

# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 1 March 2024

[www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk](http://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk)



### Gratitude Week

An advance notice: w/b 18 March is Gratitude Week. Could parents/carers who would like to thank a member of staff, please complete the gratitude form which closes at 18:00 on Thursday, 21 March 2024:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2w7GwCVMwS>

### House Charity Day 2024

Our House Charity Day is on Monday, 4 March 2024. A fundraising event will be held with challenges between Mr Castle and the Heads of House. Students who have zero consequences and a high number of merits have been invited to attend.

All students will have the opportunity to fundraise and contribute to our two chosen charities: Young Minds and YMCA Sutton Coldfield. #wearefairfax

### PTFA Spring Raffle

Fairfax PTFA will be selling raffle tickets via ParentPay for a 'Spring Raffle'. Prizes include afternoon tea vouchers, paint balling activity voucher, meal out voucher, chocolates, biscuits, wine and prosecco. Please visit your ParentPay account from Monday, 4 March 2024 to purchase tickets. The Raffle will be drawn on Friday, 22 March 2024, and prize winners notified.

### **Fairfax Has Got Talent 2024**

Our Fairfax Has Got Talent event takes place w/b 11 March, with the final taking place on Friday, 15 March 2024. Tickets to the final will be by invitation only via ParentPay. Students who have zero consequences and a high number of merits will be invited to attend. All ticket proceeds will go to Comic Relief.

Closed auditions will take place on:

|            |                           |      |        |
|------------|---------------------------|------|--------|
| Mon 11 Mar | KENILWORTH Has Got Talent | Hall | 1:25pm |
| Tue 12 Mar | STRATFORD Has Got Talent  | Hall | 1:25pm |
| Wed 13 Mar | WARWICK Has Got Talent    | Hall | 1:25pm |
| Thu 14 Mar | COVENTRY Has Got Talent   | Hall | 1:25pm |

#fairfaxhasgotalent



### **Comic Relief 2024**

On Friday, 15 March 2024 students and staff can donate £1 to wear their own clothes in support of Comic Relief. Please donate via ParentPay.



### **Participation Reports – Mid-Year**

Please be advised that Tutors distributed your child's mid-year Participation Reports before the half-term break, which included participation data from 1 September 2023 until 31 January 2024. If there are any achievements missing from your reports please email [ff-participation@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:ff-participation@fairfax.fmat.co.uk). End-year participation reports will be issued in July 2024, showing both House and school participation, blazer colours and leadership participation. Tutors will again issue these reports during tutor time.

### **BCU Accelerate**

On Tuesday, 5 March Year 7 and 8 students on the BCU Accelerate programme will continue working on their poems with special guests Memorhyme. We look forward to hearing some great poems again!

A reminder for all BCU Accelerate students in Years 7-9, to please only attend a BCU Accelerate session when you have received a slip from Miss Aldridge during form time. If you have not received a slip and believe there is a session on please check the student bulletin for any announcements or see Miss Aldridge in the Careers Office in the Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **Routines for Learning**

A reminder that this half term we are recapping our 'Routines for Learning', that is how we enter classrooms, settle down without disruption, complete the 'Do it Now' activity and engage in the lesson. These routines have been shared in tutor time regularly since the start of the academic year to set out our expectations for the benefit of all. Our routines also focus on the behaviours we expect and do not want whilst around the site, with reinforcement on littering and respect of the school and each other.

Students who meet our school expectations are rightly acknowledged for their positive contributions and achievements. To date, students have received 37% more positive logs this academic year when compared to the same point last academic year whilst at the same time, receiving 11% less negatives.

We thank all students and parents/carers for their ongoing commitment to ensuring Fairfax is an Ambitious, Respectful, Kind and Safe school for all to achieve well in.

### **Attendance Matters**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to both parents/carers and students for their exceptional attendance this term. Your dedication and ambition to being present and committed towards learning is truly commendable. As a result, we are proud to report that our attendance is nearly 1.5% above national average which is something that everyone who is involved with Fairfax should be immensely proud of.

Research consistently demonstrates a strong correlation between attendance and academic performance, including GCSE and A Level results. Numerous studies have highlighted the positive impact of regular attendance on student achievement. Here are some key findings:

1. Improved Academic Performance: Higher attendance rates are associated with better grades. Students who attend classes regularly have more opportunities to engage with the curriculum, participate in discussions, and receive feedback from teachers, all of which contribute to improved learning outcomes.

