



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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13th February 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers

I am sure you are as delighted as I am to see lighter mornings and evenings finally returning, and, despite all the rain, the earliest signs of spring. Thank you to all parents and carers who have continued to support excellent attendance to school during the winter months. We do appreciate your encouragement of your daughters; every day really does matter.

This half term, year 11 and 13 have been extremely busy, focusing on the final push towards their public examinations in the summer. There are only ten school weeks left until the beginning of the formal written exam papers. If your child is in year 11 or post 16, they are undoubtedly focused on revision, lots of practice exam papers and attending intervention over the break. We remind parents and carers that there are resources available on the school website to support both you and your child during this period and to let us know if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing. No worry is too small.

For students in other year groups, it is never too soon to learn good study habits and routines. Thank you parents for supporting your child's efforts to complete homework and encouraging independent study. Using apps such as Sparx means that we are working on encouraging this independence and resilience from the outset. We also encourage our students to continue to read for pleasure. World Book Day approaches at the beginning of March and we're excited about the activities we have planned. 20-30 minutes per day of reading is incredibly important to ensure lifelong literacy and the access to the world that this brings. Please encourage your child at home to read daily, especially over the break.

We wish you a wonderful half term break, much rest and hopefully a little early spring sunshine.

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Dance News

This term we have welcomed three external dance artists who have worked with a range of students across the school. These dance artists are performers, choreographers and directors who have been focusing on choreography, improvisation, technique and performance skills. By exposing our students to a range of professionals in the industry it enables them to learn a range of skills and have experiences of further education and careers within the industry.

- A-Level students worked with Mel Simpson who is a freelance choreographer, teacher and performer.
- GCSE and A-Level students are working with Kate, a dance artist from Trinity LABAN who is also on the contemporary faculty at Performers College.
- Dance Company are working with Justyna until Summer. Justyna works for the Royal Academy of Dance, Step Into Dance program and is focusing on Contemporary technique.

We also have a very dedicated year 12, A-Level dance students Eva, who is leading a dance club on Tuesday lunchtimes for Arts Award Bronze students. Eva is currently doing her Arts Award gold which carries UCAS points and runs alongside her other qualifications. Arts awards are an additional qualification that we offer students at Blackfen who are studying GCSE/A-Level Dance and Drama or show dedication and talent in year 9.

We are excited to announce that 'Jigsaw Dance' started in January. It is a dance club for students in our provision. They are working hard and creating a beautiful dance piece using ribbons. This will be featured in the May dance showcase and entered for the Bexley Games SEND category.



Arts Award Gold Student Teaching Arts Award Bronze.



Dance Company working with the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD)



Jigsaw Dance Rehearsals.



GCSE Choreography rehearsal with Kate from LABA

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

Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care is offered at level 2 in Key stage 4 and AAQ level 3 at Key stage 5. Both courses are combination of coursework and examination. These are some of the activities the students have been doing so far this year.

Year 11 Revision

We are year 11 students and we completed the Health and Social Care exam Level 2 in January 2026. From October 2025, we went to the after-school revision sessions on Tuesdays. These sessions were very helpful as we went through topics, we were not sure on and completed past papers to prepare us for the exam. In these sessions Miss Morris gave us revision booklets to complete at home, we would go through our answers in the after-school revision, this benefited us as we knew how to answer the questions to get top marks. We get the results in March!

Evie 11JBE

Tillie 11KJH

Mental health nurse talk

We are year 12 students and attended a talk given by Nokutuwla Marks, a mental health nurse. This gave us an insightful outlook on the possibilities of working in an NHS role. She explained how working in a multidisciplinary team involved talking to large range of allied health professionals relying on communication and teamwork for the patient's holistic needs. Her role included providing patients different medicine they require and different types of support such as talking therapies, which deals with common mental health conditions such as anxiety. She said that the job comes with disadvantages when dealing with these types of patients, however it can be a rewarding job if your compassionate and patient. Lastly, we learned about the progression in NHS roles and how they can be developed, with time and training to senior roles or other specialised areas of care such as CBT therapists or teaching nurse.

Madison 12 APT

Alex 12 SWO

We are year 11 students who are studying Health and Social Care, and we attended a talk from Nokutuwla Marks who is a mental health nurse. In this talk she spoke to us and explained the different types of nursing and how to become a nurse. She explained fully what a mental health nurse does and the benefits of her daily job on a psychiatric ward. She also spoke about some challenges she endured throughout her career and gave an insight in to what it might be like for us if we considered a career in the NHS, it was very helpful.

Azra 11CBL

Arzu 11LLY

Starting Year 10

We are in Year 10, and we are doing the Health and Social Care course. At the start of the year, it was a big difference compared to year 9. With the first lesson having to start coursework after a short run down of the subject, it was difficult meeting the deadlines however we are now on unit 2 and are more adept to meeting the expectations. It is a very big commitment throughout the course; you will spend a lot of time researching and planning the work especially if you have out of school commitment like clubs or hobbies. Even though you may struggle at first in the long run it is a very rewarding subject and useful knowledge.

Ella 10ANN

Olivia 10ANN

Ms Morris

Subject Leader for Health & Social Care

Careers Sparks

We're excited to launch our new Careers Sparks Programme, designed to inspire students and broaden their understanding of future pathways. Throughout the year, professionals from a wide range of industries will visit the school to share their career journeys, day-to-day experiences, and advice on education and skills. These talks will give students the chance to ask questions, gain real-world insights, and explore careers they may not have previously considered. We look forward to welcoming our speakers and helping students make informed, confident choices about their futures. Here are a couple of speakers who have visited recently.



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

This was an opportunity for our students to discover what it's really like to work for the London Fire Brigade. Students discovered that there are 300 roles available within the Fire Brigade and firefighting is only a small part of the career pathways. Our speaker was a Fire Engineer whose specialism was mechanical engineering. This inspired our students into thinking of different careers they had not previously considered. We also had a Fire Cadet Instructor talk to our students about her career journey from cadets to careers educator within schools. The speakers offered our students a real-life insight into their careers and how they have made a difference with their roles in the community.



Aviation Careers for Creatives offered the opportunity for our students to learn about creative careers in aviation. Students were face to face with four very different professionals:

- a corporate affairs lead
- specialist photographer
- Virgin Airways Personal Assistant
- Aviation branding and marketing executive



The speakers showed students how creativity shapes everything from public reputation to brand identity and marketing comms, opening students' eyes to aviation careers that don't involve flying a plane!

After the session one of our students provided feedback:

'I found the branding most beneficial it interested me into researching about the career. I saw a whole new career aspect in never looked into.'

Mrs K Smith
Careers Adviser

NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

PLAYTHINK
558

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

PERSISTENCE SEQUENCE

Examine the sequence. Can you discover the underlying logic and fill in the final number?

77 → 49 → 36 → 18 → ?

Answers to last time:

559 The answer is 20 years old because 210 is the twentieth triangular number, equal to the sum of all the numbers from 1 to 20.

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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
Wednesday 25 th February 2026	Selected Y8 and Y10 Theatre Trip
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm Bexley Book club (Townley School) Governors' Training Day
Friday 27 th February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Careers Fair
Thursday 5 th March 2026	Governors' Meeting 5pm Year 9 Theatre Trip
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 Governors Meeting
Friday 13 th March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam
Monday 16 th March 2026	Year 12 PPEs begin
Wednesday 18 th March 2026	Year 10 Trip to National Portrait Gallery
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00 – 6.30pm
Friday 20 th March 2026	Year 10 Dance Trip
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' 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
Thursday 14 th May 2026	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm Governors' Meeting
25th – 29th May 2026	Half Term
Thursday 4 th June 2026	Year 8 Parents' Evening Governors Meeting
Thursday 11 th June 2026	Governors' Meeting 5pm
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

	Year 12 Work Experience (3 days)
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' Meeting
Friday 17 th July 2026	Last day of Summer Term