



Welcome to our Year 12
Parent Information Evening
21st Sept 2021

'Parental support is eight
times more important in
determining a child's
academic success than
social class.'
The Times – Campaign for
Learning

The Sixth Form Team

o **Support from the Sixth Form team:**

- o Ms Gray, Assistant Head Teacher – Post 16 Education/Head of Sixth Form
- o Miss Gardner, Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- o **Mrs Clark, Academic and Well-Being Mentor**
- o **Mrs McGuire, Year 12 Supervisor and administrator, Ext 3309**
- o Mrs Meakin, Year 13 Supervisor and Administrator ex 3260

o We encourage our students be more independent by asking them to come directly to us if they have any issues or problems. Please support us by reinforcing this behaviour.

o Any queries, please call Mrs McGuire, on extension 3309 in the first instance.



What we want

- Students to leave with the highest possible qualifications
- Students to leave as responsible and courteous young adults
- Students to leave having developed their talents and social skills to succeed in the workplace
- Students to leave with a lifelong love of learning



From GCSE to A Level

- o Key differences :
 - o 3 A Level subjects
 - o 5 hours per week per subject in most subjects + study periods
 - o More challenging content
 - o Greater range of skills required
 - o More homework and research!
 - o Emphasis on independent learning and reading
 - o Motivation and self-discipline essential



Level 3 qualifications

- In 2015 the government started a three year process of reforming A Level and BTEC subjects.
- The qualifications were made more challenging in both A Level and BTEC. The BTEC subjects we run are the equivalent of one A Level and are treated as such by the universities.
- Most students will be doing three subjects. Once a student has decided on their courses, they cannot change. It is not advisable to take four, but if students have asked to take four, please be advised that they must complete four qualifications and there will not be the opportunity to drop a subject.



Changing subjects

- o We do have a small window to change subjects if a student feels that they have made the wrong choice at this stage.
- o Students are to talk to their current teacher first.
- o Then, if still wishing to change, they collect a form from Mrs McGuire to complete.
- o The switch can be made provided:
 - o Class is not already full.
 - o Grade criteria for the subject is met.
 - o There is not a clash on the timetable with other subjects.
 - o Deadline: 24th September - no extensions.



High Expectations For All

- Fairfax Academy believes that impeccable behaviour and exemplary manners are the foundations for a successful and rewarding secondary educational experience.
- These are true qualities for life and will support our students in the ever-demanding world we live in.
 - Punctuality
 - Mobile Phones
 - Same-day detentions



Our expectations in Year 12 and 13

- Students are role models
- Impeccable behaviour
- 100% effort
- Excellent attendance
- Punctual to school
- School uniform
- Homework
- Signing Out



Attendance

- Is compulsory in the Sixth Form.
- The Academy has an attendance standard of 95% and if there are issues regarding attendance, we would appreciate a discussion with you
- For safeguarding purposes, we require you to call in to advise of any absence each day of the absence on 0121 378 1288 ext 3309 no later than 8.15. Please leave your name, the name of the student and reason for absence. Alternatively, call the main switchboard and press for Attendance.
- For unavoidable appointments, students are encouraged to complete an absence slip with your signature which they return to our administrator.
- If a student is absent without any notification, we will contact you by text message via our Kidsafe system. Occasionally, information may not have been received by the administrator when the check is made, so please do not be concerned if we call to confirm the whereabouts of your child.



Supervised and Private Study

o Supervised study

- o In work room
- o Silent study
- o Register taken
- o Mrs McGuire is in charge
- o Behaviour for learning policy applies
- o Phones

o Private Study

- o Students go to the refectory
- o No phones
- o Period 5 – Home Study – students must sign out before they leave
- o This is a privilege. Students who receive poor effort grades may be switched to supervised study periods.



Transferred Lesson

- o If a teacher is absent, work is set for them via Show My Homework and the lesson is transferred to an Independent Study Session or ISS. Students are expected to complete the work set during the lesson either in The Refectory, or in the Sixth Form workroom.
- o We intend to trial covering absent teachers for year 12 and 13 lessons shortly.



Safeguarding

- This is even more important than when they are lower down the school.
- Despite being in the sixth form, students will often think that the rules regarding safeguarding no longer apply.
- As we are a school setting, it is vitally important that we know where our sixth formers are at all times.
- Lesson registers to ensure they are in school. If the register shows them as absent, we will notify you via kidsafe or by phone.
- When they leave the school site during the day, they must sign out and this will be monitored.
- Please support us by reminding your child of the need to be signing out when they leave the school site.



Rewards

- We reward effort
- Created Sixth Form Colours system
- Senior Prefect application system
- Golden Table award for the Senior Prefects
- All contributes towards the school reference in Year 13 for UCAS and Apprenticeships.



Participation

- We will always encourage our Sixth Form to play a part in the school.
- At the end of year 12, we invite applications from our prefects to join the senior prefect team, which includes the roles of Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies.
- In addition, they need to think about gaining experience in the workplace and should endeavour to organise suitable placements during the school holidays.
- Another consideration is voluntary work.
- If anyone is considering teaching as a career, they must have experience of working in a school and this will be discussed with the students in the Spring Term but we will talk with students at any time about this.



