



# INTHEKNOW

20 March 2020

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## **Covid-19 Information**

**Thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your patience and understanding during recent days.**

**We are aware that PS Connect, our email system, is experiencing high volume usage and some issues have been identified with email delivery. This is due to the large number of schools using the system at the same time.**

**During the school closure period, please visit [www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/covid-19-updates/](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/covid-19-updates/) for regular updates from the Academy.**

**We have been incredibly proud of the maturity and understanding our students have shown during these uncertain times.**

**Please be reminded that government guidance states that children should be kept safe at home, and we strongly discourage students from socialising in large groups in the local community during the school closure period.**

## **Year 11 and Year 13 Important Notice**

The Y11 and Y13 Prom and leavers' assembly dates are currently under review. Further information will be shared in due course.

We understand the late closure of school yesterday to Y11 and Y13 may have been frustrating, please be assured that we did not take the decision lightly. Each day this week we have waited until the afternoon to analyse staffing for the following day, with a view to keeping as many students in school as possible. We prioritised Y7 and Y8 due to their age.

Today we were in a position of significant staff shortage and hence the decision was taken to close the school to four years groups, providing the opportunity for Y9 to come back in before the full closure and see their GCSE teachers that are still in school.

Due to limited staff capacity and government advice regarding mass gatherings, it would have been inappropriate to arrange leavers' celebrations for students in Y11 and Y13. In addition, until the government makes clear its plans on assessing the year groups and the length of closures, we are unclear that today would have definitely been the students' last day.

We sincerely hope that we will be able to celebrate with our students as soon as this very challenging period is over and all students are well. We will update you as and when we can.

The government have released some more information about how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded. The exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. To produce these grades, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. The full guidance on how schools will do this has not yet been published. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Students will have the opportunity to appeal the decision about their grade and will also have an opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest opportunity once schools re-open if they feel the grade does not reflect their effort and ability. We are awaiting information on the awarding of BTEC grades and will update you in due course.

When we have more details about how exactly this process will work, we will let you know. In the meantime, it would be prudent for students to keep their work safe so that, if it were required for moderation purposes, we could request it. There is no need for students to bring work into the Academy at the moment and, if it is required, we will arrange a suitable time for this to be done. We also advise students to continue revising or completing school work at home in case they wish to take up the option of sitting an exam when we re-open. Teachers will be putting work onto Show My Homework on the day of each normal timetabled lesson and they will also upload revision resources onto Show My Homework.



### **Fairfax Has Got Talent 2020**

Thank you to everyone who auditioned for Fairfax Has Got Talent. Congratulations to Aliyah (Kenilworth) and Lauren (Stratford) joint 1<sup>st</sup>, and Evie and Lincoln (Coventry) in 3<sup>rd</sup> place! All proceeds go to Sport Relief 2020. #makingfairfaxproud

### **Sport Relief 2020**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Sport Relief 2020. Fairfax raised a fantastic £1459.79. #wearefairfax

### **The Eisteddfod Vote**

Thank you to everyone who voted for The Eisteddfod future themes. We are pleased to announce the results!



### **2019-20 Careers Provision Map**

Please find attached Fairfax's careers provision map for 2019-2020. All year groups have access to our careers advisor, Mrs Knowles ([p.knowles@fairfax.bham.sch.uk](mailto:p.knowles@fairfax.bham.sch.uk)) and information regarding careers can be found on the school website at [www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/careers-programme-information](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/careers-programme-information).

### **Reminder of the SHARP System**

Fairfax operate a confidential, anonymous if required, reporting system called SHARP. Students can report a concern, a worry, or something that they have witnessed without having to speak directly to someone. This can be accessed via our web site under useful links. This is monitored daily by Mrs Mulhern.