



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Matthew Brown BA(Hons) DMS(Ed)

Blackfen School for Girls,  
Blackfen Road,  
Sidcup, Kent.  
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

F: 020 8298 1656

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

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Dear parents/carers and prospective student,

I am so sorry that you are unable to visit us, this year, as you consider the choice of school for secondary education. In writing this letter, I am as disappointed as you are about this year's situation because the open events normally provide me with a chance to show prospective students and parents the wonderful student and staff community that make up Blackfen School. As an 11-18 school, with an intake of 230 in Year 7 each year, you are choosing a school for the next seven years of education. From entry at Year 7, to options in Year 9, to examinations in Year 11 and specialisation in our highly successful Sixth Form, the school will work with all young people and families during periods of change and transition.

The school motto is *Raising aspirations, releasing potential*. But how does this translate to what you would see on a normal Tuesday morning, in October, if you were visiting the school? Certainly, you would see a well-disciplined environment with young people showing respect for others, the environment and, importantly, themselves. Looking into classrooms and learning areas you would see engaged young people working alongside a highly skilled workforce, where high expectations are the norm and where, underpinned by our growth mindset philosophy, there is positivity and a "can do" culture. A well balanced, full and diverse curriculum is available to all young people. You would see every young person being seen as a unique individual who has Individual talents, skills and needs. Those talents are nurtured and those needs are met through our support for students from all backgrounds and of all abilities in our fully inclusive school. You would see a community of adults and young people where diversity and equality are fully embraced. In short, you would see a vibrant and thriving community of over 1500 students and staff.

Our young people are stretched and challenged so that they can achieve at the highest level, push themselves beyond any perceived limit and ensure that they enjoy the experiences along the way. Our young people are resilient, reflective and determined in their approach to all that they do and they are ambassadors for the school. They are ably supported by a strong pastoral structure. Partnerships are the foundation of our work and it is my belief that, when school, home and student work together, each young person can be and will be successful.

Learning, of course, goes beyond the classroom so, if you look a little further, you would see the additional opportunities provided at Blackfen School. Whether on the playing fields, in the music recording studio, during one of our many student-led assemblies in our magnificent performance space, in our bespoke drama and dance studios, in our computer suites or during one of our many day and residential trips, you would see our young people embracing challenge and trying out new things. This could be you.



Blackfen is a good school. It is good because of the work we consistently do with all our young people. Once again, in our most recent Ofsted inspection, the school was seen to be good. However, as we instil in all our young people, staff, parents and Governors, we do not stand still. Instead, we aim to further improve, learning from the past as we plan for the future.

I am proud and privileged to lead Blackfen School, a position I have held for over 13 years. I am passionate about young people and their development and I am relentless in my approach to opening pathways and setting up opportunities for all young people, irrespective of their age or ability. I am disappointed that I cannot meet you and your family in person but hope that, through the prospectus, videos, information on the website and in talking to young people who already attend Blackfen School, you are able to make a well informed choice of secondary school.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions or queries specific to your daughter or her needs, please contact the school by email to [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) or by phone. We want you to ensure that you have all the information you need to make that choice.

I wish all young people a happy and successful time in Year 6.

Yours sincerely,



**Matthew Brown**  
Head Teacher

