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NEW YEAR FRESH START

As we start the new term with yet another lockdown, it is still business as usual here at Fairfax albeit in unusual conditions. Our careers team are still looking to help your son or daughter look towards, and plan for, their future.

Last year, many students in both Year 11 and sixth form were seen for both for 1:1 career interviews with Mrs Knowles, as well as for personal statement checks by the sixth form team. As the UCAS deadline comes for many year 13 students, year 11 students should still be looking and applying for sixth form and college places. Year 12 students should now be starting to think about their future plans and what research needs to be done to put those plans into place. We intend to share weekly information with the Year 12 students via our Show My Homework platform. Please look out for the variety of information that will be available.

Career interviews will also continue for many months to come through both virtual and telephone conversations.

The focus for the next few months will be for Year 11 students to help them with their post 16 options. Attention will then turn to Year 12 students in aiding them plan for their post 18 options. Whilst Year 13 students are welcome to speak to either Mrs Knowles or the sixth form team for any career concerns they may have.

As we are in full swing of the Spring Term, the New Year Fresh Start is a fresh new possibility for all of our students to keep working towards their goal. There are lots of different opportunities out there. In this newsletter I hope to share some of them with you.

Career Questionnaires

These would normally take place during assemblies; however, they form an important overview of what our students want to do together with where they would like to go.

They help us to understand where each student is up to in their career search or journey.

Career Questionnaires Year 11 & 12

YEAR 11 please complete:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HnypklpiskmKnVw6Pae-3T_uhKe83FagWPRCBPH4KRUODhZWUVWNUUpESEJDWFZCS1Q1VUJGMEg4Ui4u

YEAR 12 please complete:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HnypklpiskmKnVw6Pae-3T_uhKe83FagWPRCBPH4KRUM1NEUVUONTdSUVFKREpRTIBJRUIRRVhYQi4u

All questionnaires need to be completed by 31 January 2021

Open Days



Virtual Open days:

Many of the colleges and universities continue to open their doors virtually so students can gain an insight as to what's on offer. Check out what is on offer:

For sixth formers

University Virtual open events can be found on www.opendays.com

For Year 11 students

Check out the links below for local colleges and their upcoming virtual open days:



Virtual Open Events at BMet

(Sutton Coldfield/Matthew Boulton/ James Watt /Erdington Skills Centre) –

Students can register to attend the event by [clicking here](#)

DATE	Time From	To	Event
Monday 8th February 2021	16:00	17:00	Football Academy Open Event
Monday 8th February 2021	17:15	18:15	Apprenticeship Open Event
Monday 8th February 2021	18:30	19:30	Higher Education Open Event

Tuesday 9th February 2021	16:00	17:00	Construction Event
Tuesday 9th February 2021	17:15	18:30	Early Years, English & Maths, ESOL, Foundation Learning, Health & Social Care, Media and Games Event
Tuesday 9th February 2021	18:45	19:30	Engineering & Rail Academy Event
Wednesday 10th February 2021	16:00	16:50	Art & Design, Digital, Music, Fashion & Photography Event
Wednesday 10th February 2021	17:00	17:50	Accounts, Business and Law Event
Wednesday 10th February 2021	18:00	19:00	Early Years, Health and Social Care, Horticulture, Pharmacy and Medical and Science Event
Wednesday 10th February 2021	19:15	20:00	Foundation Learning, English and Maths, ESOL Event
Thursday 11th February 2021	16:00	17:00	A Levels and Science Event
Thursday 11th February 2021	17:15	18:00	Creative, Digital, Performing Arts, Foundation Learning, Uniformed Public Services, Travel & Tourism Event
Thursday 11th February 2021	18:10	19:00	Accounts, Business & Professional, Law, English & Maths and ESOL Event
Thursday 11th February 2021	19:10	20:00	Sport, Health & Social Care and Early Years Event

Check out the website links for events happening at each of the colleges:



www.walsallcollege.ac.uk :

