



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 8 September 2023

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

Being Ambitious means:

- Working hard in lessons and being resilient when faced with challenges
- Participating in school life and contributing to your House
- Having good attendance and being punctual
- Wearing your uniform with pride and representing Fairfax positively
- Planning for your future and aiming high

Being Respectful means:

- Demonstrating good manners to staff, students and visitors
- Looking after the school environment and keeping it tidy
- Responding to staff requests, the first time you are asked
- Speaking to people with courtesy and respect both in school and the community
- Being considerate of others' personal space

Being Kind means:

- Accepting people for who they are, regardless of their differences
- Thinking of others' feelings and being considerate of others' points of view
- Going above and beyond to help and support others, especially those in need
- Thinking about the impact your words will have, before speaking
- Remembering that if you would not say it face-to-face, you should not say it online

Being Safe means:

- Behaving sensibly on school site and in the community
- Following staff instructions, the first time you are asked
- Thinking about the risks before doing something
- Using technology sensibly and being safe online
- Telling an adult if something is worrying you

Fairfax Examination Results 2023

Congratulations to all our GCSE, BTEC and A-Level students! We are hugely proud of all the hard work and achievements of our students! Our teachers and staff worked tirelessly to ensure student progress, and we wish all of our students every success in their next phase of education or training or employment. **#makingfairfaxproud**



ARKS – The Fairfax Way

#wearefairfax

Fairfax strongly believes in our key values of Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Safety – this is **The Fairfax Way**. We are proud of Fairfax's standards and expectations. This year we will again be focusing on positive relationships through conversations, interactions, lessons and assemblies. Highlights of this work will be shared via our social media channels.

Opening Time and The Refectory Breakfast Provision

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 08:20. Pedestrian Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road and Pedestrian Gate 2 on Fairfax Road both open at 08:20.

Open Evening 2023

Please be reminded that our annual Open Evening will take place on Tuesday, 19 September 2023 18:00-20:30. Permission letters are available in the Student Support Centre for student guides and faculty helpers.

Parking – Fairfax Road

A kindly reminder that parents/carers are mindful of local residents when parking, and ensure residents' driveways are not blocked.

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2023

Students in Years 7-10 are welcome to audition for this year's festival. Fairfax will be performing The Tempest in November at The Old Rep in Birmingham.

Auditions will be in C10 on Wednesday, 13 September after school.

Please prepare a one-minute monologue (this is a speech by an individual) of your choosing.

Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities

Please see the attached calendar overviews of our school clubs, along with our break and lunchtime activities. 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.

Attendance Matters

Well done to our students whose attendance has been high! A reminder that attendance should be 97% at least. Attendance improves achievement! Excellent attendance will be rewarded! Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level. Please contact the Academy before 08:00 each day of absence.

Attendance Office

Please be reminded that you can contact the attendance office and Attendance Manager – Miss J O'Connor via email: ff-attendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Attendance CSAWS

Please be reminded that CSAWS (Central School Attendance and Welfare Service) may conduct a home visit if your child is absent and their attendance is a concern.



The poster features a dark background with a red curtain on the left and a quill pen on the right. At the top left, the Fairfax logo consists of four vertical yellow bars followed by the text 'FAIRFAX' in large white letters and 'SINCERITAS LABORIS' in smaller white letters below it. The main title 'Shakespeare' is written in a large, white, cursive font, with 'SCHOOLS FESTIVAL' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font underneath. Below this, the word 'AUDITIONS' is prominently displayed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within a dark red rectangular box. Underneath the box, the text 'Room: C10 Drama Studio' is written in white, followed by 'Wednesday, 13 September 2023 | 3:00pm' and 'Auditions open to Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 only' in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the title 'THE TEMPEST' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, a quote from Miranda in Act 5 Scene 1 is presented in a smaller white font: " O, wonder! How many goodly creatures are there here! How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, That has such people in't." (Miranda, Act 5 Scene 1)

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.

