



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

21st November 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Winter has definitely arrived at Blackfen over the last few days!

As the temperatures drop, please do try to make sure that your daughters (and sons in post 16) are wrapped up when they leave for school. Even if you drop your child to school, please remember that students do not always remain inside during breaks and lunch, and that there are multiple buildings on our site, so students are often outside. Coats for school should be black or navy blue, as should tights and socks. Leg warmers are not permitted and students will be asked to remove these on arrival at school. We very much appreciate your support in helping our students stay warm (and smart!) during this cold spell. If you do need support with uniform, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have lots of pre-loved, lightly worn items. Please speak to your daughter's student support officer should you need this support.

The arrival of winter of course heralds preparations for our winter showcase, which takes place on Tuesday 16th December, as well as rehearsals for our carol singers who will be singing at Blackfen Library as the lights are switched on. Whilst we can of course all begin to look forward to the Christmas break, all of our students remain hard at work in lessons, especially the Year 11s who are currently completing their first round of Pre-Public Examinations. I have really been impressed by their positive attitudes-well done and keep this up-the hard work will most definitely pay off next summer.

Finally, I would like to pass on my thanks to parents for your hard work and support in getting your children into school. We are delighted that our attendance is now just above the national average, a huge improvement on previous years. We know that this is down to you and your children working really proactively with us. We all know that strong attendance promotes excellent outcomes (both academic and personal/social) so well done everyone for this achievement.

Best wishes and do stay warm!

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Outstanding achievement

We are very proud of one of our students: Ava (Year 13)

Ava was invited by the King to perform, as a Royal Marine Cadet, at the Cenotaph, by lining the carpet for the King and Prince of Wales to walk down.

This was her final duty as a Royal Marine Cadet Sergeant as she is soon to turn 18. This opportunity was awarded to her as a tribute to the amount of work she has put into being a Cadet and she takes this into her school life too.

Congratulations to Ava!

Ms Brewer, Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form

Business News

Year 11 Students Sharpen Exam Skills Ahead of PPEs

As our Year 11 students gear up for their upcoming PPE (Pre-Public Examinations), they've been hard at work developing vital exam techniques that will support them not only now, but throughout the rest of their academic journey.

A key focus in recent weeks has been mastering the PECS structure—Point, Explain, Connectives, Specific—a strategy designed to help students build strong, well-structured answers. This approach encourages them to clearly state their point, explain it in detail, use appropriate connectives to link ideas, and, most importantly, include specific evidence from the case study provided by the exam board.

Teachers have been reminding students that failure to use the designated case study will limit the marks they can achieve, no matter how well-written the rest of their response may be. It's a crucial detail that can make all the difference in the exam room.

Q1. Discuss the impact on a business of giving employees permanent contracts. *Stays until you leave*

One benefit of a business employing workers on a permanent contract is having a consistent supply of workers who you can rely on. This is beneficial because it allows the business to plan out further ideas ~~over time~~ *over time*. This leads to development and growth of the business which results in high revenue and eventually high profit.

One drawback of having employees on a permanent contract is having to pay these workers for a longer period of time. This is a drawback as if the business is earning a smaller amount of revenue a year they still have to keep these staff paying. This would lead to the business potentially not breaking even which results in low amounts of profit.

GCSE	6 Mark "Discuss" Question
Knowledge = 3/3	Using correct terminology. This is shown using "P" on your work.
Connectives = 1/3 = 2/3	This means that... which leads to... which results in... This is shown using "E" or "C" on your work.

6/6 Fab!
= 6 marks

Q1. Discuss the impact on a business of giving employees permanent contracts.

One benefit of a permanent contract is that it is likely that the employees will stay for longer. This is beneficial because employees gain more experience and become more skilled and familiar with their work. This leads to better productivity and efficiency in the workplace. This results in better products and services which can attract customers, so there will be more sales and profit.

A drawback to this is that when an employee might choose to stay for a long time, younger, talented and more energetic people cannot be placed on the job. This will lead to other businesses and competition to stay ahead. This will be harder for business to keep up, leading to less productivity and decrease in sales.

GCSE	6 Mark "Discuss" Question
Knowledge = 3/3	Using correct terminology. This is shown using "P" on your work.
Connectives = 9/5 = 3/3	This means that... which leads to... which results in... This is shown using "E" or "C" on your work.

