



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that your son/daughter has now settled into their studies at Blackfen. All students should now have recorded their target grades in their student diary on the assessment record page. Along with this they should have at least two formal assessment grades recorded. Please have a look at this page and discuss these grades with your son/daughter. Your son/daughter should aim to achieve at least their target grade in every piece of work they complete. If they do not achieve their target grade they should ensure they understand how to improve their work to the expected level. Teachers will provide feedback on how to improve the grade. By the end of this term you will receive a copy of the first progress update. This will provide a current working at grade for each subject.

All A level students will take PPE's (pre-public examinations) the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January. Students should be revising their notes as they go along and should ensure they complete revision over the school holiday. The results of these exams will be available to you at year 12 parents evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Your son/daughter will have a one to one 'preparing for success' meeting with a sixth form tutor on the day of the PPE results.

We have already had two very successful challenge days where year 12 have been given the opportunity to start thinking about their route after sixth form. They have had an introduction to university, a look at apprenticeships and last week a visit to Skills for London. It is important that your son/daughter is planning for their next steps. They have all been encouraged to register for university taster courses ([www.unitasterday.com](http://www.unitasterday.com)). All students are encouraged to gain some volunteering experience to enhance their CV or application. This can be done through helping out within school or in the local community. Students have been encouraged to look for opportunities for volunteering in the local area through the website: [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

To look at other options such as gap years, apprenticeships and jobs students can look at [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) Students can have a careers interview with 'Prospects' by requesting an appointment through Mrs Eiffert.

We are really encouraging students to develop their skills by acquiring additional qualifications. Many of our students have successfully completed future learn on-line courses. These have been designed by Universities and are completely free of charge. Students can sign up at: [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) (parents can do these too!)

I must also remind you of the importance of securing a work experience placement. All level 3 students will be completing this for one week (11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016). Students need to find their own placement in an area either related to the course they are studying or in a potential career. It cannot be paid work and should be challenging. The site: [www.studentladder.co.uk](http://www.studentladder.co.uk) has some exciting possibilities. Once students have found a placement they should collect forms from the Sixth Form office. One form must be given to the employer for completion and must be returned with a copy of the Employers Liability Insurance Certificate. The other form must be completed by the parent and student.



I must point out the many schools send their students out in the same week so places are taken up quickly. We have therefore informed students early of the need to find a placement. I urge you to make this a priority. Mrs Smith, our Work Experience Coordinator can provide students with some contacts. She is available in room 106.

I have spoken to students this week about prioritising their studies over everything else – they are in full-time education. Although I encourage students to take on a part-time job, this should be limited to 12 hours a week. Any more than this can have a serious effect on their ability to complete their studies, concentrate in school and alternately achieve good grades. At this time of year employers put a great deal of pressure on their young employees to work additional hours. Please do not allow your son/daughter to do this. They have signed up to full time education.

Thank you for all your support so far this year. Please do contact me if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

*K Brewer.*

Miss K Brewer  
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

#### **Important Dates:**

- 17<sup>th</sup> December: Year 12 final day of term  
Ice Skating trip
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January: Pre-public exams
- 4<sup>th</sup> February: Year 12 Parents Evening
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Parents University Information Evening