2. **Exam Success:** Research suggests that students with higher attendance rates are more likely to perform well in standardized tests, including GCSEs and A Levels. Regular attendance ensures that students have covered the necessary material and are adequately prepared for exams.
3. **Retention of Material:** Consistent attendance facilitates the retention of information and skills taught in class. Students who attend regularly are better able to build upon previous lessons, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject matter and increased confidence in their abilities.
4. **Positive Learning Environment:** Schools with high attendance rates often foster a positive learning environment where students feel motivated and supported. This environment encourages active participation and collaboration among peers, further enhancing academic performance.

Overall, the research underscores the importance of attendance in achieving academic success. By prioritizing attendance and minimizing absences, students can maximize their learning potential and achieve their academic goals.

We understand that there will be occasions where students may not be well enough to come to school. On these occasions, 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. For pre-arranged medical appointments, please contact attendance 48 hours prior to the appointment.

### **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.

### **SEND Update**

Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to the CAT Session on 'Anxiety and Children with ASC'. The topics explored included the importance of not facing your fears. We are going to be looking at reviewing our SEND information report on the website. If you would like to be involved in this, please can you email Mrs Ellis, SEND Administrator [l.ellis@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:l.ellis@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

### **SCCT School Uniform Grants**

Please be advised that application forms for school uniform grants are now available from Reception. To qualify, you must be in receipt of certain benefits and live in one of the four wards in Sutton Coldfield. Completed application forms must be returned to school by the deadline date of Monday, 11 March 2024.



# FAIRFAX

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## 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

### Y7 Y8 Modeshift STARS Active Travel Ambassador Programme

An update notice: collaborating with John Wilmott School, we are pleased to announce that we have secured £225.00 to spend on promoting safer, more active travel options around both of our schools. This was achieved by our students presenting to Birmingham Council Councillors and notable bodies within the safe travel industries. We secured the £200.00 on offer, plus a £50 bonus (shared between the two schools), being only one of two schools out of six securing this bonus. Congratulations to our ATA team!  
#makingfairfaxproud

### Music Evening

An advance notice: Fairfax look forward to welcoming musicians and their parents/carers to the Music Evening on Wednesday, 13 March 2024, from 18:00 in the Diamond Suite.

### Dance Evening

An advance notice: Fairfax look forward to welcoming dancers and their parents/carers to the Dance Evening on Wednesday, 20 March 2024, from 18:00 in the Hall.



### PE Lessons

Please be reminded of our PE Kit requirements. White shorts and white panelled polo shirts are no longer part of the Fairfax PE Kit. and **are being phased out**. However, if students currently have white shorts or a white panelled polo shirt they are permitted to wear them. It is also advisable that all items of uniform and kit are labelled with names or initials for easy identification in the changing rooms.

### Girls' PE Kit

- Fairfax unisex sports polo-shirt in **House colour**, with school badge (with **black** panel) (previously branded items are acceptable) **mandatory branded item**
- **Black** shorts (loose fitting) OR sports leggings (lyra, not cotton) OR jogging bottoms (mandatory)
- Sports running trainers (mandatory)
- **White** sports socks (mandatory) and outdoor trainers (optional)
- Long **black** socks for hockey (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- Shin guards for hockey (mandatory) and mouth guard to protect against injury (mandatory)
- **Black** mid-layer in cold weather (optional) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- **Black** long-sleeved base-layer for underneath polo-shirt in cold weather (optional)
- **Black** base-layer leggings for underneath shorts/jogging bottoms in cold weather (optional)



## Boys' PE Kit

- Fairfax unisex sports polo-shirt in **House** colour, with school badge (with **black** panel) (previously branded items are acceptable) **mandatory branded item**
- **Black** shorts (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- Sports running trainers (mandatory)
- **White** sports socks (mandatory) and outdoor trainers (optional)
- **Black** rugby shorts (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- **Black** rugby short sleeved shirt (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- Rugby/football boots (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- Long **black** socks for rugby/football (mandatory) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- Shin guards (mandatory)
- Mouth guards to protect against injury (mandatory) and head guards to protect against injury (optional)
- **Black** mid-layer in cold weather (optional) (previously branded items are acceptable)
- **Black** long-sleeved black base-layer for underneath polo-shirt in cold weather (optional)
- **Black** base-layer leggings for underneath shorts in cold weather (optional)

## Careers Update

Monday, 4 March until Saturday, 9 March 2024 is National Careers Week!

