



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 6 November 2020

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



ARKS Celebration

Congratulations to the Year 7 students pictured above, who have received 12 merits: 3 for Ambition, 3 for Respect, 3 for Kindness and 3 for Safety. We are pleased to present these students with their first blazer badge ARKS and a certificate of achievement. Well done!

#makingfairfaxproud

COVID-19 Guidance – if a member of your household has symptoms and is awaiting a test result

Do not send your child to school – please be reminded that if a member of your household is awaiting a COVID-19 test due to having symptoms, the whole household should isolate until the test result is received, and students must not return to school until a negative test result is received. Please advise school of the reason for the absence as COVID-19 absences are exempt from usual attendance processes.

COVID-19 Guidance – if your child has symptoms and is awaiting a test result

Do not send your child to school – please be reminded that if your child has a COVID-19 test due to having symptoms, they must not return to school until the test result is received. We do not require evidence of a negative test, but do require evidence of a positive result. Please advise school of the reason for the absence as COVID-19 absences are exempt from usual attendance processes.



Ventilation in Classrooms

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.

The Eisteddfod 2020 VIRTUAL

The Eisteddfod Zone has commenced this week. Please email FFA-The-Eisteddfod@fairfax.fmat.co.uk with any queries. Information and guidance for each of the individual entries and performance entries have been emailed to all parents/carers.



Remembrance Day 2020

Every year, The Royal British Legion calls on the nation to unite in commemorating Remembrance Sunday. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Remembrance Sunday march past the Cenotaph will not take place this year. The Royal British Legion recognise this will be deeply disappointing for all who were due to take part. Despite the changes this year, they are encouraging people across the nations to ensure Remembrance Sunday is still marked appropriately by taking part in remote and socially distanced Remembrance activity.

Students at Fairfax will take part in a virtual remembrance assembly on Wednesday, 11 November 2020, and we encourage everyone in our community to observe the two-minute silence at home or on your doorstep on Sunday, 8 November 2020 at 11:00am.

Children in Need 2020

A reminder notice: there will be a non-uniform day on Friday, 13 November to fundraise for Children in Need. Students will be able to pay £1 to wear their own clothes.

Wet and Cold Winter Weather

A reminder notice: 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.

In addition, as we move into winter, we will need to keep classrooms well ventilated and ask that students are sent to school with appropriate plain base layers and a black V-neck jumper. Hoodies are not acceptable and remain a prohibited item in school.

PE Lessons – Winter Months/Health and Safety

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 a black Fairfax fleece or the new black Fairfax mid layer
- Boys are allowed to wear long sleeved black base layer underneath their PE tops, and base layer black shorts under their shorts along with the new black Fairfax mid layer
 - the new black Fairfax mid layer is available at Clive Mark and Crested Schoolwear (Trutex Erdington)

A reminder notice: due to Health and Safety requirements students are required to wear appropriate shin pads, gum shields etc. when taking part in certain sports.

Staff Training Day – Friday, 20 November

Please be reminded that Friday, 20 November 2020 is a staff training day and school is closed to students.

House Competitions

At the heart of Fairfax is our amazing House system and even though things are not the same as 'normal' due to COVID-19, our competitive House competitions have been continuing, with just a few tweaks. For example, this term we are looking forward to celebrating our first ever Virtual Eisteddfod with you, so get ready for the 'Big Eisteddfod Night In' and save the dates in your calendar.

Last half term we had two House competitions, to celebrate Black History Month and a COVID-19 secure KS3 Inter-House Sport Competition. Please watch this space for our KS4 Inter-House Sport Competition...coming soon.

The results of the KS3 Inter-House Sport Competition are as follows:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	PD students	Overall
1 st Stratford	1 st Warwick	1 st Stratford	1 st Kenilworth	=1 st Stratford 12 points
2 nd Warwick	2 nd Stratford	2 nd Warwick	2 nd Coventry	=1 st Warwick 12 points
3 rd Kenilworth	3 rd Coventry	3 rd Kenilworth	3 rd Warwick	3 rd Kenilworth 9 points
4 th Coventry	4 th Kenilworth	4 th Coventry	4 th Stratford	4 th Coventry 7 points

A massive well done to all those students who took part! Thank you for supporting your House.

Students at Fairfax have also really embraced our House Competition, celebrating Black Britons. An impressive collection of videos, podcasts, poems, literature, photos and essays have been carefully crafted by students from each of our year groups. The entries span across three centuries of Black Britons starting with Mary Seacole, who tirelessly worked on the front line to nurse the soldiers at The Crimean War. From the 19th century, we fast forward to the 21st century where our students used contemporary music to choreograph a dance that celebrated music from across the diaspora. It truly is pleasing to see how our students have taken up the task to research and celebrate Black History Month. More than ever, these entries really show that #wearefairfax and that we take pride in our diversity.

