



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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10th November 2017

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Some of our Year 10 students who were offered Additional work experience placements

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that the half term break provided an opportunity for all our young people to recharge their batteries ready for the half term ahead.

A group of year 11 and year 10 students are in Rome this week for a residential trip led by Mrs Doyle. Students are learning a great deal in a very short space of time as they immerse themselves fully in a cultural experience. Such opportunities seek to enrich our young people and help them to become global citizens. Later in the term a group of year 10 students will be immersing themselves in American culture as they visit New York on a Mathematics trip. My thanks to all staff involved in leading and running these trips and providing such opportunities for our young people.

Our year 11 Citizenship students, under the leadership of the staff in that area, led a fantastic Citizenship fair last week. The mayor was in attendance for the evening with students running information stalls on their chosen "issue". There were many issues covered by the students who had carried out a great deal of research. Several groups made presentations to the audience and there

were also some visiting speakers. Finally, there was a narrow staff win in the “Are you smarter than a Blackfen student?” quiz. Well done to everyone involved.

The first challenge day took place on Friday and this included two trips to London (years 7 and 8). Year 9 gave a gospel choir performance to Sherwood Park school and year 10 were involved in a crime and justice day. In year 11 students immersed themselves in English all day while year 12 were preparing for options post 18. Year 13 were doing a revision day. Thank you to all staff involved in leading these events and opportunities.

Next week is anti-bullying week although we are looking at this during this week. The national theme of this for 2017 is “All different all equal”. The aim of the week is to help children and young people celebrate what makes them, and others, unique and help them understand why it’s important that every child feels included in school able to be themselves without fear of bullying. Mr Loughlin (Red Student Support Officer) is leading our anti-bullying assemblies. The school sees this as a fundamental part of our work to educate our young people. The message is clear – anti-bullying is everyone’s responsibility and this message is also clear in our anti-bullying statement. My thanks to Mr Loughlin for his work.

School nurse

You may or may not be aware that for some time we have not had a school nurse provision at the school. This has been due to commissioning arrangements. I would therefore like to draw your attention to a new public health service for young people in Bexley which was launched in June of this year. It is provided by Bromley healthcare working with the NHS. As part of this there is a new website which young people and parents/carers can use to access information and “live chat” with healthcare professionals. The website can be found at www.healtheme.co.uk. There is a great deal of useful and relevant information on this website. Students in year 11 will receive more information during the coming term as year 11 students across the borough are one of the target groups.

Election of parent governors. Please see the attached letter regarding the vacancy for parent governors and further information on this very important role in the school.

Staffing news

Congratulations to Mrs Dubbey on the birth of her son and to Mr Ahmed on the birth of his son.

We wish Mrs Daniels and Mrs Donovan all the best as they shortly begin their respective maternity leaves. We look forward to hearing their news.

We welcome Mr Best to the school as teacher of mathematics. Ms D’Cruz and Ms Iyela are welcomed as teachers of PPE. Miss Cleary joins us as a receptionist.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Year 7 Maths visit to the Winton Gallery at the Science Museum

Friday 3rd November 2017 – Challenge day

On Friday 3rd November, Year 7 went to the Science Museum in Central London. One of the places we visited was The Wonderlab, where we learnt a lot of things about numbers, including roman numerals and prime numbers.

One of the activities was to free Mrs Prins by using prime number calculations, volunteers in the audience had to answer the questions in thirty seconds to help free her! It was so much fun, and we managed to free Miss in the end.

Also in the Wonderlab we watched how a fire could be made by using a dish that was in the shape of a Parabola and a light.

We then went through to the Winton Gallery and we saw the 1st National lottery machine and one of the first calculators, we also learnt how Maths is used in medicine, travel and money.

Written by Poppy Wood, Year 7, Red 8

Year 8 Trip to the Tower of London

Friday 3rd November 2017 – Challenge day

On Friday 3rd November, year 8 students went on a School trip to the Tower of London. We travelled by coach and then had a short walk over to the Tower which looked more like a castle. Our group leader handed us each one silver wristband which was our ticket to get in the Tower and whilst walking, we looked at some sort of pit. Later on we found out that this pit was where the monarchy used to execute people. Once we were inside, we were handed a booklet to fill in while we went around the castle.



