

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 11th September 2026

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Welcome to Fairfax

We would like to give a big warm welcome our new staff at Fairfax, adding experience and excellence to our already strong teaching and support staff teams.

- Mrs K Fox (Biology)
- Mr A Belikau (Mathematics)
- Miss M Sewell (Music)
- Mr J Mariner (Physics)
- Mr S Taylor (D&T)
- Mrs N Fellows (Teaching Assistant)

Fairfax Examination Results 2026

Congratulations to all our GCSE, BTEC and A-Level students! We are hugely proud of all the hard work and achievements of our students! Our teachers and staff worked tirelessly to ensure student progress, and we wish all of our students every success in their next phase of education or training or employment. #makingfairfaxproud





FAIRFAX ACADEMY

OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY | 22 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 6PM-8PM

DOORS OPEN 5:45PM

**Performing Arts
Aptitude Test**

26 places available
for talented actors,
musicians & dancers

APPLICATION DEADLINE	APTITUDE TEST DATE
25 SEPT	13 OCT

For more details
please visit
the website or
scan QR code.



**OPEN
MORNINGS**
**29 & 30
SEPTEMBER**
11:30am - 12:30pm

#1
SIXTH FORM
IN THE
WEST MIDLANDS

OFSTED

**“Outstanding in
Personal Development.”**

**“Outstanding
in Leadership.”**



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Open Evening 2026

Please be reminded that our annual Open Evening will take place on Tuesday, 22nd September 2026 18:00-20:00. Permission letters are available in the Faculties for student guides and faculty helpers.

Amended Academy Closing and Opening Times for Open Evening 2026

Please be advised that to support out Teachers with preparation for the Opening Evening, and for the students who will be assisting with tours and faculties, we have amended our closing and opening times as follows:-

- Tuesday 22nd September – closes at 13:25
- Wednesday 23rd September – opens at 10:00

All students should arrive by 9:55 and ready to start lessons for Period 2.

ARKS – The Fairfax Way

#wearefairfax

Fairfax strongly believes in our key values of Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Safety – this is **The Fairfax Way**. We are proud of Fairfax's standards and expectations. This year we will again be focusing on positive relationships through conversations, interactions, lessons and assemblies. Highlights of this work will be shared via our social media channels.



Raise or Praise

Raise or Praise is a simple way for parents and carers to share their thoughts with us. Using the link provided, you can raise something you would like us to consider, such as an idea or suggestion, or praise a member of staff, a team, or the school for something you feel deserves recognition.

[PRAISE OR RAISE- Fairfax Academy – Fill in form](#)

We really value your feedback and want to make it as easy as possible for you to share positive experiences and suggestions with us.

Please note that Raise or Praise is not a substitute for raising a concern or making a complaint. If you have a concern about your child or their experience at school, please continue to contact the appropriate Head of Year, Form Tutor or Faculty directly so that it can be addressed promptly.

Have an idea? Raise it. Had a great experience? Praise it.



2026 UK Bebras Challenge

Students in Years 7–13 are invited to take part in the 2026 UK Bebras Challenge, a fun national competition that develops problem-solving, logical and computational thinking skills. No previous programming experience is required.

The challenge will run from 9th – 20th November 2026, with participants completing it during an allocated lunchtime session.

If your child is interested, please encourage them to register with Miss Taroni in B5 by Friday 25th September 2026.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming into our school Library from Tuesday 22nd September 2026 until Friday 25th September 2026.

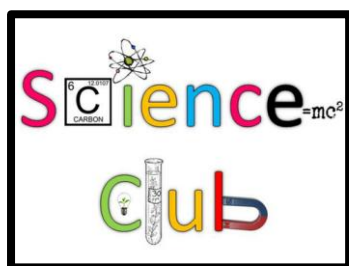
Year 7 students will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair during their allocated Library Induction Lesson. All pupils can visit the Book Fair in the Library before school, during break, lunchtime and after school.

