



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 22 September 2023

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



FREE
FUNDRAISING
CONCERT
FOR LIBYA
AT THE
CANOPY
AREA
|
MONDAY
25.09.2023
LUNCHTIME

Our Equalities Group will be selling sweets to raise funds for the **unicef appeal** to help people affected by the dams in Libya.



unicef

Equalities Group Meeting

Thank you to our Equalities Group, in advance of the free fundraising concert for Libya on Monday, 25 September. Students will be selling sweets to fundraise for the UNICEF appeal in support of those affected by the Libya floods.

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our Equalities Group Meetings on Thursdays 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.

PRIDE Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next PRIDE Meeting on Wednesday, 4 October 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

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, 17 October 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.

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.



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

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.

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. For Year 12 attendance, please contact Mrs Brewer on ext. 3309. For Year 13 attendance, please contact Mrs Rai on ext. 3260.

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.

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.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/discipline>.

Parking – Fairfax Road/Reddicap Heath Road

A kindly reminder that parents/carers are mindful of local residents when parking, and ensure residents' driveways are not blocked. In addition, please do not stop and/or park outside Gate 1, 2 or 3, as this causes traffic flow problems, with buses not getting through.

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)



Careers Notice

Unifrog is a career platform that has been introduced to aid our students in making career decisions. From doing personality quizzes to listening to podcasts, it is a one stop shop to engage, inform and empower students to make the right decisions for them.

By the end of this academic year all year groups will have access to Unifrog, however our next roll out is for Year 9 in preparation for their options.

Year 10-13 students have access to the platform and once their password is set by them, they should have no issues in using it. Links were sent to students using their school email. If any student is unable to access Unifrog, please see Mrs Knowles in the Library at breaktime or lunchtime. (Wednesday-Friday).

YEAR 7

An advance notice: next week Year 7 will be sitting Progress Tests in English and Maths. The dates and times of these are below:

- Monday, 25 September – Periods 3 and 4 – Maths Progress Test – F half of the year
- Tuesday, 26 September – Periods 3 and 4 – Maths Progress Test – X half of the year
- Wednesday, 27 September – Periods 3 and 4 – English Progress Test – X half of the year
- Friday, 29 September – Periods 3 and 4 – English Progress Test – F half of the year

The progress tests that students will sit are designed by a company called GL Assessment and are completed by 85,000 students across the country. This means that the results from the tests provide objective data on your child's current attainment that we can use, along with their SATs results to ensure that they are being challenged at the appropriate level. At the end of the year, your child will sit another progress test in English and Maths which provide us with objective data on how much progress has been made during the year.

Students will complete the tests in their normal classroom. They cannot prepare for these tests, and they should simply try their best.

Please can students make sure they bring in their calculator on the day of the Maths Progress Tests. Students should also have a reading book with them as they will be asked to read if they finish the test earlier than other students in their class.

A reminder 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.

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

A reminder 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.

Show My Homework (Satchel One) Access

An advanced notice: We are planning to make changes to the way students log into their Show My Homework accounts. We will soon be moving to a single sign in system where your child will log into their account via Office 365 using their school email address and password. A letter will be sent out to parents/carers next week with further details and the date that the changes will take place.

A reminder notice: Y7-Y11 Flu Immunisations take place on Thursday, 28 September 2023. **Please ensure that any outstanding consent forms are returned to Student Support before this date.**

A reminder 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: Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 16 November 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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An advance notice: Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 16 November 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

A reminder 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.

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A reminder 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.

Show My Homework (Satchel One) Access

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A reminder notice: Y7-Y11 Flu Immunisations take place on Thursday, 28 September 2023. **Please ensure that any outstanding consent forms are returned to Student Support before this date.**

Thank you to parents/carers who attended the Y11 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday, 12 September 2023. The presentation is available on the school website: [PowerPoint Presentation \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](http://fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

A reminder 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: Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 16 November 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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An advanced notice: We are planning to make changes to the way students log into their Show My Homework accounts. We will soon be moving to a single sign in system where your child will log into their account via Office 365 using their school email address and password. A letter will be sent out to parents/carers next week with further details and the date that the changes will take place.

A reminder notice: Y7-Y11 Flu Immunisations take place on Thursday, 28 September 2023. **Please ensure that any outstanding consent forms are returned to Student Support before this date.**

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.

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: Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 16 November 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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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.

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An advance notice: Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 16 November 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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.

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