



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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9th February 2018

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Blackfen School KS3 Dance Team

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Having written about the gloominess of January in my last Newsletter I am delighted to say that, as I pen this newsletter, there is blue sky and the school is bathed in glorious bright sunshine. Although it is still cold, spring is only just around the corner.

A very successful Challenge Day was held last week. Across all the year groups students were engaged in a range of activities – from a growth mindset day for year 7, to a day focusing on the

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extended project in the 6th form to the year 11 immersal day in mathematics and science. A big thank you to all staff who led these activities.

Congratulations to our Dance group who were recently successful, as they were last year, in the competition organised by London Youth Games. They will now be representing Bexley at the finals on 13 March in London. Well done to Ms Sunderland and to all the students involved.

Thank you to all those who attended the year 9 subject selection evening on Thursday. This followed the recent assembly for year 9 students where they were introduced to the subject selection process. There was a very good turn out by parents/carers and students as our young people prepare for this key transition point. The careers forum takes place on Tuesday 6 March 2018. This is an important event in the life of the school and is a not to be missed opportunity for parents and students.

Staffing news

We have welcomed Ms Hinxman back to school as teacher of geography. We wish Mr Loughlin all the best as he gets married on Saturday.

A letter is being sent home with this Newsletter regarding the time that the school is open for students in the mornings. Students must not be in school before 7.30 in the morning.

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 8.40 for lesson 1 to begin at 8.45.

We return to school at the normal time on Monday 19 February 2018. It will be week B when we return to school.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Update from the Data Office:

Year 9 Parents: Please be advised that your daughter's Year 9 examination results have been issued to her, this week, via Form Tutors. Please contact the School Office if you have not received this information.

News from the Geography Department

This year at KS3 students are completing a new curriculum. This curriculum has a focus on skills, graphical and mapping and knowledge, human and physical. The department is currently undergoing the transition to a new assessment policy. This policy aims to ensure that students are better prepared to tackle the new specifications at GCSE. Over the last few months there has been an increasing focus on teaching students the knowledge and skills to be able to write good Geographical answers. We await the Year 7 and 8 exams to see if students are taking this on board.

At KS4 Year 11 students are readying themselves for the summer examinations and teachers are setting students weekly exam questions to monitor and improve their ability to answer more challenging questions. The students are also eagerly awaiting the year 11 fieldwork on 21st and 22nd February where we will be completing field work to evaluate the effectiveness of regeneration schemes in Sidcup. In year 10 the River Darent trip is due to happen in March and students will be required to complete data collection to measure the changes in this river from source to mouth and whether it agrees with the Bradshaw Model.

At KS5 Year 13 students are currently working hard to complete their independent studies on a geographical issue of their choosing. They will then be completing the course in time for a Year 13 PPE in March. Year 12 are currently studying coasts and tectonics. These students have completed field work in the East End and will be taking part in a residential trip in June to collect field work data on the south coast. They will then decide on an issue that they wish to investigate further.

Mr R Shaw, Subject Leader for Geography

Challenge day

Year 8 Challenge Day – Careers

The Year 8 Challenge day was designed to increase students' knowledge and awareness of various career sectors. As part of the careers guidance and education programme we provide here at Blackfen, students were given access to 'Kudos' which is an accessible online careers programme to enable them to make informed decisions about their future. All students were provided with login details which will enable them to use the programme from home and also to involve parents. This was followed by a STEM activity from external providers Thames Water, EDT and Jeremy King, IKEA Challenge. The day provided an informative and engaging experience for students which will prove useful in assisting them with their future career paths and choices.

Mrs Smith, Work Experience and Business/Community Links Coordinator

The Thames Water Challenge

We were put into teams and were challenged to build a water pipe system within a budget of £12,000. Just like real life I had to figure out how many pipes, the cost of them altogether and how much it would cost to go through certain areas.

We then built our water pipe system out of pipe and tested it to see out of the 10 teams who could get water to the customers the fastest.



