



# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 22 March 2024

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## **Fairfax Has Got Talent 2024**

Congratulations to Mindy Wan in Kenilworth House, our winner of the Fairfax Has Got Talent on Friday, 15 March 2024. Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> place runner up Amelie Cornish in Stratford House, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Coventry House's Sophia Rooney and Annalise Finn, and to all of our finalist competitors!  
#fairfaxhasgotalent



## **Farewell and welcome to new staff**

We congratulate and wish Vice Principal Mr Johnson, who leaves Fairfax today after 10 years, all the very best in his new school, as Headteacher, and thank him for his commitment to Fairfax.

We welcome the following new staff who will join us in April:

- Mrs Bullivant (Teacher of Humanities)
- Mr Hyden (Director of Faculty for Science)
- Dr Jones (Teacher of Mathematics)
- Mr Khan (Assistant Principal)
- Miss Lamey (First Aid Lead)
- Mrs Pollard (Sixth Form Administrator & Supervisor)
- Miss Veness (Teaching Assistant)



## **House Swimming Gala 2024**

Congratulations to Coventry House, our winners of the House Swimming Gala on Tuesday, 19 March 2024. Congratulations to all of our swimmers!  
#makingfairfaxproud



## **Term Dates Reminder**

### **Summer Term 2024**

Summer Term 1 Monday, 8 April – Friday, 24 May 2024  
(Bank Holiday Monday – Monday, 6 May 2024)  
Half-term Monday, 27 May – Friday, 31 May 2024  
Spring Term 2 Monday, 3 June – Friday, 19 July 2024

### **Dance Evening 2024**

An advance notice: Fairfax look forward to welcoming dancers and their parents/carers to the Dance Evening on Wednesday, 1 May 2024, from 18:00 in the Hall.

### **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 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 and 13 attendance, please contact Mrs Brewer on ext. 3309. 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.

### Equalities Group Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend the Equalities Group Meetings each Thursday lunchtime in C7. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Miss Gardner or Mrs Williams.

### PRIDE Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next PRIDE Meeting at 15:00 in C13 on Wednesday, 24 April 2024. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Lam or Mrs Williams.

### School Council Meeting – open to all students!

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at lunchtime in B9. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Ms Hau or Mrs Williams. The agenda will include resourcing

'ARKS values' and 'Anti-bullying initiatives', then discussing 'lesson outcomes' and 'improving attendance'. Please join Ms Hau in B9 (bring your lunch with you) and get involved!

### Careers Update

It has been a busy few weeks of careers activities at Fairfax. At the beginning of March we hosted our Year 9 event 'Guess My Job' and 18 visitors came to school to be quizzed about their job role. It was a very entertaining day with visitors commenting how well behaved and engaged the students were. In student feedback 100% of the students said they enjoyed the event with their favourite careers being either the Magician or the Tree Surgeon!



On Wednesday 20, March Year 12 and 13 A Level Art students visited the BCU School of Jewellery. The day included a talk on Gemology and Horology, as well as two practical workshops, one to show metals and how metals can be used and manipulated into jewellery pieces. The second workshop, to encourage teamwork and creativity, was making a structure that could hold a bottle of water. It was a very enjoyable day and extremely interesting to find that the art of watch and jewellery making, although niche, is also a growing industry.

Year 11 students have also been involved in a series of career sessions to ensure they are well informed for their futures. These talks have been invaluable in providing information and advice.

### **BCU Update**

Year 7 and Year 8 had their final Memorhyme session on Thursday and we read some amazing poetry from Year 7 students Chelsea, Talola, Kailen, Abu and Charlie. Well done also to Rhyleigh, Nissi, Finn, Ashai, Ophelia, Cee-jai, Tavai and Oliver in Year 8, who all performed in front of the class.

### **Parent/Carer Calendar – Summer Term 1**

Please see the attached parent/carers calendar, updated for the Summer Term.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities – Summer Term 1**

Please see the attached lunchtime and after school clubs, updated for the Summer Term.