Punctuality

A reminder notice: all students are expected to be on school site from 08:25 and be in their tutor room for registration by 08:30 each day. Any student arriving after this time will be considered late to school. Students who arrive after 09:15 without a valid reason, e.g. medical appointment, will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the AM session only. To notify us that your child will be late to school, please telephone 0121 378 1288, press option 1 and leave a voicemail stating a valid reason for the lateness. We ask for your support in reminding your child of the importance of punctuality and the need to ensure enough time is given in order to travel to school each morning. Please be reminded that the third instance of lateness, and any lateness after this during a half term, will result in a 60 minute after-school detention.

Detentions

A polite reminder that schools and academies have the right to detain students for breaches of the School Behaviour Policy. Schools do not have to give parents/carers notice of after-school detentions or tell them why a detention has been given. As a courtesy, Fairfax will send a text message to inform you by 14:30 each day. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/discipline>.

Parent/Carer Calendar – Autumn Term 2023


Please see the attached parent/carers calendar for Autumn Term 1.

2023-24 Heads of Year Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs Rose
Assistant Head of Year 7	Mrs Barker
Head of Year 8	Mr Ravenscroft
Assistant Head of Year 8	Mr Rainbow
Head of Year 9	Mr Porter
Assistant Head of Year 9	Mrs Byfield
Head of Year 10	Mrs Colbourne
Assistant Head of Year 10	Mrs Parry
Head of Year 11	Miss Dowell
Assistant Head of Year 11	Mr Clark
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Miss Sutton

2023-24 Heads of House Information:

Coventry Head of House	Mrs Dutton
Assistant Head of House	Mr Thompson
Kenilworth Head of House	Mrs Carty
Assistant Head of House	Mr Bibb
Stratford Head of House	Mr Zaman
Assistant Head of House	Miss Ahmed
Warwick Head of House	Mr Carty
Assistant Head of House	Miss Webber
SENDCO	Mrs Corbett
Assistant SENDCO	Miss Panesar



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.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Please keep in mind the cost to your child's education should they miss school. Please do not book holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

95% ATTENDANCE
= 10 missed days = 50 lessons!

5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY
= 3 lost days learning per year

AVOID BOOKING
holidays in term time

Term Dates 2023-24

A reminder notice: please be reminded of Fairfax's term dates for 2023-24.

Autumn Term 2023

(* Training Day Monday, 4 September 2023)

(* Training Day Tuesday, 5 September 2023)

- Term Starts: Wednesday, 6 September 2023
(*Training Day Monday, 2 October 2023)
- Half Term: Monday, 30 October 2023 to Friday, 3 November 2023
- Term Ends: Friday, 22 December 2023

Spring Term 2024

(*Training Day Monday, 8 January 2024)

- Term Starts: Tuesday, 9 January 2024
- Half Term: Monday, 12 February 2024 to Friday, 16 February 2024
(*Training Day Friday, 8 March 2024)
- Term Ends: Friday, 22 March 2024

Summer Term 2024

- Term Starts: Monday, 8 April 2024
(Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May 2024)
- Half Term: Monday 27, May 2024 to Friday, 31 May 2024
- Term Ends: Friday, 19 July 2024
(*Training Day Monday, 22 July 2024)

Fairfax PFTA

An advance notice: the next PTA meeting is on Monday, 18 November 2023 at 18:00. Please email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk for more information and/or to confirm your attendance.

PRIDE Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first PRIDE Meeting on Wednesday, 13 September 2023 15:00-16:00 in C13. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Lam or Mrs Williams.

School Council Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first School Council Meeting on Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at lunchtime in B9. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Hau or Mrs Williams.

Equalities Group Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first Equalities Group Meeting on Thursday, 14 September 2023 at lunchtime in C7. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Miss Gardner, Mrs Buckley or Mrs Williams.

