



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you, today, as we approach the end of the second full week for staff and students back in school this term. A warm welcome to you if your daughter or son has joined the school this term. It has been lovely to see all the young people back engaging in face to face learning in school and there has been a real excited buzz around the school. Students and staff are becoming more accustomed to the new routines, rules and adaptations including the one-way system. Thank you for your continued support.

Firstly, some updates on the key control measures and on what to do if your daughter/son is unwell.

Guidance for schools from September 2020:

There are now 10 control measures for schools and these will be in the updated risk assessment:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) Where recommended, use of face coverings in schools
- 3) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual by washing with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or use of alcohol hand gel when soap and water are not available
- 4) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 5) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard household products such as detergents and bleach
- 6) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 7) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 8) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 9) manage cases/outbreaks in a school setting and promptly report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 10) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Please can you continue to reinforce 1 – 4 and 6 with your daughter/son and please ensure that your family follows 8. The school continues to work on all these control measures with the governing body, local authority and, when necessary, Public Health England.

Secondly, some reminders.

When students arrive at school they must not wait for friends at the school gate or down the road. They must go direct to their first lesson

Feeling unwell?

Please see the attached letter from the Director of Public Health.

I appreciate that there have been many issues regarding booking a test but the following advice is the present advice.



Please ensure that you strictly adhere to the guidance.

If a student has symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or loss (or change) to their sense of smell or taste) they must stay at home, self-isolate and contact NHS Test and Trace without delay. The student must self-isolate until a negative test result is confirmed.

If anyone in your household develops symptoms of Covid-19, you must all self-isolate and contact NHS Test and Trace without delay. This must continue until a negative test result is confirmed.

If a student develops symptoms of Covid-19 at school, they will be isolated. A parent/carer will be contacted to collect the student immediately.

Parents should inform the school immediately of the outcome of a test.

In the event of a negative test, a student may return to school once they feel well.

In the event of a positive test, the pupil must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Reading book

Please ensure that your daughter has a reading book with her at all times. There will be periods during the day when young people are expected to read in silence in their classroom.

Students Arriving at School

We are trying to ensure that students do not attend school more than 15 minutes before their first session of the day. I acknowledge that this is not always easy. When students are early they must go direct to their session 1 room. Please note that, apart from extreme circumstances, no student should be late to school. Our expectation is that students are in their lesson 5 minutes before the scheduled start time so as not to miss out on vital learning. We will be following up with students who are late to school.

Uniform Rules

Normal uniform rules apply to all students at all times and I am grateful for your support in this especially at this difficult time for us all. Sanctions will continue to be applied for any student seen wearing additional jewellery (other than an earring in each ear). In addition, fake nails, painted nails and fake eyelashes are not part of the school uniform and students with these will be dealt with as per the policy of the school.

Buses

Thank you for your feedback on the provision of bus services in the local area. I have been in daily contact with the local authority providing them with feedback on what is and is not working. Please remind your daughter/son to wear a face mask at all time on the bus.

Lastly, during the coming weeks we will be writing to all parents of students in some year groups informing you of upcoming virtual information evenings. These will not be live events but will be available for you to view on line. Please look out for these events as they will provide you with information about the curriculum, assessment and examinations over the coming year based on what we know at the present time.

On your behalf, I would like to thank staff for all their work in responding to changes over the last few weeks. I would also like to thank you for all your work and support over the last few weeks and for your ongoing feedback. I do appreciate that this is a very challenging time for you and for us all.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

