

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/Parent Carer February 2021

2 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your ongoing support during this unusual time. Staff have been delighted to receive so many messages of thanks from parents/carers and we are very proud of the resilience our students are showing in engaging with their remote learning. We understand this is a challenging time for parents/carers and appreciate all that you are doing to support your child's education and keep them in their learning routines.

Half-term

Please be advised that the DfE announced on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 that schools would close as planned for the half-term break. Fairfax Academy will close to those currently attending at 2.50pm on Friday, 12 February and re-open to keyworker and other eligible students on Monday, 22 February 2021.

The government free school meal voucher scheme will not run over half-term, but vouchers will resume following the half-term break. Birmingham City Council are planning to offer a voucher scheme through Sodexo and we will update eligible parents as we receive information. If you have any concerns regarding hardship in this difficult period please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk marked confidential FAO Mrs Mulhern.

Wider re-opening

The Prime Minister recently announced that he hopes to re-open schools from Monday, 8 March 2021, provided the rates of infection and hospital admissions are low enough to do so. The information regarding this re-opening has not yet been released. We will update you as soon as we are able to and very much look forward to welcoming our students back.

Well-being

Ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week, we set a House challenge on healthy minds, produced by our students for our students. Please encourage your child to complete this challenge. Exercise is key to well-being and our PE team have been setting some exercise challenges for students to complete, please encourage your child to complete this physical activity.

In order to support your child to manage their well-being during this period of

remote learning, we have attached a home learning checklist for your child to use each day. The checklist encourages good routines and a healthy lifestyle whilst their 'screen time' is high, and we hope you find it useful.

In addition, we have attached help sheets emailed previously, which include contact numbers that may be useful. If you have any concerns about your child's well-being please email your child's head of year or assistant head of year.

Charity Week

Week commencing Monday, 8 February is Fairfax's annual Charity Week. Students will be encouraged to raise money for, or raise awareness of their chosen charity. Resources will be shared with students by their Heads of House; please encourage your child to get involved!

Supporting Literacy

A reminder that we would like as many students as possible to secure their Literacy Colours in this period. Information about how to gain your colours can be found at: [Our School: School Colours – Fairfax Academy](#)

A list of suitable books can be found at:

9-12 years old - [Book list for ages 9-12.pdf \(literacytrust.org.uk\)](#)

13 – 16 years old [Book list ages 13-16.pdf \(literacytrust.org.uk\)](#)

16+ [Book list for ages 16 VYkbNtU.pdf \(literacytrust.org.uk\)](#)

The national literacy Trust have a selection of online books available at:

[Jacqueline Wilson is our first Author of the Week of our relaunched Virtual School Library with Oak National Academy! | National Literacy Trust](#)

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support of Fairfax Academy and well done to all our students demonstrating the school's ARKS value of ambition through their remote learning.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy

Attachments: Home Learning Checklist
Help Sheets