



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents/Carers

Now that your son/daughter has completed their first term in the sixth form I wanted to write and give you an update and information about next term.

Work Experience

All students are required (as part of their programme of study) to complete a one week placement. This takes place 30th March to 3rd April. Each student should have by now arranged their placement and returned the required forms. Please note the deadline for returning all paperwork is Monday 13th January. Although students have known about this since September, a small number have yet to arrange their placement, this should now be an absolute priority. Please support your son/daughter to ensure this is done and to return the paperwork by the deadline.

Wider Reading

We have asked all subject leaders to give us a suggested reading book for students in their subjects. This is to extend their knowledge and improve literacy. We have a copy of each suggested book in the study centre so students can borrow for a week at a time. Once completed students should complete a review form (collect from the study centre). Each book gives one credit on the enrichment programme. Please encourage your son/daughter to participate.

Punctuality

I am very concerned about the number of students who are coming into school late. This is not only disruptive to their learning but also to the learning of other students in the class as well as being disrespectful to the teacher. Can I remind you that we start at 8.30am every day and therefore students need to allow time to get to school and into class to start at this time. If your son/daughter is late he/she will be required to make up this time at 3.10pm on the following Monday, **No Exceptions**. Please ensure your son/daughter is punctual to school.

Dress code

Sixth Form students are required to dress in smart attire. The vast majority of students follow the dress code perfectly, however a small number of individuals are not doing this. Please can I remind you that all students must wear a tailored jacket. The following items are not allowed and must not be worn: trainers, large knitted jumpers and jumper dresses. Could you please also ensure that skirts are of a suitable length. From January students are not allowed leather, suede or denim jackets as their outdoor coat. Please support us in ensuring that your son/daughter is correctly dressed. Repeat offenders will be sent home to change.

Enrichment

In order to support each students' programme of study they are required to complete an enrichment programme. This could be helping us in lower school lessons, being a reading mentor, helping at school events, volunteering in the local community or the wider reading programme. There are also many other activities that can be used to gain credits towards the programme. All students have been shown how to register for an online course (MOOC) and should all complete at least one course to gain a credit. Taking part in enrichment is highly valuable and also allows students to use their experience in supporting statements for university or job applications.



Wellbeing and Mental Health

We are very aware of the pressures placed on young people today and know that for some of our students managing pressure and anxiety is difficult. All of our students have had mental health awareness week this term where they completed activities in form time and had an assembly. We have a member of staff who does a mindfulness group session on a Tuesday during CT for students who feel they need this support. If this is something your son/daughter would benefit from please tell them to see Mrs Eiffert. Further support can be found on the following websites:

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.headscapebexley.co.uk

Attendance

I must remind you that attending school and ALL lessons is highly important in ensuring success. There are a number of students who have had a number of days absent this term. Where I am sure that they were well enough to attend. Please ensure that your son/daughter attends every day. If they become unwell during the day they must report to the sixth form office. Leaving school of their own accord will result in an unauthorised absence, this is also a safeguarding issue. Appointments during the day MUST be avoided and made after 3.10pm. A phone call from a parent/carer is required to explain absence on the morning.

Safeguarding

All students must wear their 'sixth form' lanyard around their neck at all times. This is for identification and safeguarding reasons. Failure to wear the lanyard will result in a one hour after school detention on a Thursday. A lost lanyard/card must be replaced at a cost of £6. Students must remain in school during study periods – they must register for their lessons using their swipe cards and remain in the learning zone or study centre for the full hour. Students who do not attend or leave early will be required to make up the full hour at 3.10pm on a Thursday after school

Part Time work

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the number of hours some of our students are working in their part-time jobs. As a school, although we approve of the students taking on the responsibility of a small job, it is vital that their education is the number one priority and therefore the absolute maximum hours a student should work is 12 hours a week. Any more than this will seriously impact on their achievement in school. Please support me with ensuring that your son/daughter does not work over this number of hours.

Charity Work

I am pleased to report on our positive contributions to a range of charities this term. This has included a Macmillan coffee morning, MIND cake sale, Children in Need leg waxing, World Aids Day ribbon sales and poppy selling. In addition we continue to raise money for our sixth form charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) through selling refreshments, Christmas jumper day and proceeds from ice skating. This week we will hand over a huge collection of products to two local foodbanks – the students have given generously so that we can donate to this worthwhile cause. The sixth form leadership team will be carol singing this week at a local day centre. I'd like to personally thank all the students for their charity efforts this term.

I wish all students and parents a restful break and look forward to working with you in the new year!

Yours sincerely

K Brewer

Miss K Brewer
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form



Important Dates

Monday 16th December – GCSE certificate presentation for Blackfen Girls Period 5

Thursday 19th December – Last day of term for sixth form students

Monday 6th January 2020 – Start of term 8.30am

Monday 13th January – Work Experience paperwork deadline

Friday 24th January – 8.30-9.30am Presentation to A level students by outside provider

Thursday 30th January – Year 12 parents evening 4.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 25th February – Careers workshop day

Wednesday 4th March – ‘Next Steps’ parent information evening

Tuesday 10th March – Careers Evening

Tuesday 24th March – UCAS Convention

30th March - 3rd April – Work Experience

Friday 3rd April – End of term

