



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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ALL YEAR 9 STUDENTS TO WORK REMOTELY WITH EFFECT FROM TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020

14th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have been looking at the School's staffing levels this evening with my team, as a number of staff are now unable to be in school for a variety of reasons. During the last 3 weeks we have relied heavily on supply staff and it is increasingly challenging to continue to source high quality supply staff at this time.

In addition, I am concerned that out of the last 15 positive cases, 5 of these have been in year 9 with 3 confirmed year 9 cases since Friday. I know that many of you share this concern along with the concerns about the continued high number of cases in the local areas of Bexley, Kent and Greenwich.

I have discussed the critical situation with Bexley and with the Chair of Governors, who has communicated with the rest of the governing body. As a result of this situation we are asking year 9 to work remotely from Tuesday 15 December for the rest of this week for operational reasons. Students will return to school on Wednesday 6 January 2021. Work will be available on Teams until the end of session 3 on Thursday. Please note that some staff are absent due to illness so it is possible that work will not be set for some lessons.

Clearly, students do not need to self-isolate during this period of time but they should make every effort to limit social interaction during these next 2 weeks. In line with track and trace, please see the details for notifying the school if your daughter tests positive:

If your daughter tests positive for Covid-19 having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, please do not contact the school. You must follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If your daughter tests positive, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please contact the school by email only to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk. Please mark your email for the attention of Matthew Brown.

Please note the timings for the first day back in January. These timings are for the first day back only. After that we revert to the normal times as per this term.

Year 7 – back at 9.15. Go to room then go to break.

Year 8 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.

Year 9 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.

Year 10 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30

Year 11 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30.

Year 12 – back at 9.30. Break at 10.00.

Year 13 – back at 9.45. Break at 10.30.

Timings for the end of the day are the same as they were during the Autumn term.

I realise that some students are just returning to school after a period of isolation but we are in a situation that



requires urgent action. I am sorry that we have had to make this decision at this late stage but the local and school situation continues to be very fluid and rapidly changing.

I wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

