



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

July 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of another academic year. The last few weeks have been rather testing with the exceptional heat. Thank you all for your patience with the adjustments that we have had to make. It has been a real testament to the resilience of the students that they have continued to work and learn through the heatwaves. We were very sorry to have to cancel two of our most significant events: Sports Day and the Culture Carnival. The Culture Carnival has been re-scheduled for 25th September; do hold onto all those fabulous outfits!! We will request your culinary contributions too in September, so please do look out for the reminders. Sports Day will also be re-scheduled and we will confirm the details of this in September. If you were due to compete, you will still get your chance, we promise!

As disappointed as we were to have to cancel the events over the last few weeks, we are delighted that running these events next term will give our brand-new Year 7 and 12 students an early chance to share the community spirit, warmth and energy that characterises Blackfen. The new Year 7 and Year 12 students have had their induction days. We're excited to see so many of the new Year 7 cohort joining us for the Summer School next week. Thank you so much to the teaching staff and the support staff who make Summer School possible, and to the many staff who will continue to work over the long break to get us ready for the new academic year.

As the summer approaches, we think of our exam candidates who will be nervously awaiting their respective results days. I am thinking also of all the nervous parents and carers, as I am nervously awaiting my daughter's exam results too! Good luck to you all with examination results. Post 16 results will be available on 13th August and the GCSE results on 20th August. I look forward to celebrating with staff and students when the results come in. Information about exam collection arrangements has been sent home already.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy summer holiday. Enjoy your time as families to reconnect and re-energise over the break. We are very much looking forward to getting started with the 2026-27 academic year. Please do enjoy the newsletter which celebrates this school year. We will see you in September!!

Happy holidays,

Carrie Senior
Headteacher

Please follow the link below to see the new free Family First publication

https://e.issuu.com/embed.html?d=family_first_-_issue_3_2026&u=sevenstarmedia

Business Department

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, we would like to congratulate our Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A Level students on completing their examinations. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience, and hard work they have shown throughout their courses. Preparing for and sitting examinations is a significant achievement, and we would like to wish all of our students every success as they move on to the next stage of their education, training, or careers.

Our Year 10 BTEC Business students are currently completing coursework based on their mini-enterprise projects. This year's theme focuses on planning and delivering an event, allowing students to develop valuable entrepreneurial and organisational skills. We have seen a fantastic range of creative business ideas, including yoga sessions, badminton tournaments, and basketball events. Students have demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills as they work towards completing their projects.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 BTEC Business students have already begun preparing for their next examination, which will take place in January 2027 and is worth 33% of their overall qualification. The unit focuses on Personal and Business Finance, providing students with a real insight into how finances are managed both in everyday life and within businesses. This is often considered one of the more challenging units, as students are required to learn and apply an impressive 36 financial formulas. However, the knowledge and skills gained from this unit are invaluable and highly relevant to future study and employment.

As the summer holidays begin, we would like to thank all students for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe, enjoyable, and well-deserved break and look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting year of learning and achievement.

Miss Johnson

Subject Leader of Business

Careers

Year 8 STEM Careers Day

Year 8 Careers Day was to help students explore their STEM knowledge and different careers within the world of work. Students took part in a practical session with 'The Royal Navy'.

The Royal Navy session got students to take part in a mock humanitarian session where they had to build a satellite tower to help an island where a hurricane had destroyed all their power cables. They had to use ropes, nuts, bolts and a wheel to build a tower almost 2 metres tall.



The day also included access to Unifrog an online careers platform. Unifrog helped students to find out what career sectors they may be interested in and what type of characteristics as a person they have. This will help them to make important decisions about the future.

Overall year 8 Careers Day was enjoyed by everyone!

I enjoyed the Royal Navy session as it helped me to use my team building skills to get the best results from the activities. Working as a team showed us that we could solve problems easier. I learned about all the different careers in the Royal Navy which I didn't know about and can now look at all the options available to me. I found the practical activities really energetic and great fun!

