



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had a good Easter break.

This term is a really important one as all students will have exams over the next few weeks. 'A' Level students start PPEs (pre-public exams) next week. The purpose of these exams is to give students a chance to practice sitting official papers in exam conditions in preparation for the actual exams next summer. This is a really important indicator of progress and all parents/carers will receive email notification of the exam results in the week beginning 16th May. For those students who seriously underperform there will be retake PPEs at the end of June, after intervention, parents and carers will be informed if this is the case for their child. BTEC students have their actual external exams during the period 3rd-37th May, these exams make up a quarter of the final subject grade and therefore students should be preparing diligently for these assessments. BTEC results are published by the exam boards on the 18th August. For students retaking GCSE Maths and English, exams start in May.

For students considering applying to university, we will be starting the application process after half term. Many universities are now holding their open days and we encourage students to attend these events, please note that most require students to register for the event and this can be done by going through Unifrog or by going through the website of the university. In addition, students should be taking the opportunity to participate in taster courses and virtual webinars and events in order to help them decide on their course choice. We regularly advertise these on our 'Work experience and Insights' Team which all year 12 students are part of.

We have not designated a set work experience week this year however, we would encourage students to complete a virtual work experience placement (there are some really good ones now). Some degrees require students to complete an actual work experience placement and therefore if a student finds a suitable placement in June or July we can authorise a week's work experience. Please ask your child to discuss this with me if they are planning to do this.

Can I also remind you the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality. Students need to be in lesson one by 8.30am and ensure they attend all lessons, study periods and community time on time. If your child is so unwell that they can't attend school please ensure that a parent/carer rings the absence line on the morning of each day of absence. Please also be reminded that students should not be working more than 12 hours a week in a part time job. As the weather warms up (hopefully) please be reminded that the dress code remains unchanged and that students need to continue to wear a suit jacket. Students are NOT allowed to wear strappy tops, shorts, sandals or trainers.

We have arranged to take all year 12 students (two-year course) to Brighton on Thursday the 30th June. We will be visiting Sussex university campus for a tour and talk about student life and then students will have some free time in Brighton. There will be more information to follow but all two-year students are expected to attend this trip (it is a really good day out!).

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Brewer

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

