



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent/carers

As we head into the last few days of year 12 I wanted to write to you to give you important information for you as your child progresses into year 13. This half term we have launched: UCAS application, apprenticeship guidance and the EPQ (extended project qualification). Students have been offered workshops on each of the above, guidance is below:

UCAS

Those students considering applying for University should have by now completed and handed in their first draft personal statement. Tutors will mark these and get them back to students for updating. We have explained to students about the changes this year to the application process which allows students to offer any information regarding extenuating circumstances that an admissions tutor should know in order to make a fair offer. The main section of the statement allows the student to explain why they are suitable for the course they've chosen this should include all the additional courses and preparation activities they have completed. A number of students have now realised that they have limited evidence for their personal statement and must now prioritise completing these over the next few weeks. This could include: wider reading, on-line courses, virtual work experience, taster courses, webinars etc. I regularly post opportunities for students on the 'opportunities and work experience' Team so students must keep checking this team regularly and signing up for the opportunities on offer. All activities that student complete should be logged in Unifrog.

Apprenticeships

Workshops have covered: applying for an apprenticeship. CV writing, assessment centres and interview techniques. All students planning to apply for an apprenticeship have had a mock interview and have had to hand in a draft CV. There are many support resources and information on: Unifrog and Pathways CTM so students need to use these for help and guidance. Again, students should be making use of the vast number of opportunities on the 'Opportunities and Work experience' Team as there are some amazing opportunities to find out more about applying for apprenticeships. To secure a higher-level apprenticeship students need to be fully prepared as these are highly competitive.

EPQ

This is an additional qualification offered to our students to study alongside their A levels/BTECs. It is a project where a student can explore an area of interest in great detail. It is mostly an independent study, however students opting for this course will have timetabled lessons next year to cover the key requirements and skills and to allow one to one mentoring sessions. Students who have signed up for this course should have handed in their initial proposal for checking.

There will be further workshops on the UCAS application on Monday 17th July.

PPE follow up

A number of students have now completed retake PPE's (if required) and we will be meeting with these students before the end of term. Parents will be contacted if there are still concerns.

All students need to ensure a smooth transition to year 13 by completing all required coursework over the summer and ensure their notes are all up to date and folders organised for the start of term. In year 13 A level students will have additional study periods on their timetable. These will take place in the supervised study room and students will be expected to complete 're-visit' tasks – going back over year 12 topics to embed knowledge.

All year 13 students will complete PPEs (pre-public exams) in early November, BTEC students have external exams in January and A level students have a further set of PPEs in March, as you can see year 13 is a busy and serious year so students need to be fully prepared for this.

Unifrog

I must draw your attention to 'Unifrog'. We use this for all of our students to support their 'next steps'. This is a highly engaging and important resource that will support your child over the next year.

Students can: use unifrog to complete skills tests, support writing their UCAS statement, and CV, get links to webinars, careers advice, on-line courses, wider reading, search for apprenticeships and degree courses. We are encouraging parents to have a look at this resource by having a trial as a student by setting up a parent account. You can do this by going to: www.unifrog.org/student and click on 'sign in for the first time'. You will be asked for some details and a sign up code: BSGBparents (this code is valid for a 90 day period). After signing up. Log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign in page. This account will allow you to research careers attend webinars delivered by employers and universities to learn more about their opportunities and compare pathways so that you can support your child in making an informed decision about their 'next steps'

PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education)

As a key part of your child's programme of study they have attended PSHE sessions on Wednesday afternoons which complements our PSHE programme in CT. During Key Stage 5 (Year 12-13) students should be given the knowledge, understanding, skills, strategies and attributes they need for independent living and the next stage in their education or career. Throughout the year we have looked at key topics in the following areas: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Sex Education and Living in the Wider World,

We will continue to focus on key areas through CT in year 13 with some additional sessions from external providers during the year. In addition to this student will experience RE (religious education) through our RS/Ethics programme which will also be delivered in CT sessions.

I must remind you at this point that attendance to daily CT at 10.30am is compulsory for all students.

Please note other key important reminders:

Dress code: this has become very sloppy recently and will need to be addressed next term. I remind you we have a dress code which we require all students to follow (a copy is attached again). A number of students have started to wear leisure wear – this is not acceptable in our dress code regulations. Students dressed inappropriately or persistently breaking the dress code rules may be required to go home to change. Sixth Form students are role models for the rest of the school.

Safeguarding

Students will not be allowed to leave the school site without swiping out. There will be specific times only when they are allowed off site. We need to know where our students are during the school day. All students must

wear their lanyards and ID cards at all times. Lost lanyards/cards need to be replaced by purchasing a new one through wisepay. If a child needs to report any safeguarding issue for themselves or another student they can do this via the link in SharePoint (all students have been shown how to do this).

Health / Well-being

Vaping is not allowed at any time in any location in school or outside the school gates/fences/bus stop. If your child is caught vaping they will receive an internal suspension for the first offence and external fixed term suspension for subsequent offences. Energy drinks are not allowed to be consumed on school site and will be confiscated if seen.

End of term dates

Thursday 13th July – Sports day period 4 onwards

Monday 17th July – UCAS workshops (all UCAS applicants required to attend)

Tuesday 18th July – last day for year 12 – Meet at Danson Park for 9.30am

Thursday 17th August - BTEC Students: External exam unit results available

Wednesday 6th September – Year 13 Start of Term – 8.30am in performance space

Thank you for all your support this year. I hope you have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you all at the 'Year 13 Information evening' in early September (date TBC).

Yours sincerely



Miss Brewer
Assistant Head teacher, Head of Sixth Form