



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 19 March 2021

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Welcome back

We are delighted to see all our students and staff back in school. Welcome back everyone!

#wearefairfax

#youvebeenmissed

Farewell and welcome to new staff

Fairfax would very much wish to thank Teaching Assistants Mrs Hart and Mrs Willett, who left Fairfax in February, for their long serving commitment to Fairfax.

We have also welcomed new staff who joined us earlier this term:

- Mr Boyce (Mathematics Coach)
- Mr De Castro Carrasco (Teaching Assistant)

Lateral flow testing

This week the vast majority of students have completed their third lateral flow test in school and have been issued with home kits. Please read the booklet accompanying the home kit. Students are advised to test at home every Sunday and Wednesday. If you have any queries please email ffa-testingcentre@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Ventilation in classrooms

A reminder notice: 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.

Fairfax ARKS

We are delighted to welcome our students back to the Academy for the remainder of the half term. Next week we will be reminding students about the values we think are really important and the skills that students need to be good learners:

- Ambition
- Respect
- Kindness
- Safety

School continues to be different, but we are all keen to get back into our routines and back to learning!

Uniform Standards

A reminder notice that Fairfax is committed to encouraging students to be the best they can be. We are ambitious for our students and are encouraging them to maintain the highest standards, as this will prepare them for life beyond school, in which there will be rules, routines, and policies. We have high expectations of our students in all aspects of school life and we want them to be proud of their school and of their achievements.

It is important to us that students wear the correct uniform with pride. We have always had high standards at Fairfax, which is often cited as a reason for parents choosing Fairfax for their children. We want to maintain those high standards and are asking for your support with this. Please see the attached uniform standards information.

We would kindly ask parents/carers to check their child's uniform daily to ensure that full school uniform is worn, and that 'not permitted' items are not worn or brought to school:



Uniform

- Short, tight skirts or Jeggings are not permitted. The girls' Fairfax trouser or skirt is compulsory
- Hoodies (under or over the blazer) are not permitted
- Jumpers must be black V-neck (plain black or Fairfax branded)
- Denim or leather jackets are not permitted
- Canvas footwear, boots and 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.

Eyelashes A reminder notice: extreme 'false eyelashes' are not permitted. They must look natural.

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.

Jewellery A reminder notice: rings are not permitted.

Please see attached uniform standards information

Attendance Matters

Well done to our students for a brilliant start to a very *different* return to school in 2021. Attendance improves achievement! Please support Fairfax in maintaining this high level. Please find attached an Attendance Matters information sheet.

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.

Punctuality

A reminder notice: punctuality is a very important aspect of life. This is a key focus for Fairfax Academy as we prepare our students for the world of work, where there will be high expectations of attendance and punctuality. Students who arrive later than their designated start time can expect to receive a same day after school detention.

YEAR 8

A reminder notice: Year 8 students are now able to purchase a lunch 'grab bag' and/or a hot snack at breaktime at the new time of 10:35am. Students remain in their 'bubble' classroom to eat their sandwich lunch at the new time of 12:45pm each day.

An advance notice: Year 8 'catch up' HPV vaccinations will take place on Wednesday, 21 April 2021. Please be advised that your consent forms from the previous academic year are already with the school nurse team.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Year 9 options allocation letters will now be issued after the Easter break. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

A reminder notice: Year 9 students have the opportunity to purchase food and drink in The Refectory at 09:55am and 12:15pm daily.

An advance notice: Year 9 HPV vaccinations, for students who have not received their vaccination during the lockdown period, will take place on new dates Thursday, 10 June and Wednesday, 7 July 2021. Please be advised that your consent forms from the previous academic year are already with the school nurse team.

YEAR 10

There are no Year 10 notices.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: students are currently in their mock examination period. Please see your individual mock examination timetable.

YEAR 12

A reminder notice: sixth form students are required to wear a face covering in the sixth form work rooms, where they are studying outside of their usual groups.

A reminder notice: students should be checking their school email accounts regularly for information shared by sixth form staff and teachers. General notices are shared via the Show My Homework noticeboard, and push notifications for this function should be enabled on the App.

A reminder notice: for breaktime and lunchtime, if you are remaining on school site, please go to the F Block workrooms. Please ensure you wear a face covering in the workrooms. Please remember that you are in a year group bubble, and please respect staff if they ask you to go to your designated area.

An updated notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is available at 09:20-09:50 (Period 1), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3), 12:30-12:50 (Period 4) and 13:30-13:45 (Lunch) for Year 12. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.

YEAR 13

A reminder notice: students are currently in their mock examination period. Please see your individual mock examination timetable.

A reminder notice: sixth form students are required to wear a face covering in the sixth form work rooms, where they are studying outside of their usual groups.

A reminder notice: students should be checking their school email accounts regularly for information shared by sixth form staff and teachers. General notices are shared via the Show My Homework noticeboard, and push notifications for this function should be enabled on the App.

A reminder notice: for breaktime and lunchtime, if you are remaining on school site, please go to either G1 or G2. Please ensure you wear a face covering. Please remember that you are in a year group bubble, and please respect staff if they ask you to go to your designated area.

An updated notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is available at 09:20-09:50 (Period 1), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3), 12:30-12:50 (Period 4) and 13:30-13:45 (Lunch) for Year 13. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.

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