

# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 11 September 2020

[www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

### Attendance Matters

Well done to our students for a brilliant start to a *very different* year! Attendance improves achievement! Currently our attendance is over 97%. Please support Fairfax in maintaining this high level. Please find attached an Attendance Matters information sheet.

### Attendance CSAWS

Please be reminded that CSAWS (Central School Attendance and Welfare Service) may conduct a home visit to any family whose child has not attended school and no valid reason has been provided.

### Water Fountain Use


Students are only allowed to use water fountains to replenish their personal water bottles. No other use is allowed. Students must wash or sanitize their hands before using a water fountain.

### Parking – Fairfax Road

Could parents/carers please be mindful of local residents when parking, and ensure residents' driveways are not blocked.

### 2020-21 Autumn Term - Opening Times

A reminder that all students have been assigned staggered start and end times. Students should plan their journey accordingly. Students will not be able to use an alternative entrance or exit.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Fairfax Academy we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are the key to success. A missed school day is a lost opportunity to learn. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve higher grades than students who do not have regular attendance.

#### ABSENCE

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year and the Government advise that students' attendance should be at least 95%. However, **95% attendance equates to 10 missed days of school; a massive 50 lessons!** Research has shown that students missing 20 days of school performed a whole grade lower in their exams than similar ability students with good attendance.

#### PUNCTUALITY

Poor punctuality can have a significant impact on learning time. Across a school year, being **5 minutes late per day results in a loss of 3 days learning per year.** Being **15 minutes** late every day will result in **10 lost days.**

Our school day starts at 8.35am and students should be through the school gate at this time. Students that are late into school will be issued with sanctions in line with our academy Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

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#### APPOINTMENTS

Wherever possible appointments should be made out of school time. We understand that at times appointments in the school day are unavoidable. Please provide evidence of the appointment in advance, so that we can amend our school records, and advise the school who will be collecting your child during the school day.

#### ATTENDANCE

At Fairfax Academy we are committed to challenging poor attendance. In cases where a student begins to develop a pattern of absence, the academy will advise the parents/carers that we require an improvement in attendance.

When attendance fails to improve, the school reluctantly takes the line that legal action has to be considered, and the Court Section in Birmingham becomes involved. So far this academic year, seven cases have been heard, and either a fixed penalty has been issued, or a court appearance has been determined as an appropriate course of action.

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**95% ATTENDANCE**  
= 10 missed days = 50 lessons!

**5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY**  
= 3 lost days learning per year

**AVOID BOOKING**  
holidays in term time

Year Group	Start Time	End Time	Entrance/Exit Gate
Year 7	08:30	14:30	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 8	08:45	14:40	Pedestrian Gate 1 (Reddicap Heath Road)
Year 9	08:45	14:40	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 10	08:55	14:50	Pedestrian Gate 1 (Reddicap Heath Road)
Year 11	08:55	14:50	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 12	Dependent on lesson times/private study		Pedestrian Gate 2 (Fairfax Road)
Year 13	Dependent on lesson times/private study		Pedestrian Gate 2 (Fairfax Road)

## **2020-21 Standards Reminders**

**Punctuality** A reminder notice: punctuality is a very important aspect of life. This is a key focus for Fairfax Academy as we prepare our students for the world of work, where there will be high expectations of attendance and punctuality. Students who arrive later than their designated start time can expect to receive a same day after school detention.

**Hair** A reminder notice: natural hair colours only. Extreme haircuts, including tramlines in haircuts or eyebrows, are not permitted. Any hair accessories or adornments must be black.

**Piercings** A reminder notice: we allow one small stud in each ear. Any other piercings are unacceptable and must be removed for school.

**Nose Studs** A reminder notice: nose studs are not allowed and must be removed for school.

## **School Photographs**

Students in Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 had their school photographs taken last week and order forms have been given to students to take home. Please be aware that school photographs can only be ordered online and not via Fairfax Academy.

## **2020 Open Evening/Mornings**

Please be advised that our annual Open Evening scheduled on Tuesday, 15 September will be a virtual event due to Covid-19 government guidance. A series of videos will be shared from Tuesday, 15 September introducing Fairfax.

## **Face Coverings**

A reminder that the government guidance on face coverings has changed and now states:

*'The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances.'*

*Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.'*

Fairfax has put measures in place to ensure that mixing in communal areas is minimal, and as such face coverings will only become compulsory in the event of local lock down. However, if you wish your child to wear a face covering in communal areas, for example because they have an underlying health condition, then this should be communicated to your child's head of year in the first instance.

If your child wears a face covering either on the way to school or in communal areas, they must adhere to the safe usage in line with guidance. This requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

Children must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

If your child is using a reusable face covering, please ensure that they also have a resealable plastic bag with them to ensure safe storage.

YEAR 7

A reminder notice: The Year 7 Parent Information Evening scheduled for Tuesday, 29 September will be a virtual event due to Covid-19.

A reminder notice: that students in Year 7 will mix only with their class bubble once on school site.

YEAR 8

A reminder notice: that students in Year 8 will mix only with their class bubble once on school site.

A reminder notice: on Wednesday, 30 September and Thursday, 1 October 2020, the school nurse vaccination team will be coming into school to administer the HPV vaccination. Both male and female students in Year 8 are eligible to have the vaccination. Your son/daughter will bring home a consent form for you to complete and return to Reception in the box provided, even if you do not wish your child to be vaccinated.

YEAR 9

A reminder notice: that students in Year 9 will mix only with their class bubble once on school site.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: that students in Year 10 will have core lessons in a set bubble, but will also attend options subjects. This is essential to ensure students can continue to study their curriculum. Year 10 will have a mixed breaktime and lunchtime with other Year 10 students.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: that students in Year 11 will have core lessons in a set bubble, but will also attend options subjects. This is essential to ensure students can continue to study their curriculum. Year 11 will have a mixed breaktime and lunchtime with other Year 11 students.

This year our Parent Information Evening for Year 11 was presented virtually in two parts:

- Part 1 is an overview of the key expectations of the year and also provides some information about the careers advice available at Fairfax.
- Part 2 is advice on how you can support your child with revision.

The videos are narrated PowerPoints that have been put into MP4 format so play as a video. These should play on a PC, laptop and most tablets and mobile phones. If you have issues playing the videos on a phone or a tablet, our IT support services have advised that you can download a free app called VLC Player which should enable you to play them. The links to the presentations are below:

Parent Information Evening Part 1: <https://tinyurl.com/y2vmfqsk>

Parent Information Evening Part 2: <https://tinyurl.com/y6j89yu7>

YEAR 12

A reminder notice: Year 12 should only attend school for their timetabled lessons, which will include some in-year group mixing. Year 12 should arrive onsite for their first lesson of the day and leave site following their final lesson of the day.

At Fairfax. We are committed to closing the attainment gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and those from more affluent backgrounds, and ensuring that every young person has the to participate in and benefit from a place in 16-19 education and training. If you qualify for opportunity the bursary, please download the attached documents that you will find on this link and return them to: <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/financial-support/>

YEAR 13

A reminder notice: Year 13 should only attend school for their timetabled lessons, which will include some in-year group mixing. Year 13 should arrive onsite for their first lesson of the day and leave site following their final lesson of the day.

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Students wishing to apply to UCAS must ensure that they start their application on <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>. If you have any questions regarding how to set up your application please speak to Ms Gray or Miss Gardner in the Sixth Form.