



Year 12 Parent information evening – Welcome to Fairfax Sixth Form

TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Sixth Form Team

- ▶ **Support from the Sixth Form team:**

- ▶ Ms Gray, Assistant Principal– Post 16 Education/Head of Sixth Form
- ▶ Miss Sutton, Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- ▶ Mrs Clark, Academic and Well-Being Mentor
- ▶ Mrs Rai, Supervisor and Administrator ext 3260
- ▶ Mrs Brewer, Supervisor and Administrator for Year 12 ext 3309

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Any queries, please call Mrs Rai, on extension 3260 in the first instance or email FF-SixthFormTeam@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

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

Key Dates

- ▶ Friday 11th November 2023 – Work Experience Programme launched
- ▶ Thursday 8th February 2024 – Year 12 Parents Evening
- ▶ Week Commencing 8th April 2024 – Mock Exam Week
- ▶ Tuesday 25th April 2024 – Year 12 Parent Information Evening
- ▶ Friday 31st March 2024 – Deadline for work experience placements
- ▶ Week Commencing 17th June 2024 – Work Experience Week

From GCSE to A Level

- ▶ Key differences :
 - ▶ 3 A Level/BTEC subjects plus the Personal Learning and Development Programme.
 - ▶ 5 hours per week per subject in most subjects + study periods
 - ▶ More challenging content
 - ▶ Greater range of skills required
 - ▶ More homework and research!
 - ▶ Emphasis on independent learning and reading
 - ▶ Motivation and self-discipline essential

Subjects

- ▶ All students will be doing three subjects. Once a student has decided on their courses, they cannot change.

Changing subjects

- ▶ We do have a small window to change subjects if a student feels that they have made the wrong choice at this stage.
- ▶ Students are to talk to their current teacher first.
- ▶ Then, if still wishing to change, they collect a form from Mrs Brewer to complete.
- ▶ The switch can be made provided:
- ▶ Class is not already full.
- ▶ Grade criteria for the subject is met.
- ▶ There is not a clash on the timetable with other subjects.
- ▶ Deadline: 29th September - no extensions.

Careers Advice and Guidance – Personal Learning and Development Programme

- ▶ It is important for the students to receive guidance for their futures as well as being here for academic achievement.
- ▶ From day one, we support our students to get to the places they are considering post 18 and to that end, we have put together a Personal Learning and Development Programme that all students follow throughout their two years at Fairfax Sixth Form. A copy of the programme can be found here <https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/enrichment-programme/>

Components of the Personal Learning and Development Programme

- ▶ In Year 12, there is a timetabled lesson with their Personal Learning and Development Tutor. This will appear on the timetable as 'Personal Development'.
- ▶ It will be compulsory for all students to attend these lessons. The year will be organised into three specific areas of study:
- ▶ Term 1 Extended Qualification Project
- ▶ Term 2 PSHE and Guidance
- ▶ Term 3 Your Future

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.
- ▶ Students will also receive advice and guidance about mortgages, insurances, pensions, bank accounts, investment planning and budgets.
- ▶ We ask that you ensure your child is accessing their school email account regularly.
- ▶ We will also be inviting external speakers for a variety of different areas to visit and meet with our students.
- ▶ 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 would like 100% of students taking up this offer.
- ▶ 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 can 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.
- ▶ We have put aside a week commencing 17th June for students to undertake work experience that they research and book.
- ▶ Details of this will be released in November, but we would suggest that students start investigating possible placements now!

Registration CEIAG Programme

- ▶ In addition to the timetabled Personal Development lessons, students have one registration a week dedicated to careers information and support.
- ▶ The programme covers topical areas as we progress through the school year and is delivered by their form tutor.
- ▶ This programme follows the school year and will include careers information, support and advice on revision strategies, support with personal statement writing and other activities.

