



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

10th May 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's an absolute pleasure to write my first newsletter introduction to you all. Thank you for the very warm welcome I've received at Blackfen. It's been a whirlwind first few days as I'm sure you can imagine, with lots to learn about the school's many strengths and how things work!

Firstly, a huge congratulations and well done to our year 11 girls, who reach the end of their formal lessons this week. School absolutely remains open to year 11 and we hope that all year 11s will take advantage of the revision classes and one to one support available throughout exam season. We are offering revision breakfasts before exams so that girls can benefit from last minute reassurance from their subject teachers and we expect to see lots of pupils in before school to take up this support. We know the girls are ready for the coming exams. If you have any concerns about your daughter, please do reach out to us at school and let us know as soon as you can about anything that could affect your daughter's performance at this crucial time.

Year 13 are also set to embark on the next stage of their life journey: university and apprenticeship opportunities await. We're excited to share these great destinations with you when the results arrive in the summer. We wish our year 13s the best for their final assessments and exams. Again, if you need any advice, don't hesitate to reach out.

At all times, not just times of stress, please do remember the school is here to support and if you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, we are here to help you. Please let us know if there are any circumstances that may impact your child's mood or work and behaviour at school. It helps us offer high standards of care whilst keeping the whole community learning, calm and safe.

Over the next few weeks, you should see the school website develop so that it offers more extensive support to parents through a 'Parents' Hub' page, which will be a gateway to external resources and information on all sorts of topics, such as self harm, vaping and summer school programmes. We hope you find this information useful and welcome, as ever, your feedback on every aspect of the school.

Thank you again for the warm welcome I have received. I'm looking forward to getting to know all the families that make up this wonderful community.

Carrie Senior
Head Teacher

1 - EXAMINATION CONTINGENCY DAYS FOR STUDENTS SITTING PUBLIC EXAMS

The examination contingency days are arranged by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of all of the examination awarding bodies and apply to **all** students taking BTEC, GCSE and A Level (or equivalent) examinations. 'Contingency days' will be used in the event of "sustained national or local disruption" during the Summer 2024 examinations. In these circumstances, the awarding bodies whose examinations are running at this time will have the option to postpone their examination and to rearrange it for one of the contingency days, so that students affected by the incident have a fair and equal chance to gain their qualifications.

The contingency dates for Summer 2024 examinations are as follows:

- Thursday 6th June 2024 - afternoon
- Thursday 13th June 2024 - afternoon
- Wednesday 26th June 2024 – all day

All examination candidates at Blackfen School must be available to sit GCSE, A-Level and BTEC examinations from the date of their first examination until Wednesday 26th June 2024. This decision is not a school decision and it applies to all candidates, in all schools. Parents, carers and students should ensure that telephone and email details held by the school are accurate and updated, as necessary, so that students can be contacted quickly.

2 - 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

Mobile phones, mobile devices and digital watches must be handed in at the beginning of all GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations. They are kept safely for the duration of the examination in individually numbered bags, placed at the end of each row of examination tables.

3 - YEAR 11 ARRANGEMENTS

Year 11 study leave operates as from Thursday 9th May which means that Year 11 students attend school only to sit their public examinations. If students are unable to go home between examinations, they should go to the classroom in their normal timetable to work independently. They do not have permission to go to other areas in school while lessons are taking place.

Year 11 early lunches

Light lunch items will be available to Year 11 students from the 'Food Cube' (NOT the canteen) at the earlier time of 12.15 pm to 12.45 pm, as from Thursday 9th May. 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.

4 - COLLECTION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS

- A Level results are published on **Thursday 15th August** and will be available for collection in the **Sixth Form Learning Zone from 8.00 am - 9.30 am 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. Parents/carers may collect results on behalf of students as long as suitable identification is provided, for example, a driving licence photo card or passport.
- Level 3 BTEC results for current Year 12 students will be available for collection on **Thursday 15th August in the Sixth Form Learning Zone from 9.30 am - 10.30 am only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be distributed to students at the beginning of term in September.
- Year 12 students collecting GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics results should go to the **Performance Space on Thursday 22nd August from 9.00 am - 10.30 am**. (See 'GCSE' information below).
- GCSE and Level 2 BTEC examination results are published on **Thursday 22nd August** and will be available for collection in the Performance Space from **9.00 am to 10.30 am, only**. Results that are not collected at this time will be posted home to students. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join students in the Performance Space for this special 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.

5 - ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS IN BLACKFEN SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

In order to confirm their place in Year 12, Year 11 students need to enrol on-line on **Thursday 22nd August by 11.45 am**.

1. Go to the '**Sixth Form**' tab on the Blackfen School website (www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk).
2. Click on '**Enrolment**' on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Complete the form by entering your GCSE results and confirmed course choices. Then click on '**Submit**'.
4. You will receive a confirmation email with a unique ID. **Save this email.**

Any queries on the day should be emailed to: sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk You must have the correct entry requirements for your course choices. We will only contact you (via email or mobile phone) if there is a problem with your course choice.

Please contact Miss O'Connor or Mr Maun (Examination Officers) on Extension 3143 should you have further queries regarding public examinations. Please contact Ms Brewer, Head of Sixth Form, regarding enrolment in Blackfen.

Elevate

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on memory on May 14th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to remember what they learned this year and **recall information effectively in an exam setting.**

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory

Tuesday 14th May 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Understanding how your child's memory works
- ✓ Optimising your child's environment for memorisation
- ✓ 3 practical memory techniques to use with your child this term

Dance Showcase and Drama showcase to see 'Wicked'

Following on from a brilliant Winter Showcase, it was a busy spring term in Dance and Drama with the year 13's and 11's performing well in their practical exams. There were also trips to 'Back to the future' and 'Move It' alongside lots of clubs, and a fantastic focus day for year 9.