The Book Fair will also be open during Open Evening on Tuesday 22nd September. The Book Fair will feature brand new releases but also some classic novels that everyone knows and loves. If you would like your child to purchase a book, they will be able to complete a 'wish list' and then all payments will need to be made via the Scholastic website (QR code and website details are on the form).



Fairfax PTFA

An advance notice: there is a PTFA meeting on Monday, 21st September 2026 at 18:00, in the SEMH room. Please email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk for more information and/or to confirm your attendance.



Science Club

Science Club will begin on Tuesday, 29th September after school in B8.

Until Half Term, Science Club will be open to Year 7 students, giving them an opportunity to settle in and become familiar with the club. From 2nd November, the club will be open to both Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Students interested in science are encouraged to come along, get involved and enjoy a range of practical and engaging science activities.

Science Homework

Please be advised that Science homework will now be completed weekly using Sparx Science.

Homework will be set on Monday and students will have until 23:00 on the following Sunday to complete it. Students should complete their homework fully and to the required standard, rather than leaving it until Sunday evening.

Any Science homework that has not been completed by the Sunday 23:00 deadline will result in a detention. For Year 7, homework detentions will not be issued during this half term while students become familiar with the system. For Years 8-11, detentions will begin after the second homework submission. The first homework will not result in a detention, allowing students and staff time to become familiar with Sparx Science and resolve any initial access issues.

If a student experiences any problems accessing Sparx Science or needs support with their homework, they should speak to their Science teacher before the deadline.

Maths Homework

Sparx Maths has now been set up for the new academic year. If your child needs any support with logging in, Maths staff will be available on Tuesday 15th September in B11 and B12, from 3:00pm–4:00pm.

We look forward to sharing the progress your child makes with Sparx Maths.

Please remember that **Sparx Maths homework is due by 8:00am every Tuesday.**

Attendance Matters

Well done to our students whose attendance has been high! A reminder that attendance should be 97% at least. Attendance improves achievement! Excellent attendance will be rewarded! Our students with 95–99% attendance achieved, on average, almost one grade higher across their Attainment 8 subjects than those with 90–94% attendance.

Attendance Office

Please be reminded that you can contact the attendance office and Attendance Manager – Miss O'Connor via email: ff-attendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

For Years 12 & 13 please contact via email: ff-sixthformattendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Term Time Holiday Requests

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.

Due to local authority guidelines, any students arriving after 09:00 with or without a valid reason, will be recorded absent for the morning session, this will be marked as unauthorised, if students do not have a valid reason, such as a medical appointment.

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 before 08:15.

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 second instance of lateness, and any lateness after this during a half term, will result in a 30 minute after-school detention.

Detentions

A polite reminder that schools and academies have the right to detain students for breaches of the School Behaviour Policy. Schools do not have to give parents/carers notice of after-school detentions or tell them why a detention has been given. As a courtesy, Fairfax will send a text message to inform you by 14:30 each day. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/discipline>.



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. So far this academic year, seven 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.

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
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Opening Time and The Refectory Breakfast Provision

A reminder notice: The Refectory is open to students at 08:00 and snacks, breakfast pastries, hot and cold drinks will be available to purchase. All other areas of the Academy are not open due to there being no supervision available. Students are advised to plan their journey to school to arrive no earlier than 08:00, and students are allowed on site via Pedestrian Gate 3 on Fairfax Road but must remain in The Refectory only until 08:20. Pedestrian Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road and Pedestrian Gate 2 on Fairfax Road both open at 08:20.

Careers Notice

At Fairfax, we are always trying to improve our career provision for our students. If any parent/carer is interested in sharing their career journey with the pupils, then in the first instance please contact FF-Careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Perhaps you have an unusual job role, or perhaps you have entered your profession in a non-traditional way or maybe it is that your profession has an ageing population, and you want to inspire the next generation. Whatever your story please let us know and Mrs Knowles, our Careers Adviser will be in touch to discuss the next steps.

Congratulations to all of our students who received their examination results over the summer holidays. If any students need additional support in securing college, university or apprenticeship places then please make contact with the Careers team.

