

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/6 Parent Carer 31 March 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of Spring Term I would like to thank you for your continued support of your child and Academy during these unprecedented times in education. Our students have returned to their learning demonstrating maturity in mask wearing and settling back into their routines quickly.

### **Uniform**

We have been delighted with the standard of uniform and how the students have been wearing it with pride. Please support us by ensuring your child is equipped with correct uniform. We do have laundered spare uniform and sanitized shoes in school and if you are struggling to acquire any items at this time please contact your child's Head of Year to discuss this. The uniform overview can be found at: <https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/the-academy/academy-uniform/>.

### **Social Time**

As we head towards summer, and hopefully some nicer weather, we will be making some slight changes to lunch timings. Year 7 and Year 8 students will become year group bubbles in social time and will be able to spend their full lunch time outside rather than eating in their classroom. As we adjust the school day to enable students to spend their social time outside, there will be some changes to the times that students access the refectory. Y9 and Y10 will only be able to use the Refectory at lunch time and we ask these students to bring themselves a snack and water for break time.

### **Detentions**

A reminder that Fairfax Academy operates a same day detention system and whilst it is not a requirement to do so, Fairfax advises parents/carers by 2:30pm if their child has a detention.

After Easter, detentions will run for 35 minutes past the end of period 5. For students that fail to attend their first detention and sit it the following day, the detention will run for 45 minutes. Should your child fail to attend detention, you will receive a text message so that you are aware your child has left the school site.

More information on detentions can be found at [www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions](http://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions).

### **LFD Testing**

I would like to thank our testing team for their efforts in conducting the LFD tests at the Academy. The team conducted over 4,000 tests. Well done to all students for their excellent behavior and conduct throughout this process.

The government have specified that students should continue to test twice weekly during the Easter break. Additional testing kits have been sent home with students this week.

### **Police Updates**

We have been grateful for the presence of our local policing team since the return to school on 8 March, the team have been working to ensure students leave site and head home safely with minimal congregation. The team asks that parents/carers support them in reducing congregation by speaking to their children about the importance of heading straight home after school and avoiding gathering in large groups.

We have received notification from West Midlands Police that over the last week local hospitals have seen an increase of young people attending hospital with stomach complaints due to ingesting cannabis oil, sweets (known as 'gummies') and CBD oil. 'Gummies' can be purchased legally but eating too many can lead to side effects. We recommend parents/carers speak to their children regarding the dangers of this. For further information visit [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com).

### **Hollyfield**

If you have a child collecting siblings from Hollyfield Primary School, please remind them of the rules in place. Only one person is allowed on Hollyfield site to collect, and the one way system must be adhered to.

### **Covid-19**

A reminder that 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>.

If a LFD test at home is positive, you should isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible. Please note LFD tests should only be used when asymptomatic. PCR tests must be booked when displaying Covid symptoms.

### **Staff Leavers**

Sadly, we say farewell to the following members of our team at Easter:

- Mrs V Steele after 27 years at Fairfax
- Mrs L Hack after 16 years at Fairfax
- Mr D Cropper after 7 years at Fairfax

We wish them every success and happiness and thank them for all their hard work.

We wish our students and their families a restful Easter break and look forward to a positive Summer Term.

Yours sincerely



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