



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 25 September 2020

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



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.

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.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME



Please keep in mind the cost to your child's education should they miss school. Please do not book holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

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.

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.

95% ATTENDANCE
= 10 missed days = 50 lessons!

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

AVOID BOOKING
holidays in term time

Attendance Matters

A reminder that attendance improves achievement! Currently our attendance is over 94%. Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level of attendance. Please see the Attendance Matters information sheet above.

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.

Wet and Cold Weather

As students are bubbled, and spend much of their time in the same classroom, we are keen to ensure that students are able to get outside and get some fresh air at break and lunchtime.

During wet and cold weather, we would ask that you **equip your child with a waterproof coat and/or umbrella** in order to ensure they are able to have a break outside.

We know that being in the fresh air benefits well-being.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.

PE Lessons – Winter Months

A reminder notice: with the colder months ahead, we kindly remind parents that students are permitted to wear the following to keep them warm during PE lessons:

- Girls are allowed to wear black base layers underneath their PE skirt and House polo shirt along with their black Fairfax fleece.
- Boys are allowed to wear long sleeved black base layer underneath their PE tops, and base layer black shorts under their shorts. Alongside this, the boys' mid layer is available at Clive Mark and Crested Schoolwear.

Parking – Fairfax Road

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

School Photographs

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

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.

Face Coverings

Please be reminded that parents/carers must contact school if their child is exempt from wearing a face mask; an exemption card will be issued to the student. Please be advised that students unable to present an exemption card will be instructed to wear a face covering and provided with one if they do not possess one.

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.

A reminder notice: Year 7 nasal flu vaccinations will take place on Monday, 12 October. Your child should have received a consent card. Please can this be completed, whether or not you wish your child to be vaccinated and returned to the box in Reception.

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 has brought 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.

For the attention of DofE students:

If you have uploaded evidence to eDofE during lockdown or over the summer for awards you have already been entered for, please could you check your accounts for messages from Miss Clarke, because some students need to make a couple of alterations.

Please remember that your assessor can now be a family member, but that **you must still show start and end dates which total a full 3, 6 or 12 calendar months**. Each section needs an assessor's report (this can contain the date evidence). If you have not yet uploaded evidence, please remember that in order to progress onto the expedition section next year (at either your current level, or the level above), you will need to have completed the other 3 sections of the Award (volunteering, physical and skill) – completing the 3 sections of the Award will give you a certificate of achievement.

Please see Miss Clarke or Mr Hobbs with any queries.

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 opportunity to participate in and benefit from a place in 16-19 education and training. If you qualify for opportunity 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/>

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Please see Miss Clarke or Mr Hobbs with any queries.

A reminder notice: Year 12 and Year 13 should, wherever possible, be in school for lessons only and must sign out when they leave the school site during the day.

A reminder notice: for Private Study/Home Study, please note that if you are unable to go home to study during the day, you should go to the sixth form workrooms for your private study sessions.

A reminder notice: please ensure that you have logged into your school account in the workrooms in order to access your new email accounts.

Please see Mrs Smith or Mrs Meakin if you have any issues regarding your user name or password.

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.

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