

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/ 2 Parent Carer Return to School March 21

1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: RETURN TO SCHOOL

Following the announcement last week from the Prime Minister, I am writing to outline the return to school process for your child, along with the measures Fairfax will be taking to minimize the risk of the virus. The staff at Fairfax are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back and will make sure they are supported as they settle back into their educational routines. Please accept my thanks for your unwavering support of both the Academy and your child during the period of remote education. We have been proud of the commitment and resilience demonstrated by our students.

Guidance

The government guidance maintains the basic principles that should be adhered to:

- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene, including hand washing and sanitizing hands regularly, and 'catch it, bin it, kill it' routine for coughs and sneezes (please ensure your child has a tissue when they come to school. Sanitizer will be located around the site, but you may also send your child with a small bottle if you wish to).
- Enhanced cleaning procedures. These have been put in place with our usual cleaning contractors.
- Staff maintaining social distancing from students except in circumstances of first aid or intimate care.
- Tables in classrooms facing forward where they are unfixed and students sitting side by side, not facing each other.
- No mixing of students from different year groups. Due to timetable constraints, there may be some minimal mixing between Year 12 and Year 13 students.
- Lessons in bubbles wherever possible in order to minimize mixing.
- Staggering arrival and departure from school.

In addition, the guidance now includes details about face coverings and lateral flow testing in schools.

Face coverings

Government guidance now states that students and staff in secondary schools should wear face coverings in all indoor spaces. This includes the classroom. In order to keep our community safe and minimize the risk of transmission in school, it will be an expectation that students wear face coverings with the exception of when they are outside the school building. The face covering should fit securely over the mouth and nose. Please ensure that your child attends school with a clean face covering each day and remind your child of good practice for using a face covering.

Children must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag', waste bin (not

recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before continuing their day.

If your child is using a reusable face covering, please ensure that they also have a resealable plastic bag with them to ensure safe storage.

Students that are exempt from wearing a face covering have been issued with an exemption card previously and should continue to use this. If you believe your child is medically exempt and needs to be issued with an exemption card, please contact your child's Head of Year with details of the exemption.

Covid Testing

Thank you to those parents that have completed the consent form for testing.

In order to accommodate testing of such a large cohort of students, Fairfax intends to stagger the return to school as follows:

	LATERAL FLOW TESTS	HOME LEARNING	ATTEND SCHOOL AS NORMAL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
Thursday 4 March	Y11 & Y13	All year groups	Remote education for all	Y11 and 13 students return home following test and continue with remote learning.
Friday 5 March	Y10 & Y12	All year groups	Remote education for all	Y10 and 12 students return home following their test and continue remote learning.
Monday 8 March	Y9 & Y11*	Y7, Y8, Y9	Y10, Y11, 12 & 13	Y9 students return home following test and continue with remote learning.
Tuesday 9 March	Y7 & Y13*	Y8	Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12, Y13	Y7 students will come in for test at allocated time and then stay in school – students who have not consented to testing will go straight to 'bubble' classroom at 08:30.
Wednesday 10 March	Y10* & Y12*	Y8	Y7, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12, Y13	
Thursday 11 March	Y8 & Y9*	None	All year groups	Y8 students will come in for their test at their allocated time and then remain in school – students who have not consented to testing will go straight to 'bubble' classroom at 08:45.
Friday 12 March	Y7* & Y11*	None	All year groups	
Monday 15 March	Y8* & Y13*	None	All year groups	
Tuesday 16 March	Y10* & Y12*	None	All year groups	
Wednesday 17 March	Y7* & Y9*	None	All year groups	
Thursday 18 March	Y8*	None	All year groups	

*denotes second or third test.

In order to minimize the risk to students, Fairfax Academy has put a number of measures in place that are detailed in this letter. Please read the detail carefully and discuss it with your child.

Please be reminded that all arrangements are subject to change, dependent on government advice and guidance. The Academy will review and evaluate procedures continually and change processes as appropriate/necessary.

Whilst the school year will still be different to a usual one, we are very much looking forward to starting afresh, and look forward to seeing our students in class working hard again!

In order to adhere to guidance, the following systems will be in place:

- Students will have staggered break and lunch times throughout the day. This will limit movement around the school and mixing between groups.
- Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will be taught in core bubbles.
- Students in Years 10 and 11 will have core lessons in a set bubble, but will also attend options subjects. This is essential to ensure students can continue to study their curriculum.
- Year 9 will have a mixed lunchtime with other year 9 students. Year 10 will have a mixed lunchtime with other Year 10 students. Year 11 will have a mixed lunchtime with other Year 11 students.
- Year 12 and 13 should only attend school for their timetabled lessons, which will include some in-year group mixing. They should arrive onsite for their first lesson of the day and leave site following their final lesson of the day. **Students in the sixth form must sign out before leaving the school site.**
- Students have assigned staggered start and end times. Students should plan their journey accordingly. Students will not be able to use an alternative entrance or exit.
- Staff will be on gate duty from the first entrance time to the last, in order to support students to socially distance, avoid congregation, enter through their designated gates and follow their assigned route to their classroom.

