

# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 20 October 2023

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## **Black History Month 2023**

Thank you to Fairfax's Mr Kevin Brown and his fellow athletes for supporting our Black History Month 2023 celebrations this week. It was an absolute privilege to welcome such excellent role models to our school. Your inspirational messages about ambition and determination were excellent.

## **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**

A reminder 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.

## **Show My Homework (Satchel One) Accounts**

A reminder notice: 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk) if you have any queries.

## **Principal Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) Accounts**

We are pleased to advise that parents/carers can follow Mr Sean Castle, Principal, on Instagram and X for regular updates on the Academy:

Instagram    FairfaxAcademy  
X                @FFaxPrincipal

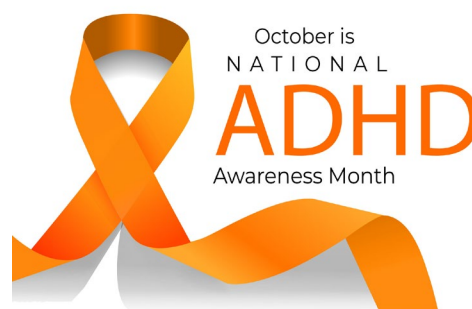
## **SEND Update**

For new parents/carers who may not be aware, in the summer Fairfax was awarded an **Inclusion Award** for excellent practise within the area of SEND. This was a detailed process, where all our systems and our teaching were reviewed against national standards. We are very proud to have been awarded this.

#makingfairfaxproud

This half term the majority of the reviews that have taken place have been for our new Year 7 students. We are very impressed with how well Year 7 students have settled into school and look forward to seeing them flourish over their school journey.

October is National ADHD Awareness Month. There is a great podcast about ADHD and girls in the link below along with some interesting information about the condition. [ADHDAwarenessMonth 2023](#)



## **The Eisteddfod 2023 – MOVIES**

The Eisteddfod Programme Cover competition has been launched in House Assemblies this week. The deadline for entries is Friday, 27 October 2023.

The Eisteddfod auditions will take place w/b 23 October 2023. Please see the overview below for further information. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House or Assistant Head of House with any queries.

# **FAIRFAX** EISTEDDFOD

# **AUDITIONS**

<b>Dance</b>	<b>Vocal</b>	<b>Instrumental</b>	<b>Spoken Word</b>	<b>Play</b>	<b>Questions</b>
Coventry TUE 24 OCT After School Diamond Suite	Coventry TUE 24 OCT Lunchtime G7	Coventry WED 25 OCT Lunchtime E1/E2	Coventry THU 26 OCT After School G7	Coventry WED 25 OCT After School E3	MRS DUTTON G7 MISS DYER A2
Kenilworth WED 25 OCT After School Diamond Suite	Kenilworth WED 25 OCT Lunchtime G4	Kenilworth MON 23 OCT Lunchtime E1/E2	Kenilworth THU 26 OCT After School G4	Kenilworth FRI 27 OCT After School HALL	MRS CARTY G4 MR BIBB A21
Stratford THU 26 OCT After School Diamond Suite	Stratford MON 23 OCT Lunchtime C18	Stratford FRI 27 OCT Lunchtime E1/E2	Stratford FRI 27 OCT After School C18	Stratford TUE 24 OCT After School HALL	MR ZAMAN C18 MISS AHMED C4
Warwick FRI 27 OCT After School Diamond Suite	Warwick FRI 27 OCT Lunchtime B14	Warwick TUE 24 OCT Lunchtime E1/E2	Warwick TUE 24 OCT After School B14	Warwick WED 25 OCT After School HALL	MR CARTY B14 MISS WEBBER B19



### **Snake Queue – AUTUMN 2**

An advance notice: from Monday, 6 November 2023, Year 11 will enter the snake queue first, followed by Year 10 and 9, then Year 8 and 7. This will be the new rotation for Autumn Term 2.

Tutor time discussions about 'queuing etiquette' will take place next week, and students will be reminded to demonstrate 'The Fairfax Way' when queuing in the snake queue, in The Refectory, into assemblies and other areas.

Your support in discussing this with your child at home would be much appreciated.

Break time	11:00	Y11	11:05	Y10/Y9	11:10	Y8/Y7
Lunch time	13:25	Y11	13:30	Y10/Y9	13:35	Y8/Y7

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Please find attached an updated copy of the extra-curricular clubs for Autumn Term 2.

