KVI-9

Year 11

Amelia 11EKI-3

Haliyah 11KJH-6

Yazmin 11KJH-6

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone! Let's finish the term strong and continue to make great strides in maths.

**Mrs McMahon, Faculty Leader for Mathematics**

# Pumpkin Carving



- Deadline – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Send photos to [ako@blackfen.Bexley.sch.uk](mailto:ako@blackfen.Bexley.sch.uk) with your name & Form group

# Halloween Cupcakes



- Rules – Bake a batch of Spookily decorated cupcakes (there are recipes on teams if you need help) Minimum of 3x cakes. Best designs win a prize!
- Deadline – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Send photos to [ako@blackfen.Bexley.sch.uk](mailto:ako@blackfen.Bexley.sch.uk) with your name & Form group



**We are taking donations**  
 Fabrics, ribbons, buttons, craft materials etc.  
 If you are having a clear-out, please bring them to DT1. All donations are used by students for their portfolios. **Thank you! Ms Knight**



**Scan here to add us...**

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**Ms Knight**  
**Faculty Leader for Technology**

## Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

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

Friday 13th February 2026	Year 11 Drama Exam
<b>16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> February - 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 11 PPEs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 9 DTP/MEN Immunisation
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam Year 9 Parents Evening 4.00-6.30pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Careers Fair
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Governors Curriculum Meeting 5pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 8 & 10 Ski Trip
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	GCSE Dance Showcase 5.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection interviews with LT
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 12 PPEs begin
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening 4.00 – 6.30pm Governors Resources meeting 5pm
W/B 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 9 DTP/Men immunisation catchups The Music Show 2026 5-7pm Governors FGB Meeting
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 10 PPEs all week
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 8 HPV Immunisation
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Drama Showcase
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day KS3 Dance Showcase
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Public Exams start Year 12 Work Experience one week
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm Governors Resources meeting
<b>25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 8 Parents Evening Governors Curriculum meeting
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Governors Resources meeting
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Year 8 HPV immunisation catchups
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 11 end of exams celebration
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Sixth Form Induction Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026	Year 8/9 immunisation catchups
W/B 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Provisional Community Celebration assemblies
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Year 6 Induction Day and parents evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Summer Showcase
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Sports Day
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Discover Day 1
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Discover Day 2
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Governors FGB meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Last day of Summer Term