



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and feedback during a continued challenging period of time for us all. I am writing to you today to update you on arrangements for the end of term following a very late announcement by the DfE on Tuesday this week.

Secondly, I apologise for the short notice to any changes being put in place. I also appreciate, as we enter the last 14 days prior to the Christmas Bubbles, the wish that many of you have to limit your daughter/son's social interactions during this time, in line with the guidance. I realise that this has led to many of you making the decision for your daughter/son to learn at home during this last week of term and I fully acknowledge the many and varied reasons for you making this decision.

Thirdly, as I penned this letter, the secretary for health made an announcement about mass testing and screening being available in schools in the London boroughs with the highest number of positive Covid-19 cases. At present it appears that Bexley will not be included but we are waiting for full confirmation of this from the local health protection team.

Please note that, as part of the DfE announcement schools have been asked to continue to assist with tracing and tracking for 6 days after the final day of teaching in the school. The following tells you what you should do:

If your daughter/son tests positive for Covid-19 having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, please **do not** contact the school. You must follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If your daughter/son tests positive, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please contact the school by email only to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk. Please mark your email for the attention of Matthew Brown. This email address will be monitored between 9.00 and 12.00 Noon every day from Friday 18 December to Wednesday 23 December 2020. Please do not phone the school.

I think it is pertinent, at this point, to add that letters we are sending home now to close contacts to self-isolate are for 14 days and these take us right up to Christmas Eve. I am hoping not to have to do any contact tracing but we have had an average of 2 positive cases a day for the last 4 weeks and I cannot see this changing over the coming weeks with the rates in the local area remaining very high.

End of term

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be offering our normal end of term events for students in the school and staff are very disappointed that they will not be able to



perform as they usually do on the last day of term.

Due to a variety of strategic operational reasons, we have therefore made the decision that years 12 and 13 will move to remote learning from Monday 14th December finishing their school term today and Year 11 will move to remote learning from Wednesday 16th December finishing their term in school on Tuesday 15th December. A separate email will be sent to parents of year 11 students doing catch up PPEs on Wednesday and Thursday as these will still run. Years 7-10 will continue to be in school at this stage.

On Friday 18 December, years 7 and 10 will start at 8.45 and finish school at 11.45. Years 8 and 9 will start at 9.00 and finish at 12.00. There will be no remote learning for years 11, 12 and 13 on this day.

There will be no lunch provision on site on Friday. It is a non school uniform day on Friday only but we are not collecting for a charity.

These arrangements are subject to change if circumstances in bubbles change over the coming week.

Start of next term

We return to school on WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021 at a slightly later time for all year groups.

Year 7 – back at 9.15. Go to room then go to break.
Year 8 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.
Year 9 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.
Year 10 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30
Year 11 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30.
Year 12 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.
Year 13 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30.

Timings for the end of the day are the same as they were during the Autumn term.

As I look back on 2020 I acknowledge that it has been an extremely challenging year for us all. No one could have predicted the events that have unfolded this year. For many of us, it has also been a tragic year, as we have come to terms with lives sadly lost as a result of the pandemic. We have learned a great deal and changed the way we live as a result. I fully appreciate the enormous impact the pandemic has had on young people in particular.

On your behalf, I thank staff for all their work this year. I thank you for your support and I wish you and your loved ones a restful and peaceful Christmas and festive season.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

