



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Sixth Form applicant

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form in September. We are hoping that enrolment will still take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> August as this is the planned date when you will receive your GCSE results. During enrolment we will check your GCSE grades against the subject specific grade criteria and your original choices to finalise your options. You have been given a copy of the grade criteria but there is also a copy on the school website in the Sixth Form section. Unfortunately, we will not be holding our induction day, however we will release some induction information for you in a few weeks' time.

Although we are not setting specific tasks for you to complete for your option choices (as your choices will not be confirmed until you receive your grades) we suggest that you complete some preparation for Sixth Form study. As well as the list of suggested reading in my last letter, I include some further reading and preparation resources with this letter. In addition to these resources I would suggest that you complete a Future Learn course ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)) in 'Improving your study techniques'. This is a free course that you can complete in around 8 hours which will help you to prepare for your studies in the Sixth Form. Can I also remind you that you can access 1000's of free on-line courses through MOOCs ([www.moocs.org](http://www.moocs.org)) and through Future Learn. Completing on-line courses and wider reading are a key part of the Year 12 enrichment programme, therefore please keep evidence of everything you do so that you can be credited for it when you start in Year 12.

If you are considering studying A Level Maths, Biology or Chemistry there are books published by CGP which you might like to purchase from Amazon which may help you to prepare for these courses. The series is called 'Head Start to A Level ...'. Please note that the gap between GCSE and A Level in these subjects is particularly big and therefore it is vital that students are maintaining their skills and knowledge in preparation for studying them at A Level. I would also advise that you continue to work through GCSE exam papers in these subjects to practice your skills, however please be aware that you also need to meet the subject specific grade criteria to study these subjects at A Level.

I would also encourage all of you to use this time to carry out lots of reading as all A Levels and Level 3 BTECs will require you to have good literacy skills. In addition to reading you could consider doing some of the activities listed below to broaden your experiences/knowledge.

- 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.greham.ac.uk](http://www.greham.ac.uk))



- Or how about getting fit and downloading the 'Couch to 5k app' (and using it!)

I know this is a really difficult time for you all but please remember that we are here to support you now and with your transition into Year 12. Please try not to worry, teachers will help you to do bridging/transition work when you start your courses. What is important is that you remain safe and well during this time. I have therefore included some mental health and wellbeing links/resources at the end of this letter.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your place in the Sixth Form, please don't hesitate to contact us on: [sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk) and one of the team will get back to you. We will be in touch as soon as we know more about how and when enrolment will happen.

Keep safe and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Wishes



Miss K Brewer  
Assistant Head teacher, Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form courses preparation resources - websites

Biology	Oxford University Press Science transition pack <a href="http://www.fdslive.oup.com">www.fdslive.oup.com</a> Royal Society of Biology <a href="http://www.rsb.org.uk">www.rsb.org.uk</a> British Medical Journal <a href="http://www.bmj.com">www.bmj.com</a>
Chemistry	Oxford University Press Science transition pack <a href="http://www.fdslive.oup.com">www.fdslive.oup.com</a> Royal Society of Chemistry website <a href="http://www.nsc.org">www.nsc.org</a> New Scientist <a href="http://www.newscientist">www.newscientist</a>
Maths	Oxford University Press KS5 Transition-GCSE-to-A Level Bridging pack <a href="http://www.fdslive.oup.com">www.fdslive.oup.com</a> <a href="http://www.khanacademy.co.uk">www.khanacademy.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.mymaths.co.uk">www.mymaths.co.uk</a>
Art, Photography	Art Matters Podcasts <a href="http://www.artuk.org">www.artuk.org</a> <a href="http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk">www.nationalgallery.org.uk</a> The Photographers Magazine <a href="http://www.photographermagazine.net">www.photographermagazine.net</a>
Business	<a href="http://www.tutor2u.net/business">www.tutor2u.net/business</a>
Economics	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business">www.bbc.co.uk/news/business</a> <a href="http://www.tutor2u.net/economics">www.tutor2u.net/economics</a> <a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a>
English	BBC The Verb podcast <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk">www.bbc.co.uk</a> Radio 4 'In our Time' <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk">www.bbc.co.uk</a> The Times Literary supplement <a href="http://www.the-tls.co.uk">www.the-tls.co.uk</a>
Geography	Royal Geographical Society: Ask the experts podcast <a href="http://www.rgs.org">www.rgs.org</a> <a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com">www.nationalgeographic.com</a>
History	<a href="http://www.historytoday.com">www.historytoday.com</a> <a href="http://www.historyextra.com">www.historyextra.com</a> <a href="http://www.history.org.uk">www.history.org.uk</a>

Psychology	PsychCrunch <a href="http://www.psychcrunch.libsyn.com">www.psychcrunch.libsyn.com</a> The British Psychological Society digest <a href="http://www.digest.bps.org.uk">www.digest.bps.org.uk</a>
Politics	<a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk">www.bbc.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.politics.com">www.politics.com</a>
RS	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion">www.bbc.co.uk/religion</a> <a href="http://www.philosophypages.com">www.philosophypages.com</a>
Sociology	<a href="http://www.britisoc.co.uk">www.britisoc.co.uk</a>
Sport	<a href="http://www.yougov.com">www.yougov.com</a> sport
Media	<a href="http://www.mediaknowall.com">www.mediaknowall.com</a>
Health	<a href="http://www.health.org.uk">www.health.org.uk</a>

### Sixth Form courses preparation resources -books

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 Simpsons 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

### 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)