



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



@BlackfenSchool



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

9th April 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers

We hope that you have had a wonderful Easter break so far and are enjoying the spring sunshine. We are now well over half way through the school year and we approach our busiest time of year for our public examination candidates. The exams they will sit from now until the end of June in years 11 and 13 are no longer the 'pre public exams' but the 'real deal.' We wish our exam candidates all the very best as they prepare for this important stage in their school career and we hope they are revising hard (and relaxing!) during this break.

The summer term brings not only exam season but many exciting opportunities for your children to broaden their horizons-whether this is through the Discover Day activities they have chosen, our annual Culture Carnival, or work experience. At Blackfen, we recognise that school not only develops the academics, but also shapes young people for their future in a challenging world. We believe it's important that our students understand the wider world around them, which is why we place such emphasis on our careers education programme. We are delighted to announce that Blackfen School has again achieved the Quality in Careers Standard. This is the national benchmark for best practice and innovation in careers education in schools, and recognition of the depth and breadth of our programme, which ultimately results in Blackfen students accessing hugely diverse higher and further education, apprenticeships and employment. Thank you to our careers team for all your hard work to make this happen.

Finally, to years 11 and 13, as we approach the last term...some reminders! We expect to see you in school, on time, in uniform, every day until the May half term, as we continue teaching right up until you sit those important exam papers. We are here when you need us for support, encouragement and guidance through the next few weeks and so looking forward to celebrating your results with you in August. You've got this.

We'll see all students back at school on Monday 13th April, in registration at 8:30 in full school uniform please.

Best wishes,

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

School News

Accountability – our watchword for the Summer Term

This term, Mrs Senior and Mrs Makepeace have delivered assemblies around the standards we hold students to and our reasons for insisting upon them: to ensure we all work in a safe and respectful environment where we can thrive.

We have shared the importance of accountability – of taking ownership of our actions and accepting the consequences of them – both the good and the bad. Research has shown that having that sense of ownership fosters improved self-esteem and relationships with others.

We encourage you to talk through this idea with your daughters over the next couple of weeks: you may find the linked reading interesting.

<https://www.calm.com/blog/self-accountability>

Uniform

With the spirit of accountability in mind, can we remind parents to support students in coming to school in the correct uniform every day.

Please particularly check there are no trainers or black trousers, jewellery, false eyelashes or false nails creeping in.

From Term 5 , we will place students who come into school in the incorrect uniform in Internal until the issue is rectified.

Ms Makepeace
Deputy Headteacher

Catering Update

The latest National Living Wage and Food inflation rises have increased the employment costs for the catering staff at Blackfen. This increased cost unfortunately will need to be met via some increased costs on some food products. **This will not affect the cost of the main school meal known as Enjoy, Street Food and Hot Grab and Go that remain at £2.70.** The new price menus will be added to the Blackfen website as soon as we receive them. These can be found under School Life – Parents – School Catering – Menu Enjoy – Master Menu. An increase of 5p and 10p on selected items will affect other products and will start when we return from the Easter break. The cost of the increased items is on the table at the end of this notice.

The Free School Meal remains the same cost. I would like to take this opportunity to raise the fact that there are still quite a number of students that are entitled to Free School Meals not taking up this offer. For whatever reason your young person is not taking up this offer I can assure you that not only will they be receiving a very good nutritious meal the whole process is anonymous. They receive £2.70 to be used for a lunch time meal. They can still purchase items from the catering areas at breakfast and break time however, this will need to come from their catering account which parents may top up remotely.