Fab!
6/6

Year 10 Enterprise Coursework

Year 10 students have been completing their **coursework**, which this year focuses on **childminding**, as selected by the exam board. To help connect their learning to real-world examples, students have been discussing the practices of a **local childminder, Lucinda**, who runs “**A Little Acorn.**” Lucinda’s approach to child development, safety procedures, and communication with families has provided a relatable and tangible example that students can refer to in both their coursework and exam answers.

One student commented, “**I have really enjoyed linking my learning to a real-life enterprise. It makes it easier to understand and real life,**” – *Year 10 Enterprise student.*



Ms Johnson

Subject Leader for Business & Economics and Teacher of Business

English Faculty Newsletter

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

On Tuesday 7 October, Year 13 visited the National Theatre to watch a modern interpretation of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* to help support their A-Level study of the play.

KS5 and KS4 – English Literature Lectures – *Romeo and Juliet*/*Hamlet*

On the 3rd December, 30 Year 11 GCSE students and 13 A Level English Literature students will attend a lecture on *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* to help support their studies.

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 11 – “Christmas Puddings” Incentive

Our Year 11 Christmas Puddings reward initiative is up and running. 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.

Year 10 Jack Petchey

This year, we were lucky to receive funding for 30 Year 10 students to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop day, which will take place on 2nd December 2025. The

workshops allow students to take part in a range of speaking and listening activities and gain confidence in structuring and delivering presentations. They also learn how to improve skills such as moderating tone, projection, gesture and engagement with an audience. Some students are then invited to participate in a presentation competition.

Mr Love

Faculty Leader for English

Sociology & Psychology News

Year 13 students have been busy working hard on their Pre-Public Exams. This is a reminder to students about the amount of work they need to do in preparation for success and the importance of a growth mind-set! Students have been using their PLC's (Personal Learning Checklist), and practice exam papers to support their revision. It has been lovely to see how hard some of the students are working and how much they care about their studies. Although we know students have found it stressful, this is really important practice for their final exams and will all be worth it in the end. Plus, it has been lovely reading some of their papers and seeing them develop as A' level students. For those who were disappointed with their marks, we hope they will use their Growth Mindset to review their current practice/level of work and learn from their mistakes.

In Psychology lessons we have been learning about Cognitive Development and how children develop social understanding, this includes understanding what is going on in the minds of others, and links to Autistic Spectrum Disorder. With Miss Reid, students have been learning the new topic of Forensics, including profiling, the different approaches, whether this works and different explanations for criminal behaviour including Eysenck's personality type. In Sociology with Miss Smith, students have been learning about the structural approaches of Marxism and Functionalism. And with Miss Purbrick students are finishing Beliefs in society, including debates around Secularisation, is religion dying, or just changing? What is happening with religion on a global level?

Year 12 Sociology students with Miss Smith have been learning about different theories and their views on the education system, is the Education system fair (meritocratic?) or is meritocracy a myth? This links to Class and Gender in Education, how we can create more equality within the education system? What can governments do to reduce the gap between middle class and poorer students, male and female students, and how effective these policies are in making education fairer? With Miss Purbrick they have been looking at Families & Households, demographic trends/changes and different theoretical perspectives associated with this.

Year 12 Psychology students have been learning about research methods with Miss Smith, a topic I'm sure they are keen to finish, as it has been quite a slog! However, this will pay off when they start to apply their knowledge of research methods to actual psychological research. With Miss Purbrick students have been doing Attachment, how/why do young children make attachments and what are the consequences of these for future relationships? With Miss Reid students have been looking at social psychology including research into obedience. This has practical application to events such as the Second World War, and compliance within the COVID pandemic. Students have also been looking at whether people would behave the same nowadays, if this research were to be repeated.

Ms Smith

Subject Leader for Sociology and Psychology

Dance and Drama

Our A-Level, GCSE, and KS3 Dance and Drama students have been working exceptionally hard this term, showing great progress and producing outstanding performances. Both Drama and Dance clubs are thriving, with impressive levels of participation as students prepare for upcoming showcases.

This term has also been enriched with exciting opportunities beyond the classroom. Students recently visited the Trinity Laban Conservatoire, and we have several theatre trips planned for the new year to continue inspiring our young performers.

