



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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12th January 2018

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

A happy new year to you all. I hope that you had a good Christmas and new year. It was good to see students returning to school last Tuesday ready to face the challenges ahead in 2018. The focus of the first assemblies of the term has been on doing something new or doing something differently this year. In everything that we do we should have PRIDE – being positive, showing resilience, being introspective, having determination and putting in maximum effort. The start of the new year gives an opportunity for reflection but also enables us to make a “fresh start”. We expect our young people to have pride in what they do, have pride in how they behave, have pride in who they are and have pride in their community.

This week we held our parents' evening for year 11 students and parents. This follows the publication of PPE results on Wednesday during a special assembly. Students were reminded about the journey which they are on and how they are preparing for “take off” in August when the final results are

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published. Staff, students, parents and Governors are working hard together to ensure the best possible outcomes in the summer. The idea of “first choice” destinations for our students was further emphasised in individual discussions for all year 11 students about their year 12 courses at the school. We look forward to continuing to work with our students to ensure they get their “first choice” in August. I would like to thank all parents/carers for their support.

Likewise year 13 PPE results will be published soon and these will provide students with a strong idea of what they need to do to further improve to make sure that they too have first choice destinations. The PPEs are to help students to prepare for the final examinations. Preparation, practice and perseverance are fundamental to the success of all young people.

Staffing news

Congratulations to Ms Donovan on the birth of her baby boy over Christmas.

We welcome Ms Cresti to the school as teacher of Spanish, Mr Logue as teacher of PPE and Mr Kehinde as teacher of mathematics.

We also welcome Ms Webber as teaching assistant.

Adverse weather (short term closure) procedure

The adverse weather procedure has been replaced by the short term closure procedure. A letter was sent home to inform you where to find information in the unlikely event that we have to close the school. The full short term closure procedure is on the website. Please ensure that you are familiar with this.

As last year, to ensure that all staff are updated on policies, procedures, current thinking and future planning we will be holding half termly staff meetings. The dates for these are Tuesday 27th February and Tuesday 24th April. On these dates, students should be in school by 8.40am for lesson 1 to begin at 8.45am.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors' Message

Happy New Year to you all.

With Christmas behind us the Governors have been involved in the induction of two new parent governors Louise Twiner and Danielle Moore, voted for by yourselves. Both have children in Year 7 We welcome them.

We also had an opening for an appointed governor and this position is being taken up by Laura Ashdown, who also has a daughter at the school. Each new governor has different skills to offer Blackfen and we look forward to working with them. Although the positions are voluntary they carry no less responsibility than that of a paid job. We ask all governors to give as much time as they can and appreciate them giving up their time for the good of Blackfen and its staff and pupils.

The government has increased the role and responsibility of the governor over the years and therefore the need to find dedicated new governors is essential for a rounded Governing Body.

Carol Townsend, Joint Vice-Chair of Governors

Attendance

The school attendance target is 96%. In the event that your daughter is unable to attend school please contact student absence on the school number. It is vital that parents contact us every day for the duration of the illness unless long term absence is apparent. Medical evidence will need to be provided if your daughter is absent for 5 days or more.

If your daughter's attendance falls below 95% you will receive communication from the school advising you of this. A second communication will be sent out if her attendance continues to drop and medical evidence will be required for any further absence; alternatively, you may receive an invitation from the School Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) to discuss any attendance issues and support that can be offered. If you are at all concerned about her attendance please contact your daughter's SSO or the EWO directly, Mandy James, South Eastern Attendance Advisory Service. mandyjames@seaas.co.uk

Nicola Hoad, Assistant Headteacher

Medication

Please may we remind parents that as per the school's Medical Policy, students should not be carrying any medication on their person in school unless it is for a life threatening illness such as diabetes, epilepsy, seizures, asthma etc. Medication should be given in to the school office for safe keeping and administering.

