



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Additional training Days – Monday 23 November 2020 and Tuesday 24 November 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, thank you for your get well wishes and for your expressions of concern about my health. I am moving in the right direction and I look forward, once again, to being back in school with the rest of the school community. I would also like to thank, on your behalf, staff, for their continued work since half term. In particular, my thanks go to Ms Hand and Ms Minnis for leading the school in my absence. I realise that this is an ongoing challenging situation for everyone at the present time.

As a whole school community we continue to work together in order to effectively respond to positive cases of Covid-19. During the last two weeks we have had a number of positive cases and these have been reported to you.

I have discussed the ongoing situation with the local public health protection team, with the local authority and with the school governors. Figures for positive cases in the Blackfen and Lamorbey areas are amongst the highest in Bexley with rates in Bexley as a borough amongst the highest in London. I have asked public health for more information regarding these escalating transmission rates in this area. The response has been that families are not necessarily following the national lockdown rules in this area and are not following due process should the need arise to self-isolate. This, coupled with asymptomatic cases, has meant that transmission in the household is leading to these high figures once added to the figures for local schools.

Unfortunately, due to the number of cases in the school it has led to a number of staff having to self-isolate at this time. The site, for example, is only able to be open from 7 until 4 at the present time. The number of staff required to self-isolate is increasing which has meant that staff are currently working even harder teaching additional lessons in order for the school to remain open to all year groups. Our proactive approach to date has had the desired effect of keeping the school open to as many students as possible. However, there are presently a high number of students self-isolating.

At an emergency governing body meeting on Thursday 19 November, the Blackfen school Trust agreed to schedule two additional training days for Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November when the school site will be closed to all students. We continue to work to improve the remote learning provision for students so staff will be working on continuing to develop resources for this. Staff will not be responding to emails about work on those two days and no new work will be set on Monday and



Tuesday. Students should work on revision, any work they have not completed on Teams and any additional work using the remote learning page on the website, which has plenty of independent learning resources.

Staff require additional time in order to plan and prepare work for the remainder of this term. It is also the right time to close the school so that a thorough and extended clean can take place of the whole site. It will also give us a clear 4 day window to “reset” the school ready for the return of most students on Wednesday 25 November 2020.

If you have any concerns or queries please contact the school by email - [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk). If your daughter/son is still self-isolating, please make sure they continue to do so until the last day of their isolation. We will welcome them back to school after that date.

Finally, a real plea, and there will be a follow up letter from public health on this matter in due course. If your daughter/son is self-isolating, they must not go out. Other young people must not, at the present time, go in and out of each other’s households. It is vitally important that, from Wednesday, they come in to school and go straight home afterwards.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



**Matthew Brown**  
**Head Teacher**