First of all, we visited the White Tower, the oldest part of the Tower of London, showing off some very old looking armour. While we were looking at it, we filled in a page of our booklets. The armour seemed to be that of the kings who used to live a very long time ago (such as King Henry VIII). We then walked through a small corridor to one of the old monarch's rooms.

The thing we were all waiting for was to see the Crown Jewels. They were all stunning. We had to keep moving on a conveyor belt past the Crown Jewels. My favourite part was seeing all the crowns for the different monarchs.

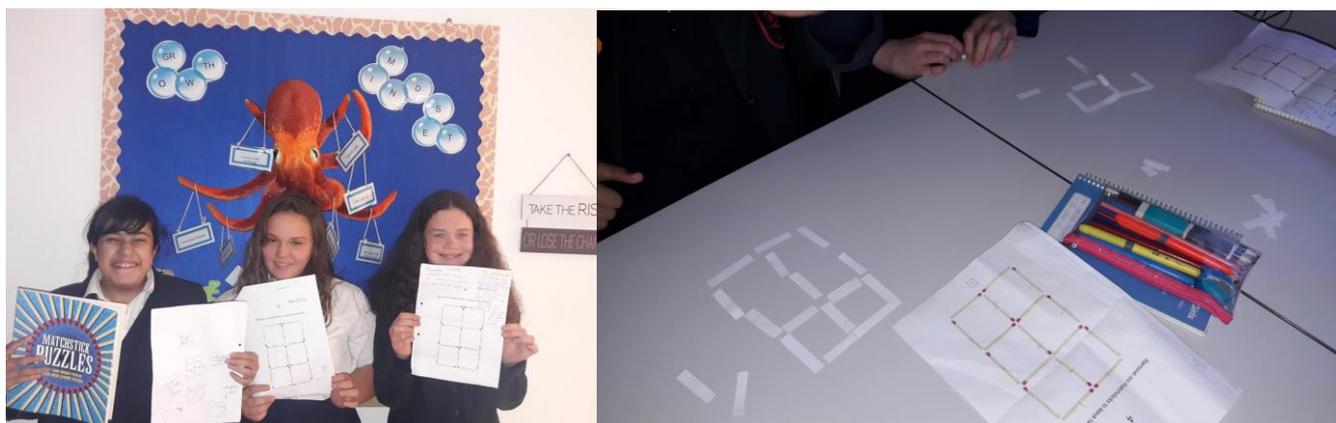
After visiting a few more of the rooms we went to eat lunch. Once we were all finished, we headed to the gift shop where we were given the opportunity to buy gifts for ourselves and our family.

Overall I found the trip a fun and exciting experience. It took a few hours to walk around all of it; but it was way more fun than your average history lesson!

Written by Sophia Gainsford, Year 8, Yellow 9

JIGSAW News

Our Year 10 JIGSAW students have been working well recently and challenged themselves to 'take a risk' and complete some high level challenges. Their perseverance and problem solving skills were impressive and our students enjoyed exercising different parts of their brain and learning from mistakes.



If you'd like to challenge yourself, come down to Room 81 in the OASIS at break or lunch and have a go!

Miss Taylor, JIGSAW

Rewards@

Our first half term has been extremely successful in students receiving achievement points for all kinds of reasons; improving a piece of work, consistent outstanding effort, positive behaviour, high levels of engagement or even acts of kindness. Last half term 9700 points were awarded to students

by members of staff; once behaviour points have been deducted, students are informed of how many reward points they have. Last week students received their stickers and awards from their form tutors with their tally so far.

This term 179 students were awarded a rewards pen (15 or more reward points) and six students were awarded a rewards pen and pencil (30 rewards points or more). So well done to all those students for their hard work. The student's names have been displayed on the REWARDS @ noticeboard.

The top tutor group in each community has been treated to a Pizza lunch last Tuesday with their form tutor. The winning tutor groups are: **B2**, **G4**, **P9**, **R5** and **Y8**.

The points accumulated for communities so far are as follows:

Blue	1244
Green	1471
Purple	902
Red	1246
Yellow	1396

We still have five more half terms for students to be rewarded so the points tally will change at the end of each half term. I look forward to awarding the next batch of rewards after Christmas and to see who is on the leader board.

Miss Wilson, Rewards Co-ordinator

Uniform Reminder

Year 7 students are only permitted to wear black or navy blue outerwear. School outerwear should consist of a plain navy or black coat jacket, raincoat, anorak, cagoule, or duffle coat. Coats of other colours will no longer be permitted.

