



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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20th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

These are troubling and testing times for us all and my thoughts at this time are with the global community, as we all struggle with the impacts of the Covid-19 coronavirus. I realise that many of you will be facing life and death situations during the coming weeks and months and this is why it is so important that we all do what we can to protect ourselves and to protect each other.

As from 3.10pm today, Friday 20th March, **school is closed until further notice** for almost all students, except for children where parents are key workers, as well as children with certain needs. All other children must not be sent into school, from Monday onwards. Ms Hand, Deputy Headteacher, has emailed you a survey to complete to let us know if your child falls into either category and I am grateful for your prompt response. Our doors remain wide open for these students during the coming weeks and months; we are fully supportive of the intention to support our key workers in the fantastic work that they do and to support our most vulnerable young people.

However, we are sad to see many of our students finish their education with us, today, in these circumstances. We are also sad that, for other students, it may be months before we see them in the school community again. The cancelling of the examinations in Year 11 and Year 13 has been a bitter pill to swallow for our staff and students. So, I would ask for your support to help our young people prepare for their future in the best way possible, at the moment. As from Monday, implement a clearly defined study routine, whereby your child follows their timetable at home and completes work in those subjects according to their timetable on that day. This will ensure that their habits of learning are being sustained. I am grateful to my staff team for the guidance they have offered, already, to their classes, regarding work to do during the period of school closure. Students are able to access their Office365 login here: <https://www.office.com/> and login as normal, using their network login followed by @blackfen.org.

Relevant websites for students' independent study or follow-up on classwork, homework and coursework or for general research are listed in the '[Home Study](#)' page on the school website, located under "School life" and then in the "Parents" section. At the bottom of the 'Home Study' page, there are two documents that offer further help and recommendations entitled "Reading across the Curriculum" and "KS4 Passport to Success". In the [Curriculum](#)



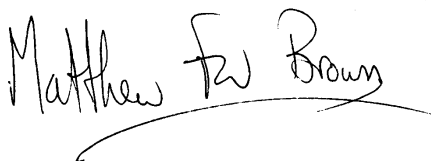
section of the School website you will find information about the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum at Blackfen School and in the 'Sixth form' section, you will find information on our Sixth Form Curriculum. We will continue to refine these arrangements and to support you in guiding your child's home study.

If safeguarding concerns arise, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Ms S Cascarino (Deputy Headteacher) via the school office, either by telephone on 020 8303 1887 or via email: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk).

In our special Assemblies with Year 11 and Year 13 students, I made it clear that there *is* a future for them – and for us all. This message applies to every Blackfen student, in every year group. Their learning and achievement, thus far, is certainly not lost, remains intact and forms the basis for new learning and fresh educational experiences that they will enjoy, hopefully, in the Autumn. In the interim period, their home study is relevant and necessary and should be tackled with zeal and commitment. Remaining hopeful and sustaining hope in each other is a challenge for us all; it is a challenge that we will face together - as parents, teachers and students - and with the benefit of joint resilience, determination and as much optimism as we can muster.

I will write to you again, next term, to update you on further information, as received.

With my very best wishes to you and your family at this time.



**Matthew Brown**  
Head Teacher

