



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/Carers,

I hope that you are having a good Christmas, despite the circumstances, and I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well. I am sorry to intrude during this time but I wanted to update you on the start of term details. Please note that these may be subject to change and I will write a final confirmation letter to you early next week.

Thank you for keeping me updated on any positive Covid-19 cases. If you have not done so, and your daughter or son has tested positive for Covid-19 over the Christmas period, please can you email me - for the attention of Matthew Brown - [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk). If possible, can you include the last date of self isolation for your son/daughter. Please can you continue to do this as we start the new year.

You will have heard that secondary schools are rolling out mass testing to staff and students early in the term. To enable the school to prepare for this, there will be an additional training day for staff on Wednesday 6 January 2021. Therefore, the school term for students will not start, either in school or remotely, until Thursday 7 January 2021. This is a change to my previous letter. The exceptions are those students doing examinations in school from Wednesday.

## Thursday 7 January 2021 and Friday 8 January 2021

Years 11, 12 (Level 2 one year students only) and 13. Remote learning will be provided following the normal timetable. These students follow the normal timetable and finish at the normal times.

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers who have notified the school (if you have not done so please can you email [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) with the title CRITICAL WORKER OR VULNERABLE STUDENT so that we are aware of who is attending) should be in school for 10.00. These students finish at 2.00 and they must bring a packed lunch with them.

Remote learning will be put in place for other year groups. This is, as resources permit. For these year groups work will be set and uploaded to Teams for students to complete independently.

External examinations and catch up year 11 PPEs will take place, as planned, from Wednesday 6 January 2021. These start at the usual examination times.

It is Week A2 on Thursday 7 January and Friday 8 January 2021.



## Week beginning **Monday 11 January 2021**

It is Week B2.

Years 11, 12 (Level 2 one year students only) and 13 should be in school for session 1 at 8.45. Please note this start time for this week only. These students follow the normal timetable and finish at the normal times.

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers who have notified the school (if you have not done so please can you email [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) with the title CRITICAL WORKER OR VULNERABLE STUDENT so that we are aware of who is attending) should be in for 10.00. These students finish at 2.00 and they must bring a packed lunch with them.

All other students will be learning remotely as follows:

Year 7 - remote learning begins with session 1 at 8.30.

Year 8 - remote learning begins with session 1 at 8.30.

Year 9 - remote learning begins with session 1 at 8.30.

Year 10 - remote learning begins with session 1 at 8.45.

Year 12 (Level 3 only - 2 year students) - remote learning begins with session 1 at 8.45.

Staff will be on-line during these lessons to answer any questions and to support the learning. However, there is no expectation that the lessons will be "live" video lessons.

It is possible that, during this week, your daughter/son is asked to attend school to have a lateral flow test. More details to follow.

## Week beginning **Monday 18 January 2021**

It is Week A1.

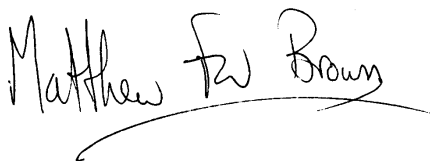
All students are expected to be in school at the normal start times. However, the DfE have said that they will review the tier 4 plus situation before then. This will determine whether face-to-face or remote learning is most appropriate at this time.

### **Mass testing**

I will be writing to you with more details regarding this. We will also be recruiting a workforce to carry out the running of the tests in school. This workforce would need to be available from 8.00-4.00 Monday to Friday from Wednesday 6 January 2021, probably until late January 2021. We will be providing more details of these vacancies on our website early next week.

Please keep looking out for further letters prior to Wednesday 6 January 2021. These will include more information on mass testing in addition to consent letters. Please use the [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) email address for any queries or questions. The school phone lines are not able to receive calls until the term starts.

My best wishes to you and your family for the start of 2021.



**Matthew Brown**  
Head Teacher