Careers Notice

At Fairfax, we are always trying to improve our career provision for our students. If any parent/carer is interested in sharing their career journey with the pupils, then in the first instance please contact FF-Careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Perhaps you have an unusual job role, or perhaps you have entered your profession in a non-traditional way or maybe it is that your profession has an ageing population, and you want to inspire the next generation. Whatever your story please let us know and Mrs Knowles, our Careers Adviser will be in touch to discuss the next steps.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 28 September 09:10-09:50 or Thursday, 28 September 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

An advance notice: the Year 7 Parent Information Evening with House Tutors is on Tuesday, 3 October at 18:00 in the Hall.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 7 Parent Information Evening, there is a 'new parent' PTFA welcome on Tuesday, 3 October at 17:30. Please join us, email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk to confirm your attendance.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: invited students will shortly receive a letter and information from Mr Ravenscroft about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 7.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

An advance notice: later in the academic year invited students will receive a letter and information from Mr Porter about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 8.

YEAR 10

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

An advance notice: invited students will shortly receive a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 9.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: the Year 11 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at 18:00 in the Hall.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 11 Parent Information Evening, there is also a DofE Silver Parent Information Briefing at 17:00.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

An advance notice: invited students will shortly receive a letter and information from Miss Dowell about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 10.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

A reminder notice: the Year 12 Transition Sessions at Aston University are on Thursday, 14 September. Further to the letter sent to parents/carers, we require consent forms to be returned by Monday, 11 September. All year 12 students are expected to attend the event at Aston University and will meet Ms Gray and Miss Sutton at Aston University.

An advance notice: the Year 12 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 17:30 in the Hall. We look forward to seeing all of our students' parents and carers to hear about sixth form life at Fairfax.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 12 Parent Information Evening, there is also a DofE Gold Practice Parent Information Briefing at 17:00.

A reminder notice: Students in the sixth form are permitted to leave the school site for lunchtime. We are awaiting passes that they must use to sign out of the school via the tablet in the sixth form workrooms. Until then, students must sign out in the workroom before leaving site. This is a safeguarding measure and any student who fails to abide by this policy will be sanctioned in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

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: We do require any absence to be called in by a parent or carer on the morning of the absence and each subsequent day. You can call us on 0121 378 1288 and press 5 for sixth form to advise of any absence. For any medical or dental appointments, the student must complete an absence request form and supply a copy of their appointment details for our records. For email contact, please use: FF-SixthFormTeam@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

An advance notice: 16-19 Bursary Fund – 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. A separate letter regarding this year's 16-19 Bursary Fund will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, information regarding the scheme can be found here:

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

The deadline for applications is Friday, 13 October.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

An advance notice: the Year 13 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 18:30 in the Hall. We look forward to seeing all of our students' parents and carers to hear about sixth form life at Fairfax.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 13 Parent Information Evening, there is also a DofE Gold Actual Parent Information Briefing at 18:00.

A reminder notice: Students in the sixth form are permitted to leave the school site for lunchtime. We are awaiting passes that they must use to sign out of the school via the tablet in the sixth form workrooms. Until then, students must sign out in the workroom before leaving site. This is a safeguarding measure and any student who fails to abide by this policy will be sanctioned in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

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The deadline for applications is Friday, 13 October.

An advance notice: UCAS Deadlines – to support the students with their applications, everyone who intends on making an application should have started the process on UCAS. Students should aim to share their personal statements with either Ms Gray or Miss Sutton for guidance during this half term.

The deadlines for UCAS applications are as follows:

Oxford/Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science:

Personal statement drafts to be submitted by Friday, 22 September

Application to be sent – School deadline of Friday, 6 October

All other applications:

Personal statement drafts to be submitted by Friday, 20 October

Application to be sent – School deadline of Friday, 8 December

An advance notice: regarding the prom date for next year. Year 13 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at a venue yet to be decided. Please be reminded that students will need to be aware of the examination contingency date of Wednesday, 26 June 2024, and all students should be available up to, and including that day, in case there is disruption to the national examinations.

A reminder 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.