For students in years 8-11, if you need to purchase a new school coat for your daughter this autumn please may we urge you to adhere to this policy.

Miss Hoad, Assistant Head teacher, Behaviour & Raising Attainment

Treating head lice

Head lice can usually be effectively treated with lotions or sprays designed to kill head lice, or by wet combing, using a specially designed head lice comb.

Wet combing can be used without lotions or sprays, but it needs to be done regularly and can take a long time to do thoroughly.

Lotions or sprays can be used as an alternative. However, to be totally effective they need to be applied correctly and thoroughly. Your pharmacist will be able to recommend an over-the-counter lotion or spray and give you advice about how to use it correctly.

Many thanks.

Student Welfare team

Alumni

We now have an 'alumni' for all former sixth form students and staff, on the school website. (An 'Alumni' is a where past students and staff can reflect on their time at the school and inform us of what they are doing now).

Please have a look at our alumni page under the sixth form tab.

We welcome and are excited for more additions, there is a simple online form to complete which can be found on the alumni page.

Ms K Drewer, Sixth form transitional co-ordinator & Teacher of childcare, public services and work skills

Careers Information

Year 11 Careers Interviews

As part of the Year 11 careers provision all Year 11 students will be invited to attend a 1-2-1 interview with Jody Phillips our Careers Advisor from Prospects Services.

These informal interviews will take place throughout October continuing until next year. It will be very beneficial for your daughter to attend her interview as it will give her the opportunity to discuss her future career options thus enabling her to make the right choices.

Year 10 Work Experience 2nd – 13th July 2018

All Parents/Guardians should now have received a work experience pack with full details of the work experience programme. Full details were emailed home last June and also a copy has been sent home via your daughter in September. If you have not received a pack, please ask your daughter to come to Room 106 to collect another copy.

I will be visiting every student in Year 10 to speak to them about what type of placement they are interested in or are looking for. Some work experience placements are extremely competitive so to be successful you need to begin your search early. The longer students leave it, the less chance they will have of finding a suitable placement.

If any student is having difficulty gaining a placement I am available to help Tuesdays – Thursdays in Room 106. I will also be present at the Year 10 Parents Evening on Thursday 23rd November if any parent/guardian wishes to see me, no appointment is necessary.

Good luck on your search I look forward to receiving your completed placement forms!

Key dates-:

Deadline for finding placements

Friday 9th February 2018

Work Experience Period

Monday 2nd – Friday 13th July 2018

Mrs Smith, Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

Year 10 Additional October Work Experience

The school is part of a European Social Fund Project called Career Cluster, which gave us the opportunity to offer additional work placements through an organisation called Youth Talent. The placements were entirely voluntary and completely free to Year 10 students.

Over the October half term seven of our Year 10 students participated in additional work experience. The placements were varied and included banking, engineering, theatre, law, estate agency and hairdressing.

The placements were a great success with students a credit to themselves and to the School. Employer feedback included 'completed everything we asked to a high standard'; 'really keen to learn' and 'we hope she enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having her here'.

Student feedback included:

'During October half term I attended a week of work experience. I found it very beneficial as it helped me to gain new skills and help to decide what area of work I want to pursue'

'I attended additional work experience at Barclays Bank, London Bridge. Whilst there I participated in a variety of tasks, such as customer service and experienced what it would be like in the counting house. Overall I think it has benefitted me as I have gained more confidence in myself'

The students who participated were **Catherine Davies Y6, Ogheneruru Erhawah Y9, Libby Hamilton B3, Mia Hasemore P7, Michelle Olalekan P3, Natasha Windibank R7 and Zingyi Zhang G2**. I hope that the students found their Work Experience beneficial and can build upon the skills that they learned when they complete their Year 10 two-week work experience in July.

Congratulations to them all!

