



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 8 December 2023

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Gratitude Week

An advance note: w/b 11 December 2023 is Gratitude Week. Parents/carers who would like to thank a member of staff, please complete the gratitude form: <https://forms.office.com/e/nJEYV2T6tt> which closes at 18:00 on Wednesday, 20 December 2023.

The Eisteddfod MOVIES

A confirmation notice: The Eisteddfod performance evenings are on:

Wednesday, 20 December (Kenilworth and Stratford) 18:00 Displays 18:30 Performances
Thursday, 21 December (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 today (Friday, 8 December) on ParentPay. The Eisteddfod is a very popular event and so tickets are limited to 3 per family to help ensure that as many people as possible are able to see the event.

The Eisteddfod MOVIES – Weekend Rehearsals

Please be kindly reminded of the weekend rehearsal schedule for performers:

- Saturday, 16 December 09:00-13:00 Stratford Performers (not choir)
- Saturday, 16 December 13:00-17:00 Coventry Performers (not choir)
- Sunday, 17 December 09:00-13:00 Warwick Performers (not choir)
- Sunday, 17 December 13:00-17:00 Kenilworth Performers (not choir)

NEW Arrangements – Friday, 22 December 2023

Please be advised of the revised schedule for Friday, 22 December. A letter from the Mr Castle has also been shared with parents/carers. **School will commence as normal at 08:30 and end after period 3, at 12:25.** We understand the importance of family traditions and the joy that the holiday season brings. We hope that this adjustment will allow you and your family to make the most of this special time together. In addition, all students will be permitted to wear a Christmas jumper or a red, white or green jumper with their normal school uniform for the morning.

Term Dates Reminder

Spring Term 2024

Training Day: Monday, 8 January 2024

Spring Term I Tuesday, 9 January – Friday, 9 February 2024

Half-term Monday, 12 February – Friday, 16 February 2024

Spring Term II Monday, 19 February – Friday, 22 March 2024

Parent Carer Calendar – Spring Term

Please see the attached Parent Carer Calendar for the Spring Term 2024.

Proposed Admission Arrangements for September 2025/2026

Please be reminded that a consultation, regarding our proposed admission arrangements for September 2025/2026, officially went 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 \(birminghambeheard.org.uk\)](#).

Heads of Year Information

Please be reminded that you can contact your child's Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year via email.

Head of Year 7	Mrs S Rose	s.rose@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Assistant Head of Year 7	Mrs C Barker	c.barker@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Head of Year 8	Mr C Ravenscroft	c.ravenscroft@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Assistant Head of Year 8	Mr R Rainbow	r.rainbow@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Acting Head of Year 9	Mr M Porter	m.porter@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Assistant Head of Year 9	Mrs C Byfield	c.byfield@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Head of Year 10	Mrs J Colbourne	j.colbourne@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Assistant Head of Year 10	Mrs L Parry	l.parry@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Head of Year 11	Miss M Dowell	m.dowell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Assistant Head of Year 11	Mr G Clark	g.clark@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
NEW Acting Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Mrs L Dutton	l.dutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Directors of Faculty Information

Please be advised that you can contact your child's Director of Faculty, via email, with any curriculum queries or concerns.

Director of Business & Computing Faculty	Mr B Hewitt	b.hewitt@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Director of English & MFL Faculty	Mrs K Ford	k.ford@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Director of Humanities Faculty	Mrs E Buckley	e.buckley@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Director of Mathematics Faculty	Miss A Ashton	a.ashton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
Director of Science & Technology	Mrs L Jackson	l.jackson@fairfax.fmat.co.uk
SEND/CO	Mrs K Corbett	k.corbett@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Library Club

Please be advised that library club is a quiet place for students to complete, and get support with, their homework if needed. We politely ask that students do not attend unless they have got homework to complete. Students will be asked to work quietly and if they do not comply with this request, they will be asked to leave to allow other students to concentrate.

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, 17 January 2024 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, 30 January 2024 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.

FIRST AID Update

First Aiders Ms Begum (and Miss Daniels on a Thursday) manage the first aid room.

The procedures for first aid are as follows:

- Students if they feel ill should let their teacher know.
- The teacher will then email first aid.
- First Aid triage the call outs, taking the most serious cases first.

We understand that this can be frustrating for students who are not feeling well, but just like in a doctor's surgery or a hospital, students may have to wait to be seen.

If your child requires any medicine, please complete the green form. No student should be carrying their own medicine unless this has been agreed by the external school nurse team and it is outlined in the student care plan.

Uniform Reminder

Please be reminded that the following items are not permitted to be worn at school:

- Hoodies
- Leggings
- Trainers
- Short skirts

Students that attend school wearing any of these items will be requested to exchange their item for a school item if there is one available to lend. Please be aware that students may be placed in Refocus until their uniform is correct.

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 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>.