Medication cannot be administered to students without written permission from parents/carers. This includes paracetamol and ibuprofen as well as prescribed medication. A copy of the permission slip is available from reception or the school office when required. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

School Office



During the last week of term in December all KS3 and KS4 students were notified of the rewards points tally so far. 13810 reward points had been issued since September, students were rewarded for many reasons including going the extra mile, 100% attendance or having a growth mind-set to learning. If a student reached a threshold then they were awarded with an item depending on the number of points gained. Last term over 580 students were awarded either a pen, a pencil, a goody bag or an early entry to the canteen, in fact some student received all four. Congratulations to the following student 11 students who have the most points last term:

Greenslade	Jessica	B2	63	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Georgiladakis	Daniella	R5	63	KS4 Goody bag, post card, pencil,
Catlow	Megan	B2	57	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Dawson	Mia	Y8	54	Goody bag, post card, 1 week early entry to canteen
Siegel	Heidi	B6	54	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Juniper - Smith	Isabella	G1	52	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Kpeglo	Elysa	Y8	52	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Uddin	Amara	Y8	52	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Woodage	Libby	G7	51	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Hobbs	Mia	Y6	51	Goody bag, post card, pencil, 1 week early entry to canteen
Zhang	Jingyi	G2	51	KS4 Goody bag, post card, pencil,

The winning forms who will receive a pizza lunch with their form tutor in the forthcoming weeks are:

B2	284
G1	372
P3	265
R4	234
Y6	349

And finally the communities

Blue	2733
Green	3510
Purple	2098
Red	2411
Yellow	3058

Ms Tracey Wilson, Student Support Officer for Green Community

Fine Art – Photography.

Blackfen Year 12 A Level Photographers were challenged with an independent project at the end of term one. The students were given a specific brief, with a tight turnaround deadline of two weeks; to produce a piece of work for their first exhibition.

The students were inspired by the artist and photographer Brian Heart whose work is based on drawing with the camera. This work was produced using specific functions of the camera; long shutter speed and drawing with a light source.

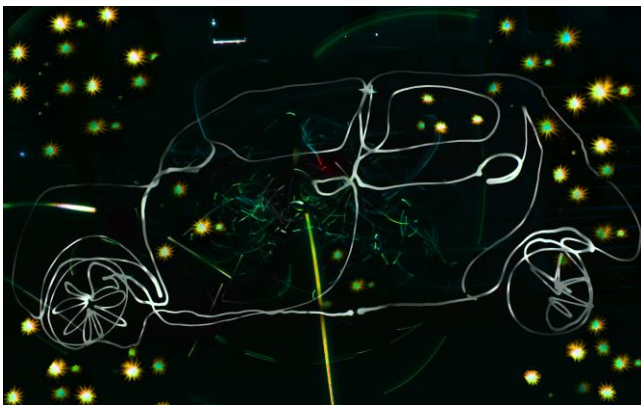
With the theme of the human form, our students created outstanding creative personal pieces.



Photographers:

- Chloe Bartolo
- Louise Colson
- Caitlin Grimes
- Ellie Halpin
- Simran Kallar
- Aidan Leslie
- Jessica Munns
- Alisha Pearce
- Amelia Phillips
- Georgia Ross
- Zoe Sargent
- Millie Stannett

The image below was chosen for the school Christmas card by Georgia Ross



Some students focused on the absence of the human form, whilst others drew attention to physiological - spiritual and spatial concepts.

The photography exhibition is now open to the public and can be viewed in the school reception corridor.

Taught by Miss Constant and Miss Davies



Calendar of Events – Spring/Summer Terms 2018

Details of Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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 30 th 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 – <i>school starts at 8.45am</i>
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 Dept)
Tuesday 6 th March 2018	Careers Forum
Monday 12 th 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 - <i>school starts at 8.45am</i>
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 – <i>school starts at 8.45am</i>
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 28 th 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 10 th July 2018	Sports Day
Wednesday 11 th July 2018	Discover Day 1
Thursday 12 th July 2018	Discover Day 2
Friday 13 th July 2018	Last Day of Term – <i>school finishes at 12.50pm</i>