This is an opportunity to talk to family members about current job roles. You will be amazed at how many students do not know what their parents/carers or siblings do to make a living! So, it is an opportunity to inspire future generations and encourage students to look ahead to find out what they could potentially become. Maybe it is to learn a trade, serve the community or become Prime Minister! Whatever the aspiration, a range of resources for you to access to find out more will be emailed separately.

In school we will be highlighting 'first' part time jobs that staff did prior to working in a school. We will be sharing and showing career videos related to subjects so that students can be inspired by role models, then we will finish our week with 'Guess My Job!' for Year 9 students. The students get the chance to meet a range of visitors from different career sectors and try to guess their job!

We also have a group of engineering/manufacturers coming in to talk with students as well as Cambridge University speaking with our high achieving Year 12 students. All in all, it is set to be a very busy and inspirational week.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: there is an educational visit to France planned for Year 7 students who study French, on Friday, 22 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

A reminder notice: Year 7 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 18 April 2024, 15:45 -18:45. Please be advised 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, 8 April 2024. If you have any queries about Parents' Evening please email [ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

YEAR 8

A reminder notice: Year 8 Parents' Evening is on Thursday, 7 March 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 has been sent to parents/carers this week. If you have any queries about Parents' Evening please email [ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:ff-parentsevening@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

YEAR 9

A careers notice: on Thursday, 7 March 2024, Year 9 will take part in our annual game of 'Guess My Job'. We have up to 20 different visitors coming into school, and student groups have between 3-5 minutes to quiz a visitor on their job role, before the whistle is blown and students need to decide as a group what the job role of the visitor is. This is a great event for raising the profiles of different career paths as well as breaking gender stereotyping.

An advance notice: the Immunisation Nursing Team will visit Fairfax on Monday, 11 March 2024 to roll out the Teenage Booster Vaccination to Year 9 students. If you have not already done so, please complete the online form sent to parents/carers via email. to confirm whether you wish your child to receive the vaccination or not.

A reminder notice: a reward trip will take place on Friday, 24 May 2024 to Alton Towers, and invited students, who received zero consequences during Year 8, will receive a letter and information from Mr Porter.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: a reward trip will take place on Friday, 14 June 2024 to Drayton Manor, and invited students, who received zero consequences during Year 9, will receive a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne.

YEAR 11

An advance notice: the GCSE Drama & Theatre Studies practical examination will take place on Monday, 18 March 2024. A mock practical examination will also take place on Tuesday, 12 March 2024.

An advance notice: on Wednesday, 20 March 2024, the GCSE Dance Choreography examination will take place.

An advance notice: on Thursday, 21 March 2024, Year 11 will receive their results from their recent set of mock exams. This will be done in the same format as a results day. Students will also have a presentation reminding them of revision strategies and offering advice on how they can prepare for their final GCSEs.

A reminder notice: please be reminded that timetable overviews for the Summer 2024 examinations are available on the school website.

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: 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.

An advance notice: there is an educational visit to BCU planned for A Level Accounting and Economics students on Wednesday, 13 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

An advance notice: there is an educational visit to BCU planned for A Level Art students on Wednesday, 20 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

An advance notice: the Year 12 Mock Examination Period will run between Monday, 8 April and Friday, 12 April 2024. The overview timetable will be available on the website under Examination Information from Thursday, 7 March 2024. Students will receive an individual timetable w/b Monday, 18 March 2024. Students are reminded to ensure they bring a working black pen and pencil to all exams. Mathematical equipment and calculators will be provided.

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](mailto:WEX@fairfax.fmat.co.uk).

A reminder notice: the A Level Drama & Theatre Studies practical examination will take place on Tuesday, 5 March 2024.

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: a reward trip will take place on Thursday, 14 March 2024 to Escape Hunt Birmingham, and invited students, who received zero consequences during Year 12, have received a letter and information from Mrs Dutton.

An advance notice: there is an educational visit to BCU planned for A Level Art students on Wednesday, 20 March. Please see the visit letter for further details.

An attendance notice: as we approach the final months of sixth form for Year 13, please be reminded of the importance of attendance and punctuality. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the sixth form supervisors on 0121 378 1288 (ext 3260), and leave the name of the student, reason for absence and when you expect them to return.

A reminder notice: please be reminded that timetable overviews for the Summer 2024 examinations are available on the school website.

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.