



PROSPECTUS 2018/19



## JOIN OUR FAMILY MR CHRIS STEVENS | INTERIM CEO OF FMAT

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We are delighted that you are considering an academy within the family of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust for your child.

Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust was established in 2014. Fairfax MAT

is grounded in the values, established over 60 years ago, of the founding MAT school – Fairfax. Mr Gordon Philpott, the inaugural Head Teacher of Fairfax, was passionate about making a difference to his pupils. He believed everyone that attended Fairfax, regardless of their background, deserved nothing less than excellence. This is the very same mission that continues to drive our teachers, leaders, governors and support staff today.

Each of our four academies has a traditional approach. We passionately believe that providing clear boundaries, within a nurturing environment, will ensure all of our pupils get the best chance in life. Our dedicated staff

go the extra mile for our pupils, ensuring they not only learn and succeed academically, but develop a depth of character through their everyday experiences and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. We expect every child to challenge themselves to be the best they can be – we encourage and foster our pupils' aspirations, supporting them to overcome obstacles to pursue their goals and achieve their ambitious aims in life.

Rooted in the traditional values of courtesy and respect, our academies actively aim to develop good manners. Our students are proud to be polite and kind to all, respecting people of all faiths and backgrounds, ready to take their place at the forefront of modern Britain.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our family of academies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Stevens".

**Mr Chris Stevens**  
Interim CEO  
Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust

Sinceritas Laboris

WELCOME TO FAIRFAX  
**MRS DEBORAH BUNN - HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY**

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A warm welcome to Fairfax. Thank you for expressing an interest in our academy. As Head of Academy at Fairfax, I am incredibly proud of our students' achievements and the pride they take in every aspect of school life. I am confident that the high standards we have in behaviour, uniform, respect for one another and work ethic at Fairfax will equip your child for a bright and positive future.

Through a traditional, rigorous curriculum, we prepare students effectively for the next stages in their education, employment or training, and through our established House System, we develop students' creativity, resilience, comradeship and determination.

Our aim is to ensure that students have a rewarding experience at Fairfax whatever their strengths. We pursue excellence in all that we do and the academy's motto 'Sinceritas Laboris' is fundamental to our success.



MRS DEBORAH BUNN  
Head of Fairfax Academy



## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX ABOUT FAIRFAX

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Fairfax is a friendly learning community set in well maintained, extensive grounds on the edge of Sutton Coldfield. We actively encourage our students to fulfil their potential both academically and socially in order to maximize their opportunities in their adult lives.

All of our students have access to a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, which is delivered with care and support by understanding teaching staff. The curriculum is adapted appropriately to enable those students with learning difficulties to have the widest possible access to it. We encourage our students to develop the skills they require to play an integral role in society and to become valuable and responsible contributors to it.

Fairfax prides itself on its fantastic House system which was established upon its opening in 1959. We feel that this wonderful tradition provides students with the essential foundation to develop leadership skills, loyalty and responsibility as well as healthy competition in many aspects of Fairfax life.

All students are offered the opportunity to take part in many different sporting and extra-curricular activities which helps to promote House spirit amongst the Fairfax community.





## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX OUR FACILITIES

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### OUR FACILITIES

Fairfax is steeped in over 50 years of history and when the funds allow, our buildings are developed to provide the latest facilities for our students and staff. These developments over the years include:

- Purpose built Technology Suites
- Specialist teaching rooms
- Performing Arts Suite
- Library - Learning Resource Centre
- Outdoor Multi-Sporting Centre
- Outdoor Canopy area
- The Refectory and The Eatery - Dining facilities
- The Philpott Centre - a brand new two-storey building housing specialist teaching rooms
- Outdoor Sixth Form area



## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX HOUSE SYSTEM

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At Fairfax, the well-being of each student is a primary focus and our vision is to enable all students to maximise their potential both academically and socially. The House system generates a sense of identity which helps students to develop leadership skills, loyalty, responsibility and healthy competition.

On admission, students are allocated to one of the four Houses:

- Coventry
- Kenilworth
- Stratford
- Warwick

Each is led by a Head of House, who together with their Assistant Head of House and Tutors, monitor, track and evaluate the whole-school involvement of their students. In addition, House Captains encourage student participation in the many House activities. There are also peer mentors from all year groups, who work closely with students to support and guide them.

