



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: Examinations update – 23.3.20

I am writing to keep you updated regarding arrangements for public examinations scheduled for Summer 2020. We will continue to post Government documents on our website, **'School Life'** → **'Examinations information'** so that you know the 'official' line and then tell you the school's action, in a letter.

The attachments sent with today's letter are as follows:

Attachment 1) GOV.UK: "Coronavirus (COVID-19): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020" (20.3.20)

Attachment 2) GOV.UK: "Further details on exams and grades announced" (20.3.20)

Summary of information

In summary, these documents tell students that their grades for this year's examinations will be 'calculated' by teachers and examination boards. Teachers will submit the grade that would have been achieved by students in their subject, if examinations had gone ahead in the Summer term. They will use **all** of the assessment marks that they have available - PPEs/timed classroom assessment/homework/lesson work – in order to reach judgements about grades, which will then be sent to the examination boards. Teachers at Blackfen School are able to do this work capably and accurately for you because it is part of the school's routine collection of assessment data. It will be a similar situation in most other secondary schools. Examination boards will combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment and use this information to produce a 'calculated grade'. Their aim is to provide 'calculated grades' to students before the end of July.

Attachment 2 also states: "If they [students] do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in Summer 2021". Currently, schools have not received information about these particular arrangements but we will update you, as soon as we know them.

Action to take now

Year 11 and Year 13 students have received this morning's general email about working out a timetable for 'Home Study' and they, too, need to follow this advice. Mr Brown's recent letter was



written with our examination students at the front of his mind: “*Their learning and achievement, thus far, is certainly not lost, remains intact and forms the basis for new learning and fresh educational experiences that they will enjoy, hopefully, in the Autumn. In the interim period, their home study is relevant and necessary and should be tackled with zeal and commitment.*”

- 1) All Year 11 and Year 13 students need to sort out their books and folders today and make sure that they are stored safely and can be accessed quickly and easily.
- 2) As per this morning’s email: All Year 11 and Year 13 students need to plan three sections into their daily timetable – School study; Family support; Chill time.
- 3) Year 11 and Year 13 BTEC courses: Students should complete outstanding coursework in their current units of study.

Year 11 students: Preparation for Year 12 and Level 3 learning

You will receive an email, today, providing Pixl log-in details. Log in to navigate to the “Independence booklets” that contain work for a range of subjects for all Level 3 courses (we know that not every student is applying to study in a Sixth Form, next term). It will help you, this week and next week, to keep study habits refreshed and up-to-speed.

Year 13 students: Preparation for Post-18 learning

We are preparing a folder in Year 13 Teams called ‘Year 13 School Closure resources’ that contains reading lists for university students and a variety of careers links. Please continue to use Unifrog to search for apprenticeships.

Year 11 and Year 13 students are relied upon to also use the resources listed on the ‘Home Study’ page on the website (under the ‘Home’ tab) to continue studying the subjects that they would wish to pursue at the next level. We are grateful for your patience in this matter.

As always, the leaders and staff at Blackfen School pass on our very best wishes for good health to you and your family, at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Miss F Minnis
Deputy Headteacher

