



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

16th January 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers

What a cold and soggy start to 2026! I do hope that everyone is back into the swing of the school year and the day-to-day routines that come with the return to school.

Despite the weather, Blackfen students continue to expand their horizons with some exceptional school trips. Just this week, 40 students have been in New York visiting the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 museum and the United Nations Headquarters. We held the pre-visit parent meetings for the annual Year 8 and Year 10 ski trip, as well as a new visit to Disneyland Paris for Year 9s with an interest in the real-life application of maths. During February, 2 post 16 students will take part in a visit to Poland as part of the work of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, art students will visit Tate Modern, music students will attend orchestral concerts and rehearsals at St Martin's in the Fields and the Year 11 geographers will explore two contrasting sites in Folkestone. We recognise and celebrate the value that these visits add to our students' experiences and we are grateful for the parental support that helps this happen.

To maintain such an extensive offer of trips and visits (there were over 100 last academic year) and continue our Discover Day offer as well as our extra-curricular clubs, Blackfen is looking carefully at how we raise funds and income. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you how welcome your school fund voluntary contributions are. We do keep these requests as low as possible (some schools now ask for £100 per annum as a contribution), but if you have not made a school fund payment and would like to, we would be very glad of this token of financial support for school.

Finally, we are considering setting up a school fundraising group, ideally a joint project between school staff and parents. We appreciate how precious your time is, but if you are interested in any involvement in this, please contact the PA to the headteacher, Ms Rogers, via the admin email. We are hoping that this will allow us to look at long term projects for investment in the school's facilities-for example, the provision of outdoor and indoor gym equipment, and to purchase materials to broaden our extra-curricular clubs. We hope to have more detail soon once we have gauged interest. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Year 11 Revision

From Monday the 19th of January, the Learning Zone will be available for year 11's to revise in after school until the end of half term.

This is a great opportunity for students to revise in a calm, quiet environment with minimal distractions. We would appreciate your support in encouraging students to attend. Students should bring all necessary resources with them. Please note that school rules will apply, and mobile phones are not permitted.

Students who attend the full session (3:10–4:00pm) will receive 3 reward points and a skip-the-lunch-queue voucher.

Students with a detention may attend the Learning Zone instead, provided they arrive by 3:20pm and remain until 4:00pm.

Thank you for your support.

Careers/Work Experience

Careers advice for post-16 pathways

All students in Year 11 are entitled to a 1-2-1 careers interview with an independent careers adviser. Marion Schoberth is our adviser from 'Prospects' who works in school on Wednesdays. Students will be invited to meet with her throughout the year or can request a meeting by speaking to Mrs Smith in Room 106 Tuesday–Thursdays. Careers and post-16 advice is available from Mrs Smith in Room 106 from Tuesday–Thursday in Room 106 break, lunchtime, before and after school.

Throughout the year, students will attend assemblies with external providers to learn about various post-16 pathways such as sixth form, college, apprenticeships and T-levels. All students are invited to attend the Careers Fair which takes place on Tuesday 3rd March at Blackfen School. This is an opportunity to meet with over 40 representatives from various sectors including Further Education, Higher Education, apprenticeship providers and employers. The Careers Fair is always informative and useful in assisting students' future career plans and choices. As all students must remain in education or training until they are 18 years of age, it is recommended that parents, carers and students start thinking ahead in good time, especially to take up opportunities to visit other post-16 providers and registering on the government apprenticeship website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>.

Save the Date!

Blackfen School for Girls Careers Fair, Tuesday 3rd March 2026

We will be holding our Annual Careers Fair on **Tuesday 3rd March from 3.10pm – 6.00pm.**



The Fair provides an excellent opportunity for both students and parents to find out more about a wide range of careers and the choices available for both Further and Higher Education, by providing you with the chance to speak to the representatives of these organisations and establishments. The evening will also prove informative and useful in assisting the students' future career plans and choices.

We would like to see as many students/parents/carers attend as we expect the evening to be both interesting and informative.



Year 9 Preparation for Key Stage 4 Course Selection Group Careers Sessions - Wednesday 21st January

All Year 9 students will attend a form group careers session on Wednesday 21st January. Marion Schoberth (Careers Adviser) and Mrs Smith (Careers Adviser) will be presenting a careers session to all Year 9 students. During the session they will have independent careers guidance, advice on Btecs and GCSEs and future career pathways.

Students will need to bring their 'Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 Course Selection booklet' with them for the session.

Thank you

Mrs Smith
Careers Advisor

ART *Department*

CELEBRATING KS3 ART WORK

All our staff bring a wealth of Art knowledge and energy that allows us to engage our students and build a fabulous new scheme of Learning. This term we have been celebrating Culture and Diversity. The students have loved the new projects, been very engaged and contributed to our Winter Showcase Exhibition.