The exceptionally strong support and care of students through the House system, is the foundation to the academic success of students at Fairfax and encourages healthy competition in the following three areas:

### ACADEMIC

The academy's 'MyStickers' merit system rewards students for exceptional effort and achievement. At regular points throughout the year, Heads of Year and Leadership monitor progress and award students for outstanding progression on the 'MyStickers' rewards ladder.

### SPORTS COMPETITION

Students in each year group are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of sports, with House competitions taking place each half term. Points for these competitions culminate in the House Swimming Gala and House Athletics Championships. These all contribute towards the House Sports Trophy.

### THE ARTS

The annual Eisteddfod celebrates creativity across the curriculum. This event is made up of a variety of events such as Art, Food, Photography, Creative Writing and Flower Arranging. The final events of Dance, Drama, Music and Spoken Word take place over two performance evenings, which is a Fairfax firm favourite!





## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX CURRICULUM

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 8), students will study the following subjects:

- English and Mathematics
- Science (a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- History, Geography and Religious Education
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Art, Music, Drama and Physical Education
- Business and Computing, and Guidance

In addition, we have enrichment days during the year, which feature KS3 activities to promote literacy, numeracy, careers education, outdoor education, House fixtures and educational visits.

All students are timetabled to take part in at least two hours of Physical Education per week. This is offered at examination level in Years 9 - 13.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 9 - 11), students follow one of several flexible pathways which feature a wide range of academic courses including the English Baccalaureate.

All students will study the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

The English Baccalaureate courses include:

- History and Geography
- French and German

In addition, students can choose from a full range of academic courses:

- Business and ICT
- Product Design
- Food and Nutrition
- Child Development
- Art, Music and Drama
- Physical Education and Dance

Our enrichment days feature KS4 activities to enhance guidance, careers education, mathematics, English and the sciences, in addition to House fixtures and educational visits.



FAIRFAX  
SINCERITAS LABORIS

## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX SIXTH FORM

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We recognise the importance of post-16 education and pride ourselves on offering a flexible and personalised curriculum that challenges and supports all of our students.

Academic standards have increased year on year, with an extensive range of A-Level courses providing something for everyone and progression to first choice universities is high.

The Prefect System, House System, Learning Mentor Scheme as well as the Student Council, offer all of our sixth form students the opportunity to develop their character and self confidence by helping others and allows them to be seen as role models by younger students.

Sixth Form students have access to The Refectory during study periods, should they wish to access the Wi-Fi network and study whilst enjoying refreshments. The Sixth Form Centre houses computer suites, study rooms, an indoor social area and an outdoor recreation area.

Sixth form students are given the unique opportunities to go on World Challenge adventures, through which they have recently been fortunate enough to visit Borneo and Africa.

Further details about our sixth form are available in our Sixth Form Prospectus.





## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX PARTICIPATION AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

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At Fairfax we believe that all students have strengths, and by encouraging them to take part in varied activities it will help develop self esteem and confidence, this in turn builds workplace and life skills.

Students are actively supported to become involved in all aspects of school life whether it is House competitions, extra-curricular activities, or community events and benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, namely:

- Science and Gardening Club
- Drama Club
- Dance Club
- Music Club
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Football Training
- Eco-council
- Sports Teams
- Choir and Orchestra

Students also have the opportunity to be part of the House Council and Academy Student Council. This is run by our Sixth Form House Captains and supported by students from all year groups and Houses. Their role is to debate whole school issues and inform decision making. Students are frequently consulted about Fairfax developments through questionnaires

and the 'Student Voice' discussions with the Head of Academy.

