



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about some important aspects of your child's (programme of study) at Blackfen Sixth Form. All students are placed on a programme of study whilst on a two-year course which includes the following:

- Contact lessons (i.e. the subjects they have selected)
- Non – contact lessons: supervised study and independent learning zone study sessions.
- Work Experience
- PSHE (including: Relationships and Sex Education)
- Community Time
- Challenge Days

Students should also participate in enrichment activities.

PSHE (personal, social and health education) sessions take place within the tutor programme and on a Wednesday afternoon. The Following topics have been covered so far this term:

Alcohol awareness  
Road safety  
Healthy Relationships  
Consent  
Drug Awareness  
Personal Finance (wizeup)

We have welcomed guest speakers in for some of these sessions (women's aid, wizeup finance and Paul Hannaford (ex drug addict). Our programme is designed to deal with important topics and ensure that our students are able to make informed choices. The areas covered broadly fall under the headings of: Living in the wider world, Relationships, Health & Wellbeing.

Some of the other topics planned for the rest of the year: mental health, challenging prejudice, contraception and sex education, managing money, preparing for the world of work. These sessions are a compulsory part of your child's programme of study so students must not arrange appointments, driving lessons, etc during this time.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November ALL year 12 students will have a 'Next Steps' day. For this day the timetable is dropped and students will do a series of workshops sessions. Students will need to go to the learning zone for 9.00am and will finish at 2.20pm. This event is aimed at preparing our students for life after sixth form. They need to start making important decisions about careers, university and apprenticeships. Attendance is compulsory.

In community time year 12 have started the VESPA programme. They have completed an initial survey to identify the areas they personally need to work on in order to improve their independent study habits. Each student has been given personalized targets based on their responses to the questions. We really feel that our students will benefit from a more personalised approach to target setting.

We have a Microsoft team for all year 12 to access. This is an additional 'Team' called 'Opportunities and Work Experience'. I have already posted many opportunities on here including:

Experience days in: Investment management, Law & Business, JP Morgan Finance, Media Strategy, trading floor, Global insurance, Property and Real Estate. (please see the links at the end of this letter for events). It is vital that your child checks this team regularly so not to miss out on an event.



Can I remind you that work experience takes place 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. All year 12 students need to secure a placement that is challenging and valuable. It should not be paid employment. Please ensure that your child arranges for the paperwork to be completed by parents/carers and the employer. The paperwork needs to be returned to Mrs Eiffert by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023. (copies attached to this email).

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that students must follow our Sixth Form dress code – there are a small minority of students who are not wearing appropriate clothing to school, we want our students to look smart and to be role models to lower school students. Can I remind you that all students need to wear a tailored jacket every day. Skirts must be of a suitable length, no DM style boots, no ripped or fishnet style tights, jumper dresses, hoodies or trainers are not acceptable. Jumpers may only be worn if they are worn with the jacket. Students MUST wear their ID lanyard at all times.

A further reminder that any 'Lates' times accumulated in the week must be completed on a MONDAY at the end of the students' day (parents/carers are informed via email if Lates total 10 or more minutes and you will get an overview of punctuality each half term if it is of concern).

Thank you for your support so far this term, we are really pleased with how well our Year 12 students have settled into their studies. Please continue to encourage your child to revise their notes as they go along and complete all the additional support tasks they are set to help them with their subjects. PPEs (pre-public exams) will take place in February for BTEC students and in April for A Level students, BTEC students will sit external unit exams in May. You will receive a progress update at the end of this term so you can see how your child is progressing in each subject and you will be invited to speak with subject teachers next term at our parents evening. We also look forward to inviting you into school next term for our 'Next Steps' information evening on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Many of our students now have part time jobs which we do support, however, there is a lot of pressure placed on young employees to work extra hours in the build up to Christmas. This is highly detrimental to their education and really does have a knock-on effect on their studies and time in school. I must remind you that students should work a maximum of 12 hours a week in a part time job and should think carefully about working more than one-week day evening a week. Please also remind your child of the need to be in school, in the correct place by 8.30am.

We look forward to launching our 'Acts of kindness' campaign which will take place at the end of this term. We will be asking students for food bank donations, cards and mince pies to take to local elderly people, and contributions towards Crisis at Christmas. A big thank you to all students who contributed to our McMillian Coffee morning, helping us to raise over £100.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact me either via email or phone.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Brewer

Assistant Head teacher, Head of Sixth Form

[https://uptree.co/events/?pk\\_campaign=newsletter&pk\\_kwd=snl&pk\\_content=wexwed](https://uptree.co/events/?pk_campaign=newsletter&pk_kwd=snl&pk_content=wexwed)  
Work Experience Forms attached.

