

29 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the final two weeks of Spring Half Term 1, I wanted to take a moment to update you on our progress regarding behaviour and attendance at Fairfax Academy.

### **Behaviour**

I am pleased to report that our positive behaviour logs continue to surpass the figures from the same period last academic year, and we are also witnessing a continued reduction in negative behaviour logs. We are immensely proud of the improving standards of our students' behaviour set by both our staff and students at Fairfax.

### **Attendance**

I would like to emphasize the critical importance of good attendance and its direct correlation with academic progress. While our attendance rates have shown improvement compared to last academic year, we have noticed a slight dip in the past two weeks. It's crucial to remind everyone of the importance of attending school, even when feeling slightly under the weather. Whilst we appreciate that there are a lot of illnesses that circulate around at this point in the year, we would like to remind all students that unless they are extremely unwell, they should be attending school so they can continue with their learning.

In the event that a student feels they have become progressively worse and struggling, our pastoral team are available to support and inform parents.

With regards to making the right decision on whether your child should come to school or stay at home when feeling unwell, the NHS has provided guidance on illness and school absence, in particular:

#### **Coughs and colds**

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

#### **High temperature**

If your child has a high temperature, paracetamol is effective at bringing this back down to a normal temperature. Paracetamol can be administered in school by staff if you have completed our medicine consent form. If you have tried to bring the high temperature down at home and it does not subside, the advice then is to keep your child off school until it goes away.

#### **COVID-19**

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature.
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities.

**What to do if your child has tested positive**

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

**Sore throat**

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis. Paracetamol will help in bringing the temperature down but if this does not happen, please consult with your GP.

**Parent app**

Please remember to regularly log in to the My Child at School parent app to monitor your child's progress. If you encounter any difficulties accessing your account, please don't hesitate to contact us, and we will provide you with the necessary support to regain access to the app.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the success and well-being of our students.

Yours sincerely

**MR C HETHERINGTON**

**Assistant Principal - Behaviour**