

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 24 September 2021

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

FAIRFAX
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

PTA HOT DRINK & COOKIES
ALL PARENTS WELCOME

TUESDAY
28
SEPTEMBER

7:00PM - 8:00PM
AT FAIRFAX SCHOOL IN
The Refectory

New Y7
Parents/Carers
Please join
us after the
Information
Evening

PTA Parent/Carer Welcome

A reminder notice: there is a PTA Hot Drink & Cookies evening on Tuesday, 28 September at 19:00 in The Refectory. All parents/carers welcome – new Year 7 parents/carers please join us after the information evening.

Open Evening

Thank you to all students who helped at our annual Open Evening last week. We have received an overwhelming number of positive comments from parents/carers and children.
#makingfairfaxproud

Opening Time

A reminder notice: The Refectory is open to students at 08:00 and snacks, breakfast pastries, hot and cold drinks will be available to purchase. **All other areas of the Academy are not open due to there being no supervision available.** Students are advised to plan their journey to school to arrive no earlier than 08:00, and students are allowed on site via Pedestrian Gate 3 on Fairfax Road, but **must** remain in The Refectory only until 08:25. Pedestrian Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road and Pedestrian Gate 2 on Fairfax Road both open at 08:25.

School Photographs

Year 7, 10 and 12 individual school photographs have now been issued to students during tutor time. Please

contact reception by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk if you have any queries.

Parent/Carer Communication with Fairfax Academy

Please be reminded that the Academy has a limited number of phone lines; voice mail messages are checked regularly. We would ask that non-urgent enquiries be made by email to post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk. Please be advised that staff at Fairfax Academy will respond to queries within 48 hours.

Parent/Carer Calendar

Please see the updated parent/carers calendar for 2021-22 attached.

Parking – Fairfax Road

Could parents/carers please be mindful of local residents when parking, and ensure residents' driveways are not blocked.

Attendance Matters

Well done to our students whose attendance has been high. A reminder that attendance should be 97%.

Attendance improves achievement!

Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level.

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.

Term Time Holiday Requests

A reminder notice: parents/carers are kindly reminded that Fairfax Academy cannot authorise holiday leave during term time. Please be advised doing so may result in penalty charges.

Statutory Relationships and Sex Education

A reminder notice: for September 2021, the government have introduced a new statutory relationships and sex education curriculum. The details about this can be found at www.gov.uk. It is compulsory for all schools to deliver this from September 2021.

As part of this curriculum reform, Fairfax have revised their Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Policy. The policy can be found in the 'our academy' section of our website.

If you wish to provide any feedback regarding the policy, please do so via the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/nqH32wZAYf>.

Standards Reminder


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. Registration begins at 08:35, and so we advise students to be in school no later than 08:30. Students who arrive later than 08:35 can expect to receive a same day after school detention for 45 minutes.

Hair A reminder notice: natural hair colours only. Extreme haircuts, including tramlines in haircuts or eyebrows, are not permitted.

Piercings A reminder notice: we allow one small stud in each ear – small hooped earrings are not permitted. 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.

Uniform A reminder notice: students who are unable to conform to our uniform policy will be provided with uniform to wear, until the issue can be rectified, and parents will be contacted about this if the need arises. We want our students to have the highest standards and this includes adhering to our uniform policy. We thank parents and carers very much for supporting our high expectations.



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.

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

Standards Reminder

School Council Meeting

An advance notice: Do you want to make a difference to school? Do you have ideas that you want to share? If so, please think about joining our School Council. We are a group of teachers and students who work together to discuss the matters important to you. The first School Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 30 September 2021 15:00-16:00 in the Library with Mrs Birch and Mrs Williams. All welcome. The dates for each meeting are published in the parent/carer calendar.

Equalities Meeting Update

Thank you to students who attend our first Equalities Meeting last week. The group is busy working on plans to celebrate Black History Month, and as in previous years the events are chosen, developed and/or requested by our students. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to speak to Mrs Buckley, Miss Gardner or Mrs Williams. The dates for each meeting are published in the parent/carer calendar.

PRIDE Meeting Update

Thank you also to students who attended our first PRIDE Meeting yesterday. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to speak to Miss Ahmed, Mrs Birch, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Lam or Miss Lawley. The dates for each meeting are published in the parent/carer calendar.

