



# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 18 December 2020

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Wishing all our staff, parents/carers and students a peaceful festive period.

## **The Eisteddfod VIRTUAL 2020**

Congratulations to Stratford House – after 24 years since their last win, with absolute delight we announce Stratford as our 2020 winners of The Eisteddfod VIRTUAL!

Thank you to all the staff and students who have worked incredibly hard this term. It has been overwhelming to see the excellent virtual displays of creative individual entries and outstanding performance videos. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Winners and runners up in the Dance, Vocal and Instrumental performances are invited to perform at our annual Celebration Evening later in the academic year.

## **Term Dates Reminder**

A reminder that school opens on Tuesday, 5 January 2021, however following recent government announcements regarding a staggered start for secondary schools, please refer to the separate letter that will follow from the Head of Academy.

## **Spring Term 2021**

Spring Term I	Tuesday, 5 January – Friday, 12 February 2021
Half-term	Monday, 15 February – Friday, 19 February 2021
Spring Term II	Monday, 22 February – Thursday, 1 April 2021

### **Non-Uniform Day – Thursday, 17 December 2020**

Thank you to all our students, parents/carers and staff who supported our non-uniform day to support The Gap\* Headspace ([www.thegapsuttoncoldfield.org/headspace](http://www.thegapsuttoncoldfield.org/headspace)) and our Fairfax PTA.

A fantastic amount of £896.00 was raised. #makingfairfaxproud

### **Bubble 'Rudolph Runs' – John Taylor Hospice**

Thank you to all students, parents/carers and staff who supported our bubble 'Rudolph Runs' this week. Fairfax are delighted to have raised £1,950 for John Taylor Hospice.

### **Celebration Evening 2021**

Please be reminded that our annual Celebration Evening in January will be postponed, and confirmation of a new date will be shared in due course. We hope to celebrate with our awardees, special guests, associates, staff and parents/carers later in the academic year.

### **Ventilation in Classrooms**

A reminder notice: in order to ensure adequate ventilation in classrooms, please be advised that windows will need to remain open during winter months and students should come to school wearing a plain black V-neck jumper and wear appropriate under layers as they will not be allowed to wear their coats. Hoodies and slogan jumpers remain prohibited items and will be confiscated.



### **Farewell and welcome to new staff**

Fairfax would very much wish to thank Mrs Sutherland, for over 8 years of service to Fairfax, and wish her all the very best in her forthcoming retirement.

We would also like to wish Mrs Riddet-Smith, who is leaving Fairfax, all the very best and thank her for her commitment to Fairfax and Warwick House.

We very much look forward to welcoming new staff joining us in January:

- Miss Sheldon (Teacher of Mathematics)

#### **2020-21 Heads of Year Information:**

Head of Year 7	Mrs Rose
Head of Year 8	Miss Dowell
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Rainbow
Head of Year 9	Mr Ravenscroft
Head of Year 10	Ms Ahmed
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Clark
Head of Year 11	Mrs Colbourne
Assistant Head of Year	Mrs Barker
AHT Director of Sixth Form	Ms Gray
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Miss Gardner

#### **2020-21 Heads of House Information:**

Coventry Head of House	Miss Blake
Assistant Head of House	Mr Thompson
Kenilworth Head of House	Mrs Hunter-Stott
Assistant Head of House	Mrs Sharratt
Stratford Head of House	Mr Porter
Assistant Head of House	Miss Sutton
Warwick Head of House	Mr Carty
Assistant Head of House	TBC

### **Parent/Carer Calendar**

Please find attached an updated copy of the parent/carers calendar for the Spring Term.

### **Update on GCSE and A Level Examinations for 2021**

The government announced on Thursday 3rd December some extra measures to support students ahead of next summer's exams. This is to make exams as fair as possible and support those students who have had their education disrupted as a result of Covid-19. The measures that the government are putting into place are:

- More generous grading than usual. The grades students receive will be in line with the national outcomes from 2020.
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas that will be covered in their GCSE or A Level exams for some of their subjects.
- Exams aids, such as formula sheets, will be provided for students in some exams to reduce the amount of information they have to memorise.
- Additional exams will be available so that any student who misses an exam due to illness or self-isolation is given a second chance to sit an exam

- In extreme cases where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used but only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.

The government will provide more detail on these adaptations to exams in the new year.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 students will continue with their daily lunch collection in the New Year, and remain in their 'bubble' classroom to eat their sandwich lunch at the new time of 12:30pm each day. In addition, students will also have the opportunity to purchase a hot snack at break time (10:15am) from the second week back at school in January onwards.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Year 8 students will continue with their daily lunch collection in the New Year, and remain in their 'bubble' classroom to eat their sandwich lunch at the new time of 12:45pm each day. In addition, students will also have the opportunity to purchase a hot snack at break time (10:35am) from the first week back at school in January onwards.

A reminder notice: Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place over two evenings in the New Year, Wednesday, 20 January (15:45-18:45) and Wednesday, 3 February (15:45-18:45). Please be advised that Fairfax uses an online booking system for Parents' Evening. Information about how to log on and book telephone appointments will be sent w/b 11 January 2021. If you have any concerns or queries about parents' evening please email [parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk).

