



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear year 10 student,

First of all, I would like to wish you a happy new year. Normally I would do this in assembly 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, the setting of goals and objectives rather than resolutions and how I was going to grow 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. The same, though much more important, has now happened to you and school and I am so sorry about this. You were working hard and you had started so positively on your option courses in year 10. This has now been taken away, like it was for you last year, and I really feel for you and for your teachers. I know how tough the start of this term has been for you. I also realise your sense of loss at not being in school during this time. I was so looking forward to the start of this year as we had started to plan for how year 10 could do more of the practical work associated with their respective courses. We hope to be able to do this when you return to school.

Please remember, however, that 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. As far as we know at the present time, examinations for 2022 are still in place. Continued learning also prepares you for the next step of your learning journey. As you will find out, learning does not stop when you leave school. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

