



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

## Additional Information September 2022

### The school day

Students receive five hours of lessons per day and 20 minutes of tutor time.

Time	Session
8.20am	Arrival at school
8.30am - 9.30am	Lesson 1
9.30am - 10.30am	Lesson 2
<b>10.30am - 10.50am</b>	<b>Community time</b>
<b>10.50am - 11.15am</b>	<b>Break</b>
11.15am - 12.15pm	Lesson 3
12.15pm - 13.15pm	Lesson 4
<b>13.15pm - 14.00pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
14.00pm - 15.00pm	Lesson 5
15.00pm - 16.15pm	Homework club

Morning registration is at 8.30am at the start of lesson one, so students need to be in school by at least 8.20am. Lesson five ends at 3.00pm. However, many students stay longer to take advantage of ICT and the Learning Resources Centre which stay open after school, or to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

### Uniform and equipment rules and regulations

At Blackfen School for Girls we believe that the uniform should reflect the school motto "Raising Aspirations, Releasing Potential", and should demonstrate visibly that our students are aiming for excellence in everything that they do. We expect the very highest standards of dress for all students. Years 7-11 wear a uniform which is described in more detail below, and the Sixth Form have a dress code of either a trouser or skirt suit.

**All students must wear school uniform which should be clearly marked with their name.**

#### Indoor wear Uniform consists of:

**Skirts or Trousers** - Regulation plain navy skirt with two box pleats back and front and/or regulation plain navy trousers.

**Blouses** - Regulation white blouse.

**Sweatshirts** - Regulation navy or red school V-neck sweatshirt with the Blackfen embroidered name. No other sweatshirt may be worn.

**Cardigans** - Regulation navy or red school cardigan with Blackfen embroidered name. No other cardigans may be worn.

**Blazers** - A regulation blazer with school badge and the student's community flash on the central pocket.

**Socks and tights** - Socks may be black, navy or grey; alternatively, tights may be worn and should be navy, black, grey or a shade of tan/brown; leggings of any colour may not be worn; socks/tights must be worn with shoes.

**Shoes** - Shoes should be: leather or leather-look-not suede/nubuck; black, flat, plain and sensible i.e. not stilettos, no heels above 2 inches, nothing above the ankle bone and no large platforms; no form of Vans or Converse trainers are permitted, even if they are leather; trainers, boots, canvas style, leisure or backless shoes are not acceptable.

**Students are not permitted to roll up the sleeves on their blazer and/or roll up the waistband of their skirt.**

**Outwear Uniform consists of:**

**Coats** - All year groups should consist of a **plain black or navy** coat, jacket, raincoat, anorak/cagoule or duffle coat, large logos or brand names are not permitted and may be confiscated; denim, fur/ fake fur, leather/leather look or suede jackets are not allowed.

**Hats, scarves and gloves** – These are optional but if worn must be **plain black, red or navy**. Hijabs must be **plain black, red or navy**. **No hats to be worn whilst in school.**

**Hair decorations** - Hair decorations are optional, must be discreet and in **plain black, red or navy**.

**Sunglasses** - Sunglasses can only be worn outside when sunny. They should not be seen in school buildings.

**School bags** – Bags should be dark in colour, sturdy and waterproof. A bag or satchel must be large enough to carry school books, A4 folders and equipment safely (no flimsy plastic carrier bags).

### **Physical Education Kit**

Basic Kit:

Macron Navy t-shirt with school badge.

Macron Navy Shorts with school badge.

Macron Navy Sweatshirt with school badge.

Macron Navy Football Socks and white trainer socks.

In the winter Navy Tracksuit bottoms may be worn for PE but they must be Macron bottoms with the school badge.

### **Jewellery and Make up**

**Piercings** - Students who have pierced ears may wear one pair of plain studs (one stud in each ear). There should not be stones in the earrings. Nose studs and other piercings are not permitted.

**Watches** - A wristwatch may be worn. (No smart watches).

**Religious symbols** - A small religious symbol of faith may be worn around the neck on a chain under the shirt.

**Make up, nail varnish/extensions & false eyelashes** – These are not allowed and should not be worn by any student. False nails and false eyelashes worn on a Friday or on the last day of term will be sanctioned with an S3 unless it is a non-uniform day on the same day.

**Hair colour** – Hair dyed in unnatural colours is not permitted.

**Confiscation of Jewellery** - Students will be expected to remove their jewellery. All jewellery is worn at the wearer's risk. Any jewellery worn outside these rules will be subject to confiscation by staff until the next Friday. On the third occasion that jewellery is confiscated in any one term, it will need to be collected from the school office by an adult.

## **Curriculum**

At Blackfen School, we are committed to providing a curriculum that meets the needs of all our students. We aim to ensure continuity and progression, focusing on the development of skills and experiences that lead to relevant qualifications.

Exciting, engaging and challenging teaching and learning strategies are at the heart of our learning process. From the start of their school career, Year 7 students are equipped with resources to approach learning in any subject with confidence, both in school and in their future careers. We offer a unique learning experience of ongoing challenge supported by a growth mindset environment. Blackfen School sets out to enable students to embrace and enjoy challenge from their first day in Year 7 to their last examination in Year 13.

