

SIXTH FORM PERSONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

We want students to leave Fairfax with the skills, virtues and experiences that will help to give them the confidence and ability to pursue their goals. We deliver this character education through our ARKS (Ambition, Kindness, Respect and Safety) value, alongside a wealth of opportunities that gives 'something for everyone'.

As the students progress through the sixth form, we want to inspire and guide their development into young adults who are ready to take on the world. We provide opportunities to take greater personal responsibility and leadership and to grow into the person they can be proud of. This will include identifying and following meaningful pathways on their way to life at Post-18.

Alongside their Level 3 qualifications, students will Fairfax students will also undertake the taught element of the Personal Development and Learning Programme in Year 12. Within this course, students will undertake an Extended Project, aiming to achieve the Extended Project Qualification, a PSHE programme specifically designed for their age group and we will complete the year with a careers package that will take them from the rough ideas at the start of the year, to fully formed plans for their future.

Participation is a significant element of Fairfax Academy, and our House system is at the heart of this. We look to our sixth formers to model our values to our younger students and to this we add the opportunities of leadership with the peer mentoring programme, Senior Prefect Team and House Captaincy. These, and other opportunities will enhance the students' confidence and capacity to work together to support not just our school, but the wider community.

We also wish to prepare students with the experiences that employers and higher education institutions seek. We believe that active participation in all that the school has to offer will allow each student to achieve this.

Our ambition is to prepare all of our students to be active and engaged citizens, ready to face the challenges of adulthood and to meet these challenges with a positive attitude and the skills to navigate their way through life.

What is the Personal Learning and Development Programme?

All students will be part of the programme of support and opportunities that we offer. This consists of:

- Access to a dedicated supervisor (R,S)
- Access to our independent careers adviser (A)
- Access to Peer Mentoring Training (K)
- Access to Sutton Trust Programmes (A)
- Access to the Learning and Wellbeing mentor (S)
- Access to University to Birmingham's A2B Scheme (A)
- Career support via careers platform, Unifrog (A)
- Deputy House Captain applications in year 12 (ARKS)
- Digital Literacy Programme (A)
- Enrolment onto the Express Extended Qualification Project (A)
- Higher Education Fair for university, apprenticeships, and employment (A)
- House Captain applications in year 13 (ARKS)
- House charity participation (R,K)
- House Council participation (R,K,S)
- Induction to Sixth Form (ARKS)
- One week of work experience (A,S)
- Opportunity to undertake Duke of Edinburgh Award (ARKS)
- Personal statement master classes (A)
- Prefect application in year 12 (ARKS)
- Pride and Equalities Groups (R,K,S)
- Registration careers programme (A)
- Senior Prefect Team applications in year 13 (ARKS)
- Support for apprenticeships (A)
- Support for university applications (A)
- Sutton Coldfield School Debating Competition (A)
- UCAS support (A)
- Volunteering opportunities in-school and with external providers, inc NCS and Square Peg Activities, Sutton Coldfield (ARKS)
- Your Future sessions in Summer Term (A)

Sixth Form Support

All students in the sixth form are supported by the Head of Sixth Form who is the Assistant Principal responsible for post16 education support, along with the Assistant Head of Sixth Form. Within the sixth form centre, our support team are on hand throughout the day. Each year group has a dedicated supervisor who is there to guide and support the students as they progress through the year. In addition, we have a learning and wellbeing mentor who sees all our students for academic support and also looks after their wellbeing during their time with the sixth form.

Assistant Principal. Post 16 Education	Ms W Gray
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Miss S Sutton
Academic and Well-being Mentor	Mrs F Clark
Year 12 Supervisor	Mrs K Davis
Year 13 Supervisor	Ms N Rai
Career Adviser	Mrs P Knowles

Participation in Sixth Form

Students in the Sixth Form continue to play a part in the House system. In Year 12, they can become Deputy House Captains and take this to full House Captain in Year 13.

As Sixth Form students, Year 12 apply to be school prefects and undertake lunch patrol duties and attend functions on behalf of the school, including Parent Evenings, Open Evenings, Induction Day for Year 7, and undertake tours of the school.

For Year 13, we offer a Senior Prefect Team that is through application and interview. Students complete an application form detailing what they have achieved within the school and the shortlisted students are invited to interview. From this process we have a team of 10 senior students who have specific areas of focus within the school.

We also have Sixth Form colours that can be achieved through participation in the school community. External students are welcome to take part in achieving their colours and, to assist them, they have a reduced number of points to achieve their half and full colours.

The school is a member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and students who have achieved Bronze and Silver continue into sixth form to achieve the Gold. External students are able to bypass onto the Gold Award if they wish.

