



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent/Carer and Year 9 students,

Key Stage 4 course selection 2020 – 2021 Spring term update – 1 Overview of remote events for Year 9 parents and students

Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

Despite the return to remote learning for most students this term and all of the changes that this decision has brought about, the Key Stage 4 course selection process remains firmly on track. This letter sets out the remote events for parents and students during this half term.

The Spring term is the highlight of the year for the Curriculum team. Working alongside our Year 9 students, as well as their families, to take forward their education into Key Stage 4 is very exciting and a privilege which we don't take lightly. At Blackfen, a considered and tried-and-tested approach offers a sound set of principles to guide family discussions at home and students' final selection of Key Stage 4 qualifications. The school's academic record of excellent Year 11 BTEC and GCSE results is clear evidence of the effective partnership between Year 9 students, families and teachers during the course selection process.

During this half term, you will be following the guiding principles underpinning your daughter's selection of Key Stage 4 qualifications.

Firstly, you will consider your daughter's **personal character traits and qualities**, as well as her **academic learning journey**, thus far. The guidance booklet: '*Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 course selection*' supports this discussion and has now been sent to all families. Parents need to complete pages 2 - 10 and page 21 of the booklet, in discussion with their daughters and then sign on page 1 of the booklet to confirm that these pages have been read and discussed. Please contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs Kellie Smith, if you do not have this document, or email her directly at KSM@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.

Secondly, you will consider your daughter's ideas about **future training and employment** by browsing the *Kudos* careers website with her. She will have received her log-in details for the *Kudos* website with the 'Year 9 preparation' booklet. The *Kudos* programme enables students to assess their **interests and skills**, and to match them to a range of **education and career options**. We always remind Year 9 students *not* to make hard and fast choices about preferred careers before they have started their qualification courses. It hinders the course selection process and limits the breadth of academic experience that we seek to provide in Key Stage 4. But it *is* the right time for students to begin supported exploration of the world of training and work. They will also participate in small-group, remote interviews



led by Jody Phillips, the independent Careers adviser from 'Prospects', who works in Blackfen School and whose input over many years has been greatly appreciated.

Thirdly, we are inviting Year 9 students and families to **meet the Curriculum team and our Subject Leaders** remotely by watching two presentations: the *Year 9 Key Stage 4 course selection Assembly*, and the *Subject Leader guides to Key Stage 4 courses*. These presentations provide the school's professional guidance and support. You will see the senior leaders in school who manage each part of the course selection process. The Subject Leaders will talk about their courses in the order in which they appear on the course selection form, which records your daughter's final choice of subjects. You can fill in the form as you watch the presentation! To accompany the course selection form and Subject Leader presentations, you will also receive the *Key Stage 4 course selection booklet*, which provides more information about all of the Key Stage 4 courses.

Key Stage 4 course selection timeline

January

- Parents: Complete pages 2 – 10 + page 21 of the guidance booklet: '*Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 course selection*'. Parents sign on page 1 of the booklet.
- Students: Complete all of the pages in the guidance booklet.

February

- Parents: Spend time browsing '*Kudos*' with your daughter.
- Students: Log into *Kudos* and complete pages on personal likes/dislikes; favourite subjects etc.
- Parents and students: Watch presentations: '*Year 9 Key Stage 4 course selection Assembly*' and the '*Subject Leader guides to Key Stage 4 courses*'.

February half term

March (This information will be provided in the next update)

- Year 9 Parents Evenings.
- **Wednesday 17th March:** Submit Key Stage 4 course selection form.

Please continue to contact me, should you have further queries about the Key Stage 4 course selection process. I will write to you, again, to provide information about the events taking place after the February half term break.

Yours faithfully,



Miss F Minnis
Deputy Head Teacher