Staff see themselves as part of the learning community and provide first class learning experiences for students that are underpinned by developed subject expertise. They share a vision of high expectations of student performance and place emphasis on promoting resilience and determination in learning, sustained by a healthy growth mindset.

### **Key Stage 3**

Students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that includes: English, Mathematics, Science, French or Spanish, Religious Studies, PE, Dance & Drama, Technology, Geography, History, Art, Music, ICT, Computing, PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Enterprise) and PSHCE.

### **Key Stage 4**

Students continue to follow a core curriculum working towards GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, Religious Studies or Citizenship and a Core PE curriculum that includes Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Junior Dance or Sports Leadership award. Students choose, in addition, four option subjects in the Spring Term of Year 9 from GCSEs in History, Geography, French, Spanish, Triple Science, Statistics, Art & Design (Fine Art), Art & Design (Photography), Art & Design (Textiles), Drama, Music, Dance, Business Studies, Economics and Food Preparation & Nutrition and from Vocational Awards in BTEC Enterprise, BTEC Sport, BTEC Health and Social Care, and Cambridge Nationals in ICT.

### **Key Stage 5**

Students remain at Blackfen into the Sixth Form where they can study a wide range of courses at A Level and BTEC. We also offer a Level 2 Foundation Programme for students who require an additional year before studying at Level 3. For more information, please visit our website.

## **Future Careers**

We believe that students should have aspirations and focus on future career pathways and opportunities and that this has a positive impact on achievement. This means preparing students for future success through qualifications and also by equipping them with skills and experiences for living life to the full.

This starts in Year 8 where one of the Challenge Days focuses on Careers and students spend the day exploring different career paths. The School retains an independent Careers Advisor who works in the School one day a week. Students are actively counselled on choices of courses at Key Stages 4 and 5. All students must stay in education or training until the age of 18 and so during Key Stage 4 they receive full careers education and guidance on pathways into Blackfen's Sixth Form or alternative pathways elsewhere and during Key Stage 5 leading to pathways at university or via Higher apprenticeship schemes.

Blackfen School hosts a popular Careers evening in March every year, to which all students are invited to meet representatives of local and national employers such as NHS, Accountancy, Law and Legal, as well as from Universities including Oxford & Cambridge and uniformed organisations.

Personal development is supported through a two-week work experience placement at the end of Year 10. All students undertake a work experience preparation day in the summer term. This course not only prepares the students for work experience, but also outlines employer expectations that will be useful for future employment. Students are encouraged to source their own placement or can use the opportunities offered by the school's excellent business links, which they can then add to enrich their curriculum vitae, when applying for further study or employment.

## **Governance**

Blackfen School is a stand-alone Academy. Although it is not part of a larger chain of schools Blackfen is a founding member of the Penhill Academies Trust along with Sherwood Park School and Hurstmere School. Bexley Grammar School and Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School are also members of the Trust. The five schools work closely together as part of an Umbrella Trust. Each school has a separate Governing Body. The role of the Governing Body at Blackfen is to strategically lead the school. The Governing Body works closely with the staff team in both supporting and challenging the work of the school ensuring that the raising aspirations-releasing potential vision of the school is realised.

## **Special Educational Needs (SEND)**

Students with SEND at Blackfen School for Girls are assisted by a team of Teaching Assistants in class and in the OASIS (Open Access Supporting Inclusive Learning).

Intervention programmes are available for Literacy and Numeracy support and include reading support during community times. Students with EHCP's are assigned a TA Key Worker, who meets them at Community Time and completes a weekly evaluation with them.

'JIGSAW' is a resourced provision unit providing 16 places for young people with visual impairment, physical and/or neurological impairment, medical needs and speech and communication disorders. This provision enables young people to access the mainstream curriculum whilst also attending small group support for English, Maths and Humanities lessons.

All students at Blackfen School will benefit from an improved level of understanding of the needs of young people with disability. Their empathy and experience of diversity, a paramount life skill, will develop as a result of engaging with disabled young people.

## **Working with Parents**

Students are issued with a Student Planner every year which provides an essential link between home and school. It is used to record details of homework given and important notices as well comments on attendance and behaviour. The planner helps parents and staff to work together in an effective partnership and ensure regular monitoring of student progress.

Consultation Evenings are held during the year which provides an important opportunity for parents to talk to subject staff about their child's progress.

Parents can keep up to date with school life via their own section on the website and the fortnightly Family Newsletter that is sent home. The school has an informative website and parental views are sought through questionnaires and surveys.

## **Home Learning**

The home learning policy is part of the school's overall learning and assessment strategy. Teachers ensure home learning is recorded in the Student Planner, monitor the completion of home learning and assess where appropriate and ensure students are aware of how the home learning consolidates and extends on their work in school.

Students should record home learning set in their Student Planner and ensure it is completed by the deadline. Parents should monitor the Student Planner to ensure that home learning is being set and completed. The school's full home learning policy is available on request.

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