



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



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25th May 2018

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank all parents who attended the recent Blackfen speaks event. This event, which was also attended by Governors and senior staff, provides an opportunity for reflection. The feedback from parents/carers will be taken into account as we write our raising attainment plan for 2018-2019 and beyond.

Well done to all year 10 students who took part in the very successful Duke of Edinburgh Bronze final expedition last weekend. Thank you to all the staff who supported our young people under Miss Langham's leadership.

We also gave our year 13 students a send-off on Wednesday during our Oscars evening. My thanks to Mrs Eiffert, Miss Brewer and Miss Purbrick for all their work in leading this event. We wish our year 13 students, many of whom have been at Blackfen for seven years, all the best in the future.

Prior to the Oscars event we held a Gala dinner at the end of the student-parent cookery course. A delicious three course meal was served to staff, parents, families and governors who attended. My thanks go to our Chef – Steve – and to Sue and all at Pabulum for their work for this event.

6th form students continue to raise money for CRY. There is a raffle with fabulous prizes. Events during these last 3 weeks of the half term included a lunchtime concert organised by the music students and a smile mile – fun run for year 7. I urge all parents and carers to support this charity. Well done to all those involved in raising money to support the work of the CRY charity.

Staffing news

We welcome Mrs Piercy to the school. She will be working in the school office. We wish Miss Kirk all the best as she starts her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing her good news.

This half term finishes at the normal time on Friday 25 May 2018. We return to school on Monday 4 June 2018 at the normal time. It will be Week B when we return.

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 date for this is Tuesday 5th June and on this date, students should be in school by 8.40 for lesson 1 to begin at 8.45.

I hope that you have a good half term.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors' Message

Once again the School has reached the examination period. Students and staff are now busily occupied with putting the finishing touches to all the hard work which has taken place throughout the year. The Governing Body wish students every success in their endeavours and wish to thank staff, parents and carers for their support during the preparation period. We all look forward to a successful outcome and maintenance of the high standards the school has achieved over recent years.

It has been a busy time for the Governing Body too. The Staffing, Curriculum, Premises and Finance and Audit Committees have all met where full agendas were discussed and actions noted. Faculty link visits have been taking place too and the observations made will be reported to the Full Governing Body when it meets.

Two important upcoming events should be noted. The Year 13 Oscars Evening where we will celebrate outstanding student performance, and the Year 7 Parent and Cookery Course Gala dinner. Both in their different ways will exhibit the diverse and enriching activities which take place within the School together with the commitment of students, staff, parents and carers.

The last half term of the academic year will arrive soon which will give everyone the opportunity to prepare for the final phase of the School year. The Governing Body are confident that once again we will be able to look back on a successful one.

Stuart Fitz-Gerald, Chair of Governors

Health & Social/Child Care News

Our year 12's on the one-year foundation level 2 package, recently attended mock interviews at Bexley Council. The students practiced and prepared for the interviews during their work skills lessons, by looking at job specifications, interview techniques and writing their own CV.

Feedback from the students-:

- Maddie Guyver "having a mock interview is really useful to help prepare for real life, also getting feedback from the interviewer was great as I got to learn exactly what I need improve on and what I did well"
- Charlie Greenway said "it helped me what to say and not to say in a real interview"
- Ryan Netley "a vital asset applying for future jobs"
- Bethany Hedges said "I liked that they gave me feedback at the end of the interview so I know how to improve when I attend a real interview in the future"
- Ross Porritt "I thought the interview was very helpful and gave me a better understanding of what an interview feels like"

Year 12 students studying childcare level 3 have to complete 50 hours of work placement, as part of the qualification. They complete this during year 12 and 13 during their free lessons or after school.

- Amy Shipston said "I do my placement at Old Bexley Primary School and I love supporting the children with their learning and development"

Austin Berry works at David Lloyds and said "building a connection with the children and watching how they work in different areas of development"

Sophie Stone and Molly Beale are both at Sherwood Park Primary School Sophie said “what I have learnt in class has helped me to put into practice at placement” Molly said “working in placement has really helped me with my coursework”.