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

On Thursday, 30 November we held our Practice Interview event for Year 11. The whole year were invited to participate, and all students received a 10–15-minute interview with an employer. Visitors from large global companies to national universities, to local training providers and colleges, between them saw approximately 240 students. The verbal feedback from the employers was overwhelmingly positive. They were impressed by our students and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

The event aims to prepare students for any interview they may have, whether 6th form, college or an apprenticeship interview. It tries to simulate the type of environment and questions that potential candidates will be asked if they go for real interview. It is about practising their interview technique so they can get it perfect next time round. You may hear your child discussing what type of biscuit or animal they would be! This was one of the main questions that got a reaction from the students! Overall, the event was hugely successful with some students saying, "employers gave constructive feedback that helped me to learn how an interview would take place and what I should expect

during future interviews." Other students said the event was "good practice" and it "gave a good idea about future interviews and made me feel much more confident".

Mr Castle said "Year 11 have had the wonderful opportunity today to practise their interview skills. This is a skillset that will be invaluable for future employment, and our students have shown great character and resilience in preparing and having a go at real interview scenarios, with a talented cohort of guest employers. Thank you to Mrs Knowles for organising a really valuable day."

Mrs Knowles commented that, "it is always a delight to see the students coming in nervous and leaving happy, and I look forward to hosting another practice interview session for next year."

Summer 2023 Exam Certificates

Certificates for exams taken in summer 2023 are now available to be collected from the school reception between 8:30am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday during term-time. If the student would like to send a nominated person to collect certificates on their behalf, they will need to either provide them with a short note of permission signed by themselves or should email FE-Exams@fairfax.fmat.co.uk with their permission and the name of the person collecting in advance. This is in line with exam board and JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) regulations as exam results and certificates are considered the property of the student.

YEAR 7

A Mathematics notice: all revision guides and workbooks are now in stock and available on ParentPay. Year 7 entries for the ChrisMaths competition need to be submitted by Thursday, 13 December.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

A Mathematics notice: all revision guides and workbooks are now in stock and available on ParentPay.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

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: all revision guides and workbooks are now in stock and available on ParentPay.

YEAR 10

An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

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: all revision guides and workbooks are now in stock and available on ParentPay.

A reminder notice: the 2024 Sixth Form Online Application Form is now live on our Academy website. The deadline for applications is Friday, 10 February 2023. Please visit [Apply for Fairfax Sixth Form – Fairfax Academy](#).

A reminder notice: Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 14 December, 15:45 -18:45 and will take place in the Hall and Gym. Parents/carers should now have received an email with instructions to use our online booking system to log in and book appointments. If you have not received this information, please let us know by emailing ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk. Bookings open on Tuesday, 12 December at 18:00.

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: all revision guides and workbooks are now in stock and available on ParentPay.

An advance notice: Year 11 students who study Creative Imedia (ICT) have an exam on **Wednesday 10th January at 2:00pm**. Please note that this exam will finish at 3:30pm (3:55pm with extra time) and will therefore run past the end of the school day. Students will receive a timetable reminder next week. Please ensure that you bring a working black pen with you to your exam.

An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

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.

FAIRFAX
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WE ARE UNIQUE
#wearefairfax

At Fairfax Sixth Form we recognise the importance of a Post 16 experience that includes more than qualifications.

Join us to experience our unique provision which includes **OPPORTUNITIES to:**

- LEAD** as a member of our senior team
- MOTIVATE** as one of our House Captains
- PARTICIPATE** in our annual Eisteddfod Creative Arts Festival
- COLLABORATE** through our World Challenge and Discover Adventure expeditions
- COMPETE** in House sports and events
- PERFORM** through our musical and performing arts provision
- THRIVE** by joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme through direct gold entry

JOIN OUR SIXTH FORM FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT GO BEYOND QUALIFICATIONS

Please be advised that Mrs L Dutton is our new acting Assistant Head of Sixth Form, and can be contacted via email: l.dutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

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 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.

Please be advised that Mrs L Dutton is our new acting Assistant Head of Sixth Form, and can be contacted via email: l.dutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

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An advance notice: Celebration Evening 2024 is on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Awardee confirmation letters have been sent and seats will be reserved on the evening for all who have confirmed their attendance.

An advance notice: BTEC external examinations run between Tuesday, 9 January and Monday, 15 January. Year 13 mock examinations will start on Monday, 15 January and run until Monday, 22 January 2024. The timetable overview is now available on the school website under Our Academy>Examination Information. Students will receive an individual timetable with exact timings and locations next week in tutor time. Please ensure that you bring a working black pen and pencil with you to all exams. Mathematical equipment and calculators will be provided. As many of these exams have long durations, there is one morning exam session (start time 8:40am - 9:00am) and a second afternoon session (start time 1:00pm - 1:30pm). This is similar to how exams are structured in the Summer. Students who have an afternoon exam will be excused from Period 4, so that they can have a lunch break before their afternoon exam.

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.