We are particularly proud of our Dance Performance Group, who returned to the **Young Academy Awards** as last year's winners. They had the honour of performing both the Opening and Closing numbers at this year's ceremony. In addition, the group showcased their talent at the **Jack Petchey Awards**, performing in front of all Bexley schools. Their professionalism and enthusiasm shone through — they impressed the organisers so much that they were invited to perform a second piece at short notice.

Well done to all our Dance and Drama students for their dedication, creativity, and continued excellence.

There are many Dance and Drama clubs for students to engage with within our DICE program please take a look if you are interested.

Date for the Diary: Winter Showcase, Tuesday 16th December 6pm- Performance Space. Tickets will be available on wisePAY soon.



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

Jack Petchey Awards Evening

On Tuesday 11th November, students, families, and staff gathered at the Orchard West Theatre for a truly inspiring Jack Petchey Awards Evening. The event shone a spotlight on the remarkable achievements, resilience, and contributions of our young people across Bexley borough.

Throughout the evening, students were recognised for a wide range of accomplishments—from exceptional commitment to their studies, to acts of kindness, leadership, creativity, and community spirit. Each award winner across KS3, 4 and 5 proudly received their Jack Petchey medal on stage.

Adding to the celebration, our dance troupe delivered *two outstanding performances*, showcasing the dedication and artistry that defines our school's creative community. Their pieces were met with enthusiastic applause, bringing energy and excitement to the event and highlighting the talent that thrives within our school.

The Jack Petchey Awards Evening was a memorable occasion, honouring the hard work and aspirations of our students. We are incredibly proud of all our award recipients and performers, and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next.



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

Computing and ICT department

Micro:bit Club for KS3 students – every Thursday from 3.15-4.15 in room 75



Following on from our Y7 Microsoft Office lunchtime club, which ran in September and October this year, our department is now launching a Micro:bit club for students from Year 7, 8 and 9. This will start on Thursday 20 November and will run every Thursday from 3.15 – 4.15 in room 75.

Students will learn to program a BBC Micro: bit pocket-sized computer held on a system chip to make games, build emoji badges or design smart tech. No experience needed. See you there!

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BBC_micro_bit_%282826146399942%29.png

2025 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge



Over the last 2 weeks, all Blacken students in Year 8 and Year 9 as well as some in Year 10 took part, during their lesson, in a computational thinking challenge organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. This is open every year in November to schools worldwide and our school was competing for the third time. Each participant is given 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving appropriate for each age group. All students participating will receive their results and certificates within a few weeks.

<https://www.bebas.uk/index.php?action=welcome>

Ms Auvinet, Subject Leader of ICT & Computing

Elevate

Free Parent Webinar: Helping Your Child to Build Resilience - see below

Dear Parents,
We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on resilience on December 2nd.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can **help your child to recover from a knock to their confidence.** Whether that's a disappointing grade, exam slip-up, or a less-than-perfect report.

How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child

Tuesday 2nd December 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Practical strategies to help your child manage their response to setbacks
- ✓ Building your child's resilience both in and out of school
- ✓ How 'fear of failure' can impact your child's resilience

We hope to see you there!

Mr Shaw, Teacher of Geography
KS3 and KS4 Raising Attainment Coordinator

Careers and Work Experience

Key Stage 4 course selection: Guidance and support for Year 9 students



Next term, Year 9 students will select their Key Stage 4 courses for study in Year 10 and Year 11. The process of selecting Key Stage 4 courses marks students' transition from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4, as well as their first consideration of post-19 education, training and employment. These decisions are important, which is why family support and input is unquestionably essential. It is my pleasure, as the school's Careers Adviser to offer guidance to Year 9 students and their families, as they consider the range of Key

Stage 4 courses on offer and think ahead to future training and employment in the world of work.

Students will shortly be issued with a guidance booklet called '**Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 course selection**', which is designed for completion at home with input from parents and carers. Please read the booklet carefully, as there are specific sections to be completed in discussion with your daughter. The purpose of the booklet is to guide students, with parental support, to reflect on their personal character traits and qualities and their academic strengths and learning journey. Developing a clear and honest understanding of these two areas is the starting point for choosing Key Stage 4 subjects and is most successful when supported by family adults.

