

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/Parent Carer 23 April 2021

23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you had a restful Easter Break. It has been lovely to see students in class and socialising with their friends in the sunshine.

As we begin the summer term, I wanted to write to update/remind you regarding a number of matters.

Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you for your ongoing support with lateral flow testing. The uptake at Fairfax has been excellent and we have been grateful of parents/carers support. Please be reminded that these tests must be registered with:

- The NHS - www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result - results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 which are free from mobiles and landlines. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.
- Fairfax Academy - via <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HnypklpiskmKnVw6Pae-8Gu393UTepOv-LLJKAeFjxUMU+FM05SWFdTMTdGUUpPUVNER1pTTjEwTi4u>

If your child's result is positive, you must email ffa-testingcentre@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
We appreciate this process takes time, but it will positively impact on students remaining in school as much as possible and isolating less.

Attendance Matters

School attendance is closely linked to school outcomes and it is important that students secure excellent attendance. Following lockdown, teachers need students in class to ensure that lockdown learning is consolidated and any gaps in knowledge are addressed swiftly. Whilst everybody gets ill on occasion, with the exception of Covid related absences we expect student attendance to be near 100%. If your child is absent due to Covid, for example self-isolation, please make sure we are aware as these absences are coded differently and are exempt from usual attendance procedures.

If your child's attendance drops beneath an acceptable level then the following interventions may be used to support your child in securing strong attendance:

- Pastoral/SEND support
- Letter of concern
- Pastoral meetings with Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year
- Home visits from CSAWS
- School attendance review meetings
- Legal intervention

If you require any support in securing good attendance for your child please contact Miss O'Connor, School Attendance Officer by email attendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Social Time

As we head towards summer, and hopefully some nicer weather, as you are aware we have made some slight changes to lunch timings. Year 7 and Year 8 students are year group bubbles in social time and able to spend their full lunch time outside rather than eating in their classroom. As we have adjusted the school day to enable students to spend their social time outside, there have been some changes to the times that students access the Refectory. Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 are 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.

Participation

As national restrictions are eased, the Academy will be re-introducing some after school sporting clubs. The PE team and form tutors will advise students on this matter.

Face Coverings

Face coverings in school remain mandatory for all students other than those with medical exemptions. The number of students arriving at school without face coverings has increased resulting in the Academy providing hundreds per week. Should you be experiencing financial difficulties and are struggling to provide face covering, please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk marked FAO Mrs Mulhern.

Please ensure your child attends school with a clean face covering every day. If they are using a disposable surgical mask they must also bring a spare. Please be advised that whilst mandatory, face coverings form part of the Academy equipment, and as such students will have their student card signed when not bringing one into school.

As we are moving into warmer weather, classrooms are getting warmer and we do not recommend that students wear coverings that cover the neck.

ARKS Values

It has been a real privilege to distribute so many ARKS merits and badges this week. The Academy values of ambition, respect, kindness and safety are those that we believe lead to success. If you are particularly proud of something your child has achieved outside of school, please let your child's Head of Year know so that we can celebrate their success in school.

Prohibited Items

As a community of over 1800 people, safety is an important aspect of all that we do in school.

Before Easter, we had two incidents where students very innocently brought prohibited items on to the school site. Students' school bags should only contain the following items:

- Pencil case with pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, green pen
- School books

- Packed lunch (if required)
- Water (no other drinks are permitted)
- House keys and mobile phone (switched off) if required
- PE kit (no aerosol deodorants are permitted)
- Feminine hygiene products

The student card should be carried in the blazer at all times.

Any prohibited item found in students' possession is subject to confiscation and may result in serious sanctions in line with our Academy Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

At Fairfax Academy we work closely with the police, which includes the Academy engaging in the Knife Arch Strategy, where students periodically attend a session with the police and pass through a metal detector to identify any prohibited items.

Road Map

Whilst restrictions are lifting nationally, currently there is no change to the government guidance for schools.

As the guidance is amended in future, and Year 11 and Year 13 leave, it is our intention to take a staged approach to re-introducing a more 'usual' school experience. This will eventually lead to reduced staggering and increased movement around the school.

Please make sure you read our bi-weekly briefing paper 'In The Know' so that you are up-to-date with any adjustments.

Detentions

Fairfax runs a same day detention system. Schools are able to detain students without notice. However, Fairfax Academy notifies parents/carers as a courtesy. The government information on detentions can be found at www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions.

Behaviour detentions are usually given when students have already received two warnings 'C1' and 'C2' but have failed to improve their behaviour. However, on occasion a detention may be given immediately for example for being late to class with no valid reason. Work detentions are given for failure to complete homework.

Students should attend their 35-minute detention on the day it is set. If your child fails to attend you will receive a text message advising you that your child has left the school site. An extended 45-minute detention will then be set for the next day. Other sanctions may be applied at the Academy and can be found in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

We are very proud that less than 0.5% of our students get a detention each day. If your child does receive a detention, please take the time to discuss it with them in order to discourage further incidences.

Proms

Due to uncertainty around restrictions, Year 11 and Year 13 Proms will not go ahead this year. Details of how we will celebrate our students' time at Fairfax Academy will follow.

Leavers Day

The DfE have named Friday, 25 June 2021 as the last day of compulsory education for Year 11 students. The Year 11 formal timetable will conclude on 28 May 2021. Following half-term, an alternative Year 11 programme will be in place combining enrichment and academic content and a mix of on site and remote provision.

The final day for Year 13 students will be Friday, 28 May 2021. There will be no requirement for Year 13 to attend school after this date.

Further information regarding arrangements and celebrations for leavers will follow.

Reminder Cancelled Training Day

A reminder that the Training Day scheduled for 30 April 2021 was previously cancelled and this remains a normal school day for students.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy

Attachment: Attendance Flyer