



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 6 October 2023

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Black History Month 2023

Thank you to all the students and staff who are getting involved in activities to celebrate Black History Month 2023. We have had 'celebrating our sisters' assemblies this week, and it has been inspiring to hear about women of colour who have made a massive difference to our society.

We have plans during the month, for an Olympian and a World Record Holder to visit and share inspirational life stories with students. Students also have the opportunity to get involved in a national poetry competition, with all entries contributing to Humanities Colours.

Equalities Group Meeting

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

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our next PRIDE Meeting on Wednesday, 15 November 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.



Respect Matters Focus Week

An advance notice: w/b 16 October 2023 is Respect Matters Week. House Assemblies and tutor time activities will focus on 'respect' and 'being respectful'. #berespectful

Remembrance Day 2023

An advance notice: there will be a whole school remembrance event on Friday, 10 November 2023. If your child is a member of a uniformed organisation, such as Cadets or Scouts, and wishes to wear their uniform for this event, please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk for the attention of Mrs Mace.

Period Poverty

We believe at Fairfax that no girl should be in period poverty. We have a large range of free sanitary products including some period pants that girls are welcome to. They are kept in Student Support and we give them out to students discreetly. Please can you kindly remind your child where to get sanitary towels and tampons from if they need them. If there are any particular needs that school are not aware of, please contact Mrs Williams.

In addition to this, we have a small supply of knickers and tights. We are however running low on these. If you are in a position where you are able to purchase a pack of black knickers/tights that we can give to our girls as they need them, please can you send them to Mrs Williams.

Mobile Phones Reminder

Mobile phones should not be seen or heard once pupils are on the school site. Students should ensure phones are switched off before they enter the school gates and only switched on once off the school site. Where a mobile phone is seen or heard, the mobile phone will be confiscated and handed into reception and follow the procedure below:

- 1st confiscation – text message sent home informing parents of confiscation. Student can collect their phone from reception after their detention.
- 2nd confiscation – text message sent home informing parents of last chance. Student can collect their phone after their detention.
- 3rd confiscation – parents receive a phone call requesting them to pick up the phone from school. Student will not be allowed to collect from reception.

The escalated procedure restarts at the start of each half term.

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.



Anti-bullying Policy

Fairfax does not tolerate any form of bullying, and will act to support anyone in our community who experiences bullying; the 'bully' will also receive intervention support.

Please tell someone if you or someone you know is experiencing bullying. Please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year with any concerns:

Year 7	Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	Mrs Rose Mrs Barker	s.rose@fairfax.fmat.co.uk c.barker@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Year 8	Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	Mr Ravenscroft Mr Rainbow	c.ravenscroft@fairfax.fmat.co.uk r.rainbow@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Year 9	Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	Mr Porter Mrs Byfield	m.porter@fairfax.fmat.co.uk c.byfield@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Year 10	Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	Mrs Colbourne Mrs Parry	j.colbourne@fairfax.fmat.co.uk l.parry@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Year 11	Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	Miss Dowell Mr Clark	m.dowell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk g.clark@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Years 12-13	Director of Sixth Form Assistant Director of Sixth Form	Ms Gray Miss Sutton	w.gray@fairfax.fmat.co.uk s.sutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Mathematics Faculty Reminder

A kindly reminder that the Mathematics Faculty are now using Sparx. This is online homework, which research has shown has helped students improve their mathematics. We would therefore encourage

all students to complete the task(s), and spot prizes are awarded every week. Sanctions will also be issued for non-completion. Mathematics staff are supporting students with any issues with logging on, and computers are available lunch times and after school.

Wet and Cold Weather

A reminder notice: during wet and cold weather, we would ask that you equip your child with a waterproof coat and/or umbrella in order to ensure they are able to have a break outside. We know that being in the fresh air benefits well-being. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.

PE Lessons – Winter Months

A reminder notice: with the colder months ahead, we kindly remind parents that students are permitted to wear the following to keep them warm during PE lessons:

- Girls are allowed to wear black base layers under their House polo shirt, along with the optional mid layer
 - N.B. the black base layers should be a long sleeved top and base layer leggings (no fashion leggings permitted)
- Boys are allowed to wear a long sleeved black base layer underneath their PE tops, and base layer black shorts under their shorts. Alongside this, an optional mid layer is permitted.

PE Lessons – Footwear

Please be reminded that school shoes are not to be worn as PE trainers within PE lessons. Outdoor trainers should be worn in line with the Academy's Uniform Policy. Consequences will be issued to students who do not comply.

Careers Update

Mock Interviews for Year 13

Next week, on Friday, 13 October, we will host our annual Year 13 Mock Interview Sessions in the Library. We have a range of universities who will come in and offer students the chance to hone their interview technique prior to their interview either at a university or an employer. Please encourage your son or daughter to sign up for this event as it really does help with preparing for their future. Students should also look out on SMHW for a PowerPoint presentation on 'How to prepare for interview'.

YEAR 7

Thank you to parents/carers who attended the recent parent information evening. The presentation information is available on our website: [Parent Information – Fairfax Academy](#).

Show My Homework (Satchel One) Accounts

Please can all parents/carers ensure their child has logged onto their Show My Homework (Satchel One) account using the instructions on the letter emailed to parents/carers and handed out to students this week. **Once logged in your child should complete the Student Survey link listed in their homework tasks.** Please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk if you have any queries.

A reminder notice: the Redpoint visits are scheduled for w/b 23 October:

- Coventry House – Monday, 23 October
- Kenilworth House – Tuesday, 24 October
- Stratford House – Wednesday, 25 October
- Warwick House – Thursday, 26 October

Students are required to bring a packed lunch, wear trainers, casual trousers (not jeans) and a warm top. Please note students' clothes may get dusty/dirty. Students are reminded to meet in the Upper Refectory on the day of their House visit. Students not going on the visit will be in normal lessons.

YEAR 8

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Survey link listed in their homework tasks. Please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk if you have any queries.

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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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.

Thank you to parents/carers who attended the recent Duke of Edinburgh information evening. The presentation is available on our website: [Duke of Edinburgh – Fairfax Academy](#)

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An advance notice: Year 10 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 9 November, 15:45 -18:45 and will take place in the Hall and Gym. Please be reminded that Fairfax uses an online booking system for Parents' Evening. Information about how to log on and book appointments will be sent w/b 23 October 2023. Bookings open on Monday, 6 November at 18:00. If you have any concerns or queries about parents' evening please email ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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A updated notice: later in the academic year invited students will receive a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 9.

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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.

An advance notice: Year 11 Mock Examinations will take place between Monday, 13 November and Friday, 24 November 2023. An overview timetable will be available on the school website under 'Examination Information' by the end of next week. Students are reminded to ensure that they bring a working black pen and pencil to each exam. Calculators and Mathematics equipment will be provided. Water bottles must be clear with labels removed and not feature any patterns or writing. Students will receive an individual timetable with times, seat numbers and locations of each exam w/b 23 October.

An advance notice: our annual Sixth Form Open Evening is on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 18:00-20:00. We look forward to welcoming you on the evening. Doors open at 17:45. The Principal Talks are at 18:00 and 18:45 in the Hall. The online application form on our website opens on Wednesday, 29 November 2023.

An advance notice: regarding the prom date for next year. Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at Little Aston Golf Club. 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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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.

A reminder notice: sixth formers should check their school email for correspondence from the Sixth Form Team and Careers Department. Please see Sixth Form Supervisors if there are issues accessing Office365.

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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 The Townhouse, Sutton Coldfield. 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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