



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 17 November 2023

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

Remembrance Day 2023

Thank you to students, staff, youth organisations and visitors, who attended Fairfax to commemorate Remembrance Day 2023 with a poem reading, 'The Last Post' and a 2-minute silence on Friday, 10 November. #makingfairfaxproud



Children In Need 2023 Donations

Friday, 17 November 2023

Thank you to students who have supported 'Odd Sock Day' and donated to Children in Need. Donations can still be made via ParentPay. Thank you in advance for contributing to Children in Need 2023. #BeKind

The Eisteddfod MOVIES – Programme Cover

Thank you to all our students who entered the programme cover competition. Congratulations to Liberty Knowles (Y13) for our winning design. This design, pictured right, along with the runners up, will be used in the production of programmes and tickets this term.

The Eisteddfod MOVIES – Tickets

The Eisteddfod performance evenings are on:

Wednesday, 20 December 2023
(Kenilworth and Stratford)
18:00 Displays 18:30 Performances

Thursday, 21 December 2023
(Warwick and Coventry)
18:00 Displays 18:30 Performances

Tickets are priced at £6.50 and are available for parents/carers to purchase from 18:00 on Friday, 8 December on ParentPay. The Eisteddfod is a very popular event and so tickets are limited to 2 per family to help ensure that as many people as possible are able to see the event.



Anti-bullying/Kindness Counts Focus Week

This week students have been focusing on 'Kindness Counts Week' in tutor time with a focus on anti-bullying, the need to be careful about words we use, and the importance of being kind. Next week this work will continue with a focus on anti-racism. #BeKind #BeRespectful

Proposed Admission Arrangements for September 2025/2026

Please be advised that a consultation, regarding our proposed admission arrangements for September 2025/2026, will officially go live on Monday, 20 November 2023 and will end on Monday 8 January 2024.

This is a link/URL, to where Birmingham City Council have published a copy of the Fairfax admissions arrangements on the Birmingham City Council School Admissions website: [Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2025/2026 | Determined admissions arrangements 2023 | Birmingham City Council](#).

This is a link/URL, to where interested parties can comment on Fairfax's proposed admissions arrangements on the Birmingham BeHeard website during the consultation period: [Proposed Admission Arrangements for September 2025/2026 - Birmingham City Council - Citizen Space \(birminghambeheard.org.uk\)](#).

Anxiety Parent/Carer Workshop

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the anxiety workshop on line on Wednesday, 15 November 2023. Information from the session will be shared as soon as it is available.

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, 6 December 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, 28 November 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.

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.

The poster features the Fairfax Academy logo at the top, with the motto 'SINCERITAS LABORIS'. The main title is 'ATTENDANCE MATTERS'. Below this, there are four sections: 'ABSENCE' with a bar chart icon, 'PUNCTUALITY' with a clock icon, 'APPOINTMENTS' with a calendar icon, and 'ATTENDANCE' with a group of people icon. Each section contains text explaining the importance of attendance and the consequences of poor attendance. At the bottom, there are three key statistics: '95% ATTENDANCE = 10 missed days = 50 lessons!', '5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY = 3 lost days learning per year', and 'AVOID BOOKING holidays in term time'.

FAIRFAX
SINCERITAS LABORIS

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. In previous academic years, 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.

95% ATTENDANCE
= 10 missed days = 50 lessons!

5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY
= 3 lost days learning per year

AVOID BOOKING
holidays in term time

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>.

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.

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. 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 leggings (shiny, stretchy, non-cotton) 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

Last month was a busy period for Careers, as we finished the half term off with our annual Careers Fair. Over 40 exhibitors came into Fairfax from universities, colleges and employers. Students met employers such as BT, EON, Heidelberg Materials and Virgin Media/02 as well as the global engineering company WSP. Along with plenty of universities from across the country, the local colleges were also there to support our students transition into the working world.



Feedback from visitors, staff and students was very positive, with one Year 9 student saying "There were many opportunities. You had many options that you could choose from, which helped me think about my career a lot". It was Year 9 students' first year at the event, and this proved to be very useful. Year 11 students commented that it was "interesting, helpful, insightful", "enlightening", "good, informative and interesting". Exhibitors at the event were very impressed by the size and engagement of the students with The University of Hertfordshire saying "Thank you for hosting, and the students are a real credit to Fairfax!"

To ensure that all students had a meaningful interaction with the exhibitors, they were asked to take part in the Prize Card Draw to win a £25 Amazon gift voucher. Students had to engage positively with the exhibitors asking meaningful questions and more importantly listening to the answers! All year groups took part and the draw took place on Friday, 10 November 2023, with Sophie King in Year 12 winning the prize. Sophie is pictured on the right with Mrs Knowles (our Career Adviser responsible for setting up the fair).



Our next event will be on Thursday, 30 November 2023, for Year 11 students. This will be a mock interview event where students can take part in practice interviews. Thank you to those parents/carers who have volunteered their time to take part in this event.

PTFA Meeting

The next PTFA meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 22 November 18:00. Please email FE-PTFA@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 7

A Mathematics notice: Y7 will soon be sitting their Autumn Assessment. Further details will be shared on SatchelOne.

A Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

YEAR 8

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. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Young j.young@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

A Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

YEAR 9

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 Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

YEAR 10

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: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

A Business & Computing notice: please be advised that our recommended revision guide for GCSE Business is now available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £3.00, and our recommended revision bundle for GCSE Computer Science is now available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £4.00.

YEAR 11

An advance notice: students with weekly zero consequences and 100% attendance, will receive a 5-use snake queue pass, and their names will also be entered into a prize draw for a financial contribution towards prom ticket, attire or travel.

A reminder 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's Talks will take place 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: Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 14 December, 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 4 December 2023. Bookings open on Tuesday, 12 December at 18:00.

If you have any concerns or queries about Parents' Evening please email ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

A reminder notice: invited students have received a letter and information from Miss Dowell about the reward trip, on Friday, 15 December 2023, for students who received zero consequences during Year 10.

A Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

A Business & Computing notice: if your child does not yet have revision guides, please be reminded that our recommended revision guide for GCSE Business is still available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £3.00, and our recommended revision bundle for GCSE Computer Science is still available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £4.00.

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: 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.

A reminder notice: all sixth form students must sign out with their pass before leaving the school site at lunchtime. This is a requirement of being allowed to leave school, and if this is not followed, students will not be permitted to leave the site.

A Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

A Business & Computing notice: please be advised that our recommended revision guide for A Level Accounting is now available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £13.40.

A Work Experience notice: students should be looking for their work placements for the week beginning Monday, 17 June 2024. Students have received their placement forms and a consent form has been emailed to parents/carers. The deadline for the consent form to be returned is Friday, 1 December 2023 and the deadline for the placement forms is Friday, 22 March 2024. Please note that places fill up quickly, so students should be seeking out placements now. We have a database of previous placements that students can access by speaking to their supervisor, Mrs Brewer. All queries are to be directed to the Year 12 supervisor, Mrs Brewer and the email address is WEX@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 13

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.

A reminder notice: all sixth form students must sign out with their pass before leaving the school site at lunchtime. This is a requirement of being allowed to leave school, and if this is not followed, students will not be permitted to leave the site.

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

A Mathematics notice: please be reminded that revision books and guides are available to purchase on ParentPay.

A Business & Computing notice: if your child does not yet have a revision guide, please be reminded that our recommended revision guide for A Level Accounting is still available to purchase, via ParentPay, for £13.40.

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.