



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
www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

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Dear year 9 student,

First of all, I would like to wish you a happy new year. Normally I would do this in assembly, in person, with the background of the furry fable cats setting their new year resolutions. I would also be talking to you about what I planned to do this year and the setting of goals and objectives rather than resolutions, and how I was going to produce the best tomatoes ever! My goal last year was to ride a horse. I was ready to do this and had the lesson booked and raring to go but, then came lockdown. A similar thing has now happened to you, as it did during year 8. You were working hard, you were preparing for the next steps and most importantly you were looking forward to this term as a term for planning your transition to GCSE. That has, partly, been taken away as you are not in school and, for example, your year 9 examinations have been cancelled. I really feel for you and for your teachers. I know how tough the start of this term has been for you and how you have had to revert to home learning once again.

However, learning and work is never lost. Teachers will be continuing to set and assess your work so that they can make well informed judgements of your work and progress over the coming months. We are going to continue to run the year 9 into 10 options process which many of you started last term. More information will be sent to you in due course. The most important thing at the moment is that you continue to focus on your work in all subjects. Don't take a "learning gap" now as it will be more difficult to pick up further learning opportunities. Keep all those doors firmly available and open to yourself. Remember, education is there for you to develop skills, knowledge, experiences and understanding. There will be plenty of opportunities this year and in the future to show what you have learnt, experienced and understood during this period of time. Don't stop and don't fall off. Most importantly, don't go silent on us – if you are struggling please let us know. Make sure you keep in touch.

At present, we don't know when you will be back in school and what that will look like when you return to school. As soon as we do, we will let you know. Although not in person, my best wishes to you for 2021. Make a year that you remember for all the right reasons. You remain very much in our thoughts at this time and you remain very much part of the Blackfen school community. Keep positive, be resilient and ask for help if you are not sure about anything.

With my best wishes to you and to your family.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