World Challenge is a biennial event that takes students to many different parts of the world. While Covid restrictions prevented the last trip from going ahead, there is a new trip for 2024 being organised.

Supervised study

In addition to the timetabled lessons with subject specialists, students have at least one supervised study period attached to their timetable where students are expected to work independently on their studies. These sessions form part of their hours in the sixth form and are an important part of their studies. The room is coordinated and supervised by the supervisors of year 12 and 13 and students are expected to follow the work room instructions. Using our resourced work room, students will do additional reading or research, complete work, explore career options and complete activities on Unifrog.

Extended Qualification Project

All year 12 students are entered for the Extended Qualification Project (EPQ). This is a course that allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They

can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written dissertation and

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners,
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills,
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and presentation skills,
- learn to apply technologies confidently,
- demonstrate creativity, initiative, and enterprise.

Undertaking an Extended Project can support your application to Higher Education by:

- Reducing the level of an offer,
- Giving your application preference, on highly selective courses over students who have not undertaken EPQ,
- Providing a focus for valued content within your personal statement,
- Providing a major focus for interview discussion.

Your Futures

The careers experience at Fairfax takes the form of various strands. The weekly timetabled lesson for EPQ is also used for both careers and PSHE sessions. This links to the Ambition element of ARKS and builds throughout the two years.

Throughout the year, the EPQ staff will deliver the PSHE sessions relevant to the year group and once the EPQ is completed in May of Year 12, our attentions turn to our session on 'Your Future'. Within these sessions, students explore their choices for post-18 decisions and begin the process of applying to university and for apprenticeships.

After year 12, students receive support from the sixth form team based on their choices for post-18. This will include workshops and master classes, as well as presentations from our external providers.

Registration CEIAG Programme

In addition to the timetabled lessons that include careers support, students have one registration a week dedicated to careers information and support. The programme covers topical areas as we progress through the school year.

Unifrog

We are delighted to be in partnership with Unifrog, the complete destinations platform. Unifrog bring all the available information into one comprehensive, user-friendly platform that helps students make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications. Through the use of the platform, we are able to track our students' progression through the different areas and there is a partnership with universities and employers to further support students to be successful.

All of our students have received a log in for the platform and are invited to create their profile, look at courses and employment opportunities, undertake subject specific MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) to further strengthen their employability skills.

In-year careers support

Alongside the in-house activities for careers, we receive regular information from a wide range of providers regarding career information and opportunities. We share this information with the students through the use of the homework platform, Satchel One, Unifrog and the students' school emails. All students have access to the Independent Careers Advisor, Mrs Knowles.

The Careers Programme for the Sixth Form can be found on the school website:

<https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/enrichment-programme/>

Supporting applications for university.

Students are encouraged to visit a wide range of university and college Open Days. Most are open at weekends, but we permit three visits in an academic year by request.

Speakers from a variety of universities come to school to give presentations, guest lectures and seminars to the Sixth Form to help with their decision making.

Students hear talks from admission team at our partner universities, as well as take part in personal statement writing masterclasses. Students will also receive ongoing support from your Sixth Form tutors and other staff to help you create a compelling personal statement.

Exploring a range of pathways.

Sixth Form students are also supported if they decide that university is not the best option for them. We have speakers from apprenticeship providers who come into school to talk about their schemes, and we also provide guidance on completing application forms and interviews. Students can find further information about apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships on the careers section of the school website.

We have careers support from a variety of employers, and you will be able to book regular careers meetings to seek advice. You will also benefit from lectures, seminars and enrichment opportunities with a considerable number of external partners, including with our corporate partners. We share these opportunities with you directly through Satchel One and Unifrog. All of our students are expected to be proactive in accessing the resources shared with them by the sixth form team.

Real life work experience

During the course of their studies, students in the Sixth Form are expected to undertake a minimum of 5 days placement(s) with an employer in the summer term of year 12. This work experience is designed to gain valued employability skills, but also to inform future career decisions.

We expect students to arrange work experience placements independently, to ensure that each placement is tailored to meet individual needs and interests, however our dedicated sixth form team are able to provide ongoing support and direction throughout the process.

We will share details of schemes offered via established links with employers and organisations, along with any new opportunities that we promote throughout the year. Students will also receive guidance on how to apply and make the most of their time on placement.

Further support

Our school website has several pages of information for parents and students. Information can be found at the following links:

[Careers Programme Information – Fairfax Academy](#)

[Careers information for parents and carers – Fairfax Academy](#)

[Careers information for students – Fairfax Academy](#)

Sixth Form Specific information: [Enrichment and Careers Programme – Fairfax Academy](#)
