



Blackfen School for Girls

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15th June 2018

www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk



Carnegie students rehearsing for the Literacy Show and Tell Event

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Students in years 11,12 and 13 continue to complete external examinations while students in year 10 have embarked on their internal year 10 examinations. This is the first year that so many of the examinations have been the new specifications with a new assessment framework. For many students this has meant 2 formal examinations every day during the first two weeks of this half term. As we can all appreciate this is an extremely challenging time for all students involved. You will have read and seen a great deal in the media about the examination schedule. I would like to praise all students involved in the examinations at the school for their approach to this very stressful time. It is not easy but the young people have shown resilience and determination in meeting the demands placed upon them. It has also been a logistically challenging time for the examinations team led by Ms Minnis. My thanks go to Ms Alldis and Ms O'Connor for all their work along with the invigilators and all other staff involved.

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NEXT ISSUE: 29th June 2018

On Wednesday the literacy show and tell event took place. Parents/Carers and family members attended the event in the library which was led by Ms Norwood, Ms Kingsbury-Barker and Ms Thomas. Students “showed” their literacy work to the audience and these included the prize winners from the short story competition in year 7 and the community competition winners in year 9. There were also presentations by the Jack Petchey speak out winners in year 10, the literacy leaders and the Carnegie shadowing group. At the end of the event Ms Kingsbury-Barker presented awards to all the librarians in recognition of their work this term. Well done to all staff and students involved in leading this event.

It was great to see so many students involved in the Smile Mile on the last day of half term raising money for CRY. Ms Brewer and a team of students continue to lead the fundraising activities for this charity. The CRY screening day takes place on Saturday 30 June. I would like to thank all parents/carers and family members who have contributed very generous donations to the CRY charity. Well done to all students who have taken part or organised events for this charity. Tickets are still available for the raffle.

This half term is very busy with many end of year and celebratory events. We will be welcoming year 6 to the school in July and the year 6 summer school and barbecue takes place on Saturday 7 July. If any parent would like to help out with the barbecue please contact Liz Cull – ecu@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk – in school during the next week.

Other events include the community celebration events – invitations will be sent to parents/carers of prize winners in due course, the performance showcase on 20 June 2018 and sports day during the last week of term.

Early closure – Friday 22 June 2018

A letter was sent last half term advising you that the school is closing at 1.20pm on Friday 22 June 2018 as there is a year 11 graduation event at the school during the afternoon.

Staffing news

We welcome Ms Marsh back to the school as teacher of PE. Mr Momodu (PE) left last week and we thank him for his work at the school. Congratulations to Ms Kirk on the birth of her daughter.

Best wishes,



Matthew Brown, Head teacher

Governors' Message

With great sadness, we have just received the news that Stephen Rogers, a former long serving member of the Governing Body, has passed away, having stood down from the Governing Body earlier this year due to ill health. He had been a Parent Governor and subsequently Community Governor who served the School and Governing Body very conscientiously. He was someone who would turn his hand to anything required of him, whether it be attending regular meetings on student progress or driving the School's minibus. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

As the end of the school year draws to a close, the Governing Body has been reviewing its action plan to assess what has been achieved this year, and what our objectives should be in the school year to come. Our broad areas of concentration have been Effective Governance, Governor Training and Induction, and Stakeholder Engagement. Within these areas, some of our successes have been:-

- Working with the School's senior leaders on the Raising Attainment Plan.
- The induction of three new governors to the Governing Body.
- The development and implementation of our Governor Visits policy.
- Continued governor involvement in meetings around student attendance, associate staff and trades union meetings.
- A successful Governors' Training Day.
- The completion of a Governing Body Skills Audit which will inform our recruitment and training plans.

Our three areas of concentration will remain the same next year but we hope to place more emphasis on the Governing Body's engagement with stakeholders. We would be most interested to hear from parents and carers as to how we can engage with them more effectively. For example, would you welcome the opportunity to talk with us at parents' evenings? Would you like us to deal with specific topics in our newsletter message? If you have any thoughts or ideas on this, we would love to hear from you. Please email us via Ms Cull, the Head Teacher's PA: ecu@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk Thank you.

Janet Phelps, Co-Vice Chair of Governors

EXAMINATION RESULTS UPDATE: YEAR 10 – YEAR 13 STUDENTS

• YEAR 10 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

Year 10 students will receive their internal PPE results at the beginning of next term, in a special Year 11 Assembly. Results will be presented in envelopes which match the 'real' GCSE and BTEC results that will be awarded to students next August. Year 10 students are in the fortunate position of being able to improve every grade attained, which we trust will motivate and focus their efforts at the beginning of Year 11!