The winning entries will be announced in our next edition of IN THE KNOW. If you would like to get involved with our Equalities group, please email FFA-equalities@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Internet Safety – Parent Zone Parent Guides

Please be reminded that advice and guidance for parents/carers about video apps such as TikTok, and other platforms and games can be found on the website Parent Zone (www.parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides).

2020-21 Standards Reminders

Uniform A reminder notice: full school uniform should be worn. The girls' Fairfax trouser or skirt is compulsory. Trainers are not permitted.

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.

Nails A reminder notice: short, natural nails only.

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.

YEAR 7

A reminder notice: that students in Year 7 have had a slight change to their school day this week. Their break time has moved from 09:55 to 10:35, and their lunch time from 12:15 to 12:45.

A reminder notice: that students in Year 7 will mix only with their class bubble once on school site. Appropriate sanctions will be issued to students who break bubbles.

YEAR 8

A reminder notice: that students in Year 8 have been in their new groups this week. The teaching sets have allowed teachers to plan lessons more sensitively matched to the group's ability. Lesson and day timings are unchanged.

A reminder notice: that students in Year 8 will mix only with their class bubble once on school site. Appropriate sanctions will be issued to students who break bubbles.

A reminder notice: as a result of changes to the Year 8 bubbles, the Year 8 Parents' Evening in the Spring Term will now be over two evenings, Wednesday, 20 January and Wednesday, 3 February 2021.

YEAR 9

A reminder notice: that students in Year 9 have been in their new groups this week. The teaching sets have allowed teachers to plan lessons more sensitively matched to the group's ability. In addition, Year 9 have also become a year bubble and have a mixed break time and lunch time with other Year 9 students. This has meant that students have been able to purchase food from The Refectory at lunch time. The offer is limited but there are hot 'grab' options each day. There have been some changes to the Year 9 day in order to allow for five one-hour lessons with no interruption. The Year 9 break time has moved from 09:35 to 09:55 and is on the main playground. Lunch has moved from 12:45 to 12:15 and is also on the main playground.

An update notice: please be advised that the Year 9 Options process is being reviewed as a Trust, and confirmation of a new Options Information Evening date will be shared in due course. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

A reminder notice: as a result of changes to the Year 9 bubble, Parents' Evening will move to Spring Term 1, and be over two evenings, Wednesday, 20 January and Wednesday, 3 February 2021. This will allow teachers to get to know students in the new teaching sets.

YEAR 10

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

A reminder notice: students in Year 10 wishing to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award this year have received a letter explaining the procedures for registration and completion. Payments can now be made on ParentPay.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: that students in Year 11 have their mock examinations commencing on Monday, 2 November until Friday, 13 November 2020.

A reminder notice: our annual Sixth Form Open Evening is on Tuesday, 10 November and will be a virtual event. Please see our website for further details of how to access the presentations on the day. The online application form on our website opens on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.
<http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/>

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YEAR 12

A reminder notice: we have had reports that students are not socially distancing in the community during lunchtimes; could you please remind your child of the importance of this.

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. Year 12 must sign out when they leave the school site during the day. 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: We are aware that we are in very difficult times at the moment and we are all doing everything we can to remain as safe, yet as normal, as we can. However, it is vitally important that attendance remains as high as possible. If, for any reason your child is unable to attend school, please let the Sixth form Team know as soon as possible. Please also check Show My Homework and the new Teams App for any work missed due to absence. Thank you for your continued support.

A reminder notice: students in Year 12 wishing to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year have received a letter explaining the procedures for registration and completion. Payments can now be made on ParentPay.

An advance notice: Year 12 students can now purchase Sixth Form Passes and Lanyards via Parent Pay at a non-refundable cost of £5.00. The purchase of passes is entirely optional. The purchasing of passes for Year 12 students will be open for a two-week period only until Friday, 20 November and passes will be issued ASAP following this date. Please contact Year 12 Supervisor Mrs Smith if you have any queries.

YEAR 13

A reminder notice: we have had reports that students are not socially distancing in the community during lunchtimes; could you please remind your child of the importance of this.

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. Year 13 must sign out when they leave the school site during the day. 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.

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A reminder notice: UCAS applications should now be reaching the stage where your personal statement is added and you are making your choices. Please check your application to ensure that all education sections are completed, particularly your current qualifications. In terms of predicted grades, please speak to your teachers about the grades and ensure that you are aware of what you have been predicted. If you have any questions about the process of applying to university, please speak to one of the sixth form team.

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