

27th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new half term at Fairfax Academy, I hope everyone had an enjoyable break with friends and family. This half term is short one, only five weeks and we break up on Friday, 31st March. During this time, we have 3 planned strike days, on the 1st, 15th and 16th March. I will confirm the plans for these in a separate communication.

This half term sees the re-launch of our 'Routines for Learning', that is how we enter classrooms, settle down without disruption, complete the 'Do it Now' activity and engage in the lesson. These routines form tutor time activities this week as we set out our expectations for the benefit of all. We cannot allow a minority of students to disrupt the learning of the majority who want to learn. Our routines will also focus on behaviours around the site, with reinforcement on littering and respect of the school and each other. I would like to especially note our stance on verbal abuse from students aimed at staff, it will not be tolerated. As I am sure you will support and agree with, as in any of our professions, we turn up to work to do the best we can, and do not expect to be greeted with verbal abuse. Students expect respect from staff, and we expect it back. Working together we will grow and flourish.

As a leader I always value the input of parents and carers and want to work collaboratively and proactively with all of you to ensure that your children receive the highest standards of education possible. I do however, acknowledge that sometimes parents have felt let down or frustrated by historical events in school, and that you may not have always been satisfied with how certain events were dealt with. None of us want this to happen and if it does it is important that we work together constructively to ensure whatever has gone wrong is put right quickly, meaningfully and sustainably.

In order to support me with doing this, I would ask that if you do have any concerns about any aspect of the Academy (even if you feel you have raised this previously) please get in touch with me via parentfeedback@fairfax.fmat.co.uk so that I can personally ensure that these issues are looked into and the outcome is communicated to you by the most appropriate person. If you are still not satisfied with the outcome following this process, then the academy and the Multi-Academy Trust have mechanisms in place for ensuring the matter is looked into by others. Following these channels is the quickest way to ensure a speedy resolution to your issue, but I hope that by working together more closely and in greater collaboration the vast majority of parents will not have any issues or concerns with academy life and the small number that do from time to time will see that the improved communication and collaboration resolves any concerns quickly.

We are aware of a national issue with Tik Tok and students organising protests regarding school rules on toilets. Please be advised that if we have any reports of this type of activity taking place at Fairfax, students will receive sanctions in line with our behaviour policy.

To finish, I would again like to thank you all for your continued support of the work we undertake at Fairfax; it is a joint effort. The Academy has recently advertised via email and our social media platforms parental workshops on supporting anti-bullying, mental health and anxiety, and we will be offering more in the months ahead. Please do take advantage of these free and accredited training opportunities.

Please click on the link below to browse the free courses available and register your interest.

[- The AIM Group](#)

Our joint work with yourselves and the local community is really important.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Castle', with a horizontal line underneath.

SEAN CASTLE
Principal