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9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support during this school closure period. The current remote way of working is not ideal but thanks to your support I know that our students are trying their best to keep on top of their learning. Please be assured that we understand it can be difficult to motivate students during these challenging times, we ask that students try their best and complete 2-3 hours of work a day. All of our students can use Show My Homework to contact their teachers and if they are struggling with work, or finding work too easy, please encourage them to contact their teacher directly so that support can be provided.

If you are struggling to persuade your child to complete any work at all please contact us at [classwork@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:classwork@fairfax.bham.sch.uk) and we will make contact with you to see if there is anything we can do to support them.

Over the next few weeks, teachers will begin to introduce setting work in the form of narrated PowerPoints where the teacher will talk over sections of the presentation to instruct students. Students in years 9 and 10 will receive this format of work first. These videos will be uploaded onto Show My Homework and will be MP4 files. The majority of smartphones and tablets can play MP4 files however there are some Android phones and the Amazon Fire tablet which cannot. The company who provide our IT support at Fairfax, CSE have recommended that, if your child finds that they are unable to open an MP4 file, they can download an app called VLC Player which allows them to open any video in any format. VLC Player is a free app produced by a non-profit making organisation.

Your child should also start receiving more requests to submit work from their teachers. It is looking increasingly likely that Years 7, 8 and 9 will not return to school until September and we are very keen to ensure that students are able to receive regular feedback from their teachers. Teachers will either ask students to submit work via Show My Homework or to email it directly to them. Students do not need to have completed work on a laptop to be able to submit it. If they have handwritten their work, they can simply take a photo of it on their phone and either attach it as a comment to their teacher on Show My Homework or on an email.

Fairfax Academy awaits government guidance on what school provision will look like in September, but we very much hope to be welcoming all our students back for face-to-face time with their teachers. I do appreciate that this is a frustrating and unusual time and would like to thank you again for your continued support at this difficult period.

Yours sincerely



**MRS D J BUNN**  
**Head of Academy**