We are required to inform the Local Authority of where all of our students have gone. If you have a son or daughter who has recently left Fairfax could you please email with the details of name, year group and next steps, to FF-Careers@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

PSHE/Personal Development Notice

Please note that the following days in relation to the work our students do with PSHE are observed:

- September 13: World Sepsis Day
- September 21: International Day of Peace
- October: Black History Month
- October 10: World Mental Health Day
- November 8-15: Interfaith Week
- November 13: World Kindness Day
- November 14: World Diabetes Day
- November 16-20: Stand Up To Bullying Week
- November 20: Children In Need
- November 23-29: UK Parliament Week
- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 3: International Day of People with Disabilities
- January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day
- February 1-7: Children's Mental Health Week
- February 9: Safer Internet Day
- February 26: Stand up to bullying
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 19: Red Nose Day
- March 20: International Day of Happiness
- April 7: World Health Day
- May 10-16: Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
- June: Pride
- June 17: National Clean Air Day
- July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day

Student Council

Our Student Council will soon be coming together to reflect on progress made last year and discuss new ideas and initiatives for the year ahead. We encourage students to get involved, share their views and help effect positive change at Fairfax. We look forward to hearing their ideas! Please encourage your child to get involved.

Equalities Group Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first Equalities Group Meeting of the year on Monday, 14th September 2026 at lunchtime in A14. Equalities meetings will occur fortnightly, with the next meeting Monday 28th September 2026. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Hussain, Ms Hau or Miss Blake.

PRIDE Group Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first PRIDE Group Meeting of the year on Monday, 21st September 2026 at lunchtime in A14. PRIDE meetings will occur fortnightly, with the next meeting Monday 5th October 2026. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Hussain, Mrs Hau or Miss Blake.

Parent/Carer Calendar – Autumn Term 2026

Please see the attached parent/carers calendar for Autumn Term 1.

Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities

The calendar for Break, Lunch and Afterschool clubs will be shared in a separate email later today.

2026-27 Heads of Year Information:

Head of Year 7 Mr Porter
Assistant Head of Year 7 Mrs Whittam

Head of Year 8 Mr Cooper
Assistant Head of Year 8 TBC

Head of Year 9 Miss Dowell
Assistant Head of Year 9 Mrs Byfield

Head of Year 10 Mr Campbell
Assistant Head of Year 10 Mrs Barker

Head of Year 11 Mr Ravenscroft
Assistant Head of Year 11 Miss Lamey

Assistant Principal Post 16 Miss Blake
Assistant Head of Sixth Form Miss Brayley

2026-27 Heads of House Information:

Coventry Head of House Miss Dyer
Assistant Head of House Ms Horan

Kenilworth Head of House Mr Bibb
Assistant Head of House Ms Taroni

Stratford Head of House Miss Ahmed
Assistant Head of House Mrs Turner

Warwick Head of House Mr Carty
Assistant Head of House Miss Williams

Associate Assistant Principal SEND Mrs Corbett
Assistant SENDCO Mrs Button

Term Dates 2026-27

Please be reminded of our published term dates for this academic year.

Autumn Term 2026

Half-term: Monday, 26th October 2026 to Friday, 30th October 2026

Term ends: Friday, 18th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Term Starts: Monday, 4th January 2027

Half-term: Monday, 15th February 2027 to Friday, 19th February 2027

Term ends: Thursday, 25th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Term Starts: Monday, 12th April 2027

Half-term: Monday, 31st May 2027 to Friday, 4th June 2027

Term ends: Wednesday, 21st July 2027

Bank Holidays

Monday 3rd May 2027

2026-2027 Training Days

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 2nd October 2026

Friday 12th March 2027

Friday 30th April 2027

Tuesday 4th May 2027

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 Parents/Carers are invited for Coffee with the Principal on Monday, 21st September 09:00-10:00 or Thursday, 8th October 18:00-19:00. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

An advance notice: the Year 7 Parent Information Evening with House Tutors is on Tuesday, 29th September 2026 at 18:00 in the Hall.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 7 Parent Information Evening, there is a 'new parent' PTFA welcome on Tuesday, 29th September 2026 at 17:30. Please join us, email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk to confirm your attendance.

