



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEAR 11 PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers and students,

As we approach the final months of Year 11, I would like to thank you for your commitment to your daughter's academic and personal development in school, throughout the past five years. We are proud of the maturity and determination demonstrated by our Year 11 students as they prepare for their public examinations after Easter. We look forward to celebrating their achievements on GCSE Results Day – **Thursday 20th August 2026** – and I very much hope to see many of you there as we mark this important milestone together.

Examination timetable and key dates

The provisional Summer 2026 GCSE timetable is available on the school website, alongside other helpful guidance to support revision and preparation. Students have now received the first edition of their personalised examination timetable, which is also accessible via *Edulink*. The practical examinations started before the February half term break and will continue after the Easter break, finishing just before the written examinations begin.

- First written examination: Tuesday 5th May 2026
- Last written examination: Tuesday 16th June 2026

Contingency Day

The national contingency date for Summer 2026 examinations is: Wednesday 24th June 2026 (all day)

All examination candidates 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 is a national requirement set by the examination boards and applies to all schools.

Revision and study expectations

Success in GCSE examinations depends not only on embedding subject knowledge but also on being proficient in applying examination techniques and timings. For this reason, Year 11 teachers will continue to deliver focused revision lessons up to and beyond the May half-term break. Students are expected to attend all scheduled lessons as usual.

As examinations in individual subjects are completed, lesson time will be reallocated to subjects still to be examined. Teachers will run extended revision and preparation lessons to ensure students are fully supported right through to their final paper. Consistent attendance and sustained revision make a real difference, particularly under exam pressure. We are committed to providing personalised academic support until the very end of the examination period.



Examination rules and expectations

The school takes its responsibilities regarding examination conduct extremely seriously. The letter sent to parents/carers on 10 November 2025 serves as **formal notice that any evidence of malpractice or cheating in public examinations or in the coursework that forms part of a qualification will always result in the school taking action in line with national regulations.**

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) defines malpractice as any failure to follow examination regulations, including actions that could compromise the fairness or integrity of an assessment. Consequences can include the cancellation of results. 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 - but not limited to - those actions 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.

In adhering to the rules from JCQ, students must follow the arrangements below when sitting their examinations at Blackfen School:

- Students must wear full school uniform to sit all public examinations.
- Unless advised otherwise, morning examinations begin at **9.00 am**. Students should be lined up outside the correct room by **8.45 am**. Afternoon examinations begin at **1 pm**. Students should be lined up by **12.45 pm**.
- Mobile phones must be switched off **before** students enter the examination room.
- Mobile phones, mobile devices and all watches must be handed in at the beginning of the examination. Any student whose mobile phone rings during an assessment or examination will be reported to JCQ and may result in further action being taken, including the cancellation of grades in one or more subjects. Phones are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables and in full view of students.
- Equipment – black pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, protractors, compass and calculators – should be put in a clear bag or pencil case the night before each examination.
- The Examinations Office does not provide calculators for students. Students are likely to lose marks in GCSE examinations if they do not bring calculators to examinations where required.

- Drinking water only (no other kind of drink) may be taken into the examination room. It must be contained in a clear, plastic bottle with the label removed.

Collection of examination results Thursday 20th August 2026

GCSE and BTEC results will be available for collection on Thursday 20th August 2026 between **9.00 am and 10.30 am in the Performance Space.**

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join students for this special moment. If someone is collecting results on behalf of a student, prior arrangements must be made with the Exams Office before the end of term and suitable photo identification must be provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport. Results not collected during this time will be posted home.

Sixth Form enrolment

To confirm their place in the Sixth Form, current Year 11 students must enrol online on Thursday 20th August by 11.45 am. The steps to enrol are as follows:

1. Visit the **'Sixth Form'** section of the school website www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk
2. Click on **'Enrolment'** on the right-hand side of the page
3. Enter GCSE results and confirmed course choices. Then click on **'Submit'**.
4. Submit the form and keep the confirmation email with your unique ID.

Students must meet the entry requirements for their chosen courses. The school will contact students (via email or mobile phone) only if there is an issue with a course choice. Queries on the day should be emailed to sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.

Please read this letter carefully and keep it somewhere safe for future reference.

To our Year 11 students: you have worked incredibly hard to reach this point. The coming weeks are an opportunity to show what you know and to approach your examinations with confidence and calm determination. We are proud of you and will continue to support you every step of the way.

I send my very best wishes to all our Year 11 families and looking forward to celebrating your daughter's success in August.

Yours sincerely,



Carrie Senior
Headteacher