Blackfen School for Girls	Cost from April 2026
BREAKFAST	
BREAKFAST MUFFIN	£2.05
BREAKFAST BAGUETTE	£1.85
WAFFLE	£1.75
BREAKFAST POT	£2.20
SELECTION OF CEREALS WITH MILK	£1.20
TOAST	£0.90
PORRIDGE with TOPPING	£0.50
PORRIDGE	free
MORNING BREAK	
PIZZA FROM:	£1.20
PANINI FROM:	£2.65
BAGEL FROM:	£2.65
BACON ROLL	£1.85
SAUSAGE ROLL	£1.70
SAVOURY TURNOVER FROM:	£2.15
CHICKEN WINGS	£2.30
TOPPED NACHOS	£2.75
ICED BUN	£1.30
TRAY BAKE	£1.65
COLD GRAB & GO	
COLD DELI MEAL DEAL	£2.70
SALAD POTS FROM:	£1.75
GRAZING POTS FROM:	£2.15
SANDWICHES FROM:	£1.65
FRESHLY PREPARED FRUIT POTS	£1.70
DESSERT POTS FROM:	£1.20
HOMEMADE BAKES & CAKES FROM:	£1.65
HOT GRAB & GO	
PANINI FROM:	£2.65
GRAB & GO POT	£2.70
GRAB & GO MEAL DEAL	
HOT SANDWICHES FROM:	£2.70
TRAY BAKE	£1.65
DRINKS	
RADNOR FIZZ	£1.35
RADNOR STILL	£1.40
MILKSHAKE	£1.30
SMALL STILL WATER	£0.95
LARGE STILL WATER	£1.15

FLAVOURED WATER	£1.40
FRUIT JUICE CARTON	£1.30
HOT FOOD TARIFF	
MAIN MEAL AND DESSERT	£2.70
MAIN MEAL	£2.70
HOT GRAB & GO	£2.70
HOT SANDWICH FROM:	£2.70
PANINI FROM:	£2.65

Regards
Mr G Morgan, School Business Manager

Year 11 and Year 13 public examinations update – Summer 2026

1 - Morning and afternoon public examination start times

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 taking public examinations in the Summer term should note the following arrangements for morning and afternoon start times. There is no late admittance to public examinations:

Morning examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 8.45 am

Afternoon examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 12.45 pm

Mobile phones, mobile devices and digital watches must be handed in at the beginning of all GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations. They are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables.

Year 11 early lunches

Light lunch items will be available to Year 11 students before the start of afternoon examinations from the Glass house (NOT the canteen) at the earlier time of 12.15 pm to 12.45 pm, as from Thursday 7th May. We strongly recommend Year 11 students to have something to eat and drink before afternoon examinations. Bottled water - with the label removed - is allowed in examination rooms, but no other still or fizzy drink.

2 - Examination contingency day for all students sitting public examinations

The examination *contingency day* is arranged by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of all of the examination awarding bodies and applies to all students taking BTEC, GCSE and A Level (or equivalent) examinations. The contingency day will be used in the event of “sustained national or local disruption” during the Summer 2026 examinations. In these circumstances, the awarding bodies whose examinations are running at this time will have the option to postpone their examination and to rearrange it for the contingency day, so that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications.

The contingency date for Summer 2026 examinations is **Wednesday 24th June - 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 decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates, in all schools. Parents, carers and students must ensure that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate and updated, as necessary, so that students can be contacted quickly, should one of the contingency days be activated.

3 - Collection of A Level examination results / Year 12 GCSE examination results / Year 12 Level 3 BTEC unit results

- A Level examination results are published and will be available for collection on **Thursday 13th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 8.00 am - 9.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends. Parents/carers may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport and this arrangement has been agreed and processed by the Exams Office before the end of this term.
- Level 3 BTEC unit results for current Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 13th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.30 am - 10.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be distributed to students at the beginning of term in September.
- GCSE Mathematics examination results for Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 20th August from 9.00 am - 10.30 am in the Performance Space**. (See 'Collection of GCSE results', below).

4 – Collection of GCSE results

GCSE examination and BTEC Level 2 results are published and will be available for collection on **Thursday 20th August in the Performance Space from 9.00 am to 10.30 am**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join students in the Performance Space for this special occasion. They may collect results on behalf of students as long as this arrangement has been agreed and processed by the Exams Office before the end of this term and suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.

5 - Year 11 student enrolment in Blackfen School Sixth Form

In order to confirm their place in Year 12, Year 11 students need to enrol on-line on **Thursday 20th August by 11.45 am**.

