

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/Parents – 2 Parent Carer Letter Standards September 2021

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we continue to welcome our students back to a 'more usual' school term, I wanted to update you on a number of matters relating to Academy expectations of students.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Fairfax is the founding school of the Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust, a family of four schools with shared values and vision. As a Trust, we believe that impeccable behaviour and exemplary manners are the foundations for a successful and rewarding educational experience. At Fairfax we believe that excellence is possible in a framework of high expectations.

In order for us to be able to contact you with ease, please ensure your contact details such as address, email address and telephone number are up-to-date. Please follow our twitter @FairfaxSchool or Facebook page 'Fairfax Academy' for regular updates of our events throughout the year. Remember to download the MyEd App for regular updates from school too. Fairfax Academy receives a large number of calls each day. If you have a non-urgent enquiry please email [post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

This year at Fairfax Academy, along with helping students to recover any learning loss due to the pandemic, we will focus on the values and behaviours that we believe exemplify excellence. These are Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Safety. In order to encourage our students to remember the importance of these values, we know them as 'Fairfax ARKS'. They will form part of all aspects of our school life, in particular our praise and reward scheme.

Having extended merit assemblies pre-pandemic into Year 8 and adding our literacy colours into the celebrations, we are keen to further focus on the achievements of our students and recognize the many students at Fairfax that go 'above and beyond' in their school work, participation, attitude and contribution to the local community.

Year 7 and Year 8 students can work towards their ARKS Badge which is achieved at 12 merits. The ARKS Badge is awarded when students have secured 3 ARKS Merits in each of the values (a copy of the Milestone Ladder is attached). Please encourage your child to strive to achieve this first milestone during the Autumn Term if they have not already done so. All students can move up the milestone ladder through achieving merits, and students can add badges to their blazers through participating in activities both in and out of school. Please see [Our School: School Colours – Fairfax Academy](#) for details of blazer badgers.

Please be reminded that students whose behaviour does not meet the expected standard and who fail to follow reasonable requests of staff will receive sanctions in line with the Academy's Behaviour, Discipline and Rewards Policy which can be found on the Academy website. Throughout the academy day thousands of interactions happen between students and staff; it is crucially important that students respond appropriately to instructions and follow

them. We expect students to adhere to our Behaviour, Discipline and Rewards Policy and to follow all reasonable requests the first time they are asked – ‘first time, every time’.

In preparing our students to be successful as young adults in modern Britain, we require them to respond respectfully to peers and adults within the school community, and to ensure the Academy is an inclusive place where tolerance and kindness are demonstrated in all that we do.

On the occasions that students fail to behave in an ambitious, kind, safe and respectful manner, they may receive a same day detention. Schools do not have to give parents/carers notice of after-school detentions, but Fairfax Academy sends a text message as a courtesy. Parental consent is not required for detentions. Detentions will last 45 or 60-minutes dependent upon which academy expectation a student has failed to meet. It is the responsibility of students to attend detentions; failure to attend twice will result in the student being placed in the Refocus Room the following day in order to reflect on the behavior leading to the detention. More information about school detentions can be found at [www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions](http://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions)

As always, it is a real privilege to be Head of Fairfax and I am proud of the achievements of our young people. Following the easing of restrictions, we are looking forward to ensuring that students have as much opportunity to participate as possible and will work to re-introduce opportunities for our students to participate in extra-curricular activities throughout this academic year. Please encourage your child to get involved.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your child, and of Fairfax Academy, and wish all students a good Autumn term.

Yours sincerely



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

Attachment:

- Milestone Ladder