UNIFROG

A complete careers and destinations platform for schools. Unifrog is an online tool where teachers and students gain insight into the opportunities that are available for students

- The search tools help students compare every undergraduate course in the UK and Ireland, Oxbridge colleges, every US college, as well as over 10,000 undergraduate programmes taught in English around the world.
- Students can browse through Universities, Apprenticeships and special opportunities such as scholarships and summer schools
- The tool allows you to build an online portfolio to evidence key skills, ready for application
- Students create an online portfolio of activities and evidence key employability skills and experience from Year 7 onwards. Saved in one place, ready to go.
- Students can break up Personal Statement and CV writing into manageable sections, with expert hints and tips. Complete version history and automatic saving. Teachers can leave feedback and add notes. The Personal Statement tool was built in partnership with the applications experts, Causeway Education to give every student the best chance of success.

Rewards

- ▶ We reward effort
- ▶ Merits for the Reward Ladder
- ▶ Created Sixth Form Colours system
- ▶ Senior Prefect application system
- ▶ Golden Table award for the Senior Prefects
- ▶ Rewards Trip in Year 13
- ▶ 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

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

Attendance

- ▶ Is compulsory in the Sixth Form.
- ▶ The Academy has an attendance standard of 97% 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.
- ▶ In accordance with our attendance policy, Each absence will be assessed by the school, and we will decide if medical evidence is required.
- ▶ If a child is absent for more than five days, we are required to make a visit to check on the student.

Attendance

- ▶ We have a system in place for students who become unwell in the school day.
- ▶ If a student feels unwell, they are to tell their class teacher, or in supervision, their supervisor. If it is at break or lunch, then they go to the supervisors.
- ▶ First aid will be contacted, and the student will be assessed. If our medical advisor feels that they need to return home, parents will be contacted to seek permission. Where possible, we wish students to stay in school, as every absence matters.
- ▶ Students should never walk off site, or not return from lunch. This is a safeguarding issue.

Supervised and Private Study

o Supervised study

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

o Private Study

- ▶ Students go to the refectory
- ▶ Period 5 – Home Study – students must sign out before they leave
- ▶ This is a privilege. Students who receive poor effort grades may be switched to supervised study periods.

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 at lunchtime, they must sign out by using their pass and this will be monitored.
- ▶ If leaving at any other time, they must see their supervisor who will ensure you have given permission and then they will be allowed to leave.
- ▶ Please support us by reminding your child of the need to be signing out when they leave the school site.

How we will report progress and effort?

- ▶ We let you know how your child is doing with:
 - ▶ Regular reports which contain: Predicted Attainment Grade information and effort score grades
 - ▶ Year 12 Parents' Evening
 - ▶ End of Year reports

What we do to support

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

Academic Mentoring

- ▶ All of our students have access to our Academic Mentor, Mrs Clark who also supports the students with their wellbeing.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ We are planning on moving to an online application and monitoring system for the 16-19 Bursary.
- ▶ Students will be able to log in and upload their evidence and the system will determine whether they are eligible and at what level of eligibility.
- ▶ Students will be able to purchase items through us up to the value of the bursary and this will enable evidence to be maintained in accordance with EFSA guidelines.
- ▶ We will be notifying you later this term of the full details.



Careers

Careers Interviews at Fairfax 6th Form

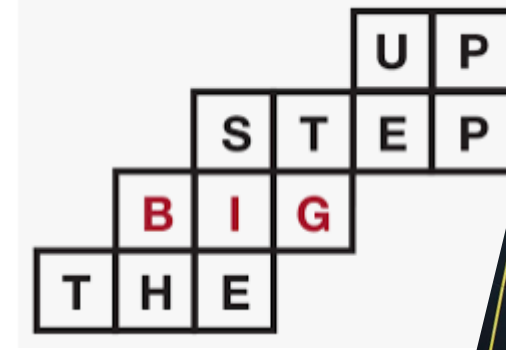
- **Mrs Knowles - Qualified Careers Adviser with over 20 years experience**
- **In school 3 days a week** – Wed-Fri
- **1:1 guidance interviews**
- **Interviews 30- 45 minutes minutes long –**
 - Discussion with your child about what they would like to do after 6th form
 - Informal chat but an action plan is produced
 - Signpost students to research different careers

Availability of Mrs Knowles

- Based in the small office in the library/ looking to be based in 6th form 1 day a week
- Year 12 Interview schedule:
 - Early September- Year 12s who are still unsure if they've made the right decision
 - May onwards – Year 12 – externals/not seen for a career interview in Year 11 referrals from 6th form team
- Self refer-

Pop into see me in the library or email me or ask one of the 6th form team to email me.
P.Knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk or FF-careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Year 12 – A big step up

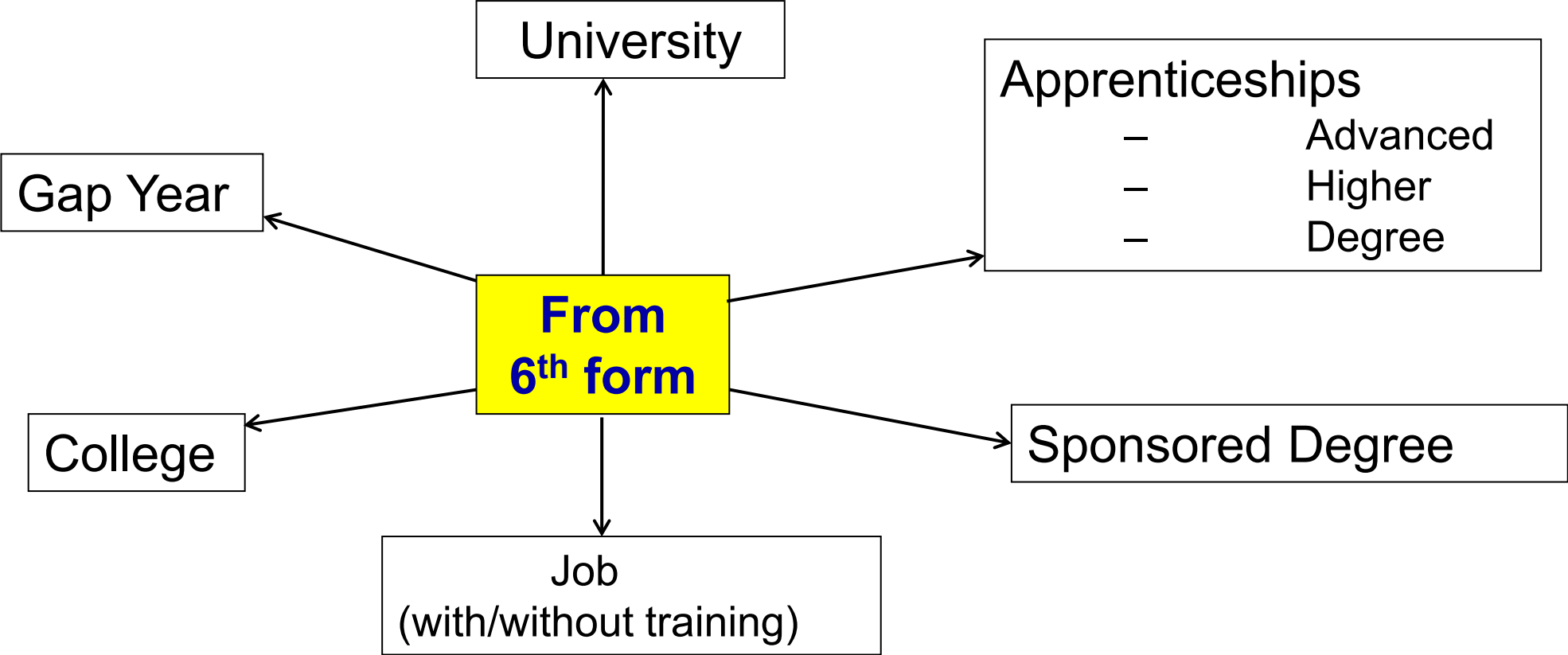


- A Career Goal in mind?
 - Enables students to have focus & a destination in mind
 - Shows students what you need to achieve to reach your Goal
- An important year ahead
 - UCAS Exams!
 - Your year 12 end of year exams alongside teacher input will go to form your **predicted grades** for applying to university or Apprenticeships



Year 12 matters!

What are Post 18 Options are there?



University

- The 6th form team provide ongoing support for students wishing to apply for university.

For example:

- Personal statement sessions
- Talks by universities
- Allocated days for Uni open days
- School career fair
- Professional talks by employers

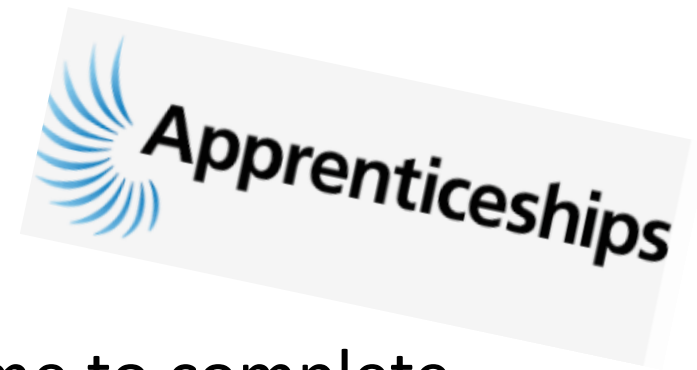


Understanding Sponsored Degrees

- Offered by the top companies such as PwC, Deloitte, EY & KPMG alongside WSP
- In specialised areas such as:
 - Accounting
 - Business & Management
 - Digital Technologies
 - Engineering
 - Project Management
- Attend University Full Time – of the companies choosing
- Give up some of your holidays to work in your local office
- Get paid for the privilege
- Benefits: No debt/ Full degree/ work experienced/ employed



Understanding Apprenticeships



- Earn while you learn.
- Different levels which will take different lengths of time to complete
- You can climb up the apprenticeship ladder if your employer offers it from Level 3- Level 6/7(Masters)

Degree	Level 5/6	Foundation degrees/Degrees
Higher	Level 4	HNC/HNDs
Advanced	Level 3	A levels or <u>Btec L3</u>
Intermediate	Level 2	GCSEs 9-4s (A-Cs)

Understanding Higher/Degree Apprenticeships

- Earn whilst you learn
- Get paid a training allowance –
 - if under 19 currently 5.28*
 - If over 19 and after their 1st year of an apprenticeship = £ 10.18*
- However, the larger companies pay far more
 - an average starting salary for WSP (engineering company) is over £17,000**
 - For an apprentice Police Constable £19,164**
- 1 or 2 days a week day release to university or to access online webinars
- 3-6 years to complete a full Bachelors programme = to a full time study
- Benefits: Already employed & Climb the ladder faster as you learn on the job.



What careers can I do a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship in?


- Chartered management
- Digital and technology
- Automotive engineering
- Aerospace engineering
- Banking relationship manager
- Legal
- Construction
- Chartered surveying
- Electrical systems engineering
- Aerospace engineering
- Aerospace software development
- Defence systems engineering
- Laboratory science
- Nuclear
- Power systems
- Public relations (PR)

How to decide the next steps

- *You can keep your options open and Apply for ALL and decide later*
- Career Research Booklet
 - Work through to help yourself – available in 6th form office
- Unifrog
 - **one stop shop** to help you with career choices, different types of universities, studying abroad in Europe or USA, applying to Oxbridge as well as travel and apprenticeships
- Year 12 - Career Fair –Friday 26th October 2023
 - Range of Universities
 - Different employers
 - Apprenticeship Providers
- National Apprenticeship Week February
- & National Careers Week March 2024
 - Apprenticeships posted everyday on @ffxcareers Instagram page
 - Career information on Screen around the school
- Career talks
 - Summer next year for Year 12s topics such as Taking a gap year/medicine/engineering



Helping to decide the next step

- Using your School Email
 - Career information is emailed to students via their school email
- Social Media – Follow me on Insta
 Instagram@ffxcareers
- Enrichment activities now timetabled
 - Organised to give you useful relevant information
 - Opportunity to find out about different careers
 - Personal statements & Student finance
- University Open Days
Go in Year 12 and start local to find out what they are all about
 - Happening now through to summer next year
 - Essential for you to find out about the type of university
 - More information on what you will be studying
 - A chance to go to the location and spend time in the area
- Year 12 Work Experience - Summer 2024
 - Make it count
 - Personal statement fodder
 - World or work experience



- Contact Details:

P.Knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

or

FF-careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk