



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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3rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Re: Year 10 Work Experience – July 2021

I am writing to inform you that unfortunately Year 10 Work Experience 5th – 16th July 2021 will be cancelled this year due to the current COVID 19 situation and the impact on both business and education.

Although it is not currently known how long school and business closures will continue, it is understood that many businesses may not be in a position to support students with their work experience if they are trying to get back on track themselves after the current lockdown. Moreover, the School also has to take into consideration that some employers have already said they cannot provide placements and the time constraints for the relevant administration and Health & Safety checks to be undertaken.

I understand that this will be a great disappointment to students who have arranged placements themselves despite the current situation and were looking forward to the opportunities these afforded. Unfortunately, there probably will not be an opportunity to move this to a later date due to the anticipated need for lesson time to be maximised once Schools re-open, due to the loss of this currently and last year when they were in Year 9. I understand that a number of students may still want to arrange a work experience placement and would advise them to consider doing so maybe this Summer, in 2021 or during October half term if possible, or maybe the summer after next, so as not to interfere with their Year 11 studies, which complete in Summer 2022.

The School will be writing to all businesses and organisations who have offered placements to let them know of the School's decision and to thank them for offering a placement this year for your daughter. Thank you so much to all those parent/carers who have actively supported their daughter in securing a work experience placement for July 2021. Our students benefit greatly from these placements; learning about the world of work and also about themselves and their employability skills in the process

As part of our careers programme to support students in their KS4 to 5 transition, towards the end of Year 10, the School will arrange with Prospects, your daughter's independent careers provider, for your daughter to have a further opportunity for a careers interview, either in person, at School if circumstances allow or online via Teams if social distancing restrictions are still in place. This will allow students the opportunity to talk through their aspirations and get impartial information, advice and guidance on suitable pathways and resources that may be useful. Mrs Smith, our Work Experience & Business Community Links Co-ordinator will be in touch later this year to discuss and arrange these

The School will continue to send out careers related learning information for you and your daughter's information. I would also encourage your daughter to revisit Kudos, our online careers platform of which details are on the School website.

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A McGee
Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum & Assessment)

