



# INTHEKNOW

Thursday, 1 April 2021

[www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk)



## **KINDNESS Week**

Thank you to everyone who has participated in KINDNESS Week. We are incredibly proud of how the vast majority of our students represent themselves on a day-to-day basis. This week we have all focussed on the importance of being kind, how it feels when we do a random act of kindness and the difference it makes to us when a random act is done for us. Our students and staff have really taken on board this challenge and we are immensely proud of them. 'No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted'. #fairfaxarks #bekind

## **Term Dates Reminder**

A reminder that school opens on Monday, 19 April 2021. Staggered start/end times together with entry/exit gates for students remain the same. Please see Mrs Bunn's letter dated Wednesday, 31 March 2021 for other updates.

## **Summer Term 2021**

Summer Term I Monday, 19 April – Friday, 28 May 2021  
Half-term Monday, 31 May – Friday, 4 June 2021  
Summer Term II Monday, 7 June – Tuesday, 20 July 2021  
(May Bank Holiday – Monday, 3 May 2021)



### **Farewell and welcome to new staff**

Fairfax would very much like to thank our Sixth Form Learning Mentor Mrs Steele, for over 27 years of service to Fairfax, and wish her all the very best in her forthcoming retirement. We also wish Mrs Hack all the very best in her retirement, as she leaves the catering team this week, after 16 years at Fairfax.

We would also like to wish Mr Cropper, who is leaving Fairfax after 7 years, all the very best at his new school, and thank him for his commitment to Fairfax.

We very much look forward to welcoming new staff joining us after Easter:

- Miss Barrow (English Coach)
- Miss Franks (Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs McGuire (Sixth Form Study Supervisor)
- Ms Panday (Teacher of English)

#### **2020-21 Heads of Year Information:**

Head of Year 7	Mrs Rose
Head of Year 8	Miss Dowell
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Rainbow
Head of Year 9	Mr Ravenscroft
Head of Year 10	Ms Ahmed
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Clark
Head of Year 11	Mrs Colbourne
Assistant Head of Year	Mrs Barker
AHT Director of Sixth Form	Ms Gray
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Miss Gardner
Academic/Well-Being Mentor	Mrs Clark

#### **2020-21 Heads of House Information:**

Coventry Head of House	Miss Blake
Assistant Head of House	Mr Thompson
Kenilworth Head of House	Mrs Hunter-Stott
Assistant Head of House	Mrs Sharratt
Stratford Head of House	Mr Porter
Assistant Head of House	Miss Sutton
Warwick Head of House	Mr Carty
Assistant Head of House	Mrs Day



### **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.

**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. If your child has a nose piercing, please ensure that when they return after Easter, they are wearing a clear one that is not visible.

**Jewellery** A reminder notice: rings are not permitted.

### Attendance Matters

Well done to our students for a great start to a very *different* return to school in the Spring Term. Please be reminded that attendance improves achievement! Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level of attendance when we return after the Easter break.

### 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.

### Parent/Carer Calendar

Please find attached an updated copy of the parent/carers calendar for the Summer Term.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 students are able to purchase a lunch 'grab bag' and/or a hot snack at lunchtime at the new time of 12:30. Students will no longer remain in their 'bubble' classroom to eat their lunch following the Easter break. **The Year 7 break and lunch area will be the Canopy Area.**

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Year 8 students are able to purchase a lunch 'grab bag' and/or a hot snack at breaktime at the new time of 09:55. Students will no longer remain in their 'bubble' classroom to eat their lunch following the Easter break. **The Year 8 break and lunch area will be the Netball Courts.**

An updated notice: Year 8 'catch up' HPV vaccinations calendared for Wednesday, 21 April 2021 will now be rescheduled. Please be advised that your consent forms from the previous academic year are already with the school nurse team.

YEAR 9

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

An advance notice: to accommodate other KS3 year groups having staggered access to The Refectory, following the Easter break, Year 9 students have the opportunity to purchase food and drink in The Refectory at lunchtime only – 12:15 daily – please bring in your own snack for breaktime, if required. **The Year 9 break and lunch area is the Main Playground.**

A reminder 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

An advance notice: Year 10 students will have the opportunity to purchase food and drink in The Refectory at the new lunch time of 13:15 daily, following the Easter break. **The Year 10 break and lunch area is the Canopy Area (and Netball Courts during the May mock examinations).**

YEAR 11

An advance notice: Year 11 students will have the opportunity to purchase food and drink in The Refectory at 10:55 and the new time of 13:30 daily, following the Easter break. **The Year 11 break and lunch area is the Main Playground.**

An advance notice: please see the attached mock examination timetable scheduled for May 2021.

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.

An updated notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is available at 09:20-09:50 (Period 1), 10:20-10:50 (Period 2), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3) and 12:40-13:10 (Period 4) for Year 12. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.

A reminder notice: students whose parents/carers have requested that they stay in school for Private Study must attend the sessions to be registered and not leave the school site. We will contact home if you do not attend.

YEAR 13

An advance notice: please see the attached mock examination timetable scheduled for May 2021 .

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.

An updated notice: a sixth form Refectory provision is available at 09:20-09:50 (Period 1), 10:20-10:50 (Period 2), 11:20-11:50 (Period 3) and 12:40-13:10 (Period 4) for Year 13. Please ensure you wear a face covering in The Refectory.

A reminder notice: students whose parents/carers have requested that they stay in school for Private Study must attend the sessions to be registered and not leave the school site. We will contact home if you do not attend.

## 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