

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 12 January 2024

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The Eisteddfod MOVIES

Congratulations to Coventry House, winners of The Eisteddfod Movies 2023! Thank you to all the staff and students who worked incredibly hard last term. It was overwhelming to see the excellent displays of creative individual entries and outstanding performances on the stage. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Term Dates Reminder

Spring Term 2024

Training Day: Monday, 8 January 2024

Spring Term 1 Tuesday, 9 January – Friday, 9 February 2024

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

Spring Term 2 Monday, 19 February – Friday, 22 March 2024

Farewell and welcome to new staff

We wish Mrs Jackson, Miss Sheldon, Ms Begum and Mrs McWillie, who left Fairfax at Christmas, all the very best and thank them for their commitment to Fairfax.

We welcome Miss Palmer, our new Cover Supervisor, and English teacher Ms Panday who have joined us this January.

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.

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

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.



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.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Please keep in mind the cost to your child's education should they miss school. Please do not book holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

95% ATTENDANCE
= 10 missed days = 50 lessons!

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

AVOID BOOKING
holidays in term time

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.

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 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

Happy New Year from the Careers Team!

As we embark on yet another New Year with resolutions, here is a little boost telling you that NOW is the time to be securing that apprenticeship or college place for when you leave school.

Although apprenticeships are in demand there are still certain areas that are low in availability whilst other careers areas continue to grow. For example, if you are interested in Accounting-Banking-

Finance then companies such as BDO, Crowe, Deloitte, EY, Evelyn, HSBC, Marsh McLennan, Mazars, PWC and RSM have a range of vacancies open at the moment for the Birmingham area. But if you are looking to do Law then it is currently only Kennedys Law LLP that are recruiting. Other companies such as BT, E-ON, JLR, Vodaphone are also recruiting. There are vacancies available for both Year 11 and Year 13 leavers. Fairfax's biggest piece of advice is to register with as many websites as possible (see the links below). It is better to see the vacancy many times than not at all. Also ensure you save your responses so you can amend and use them again in future applications.

For Year 11 students looking to go to college, there will be many open days this spring term so please make sure you get yourself booked in to at least one of them. The next BMET Sutton College Open day is on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, 16:00-19:00. For other colleges please refer to the College Open day sheets displayed by the Library in A block. Remember there is still time to apply to Fairfax 6th Form too, as applications do not close until Friday, 10 February 2024.

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk
www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

In addition, students from Year 9 and above should be able to access www.unifrog.org, which also lists apprenticeships. You can also search for courses at college or university. Let 2024 work for you by securing that apprenticeship or college place NOW!

YEAR 7

There are no Year 7 notices.

YEAR 8

There are no Year 8 notices.

YEAR 9

A reminder notice: this term invited students will receive a letter and information from Mr Porter about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 8.

An advance notice: the Year 9 Options Briefing is on Tuesday, 23 January 2024. This will be a virtual briefing, and a link will be sent to parents/carers to view the presentation.

An advance notice: the Year 9 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 25 January 2024, 15:45 -18:45. 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 to parents/carers w/b Monday, 15 January 2024. If you have any queries about Parents' Evening please email ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: this term invited students will receive a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne about a reward trip for students who received zero consequences during Year 9.

An advance notice: there will be a Year 11 Parent Information Evening at 18:00 on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 in the Hall.

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 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.

A 'Your Futures' notice: to support the year 12 students in their decision making for post 18, we would appreciate it if each student would complete the survey form at this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/e3a2vJbmuB>. We require this information by Friday, 19 January 2024.

A reminder notice: Year 12 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 8 February 2024, 16:30 -19:30. 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 to parents/carers w/b Monday, 29 January 2024. If you have any queries about Parents' Evening please email ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

A reminder notice: there is an educational visit to Bletchley Park planned for A Level Mathematics students on Wednesday, 6 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

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 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 was 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.

A reminder notice: there is an educational visit to Bletchley Park planned for A Level Mathematics students on Wednesday, 6 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

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: 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 should all have received an individual timetable with exact timings and locations either in Tutor time or from the Sixth Form Centre. 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 08:40-09:00) and a second afternoon session (start time 13:00-13:30). 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.