By Thea, Year 8

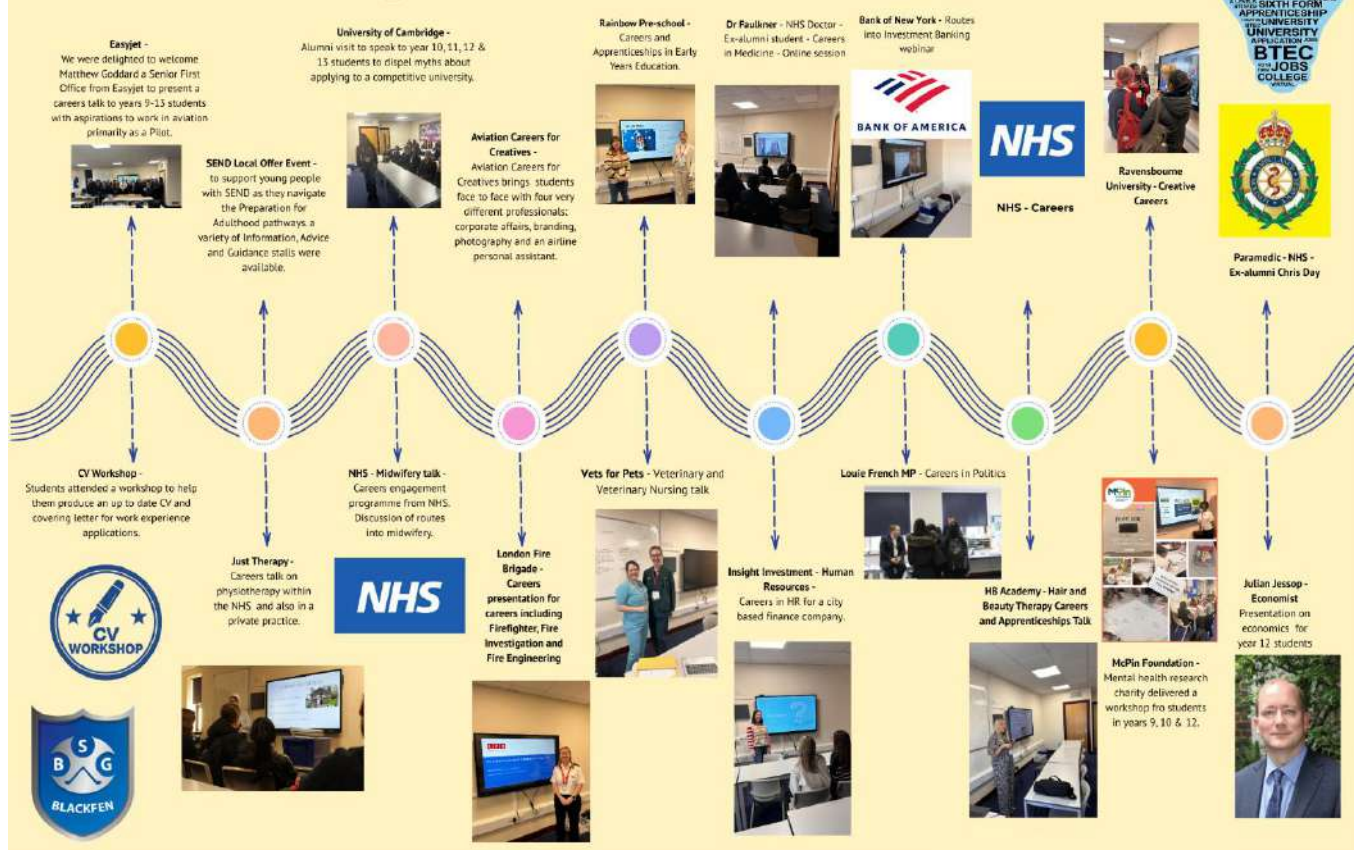
The practical session by The Royal Navy really helped me to use my communication skills. We were working in groups that we don't normally work with so we had to try that bit harder to get our ideas across and work well as a team. I really liked working with different students as it made us feel out of our comfort zone and not to rely on our friends all the time. The Royal Navy were really good and I would thoroughly recommend for next year 8's to take part in!

