



# 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

F: 020 8298 1656

E: [admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)  
[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

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Dear parent/carer of year 8 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 8 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 has had a very interrupted start to her first 2 years at secondary school. 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 8 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.

We know how resilient and determined young people are and how these key growth mindset qualities enable our young people to develop and flourish. Although very tough at the present time, being positive is so important as is taking each day as it comes.

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 8 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