Along with the extra-curricular opportunities, each year group is given the opportunity to become involved in outdoor pursuits at various centres throughout the school year, our most recent being:

- World Challenge to Africa (Year 12-13)
- Germany - Christmas Markets (Year 8)
- France - Disneyland Paris (Year 8)
- Iceland - Sixth Form Geography Field Visit
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme:
  - Gold Expedition to Snowdonia (Sixth Form)
  - Silver Expedition to the Peak District (Year 10 and 11)
  - Bronze Expedition to Church Stretton (Year 10)
  - Bronze Taster Expedition (Year 9)
- Arête outdoor pursuit residential (Year 8)
- Red Point outdoor pursuit day (Year 7)
- Drama theatre visit, New York (Year 10-13)
- Ski Trip to Italy, (Year 9-13)
- Several Drama and Theatre visits for all year groups



## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX SPORTS

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We believe participation in team games not only provides exercise and a safe outlet for students' energy, but also encourages team loyalty, healthy competition and self discipline.

Our on-site facilities include:

- Gym - complete with trampolines, rowing machines and gym equipment
- Sports Hall - complete with basketball/netball hoops, badminton nets
- Tennis Courts
- Football Cages
- Indoor and outdoor Basketball/Netball Courts
- Indoor and outdoor Table Tennis
- Playing fields for rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics

We encourage involvement in both individual pursuits and team games, either through House or whole-school representation.

Along with extensive on-site sporting facilities, the academy also takes advantage of other facilities in the local area, in particular the amenities at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

Fairfax sports teams fulfil an extensive

fixture list against other schools and have achieved considerable success in many sports at Area and County levels. Individual students and teams have gained numerous representative honours in area, regional and national squads.

Each year group is given the opportunity to become involved in outdoor pursuits organised by staff at various centres throughout the school year. These include:

- \* The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- \* Skiing

These are only a few of the exciting experiences that will be available to your child.





## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

Fairfax is recognised as a world leader in this activity and has celebrated over 700 Gold Awards. With its impressive history of success at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels, the academy can justifiably claim its right to be acknowledged as one of the foremost International Institutions for promoting the scheme.

Students from Year 10 onwards are invited to take part in this fantastic opportunity which provides them with the chance to develop new interests through a non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which promote responsibility, self-confidence and perseverance. Featured walks and camps over the years include visits to:

- Cannock Chase and Church Stretton
- The Brecon Beacons and The Peak District
- Snowdonia

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has become one of the major events within the life of students at Fairfax and an increasing number of students develop their experience further by raising funds and taking part in international challenges to places such as:

- Africa 2018
- Borneo 2016
- China 2014
- Peru 2012
- Tanzania 2010



## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX PARENTAL SUPPORT

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At Fairfax, we strive to establish and maintain positive, trusting relationships with each parent/carer and welcome all parents/carers to attend the following events in our calendar:

- Parents' Evenings
- Celebration Evening
- The Eisteddfod Evenings

Communication is important to us and we regularly keep in touch and inform parents/carers of important academy information and events through:

- In The Know - a bi-weekly update
- Regular e-mails and letters
- School Reports
- Fairfax Website
- Fairfax Academy Facebook and Twitter
- My Ed App
- Parent Forum

Tutors and the teams based in the Student Support Centre are here to assist all parents/carers in ensuring that their children are not only enjoying school life, but are also on target for achieving their utmost potential in all subject areas. Furthermore, attendance is our foremost priority in ensuring high achievement for each student and we are committed to maximising the attendance of every student during their education at Fairfax. We work alongside the support of our parents/carers in ensuring that absences are kept to a minimum.





## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX ADMISSIONS

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### ADMISSIONS

Fairfax is a very popular academy and as such is always heavily oversubscribed. The Academy Association took the decision in 2014 to increase our Pupil Admission Number to 250 from 222 with 25 of these additional places awarded through aptitude in the Performing Arts: Drama, Dance or Music.

For more information, please visit our website [www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/204/admissions-2018](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/204/admissions-2018)



Scan here to visit our website  
for further information



## WELCOME TO FAIRFAX CHILD PROTECTION

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Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board. If you want to know more about this procedure, please speak to the Designated Senior Teacher.

If staff become aware of, or have a need to become involved in, situations where a child may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, or if the behaviour of a child seriously disrupts good order in the academy or causes damage to property, staff may need to take steps to intervene physically. In such circumstances staff will follow the academy's policy for dealing with such situations.

Any parent/carer wishing to have further information on this matter or wish to view this policy may do so on request.



**FAIRFAX**  
SINCERITAS LABORIS



**MRS D BUNN | HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY**

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