PAPER AND CLAY SCULPTURES

YEAR 8 SHAPE, FORM & BALANCE INSPIRED BY YINKA SHONIBARE



Students have been focusing on Movement, Shape and Form. Understanding how Yinka Shonibare used pattern and textures inspired by African and European fabric designs to create large material inspired sculptures. Students have created 3D paper sculptures to understand pattern, balance and form. They then produced clay sculptures, focusing on structure and form, then adding their special touch of colour.

YEAR 9 CELEBRATING CULTURE AND DIVERSITY INSPIRED BY ANNABELLE MARQUIS AND NAO OF JAPAN



Students have been focusing on Culture and diversity through studying Japanese Koi Carp. They research artists **Annabelle Marquis** and **Nao from Japan** creating Koi Carp drawing and focusing on developing their printing, mark making, oil/water resist, collage skills to create these bright and magical outcomes through layering and mixed media techniques.



**Water Colour,
Wax Resist,
Collage,
Printing.**



Nao from Japan



Annabelle Marquis

Dance and Drama News

Winter Showcase

We finished last year with the success of the Winter Showcase. Over 190 students performed, 3 worked backstage on tech and lighting. We also had multiple students support with the D&T and Art exhibitions.

The evening showcased a range of skills across the expressive arts faculty featuring students from year 7-12. The event was sold out for the evening show and we performed to three local primary schools in the day (Hurst Primary, Sherwood Park and Upton Primary). It was lovely to share the excellent work of the students with the local community.

We are looking forward to sharing even more student work at upcoming showcases this spring and summer.



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

History

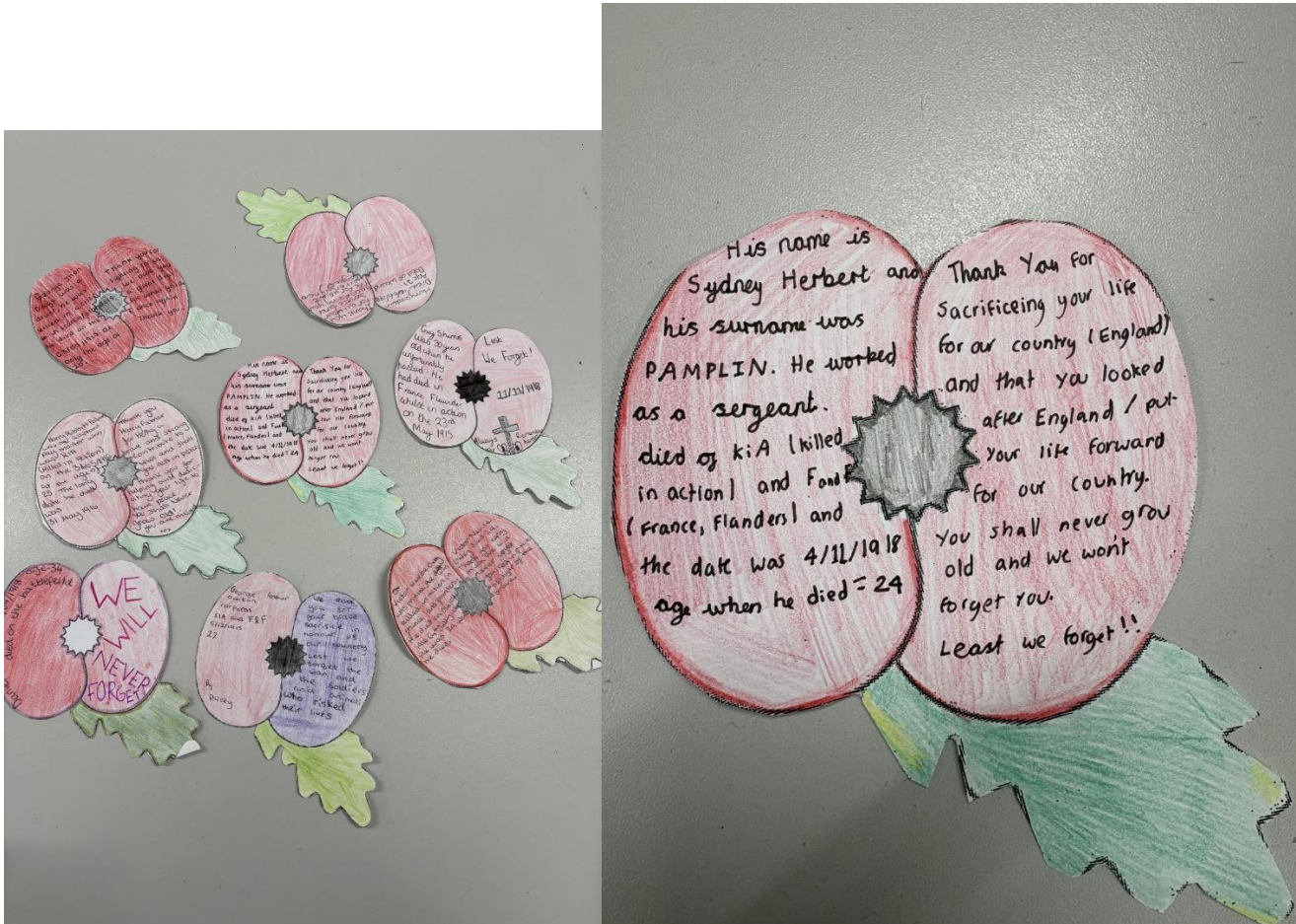
It has been a busy and rewarding term in History, with students across the school engaging enthusiastically in lessons and enrichment activities. At the start of the year, our Year 11 students enjoyed a visit to the National Archives, where they had the exciting opportunity to work with original historical documents directly linked to their GCSE studies, focusing on the environmental study of Notting Hill. Handling real sources helped bring the past to life and gave students a genuine insight into how historians investigate and interpret evidence.

