

Year 13 Parent information evening – what next?

TUESDAY 26 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 for Year 13 ex 3260
- ▶ Mrs Brewer, Supervisor and Administrator ex 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

Attendance

- ▶ More than ever, attendance is vital, and we need your support in ensuring that our students meet the Academy standard of 97%.
- ▶ Every lesson missed damages their final chances.
- ▶ 'Catching up' work is not an option.
- ▶ Medical appointments should be out of school hours wherever possible. Planned absences need to be advised via a form the students complete.
- ▶ Visits to universities – try to go on the Saturdays where you can.
- ▶ If they are absent, we require a phone call as soon as possible. You can leave a message on ext. 3309, naming your child, who you are and the reason for the absence.
- ▶ 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.

Key Dates

- ▶ Thursday 12th October – Year 13 Parents Evening
- ▶ Friday 6th October – School deadline for early entry UCAS applications – medicine and veterinary. UCAS deadline is Monday 16th October.
- ▶ Friday 8th December - School deadline for all UCAS applications. UCAS Deadline is in January but we have always worked to an internal deadline to avoid clashing with mock exams.
- ▶ Week commencing 15th January - BTEC January/Year 13 Mock Exam week.
- ▶ Prom – Wednesday 26th June

UCAS

- By now, all students who are applying should have set up their application on UCAS and completed all of the Student Progress sections you can see here, apart from Personal Statement and choices.

Student progress

Personal details	✓
Contact & residency	✓
Nationality	✓
Supporting information	✓
English language skills	✓
Finance & funding	✓
Diversity & inclusion	✓

More about you	✓
Education	✓
Employment	✓
Extra activities	✓
Personal statement	○
Choices	●

Adviser progress

Application complete	○
Qualifications checked	○
Predicted grades complete	○
Reference complete	○
Reference approved	○
Application approved	○
Sent to UCAS	○

Education Section

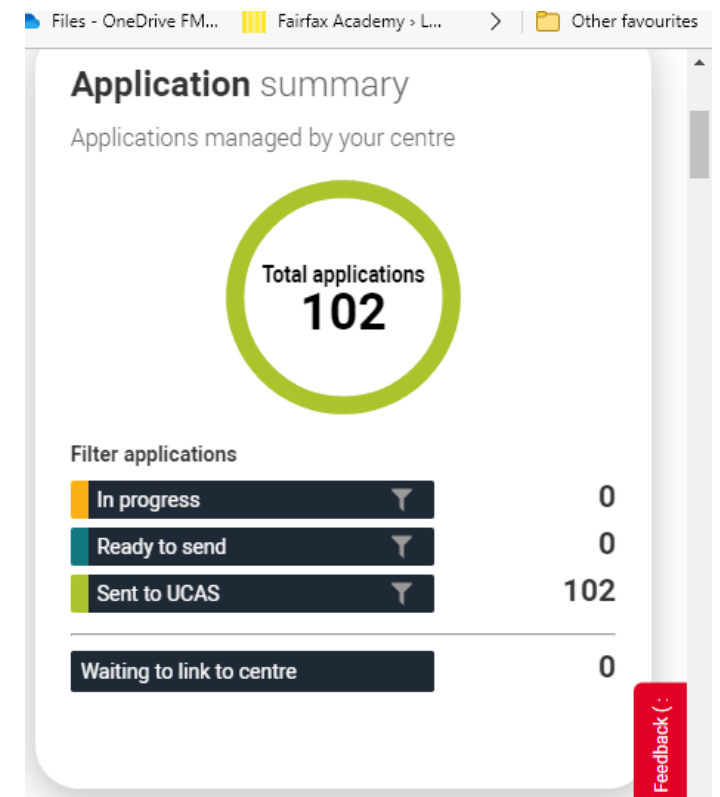
- ▶ In October, we will ask staff to provide a UCAS predicted grade for each student. This is a positive prediction based on their performance to date and the teacher's knowledge of the student and the effort they have shown. This is often a higher grade than the PAG grade we will issue at the same time. However, your child must ensure that they have entered their A Level/BTEC qualifications now. They will put the grade as 'PENDING' and the date as August 2023.

The screenshot shows a section of the UCAS application form for Fairfax School, Sutton Coldfield. It includes the school name, dates (September 2016 - July 2023), national centre number (20305), and part-time status. Below this, there is a table for GCE Advanced Level (A-Level) qualifications. The table has three columns: Subject, Date, and Awarding body. The subjects listed are Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics, all with a date of August 2023 and an awarding body of AQA.

Fairfax School, Sutton Coldf September 2016 - July 2023		
National centre number: 20305		
Part time		
GCE Advanced Level (A-Level)		
Biology		
Grade:	Date: August 2023	Awarding body: AQA
Chemistry		
Grade:	Date: August 2023	Awarding body: AQA
Mathematics		
Grade:	Date: August 2023	Awarding body: Edexcel

Release of UCAS applications

- ▶ When students are ready to send off their application, they need to pay and send the application. It will then arrive at my dashboard. This is because the students link their application to the school, and therefore, it is my responsibility to check their application and to send to UCAS.
- ▶ This is why we set earlier deadlines than UCAS as we need to ensure that all applications are sent off in time.
- ▶ With mock exams taking place when we return in January, it becomes difficult to chase students. Therefore, our deadline date is Friday 8th December 3pm.



16-19 Bursary

- ▶ 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/>
- ▶ We reverting back to a paper application form this year.
- ▶ 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. Students are not permitted to receive funds from us, and so must purchase items through the school.
- ▶ Deadline for applications is Friday 13th October.



Study Skills to share with your child

Study Habits of Successful Year 13 Students

- ▶ Have A Helicopter View
- ▶ Make the Most Of Study Periods
- ▶ Keep On Top Of Homework
- ▶ Consolidate Your Understanding As You Go Along
- ▶ Start Producing Revision Resources Now
- ▶ Use Exam Board Websites
- ▶ Be Clear About Which Revision Methods Work
- ▶ Revise For All Tests
- ▶ Get A Good Study-Life Balance

Have A Helicopter View

- ▶ There are two important things to grasp about Year 13. The first is that the workload is much bigger than Year 12. So, commit to working hard from the very beginning of term. The second is that time will go fast. It's vital from your first day back that you have a clear overview of the year ahead, particularly key events such as UCAS applications and mock exams.
- ▶ Get UCAS stuff done and out of the way as soon as possible - the last thing you want is to have it hanging over you when you're revising for mocks.

Make the Most Of Study Periods

- ▶ It's crucial. Enough said

Keep On Top Of Homework and NEAs

- ▶ During the Autumn Term, your first priority for study time should be homework. Always try to do homework to a high quality and get it in on time. Homework helps you to check that you understand what's covered in lessons and tells you where there are any gaps in your learning. It also helps your teachers to give useful feedback on areas for improvement. Don't let it mount up.

Consolidate Your Understanding As You Go Along

- ▶ Once you've done a topic in class, go over it and make sure you understand it. Don't leave it until it's close to the final exams to make sense of it or you'll end up with having to understand a heap of topics plus do loads of revision. If you don't get something, go ask a teacher.

Use Exam Board Websites

- ▶ Exam board websites are packed full of useful information, so use them. Make full use of the course specification, past papers, specimen papers, mark schemes, examiners' reports and information on UMS/grade boundaries

Start Producing Revision Resources Now

- ▶ When it comes to the final exams, the most useful revision resources will be the ones you produce yourself. But they can be time-consuming, so start making your revision resources (flashcards, mindmaps etc) early in the year as you go along. That way, when the real exams come around, you can spend more time revising instead of just writing flashcards.

Be Clear About Which Revision Methods Work

- ▶ Whatever methods you use, base most of your revision around practice papers/questions (sometimes under exam conditions) and testing (flashcards are, of course, fantastic for this). Other good methods include revision apps/guides, watching videos, teaching someone else a topic and mindmaps. Also, make the most of revision sessions run by your teachers.

Revise For All Tests

- ▶ It's really important that you use class tests and especially Jan/Dec mock exams to fine-tune your revision skills and exam technique, so take them seriously. If you do this, you'll be pleasantly surprised just how much you remember when you come round to the final exams.

Get A Good Study-Life Balanc

- ▶ A healthy work-life balance must allow time for social activities and interests. If you're worried about anything, ask a teacher or someone else you trust



Careers

Any student who is still unsure about post 18

- ▶ Please encourage them to see Mrs Knowles by making an appointment via email
- ▶ P.Knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
- ▶ or
- ▶ FF-careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Information

- ▶ We will endeavour to keep you informed about things happening in the Sixth Form via email and through 'In the Know'.
- ▶ Information can also be found at <http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/>
- ▶ Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxAcademySuttonColdfield/>
- ▶ <https://twitter.com/FairfaxSchool>
 - ▶ P.Knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
 - ▶ or
 - ▶ FF-careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