By Evie, Year 8



Careers Sparks 2025 – 2026

Careers Sparks 2025 - 2026



Careers Sparks is a new programme that started at Blackfen at the start of this school year September 2025. The aim was to procure 20 speakers from 20 different career sectors to visit Blackfen School to deliver a talk or workshop about careers in their particular sector for a minimum of 20 minutes. Opportunities were advertised to students on Teams who could sign up in advance to attend. Many of the sessions were during form time so lesson time was not missed.

The sessions included: **airline pilot, cv writing, SEND post 16 opportunities, physiotherapy, applying to competitive universities, midwifery, creative careers in aviation, firefighting, nursery careers, veterinary, medicine, human resources, investment banking, hair and beauty, politics with our local M.P, NHS careers, creative courses at university, mental health research charity, paramedic and an economist.**

This programme was very successful so will run again from September 2026. Please remind your child to check Teams and their careers noticeboard in their form so that they don't miss out on these opportunities!

Mrs K Smith, Careers Adviser

Computing and ICT Department News

During the summer term, Year 8 and Year 9 students explored the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on the world today. As part of this topic, they learned about both generative and predictive AI tools before creating their own short video stories using Canva's AI features. You will be able to watch some of their creations on our Instagram account very soon.

Below are accounts from two Year 9 students about what students learned about AI during this unit and about their research on the impact of AI on the environment.

Over the last few weeks, I have learned a lot about Artificial Intelligence (AI), including how it works, where it is used, and the impact it can have on society. Before learning about this topic, I mostly thought AI was chatbots such as ChatGPT or Meta. However, I did not realise how much AI is already part of everyday life. Through this unit, I have learnt that AI is becoming more common in many different industries and will likely play an even bigger role in the future.

AI can help doctors analyse medical scans, identify diseases earlier, and support the development of new medicines. This can improve patient care and even save lives. AI is also used in transport through navigation systems, such as 'satnavs', and self-driving vehicles, such as 'Waymo'. These technologies can make travel a lot safer and more efficient.

Another topic I learned about was the difference between generative AI and predictive AI. Generative AI creates new content such as text, images, videos, music, and answers to questions. ChatGPT is a good example of generative AI because it can generate responses based on the information and data it has learned from. Predictive AI works differently because it looks at patterns in data and makes predictions about what might happen next. For example, streaming services, such as Netflix, use predictive AI to suggest films or programmes that users might enjoy, while businesses use it to predict customer behaviour and future trends.

I have also learned about deepfakes, which are fake images, videos, or audio recordings created using AI. Deepfakes can be very convincing and can make it look as though someone has said or done something they never actually did. An example of this could be a celebrity deepfake. This could lead to misinformation being spread online and make it harder to know what is real or not. Because of this, it is important for people to think critically about the content they see on social media and other websites.

Conclusion

Overall, studying AI has helped me understand both its potential and its risks. However, issues such as hallucinations, loss of skills, environmental impacts, and deepfakes show that AI must be used carefully. I certainly enjoyed learning about AI and I am now more aware about the consequences it may cause.

Lucy 9EBA4

The Impact AI has on the environment

AI is bad for the environment, it leaves a massive carbon footprint, and uses energy and water. AI tools use lots of energy, even if it is for a short amount of time. This is what the BBC says about AI. The energy the AI tech companies use depend on where their data centre is located, most of them being in areas where they use fossil fuels which has a higher carbon footprint than those companies that use renewable energy sources. Tech companies use 1 million litres of water to ensure that the computer systems are cool while they process large amounts of data.

LSE also agrees that AI is very bad for the environment. In 2024, data centres accounted for 1.5% of all of the world's electricity consumption. This is expected to double with the rising demand for AI which has an increasing risk for greenhouse gas emissions. AI is one of the fastest growing sources of emission. For example, a data centre in Tennessee emits between 1200 and 2000 tons of nitrous oxide which is bad for human health as well as the environment. LSE has also stated that the huge

amounts of water companies use are affecting local water supplies and there will be concern for it in the future, like droughts.

Lara 9INO9

Later on in the summer term, Year 8 then went on to develop the skills and knowledge needed to create an online blog, while Year 9 enhanced their digital creativity by learning how to edit images using Adobe Photoshop.