An advance notice: the Redpoint visits are scheduled for w/b 12th October:

- Coventry House – Monday, 12th October
- Stratford House – Tuesday, 13th October
- Kenilworth House – Wednesday, 14th October
- Warwick House – Thursday, 15th October

Further information will follow in due course.

YEAR 8

There are no Year 8 notices for this edition.

YEAR 9

There are no Year 9 notices for this edition.

YEAR 10

An advance notice: The DofE Silver Parent Information Briefing is on Monday 21st September at 17:00.

YEAR 11

An advance notice: The DofE Silver Parent Information Briefing is on Monday 21st September at 17:00.

A reminder notice: the DofE Silver Practice Expedition is taking place Thursday, 17th September until Saturday, 19th September 2026 in the Peak District. Please refer to the expedition letter for further details.

An advance notice: from Monday 21st September, students will attend weekly English or Maths intervention during their usual Monday tutor time period. Students will be placed into either an English or Maths group, based on where additional support will be most beneficial, to help them make the best possible progress during this important year.

An advance notice: Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday, 24th June 2027. Please be advised that students will need to be aware of the examination contingency date of Wednesday, 23rd June 2027, and all students should be available up to, and including that day, in case there is disruption to the national examinations.

An advance notice: the Year 12 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 15th September 2026 at 17:30 in the Hall. We look forward to seeing all of our students' parents and carers to hear about sixth form life at Fairfax.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 12 Parent Information Evening, there is also a DofE Gold Parent Information Briefing at 17:00.

An advance notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.

An advance notice: We do require any absence to be called in by a parent or carer on the morning of the absence and each subsequent day. You can call us on 0121 378 1288 and press 5 for sixth form to advise of any absence. For any medical or dental appointments, the student must complete an absence request form and supply a copy of their appointment details for our records. For email contact, please use: FF-SixthFormTeam@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

An advance notice: 16-19 Bursary Fund – at Fairfax, we are committed to closing the attainment gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and those from more affluent backgrounds, and to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from a place in 16-19 education and training. A separate letter regarding this year's 16-19 Bursary Fund will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, information regarding the scheme can be found here: <https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/financial-support/>

The deadline for applications is Friday, 16th October 2026.

An advance notice: the Year 13 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 15th September 2026 at 18:30 in the Hall. We look forward to seeing all of our students' parents and carers to hear about sixth form life at Fairfax.

An advance notice: prior to the Year 13 Parent Information Evening, there is also a DofE Gold Parent Information Briefing at 18:00.

A reminder notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.

A reminder notice: We do require any absence to be called in by a parent or carer on the morning of the absence and each subsequent day. You can call us on 0121 378 1288 and press 5 for sixth form to advise of any absence. For any medical or dental appointments, the student must complete an absence request form and supply a copy of their appointment details for our records. For email contact, please use: FF-SixthFormTeam@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

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The deadline for applications is Friday, 16th October 2026.

An advance notice: UCAS Deadlines – to support the students with their applications, everyone who intends on making an application should have started the process on UCAS. Students should aim to share their personal statements with either Miss Blake or Miss Brayley for guidance during this half term.

The deadlines for UCAS applications are as follows:

- Oxford/Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science – deadline Tuesday, 13th October 2026
- Personal statement drafts to be submitted on Unifrog by Friday 18th September
- Application to be sent – school deadline of Friday 2nd October

All other applications:

- Personal statement drafts to be submitted on Unifrog by Friday 25th September
- Application to be sent – School deadline of Friday 4th December

An advance notice: Year 13 Prom will take place on Thursday, 24th June 2027. Please be advised that students will need to be aware of the examination contingency date of Wednesday, 23rd June 2027, and all students should be available up to, and including that day, in case there is disruption to the national examinations.