

08 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I trust everyone has had a safe and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to speaking with students about their experiences and holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to the Summer Term, one which I am full of optimism for, for all our students and wider community.

As I have communicated since starting, I am ambitious for Fairfax and passionate about ensuring your children's futures are both safe and successful at Fairfax and beyond.

As we start the new term, to ensure that we all work together in a positive and productive manner, there are some key messages I would like to make you aware of:

1. **Behaviour Curriculum and Routines for Learning:** A key theme of staff training, and assemblies this week is our behaviour curriculum; how we behave and importantly why we behave. We launch officially the Fairfax Way, the way we do things at Fairfax. Staff will be consistent and fair in approach, and students need to understand how to behave in all scenarios in school, from walking around the site, to entering classrooms and eating in the Refectory. Staff are encouraged to praise through ARKS all students exemplifying the Fairfax Way.



2. **Uniform:** Whilst improvements have been made seen since my last communication, I would like to highlight specific aspects of our dress code that I believe are still below our expected standards and require your support.
 - **Tight trousers:** Please be reminded that school trousers should not be tight-fitting. This guideline is in place to ensure that students maintain a respectful and modest appearance, contributing to the overall professional atmosphere of our school. Only 'tailored' or 'slim' trousers will be allowed to be worn. Please see the pictures below for further guidance.



- **Skirt Length:** Determining the appropriate skirt length for students is a matter of maintaining both professionalism and comfort while ensuring a conducive learning environment. The skirt length should be modest enough to uphold the school's standards while also allowing students to move freely and comfortably throughout their day. Typically, a good guideline is for skirts to fall no shorter than a few inches above the knee. However, it's important that we consider variations in body types and personal preferences. Ultimately, the goal is to create a dress code that promotes respect, inclusivity, and a positive academic atmosphere.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in reinforcing these guidelines with your child. Consistency in dress code adherence contributes significantly to the overall positive atmosphere within the school. With this in mind, we understand the challenges that come with maintaining a perfectly fitted uniform, especially considering the natural growth spurts that children undergo. We recognise that these growth spurts may occasionally lead to uniforms not being worn as neatly or correctly as intended and therefore ample time given to correct issues.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the dress code policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school, asking for your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. We value open communication and are here to address any queries you may have.

3. Study Leave Year 13 and Year 11: Study leave for Year 13 students will commence on Friday, 10 May. Year 11 study leave will begin on Friday, 24 May. It is crucial for students to utilize this time effectively to consolidate their learning and revise thoroughly. It is worth noting that outside the grammar schools, schools in Sutton are likely to have Year 11 students in school until May half-term, and some possibly longer. We understand the importance of maximizing learning opportunities, and we are committed to supporting our students in every possible way during this critical period.

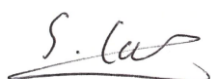
In the coming week, we will be sending out a separate letter specifically addressing Year 11 students and their parents. This letter will contain further details and guidance tailored to the needs of our Year 11 cohort.

4. Homework: As part of our ongoing commitment to academic excellence, I would like to reiterate the importance of completing homework assignments diligently. Homework serves as a vital tool for reinforcing classroom learning and developing independent study skills. In particular, I encourage students to engage with our online platforms for Maths (Sparx) and our new Science platform (Educake). These resources are designed to enhance understanding and proficiency in these subjects.

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to reach out to their Form Tutor. Our dedicated team of educators are here to provide support and guidance whenever needed.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that our school maintains high standards of appearance and behaviour. Your support in upholding these standards is crucial in maintaining a positive and focused learning environment for all students.

Yours sincerely



SEAN CASTLE
Principal