



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Head Teacher's Message

Dear parents/carers/families

It has been good to welcome many parents/carers to the school with several year group events which have taken place so far this term. These events help to provide more information for you on courses, advice and support. Last week, for example, we welcomed parents/carers of year 12 students and, on Thursday this week, we welcomed parents of year 7 students to our meet the tutor evening. It has been good to meet you and I look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months.

There were vaccinations for students in years 7-11 this week provided by our nursing service and we have welcomed our school police officers in the school to do talks to every student in years 7-11.

Next week we continue to celebrate Black History Month with assemblies for all students. We have also held four open mornings during the last two weeks. Well done to the year 10 and year 11 football teams. Both were successful in the first round of their respective cup competitions with year 11 winning on penalties after a 1-1 draw. I would like to thank all staff and students involved in these events and involved in leading these events.

### Staffing news

We welcome Mr Ruiz Martinez – Foreign Language Assistant for Spanish and Mr Berlivet – Foreign Language Assistant for French. We say goodbye to Ms Fabian, Midday Supervisor this week.

### Term dates 2024-2025

These have been approved by governors and a copy of these has been emailed home. They are also attached to this newsletter.

### Future dates

On Friday 13 October the school will finish at 12.45 for mandatory staff safeguarding training. The school finishes for half term at the normal time of 3.00 on Friday 20 October 2023. We reopen for students on Monday 30 October 2023 at the normal time.

Matthew Brown, Head Teacher

## Careers, Work Experience & Community Links

### Cambridge University – Targeted Workshop on applying for competitive Universities – Thursday 28th September

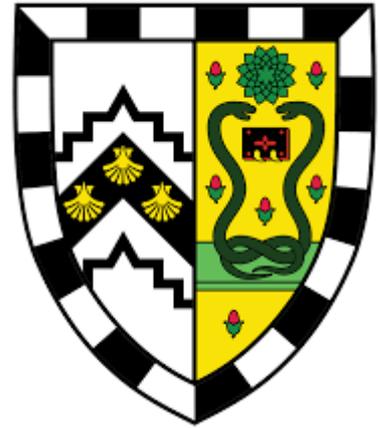
We were delighted to welcome Gwyneth Hamand from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University to present two workshops to with aspirations on applying for competitive Universities including Cambridge and other Russell Group Universities.

The first session was for year 9 students who are looking to discover more about 'competitive universities and university life in general.

A drop-in session at lunchtime for 6<sup>th</sup> form students helped them to build upon their 'super-curricular' activities to enhance their personal statements when they apply in year 13. Advice was given on how to make an application to a competitive university which will be useful for when they embark on this in year 13.

The aim of the second session for year 10 and 11 students was to raise awareness, dispel myths and encourage students to apply to competitive Universities. This session discussed 'Why go to University?', the 50,000 courses available, Russell Group Universities, subject choices for A level and a typical timetable of a first year STEM student at Cambridge University. This shocked some students as they didn't realise that some lectures are on Saturdays and can even go on until 6.00pm! A little different from the school day!

The workshops finished with Gwyneth wishing our students good luck for their studies and applications and looking forward to hearing their success stories in the future.



### Year 10 Work Experience 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

I am writing to let you know that all year 10 pupils will be undertaking a two-week period of Work Experience next year from **8th July – 19th July 2024**. It is important to let you know at this early stage as the Work Experience Programme involves a great deal of planning.

The information pack was emailed to parent/carers in July 2023 and will again be sent out by email on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Further information will be available at the Year 10 Information Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Placements are quite limited this year so I would ask students to make every effort to find their own placement early. If you have been offered a placement but still need confirmation or for the employer to complete the form please chase them up

The Programme is designed to give young people a better insight into the world of work and to acquaint them with the key skills necessary to succeed in adult working life. Therefore, the placement may not be directly linked with your child's career ideas. Taking part in the Programme is an excellent opportunity for your child to learn and develop many transferable skills that will benefit them in the future. The summer break is an excellent time to think about the type of work placement your child would like and to take the first steps to securing a suitable placement.

Please can I remind you that all completed forms must be handed in to the WEX co-ordinator by **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. Please note that Bromley Education Business Partnership that support our Work Experience scheme imposes this deadline to allow enough time for each placement to be visited to ensure that everything is in place regarding health & safety and required insurances.

## Save the date! Annual Careers Forum Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024



We will be holding our Annual Careers Forum on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 4.30pm until 7.00pm. We would like to see as many students attend as we expect this evening to be interesting and informative with many representatives attending, further details will be available nearer the date.

More information on Careers and Work Experience, including the school Careers Policy, is available on the school website under Policies and Curriculum.

## Community Links



### London Police Race Action Plan - 2023



Superintendent Jai Singh who is senior management for London Race Action Plan with Neelam, Hafsah and Abigail.

As a school we were extremely lucky to be invited to participate in a Race Action Plan meeting at New Scotland Yard. London Race Action Plan is a national plan for all police forces to work on strands to improve better relations with BAME communities internally & externally. Subjects covered will be questions put out as what good engagement between police & BAME community looks like, experiences, disproportionality, communication & youth engagement, stop & search & police training & cultural awareness.