Calendar of Events - Autumn Term 2017

Details of Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Tuesday 14 th November 2017	Jack Petchey Event
Wednesday 15 th November 2017	Year 12 Greenwich University of Trip
Thursday 16 th November 2017	Year 13 Parents Evening
Friday 17 th November 2017	Year 7 Concert starts at 5.00pm
Thursday 23 rd November 2017	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 24 th November 2017	Year 12/13 Skills of London Trip
Sunday 3 rd – Friday 8 th December 2017	Year 10 New York Trip
Tuesday 12 th December 2017	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 20 th December 2017	Last day of Term - School finishes at 12.50pm
21st to 29th December 2017	Christmas Holidays
Monday 1st January 2018	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Spring Term starts
Weeks beginning 8 th & 15 th January 2018	Year 9 Exam fortnight
Wednesday 10 th January 2018	Year 11 Results Assembly
Thursday 11 th January 2018	Year 11 Parents Evening
Friday 12 th January 2018	Year 11 Sixth Form Subject Selection appointments
Thursday 18 th January 2018	Year 11/13 Lyric Theatre Trip
Thursday 25 th January 2018	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 29 th January 2018	Year 9 DTP & Meningitis immunisation
Tuesday 30th January 2018	Challenge Day
Thursday 1 st February 2018	Year 9 Options Assembly
Friday 2 nd – Monday 12 th February 2018	School Trip to India
Thursday 8 th February 2018	Year 9 Options Evening Sessions - 5.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2018	Half Term
Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd February 2018	Year 11 Geography Trip
Thursday 22 nd February 2018	Year 9 Parents Evening Green, Blue and Red
Tuesday 27 th February 2018	Extended Staff Briefing – school starts at 8.45am
Wednesday 28 th February 2018	Sixth Form University Information Evening
Thursday 1 st March 2018	Year 9 Parents Evening Yellow and Purple
Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th March 2018	KS3 & KS4 Madrid Trip (Music Depart)
Tuesday 6 th March 2018	Careers Forum
Monday 12th March 2018	Challenge Day

Tuesday 13 th March 2018	Year 12 Geography Trip
Wednesday 14 th March 2018	Year 9 Subject Selection Interviews Year 12 Government & Politics Revision Day
Thursday 15 th March 2018	Voice in a Million trip to Wembley Arena Year 11 PFS afternoon
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd March 2018	Achievement Assemblies
Wednesday 21 st & Wednesday 22 nd March 2018	Year 10 Geography Trips
Wednesday 21 st March 2018	Easter Concert
Saturday 24 th – Saturday 31 st March 2018	Year 8 & 9 Ski Trip
Monday 2nd – Friday 13th April 2018	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 24 th April 2018	Extended Staff Briefing - school starts at 8.45am
Thursday 26 th April 2018	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 27 th – Monday 30 th April 2018	Duke of Edinburgh weekend (practice)
Monday 30 th April 2018	Year 8 HPV Immunisation
Thursday 3 rd May 2018	Year 8 Parents Evening
Monday 7th May 2018	Bank Holiday
Friday 18 th – Monday 21 st May 2018	Duke of Edinburgh Weekend
Monday 21 st May 2018	Year 8 & 9 Immunisation catch up session
Wednesday 23 rd May 2018	Sixth Form Oscars
Friday 25 th May 2018	Sixth Form Leavers Assembly
Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018	Half Term
Tuesday 5 th June 2018	Extended Staff Briefing – school starts at 8.45am
WB 11 th June 2018	Year 10 PPE week
Thursday 14 th June 2018	Sports Awards Evening
Wednesday 20 th June 2018	Summer Festival
Monday 26 th & Tuesday 27 th June 2018	Art Exhibition
Thursday 28th June 2018	Challenge Day
Thursday 28 th – Friday 29 th June 2018	Year 12 Eastbourne Trip
Friday 29 th June 2018	Year 12 Induction Day/Year 11 Celebration
Monday 2 nd – Friday 13 th July 2018	Year 10 Work Experience fortnight
Monday 2 nd July 2018	Green Community Certificate Presentation
Tuesday 3 rd July 2018	Year 6 Induction day and Year 6 Parents Evening
Wednesday 4 th July 2018	Red Community Certificate Presentation
Thursday 5 th July 2018	Yellow Community Certificate Presentation
Friday 6 th July 2018	Purple Community Certificate Presentation
Monday 9 th July 2018	Blue Community Certificate Presentation
Tuesday 10th July 2018	Sports Day

<i>Wednesday 11th July 2018</i>	<i>Discover Day 1</i>
<i>Thursday 12th July 2018</i>	<i>Discover Day 2</i>
Friday 13 th July 2018	Last Day of Term – <i>school finishes at 12.50pm</i>