The summer term has started off just as successfully with Dance Company winning Bronze in the Bexley Youth Dance competition, a trip to see Wicked with year 10 GCSE Drama and the Dance Showcase last week. All the students have worked incredibly hard throughout this year so far and we would like to take this opportunity to praise them for the dedication, talent and team work. We are looking forward to the upcoming Drama showcase on the 14th May and the Summer Showcase in July.



Ms Jarman
Subject Leader of Dance and Drama
Second in Charge, Expressive Arts Faculty

Numeracy Support

A new document has been added to the school website to support students when completing homestudy and when preparing for exams.

This booklet has examples of many of the different techniques that are taught to students to solve problems involving Numeracy in all subjects across the curriculum.

It can be found on the school website using this link:

<https://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk/page/?title=Numeracy&pid=834>

or by clicking on the **Home** drop down menu, selecting **Home Study** and then scrolling down the red section on the right of the screen to select **Numeracy**.

Mrs J. Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator.

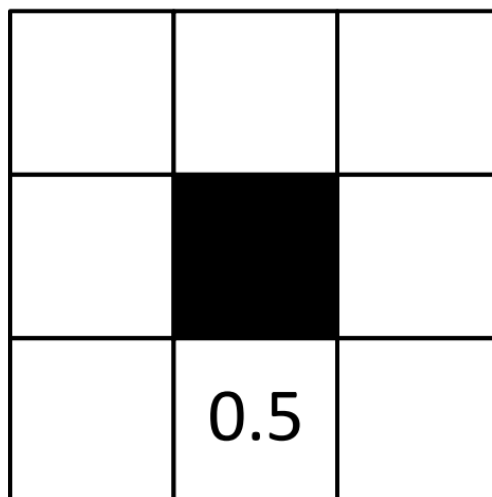
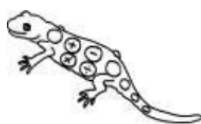
(answers next time)

QUADRA'S SQUARE PUZZLE

1) Write the numbers 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8 and 0.9 in the correct place so that each side of the square adds up to 1.8.

0.2 0.3 0.4 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9

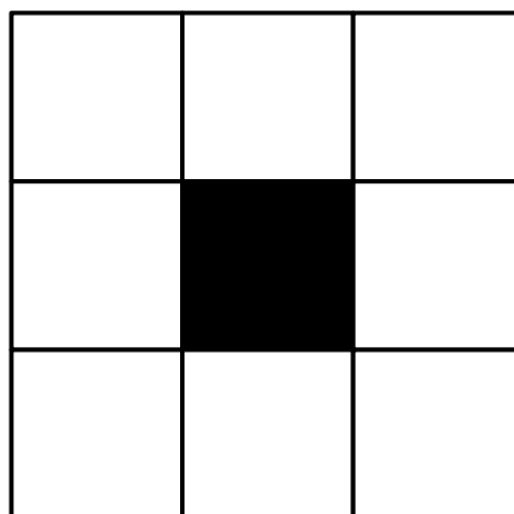
Total must be 1.8



2) Can you write the numbers 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8 and 0.9 in the correct place so that each side of the square adds up to 1.5?

0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9

Total must be 1.5



Last puzzle answers:

$$(12 \div 3) \times (5 - 2) = 12$$

$$(7 - 4) \times 5 - 6 = 9 \quad 27 \div 3 = (11 + 7) \div 2$$

$$(3 \times 6) \div 2 - 4 = 5 \quad 8 \times 4 - 12 = 10 \times 2$$

$$2 = (21 - 5) \div (2 \times 4) \quad (12 + 3) \div (7 - 2) = 3$$

Head Lice Guidance

We have had a few of cases of headlice reported at school this term and wanted to take this opportunity to remind families how to check for head lice at home.

Please follow the checklist below:

- Check your child’s hair once a week
- Use proper detection comb to trap head lice
- If head lice are spotted, take a close look at the hair of all the family
- If you find live lice, consult a pharmacist for treatment advice immediately
- Make sure to check especially behind the ears and the nape. If you find head lice, the following treatment steps will need to be followed.
- Please treat your child with a clinically proven treatment
- Leave the treatment on for the recommended time for maximum effect
- Repeat the treatment for a second time seven days after the original treatment to kill any eggs that may hatch after the first treatment
- Check that all head lice have gone within two to three days after the final application of head lice treatment to complete the process.
- Continue to check for head lice on a regular, weekly basis.

It is important to remember that head lice are a very common occurrence and nothing to be embarrassed about. For further information on head lice please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events Scheduled so far

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 14 th May 2024	Year 10 (30 Students) Citizenship trip to Parliament Drama Showcase
Thursday 16 th & Friday 17 th May 2024	D of E Bronze Final Expedition
Thursday 16 th May 2024	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024	Half Term
Tuesday 18 th June 2024	Carnegie School visit
Wednesday 26 th June 2024	Year 8 HPV immunisation catchups
Thursday 27 th June 2024	Challenge Day 3
Friday 28 th June 2024	Year 12 Induction Day
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Year 6 Induction Day Year 6 Parents Induction Evening
Monday 8 th July 2024	Year 8/9 immunisation catchups
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th July 2024	Celebration Presentations
8 th – 19 th July 2024	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 11 th July 2024	Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th & Thursday 18 th July 2024	Discover Days
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last Day of Term – early finish