Foreword from the Commissioner:

***“The London Race Action Plan is the MPS response to the National Police Race Action Plan which was launched in 2022. Policing has had a difficult history in its relationships with Black Communities, and we have much to do to secure the confidence of Black people, including our own staff. Our vision is to have a policing service that is anti-discriminatory, and through the effective delivery of the Race Action Plan become anti-racist and trusted by Black people. The MPS maintains a commitment to work with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime in delivering key aspects of the Mayors Action Plan which focuses upon***

***the Black Community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you in advance for volunteering with the London Race Action Plan”.***

Our students were able to put forward their ideas and input during the meeting which was gratefully appreciated and will hopefully be used to establish better policing outcomes for BAME communities.

**Mrs Smith  
Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator**

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## **Student Achievement**

### **Year 10 Girls Football Team**

On Wednesday 20th September, the Blackfen School for Girls Year 10 Football Team had a Cup match against Dartford Grammar Girls School which they won 2-0.

Both goals were scored by Chloe in P1.



All the students were brilliant. Well done!

**Mr R Momodu  
SL for PE**

Photos from the **Year 7 'Paint a Paving Slab' competition** that was held last Friday during lunch. The winners are:  
Bronze, 5 reward points - Hannah W, P8. Beautiful flowery vines, very colourful.  
Silver, 10 reward points - Isabella H, R7. A very original beach scene.  
Gold, 15 reward points - Arwen J, G7. Bee happy, colourful and well composed, this encompassed the ethos of the event.



Well done to all students.

**Miss Rehling**  
**Head of Year 7**

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## Student Council

We are excited to inform you that Blackfen's student council is accepting applicants! Our student council is able to provide decisions and ideas for the school to help make the area a better environment and providing advice for anyone in need.

We have hosted cultural days, pushed for a (functional) prayer space, recently created an LGBTQ safe space and occasionally visit another school providing thoughts and ideas on how to make Bexley's streets safer.

We accept applicants from Yr8-13 as we believe year sevens are still trying to work their way around the school however, we accept new people every year! In form trays there will be some particular roles listed that students may want to apply for, for example the welfare rep.

The form will be coming out soon on year group teams page and we hope to see students signing up!

**Grace R4**  
**Blackfen student council**



Over in the Technology block students have been busy building their food & nutrition knowledge, cooking an array of yummy dishes. **Year 7** have been getting to grips with the routines of a practical food room whilst making fruit salad, pin wheels & chicken nuggets. **Year 8** have been extending their knowledge when making fried rice & carrot cakes which have smelt delicious. Whereas **year 9** are embracing their new double lessons, having more time to be able to really challenge themselves, cooking an array of more complex dishes including dough making to form pizza scrolls & pastry, to make Jamaican patties.



You may have also noticed we've started a makeover of our Technology space, modernising the learning environment to help inspire the students and showcase their excellent work.



Also, our new **DICE clubs** are underway, we have on offer a Food club with Mrs Stoddart, a Textiles club with Ms Knight & a Crochet club with Miss Kowalik, all on a Thursday from 3:10-4:10pm. Please speak to each teacher to sign up.

Congratulations to all the students who helped make our open evening event even more special, with our student chefs cooking up a storm, with pizza scrolls and cookies on offer to sample.

Outside of lesson time, we have **2 competitions** for students to enter. The Halloween cupcake bake & the Pumpkin Carving competition, we are excited to see this years' entries!



More information on the year group teams pages.

**HALLOWEEN CUP CAKE COMPETITION**

**DEADLINE: October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023**

**Rules:**  
Using one of the recipes on teams (or one of your own), make a batch of cupcakes and decorate them in a spooky fashion!  
Minimum 3 cupcakes decorated

Take a photo and submit to Miss Kowalik at [ako@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:ako@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
If you are PP and wish to enter, please see Miss Kowalik in F2 asap!

**PUMPKIN CARVING Contest**

**DEADLINE: November 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

Carve or paint a pumpkin and submit a photo!  
Best Design wins!

Take a photo and submit to Miss Kowalik at [ako@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:ako@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)

Winners to be announced  
Monday November 6th

COMING SOON.....

Watch this space for the new Design Technology Instagram page



**Ms Knight**  
**Subject Leader, Design Technology**

## Anti-Slavery Day

To mark 2023 Anti-Slavery Day, the London Borough of Bexley is holding a one-hour virtual event that will support with raising awareness around Child Exploitation and Modern Slavery. This event is for parents and carers with the goal of increasing our knowledge and increasing confidence around spotting the signs and where to access support in Bexley.

Wednesday 18th October 7pm – 8pm

Please register your interest please email [EIS@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:EIS@bexley.gov.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events scheduled so far this term

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Staff Safeguarding Training – students leave school at 12.45pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Year 11 visit to Supreme Court (Citizenship)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Open Morning
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Black History Month event
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Jack Petchey Speak Out event
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023	Challenge Day 1
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Staff Inset Day – students not in school
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening Ski Trip Information Evening
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	End of Term – early finish
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Spring Term starts