YEAR GROUP	START TIME	END TIME	ENTRANCE/EXIT GATE
Year 7	08:30	14:30	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 8	08:45	14:40	Pedestrian Gate 1 (Reddicap Heath Road)
Year 9	08:45	14:40	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 10	08:55	14:50	Pedestrian Gate 1 (Reddicap Heath Road)
Year 11	08:55	14:50	Pedestrian Gate 3 (Fairfax Road)
Year 12	Dependent on lesson times/private study		Pedestrian Gate 2 (Fairfax Road)
Year 13	Dependent on lesson times/private study		Pedestrian Gate 2 (Fairfax Road)

- Students will be assigned a teaching room and will remain in the room for the majority of their lessons. This will limit movement around the school and also limit mixing between groups. You will receive a further email with notification of your child's core teaching room and bubble.

Coronavirus Symptoms

Students, staff and other adults must not come onto the school site if they are displaying the symptoms of coronavirus, or have tested positive in the last 7 days. The full list of symptoms can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>.

Students displaying symptoms of the virus will be removed to a well-ventilated room and named adults contacted to collect them. Please be aware that staff attending to students displaying symptoms will wear appropriate PPE. If you are called because your child is unwell, please collect your child as soon as possible. Any child displaying symptoms should be tested as soon as possible and if the test is negative return to school. If the test is positive, the school must be advised and self-isolation guidance must be followed. This test must be booked by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> as lateral flow testing is for asymptomatic testing only.

Face coverings that are washable should be placed in a plastic bag and stored by the student until they get home. Students using washable face coverings should bring plastic bags with them for storage.

Lunch Arrangements

Catering will be available, but the offer will continue to be limited.

When students return during week beginning 8 March, we encourage Year 10 students to bring a snack for break time and a bottle of water with them as there will not currently be an opportunity to buy food at break time.

Year 7 and Year 8 students will have the option of purchasing a 'grab bag' containing a drink, a sandwich and a snack, and/or a hot snack for break at the start of their break time, and will be able to join the snake queue to do this, before returning to their designated bubble area for the remainder of break time. Students not wishing to purchase a 'grab bag' can bring sandwiches. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 will eat their lunch in their bubble classroom before heading to a specified area for some fresh air, please be reminded to bring a coat and/or umbrella. Enhanced cleaning will be in place to clean surfaces in The Refectory between uses.

Year 9 students will continue to have the option of accessing The Refectory at the start of their break and lunch time, and will be able to join the snake queue to do this. Enhanced cleaning will be in place to clean surfaces in The Refectory between uses.

Year 10 students will continue to have the option of accessing The Refectory at the start of their lunch time only, and will be able to join the snake queue to do this. Enhanced cleaning will be in place to clean surfaces in The Refectory between uses.

Year 11 students will continue to have the option of accessing The Refectory at the start of their break and lunch time, and will be able to join the snake queue to do this. Enhanced cleaning will be in place to clean surfaces in The Refectory between uses.

Year 12 and 13 students will continue to access The Refectory provision at designated time slots: 10:20-10:50 (Period 2), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3), 12:30-12:50 (Period 4) and 13:30-13:45 (Lunch). Enhanced cleaning will be in place to clean surfaces in The Refectory between uses.

Attendance

The government guidance states that 'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March'. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school. The Academy's usual attendance processes will resume, including legal intervention when required. Fairfax are committed to ensuring our students are not detrimentally impacted by the period of remote learning, but it is essential that attendance is excellent in order to enable staff to work with students.

Mass gatherings

Please be advised that no assemblies or mass gatherings will take place until further notice. This may affect events such as Parents' Evenings and you will be informed of arrangements in advance of the calendared date.

Equipment

Loaning of equipment will continue to be discouraged. Students should come fully equipped for lessons and include a reading book in their daily equipment. Students are allowed to bring bags to school, but these must be placed beneath their table in lessons and not on desks. Students should bring all work from lockdown into school and their exercise books for their timetabled lessons. Students will receive new exercise books for all subjects; they will be allowed to bring these home and bring them back to school for their lessons.

Detention

The school will continue to operate a same day detention system. Students receiving a detention will begin their detention at the end of their school day. Detentions will follow the 2m social distancing rule and be conducted in year group bubbles. Year 7 student detentions will be centralized from week commencing Monday, 15 March. Notification of detentions are sent to parents by 2.30pm.

Uniform

Students should wear full school uniform as normal to school, including their blazer. Please ensure that student uniform is checked in plenty of time for the return to school to ensure students meet the uniform expectations. Any hair colours, nails or piercings that have been worn during lockdown but are non-complaint should be resolved prior to Monday, 8 March. I have attached the uniform overview for your reference and thank you for ensuring your child attends school wearing their Fairfax uniform with pride when they return.

Curriculum

Fairfax will continue to focus on providing our students with a broad balanced curriculum alongside high quality provision for core subjects. Students will study their full curriculum offer on their return. Dependent on external factors, such as localized lockdowns, the curriculum offer will be under regular review. Participation is a large part of what makes Fairfax unique. This year we fear some of the opportunities we offer our students may not be able to run. However, we will continue to explore opportunities for our students to work alongside their peers in an evolving, low risk participation offer.

All details contained within this letter remain under review, dependent on government guidance. Please accept my thanks for your continued support of our Academy during these unprecedented times; it is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy

Attachment: Uniform Overview