Please take a look at some of the blogs created by Year 8 by following the links below:

Jenny 8VKN5 Artificial Intelligence in Art work

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/5yAVICqVWBE6J8YU?ref=email&loc=play>

Charlotte 8MFL1 Ways young people can help reduce pollution and protect the environment

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/q28E0XU0j5jtYszX?ref=email&loc=play>

Darcie 8VKN5 Global Warming

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/6oMmTa8z7iln9Mlm?ref=Link&loc=play>

Avani 8CMZ4 Deforestation

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Deo3dP6zaJbABqWt>

Eden 8CMZ4 Mental Health and Well being

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/H12lyzFznSMV6goG>

Ms Auvinet , Subject Leader for Computing and IT

Chess Tournament

Blackfen held its final Chess Tournament of the school year on Tuesday 7th July. Students have shown impressive progress throughout the weekly chess club, so the competition for the Blackfen Chess title was always going to be fierce. There were some closely contested matches and it had the most checkmates of any tournament, so the students are really starting to appreciate and understand the game more. In the end, Ami 9EBA held her nerve and took home the prestigious trophy. Congratulations to Ami and to all the students who took part.

Mr Love Faculty Leader for English

Reading Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved the following on the Accelerated Reader and Bedrock programmes this year:

8A who have held the Accelerated Reader class trophy for two years, and achieved 2870 points and read a whopping 571 books between them.

Amelia G Year 7 who read 114 books this year.

Miah R Year 8 who achieved 4296 points on Bedrock and completed 3 Blocks this year.

Mrs Kingsbury-Barker
School Librarian

Summer Term in Dance and Drama

It has been an exceptionally successful and exciting summer term for the Dance and Drama Department, with students representing Blackfen School in a wide range of prestigious performances, competitions and enrichment opportunities.

The term began with an outstanding performance from our Dance Company at the **Step Around Town** event, hosted by the Royal Academy of Dance. Shortly afterwards, Blackfen School was proud to host a Dance CPD event for local schools, providing an opportunity to share best practice, collaborate with colleagues and showcase the outstanding creative provision within our department.

Our students also achieved remarkable success at the **Bexley Games**, securing **Silver** medals in both the KS3 and KS4 Dance competitions. Our SEN dance group went one step further, winning Gold and earning the opportunity to represent Bexley at the **London Youth Games**. Their performance, **True Colours**, was also awarded the prestigious **Best Performance** title. The piece captivated both the audience and judges, who described it as "very beautiful and moving." They praised the group's interpretation, commenting that "the song was such a beautiful choice and they demonstrated it perfectly, with the power in their dance being gorgeous," whilst also recognising that "their teamwork was fantastic." These wonderful comments reflected the emotion, commitment and collaboration demonstrated by our students throughout the performance.

Students in year 10 and 9 who Performed at The Jack Petchey awards were also awarded runners-up in the **Jack Petchey Take the Stage Performance Competition** which meant we had £500 to spend on new costumes for upcoming productions.

Students across Years 9–12 also benefited from a range of inspiring workshops delivered by both the **Royal Academy of Dance** and **D&B Academy of Performing Arts**. These sessions provided valuable insight into professional training and progression routes, helping students explore opportunities beyond GCSE and A Level Dance.

Sixteen members of our Dance Company were selected to perform at Summer in Motion at Roehampton University. Alongside performing, students took part in creative workshops, enjoyed a guided campus tour and attended a careers talk, gaining valuable insight into higher education and careers within the performing arts.

This term also saw the successful delivery of our second annual **LAMDA Examination Day**. Students from Years 7–13 demonstrated exceptional commitment by attending and completing their examinations, despite the rest of the school learning remotely due to the exceptionally hot weather. We are incredibly proud of their resilience, professionalism and dedication.

The term concluded with our vibrant **Summer Talent Show**, where students from Years 7–10 celebrated the incredible breadth of talent across our school community. The audience enjoyed an inspiring programme of original plays and monologues, live bands, vocal performances, saxophone solos and an impressive variety of dance performances. Alongside the performances, visitors were able to view a wonderful art exhibition showcasing students' work from across the year, while refreshments and ice creams, kindly provided by the Design & Technology Department, added to the celebratory atmosphere.