1. Go to the '**Sixth Form**' tab on the Blackfen School website (www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk).
2. Click on '**Enrolment**' on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Complete the form by entering your GCSE results and confirmed course choices. Then click on '**Submit**'.

4. You will receive a confirmation email with a unique ID. **Save this email.**

Any queries on the day should be emailed to: sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk You must have the correct entry requirements for your course choices. We will only contact you (via email or mobile phone) if there is a problem with your course choice.

Please contact Miss J O'Connor or Mrs H Hill (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations. Please contact Ms K Brewer, Head of Sixth Form, regarding enrolment in Blackfen School Sixth Form.

Science News

Year 10 Triple Science Students Attend South East London Medical Careers Day

Our Year 10 Triple Science students recently attended the South East London Medical Careers Day, a fantastic opportunity for those interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

The workshop was designed to give students a real insight into what studying and working in medicine involves. The day began with a presentation outlining the application process, required grades, and the importance of gaining relevant work experience in such a competitive field.

Students then took part in a range of hands-on activities led by medical students. These included diagnosing "patients" in a simulated A&E scenario, exploring medical ethics through real-life case discussions, learning essential emergency response skills such as CPR and the recovery position, and investigating how the brain controls the body in an anatomy session.

The day concluded with a question-and-answer session with medical students and a practising doctor, giving our students valuable advice and inspiration for their future pathways.

Overall, it was an engaging and informative experience that provided our students with a clearer understanding of what a career in medicine involves.

Ms Sharma
Teacher of Science

Bexley Schools Book Quiz

As part of the Bexley school book quiz 2026, 6 of us went to Townley Grammar School to compete with other local secondary schools. They were: St Columbus, St Catherines, Chislehurst and Sidcup, Bexley Grammar, Blackfen, Townley and Leigh Academy. There were 6 rounds of questions, and each round had 10 questions. The rounds were Authors, Book turned into films, Trivia p1, around the world, guess who and Trivia p2.
Amelia Year 7



Our girls were proud to come joint second with 53/60 points with Chislehurst and Sidcup winning with 56/60 points.

It was an enjoyable event and a great experience for the girls to meet other school book clubs.

Mrs Kingsbury-Barker
School Librarian

English Faculty Newsletter

Year 11 – Box Clever Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*

In January, Box Clever Theatre delivered an in-school performance and workshop of A Christmas Carol for Year 11. This live event helped reinforce knowledge of the classic novella and help students in the run-up to exams.

Year 11 – “Easter Eggs” Incentive

Our Year 11 Easter eggs reward initiative was up and running. Teachers awarded ‘eggs’ for excellent work, effort and participation. Students entered a prize draw at the end of term if they receive an egg to win an amazon voucher.

Year 11 revision

With exams fast approaching, here are some tips for Year 11 revision at home:

How I can revise for English Literature:

- Practice papers in timed condition
- Look at model examples on the Year 11 TEAMS page
- Mind maps
- Flash cards
- YouTube: Mr Bruff

How I can revise for English Language:

- Practice papers in timed condition
- Look at model examples on the Year 11 TEAMS page
- YouTube: Mr Bruff
- Remind myself of requirements for each question and sentence starters

Short story competition – years 7-13

Earlier in the year, students could enter a 100 word short story competition focusing on the theme of ‘the unexpected’. Selected entries have been published in a book.

Year 12 – NEU Trip

Later this school year, Year 12 students will visit North Eastern University to gain an insight into university life and attend a lecture on a Shakespeare play.

Mr Love
Faculty Leader for English

Literacy News

For World Book Day on Thursday 4th February 2026, the whole school shared the reading of a short story, 'The Nightmare in Yellow', a thriller which was gradually revealed at the start of each lesson. The winners of the associated quiz were Elizabeth (7JST), Teddie (7MJA) and Thea (8MHU). Well done to everyone who took part!

