



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November we have Challenge Day. This means that the normal timetable is dropped for the day and students take part in a series of workshops. For Year 12 all students will take part in 'Next Steps' workshops. The aim of the event is to get students to plan for what they are going to do once they finish in the Sixth Form. Students will gain information about:

- Considering university
- Applying for a higher level apprenticeship
- On-line courses
- Finance

This is a compulsory day for ALL year 12 students. They need to arrive at 8.30am in normal sixth form dress code and report to the learning zone. This is a well prepared and highly useful day and students in past years have gained a great deal from taking part.

Please note: if your son/daughter is doing GCSE Maths retake they will do this first at 9.00am and then join in with the sessions after their exam.

During the day students will be shown how to use Unifrog. Unifrog is an exciting programme that we use as a school to support students in making 'Next Steps' decisions. It can be used to:

- Search for appropriate degrees and universities both in the UK and abroad
- Search for "live" apprenticeships
- Search for free on-line courses (for part of our enrichment programme)
- Access their "Know How" library with resources to help students to make their decisions

All of the guidance booklets for using Unifrog can be accessed through the school website: [www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk) under the Sixth Form tab then 'Unifrog'. We will be inviting parents/carers in for a 'Next Steps' information evening on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March where we will go through all of the options for post-18 with you. You are also invited to attend our school/careers evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. More information about both of these events will be provided nearer the time.

Students can request a careers interview at any time with our external provider by speaking to Mrs Eiffert.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that all year 12 students need to arrange their work experience placement and complete and return the paperwork by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. The placement takes place 30<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

Finally I have spoken to all students about the importance of keeping part time work hours to a minimum. At this time of year there is a great deal of pressure placed on young people by employers requesting additional shifts. Your son/daughter is in full time education and therefore should work a maximum of 12 hours a week in a part time job. Any more than this will be detrimental to their achievement in sixth form.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of this.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Brewer  
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form



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