



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential



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www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

24th May 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope our latest newsletter finds you well and that you're looking forward to the half term break with your children. Thanks and congratulations must go to the exams team and to all our students undertaking their final examinations for their resilience and resourcefulness over the last month. Whether you are responsible for organising the exams in school, or responsible for organising your revision schedule and maintaining the motivation to keep going, it's an arduous time of year-so well done! We have another few weeks of public exams for years 11, 12 and 13 and then year 10 will take up the challenge of exams. We do urge parents to use the links sent out in previous newsletters to support your daughters during revision.

Our focus now moves to the end of this school year and preparations for the next. The Governors will be seeking your views about the current provision at the school, and I always welcome an early opportunity to address any concerns that you may have; thank you to those parents who have already written to me to raise issues and in advance to those of you who will complete the governors' survey. It's so important we hear your feedback and views. We're currently undertaking a pupil survey too, so if your daughter is in years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12, please do encourage her to get onto teams and complete the survey.

The surveys the pupils have already completed have highlighted concerns about the toilets; this is true in any school I've worked in! We are refurbishing the largest sets of toilets, in science and maths, over the summer, so that these will be far nicer facilities to use.

The toilets are open for pupils to access freely before and after school and during break and lunch times. During lessons, we ask pupils to get a note in their planner from their teacher and they can then access the medical toilets near the school office. Students with medical passes are allowed to access the identified medical toilets reserved for their use. I do understand that this is a more restrictive arrangement than was in place previously. I believe we've achieved a reasonable balance between ensuring learning is the absolute focus in lessons, knowing where our pupils are at all times so that they are safe, and giving them access to the toilets if they need to use them.

Aside from making sure that the toilets are used responsibly, our behaviour focus this half term has been on strong entry and exits from lessons. We're really pleased to feedback that the overwhelming majority of pupils are always prompt for their lessons and are ready to learn. Thank you for having high expectations of your daughter's conduct and learning and equipping your daughters well for school so that they can make excellent progress.

I wish you all a wonderful half term break with your families.

Carrie Senior
Head Teacher

Governors Message

In this short newsletter entry I would like to take the opportunity of formally welcoming our new Head Teacher, Ms Carrie Senior, update you on some recent school activities involving the Governing Body and inform you of future plans.

The Governing Body warmly welcomes Carrie Senior as our new Head Teacher and wishes her every success in the role. Carrie Senior's work during the transition period has been highly professional and her impact is already being felt. The Governing Body of course wish Mr Brown a long and happy retirement and thank all who organised the wonderful events celebrating his time at the School.

There have been a number of standard Governing Body Committee meetings recently. These have included the Finance, Audit and Risk, the Curriculum and the Premises Committees. All were well attended and full agendas discussed at each.

The School Improvement Forum will be meeting shortly where the Governing Body Action Plan will be the principle theme. Here we will consider the Action Plan's progress in the year to date and identify major targets outstanding for the rest of this academic year. The annual Governors' Day will also be taking place, where the full GB will share plans with the Head Teacher, review link visit planning and make preparations for any future Ofsted visits.

Mention should be made of the extremely successful Careers Fair, which was expertly organised by Mrs Kellie Smith. The GB were actively involved and the attendance by students and parents was excellent. Members of the Governing Body have also once again judged the Book Review Competition, to which some high-quality pieces of work were submitted. Our thanks to Mrs Kingsbury Barker, the School Librarian, for organising this.

Members of the Governing Body have continued to make visits to Leadership Team Members and Faculty Leaders as part of the regular monitoring process, which will be reported back to the full Governing Body Meeting when it next takes place.

With regard to Governance, I would like to remind parents that part of the membership of the Governing Body consists of Parent Governors. There are 5 Parent Governor places in all and we currently have one vacancy so, if any parent or carer is interested in becoming a School Governor, please contact either the Head Teacher, myself, Janet Phelps or Bill Stone (Vice-Chairs of Governors).

Stuart Fitz-Gerald
Chair of Governors

Information and services for Parent/carers

Bexley Autism Advisory Service

For parents of a child with autism or awaiting diagnosis:

Bexley Autism Advisory Service next 'half-termly' Parent Drop-In is on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at the Crayford Library Community Hall between 10am-12pm.

Please sign up by emailing Maisie Cartwright
Maisie.cartwright@bexley.gov.uk

Siobhan McCauley

Kooth information sessions for parents & carers

In June, Kooth will be hosting **Information sessions for parents & carers** to find out how [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) can support their child or young person's mental health. These will be virtual sessions delivered via Google Meet on various dates and times in June.

To sign up to one of the sessions, please complete [this form](#).

Learning and Enterprise College Bexley

LECB are running FREE family learning workshops during half term in May (Tuesday, 28 May – Friday 31 May 2024). Details are included in the attached leaflet. All sessions will take place at our Brampton Road campus.

To enrol, parents would need to call their office on 020 3045 5176.

Parking and drop offs on school site

Please may we remind parents that there is no parking on the school site. This also includes coming onto site to drop off students or items they have forgotten. Parking will need to be off site and parents can drop items at the reception by pressing the buzzer at the pedestrian entrance.

NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

MAKE 10

Use the numbers in the grid each time.

3.2	1.9	5.4	0.7	2.6
9.3	4.2	6.8	1.4	8.1
4.6	7.4	2.9	3.5	5.8

Challenge 1

Find pairs of numbers that add up to 10.

Try to find 6 different pairs.

Challenge 2

Try to find sets of 3 numbers that add up to make 10.

Try to find 3 different answers.

Last puzzle answers:

Please note that there are several solutions for each square puzzle. As long as the rows and columns contain the same numbers then the answer should work even if the numbers are in a different place.

0.8	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.2
0.6		0.2	0.5		0.9
0.4	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.4

Mrs Julie Tregenna
Numeracy Coordinator
Maths Faculty

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events Scheduled so far

DATE	EVENT
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