



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent/Carers

Finally, we made it to the end of a very difficult year. I must however say how well our students have coped with such challenging circumstances. This is not the way Sixth Formers should have to deal with their first year of level 3 study, but on the whole, they have shown resilience, determination and grit and these are skills that will be highly valuable in later life.

Most of our students have shown an interest in applying to university for next year and starts have completed their first draft of their personal statement. These will be marked over the summer and returned next term for changes and amendments. Over the summer students should be using Unifrog to complete course/subject searches (they need to narrow their search down to five choices) and attend actual or virtual open days and taster courses where possible. They should also be completing the main sections of their UCAS application form using the guidance given during the introduction assembly and using the resources available in Teams. (there is a very simple to follow step by step guide in Files – UCAS 'my application PPT')

There will be further opportunities in September for students to get support with their application before it is sent off to UCAS.

Students who are considering applying for an apprenticeship should be using the apprenticeship tool on Unifrog to start to plan the type of apprenticeships they are suited to. In addition, they should look out for any virtual work experience opportunities that are available (a good site to use is www.springpod.co.uk). We will be holding a meeting in September to explain more about apprenticeships how to apply for them. Any student who needs help with their next steps after Year 13 can request a careers interview with our external provider. These meetings take place in school so please contact Mrs. Eiffert if you would like to book one.

I would also urge all students to continue to complete on-line courses as these can be really useful as evidence towards degree preparation or on a CV for job/apprenticeship application. There are 1000's of different courses which you can look up on Unifrog under the 'MOOCS' tab.

As I have already communicated to students there are some changes in place for next term. All students will be in school every day at 8.30am. They will either be in a timetabled lesson, supervised study period or a learning zone study session. Students will be in school full time as opposed to just attending for lessons. Although this may be difficult to adjust to for some students, it is much more conducive to studying and preparing students for exams. Lessons will also go back to 60 minutes, with 5 lessons a day plus all students will attend a daily tutor period mid-morning.

The school day will end at 2.45pm, although for a few students an early finish may occur on one day (if they don't have a period 5 lesson and they are not on 'cause for concern').

Therefore, students must not arrange appointments, driving lessons or work shifts during school hours. We also advise a maximum of 12 hours a week in a part-time job to allow maximum time to be dedicated to study and school work.

Mobile phones are not allowed to be used **anywhere in the school for any student**. The only exception to this (sixth form students) is that phones can be used in the learning zone only. At all other times (in study, lessons, corridors, moving between lessons, etc) phones must be away and not seen. Any students seen with a phone (even if they are not using it) will have the phone confiscated and handed in to the sixth form office until 2.50pm when it can be collected. If this occurs three times in one term the

phone will be kept overnight. This is a whole school policy and we expect sixth form students to set an example.

I would also draw your attention to our dress code policy as some students have been clearly breaking the dress code in recent weeks. Students are expected to wear clothing as detailed on our policy (copy attached) and specifically they must wear a smart, tailored jacket. Any student not adhering to our dress code will have their conduct card signed and a one-hour detention set for 3 signatures. Persistent breaking of the dress code or clothing that is completely inappropriate may result in a student being sent home to change (parents/carers would be informed). Please support us to make sure our students represent themselves and the school proudly and appropriately.

There will be further details to follow on the start of term, however please be aware that it is likely that Year 13 students will come into school in the afternoon of Tuesday 7th September to meet their tutor and get their timetable ready to start lessons at 8.30am on Wednesday 8th September.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your support this year and hope you have a lovely summer.

I look forward to welcoming Year 13 back in September and hopefully seeing parents/carers in person next year!

Yours sincerely



Miss K Brewer
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form