Ms K Drewer
Teacher of Childcare

Year 11 and Year 13 Public Examinations Update

MORNING AND AFTERNOON PUBLIC EXAMINATION TIMES

All students in Year 11 and Year 13 taking public examinations should note the following arrangements for morning and afternoon start times. There is no late admittance to public examinations:

Morning examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 8.45am

Afternoon examinations: Line up outside examination rooms at 12.45pm

YEAR 11 ARRANGEMENTS

Year 11 students must wear full school uniform to sit all public examinations. **Mobile phones, mobile devices and digital watches must be handed in at the beginning of the examination.** They are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables.

YEAR 11 BREKKIE BOOSTERS

Year 11 students can attend free Brekkie Boosters from 7.00am to 7.30am before GCSE examinations that start at 9.00am. Final booster sessions will run in classrooms from 7.30am – 8.15am. We recommend students taking up this opportunity.

YEAR 11 EARLY LUNCHES

Light lunch items are available to Year 11 students from the ‘Food Cube’ (NOT the canteen) at the early time of 12.20pm to 12.50pm. We strongly recommend Year 11 students to have something to eat and drink before afternoon examinations. Bottled water - with the label removed - is allowed in examination rooms but no other still or fizzy drink.

COLLECTION OF GCSE AND A-LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS

- **A-level examination results** are published on **Thursday 16th August 2018** and will be available for collection in the Sixth Form Learning Zone **from 9.00am – 10.00am, only.** Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. It is not possible for students to collect results on behalf of their friends.
- **GCSE examination results** are published on **Thursday 23rd August 2018** and will be available for collection in the Sports Hall from **9.00am to 11.00am, only.** Results that are

not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents are warmly invited to join students in the Sports Hall for this important occasion and may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.

- Year 11 students who have been offered a place in Blackfen School's Sixth Form **must confirm, in person, that they will be taking up their place at our Sixth Form between 9am and 12 noon on Thursday 23rd August 2018**. Enrolment will take place following a meeting with a member of Sixth Form staff to review the GCSE results achieved.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Alldis or Miss O'Connor (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations.

Update from STEAM Club!

We are delighted that we have our first resident blue tit in one of our new bird boxes that the club made last term!

The students explored the pond to research the newts recently and they appear to be thriving. In addition, we have begun to build a bug hotel with the use of wood pallets, leaves and sticks.

Any donations of gardening equipment, compost and plants to begin our horticultural area this summer term would be very much appreciated. Thank you to those who have already donated.



CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)

As you are aware we are trying to raise funds for our CRY (cardiac risk in the young) screening day on the 30th June. Please help us to raise money by buying raffle tickets (£1 a strip). Please see the poster for details of the amazing prizes on offer. Many local businesses and individuals have kindly donated the prizes so please support us by buying tickets. The tickets are available in the Sixth Form office, at main school reception and during CT where Sixth Form students will be visiting tutor groups, the draw will take place on Monday 9th July.

In addition, if you would like to make a donation, you can do this through:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AnthonyJamesFitzgerald (if you do this, please write 'Blackfen Sixth Form' in the message box).

Thank you in advance.

Miss Brewer, Assistant Head teacher, Head of Sixth Form

Bexley Literacy Award

During this academic year Blackfen School for Girls entered 7 students for the inaugural Bexley Literacy Award funded by the Freemasons of West Kent. Students had to read one of three books, 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen, 'Jessica's Ghost' by Andrew Norriss and 'Wonder' by R J Palacio and then write a response. The entries could be prose or poetry and had to include how the story made them feel and how it might have affected or changed their opinions or attitudes to others.

We were very pleased that one of our girls Bolu Benson, Year 7 was the winner for her age group and won a trophy, certificate and money for books. Congratulations Bolu!

Please see a copy of her winning entry.

Mrs Kingsbury-Barker, School Librarian



Reading the book made me feel sorry

When did we start to discriminate others?

The way we look, the way we dress,

When did it all start to matter?

He's just an ordinary boy

His story might be different from yours

We're all united

Whether you like it or not

When you're called "strange" you're unique.

When you're called "lame" you know you're important.

When you're called "ugly" you know you're the fairest of them all.

When you're called a "nerd" you know you're the smartest of them all.

Always remember you're beautiful in your own way.

Don't forget to always believe in yourself

By Boluwatife (Bolu) Benson

Calendar of Events – Summer Term 2018

Details of Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
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 Music Festival Evening
Friday 22 nd June 2018	Year 11 End of examinations celebration assembly School closes at 1.20pm for all other years
Tuesday 26 th & Wednesday 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
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>