



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Sixth Form Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe we've nearly got to the end of the first year in Sixth Form. It's been a packed year with lots of events.

Your contributions to charity have been much appreciated. This included: raising money for MacMillan with biscuit/cake sales, Christmas acts of kindness – collecting for the local food bank, Carol singing at a local care home and collecting money for **five** 'Crisis at Christmas' meals and support packages for homeless people.

There have been a number of Interform competitions including: pumpkin carving, Christmas song music video, festive competitions - marshmallow staking, gingerbread people decorating, blindfolded present wrapping and balloon modelling. The Interform weekly quiz and of course the Great Sixth Form Bake off (winners to be announced next week) Well done to all students who took part!

Students have been planning for their 'next steps' at Post-18 which started with an introduction to Unifrog followed by our highly successful apprenticeship week where we welcomed back ex-students talk about their apprenticeships in a range of fields. Over 90 students attended the London UCAS convention and have now written the first draft of their personal statement. UCAS students will be starting their application form before the end of this term and all students are busy preparing for their mock job interviews that take place this week. We encourage all students to use their Unifrog account over the summer to carry out course or apprenticeship searches and complete super-curricular courses and events. I would also like to remind parents and carers that you can also set up a Unifrog account which links to your child's account and where you can see what your child has been doing on Unifrog. You can do this by using the link that was emailed to you previously.

We had an inspirational talk from John Hoskinson the ex-professional golfer who talked to us about his one fatal decision to have an alcoholic drink before driving then killing a cyclist on his drive home. He talked about the severe consequences of a harsh prison sentence from this one fateful decision and how he has turned his life round. Our students were clearly moved by his talk and appreciated his honesty and important message. We have purchased copies of his amazing book if any student is interested in reading his story.



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Our PSHE programme that has run through discrete lessons, form time and assemblies, topics have covered: healthy lifestyles, money matters, mental health, employability skills, sexual health, First Aid, Internet safety. The programme continues in Year 13 with further important topics suitable for preparing young people for life beyond Sixth Form. We are proud of the feedback we have received from employers who worked with our students on work experience placements last week. For many this was an excellent opportunity to get some really valid experience and support them with application to university or apprenticeships. Many students have taken also up opportunities throughout the year to engage in virtual work placements, insight days and taster events. We continue to advertise these opportunities throughout the year on our 'Work experience and Opportunities Team' in Teams.

All students completed on-line courses in Money Matters and First Aid. Many students are now doing their Holocaust project trust course and most students have completed a number of other on-line courses. We encourage students to continue to complete these courses, particularly ones specific to the degree course or apprenticeship they are planning to apply for.

We have had our first set of PPEs and BTEC students sat their external exams and have now completed half of their qualification. We continue to work the students hard for the last two weeks in preparation for year 13. The next set of PPEs for all students is early November so students need to start preparing for these now.

We look forward to celebrating the end of year 12 with students at Bexleyheath Bowling on the 16th July. Well done on everyone for their work this year and we look forward to great things in Year 13! We look forward to seeing parents and carers at the Year 13 Parent Information Evening in early September – more details to follow.

Have a restful Summer Break

Miss Brewer