



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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13th January 2021

Dear parent/carer of year 9 student,

First of all, I would like to wish you a happy new year. My best wishes to you and your family especially if you have been affected by the effects of the pandemic. I have written a letter to all students in year 9 and I would be grateful if you could pass this on to them. It is a very challenging time for us all and I feel particularly sorry for young people, like your daughter, who is starting to think about future subject choices as we start 2021. I also appreciate the stresses you feel as a parent/carer at this time, juggling the need to work, the need to physically go to work and the challenges of helping to support remote learning, all the while conscious of the impact of this pandemic on your own family. Our thoughts are very much with you.

The key point in my letter to students in year 9 is that learning and work is never lost. Teachers will be continuing to set and assess work so that they can make well informed judgements of work and progress over the coming months. Continued learning also prepares young people for the next step of their learning journey. Remember, education is there for young people to develop skills, knowledge, experiences and understanding. Most importantly, I urge you and them to not go silent on us – if they are struggling please let us know. Make sure you keep in touch.

For year 9 students, this term is normally characterised by meetings, lessons, examinations and discussions as they prepare for their subject selections for year 10 and beyond. I am writing to reassure you that this process will continue. We have been working hard on replacing our normal programme with a virtual one. More details on this will be sent to you in due course.

At present, we don't know when they will be back in school and what that will look like when they return to school. As soon as we do, we will let you know. I have urged year 9 students to keep positive, be resilient and ask for help if they are not sure about anything.

Although not in person, my best wishes to you for 2021. You, and your respective families, remain very much in our thoughts at this time and you all remain very much part of the Blackfen school community.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

