



FAIRFAX INFORMATION PACK

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“I am incredibly proud to be the Head of Fairfax Academy. The Academy’s values are built around hard work and opportunity; we believe that every child attending Fairfax will have the chance to thrive in an atmosphere where high expectations meet endless possibilities”.

WELCOME TO FAIRFAX
MRS D J BUNN - HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY

From the moment you enter the gates here at Fairfax you realise what an extraordinary school it is; one that succeeds academically through its excellent examination results, both at GCSE and A Level, but also one that develops the 'whole person'. I am incredibly proud to be the Head of Academy of such a unique school.

Our aim is to prepare each and every student to succeed in the next stages of their career, education and training and to have the skills and competencies to do this. Fairfax's traditional curriculum underpins our ethos of creativity, innovation and the mastering of the basics, reading, writing, communicating and mathematics.

We are proud of our reputation both locally and nationally through our endeavours with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, World Challenge expeditions and quality first teaching. Our excellent House system is at the heart of Fairfax and provides students with extensive opportunities. The inter-House Eisteddfod festival celebrates our students' talents, and our variety of local and national sports teams allow our athletic students to excel.

We continually strive to improve all aspects of school life.



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Fairfax Academy

WELCOME TO FAIRFAX

CONTEXT

Fairfax is in Sutton Coldfield, eight miles North-East of Birmingham. There are approximately 1400 students on roll, with over 200 in the Sixth Form - we are significantly oversubscribed each year. Our intake is diverse and creates a genuinely comprehensive culture, despite the two selective Sutton Grammar schools. We are a fully accessible school for Physically Disabled students, and currently have 14 PD students in school. Fairfax has obtained Artsmark Gold, Sportsmark, Healthy Schools and International School Awards. We also have productive links with other schools both locally and nationally.

This summer 77% of our students achieved three levels of progress in mathematics and 91% achieved three levels of progress in English. At A2 45% of grades achieved were A* - B, with two thirds of students achieving grade C or above. The majority of students went on to study at their first choice university.

- Transformed data, monitoring, intervention and assessment systems allowing extra provision to be provided.
- A traditional curriculum that promotes high levels of literacy and numeracy.
- A personalised CPD culture provided through 1:1 coaching and CPD tailored to the teaching standards.
- Mixed (vertical) tutor groups to improve students' respect for each other.
- A superb House system at the heart of the school promoting participation from all.







WELCOME TO FAIRFAX LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

Our aim is to develop both staff and students to ensure all students can excel in lessons using formative assessment strategies and by developing independence and creative learning, we aim to give students the skill set to succeed in an exam heavy curriculum. Fairfax aims to support every member of staff in becoming an outstanding teacher. A varied CPD programme is provided that caters for teachers at all stages in their career and teachers are encouraged to share their ideas and learn from each other through a range of means including our regular teaching and learning publication 'Lightbulb' and over Teaching and Learning forums.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a flexible, personalised education - knowing that one size does not fit all and preparing students for their future lives. Having several distinct pathways which support every learner in aspiring to the very best; all of our students will master the basics of Literacy and Numeracy as well as following traditional and more creative courses.

We have eight Faculties in which every subject is placed, namely; Business and IT, Design and Creativity, English, Humanities, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, PE & Sport and Science.

WELCOME TO FAIRFAX

OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT WELFARE

Behaviour, Attendance & Care, Guidance & Support were judged “outstanding” by Ofsted 2011. This view of behaviour was confirmed in our recent Section 8 inspection (October 2014). The report stated: *“Behaviour in lessons is very positive. In all the lessons visited students were very well focused on learning.”* Standards of discipline and uniform are high. Students readily use their “voice” through the house school councils, “tutor group of the week,” discussions with the Headteacher and community service awards. They form an interview panel for all staff appointments.

The House system permeates most aspects of school life and generates healthy competitive spirit. The outstanding quality and range of extra-curricular activities help students to develop the self-esteem and confidence to succeed. As well as an unusually large number of sports teams and clubs, Fairfax is a world leader in Outdoor Education, including World Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The annual Eisteddfod Arts House competition gives every student the chance to get involved and culminates in two evenings of drama, dance, music and high tension whilst the results are decided. Students say there is “always something for everyone”. Of course these are only possible through the commitment of the staff team, and we expect new staff to contribute to this work.

“Students reach high standards in their academic work, behave in an exemplary manner and contribute extremely positively to the life of the school.”







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WELCOME TO FAIRFAX OUR FACILITIES

Fairfax is set in large grounds which are exceptionally well maintained. There have been extensive building programmes which have provided an indoor Swimming Pool, new Technology Block, Science labs, Drama Studio, MFL/English Block, Sports Hall, Entrance foyer, Geography block, 3D Art Room, Performing Arts Suite, extension to the Open Learning Centre to support students with SEN.

During the Summer of 2012 the new Reception opened, along with our dedicated Olympic-style Netball facilities, a canopied area with outdoor Table Tennis facilities, a 21st Century Library and new Music Practice rooms. This coupled with an extensive programme of re-decoration and refurbishment in classrooms as well as over 200 new all-in-one PC's, a dedicated Exchange server and a virtualised IT network, equate to facilities that are enviable across the Midlands.

In 2013 a new £1million two-storey Sixth Form building and a state-of-the-art Restaurant for staff and students were also completed.



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WELCOME TO FAIRFAX

CONCLUSION

Fairfax is a great place to work. It is a happy and successful student-friendly environment which relies and thrives on the generosity and commitment of staff. There are high expectations and the pace of life is distinctly busy.

Fairfax has traditional values and a firm approach to discipline, punctuality and uniform, but embraces the challenges of the 21st Century. This is an opportunity to be involved in shaping the future direction of Fairfax, and making it an even more successful experience for our students. We welcome applications from ambitious individuals who feel they have the skills, personality and experience to rise to this challenge.

Further Information

If you require further information about the available post, an informal visit, or any aspect of the school, visit our website at

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk or contact Jenny Piper, HR Manager, on 0121 378 1288 ext. 233 or at **j.piper@fairfax.bham.sch.uk**.

“The school has placed care, guidance and support for students at the heart of its work.” - Ofsted 2011







MRS D J BUNN | HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY

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