History Club marked Remembrance Day in a thoughtful and meaningful way. Students researched local men from Bexley who are named on the Roll of Honour and designed commemorative poppies, each featuring a personal message of remembrance. Emily, a Year 7 student who attends History Club every week, said, *"I really like coming to History Club because we get to learn about real people from our local area. Making the poppies and finding out who the names belonged to made Remembrance Day feel much more special."*

In lessons, students continue to develop the key skills that underpin success in History, including source analysis, interpretation and extended writing. Our Year 7 students have settled in brilliantly and are already showing real excitement for the subject. As Lily in Year 7 shared, *"I absolutely love History! Learning about castles has been my favourite topic so far — I didn't realise some castles had secret tunnels and were*

designed to defend people as well as show power. It's really interesting seeing how people lived in the past."

Our older students are also engaging with History in a more analytical and academic way. Sophie in Year 11 reflected, "Working with original sources at the National Archives helped me understand how to analyse evidence more effectively and apply it to exam questions. It's made me more confident in explaining interpretations and using precise historical detail in my GCSE answers."





Mrs Allam
2 i/c of Humanities Faculty and Subject Leader for History.

(answers next time)

PLAYTHINK

559


DIFFICULTY: ●●●●●●●●●●

REQUIRED:  

COMPLETION: TIME: _____

BIRTHDAY CANDLES

On every birthday since I was born, I have had a cake decorated with the appropriate number of candles. I have blown out 210 candles so far. How old am I?



 Answers to last time:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Letter | C | H | R | I | S | T | M | A | S |
| Number | 12 | 42 | 56 | 36 | 6 | 32 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Fact | 4x3 | 6x7 | 8x7 | 4x9 | 12÷2 | 8x4 | 10÷2 | 2x2 | 18÷3 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Letter | G | R | E | E | T | I | N | G | S |
| Number | 48 | 56 | 24 | 24 | 32 | 36 | 72 | 48 | 6 |
| Fact | 8x6 | 7x8 | 3x8 | 6x4 | 4x8 | 9x4 | 8x9 | 6x8 | 30÷5 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|--|------|-----|------|--|
| Letter | F | R | O | M | | T | H | E | |
| Number | 30 | 56 | 40 | 5 | | 32 | 42 | 24 | |
| Fact | 6x5 | 7x8 | 8x5 | 20÷4 | | 16x2 | 7x6 | 2x12 | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|-----|--|------|-------|------|-----|
| Letter | M | A | T | H | | S | A | L | A |
| Number | 5 | 4 | 32 | 42 | | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Fact | 30÷6 | 16÷4 | 2x16 | 6x7 | | 24÷4 | 40÷10 | 21÷3 | 8÷2 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|---|--|
| Letter | M | A | N | D | E | R | S | . | |
| Number | 5 | 4 | 72 | 3 | 24 | 56 | 6 | | |
| Fact | 35÷7 | 32÷8 | 9x8 | 21÷7 | 12x2 | 8x7 | 60÷10 | | |

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| Monday 19 th January 2026 | Box Clever Theatre Company performance |
| Wednesday 21 st January 2026 | Year 10 Art Trip to Tate Modern |
| Thursday 22 nd January 2026 | Citizenship Fair times tbc |
| Friday 23 rd January 2026 | Year 11 Art Trip to Tate Britain |
| 25 th – 30 th January 2026 | Maths Seminar at Disneyland Paris |
| Wednesday 28 th January 2026 | Year 10 Music Trip to Royal Opera House |
| Thursday 29 th January 2026 | Secondary Music Concert |
| Tuesday 3 rd February 2026 | Year 10 Music Trip |
| Thursday 5 th February 2026 | Year 9 Information Evening: KS4 Course Selection Year 10/12 Theatre trip |
| Monday 9 th & Tuesday 10 th February 2026 | Year 11 Geography Trips |
| Wednesday 11 th February 2026 | Year 9 course selection meetings (careers) Year 10 Triple Science Trip |
| Thursday 12 th February 2026 | Year 11 Drama Exam |
| 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 |
| 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) |
| 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 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 |
| 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' 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 11 th June 2026 | Governors' Resources 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 |
| 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 |