

# INTHEKNOW

Friday, 19 April 2024

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

## Dance Evening 2024

A reminder 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.

## 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

## Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform in order to support us to maintain high standards.

In particular:

- Tailored trousers and/or skirt (not tight fitting)
- Plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (no sweatshirts or hoodies)
- Blazer and tie (to be worn at all times)
- School shoes (not trainers)
- No jewellery (one pair of stud earrings only)
- No facial piercings (if students have a nose ring, it needs to be a clear, invisible one)

## 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 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.

#### **Careers Update – BCU and Fairfax**

As part of our partnership with BCU we are having a KS3 focus this half term. We have started off with Year 7 today, introducing the career session of 'I am BCU'. The aim of the session is to introduce the idea of university, to inspire and raise aspirations of our younger students. The session will include information, videos and quizzes, as well as the opportunity to win prizes.

On Friday, 26 April, alongside BCU we are running a Year 8 'Industry Link' workshop. The interactive session will involve looking at the skills needed in industry, such as teamwork, problem solving and creativity. Teams of 4 will work together to think of a business idea with the winners from each session doing a final presentation in a Dragon's Den type format.

Both events are aimed at starting the process of raising the profile of careers. By starting our younger students' career journey early, it can help with enthusiasm, commitment and motivation. Your Life! Your Future! Your Choice!



## 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

### **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!

### **Mathematics X**

Please follow our Mathematics social media account on X @FairfaxMaths for regular faculty updates.

### **Mathematics Update**

A reminder notice: as we approach the end of year assessments, please be aware that we have revision books and calculators available to purchase through ParentPay. Evidence shows that completing Sparx tasks improves student performance. Please encourage your child to complete their weekly Sparx tasks.

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

Please see the attached updated parent/carers calendar.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: students in Maths groups 07MFR, 07MFA, 07MXR and 07MXA will be taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday, 25 April. Students will receive a timetable on Monday, 22 April in tutor time with venue and timings. Students are reminded to bring a pencil and eraser with them.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: students in Maths groups 08MFR, 08MFA, 08MXR and 08MXA will be taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday, 25 April. Students will receive a timetable on Monday, 22 April in tutor time with venue and timings. Students are reminded to bring a pencil and eraser with them.

An advance notice: a Year 8 'Industry Links' Careers Event will take place on Friday, 26 April 2024.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: a Year 9 SLB Vaccination 'mop up' session will take place on Wednesday, 1 May 2024.

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, have received 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, have received a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: the main examination period begins on Thursday, 9 May 2024. Please refer to the letters from Mr Castle and Miss Dowell for further information.

A reminder notice: Year 11 students will receive personalised timetables for all of their examinations on Monday, 22 April; a full examinations timetable is also available on the Academy website. Morning examinations begin at 9:00am. Afternoon examinations begin at 1:30pm. As there are some variations to these start times for specific exams/students, students should refer carefully to their individual timetables for exact start times for each exam. 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 students have received their pinpoint booklets and their question level analysis. This illustrates the level of understanding of each topics based on the latest mock exam. Please encourage your child to use this information to focus their revision.

An advance notice: the Year 11 Leavers' Event will take place on Wednesday, 26 June 2024. Further details will be shared nearer the date.

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

A reminder notice: Year 12 students who have been entered for BTEC exams in the Summer 2024 exam series will receive a timetable with the date, times and location of their exams on Monday, 22 April. Please check these details carefully. 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: the Borneo 2024 World Challenge Parent Information Meeting is on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 17:15 in the hall.

A reminder notice: the Year 12 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 18:00 in the hall.

A reminder 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.

An advance notice: a Year 12 Geography Field Visit in Sutton Coldfield will take place during the morning of Tuesday, 30 April 2024.

A reminder notice: the Borneo 2024 World Challenge Parent Information Meeting is on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 17:15 in the hall.

A reminder notice: Year 13 Leaver's hoodies are available to purchase via the link: [Fairfax Academy Leavers hoodies 2024 \(brandedclothinguk.com\)](https://www.fairfaxacademy.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-2024). Please note the deadline for orders is Friday, 26 April.

A reminder notice: the main examination period begins on Thursday, 9 May 2024. Please refer to the letters from Mr Castle and Ms Gray for further information.

A reminder notice: Year 13 students will receive personalised timetables for all of their examinations on Monday, 22 April and these may be collected from the Sixth Form Centre. These documents should be referred to for exact start times and locations, particularly if students have exam clash arrangements. Timetable overviews for the Summer 2024 examinations are available on the Academy 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. As there are some variations to these start times for specific exams/students, students should refer carefully to their individual timetables for exact start times for each exam. Students are expected to arrive 10 minutes before the exam begins and correct school uniform should be worn on all occasions.

An advance notice: the Year 13 Leavers' Event will take place on Friday, 10 May 2024. Please refer to the letter from Ms Gray for further information.

A reminder notice: Year 13 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at The Townhouse, Sutton Coldfield. The payment deadline for Prom tickets is Friday, 26 April 2024. 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.