### **Who to Contact at the Academy with a Concern**

Please be reminded of the following points of contact:

#### **Year 7**

Head of Year:

Mrs Rose

[s.rose@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:s.rose@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year:

Mrs Barker

[c.barker@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:c.barker@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Year 8**

Head of Year:

Mr Ravenscroft

[c.ravenscroft@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:c.ravenscroft@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year:

Mr Rainbow

[r.rainbow@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:r.rainbow@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Operations Manager**

Mrs Duvern

[s.duvern@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:s.duvern@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Directors of Faculty**

Miss Ashton – Mathematics

[a.ashton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:a.ashton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Mrs Buckley – Humanities

[e.buckley@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:e.buckley@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Mrs Ford – English & MFL

[k.ford@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:k.ford@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Mr Hewitt – Business & Computing

[b.hewitt@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:b.hewitt@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

**NEW** Mr Hyden – Science

[a.hyden@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:a.hyden@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Year 9**

Head of Year:

Mr Porter

[m.porter@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:m.porter@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year:

Mrs Byfield

[c.byfield@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:c.byfield@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Year 10**

Head of Year:

Mrs Colbourne

[j.colbourne@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:j.colbourne@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year:

Mrs Parry

[l.parry@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:l.parry@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **SEND**

Mrs Corbett – SENDCO

[k.corbett@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:k.corbett@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

**NEW** Miss Button

Assistant SENDCO

[h.button@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:h.button@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **PE & Performance Subjects**

Mr Ashford - Music

[d.ashford@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:d.ashford@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Miss Cattell - Drama

[b.cattell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:b.cattell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Mr Trowman – PE

[d.trowman@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:d.trowman@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Year 11**

Head of Year:

Miss Dowell

[m.dowell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:m.dowell@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year:

Mr Clark

[g.clark@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:g.clark@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Sixth Form**

Head of Sixth Form:

Ms Gray

[w.gray@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:w.gray@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Sixth Form:

Mrs Dutton

[l.dutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:l.dutton@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Attendance Manager**

Miss O'Connor

[j.oconnor@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:j.oconnor@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

#### **Technology Subjects**

Miss Brooks-Henderson – DT

[t.brookshenderson@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:t.brookshenderson@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)

Mrs Donaghy – Food

[d.donaghy@fairfax.fmat.co.uk](mailto:d.donaghy@fairfax.fmat.co.uk)



YEAR 8

There are no Year 8 notices.

YEAR 9

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 main examination period begins on Thursday, 9 May 2024. Information regarding examination leave will be shared with parents/carers after the Easter break.

A reminder notice: Year 11 students have received personalised timetables for all of their examinations; a full examinations timetable is also available on the Academy website. Morning examinations will begin at 9:00am. Afternoon examinations begin at 1:30pm. Students will be expected to be outside their examination venue at least 10 minutes before the start of an examination. Students will be allowed to leave Period 4 early if they have an afternoon examination, to ensure that they have enough time for their lunch.

A reminder notice: Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at Aston Wood 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.

An advance notice: Results can be collected from the school gym from 8:30am on Thursday, 22 August 2024. Staff will be available on that date should students require any further help and support.

YEAR 12

An advance notice: Year 12 Senior Team Applications Wanted – our Senior Prefect Team is an integral part of Fairfax's Sixth Form. We are looking for the next team of students to take on the mantle. As a member of the Senior Prefect Team, you will be responsible for specific areas of school life, including teaching and learning; charity and events; sixth form facilities and student welfare.

The Senior Team roles include Head Student/Boy/Girl, Deputy Head Students and Senior Prefects. Students will be considered for the specific roles as indicated on their application. However, all students will be considered for a role as a Senior Prefect. The application form can be found on Show My Homework. Deadline for applications is Sunday, 14 April 2024.

A reminder notice: the Year 12 Mock Examination Period will run between Monday, 8 April and Friday, 12 April 2024. The overview timetable has been available on the website under Examination Information from Thursday, 7 March 2024. Students will have received an individual timetable this week. Students are reminded to ensure they bring a working black pen and pencil to all exams. Mathematical equipment and calculators will be provided.

An advance notice: we are delighted to be taking part in the Sutton Schools' Debating Competition at John Willmott School on Thursday, 25 April 2024 at 18:00. Support of our team is always welcome, and we look forward to seeing our debating team in action.

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 form, 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).

An advance notice: the main examination period begins on Thursday, 9 May 2024. Information regarding examination leave will be shared with parents/carers after the Easter break.

A reminder notice: timetable overviews for the Summer 2024 examinations are available on the school website. Students should know when their exams are timetabled but it is wise to double check with the published information on the school website. It is the responsibility of students to ensure they attend all examinations on the correct day, at the correct time and in the correct location. Morning exams begin at 09:00. Afternoon exams begin at 13:30. Students are expected to arrive 10 minutes before the exam begins and correct school uniform should be worn on all occasions.

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.

An advance notice: Results can be collected from the school gym from 8:30am on Thursday, 15 August 2024. Staff will be available on that date should students require any further help and support.