It has been a truly memorable term, filled with creativity, achievement and opportunities for our students to develop their talents both in and beyond the classroom. We are immensely proud of everything they have accomplished and would like to thank them for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work throughout the year. We also extend our sincere thanks to our parents and carers for their continued encouragement and support, which plays such an important role in the success of our students and the department.

We look forward to next academic year with auditions for **High School Musical** and **Dance Company** in September.



Are You Following Our Instagram Page?



@blackfenschoolforgirls



15k+ followers

Join our page now to see what else
is going on at Blackfen



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

Wellbeing at the End of the School Year.



As another school year draws to a close, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the journey that our young people have taken over the last year. It has been a time of growth, learning, challenges, achievements and hopefully new experiences and every student will have their own story of what this year has meant to them.

Let's take a look at our wellbeing reflection for this year...



This year we have attended Mental Health Ambassador forums held here as hosts but also at other schools, below was at St. Catherines school with a guest speaker in attendance, learning of the dangers of substance misuse and how we can be vigilant for ourselves but also for others.



We have also enjoyed our charity days including “Funky Hair Day” and thank you so much for your generosity as we raised a lot of money for the Little Princess Trust, a worthy charity helping those children that face hair loss through illness and treatments. We definitely had some wonderful creations!



Our Pastoral Teams have worked hard as they do every year to support our students with our external teams too and in addition our very own dedicated Mental Health Ambassadors have supported many students throughout the year, being a kindly presence for that all important weekly check-in, well done team you have been brilliant!

At the beginning of this month we welcomed Artemus Self Defence to give a workshop to 25 year 9's. They were brilliant with our very own Evie in year 10 as one of the instructors along with David Parker from Conquest Martial Arts. This workshop was not only great fun but also demonstrated the importance of staying safe and how to feel more confident.





The six weeks off is a time for fun but most importantly to re-charge those batteries, make sure that you stay well connected, make time for friends and family but also for yourselves to indulge in those treasured hobbies.

Locally, please check out your local libraries for free fun activities, below is Blackfen's free fun activity list:



THE HUB

Summer Fun!

Snack Showdown

Tuesday July 21st

2:30-3:30pm



Potato Olympics

Wednesday August 19th

2:30-3:30pm

School years 7-11

FREE EVENT
Book on Eventbrite

What to expect?

- Fun & Games
- Food
- Crafts
- Connection



Rooted Coffee House
7-8 Blackfen Parade
Blackfen
B415 9LU



Or try local events such as: Thamesmead Festival and Danson Park Music Fest Friday 7th, Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August 2026

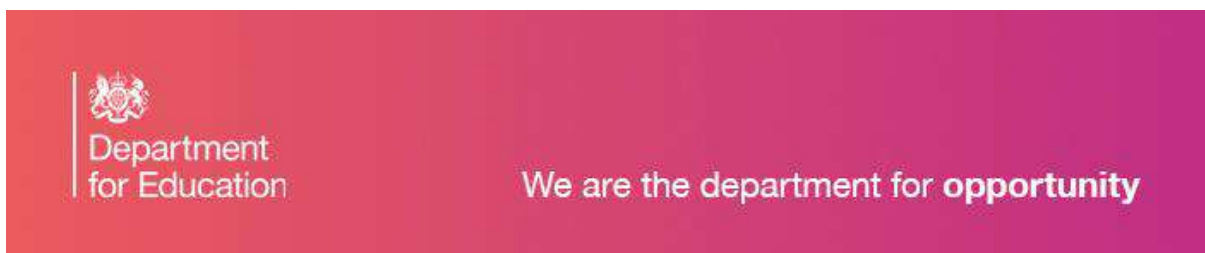


Ms Latif
Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer



Mrs Tregenna, Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

Please read the following for Summer discounts



Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the Great British Summer Savings scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON MP

Secretary of State for Education

RT HON RACHEL REEVES MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer





METROGAS GIRLS U16s PLAYERS WANTED

To join our friendly and committed KGLFL
division 2 squad

If you're interested in a trial

Parents can contact Les at
lestercox472@hotmail.com
or 07771 930415