



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Year 9 course selection process for Key stage 4

Dear Year 9 parents, carers and students,

Firstly, I trust that you are keeping well and looking forward to a well-earned break during the February half term. Hopefully, the snow will have disappeared very soon, as well as the Arctic temperatures!

Secondly, I want to update you on the process for selecting Key Stage 4 courses for study in September. By now, you will have received the first guidance booklet: *'Year 9 preparation for Key Stage 4 course selection'*, which enables students to start looking into the world of education, training and employment via the *Kudos* website. You should also have received the second guidance booklet called *'Key Stage 4 course selection for 2021: Course information booklet'* which explains the courses and qualifications offered for study in Key Stage 4.

We have also prepared recorded presentations which are designed to help students and their families to process the information provided in the booklets. Firstly, we suggest you watch the *'2021 Year 9 Assembly about the KS4 course selection process'*. It is saved in Year 9 Teams → Class Materials → the folder called **'Key Stage 4 course selection process'**. You can also use this link to go straight to the Assembly presentation: [2021 Year 9 Assembly about the KS4 course selection process](#)

You should see the screen below when the link opens:

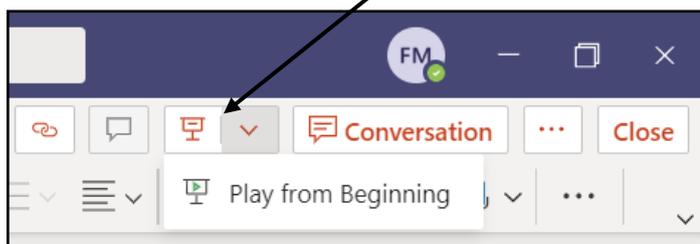


The Assembly is a narrated PowerPoint presentation in which Mr Brown (Head Teacher) is joined by Assistant Head Teachers Miss Brewer, Miss Hoad, and Mr McGee. The presentation is about an hour in length and is in two parts. The first 30 minutes (Slides 1 – 15) make up the Year 9 Assembly which students normally attend to understand how the Key Stage 4 course selection process works. The theme of the Assembly is 'Lights! Camera! Action!' Students reflect on the lives of three pioneering women who made successful choices in tough circumstances, and learn how the qualities of determination and hard work; honest appraisal of their own academic journey and robust time management enable them to make the best selection of qualifications for next year.

The second part of the Assembly presentation (Slides 16 – 23) replaces the information that is usually provided to parents and students when they attend the Key Stage 4 course selection evening in school. In this section, I explain the courses and qualifications on offer and the special arrangements for some subjects. In these slides, it is important to note the subjects that *cannot* be taken in combination.

There are two ways to watch the Assembly:

Either click on the **Presentation icon** at the top of your screen in Teams and play the presentation from beginning to end, without interruption.



Alternatively, start the presentation, as shown above and then hover over the bottom left-hand side of the slide and click on the **'See all slides' icon**. Click once on the slide that you want to read from the selection shown and listen to its narration. The presentation will begin automatically on the slide you have selected.



In addition to the Assembly presentation, we will also provide you with the **'Subject Leaders guides'**, a film in which each qualification course is explained by the Subject Leader. Unfortunately, the Editing Department (!) has hit a technical hitch and so the film will be available to view as from Monday 22nd February. However, your daughter's English and Science teachers will postpone Lesson 5 on this date to provide dedicated time for families to consider the information in the booklets and in both of the presentations.

Obviously, we are very disappointed not to be meeting our Year 9 parents, carers and students in person, during the Key Stage 4 course selection process. However, we look forward to 'meeting' you during our remote Year 9 Parent Evenings on 25th February and 4th March 2021, as well as in the meetings with the Leadership Team on 22nd and 23rd March 2021 (details to follow).

Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you have any queries during the next few weeks: send an email to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk and write 'KS4 course selection' in the subject line. Either Mr McGee or Miss Hoad or I will contact you.

Yours sincerely,



Miss F Minnis
Deputy Head Teacher