We have netballs, footballs and basketballs available for break time and lunch time activities. From Monday, 23 October 2023, these will be available to students in all year groups on a rotation basis. Students will need to check the daily student bulletin for activity information. Students can speak to Mrs Mace (breaktime) and Mr Hetherington (lunchtime) with any questions.

### **Parent/Carer Calendar**

Please find attached an updated copy of the parent/carers calendar for Autumn Term 2.

### **Remembrance Day 2023**

A reminder 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk) for the attention of Mrs Mace.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **Uniform Notice**

Parents/carers are kindly reminded that students are responsible for keeping their own personal belongings safe, and Fairfax would discourage students from wearing or using expensive branded coats or bags.

### **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.

### **Aerosols Reminder**

A reminder notice: aerosols are NOT permitted in school. Students should not bring in aerosols to use in PE and instead, if they require additional deodorant or anti-perspirant during the school day, a roll on can be used. There are a number of students in school with asthma, whose triggers are aerosols, and the use of aerosols can and will lead to a severe asthma attack. Any aerosols used/found in school will be confiscated and taken to student support. A confiscated aerosol will need to be picked up by the student at the end of the day. Thank you for your support with this.

## **Mathematics Update**

A reminder notice: Sparx homework tasks are set every Wednesday, and research has shown that completing weekly tasks improves students' results. Revision books, guides and calculators are available on ParentPay.

## **Careers Update**

On Friday, 13 October 2023, we hosted a Year 13 Mock Interview event in the Library. Over 50 students volunteered to attend an interview, delivered by Birmingham City University, Nottingham Trent University, South & City College, University College Birmingham or University of South Wales. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, as they were given the opportunity to hone their interview technique. Comments such as "I think this experience was extremely beneficial" through to "It has given me more confidence" and "It has taught me how to structure my answers to questions" were mentioned in the feedback from the students. It was an exceptionally helpful event with all students walking away with smiles and feedback sheets from the interviewers. Birmingham City University commented "that they were impressed by the students' experiences and how they presented themselves."

Mock and practice interviews are held each year for students in Year 13 and Year 11 respectively. The idea and aim is to help our students to be prepared for not only university interviews but also the working world. Our next practice interviews for all of Year 11 will be taking place on Thursday, 30 November 09:00-13:25. If any parent/carer would like to support this event then please contact Mrs Knowles [p.knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:p.knowles@fairfax.fmat.co.uk). A list of questions to ask students will be provided for you.

Next week Year 11 students will be participating in 'Futures Week'. A range of providers are coming into school to deliver assemblies to ensure students are aware of their options post 16. The finale will be the annual Career Fair on Friday, 27 October 2023. Year 9-13 students will be invited into the hall to speak with colleges, training providers, universities and employers.

All of our career activities are designed to give our students the opportunity to hear about different courses, apprenticeships or opportunities available to them once they leave school.

YEAR 7

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

A reminder 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A reminder notice: the Y8 Germany visit dates are Tuesday, 5 December, leaving after school, until Saturday, 9 December 2023, returning in the early hours. There will be a parent information meeting on Wednesday, 8 November at 18:00 in the hall for all students and parents/carers. Further details about the visit will be given out at this meeting, and an information letter will also be sent out next week with more details. If you are unable to attend, please notify Mr Young [j.young@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:j.young@fairfax.fmat.co.uk) so that the information can be sent out to you.

YEAR 9

A reminder 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](mailto: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.

A reminder 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](mailto:ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A reminder 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A reminder 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.

A Mathematics notice: students have now received their pinpoint booklets. These personalised booklets identify weaker areas of understanding, which should be used as a basis for revision.

A reminder 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A Mathematics notice: students have now received their pinpoint booklets. These personalised booklets identify weaker areas of understanding, which should be used a basis for revision. In addition, Year 11 have received a list of topics that they need to focus on in their revision. Details of revision sessions are on Show My Homework.

A reminder notice: Year 11 Mock Examinations will take place between Monday, 13 November and Friday, 24 November 2023. An overview timetable is now available on the school website under 'Examination Information'. 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.

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: 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.

A reminder notice: 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.

YEAR 12

A reminder 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](mailto: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.

YEAR 13

A reminder 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](mailto:post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A reminder 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 (not Oxford/Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science):

Personal statement drafts to be submitted by Friday, 20 October

Application to be sent by the school deadline of Friday, 8 December

A reminder notice: 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.

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.