YEAR 9

An update notice: due to Year 9 students missing a large portion of their time in school last year, we have taken the decision to delay our options process until February 2021 in order, to allow students to identify their preferred subjects following the national Covid-19 closures.

A reminder notice: Year 9 students have the opportunity to purchase food and drink in The Refectory at 09:55am and 12:15pm daily.

An advance notice: Year 9 will be having their HPV vaccination on Wednesday, 10 February and Thursday, 11 February 2021. Please be advised that your consent forms from the previous academic year are already with the school nurse team.

A reminder notice: Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place over two evenings in the New Year, Wednesday, 20 January (15:45-18:45) and Wednesday, 3 February (15:45-18:45). Please be reminded that Fairfax uses an online booking system for Parents' Evening. Information about how to log on and book telephone appointments will be sent w/b 11 January 2021. If you have any concerns or queries about parents' evening please email [parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk).

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: for Year 10 Creative iMedia students. You have an examination for this subject on Monday, 11 January 2021 in the afternoon. You will receive your examination timetable and exam information with the location and time of your exam and your seat number from your subject teacher at the start of next term. Please read all the information carefully. An overview of the January exam timetable is available on the school website under Our Academy - Examination Information.

An advance notice: Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place over two evenings in Spring Term 2, Wednesday, 3 March (15:45-18:45) and Wednesday, 17 March (15:45-18:45). Please be reminded that Fairfax uses an online booking system for Parents' Evening. Information about how to log on and book telephone appointments will be sent w/b 22 February 2021. If you have any concerns or queries about parents' evening please email [parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk).

A reminder notice: please note the following upcoming exams for Year 11 vocational subjects:

- Creative iMedia – Monday, 11 January 2021 in the afternoon
- Hospitality and Catering – Thursday, 14 January 2021 in the morning
- Enterprise – Monday, 1 February 2021 in the afternoon

You will receive your examination timetable and exam information with the location and time of your exam and your seat number from your subject teacher at the start of next term. Please read all the information carefully. An overview of the January exam timetable is available on the school website under Our Academy - Examination Information.

An advance notice: in the New Year, for breaktime and lunchtime, if students wish to sit inside, **please go to The Eatery. This is a change to current arrangements.** Please ensure you wear a face covering.

A reminder notice: the 2021 Sixth Form Online Application Form is still live on our Academy website.

The deadline for applications is Friday, 29 January 2021. Please visit

<http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/>

A reminder notice: sixth form students are required to wear a face covering in the sixth form work rooms, where they are studying outside of their usual groups.

A reminder notice: students should be checking their school email accounts regularly for information shared by sixth form staff and teachers. General notices are shared via the Show My Homework noticeboard, and push notifications for this function should be enabled on the App.

A reminder notice: GCSE and Vocational qualification certificates for Summer 2020 exams have now arrived. Students will need to sign for and collect them from Reception. These are important documents which you will require for future academic and career opportunities. So please come and collect them as we only keep them for a limited time.

A reminder notice: for breaktime and lunchtime, if you are remaining on school site, please go to the F Block workrooms. Please ensure you wear a face covering in the workrooms. Please remember that you are in a year group bubble, and please respect staff if they ask you to go to your designated area.

A reminder notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is also now available at 10:20-10:50 (Period 2), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3), **12:30-12:50 (Period 4)** and 13:30-13:45 (Lunch) for Year 13. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.

An advance notice: Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place over two evenings in Spring Term 2, Wednesday, 3 March (15:45-18:45) and Wednesday, 17 March (15:45-18:45). Please be reminded that Fairfax uses an online booking system for Parents' Evening. Information about how to log on and book telephone appointments will be sent w/b 22 February 2021. If you have any concerns or queries about parents' evening please email [parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:parentsevening@fairfax.bham.sch.uk).

A reminder notice: student timetables have been emailed in preparation for the first day of the mock examinations, on Wednesday, 6 January 2021. Students are expected to be in school, in lessons, on Tuesday, 5 January 2021. Study leave commences on Wednesday, 6 January 2021. The mocks will run from Wednesday, 6 January to Monday, 18 January 2021 and an overview of the timetable is available on the school website under Our Academy - Examination Information.

A reminder notice: the UCAS school deadline has now passed. Students with outstanding applications should ensure that they are sent no later than Thursday, 14 January 2021 in order to meet the UCAS deadline.

A reminder notice: sixth form students are required to wear a face covering in the sixth form work rooms, where they are studying outside of their usual groups.

A reminder notice: students should be checking their school email accounts regularly for information shared by sixth form staff and teachers. General notices are shared via the Show My Homework noticeboard, and push notifications for this function should be enabled on the App.

A reminder notice: for breaktime and lunchtime, if you are remaining on school site, **please go to either G1 or G2. This is a change from The Eatery.** Please ensure you wear a face covering. Please remember that you are in a year group bubble, and please respect staff if they ask you to go to your designated area.

A reminder notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is also now available at 10:20-10:50 (Period 2), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3), **12:30-12:50 (Period 4)** and 13:30-13:45 (Lunch) for Year 13. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.