[Events | Walsall College](#)



www.southstaffs.ac.uk/open-days/



www.sccb.ac.uk: [Virtual Tours \(sccb.ac.uk\)](#)



www.ucb.ac.uk:

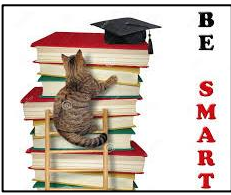
[Open days - University College Birmingham \(ucb.ac.uk\)](#)

University College Birmingham - College Open Day Parent Email -

<https://dmtrk.net/t/2RI5-1462E9F5624471CE63C0F7FC1U8D9F9988D3717D2D7/cr.aspx>

Do your research on different college courses as, although a number will offer similar courses, there are some that offer individual type courses and these could form part of your back-up plan.

Get applications completed and submitted to ensure you have a Plan A, B and C. Remember Plan B and Plan C need to be less in their entry requirements so you have all your options covered.



NB Year 13 students – if you are looking to stay local many of the local college offer Level 4 and Level 5 courses. (Degree courses are at Level 6) This can enable you to continue to climb up the academic ladder without having to go to University.

Follow us on Social Media



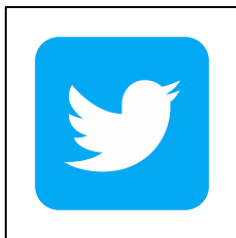
Welcome to the new Instagram page which is dedicated to careers.

Follow us on **@ffxcareers** for links to current information on apprenticeship vacancies, open days, virtual work experience plus much more. All Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students are encouraged to follow the feed for the most up to date opportunities.



If Instagram is not for you, then try Facebook

@FairfaxAcademySuttonColdfield for news stories about what's happening in and around the school



Or how about Twitter **@FairfaxSchool** for a snapshot of to keep up to date with what is going on.

Apprenticeships



Apprenticeships are a great way to 'Earn while you Learn'.

Students in Year 11 can start to look for vacancies **now** however their start date needs to be after the last Friday in June which is Friday 25 June 2021. Vacancies with a September 2021 start date are classed as school leaver vacancies and available to anyone from the age of 16 and over.

Some large employers will recruit early whilst other employers will recruit from March onwards. By registering on different websites, you can then increase the volume of opportunities available to you.

Check out the following websites:

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.allaboutschoolleavers.com

For Post 18 opportunities: as well as above also look at:

[Apprenticeship jobs \(ucas.com\)](https://ucas.com)

Current Vacancies

Please click on the icon for the link



McDonald's Management Degree Apprenticeship

Suitable for students finishing A levels and BTECS



Field Support Technicians

Suitable for both Year 11 and 6th form students



Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship

Suitable for students finishing A Levels and BTECS



Engineering Technician

Suitable for both Year 11 and 6th form students

Look out for National Apprenticeship week in February and National Careers week in March 2021. More vacancies will be advertised.

Career Appointments

Career appointments with Mrs Knowles will continue virtually either by Teams or a telephone call. As some students may be studying at home, in the first instance, the student will be sent a Teams invitation to join the Career Meeting. In the circumstances that students are unable to access Teams that student will be contacted via their personal mobile number. In order for us to be able to do this, the questionnaire mentioned earlier in this newsletter will need to be completed. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

For further help and support, click on the images below



For all you need to know about your Post 18 options look [here](#)



[Careers | Get Careers Advice Here | UCAS](#)



For support with **all** your career needs from applying for positions to cracking that interview. Barclayslifeskills has it covered.

Upcoming Events



Free Virtual careers fair on the 27th of January 2021. All Year 11,11 12 & 13 are asked to join **Springpod** as they virtually link you to companies such as HSBC, Network Rail, EY and Cancer Research UK.

You need to register to join. Click [here](#) to register

National Apprenticeship week: 8 – 14th March 2021

National Careers Week : 1-6th March 2021

During both of these weeks virtual events will be available for the students to access

Mrs Knowles is available working days of Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Email: p.knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk