



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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April 2020

Dear Year 13

I hope that you are keeping well and safe. I just wanted to write to you all with some updates and just to keep in touch. I know that you will all have your grades on your mind. As a school we are busy arranging the processes (in line with Ofqual guidelines) to do this proper justice. Please do not contact your teachers about grades and please do not submit any further work or coursework. As you have probably heard, your results will be published on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August. We will let you know the arrangements for getting your results nearer the time.

## Preparation for university

For those of you going to university in Autumn 2020, the following activities will be useful to you so that you can make a positive start to your studies:

- Continue to read through your A Level notes and textbooks if you are looking to study a degree that builds on A Level knowledge
- Get your degree course reading list, you should look at the university websites for this information.
- Look at the HE+ website which has resources for each subject ([www.myheplus.com](http://www.myheplus.com))
- Complete a MOOCs course – go onto Unifrog to search for an appropriate course related to your chosen degree
- Complete the Future Learn course ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)) entitled 'Preparing for university'. It is available now and covers a wide range of skills required for studying at university.
- Prepare yourself mentally for going to university by going onto the student minds website ([www.studentminds.org.uk](http://www.studentminds.org.uk)) where you can access resources such as the 'Know before You Go' guide for students preparing to start university.

Confirming your offers: You need to go onto UCAS Track to confirm your offers. You will have been given a deadline to do this by where you need to select your 'firm' and 'insurance' places. There are clear instructions on the UCAS website on how to accept your offers. Please make sure that you would be happy to accept your insurance offer if you end up needing to take this. You may want to carry out a virtual tour and visit the website before you confirm the offer. You can also take part in a virtual chat with university students through the UCAS website which is a great way to get prepared for going to university! There are also lots of other really useful resources on the website including student finance guidance. If you are moving away from home, make sure you have applied for your accommodation for your 'firm' choice university.

Clearing: If you feel that your grades are likely to be lower than required by your university, you might like to familiarise yourself with the clearing process. There is information on this on the UCAS website. There will be staff available on results day to offer support and advice on this if required.



Student finance: It is really important that you apply for your student finance now. The deadline for doing this is the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, but be warned it can take some time to get the form completed correctly- you will need to sit with your parent/carer in order to do this. The form and guidance can be found on the website: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance). Please also remember to set up a student bank account if you haven't done so already. There is some advice on this (and student finance) on [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

If you are moving away from home (or staying at home), what a great time to practise your cooking skills so that you are confident at being able to cook a number of basic means. Try some classic dishes for example: Spaghetti Bolognese, pasta bake, chilli, fajitas, chicken pie, casserole....and banana bread (well everyone seems to be making it now!)

## Apprenticeships

Although many businesses have temporarily closed down, many are still recruiting on their apprenticeship programmes. Please continue to check on the school website under the sixth form tab, 'apprenticeships' as Mrs Drewer is still regularly updating this site as well as adding in further information to support you with your application.

I would also recommend that you complete two future learn courses ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)) entitled: 'How to succeed at interview' and 'How to succeed at writing an application'. As well as these courses look at the on-line courses provided by MOOCs (you can do a search through your Unifrog account) and find courses suited to the area of employment you are interested in. It is highly likely that you will be asked at interview what you have been doing for the last few weeks...it would look very favourable if you could reel off a list of courses you've completed!

Below is a suggested App for you to look at. It is a great way to get connected with professionals in industries offering apprenticeships.

## The Young Professionals App

Everything you need to find an apprenticeship or work experience scheme, all in one place

### One Simple Platform

One brilliant app that will allow you to unleash your career potential. Search for your ideal job, employer and key location quickly and easily

### Kick Start Your Career

View hundreds of job opportunities from leading employers who will help you turn your first job into a rewarding career

### Personal Profile

Create your own profile to showcase you to potential employers! Take your video, upload your skills and get yourself discovered!



### Targeted Notifications

Receive notifications about all of the jobs that match your choices and your job match profile

### Keeping up to Date

Pick your favorite employers and follow them to grab the best opportunities as soon as they are listed. Connect directly with the key decision makers and fast track your interview process

### You are in control!

Post out relevant content, videos and images to your fans and help you grow a good professional profile to kick start your early career!



If you need any support or guidance in looking for or applying for an apprenticeship please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Drewer. If you let her know what areas you are interested in she can also help to look out for any potential providers or jobs. I will also update you on any opportunities that come my way to support you in getting your apprenticeship.

### **Important information regarding 16-19 Bursary:**

We have been informed some learners and parents have received a letter from ESFA asking for personal learner bank details in relation to the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. You would never be asked for personal bank account details. This is a fraudulent letter – please do not respond.

In order to check how you are doing, one of the Sixth Form team will be giving you a call over the next two weeks. However, if you have anything you are concerned about please don't hesitate to contact me: [kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk). Please can you also let us know if you secure an apprenticeship or job so that we can update our records. We'd also love to hear from you if you've taken this time to learn a new skill or done any charity or community work.

Most important of all is that you are making sure you keep safe, healthy and strong so that you can support your family and friends during this most difficult time. I have included some mental health/wellbeing links at the end of this letter. Please continue to follow the lock down rules, look after yourself and be kind. We are missing you, but still here for you, so please keep in touch.

Best Wishes

Miss Brewer

Miss Purbrick, Mrs Drewer, Mrs Eiffert and Mrs Botten

A reminder of some of the things you can be doing to keep yourselves busy (and gain some new experiences):

- National Theatre: broadcasts of theatre productions for free each Thursday at 7pm
- Royal Opera House: full length ballet productions broadcast every Friday at 7pm
- Virtual tours of museums for example: The British Museum, The National Gallery, Tate Modern (particularly useful for History and Art students)
- Learn a new language ([www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com))
- TED Talks ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com))
- Radio 4 Podcasts ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk))
- Attend a virtual lecture ([www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk))
- Or how about getting fit and downloading the 'Couch to 5k app' (and using it!)

### Mental Health/Wellbeing:

- [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- [www.headspace.com](http://www.headspace.com)
- [www.calm.com](http://www.calm.com)
- [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)