Key Stage 4 course selection at Blackfen School is always a guided process. We recognise that these choices will influence, to some extent, the courses selected by students for study in Key Stage 5 and then the kind of training and education they select at the end of Year 13, so your input is much appreciated at this time. Please complete the booklet with your daughter and then sign on **page 1** of the booklet to confirm that you have read and discussed the content of these pages with them.

Year 9 students must bring the completed booklet to their group careers sessions (January – March 2026), as well as to other meetings with senior staff in school. Families should ensure that the on-line Key Stage 4 course selection form is completed by **Wednesday 4th March 2026**. There will be no further changes accepted to students' selection of subjects after this date.

We have taken time to develop resources that enable our students to fully explore and research their future education, training and career options. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at school, if you would like additional information about any aspect of our on-going careers guidance.

If you have any queries regarding the completion of this booklet please contact the Careers department. Alternatively please use the link to the Blackfen School website with information on KS4 Course Selection:

<https://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk/page/?title=Key+Stage+4+course+selection&pid=615>

easyJet

We were delighted to welcome Matthew Goddard a Senior First Officer from Easyjet to present a careers talk to years 9-13 students with aspirations to work in aviation primarily as a Pilot.

The aims of the presentation were to encourage young people to consider what they need to do now to support them making applications in the future and to become aware of the various career pathways to achieve this.

The students learnt:

- What makes a good pilot
- What are the Pilot Competencies which are needed for the role
- Exploring the myths around becoming a Pilot
- Choosing your training pathway
- Career progression within the industry

"I enjoyed the presentation and felt that it had made me more aware of careers in aviation especially as a pilot" - Feedback from Iyadunni – Year 11



The presentation finished with a Q&A session where students asked informative questions regarding Matthew's career pathway. The session was enjoyed by all students and we look forward to welcoming Easyjet to our Careers Fair on Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

Work Experience 2025

The 2025 Work Experience week in July was a great success with students a credit to themselves and to Blackfen. I hope that the students found their Work Experience beneficial and can build upon the skills that they learned.

All students that complete Work Experience receive a certificate which is presented at an achievement assembly. It was a difficult decision deciding on whom to award prizes to for outstanding Work Experience as many of our students received excellent feedback from their employers.

The standard of Work Experience feedback was extremely high this year but after careful consideration I am delighted to announce that the winner of outstanding completion of Work Experience was **Lexi in 11EKI**. Lexi completed her placement in a Press Agency and even had one of her articles printed in the national press! Lexi received excellent feedback and comments included ***'I was really impressed with Lexi's work ethic. She worked really hard and showed an enthusiasm to learn. Never stop learning!'***

Well done Lexi!

We have two runners up awards this year; they are **Ruby in 11KNS** and **Daryne in 11RHE**.

We also have an award for Excellent Completion of Work Experience which has been awarded to Bianca in 11LLY. **Congratulations to them and well done all our students who completed their Work Experience!**



Mrs Kellie Smith
Careers Adviser

Reminders

Please can you report any student absences to the school **before 08.00 daily**, either by Edulink, absence line or email.

This must be done every day through the absence please.

NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

PLAYTHINK
556

DIFFICULTY: ●●●●●●●●●●
REQUIRED: ●
COMPLETION: TIME: _____

NUMBER SEQUENCE I

Examine the series of numbers. Can you work out the logic behind it and fill in the next number in the sequence?

1

11

21

1211

111221

?

Answers to last time:

NUMBER MATRIX

Examine the matrix. Can you fill in the missing number?

1	1	1	1
1	3	5	7
1	5	13	25
1	7	25	?

545 Each number is the sum of its neighbors immediately above, to the left and to the upper left diagonal. Following this rule, the missing number is 63.

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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 and kit sale
Friday 5 th December 2025	Y12/13 Trip to Tate Britain
8 th – 12 th December 2025	Achievement Assemblies
Tuesday 9 th December 2025	Y12 Art/Drama Photography trip to Somerset House Chess Tournament after school
Thursday 11 th December 2025	New York Trip Information Evening time tbc
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Winter Showcase
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Governors FGB & AGM meeting 5pm Sixth Form Ice skating trip
Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5th 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