

15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to thank you for your support during the last week as we have transitioned to our new remote learning strategy. After ironing out some ICT issues at the beginning of last week, we are now delighted with the commitment our students are demonstrating in their Teams lessons and other remote learning.

### **Remote Learning**

Please be reminded that it is an expectation of both Fairfax Academy and the government that students engage with their learning and as such we are logging students' time on Teams. We will notify you by text or telephone call if your child has not joined their lessons, and very much value your support in ensuring your child engages in their learning. Lessons are added to Show My Homework daily so that you can check what your child's day looks like, and their break and lunch times are 10:55 – 11:15 and 13:15 – 13:50. It is important students take this time to have a break away from the screen. Students in school for key worker provision are accessing their learning in the same way as those students that are home. All students should access their whole curriculum. Our remote offer guide can be found at:

[remote-learning-statement-002-003-October-2020.pdf \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/remote-learning-statement-002-003-October-2020.pdf)

With reference to our remote offer, we ask that you complete a short survey at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HnypklpiskmKnVw6Pae-8Gu393UTepOv-LLJKAeFjxUMjc5OExDRk5IV0s5QTZIN1RBRTBCVVdITi4u>

The survey will take no more than 3 minutes to complete; thank you for doing so.

Should you wish to give more detailed feedback you can do so at:

[Remote Learning – Fairfax Academy](#)

If you have any issues with accessing remote learning, please email

[ffastudentremotesupport@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:ffastudentremotesupport@fairfax.fmat.co.uk) All ICT issues we are aware of have been resolved. Please advise us if this is not the case via [post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

I would like to thank the parents/carers that have taken the time to email Fairfax Academy and individual teachers to pass on praise and gratitude. The staff are grateful for all such emails.

### **Free School Meals**

As you aware the Government announced a national voucher scheme similar to the one launched in the summer. Once the voucher scheme is available, Fairfax Academy will join the scheme again. We await further details from the government regarding the launch of the scheme, but believe this should be within the next week.

In the interim, we will continue to offer weekly lunch packs for collection from reception. If you have any concerns regarding hardship during these difficult times, please contact [post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk) marked Confidential FAO Mrs Mulhern.

## Participation

I was delighted in the last week of term to declare Stratford House the winners of virtual Eisteddfod. Their first win in 23 years, and certainly an accomplishment given the challenges around running the event! Congratulations to every student that entered the Eisteddfod. Participation is at the heart of Fairfax Academy. In coming weeks, we will be adding some House challenges to Teams and encourage our students to get involved, as well as completing the exercises set by the PE team.

## New Facilities

We are delighted to announce that our disused swimming pool space has now been refurbished to an open plan multi-functional space that will be used for PE, Dance, Drama, examinations, The Eisteddfod and performance evenings. In honour of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the building will be called The Diamond Suite.

Fairfax Academy would like to thank Sutton Charitable Trust, The PTA and Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust for providing funding to support the refurbishment. The team at Fairfax cannot wait to put it to use!



## Support

Mr Larkin recently sent a letter detailing resources to help keep your child safe online. This can be found at: <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/E-Safety-Letter-Jan-21.pdf>

Ms Gray recently shared a letter detailing how to access additional mobile phone data. This can be found at: [Network-Allowances.pdf \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](#)

Attached to this letter is a poster recently shared on our social media detailing phone numbers and websites for pastoral support. Please also find attached a letter containing additional support information.

## Year 11 and Year 13 Exams

Following the cancellation of examinations, we await further guidance from the government regarding how students will be awarded grades. This may be assessments sat during their remaining time in school. We ask that students affected continue to engage with their learning and submit their best work to their teachers during this period.

## Recognition

We are aware we have students that continue to show incredible acts of generosity and kindness in their communities at this time. Please share these stories with us so that we can continue to recognise the students that reflect our values. We are so proud of our students' resilience and commitment and love to hear from them.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support of both your child and Fairfax Academy during these times. Should you have any concerns please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



**MRS D J BUNN**  
**Head of Academy**

## Attachments