



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Students and Parents/Carers

I am writing to let you know the arrangements for applying for student finance for university. The system for applying for loans and grants is run by 'Student Finance England'. Applications are made on-line at [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance). Students can receive loans for: tuition fees and maintenance (towards living costs), **You don't have to wait until you have been offered a place to apply for student finance you can apply using your first choice of course. You should apply now in order to ensure the money is available for the start of term.** The deadline for application is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

You can use the Student Finance Calculator for a quick guide to how much you can get – and to see what bursaries may be available at your preferred university or college

Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure that the financial help is in place for the start of courses in September. Students who have not confirmed their first choice university can still apply for the finance using their proposed first choice place. Students will need their own personal bank account details in order to complete the application.

The application form is completed on-line; you should use the 'notes to help you complete your application' which can be found on the website. You will need to put aside some time to do this application as it is complicated. (I recommend that a parent is present with the student at the time of application so you can work through it together). Parents will need to complete some sections for means-tested finance. You will need details of household income and proof of identity (if needed).

Yours sincerely

**Miss Purbrick**  
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

