



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot wait for the time when I will write to you to inform you that the school is re-opening for all students. Sadly, as we approach what would normally be the Easter break, there is no immediate prospect of this happening. The school remains open for some students and for children of key workers over Easter and then into the new term. You should have received a letter about the Easter opening.

I appreciate how tough and challenging the last few weeks have been for parents and carers, as you juggle your work with supporting your child in their education, whilst all are staying in the same, confined space! I am sure that young people have had to take turns using IT equipment in many homes and you have faced situations where you have had to mend broken computers, laptops, I-Pads and so on. I am writing today to thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning in these extraordinary and unprecedented times. I realise that some young people require additional support in this context. On the school website, under Covid-19, there are sources of support, advice and information for young people and families. Young people (or parents/carers) can also contact the school by using the email address studentwelfare@blackfen.bexley.uk and someone will respond to the enquiry.

Secondly, on your behalf, I thank the staff for their work over the last two weeks in keeping the 'virtual' school open and the 'actual' school open for a small number of students.

We have all had to be patient and understanding as we aim to meet the needs of everyone. I would like to thank you for the feedback we have received. We have also sought feedback from staff and students; a second feedback survey on the work students have completed at home is due to be sent out to students and their families, shortly. Let me assure you that we will be looking at all of this information, as we plan for the next half term.

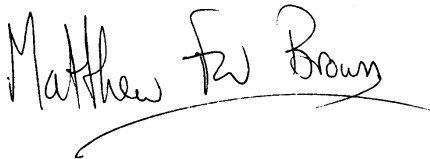
It is clear from your communication that the decision by Ofqual and the Department for Education to produce 'calculated' grades for examination students, as well as to offer the opportunity for 'early' examinations, caught us all by surprise. This news was released a couple of days after the Prime Minister's announcement that examinations had been cancelled and it came after the school had closed. Understandably, parents and students were taken aback and contacted the school for further guidance.



Further details about these arrangements have just been received in school today and have been posted on the 'Examinations information' page on the website. A separate email has been sent to parents of Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students. As part of our planning for next term, I will work with staff in school to set up the processes required and to ensure that the performance of our examination students is fairly reported. Our advice to students remains the same: to continue doing the Home Study work that has already been set by your teachers. I know that Miss Brewer, Head of Sixth Form, has also written to parents to suggest the kind of activities that Year 12 and Year 13 students could be doing at this time.

We have learned a great deal over the last two weeks about what works and what doesn't work, as I am sure you have done so, too. The key to success is partnership and I thank you for the part you have played in this process, so far and am grateful for your continued support, as we move into a new term.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Headteacher