Jack Petchey and Oracy

Huge congratulations to Swaraa (10ANN) for delivering a profound and skilfully constructed speech, entitled 'Sonder: A World of Stories', at the Bexley Regional Speak Out Challenge on Thursday 12th March. The hard work and dedication of our finalists, including Nora (10KVI) and Evie (10IST) has also been exceptional and it was wonderful to see all the support for Swaraa at the event. Having achieved second place in the regional finals last year, Helens (11KJH) was also invited to sit on this year's judging panel and gained an inside scoop into the qualities for which judges look. Well done to all our speakers and supporters; it was an inspiring evening aimed at promoting the voices of young people.

Ms Norwood

Discover 2026

Discover is back for July 2026.



Our Key Stage 3 students are now looking forward to taking part in a variety of activities across two days, 15th and 16th July 2026. Activities this year range from excursions to London tourist attractions, a matinee of a West-End show, and adrenalin fuelled fun on the water, to an in-school Wicked spectacular, Makeup tutorials from a very glamorous staff member, and axe throwing, with much more in-between.

All students in Year 7-9 should have now received a confirmation letter detailing their Discover activities along with the costs and how to pay, this letter can be found in the Documents section of your child's Edulink. If you have checked Edulink and your letter is not there, please contact the school via email at discover@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk quoting your child's name and form group. All KS3 students who have joined Blackfen following the February school break will be contacted separately.

The deadline for payments is 1st May, we will be sending out reminders towards the end of the month in both March and April. Please check your child's allocation letter carefully, and make payment as swiftly as possible. The activities may not be able to run if we do not receive the required payments. So that you and your child are aware of the finer details of each activity, there are activity letters in the Discover section of the school website, this can be found under the News & Events tab. Please take the time to read through the relevant letters carefully and in good time as they contain instructions that are vital to your child taking part in the activity. All of the in-school activities have been compiled into a single "Internal Activities" letter. Each of the letters is saved

as a pdf, this is so the letter can be translated to any language via Google Translate, meaning that all adults at home can access the information equitably.

As in previous years, year group Discover assemblies will be held during the week beginning 29th June 2026, where the organisation and expectations will be explained in detail. Keep checking your Edulink email in case of further communications regarding activities, and have an enjoyable spring break.

Mrs Dunsdon

Student Co-ordinator



CAREERS FAIR 2026



Careers Fair 2026

Our Careers Fair on Tuesday 3rd March was a huge success with a high number of new representatives attending. With 37 organisations' attending many career sectors, further and higher education establishments were represented.

Feedback from students included **'thank you for a useful and informative Careers Fair', 'very informative'** and **'an excellent range of careers options'**. Equally the representatives commented on, **'I wanted to say how impressed I was by the wider work you do with careers' and 'well organised'**.

The representative feedback included **'The students were well prepared and engaging', 'very well organised', 'the students had good questions and a genuine interest to learn more about our courses and career paths' and 'student ambassadors were helpful in welcoming visitors and providing refreshments'**.

Welcomed to the Fair for the first time were 8 new representatives including: AIM London Apprenticeships, Equinex, Grace's Day Nursery, ITRM, Laing O'Rourke, McPin Foundation, Pro2Pro Academy and Shooters Hill Sixth Form College.

This year we continued the format of Year 7 students attending during period 5 with a careers worksheet they had been working on in class to help prepare them for the event. For many year 7 students this would be the first time that they had the opportunity to visit so many different career sector representatives under one roof!

Feedback included **'I found it really interesting and it opened my eyes to different careers I can do when I am older' – Freya – 7JST. 'I really liked the NHS stand as I am interested in doing a job related to a doctor' – Parkhi – 7SDA.**

Year 12 also had the opportunity to attend during period 5 with the majority of them finding the event useful and were able to speak to a representative of a career sector that they were interested in.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our representatives, parents, carers and students in making this event extremely successful especially the Careers Ambassadors who helped at this event.

We have been delivering a programme of short career speakers called 'Careers Sparks' and would like to ask if any parent/carers are willing to speak to our students about their career, business or trade. This could involve speaking to students during a morning break session for approximately 25 minutes to outline their career path and details of their daily role. Any involvement even as little as speaking to a small group of students would be appreciated. All events will be supervised by a member of staff at all times. If you are interested in helping please email admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.





