



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Matthew Brown BA(Hons) DMS(Ed)

Blackfen School for Girls,
Blackfen Road,
Sidcup, Kent.
DA15 9NU

T: 020 8303 1887

F: 020 8298 1656

E: admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk
www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that your son/daughter has now settled into their studies at Blackfen. Your son/daughter has received their target grades for each subject – these have been recorded in their student diary. You will receive a progress update report at the end of term (Christmas) where you will see the current grades compared with the targets.

You will get a chance to discuss your son/daughter's progress with individual subject teachers on 25th January at the Student Review Evening. Please contact the school at any time if you have concerns.

Can I remind you that students should be studying for at least 5 hours per subject a week in addition to their timetabled lessons. This is the minimum required to ensure success on level 3 courses. All students have at least 2 hours a week of compulsory supervised study on their timetables as well as non-contact lessons where they are expected to work in the 'Learning Zone'. The study Centre is also available before and after school and during break and lunch for independent study. I enclose a document that outlines how a student should use their study time and the things they can do to ensure success in their subjects.

Can I remind you that students must be in school by 8.30am everyday. If they don't have a timetabled lesson they must swipe in and work in the Learning Zone. Students are not permitted to leave the school premises (except at break and lunch) until the end of period 4 at the earliest.

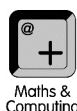
Any student who is causing concern in terms of progress will be given additional study periods in order to help them to improve their grades.

If a student is late to school, lessons or form time the minutes are totalled and the student is required to make up the time at 3.10pm on the following Monday. Students are informed of their total lates time on a Friday.

All year 12 students are required to take part in an enrichment programme. They have been given the enrichment options booklet detailing all the activities available and the number of credits available for each activity. Students need to gain at least 10 credits over the year and are required to keep records/log evidence of each activity. The booklet can be viewed on the school website under the 'sixth form' tab.

Work Experience will take place from 26th – 30st March 2018. Student must arrange a placement for this week. The placement should be either related to a course they are studying or a potential career. It cannot be paid work and should be challenging. This is the experience that university admissions officers or future employers will be looking at for recruitment purposes. I must urge you to find this placement now. Once students have found their placement they need to complete a form and get an employer to complete their section and return it with a copy of their Employers Liability Insurance Certificate. The paperwork can be collected at the Sixth Form office or from the website. The deadline for work experience paperwork is **Thursday 4th January 2018.**

A reminder that if your son/daughter did not achieve at least a grade 4 in English (language or literature) and/or Maths GCSE they must be enrolled on a course here in school. They must attend all timetabled



lessons for this. If they achieved a grade 4 or above in literature and a grade 3 in language they do not have to continue to study English at GCSE. However, if your son/daughter feels that a grade 4 would be beneficial to them they can be entered for the exam as an external student in the summer (at a cost) please contact the exams office.

I am really pleased that your son/daughter is choosing to continue their studies at Blackfen. By coming here they have made a DEAL (Drop Everything And Learn) therefore their studies must be prioritised over everything else – they are in full time education. Although I fully support students having a part time job, this should be limited to a maximum of 12 hours a week. Any more will have a serious effect on their ability to complete their studies, concentrate in school and achieve good grades. Employers will put a lot of pressure on students to work additional hours in the build up to Christmas. Please do not allow your son/daughter to do this, they have signed up to full time education.

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

Yours sincerely



Miss K Brewer
Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

Important Dates:

Tuesday 19 th December:	End of Term (for Sixth Form)
Tuesday 2 nd January:	Start of Term
Thursday 25 th January:	Year 12 Student Review Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 30 th January:	Challenge Day (2)
Wednesday 28 th February:	University Information Evening
Tuesday 6 th March:	Careers Fair (evening)
Monday 12 th March:	Challenge Day (3)
Monday 26 th – 30 th March	Year 12 Work Experience