



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to you with important information for the rest of this term.

## EPQ (Extended project qualification)

Over 90 students have registered their interest in studying this additional qualification. These students should now be starting to think about their initial research idea and project title and starting to plan their research. The submission form (found in Teams) needs to be completed and returned to the study centre by the 9th July.

## UCAS

This week we held a meeting for students planning to complete an application for university. We have been encouraging students to use their Unifrog account to complete course and university searches and find out about open day events and preparation activities. Students are now able to start their application through ucas. Students need to set up an account through [ucas.com](http://ucas.com) and can now start their on-line application form using the step by step guide we have provided in Teams (there is also a hard copy in the study centre). The buzzword for setting up their account is: Blackfen2022, this allows students to link their account to Blackfen school which is very important. Some sections of the application form can be completed now such as personal details and qualifications and some students may already be in a position to start entering their five course/university choices. The main focus of this half term is to complete a draft of their personal statement as this will be checked over the summer by Miss Purbrick or myself. The personal statement allows a student to explain why they are suitable for the degree they want to study. We have put support materials in the 'Files' section in Teams to help students to write their statement and students can use the personal statement section in Unifrog as a template when writing their own. The draft copy needs to be submitted in the study centre by the 12th July. Over the next few weeks students need to finalise their university choices by attending open events which may be virtual or physical and by doing further research into the courses each institute offers so that they make the right choices. Teachers will be asked for predicted grades in the first half of the Autumn term in order to write the references, these grades will be given using various data from throughout the year and predictions as to what the final grades might be for each student. It is important for students to ensure they check the entry requirements for the degree they are applying for to make sure they can achieve the grades required. We recommend that our students complete their entire application by October half term (some courses i.e. Medicine and Oxbridge have much earlier deadlines). The UCAS website is really clear and has a wealth of information to help guide you and your son/daughter through this process. However, if you require further support please contact Miss Purbrick in school as she oversees the ucas process.

## PPEs and Progress updates

The results of the A Level and BTEC PPEs (pre-public exams) will be issued to students next week. There are concerns about the progress demonstrated by some students in these exams and therefore there will be some follow up work required. All students can learn from these exams as we know that this was the first formal assessment to take place under exam conditions for our students and some have struggled with revision and exam technique. All students have at least two hours a week of timetabled study periods in the study centre which should be used alongside other non-contact lesson time to work on areas of underachievement. I will be contacting you where there are concerns across subjects to discuss how we can best support these students in the coming months. The progress update reports will be issued at the end of term giving an overall achievement grade for this term based on all assessment completed.



## Enrichment

We continue to encourage all students to complete enrichment activities and in particular those in the '2021 Challenges'. Having a range of experiences to draw upon will be vital when writing a personal statement, CV or apprenticeship application over the coming weeks. Students should be recording their activities completed in Unifrog. There are many on-line courses that students can complete – these are particularly useful for students applying to university and we regularly post other opportunities and activities in Teams. We are also planning to run a number of First Aid and Deaf Awareness courses next term.

## Health and wellbeing

With the recent raised awareness of sudden heart conditions, we have talked to students about the importance of being able to perform basic CPR in an emergency situation. We will be delivering practical sessions on CPR next term for all students and I explained that there is a defibrillator in school should it be needed in a very rare emergency. Over the years we have done a lot of work with the charity CRY (cardiac risk in the young) through the Anthony Fitzgerald memorial trust and have managed to raise enough money to fund a second cardiac testing day at school. This will hopefully be held next term with students offered the chance to have a non-invasive heart test to check for abnormalities.

Our students have shown amazing resilience over the past 15 months and continue to do so. However, for some students' things have been more difficult. Please assure your son/daughter that there are people in school who can listen, help and support and they should not keep quiet. If you have any concerns about your son/daughters' well-being please contact us at school.

## Tutoring

Next term we will be going back to having daily form time in the Sixth Form allowing students to be part of a tutor group with a tutor they see on a regular basis. Tutor time is an important part of the Sixth Form experience and is something that we have missed out on this year. During tutor sessions your son/daughter will take part in a weekly quiz, topical discussions, preparation for study, silent reading and a weekly year meeting. Students get to know their tutor well and will be able to discuss their academic progress and wellbeing with them. Information about tutor groups will be given at the start of term.

I will be in touch again at the end of term but as always if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact me or Mrs Eiffert.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Brewer  
**Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form**