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.

Parents may collect public examination results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport. **It is not the case that students can collect results on behalf of their friends.**

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

Ms F Minnis. Assistant Headteacher

RE Reflection 2017-2018

We have had a busy and enjoyable year in RE this year, with many exciting things already planned for next year too. It has been a pleasure for myself and the RE team to welcome two PGCE students (trainee teachers) into the department this year, mentoring them as they work hard to become the brilliant teachers, ready to start at their new schools in September – I wish them both the very best of luck. They have both worked hard and contributed lots of new ideas and fresh perspectives to the department and teaching and learning throughout this academic year and it is always great to feel as though we are contributing to the next generation of teachers coming through. They have learnt a lot, as have the students who have been fortunate to have been taught by them – their enthusiasm for teaching and learning rubbing off on many of our students here.

Over the year we have covered a vast number of topics across all key stages; encouraging students to consider different ideas and perspectives to their own and to question the world around them. It makes me proud when I hear how engaged students are with certain topics or when they have that 'lightbulb' moment about something which they didn't quite understand.

Whilst there are many elements of learning about religion in RE, the majority of time is spent enabling students to ask questions – guiding them to learn more about the different topics. Currently Year 7 are studying worship, from a religious and non-religious perspective, questioning what it is, why people do it and how it affects their lives, having previously studied Authority. In Year 8 students have just finished studying war – learning about different concepts of war, such as Just War and Holy War, and considering the ultimate question of whether it is ever right to fight? They have since done a couple of lessons about extremism, understanding what it is and how and why it manifests, before moving on to study Apartheid. In Year 9 students have just finished looking at Justice – what is it and why do we need it, linking that to genocide, each student investigating a different genocide that has occurred since WW2 and we have now started working with the students studying the Holocaust. The upcoming challenge day on 28th June for Year 9 is a Humanities day, focusing again on the Holocaust, where students will have the opportunity to investigate and learn about aspects that we don't always have time for in lessons, e.g. the role of women, the extensive use of propaganda, why some people deny the Holocaust, what about moral responsibility, who was to blame, what did Britain do, Undesirables, and many more topics. We also have a survivor come into school to share their story with the students and students have the opportunity to meet and ask questions too. This year we have Harry Olmer coming to speak to the students. Harry was born in 1927 and lived in Poland. Between 1942 and 1945 Harry was sent between Płaszów concentration camp, numerous munitions factories, Buchenwald and finally Theresienstadt, where he was liberated by Russian troops on 8th May 1945. He came to the UK in August 1945, becoming a British Citizen in 1950. He has a family and spends much of his time now sharing his story with young people in the hopes that the tragedies and horrors of the Holocaust will not be forgotten. For the past six years we have been fortunate enough to have survivors come into the school to share their story.

Year 10 students have been working hard to complete the first unit of the course in preparation for the RE PPE next Wednesday. I wish them all luck for that.

Year 11 students finished the whole course as we broke up for Easter and we spent the few weeks after the Easter holidays revising ready for their exams, which took place in early May. From speaking to many students and having since looked at the exam paper, it was all quite positive, so I am hopeful that this first set of exams for the new 9-1 GCSE in RE will be a success and all that hard work will have paid off. As the Year 11 students have left now, I wish them every success for their future plans.

A Level has continued well this year, with the final Year 13 exam for RS on Monday (18th June) – and I wish the students all the best for that and their next steps after Blackfen. I look forward to the new group of Year 12s starting in September.

In addition to all this academic work, the Year 11 trip to Rome back in November was a great success, with plans already in place for the students who have signed up to participate in the trip to Rome and Naples in October 2018. More on that to follow from the students in the Autumn term.

Finally, I have put in place plans for a Sixth Form trip (open to **all** Year 12 students) to Berlin and Kraków for February 2019. This trip runs every 1-2 years, depending on numbers, and has been a huge success in the past. For me, this trip is the highlight of the year; the students

get so much from it, both in an academic sense and in terms of their life skills and it is always a pleasure to take a group of our students away to enhance their learning and to have those discussions that there is not always time for in the classroom. If your son or daughter (current Year 12 or current Year 11) is interested in participating for Feb 2019, there are still a couple of places available, so please email me direct (ndo@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) for further information.

As you can see, it has been a busy year and I am already looking forward to all the ups and downs, as well as all the new students, 2018-2019 will bring.

Wishing you all a lovely summer break.

Mrs N Doyle – Subject Leader for RE

School Calendar

Details of Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
Wednesday 20 th June 2018	Summer Music Festival Evening
Friday 22 nd June 2018	Year 11 End of examinations celebration 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>