



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Matthew Brown BA(Hons) DMS(Ed)

Blackfen School for Girls,
Blackfen Road,
Sidcup, Kent.
DA15 9NU
T: 020 8303 1887

E: admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk
www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

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Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well at this continued difficult time for us all.

I am writing to you to let you know about the final arrangements for the return to face to face education for all students during week beginning 8th March 2021. I appreciate that there is a great deal of information to take in at the present time, so please do contact the school if you are unsure of anything or require anything being clarified. You will see the importance of testing and face coverings as strategies for reducing the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

Testing

Students who have been provided with consent will have 3 tests in school. Following the 3rd test in school, your daughter/son will receive a pack of 7 tests to administer twice a week at home. I urge you, if you have not provided consent yet, to do so as soon as possible. Without consent, we cannot test and your daughter/son cannot therefore be given the home testing kits. I realise that some of you have questions about the test but we have been given clear direction that testing is important for the safety of all the school community and will help prevent the need for large numbers of students having to self-isolate. It is one of a range of measures being taken to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19.

The first test for your daughter/son will be the day before they return to school. You will receive further correspondence specifying a time for your daughter/son to attend school for their test. Once they have had the test, they are to leave site and return home. They will be on site for 20-30 minutes maximum. Below is the outline plan for testing and return to face to face education. Although there is no parking available on site, the gates will be open and you can drop your daughter/son off in the car park, for the test. There is no pick up facility available. Please note there is no home learning set on the day of the first test.

For the second and third tests, students should attend school as normal and they will be taken out of a lesson to be tested, if they have consent.

Finally, on testing. Young people hopefully will understand how lucky they are to be tested and have full access to testing at this time. There is no doubt that testing has, and will, become common place in the coming weeks, months and possibly longer in workplaces across the country.

Return of students to face-to-face education and testing			
Date	Testing	In school lessons	Home learning
Monday 8 March	12 13 7		8 9 10 11
Tuesday 9 March	11 10	12 13 7	8 9
Wednesday 10 March	8 9	12 13 11 10 7	
Thursday 11 March	7 12 13	All	
Friday 12 March	11 10	All	
Monday 15 March	8 9	All	
Tuesday 16 March	7 12 13	All	
Wednesday 17 March	11 10	All	
Thursday 18 March	8 9	All	
Friday 19 March		All	

Face coverings

Like testing, the compulsory wearing of face coverings in school is one of the many strategies to reduce risk of transmission of Covid-19. We therefore need your full support for this. The wearing of face coverings is to protect the individual and other members of the class and staff they share a classroom space with. Please make sure your daughter/son is equipped with two face coverings they can wear in school. Non disposable face coverings should be washed regularly. We have a supply of coverings should your daughter/son forget to bring theirs.

Ventilation

In some parts of the school, we have spent money on improving ventilation. We know the importance of ventilation as one strategy in reducing the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, windows and doors will be opened first thing every day and will remain opening during the day. Students must wear appropriate warm clothing. The weather has been glorious recently but it is still only March. Some lessons have also been moved to the new building which has improved ventilation in it.

Behaviour Policy

This has been updated to reflect the changes outlined above. Miss Hoad will be writing further to parents on this.

Examinations

Miss Minnis will continue to update you on the decision taken to replace examinations with teacher gradings for this summer's examinations.

Student Support

The student support officers are available every day to help support the transition back to face to face education. I acknowledge that this will not be easy for all young people. It is therefore vitally important that you contact us in school if you are struggling with this transition or if your daughter/son is. This will enable us to put some support in place.

Timetable

Students return to the same times of school day and timetable they were following at the start of the Autumn term. There will continue to be staggered start and finish time, and staggered lunch times. Students must be punctual and go straight to their first lesson of the day on arrival. For week beginning 8th March, it is week **A2**.

Travel to school

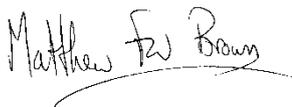
As was the case last term, students can be dropped off in the car park at the start of their day. However, there is no pick up facility. If young people are travelling by public transport they must wear a face covering at all times. It is really important that young people do not congregate in large groups on their way to and from school.

Parents' evenings

We are completing year 9 parents' evening this week and there will then be virtual parents' evenings for students in years 7, 8, 10 and 12 prior to the May half term.

Finally, we are really looking forward to all students being back in school next week. However, the same rules are in place as last term. If your daughter/son has any symptoms associated with Covid-19 they must, along with the household, self-isolate and get tested. Anyone who tests positive must follow the self-isolation rules. If they have recently been in school, we will identify other close contacts and they will also have to self-isolate.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher