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4 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a real pleasure welcoming students back to school this week. Staff have been telling me how much they have missed their students and how much they have enjoyed welcoming them back and teaching them face-to-face. We have all been proud of how smartly students have worn their uniform and how they have settled into their lessons.

The Academy wi-fi has been down since the beginning of the week which has caused a number of challenges. Our ICT support team have been working hard to resolve the issues, but staff and students have risen to the challenges these difficulties have presented.

Students have arrived at their gates and lessons sensibly and have all followed the procedures well. Key Stage 3 students have remained in their class bubbles throughout the day, and Key Stage 4 students have stayed in their year group bubbles at break and lunch times. Students clearly enjoyed seeing their peers again and the atmosphere has been very positive.

The new routines are unusual for the students, but they will remain the same, allowing students to get used to them over the coming weeks provided government guidance remains unchanged.

Parents/carers are kindly requested to use the online service to top up their child's lunch account as the student cash machines in the foyer will be taped up at the end of today.

Could I please ask that you consider these few reminders:

### 1. Use of Face Masks

In line with the changes to government guidance, students may wear face coverings in communal areas if parents/carers wish them to. However, we ask that you contact your child's Head of Year to advise us of this. We also ask that you talk through the guidance below with your child:

How to wear a face mask safely:

- 1) Face masks **must** only be worn once. Once taken off they are no longer safe to use.
- 2) If your mask is reusable then it should be stored in a sealed plastic bag until it has been washed.
- 3) If it is a disposable face mask then it must be placed into the bins provided as you enter school, or another bin with a lid, not a recycling bin.
- 4) Clean face masks should be kept in a sealed plastic bag for your journey home.
- 5) To wear a face mask correctly you need to:
  - Wash hands first
  - Make sure it covers your nose and your mouth and is fastened securely around your ears
  - Use the ties/elastics to apply it. You should not touch the inside or outside of your mask.

- If your mask gets damp you should not wear it again
- Re-useable masks must be washed every use

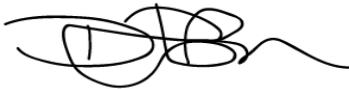
## 2. Social Distancing

Staff are encouraging students to socially distance when they are not in the classroom. However, students need to remember to do this also. Please remind your child of the importance of not standing too close or touching their peers.

The measures that schools have put in place this September are unprecedented and I appreciate that there are many differing opinions and feelings round the re-opening of schools. Fairfax has put measures in place in line with the government guidance, and will continually review these processes and procedures.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your child and Fairfax Academy during these unusual times.

Yours sincerely



**MRS D J BUNN**  
Head of Academy