YEAR 7

A reminder notice: the Year 7 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 28 September at 18:00 in the hall.

A reminder notice: following the Year 7 Parent Information Evening, there is a 'new parent/carer' PTA evening on Tuesday, 28 September at 19:00 in The Refectory. Please join us, email pta@fairfax.fmat.co.uk to confirm your attendance.

An advance notice: please be advised that all Year 7 students will be completing a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) w/b 4 October 2021. It involves three 45-minute multiple choice tests, and these will be completed in the classroom on Monday, 4 October, Thursday, 7 October and Friday, 8 October. Students will be asked a range of questions to assess their verbal, non-verbal, spatial and quantitative reasoning. The results of the assessment will help us support your child during their time at Fairfax as it provides us with useful information about how they learn. The CAT assessment is something that students cannot do any preparation for and they should not worry about it all. Fairfax simply want students to complete the questions on the day, as best as they can, so that we get an accurate assessment of their abilities and how they learn.

An advance notice: the Redpoint visits are scheduled for w/b 18 October:

- Coventry House – Monday, 18 October
- Kenilworth House – Tuesday, 19 October
- Stratford House – Wednesday, 20 October
- Warwick House – Thursday, 21 October

Students are required to bring a packed lunch, wear trainers, casual trousers (not jeans) and a warm top. Please note students' clothes may get dusty/dirty. Students are reminded to meet in the Upper Refectory on the day of their House visit. Students not going on the visit will be in normal lessons.

Overviews of our school clubs are attached, for your information. All clubs are open to students, there is no requirement to book a place. If you are interested in joining a club or you need more information, please see the relevant teacher, or email ff-clubs@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Year 8 students who received zero consequences during Year 7 will be invited by Mrs Colbourne to attend a reward trip in the Spring Term. Further information will follow.

Overviews of our school clubs are attached, for your information. All clubs are open to students, there is no requirement to book a place. If you are interested in joining a club or you need more information, please see the relevant teacher, or email ff-clubs@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Year 9 students who received zero consequences during Year 8 will be invited by Miss Dowell to attend a reward trip in the Spring Term. Further information will follow.

Overviews of our school clubs are attached, for your information. All clubs are open to students, there is no requirement to book a place. If you are interested in joining a club or you need more information, please see the relevant teacher, or email ff-clubs@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 10

An advance notice: Year 10 students who received zero consequences during Year 9 will be invited by Mr Ravenscroft to attend a reward trip in the Summer Term. Further information will follow.

Overviews of our school clubs are attached, for your information. All clubs are open to students, there is no requirement to book a place. If you are interested in joining a club or you need more information, please see the relevant teacher, or email ff-clubs@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 11

A careers notice: the slides shared in the Year 11 careers assembly on Friday, 17 September have been emailed to parents/carers. Please read the presentation carefully, so that you are aware of your Post 16 options.

An advance notice: Year 11 students who received zero consequences during Year 10 will be invited by Ms Ahmed-Lockley to attend a reward trip on the first Enrichment Day in November. Further information will follow.

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YEAR 12

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended our Year 12 Information Evening on Tuesday, 21 September. A PDF of the slides used in the presentation has been added to the Parent Information area on the Academy website.

An advance notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.

At Fairfax, we offer the 16-19 bursary and if you think you qualify for the bursary, please download the attached documents and return to the sixth form by the deadline date of 15 October 2021. <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/financial-support/>

A reminder notice: sixth formers should check their school email for correspondence from the Sixth Form team and Careers department. Please see Sixth Form supervisors if there are issues accessing Outlook.

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YEAR 13

An advance notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.

A reminder notice: UCAS Personal statements should be given to Ms Gray or Miss Gardner for checking and can be given to the Sixth Form supervisors to be passed on. The school deadline for early entry UCAS applications for those applying to Oxford, Cambridge, and Medicine and Veterinary Science courses is Friday, 8 October.

At Fairfax, we offer the 16-19 bursary and if you think you qualify for the bursary, please download the attached documents and return to the sixth form by the deadline date of 15 October 2021. <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/financial-support/>

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