



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents and Carers,

February 2021

Well its certainly been a challenging half term! I would like to start by congratulating our young people for showing resilience and determination in getting through the most difficult times and for engaging so well in virtual learning. I know it's not easy and for many students has presented a number of challenges, believe me the staff have faced the same challenges. Teachers don't go into teaching to talk to a screen, I am missing having the students here in school and in front of me in class and hope that things can return to some sort of normal very soon. On the subject of returning to school, we await further guidance from the Government on this and understand we should have further information over the half term break. As soon as we know we will of course inform you, however what we do know is that virtual learning will continue for at least two weeks after half term. Therefore, I am urging students to use next week to get up to date with any outstanding work but also to take a break away from the screen and to take time to do things to re-cooperate, relax and focus on their mental well-being. We return to virtual learning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February starting again on week 1 of the timetable. (please note that students must go onto Teams at the designated lesson time each day where there will be notification of a live lesson, a link to a pre-corded lesson or a set task/assignment to complete. For most lessons students will not receive an individual 'notification' of a Teams meeting – they just need to go into the Team every lesson to check.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I was with the Victoria Sponge cake entries from the well-being day – we have some talented bakers out there and they looked delicious – I hope these were shared with you! We will be announcing the winners this week but well done to everyone that took part. I know that students also took the opportunity to do some exercise, to read and to play board games!

For those students planning to go to University next year, they should be following their application throughucas 'track'. This updates them on the progress of their application and will inform them of offers. In terms of student finance, the application normally occurs in March so we will let you know when to get going on this. For those students seeking an apprenticeship there are many opportunities being advertised now. We update students through our new 'Team' which we update regularly with apprenticeship posts so please encourage your son/daughter to check daily. Any questions regardingucas, please contact Miss Purbrick and any apprenticeship queries please contact Mrs Drewer. If your son/daughter requires a careers interview with our outside provider please contact Mrs Eiffert who can arrange this.

I know that Year 13 students are apprehensive with regards to their grades this year and how these will be awarded. We await further information form the Government consultation on how this will work and of course we will update you as soon as we know. Hopefully this will be soon after half term. In the meantime, it is imperative that students get up to date with all their work over half term and ensure any assignments have been handed in.

Most important of all is to look ensure that your son/daughter is safe and well, both physically and mentally, therefore please encourage them to take a break from the screen, take some exercise and most importantly keep safe. We want nothing more than your son/daughter back in school, fit and healthy and ready to learn.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Brewer**

**Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form**