Mrs Smith
Careers Advisor

Easter Catering

Our catering service, Pabulum, embraced the last week of term with Easter sweet treats available each day for the students to buy.





This Term, although short, has been a busy one, with lots going on around the school such as trips and shows, parent evenings, career events and many more. For us here in Wellbeing we have hosted the Mental Health Ambassadors forum with a guest speaker and other borough schools in attendance, came to share their ideas.



For us, our focus was to get our ambassadors connected with some students that they could mentor and our list of pairings is ever growing. This has proven to be very successful for students especially in the lower years to have a friendly face giving good guidance and sharing tips on how to navigate school when it can feel overwhelming at times. Fantastic work you guys as you are making such a difference within our school community!

Now for this Easter break we welcomed some sunshine, some well needed rest and also some time to fit in all those other things that we never get around to doing during the busy school week. For those of you that have had revision in preparation for the exam season, you will have also needed some down time.

- Tie in the idea of a spring fresh start
- Encourage small, realistic habits rather than big changes
- Sleep reset, try catching up on some sleep with a healthy turn down routine
- Digital detox moments, at least one hour a day free from those electronic devices
- Exam Stress Tip, focus on effort rather than perfection
- Revision- break into 25-minute chunks and normalise feeling stressed, this is normal stress.
- Have a health check-in- how am I feeling today, what has helped me recently and who can I turn to if I need support?

THE HUB

YOUTH CAFE

Every other Friday

March 6th & 20th
April 17th
May 1st and 15th

7-8.30pm

Hang out with friends
Discounted food & drinks
Free Wifi TableTennis
Virtual Reality Gaming Crafts
Games Consoles Nail Painting
Jewellery Making
Phone Charging
Pool Table



ROOTED
—COFFEE HOUSE—
7-9 Blackfen Parade
Blackfen
DA15 9LU

For more info contact:
kaley@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

STRENGTH COURSE

WED 22ND APRIL
5-6.30PM
6 WEEKS

**FREE SNACKS, DRINKS
'N' STUFF EACH WEEK**

BOOK IN NOW!
WHAT IS THE STRENGTH COURSE?
A FUN AND INTERACTIVE 6 WEEK PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR SECONDARY BOYS AGES 11-15. THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES, THE SESSIONS WILL HELP TO DEVELOP A STRONG SENSE OF PERSONAL IDENTITY, CONFIDENCE, PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE AND THE CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KALEY@BLACKFENCOMMUNITYLIBRARY.ORG

**Mondays starting 20th
April for 6 weeks**

5-6:30pm

AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

A fun and interactive 6 week personal development course for girls aged 11-15

Through fun activities, the sessions will help to develop a strong sense of personal identity, confidence, purpose for the future and the chance to make new friends.

Delicious drinks and snacks will be provided with a free gift each week.

For more info contact:
kaley@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

BOOK IN NOW!



THE SHINE COURSE

We hope that you have enjoyed the rest, catchup on sleep and feel ready for our next summer term to begin.

Ms Latif
Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer

Numeracy Corner Easter Competition

Once you have calculated the answers to the three questions below you can submit them using the link or the QR code at the end of the questions. You may win a prize and reward points for your child.

Question 1

Work out the cost for the Kinder bueno Chocolate Bar.

 = £1.83

 = £1.75

 = £1.82

Question 2

Which is the best value?



Option A

6 Bars for £2.16

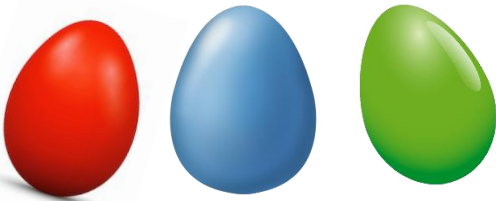


Option B

4 bars for £1.40

Question 3

The Easter bunny has a red egg, a blue egg and a green egg to give out in any order he chooses.



How many different orders could he create?

[Easter Newsletter Numeracy Competition – Fill in form](#)



Ms Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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