

## SEN Information Report January 2021

### About the school

Blackfen School, located in the Borough of Bexley, is an 11-18, girl's Academy with a mixed sixth form. Our facilities include: specialist classrooms; sports hall; dance studio, art gallery; library and a designated Sixth Form Learning Zone, complete with a café. Every classroom is fitted with interactive whiteboards which enable teachers and students to access a wide range of stimulating learning materials. At Blackfen School we passionately believe that every child does matter and that they deserve to enjoy their learning experience with us. Our dedicated body of staff place students' interests at the heart of everything they do, ensuring that students have high aspirations and are able to reach their full potential. Our mission is to achieve high standards and fulfil the expectations of all students of all abilities and from all backgrounds by making teaching and learning our focus.

Special provision is made for students with special educational needs. Students with identified special needs take a full part in school life following a full and balanced curriculum which is adapted to their individual learning needs, whenever possible.

### Identification of children's additional needs

#### ***How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?***

Where possible, Blackfen School collect data on every child before they start in Year 7. Information is shared from the primary school teachers/SENCOs and reading ages are assessed on entry. Standardised tests and primary school assessments decide the tutor and ability groupings from the start of Year 7. All in year admissions are assessed through CATs/reading ages.

Assessments are carried out twice a year for progress and reading ages. Reviews are held throughout the year through parent evenings, tutor meetings and regular meetings held by the SENCO and her team. Students not making expected progress will require additional support and staff are made aware of individual needs. The SEN Faculty work closely with subject teachers to ensure individual needs are targeted and given appropriate support to ensure students make expected progress.

The SEN manager should be contacted if you feel your child may have special educational needs and you have not been contacted by the school.

#### ***Who should I contact if I have any questions or concerns about my child's SEND?***

Mrs Ann-Marie Shaw SEN Manager  
0208 303 1887 ext. 3082  
[asw@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:asw@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)

Miss Hoad Assistant Head Teacher/SENCO  
0208 303 1887  
[nho@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:nho@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)

Ms Sarah Cascarino Deputy Head Teacher/SENCO  
0208 303 1887  
[sca@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:sca@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)

Blackfen School also has a designated governor, Mrs Townsend, who has oversight of the school's SEN Faculty.

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### **Involving students and parents/carers in planning support**

#### ***How will the school involve me as a parent/carer and my child in meeting our SEND needs and in general school life?***

- ☒ *Invitation to Annual Review meetings (EHCP)*
- ☒ *Updated guidance through the School's website/parent mail*
- ☒ *Regular contact between home and school through planner.*
- ☒ *Home/school contact with teacher conversations through telephone conversations/email contact*
- ☒ *Parents evenings with subject teachers/Community tutors*

### **Range of support available to my child**

#### ***What different kinds of support are available to children with SEND?***

The school offers a variety of Intervention Groups to support students with SEN. Students requiring additional support for learning difficulties may be taught in smaller groups with appropriate programmes of work and materials.

#### **Accelerated Reading**

School based literacy programme accessed from Year 7.

#### **Literacy Progress and Numeracy Progress.**

Targeted students intervention offered to Year 7.

#### **Lunchtime Clubs.**

Offers students the opportunity to reflect on their strengths and develop new ways of dealing with situations. Students are able to share experiences during lunch with mixed year groups to support self esteem and form positive peer relationships.

#### **JIGSAW provision**

Students with an EHCP for Speech and Language Disorder work in a smaller classroom environment with learning support. We have a speech and language therapist for JIGSAW students who visit weekly.

#### **PHOENIX provision**

Students can be withdrawn from timetabled lessons and offered alternative and reduced timetables when experiencing difficulties accessing mainstream lessons. Students can catch up with their studies or follow an accredited course, ASDAN.

#### **Dyslexia Intervention and screening.**

Mrs Sharon Mackay is the dyslexic screening coordinator. If you would like your child to be screened for dyslexia, please contact **smc@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk**

#### **Autism (ASD)**

As part of the Bexley initiative, the school has an Autism Champion trained teacher whom monitor, track and offer intervention for students with social communication difficulties.

Miss Louise Taylor is our Autism Champion. **lta@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.**

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### **Measuring children's progress**

#### ***How will the school know how well my child is doing and how will they inform me about this?***

The school tracks and monitors the progress of students across the curriculum that has a SEND. Meetings are held with parents to discuss targets and strategies of support. Where a student is not making expected progress a referral to an external agency may be recommended.

Regular termly assessments inform on the progress of students with SEND and they are monitored by the SENCO and AHT. Existing provisions and appropriate interventions are discussed to support individual needs.

### **Support and Training for school staff**

#### ***Have any staff received specialist training in SEND?***

The SENCO has the statutory qualification for working as a SENCO- Greenwich 2009.

Blackfen School are supported by a team of Educational Psychologists, a Speech Therapist, and Social Services Family Wellbeing. We also work closely with New Horizon Federation who provide key workers and Behavioural Support Plans. The school has Student Support Officers who are able to monitor and track progress of students requiring behaviour support.

### **Accessibility**

#### ***How is the school accessible to children with SEND?***

The school has an Accessibility Plan and takes its responsibility very seriously, so that every student has equal opportunities. Ramps and a lift have been established for physical access and the curriculum can be modified to match needs.

There is disabled parking available and disabled toilets.

### **Inclusion**

#### ***How will the school ensure that my child will be included in all activities at school, after school clubs and on school trips?***

Students with SEND are encouraged to take part in all school activities including day and residential trips. Individual requirements are assessed and personalised support is discussed to enable full participation wherever possible. Teaching Assistants will accompany school trips and activities in school if additional support is required. A risk assessment will be carried out as routine where required.

### **Transitions**

#### ***How will the school support my child to change classes and/or move on when they reach the appropriate stages?***

Blackfen School offer an excellent transition programme from 6/7. The School works closely with the Primary School to ensure individual strategies of support are continued into the secondary setting. Students are invited to attend Blackfen School as part of the transition process to become familiar with their new surroundings and meet with new teaching staff. At the start of the new academic year, Teacher Assistants are deployed to Year 7 lessons as additional support both academically and pastorally. Students on SEND are tracked and monitored to ensure they feel confident and are socially included within the cohort.

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The School has a 6th Form where students have a wide range of academic interests. Every student is interviewed by the leadership team to ascertain the correct pathway for them. The SEN dept. support this transition when appropriate.

### **Support and training for Parents and Carers**

#### ***What support and training within the school is available to parents and carers?***

Parents are encouraged to attend school reviews regularly to discuss the needs of their child and agree strategies for support. Parents' evenings for specific year groups are held with tutors and subject teachers to ensure students are making progress. Parents and carers are given information for outside agencies, specialist teachers and external providers when appropriate.

***Ms Cascarino  
Deputy Head Teacher/SENCO  
January 2021***