



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 21 May 2021

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

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.

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.

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.

95% ATTENDANCE = 10 missed days = 50 lessons!	5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY = 3 lost days learning per year	AVOID BOOKING holidays in term time
---	--	---

Attendance Matters

Well done to all our students with a fantastic attendance record during this half term. Please be reminded that attendance improves achievement! Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level of attendance throughout the remainder of the summer term.

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.

Covid-19 – When to take a PCR Test

Should your child display symptoms of Covid-19 they must self-isolate immediately and an appointment needs to be made for them to take a PCR test. Please be reminded that home test kits are not suitable for testing students with symptoms.

Safeguarding – Knife Arch

As part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures, Fairfax, in co-operation with West Midlands Police, has welcomed the Knife Arch to the academy again today. This operates at various times during the school year. Students are asked by officers to empty their bags and walk through an arch, similar to those at airport security.

We do this to:

- emphasise that Fairfax is a safe place to be
- show that Fairfax takes safety seriously
- send a strong message out that Fairfax will not tolerate students carrying anything that can be used as a weapon
- show that Fairfax students do not carry knives or weapons

If you have any questions about this please contact your child's Head of Year.



Tell Someone!

Please be reminded of our 'tell someone' campaign. Students are encouraged to identify, and write the names on their student card, of two 'trusted adults' in school they can tell if:

- They witness hurtful behaviour or are subjected to hurtful behaviour
- They witness someone behaving in an unsafe way
- They are worried about someone who appears to be in an unhealthy relationship

We thank parents/carers for their support in discussing this with their children. Students will be able to write two names on their new student card next half term.

- 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 they are wearing a clear one that is not visible.

Jewellery A reminder notice: rings are not permitted.

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 remind parents/carers to continue 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)



Farewell and welcome to new staff

Fairfax would very much like to thank our site team groundsman, Mr Meegan, for 21 years of service to the school, and we wish him all the very best in his forthcoming retirement. We also thank, and wish Mrs Holyhead all the very best in her retirement, as she leaves Fairfax at half term, after 7½ years at Fairfax.

We would like to wish Mrs O'Donnell, who is leaving Fairfax after 13 years, all the very best, and thank her for her commitment to Fairfax.

We also look forward to welcoming our new Medical Advisor, Mr Dewhurst, who is joining us after half term.

Careers Competition Winners

Congratulations to the following winners chosen by our Careers Advisor, Mrs Knowles.

KS5 'Adulthood Ahead Quiz' winner: Devlin Lakins Y12

KS4 'Whose Job Was It Anyway' winner: Andrew Alwin David Y11

KS3 Design a book cover with the title: 'When I grow up I want to be...' winner: Nieve Cox Y7

Well done everyone! #makingfairfaxproud

Parent/Carer Calendar

Please find attached an updated copy of the parent/carers calendar for Summer Term 2.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 students will leave school at the later staggered time of 14:40 from Monday, 7 June 2021. Arrival time remains as 08:30 via Gate 3 on Fairfax Road.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Year 8 students should arrive at the new time of 08:30 from Monday, 7 June 2021, entering via Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road. Students will continue to leave school at the staggered time of 14:40 each day.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Year 9 students should arrive at the new time of 08:40 from Monday, 7 June 2021, entering via Gate 3 on Fairfax Road. Year 9 students will leave school at the later staggered time of 14:50 each day during Summer Term 2.

A reminder notice: Year 9 HPV vaccinations, for students who have not received their vaccination during the lockdown period, will take place on Thursday, 10 June 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 should arrive at the new time of 08:40 from Monday, 7 June 2021, entering via Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road. Year 10 students will now attend a tutor time session from 08:40-08:55 each day during Summer Term 2.

A reminder notice: Year 10 school leaver booster vaccinations, will take place for a small number of students, who have not received their vaccination during the lockdown period, on Friday, 28 May 2021. Please be advised that your consent forms from the previous academic year are already with the school nurse team.

YEAR 11

An advance notice: Year 11 students will follow an alternative timetable from Monday, 7 June 2021.

YEAR 12

A reminder notice: the application deadline for the senior prefect team has been extended until Friday, 28 May 2021, and formal interviews will take place on Friday, 18 June 2021.

An advance notice: Year 12 students should arrive at the new time of 08:40 from Monday, 7 June 2021, entering via Gate 2 on Fairfax Road. Year 12 students will now attend a tutor time session from 08:40-08:55 each day during Summer Term 2.

An advance notice: the Year 12 'End of Year Assessment' Week is Monday, 7 June – Friday, 11 June 2021. Assessments will be held during lessons and students should check Show My Homework and/or speak to teachers to ascertain when they will be assessed.

YEAR 13

We wish all our Year 13 students the very best, as they finish their school journey on Friday, 28 May 2021. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Fairfax. We are proud of you all, and wish you every success! #wearefairfax #makingfairfaxproud

As a year group 'bubble', we cordially invite Year 13 to enjoy an outdoor brunch with us at The Canopy Area at 09:30, where there will be the opportunity to say their farewells to their classmates and staff, whilst being respectful of social distancing guidance. Students may wear non-uniform; fancy dress is permitted, provided that it is appropriate and tasteful. Students will leave the school site at 11:00. We are mindful that 'leavers' can't be the same as it usually is, but we very much look forward to sharing this rite of passage with our students.