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16 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find attached Fairfax Academy's Remote Learning Statement along with some help sheets for accessing Microsoft Teams. Students can access Teams on any device that has internet connectivity. Following half-term, staff with IT capability may use Teams for lessons. Please make sure you have gone through the help sheets and can access Teams for live lessons.

If you are concerned that your child does not have internet access please email classwork@fairfax.bham.sch.uk

Winter Clothing

A reminder that as we move into winter, we will need to keep classrooms well ventilated and ask that students are sent to school with appropriate plain under layers and a black V-neck jumper. Hoodies are not acceptable and remain a prohibited item in school. Students should come prepared to have break time outside and bring a hooded coat and/or umbrella.

Face Coverings

Students have adjusted well to wearing face coverings in corridors and have been co-operative in putting them on as they leave classrooms and the playground. Please remember to send your child to school with a clean face covering each day. Face coverings should be washed regularly. If using disposable masks, please ensure your child has a spare, as the ear loops tend to break on them.

Year 7 Changes after Half-Term

Year 7 will have a slight change to their school day after half-term. Their break time will move from 09:55 to 10:35 and their lunch time from 12:15 to 12:45. A Year 7 Parents' Evening will now take place on Wednesday, 4 November 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this will not be a face-to-face Parents' Evening. A member of staff who teaches your child will call you on the telephone during the evening to discuss how your child has settled in to Fairfax.

Year 8 Changes after Half-Term

Based on both teacher, parent and student feedback, we have taken the decision to set Year 8 following half-term. The sets will allow teachers to plan lessons more sensitively matched to the group's ability. Lesson and day timings are unchanged, but following the 9-day half-term break, students will start the new term in their new bubbles.

Year 9 Changes after Half-Term

Based on both teacher, parent and student feedback, we have taken the decision to set Year 9 following half-term. The sets will allow teachers to plan lessons more sensitively matched to the group's ability. Year 9 will also become a year bubble following half-term. This will mean that from Monday, 2 November, students will be able to purchase food from the Refectory at lunch time. The offer is limited but there are hot 'grab' options each day. There will be some changes to the Year 9 day in order to allow Year 9 to have five one-hour lessons with no interruption for sandwich collection. Their break will move to 09:55 and will be on the main playground. Lunch will be at 12:15 and will also be on the main playground. As a result of these changes, Year 9 Parents' Evening will be moved to Spring Term 1, and be over two evenings in 2021, Wednesday, 20 January and Wednesday, 3 February. This will allow new teachers to get to know students.

COVID-19 Tests

Please be reminded that if your child has a COVID-19 test due to having symptoms, they must not return to school until the results return. We do not require evidence of a negative test, but do require evidence of a positive result.

Contacting Fairfax Academy

The Academy frequently receives more calls than we have phone lines in reception. Please leave a message and your message will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member.

Email

We have been made aware that a number of parents have emailed post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk but the email has not arrived in school. The resolution of the IT issues in school is ongoing. Please consider adding a read receipt to emails sent to Fairfax Academy and if you have emailed but not received a response please get in touch with us to let us know.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy

Attachments: *Remote Learning Statement*
Help Sheets for Accessing Microsoft Teams