We also learnt about the Thames Tideway Tunnel project which is being built to stop sewage from being dumped into the River Thames and instead stores it in a tunnel until it can be processed.

We concluded the day by taking part in a Careers Interactive Quiz that involved winning chocolate by bidding on a set of answers to questions, all careers related. We thoroughly enjoyed challenge day and has made us think about career choices and what I want to do in the future.

Written by Millie Carter and Francesca Lee, Yr8, P3 & B7

EDT – Rollercoaster Challenge

In the rollercoaster challenge I was paired up in a group. We had to work together as a team to build a rollercoaster which used our physics skills. We had to build it out of the materials we were given including paper which had to be folded. We worked hard as a team to make sure our structure was strong enough. Overall it was a fun challenge day!

Written by Lucy Smith, Yr8, Y3



As part of a Careers Challenge Day, Year 8 were set different challenges by visitors from Thames Water, EDT and Ikea. Working in small teams, we had to build a rollercoaster using straws, paper and tape. We used our skills of team work and listening to others, and made sure we didn't give up because mistakes are part of learning! It was a brilliant day and I'm looking forward to learning more about careers in Year 9. Thank you Mrs Smith for organising our day.

Written by Zara Cook Yr8, P3

Ikea Challenge

In the IKEA challenge we worked together as a group to build a design of our choice. We were given newspaper and we learned how to make paper sticks using a STIXX machine. My role was the project manager within my group. At the end we had to prepare a two-minute presentation on why our design was the best.

Written by Callie Hewett, Yr8, B8



Year 10

The year 10 challenge day focused on financial Capability and was one of the most interesting challenge days we have had as it was relevant to our future. The day showed us that we need to work hard so that we can work towards having a good job and home. The house price session really shocked most students as no one realised how expensive the houses are in Bexley and how to fill out a mortgage tool online. The payslip session we learnt how to interpret payslips which is a vital tool when we get our first jobs. The trade session introduced us to how trade works and how different countries have different resources and spending power.

In the final session we found out what our attitude to money was like and if we were a spender or saver. Overall we enjoyed this challenge day.

Abigail Gainsford, Ceyda Karadal and Grace Bastin year 10 students.

Dance Success

On Wednesday 24th January Blackfen Upper and Lower Dance Companies took part in a competition at St Catherine's School in Bexleyheath. The competition was part of the London Youth Games organisation and the winners would go onto represent the Borough of Bexley at the finals at the Copper Box Arena in London.

The KS4 mixed team achieved 2nd place being pipped to the post by Haberdashers Aske's Academy, Crayford, however, the KS3 team fought off competition to win the competition. This is the second year in a row for Blackfen School for Girls and we are hoping to do just as well at the finals. The final takes

place on Tuesday 13th March where the team will be competing against another 20 boroughs from across London. Congratulations to you all and we wish the girls luck with their upcoming competition.



Ms Sunderland, Subject Leader of Dance and Drama

Graduation Book

The Year 11 Graduation Book is being produced in-house this year and students have been requested to submit their entries. The deadline has been extended to Friday 23rd February which will give students all of half term and more to compose their entry.

Please encourage your daughter to complete and save her entry in Studentshared/Graduation Book then in the appropriate folder for her form group. Each entry should be half an A4 sheet containing a few photos and words.

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

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Calendar of Events – Spring/Summer Terms 2018

Details of Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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 1-4
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, Purple and Red 5-9
Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th March 2018	KS3 & KS4 Madrid Trip (Music Dept)
Tuesday 6 th March 2018	Careers Forum 4.30pm – 7.00pm
<i>Monday 12th March 2018</i>	<i>Challenge Day</i>
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 (Students only)
Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 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
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Last day of Term School finishes at 12.50pm
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 4.30pm – 7.00pm
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 4.30pm – 7.00pm
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
<i>Thursday 28th June 2018</i>	<i>Challenge Day</i>
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>