



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Year 12

I hope that you are keeping well and safe. The purpose of this letter is to go through what you should be doing over the next few weeks in order to keep up with your studies and prepare for Year 13. It is of vital importance that you are keeping up good study habits and a routine during the week. You must log onto Teams every week day, where most of your teachers are putting your work (some use Google classrooms too). You must complete all work set and submit any required assignments. We need you to do this otherwise your progress will be hampered and you may struggle to get through year 13. You will receive a phone call in the next week from one of the Sixth Form team. The purpose of this call is to check how you are and follow up any concerns regarding your work. Please ensure that if you are unwell or have a valid reason for not completing your work that you email me on: [kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) immediately so that I can inform your teachers. Having seen how grades are being awarded to current year 11 and 13 students it will perhaps make you consider how important it is to work consistently hard throughout the duration of your course as every grade and assessment completed is now being considered in calculating their grades. It is therefore highly important that you complete all work set, to the best level.

Is it now time for those of you considering going to university next year to start the application process. We will be using Teams to give you instructions in the next few weeks on how to start your application and provide you with preparation work for this. In the meantime, can I remind you again of the MOOCs and Future Learn courses available for you to improve your application. In particular there is a Future Learn course running now entitled 'Next Steps to university – from choosing your course to your first assessment' ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)). Please also take a look at the wider reading list again and try to read at least one book from the list. This is also a good time to purchase revision guides for your A Level and BTEC subjects (most are available from Amazon). If you are unsure which books to purchase, please contact your subject teachers.

## EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

For students interested in completing an EPQ we are asking you to make a start on this. Firstly, to explain what the EPQ is:

The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product. Creativity and curiosity are encouraged. A project topic should not be directly related to a student's main study programme. A finished product may take the form of a: research based written report, a production\* (e.g. charity event, fashion show or sports event etc) an artefact\* (e.g. piece of art, a computer game or realised design).

\*A written report must accompany these options. Students must also record their project process in their Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Both the Production Log and Product will be assessed. Most



students select to complete the research based written report. In order to start this qualification students must complete a Future Learn course. To do this you need to go onto the website: [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) and complete the course entitled 'How to Succeed in Your EPQ: The Nuts and Bolts of Completing Your Project'. The course is available now (select the free option). As you complete the course you need to complete a series of three worksheets that can be found in the Year 12 Teams area. You need to complete the Future Learn course by the end of this half term. There is also an EPQ guide for students in Teams which you need to read.

The EPQ is an excellent qualification, highly regarded by universities and apprenticeship providers. It can be taken alongside A Levels or BTECs with the majority of the work being completed before Christmas. The qualification is graded A\*-E and attracts UCAS points. The course is run and supervised by Miss Purbrick and you will meet with her regularly (timetabled) to review your progress. This is the perfect time to get underway with the research and preparation work for your project so we really hope that many of you will take up this opportunity. Please go onto Teams to access the resources and get going on your Future Learn course.

## UCAS

In preparation for your application to university, please go in to your Unifrog account. Once you log in you will straight away be presented with the option to select your subject teachers through a drop-down menu. This is necessary for your subject teachers to be able to write your references. You need to select all of your teachers for each subject. Even if you haven't 100% decided to go to university, you should still do this to ensure your references are written this term. Please do this by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

You should continue to use Unifrog to search for your courses and to start to short list your universities. Many universities are running virtual open days so get yourself onto these. You should also go onto the UCAS website ([wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)) where you can access numerous resources to help you to make course/university choices. There is also the option to take part in virtual chats with university students to find out what life is really like at university. There are lots of resources available to support you in starting to plan your application. You should also use sites such as [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com) to find out more about student finance, budgeting and student bank accounts.

For those students considering an apprenticeship, you should also use Unifrog to search for the different options available to get ideas about the types of apprenticeships there are and the grade requirements. You can also use the Government website: [www.gov.uk/appreticeships](http://www.gov.uk/appreticeships) for more information. Mrs Drewer will work with apprenticeship students in the Autumn term.

## 16-19 Bursary students

If you are in receipt of this Bursary your final payment will be administered in the next few weeks. Please take note that 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.

Please remember during this difficult time that your mental health and well being are of utmost importance. I have therefore included, at the end of this letter, a reminder of some of the



support available to you. Please don't hesitate to contact me ([kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:kbr@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk)) if you are concerned or have any issues. The most important thing for you all is to remain safe, to look after yourself and your family and to be kind. We are still here for you and are very much looking forward to seeing you again (hopefully soon).

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)

Wider reading lists:

SUBJECT	BOOK
Law	The Justice Game by Geoffrey Robertson
Geography	Prisoners of Geography. Tim Marshall
Media	Blockbusting by George Lucas
Economics	The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford
ICT	Computer Science and IT: Investigating a Cyber Attack by Anne Rooney
Business	The Everything Store Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon: Brad Stone
Business	The Upstarts, How Uber and Airbnb are changing the world: Brad Stone
Maths	The Simpson's and their mathematical secrets by Simon Singh
English	1984 by George Orwell
H&SC	This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor By Adam Kay
Art	Art Matters 11-14 Student Book: Pupil Book 11-14 by Jeff Orgee
PE	Beneath The Surface (including Rio 2016) by Michael Phelps

Science	The Body: A Guide for Occupants
Sociology	A Handmaids Tale by Margaret Atwood
Psychology	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
Childcare	The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida
RS	Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy by Simon Blackburn
Drama	The Complete Brecht Toolkit by Stephen Unwin