Opportunities

- ◊ House Captains
- ◊ Sports Captains
- ◊ School Council
- ◊ Forms Reps
- ◊ Eisteddfod
- ◊ Prefect
- ◊ Senior Prefect
- ◊ Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- ◊ World Challenge
- ◊ Peer Mentoring
- ◊ Social Club
- ◊ Lead Learners
- ◊ Super Sums
- ◊ Reading Buddies
- ◊ Debate Team



How we will report progress and effort?

- We let you know how your child is doing with:
 - Half-termly reports which contain: Predicted Attainment Grade information every half term and effort score grades
 - Year 12 Parents' Evening 2nd February



What we do to support

- o Access to a Learning and Well-Being Mentor, Mrs Clark
- o Access to our own dedicated careers advisor, Mrs Pauline Knowles
- o Opportunities to contribute to the school community
- o Programme of extra curricular activities
- o Individual CEIAG advice and opportunities
- o Mock Exams
- o Enrichment programme, including skills for adulthood, careers, UCAS, and Careers Zone in Summer Term
- o UCAS Higher Education Convention in June
- o Dedicated Sixth Form facilities: Work rooms, indoor and outdoor social area



Enrichment

- We have introduced an enrichment programme covering the University application process, **careers advice**, both internal and external, social and relationship advice.
- Students will also receive advice and guidance about mortgages, insurances, pensions, bank accounts, investment planning and budgets.

These days are important as it is the only opportunity we have to bring in external providers to support the students. Absent on that day means missing out on important messages.



Enrichment –work experience

- We have put aside a week commencing 13th June for students to undertake work experience that they research and book.
- Details of this will be released at a later date.



Academic Mentoring


- o All of our students have access to our Academic Mentor, Mrs Clark who also supports the students with their wellbeing.
- o They can make appointments with Mrs Clark, but they are also given a regular appointment to see her, which is compulsory to attend.



16-19 Bursary

- o At Fairfax we are committed to closing the attainment gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and those from more affluent backgrounds, and to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from a place in 16-19 education and training.
- o If you think your child may be eligible, please visit our website and download the documents on this page:
- o <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/financial-support/>

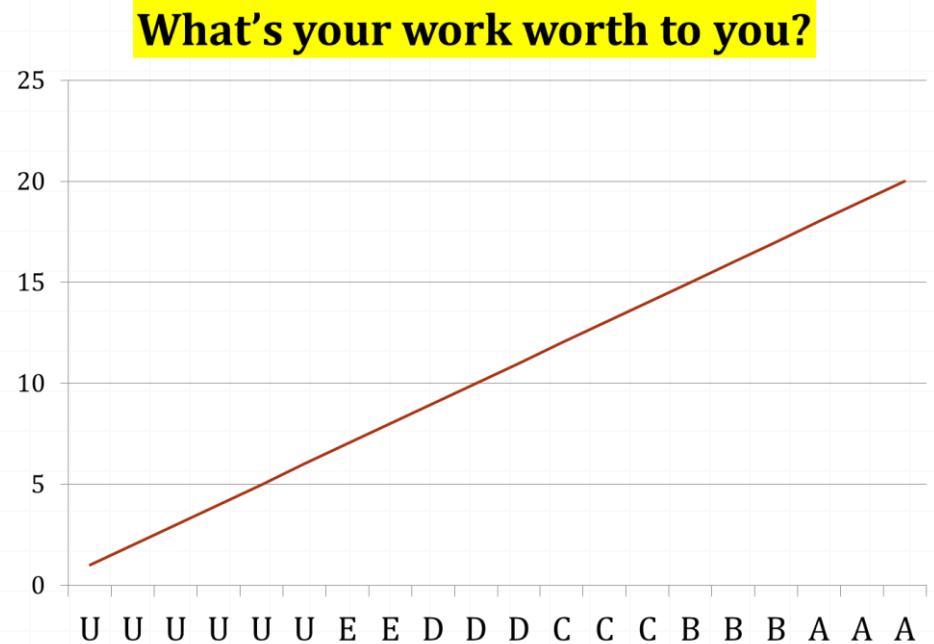


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How you can
support your child

Studying at home

- There will always be work to do!
- Independent study
- Wider Reading
- Ongoing revision
- Show My Homework



Revision techniques

- ◊ **Tables**
- ◊ **Re-write notes**
- ◊ **Cue Cards**
- ◊ **Mind Maps**
- ◊ **Past Papers**

Discuss their future with them

- o Be aware of the exam boards your child's subjects are with and download information from their websites.
- o UCAS website: **search.ucas.com**
- o Explore options at **<https://sacu-student.com/>**
- o Visit University Open Days -we allow three visits in through the academic year – however, ,most are going over to virtual open days
- o Apprenticeships: **<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>**

Key Dates and events

UCAS Higher Education
Conference

June 2022

This is an fantastic resource for Year 12 in helping them to make decisions about Higher Education, whether it be through University or a work related route.

- o We will register our school's interest, but this will be an event that students will attend themselves and we will notify you of how you go about doing this when registration opens.

Key Dates and events

- o Year 12 Parents Evening 2nd February 2022
- o Mock Examination week: 25th April 2022 – No study leave
- o Mock results issued: 20th May 2022
- o Work Experience week: 15th-18th June 2022
- o End of Year reports: 20th July 2022

Information

- o We will endeavour to keep you informed about things happening in the Sixth Form via email and through 'In the Know'.
- o Information can also be found at <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/>
- o Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- o <https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxAcademySuttonColdfield/>
- o <https://twitter.com/FairfaxSchool>

