



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you during this last week of term to thank you for your ongoing support this term. It has been so good to see young people back in school working alongside other young people and members of staff. There has been a vibrant atmosphere in the school and we have welcomed back the noise, excitement and enthusiasm that only 1600 young people and staff can bring.

The term will finish at the usual time for students (at the end of lesson 5 or session 3) on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. There is not a non-uniform day this term. Students are expected to be in school uniform. The term starts again on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 when it will be week A2.

We have reintroduced practical lessons in Food Technology for years 10 and 11. After Easter there will be practical lessons in Drama and Dance for students in KS3. Year 7 students will no longer have a 10-minute afternoon break so that learning time can be maximised.

## Future dates

The term dates for academic year 2021-2022 were published last year. They have now been amended to include a day in lieu of the additional bank holiday and they are available to view on the school website. The additional day of holiday is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

## Year 11

Provisionally the last day of formal lessons is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## Year 13

Provisionally the last day of formal lessons is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## Additional Training day

The Governing body has agreed to an additional training day for internal moderation of the Centre Assessed grades. This is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Work will be set on 'Teams' for this day for students.

## Testing

Thank you for your support for the testing programme in school. I hope that the self-test home kits have successfully arrived home and that young people are now in the routine of regular testing (twice weekly). This should continue over the Easter break and more kits will be distributed after Easter. Please report test results on the school website and on the NHS app so that we can track and trace. We will be carrying out a review of the testing station provision after the Easter break. Parents and carers will be informed of the outcome of this once it has taken place.

### **Face Coverings**

Once again, thank you for your support in providing face coverings. The students in the school have been fantastic at wearing these. We know that the DfE stated that they would be reviewing the wearing of face coverings. The guidance on this changed twice on Friday. We understand the guidance will be reviewed over Easter. At the moment, students should continue to wear face coverings.

### **Risk assessments**

These have been reviewed and approved by the governing body. They will be updated as and when there is any change to the government guidance.

### **Track and Trace**

I will continue to inform you if there are any positive cases of Covid-19 reported to the school. Despite all the measures that are in place, it is vitally important to recognise that the virus is still very prevalent in society. During the break, I know that young people will continue to do their part to help suppress the transmission of the virus.

It is vitally important that you notify us if your daughter/son tests positive during the Easter break. This is so that we can identify any possible contacts whilst they were still in school.

I wish you a peaceful break over the coming weeks and thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



**Matthew Brown**  
Head Teacher