FAIRFAX
SINCERITAS LABORIS



PROSPECTUS
2026-27

PART OF THE FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

FAIRFAX
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome from the Principal



A very warm welcome to Fairfax. We are delighted you have expressed an interest in our Academy. As Principal at Fairfax, I am incredibly proud of our school community and our student achievements, and the pride they take in every aspect of school life. I am confident that the high standards we have in behaviour, uniform and respect for one another, and the "exemplary and outstanding" personal development programme we offer as highlighted by Ofsted, will equip your child for a successful future.

Our inclusive provision at the Fairfax Academy ensures that all students achieve, belong and thrive. Our excellence and commitment to inclusivity for all of our students has been recognised nationally, as we were the recipients of a National award for Inclusive education (Education Business awards 2026).

"Pupils' character is developed exceptionally well" *(Ofsted 2024)*, and through a comprehensive academic and extra curricular curriculum, we prepare students well for their next steps in education. Through our established House system students develop creativity, resilience, comradeship and determination.

Our values of Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Safety (ARKS) ensure students thrive, develop friendships and are regularly rewarded for

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Welcome from the CEO



Mr Simon Jones | CEO

We are delighted that you are considering sending your child to Fairfax Academy. Fairfax is one of a family of four academies that form the Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust (FMAT).

Established in 2014, FMAT is an educational charity, which encourages its academies to celebrate their own uniqueness, whilst sharing one mission, vision and set of values.

Our mission is "Enriching Lives; Transforming Futures". We achieve this by ensuring all of our students access a broad and wide-ranging curriculum, while being supported in a structured, kind and caring environment.

Our family is a values-led organisation. The following five values underpin all of the work we do:

OUR VALUES

Excellence - We strive for the highest quality to ensure excellent outcomes and personal achievements.

Dedication - We believe there is dignity in hard work and effort.

Ambition - We aim to be the best that we can be, in all that we do.

Integrity - We believe in openness, honesty and have a real sense of moral purpose.

Tradition - We believe in good manners, kindness and respect.

OUR VISION

Our vision is that every child within the Trust, regardless of their background, will attend an Academy that offers a high-quality education.

What do we mean by 'high-quality of education'?

Every child is recognised as an individual and has access to first-class pastoral care because we want your child to be happy;

Every child benefits from a wide range of enriching opportunities because we place great emphasis on your child's personal development;

Every child benefits from dedicated leaders, teachers and staff who are relentless in their ambition to improve the quality of teaching in our academies because we know excellent teaching is key to transforming the futures of our students.

About Fairfax

Fairfax is a community of 1500 students and 200 staff set in well maintained, extensive grounds on the edge of Sutton Coldfield. We encourage our students to fulfil their potential both academically and socially in order to maximize their opportunities in their adult lives.

All of our students have access to a broad curriculum, which is delivered with care and support by highly skilled teaching staff. We encourage our students to develop the skills they require to play an integral role in society and to become valuable and responsible citizens.

Fairfax prides itself on its fantastic House System which was established upon its opening in 1959. We feel that this tradition provides students with the essential foundation to develop leadership skills, loyalty and responsibility as well as giving them the opportunity to thrive.

All students are encouraged to take part in many different sporting and extra-curricular activities which helps to promote House spirit amongst the Fairfax community.

Our motto ‘Sinceritas Laboris’, there is dignity in labour, is at the heart of our ethos. At Fairfax we believe hard work pays off and our students demonstrate this every day!

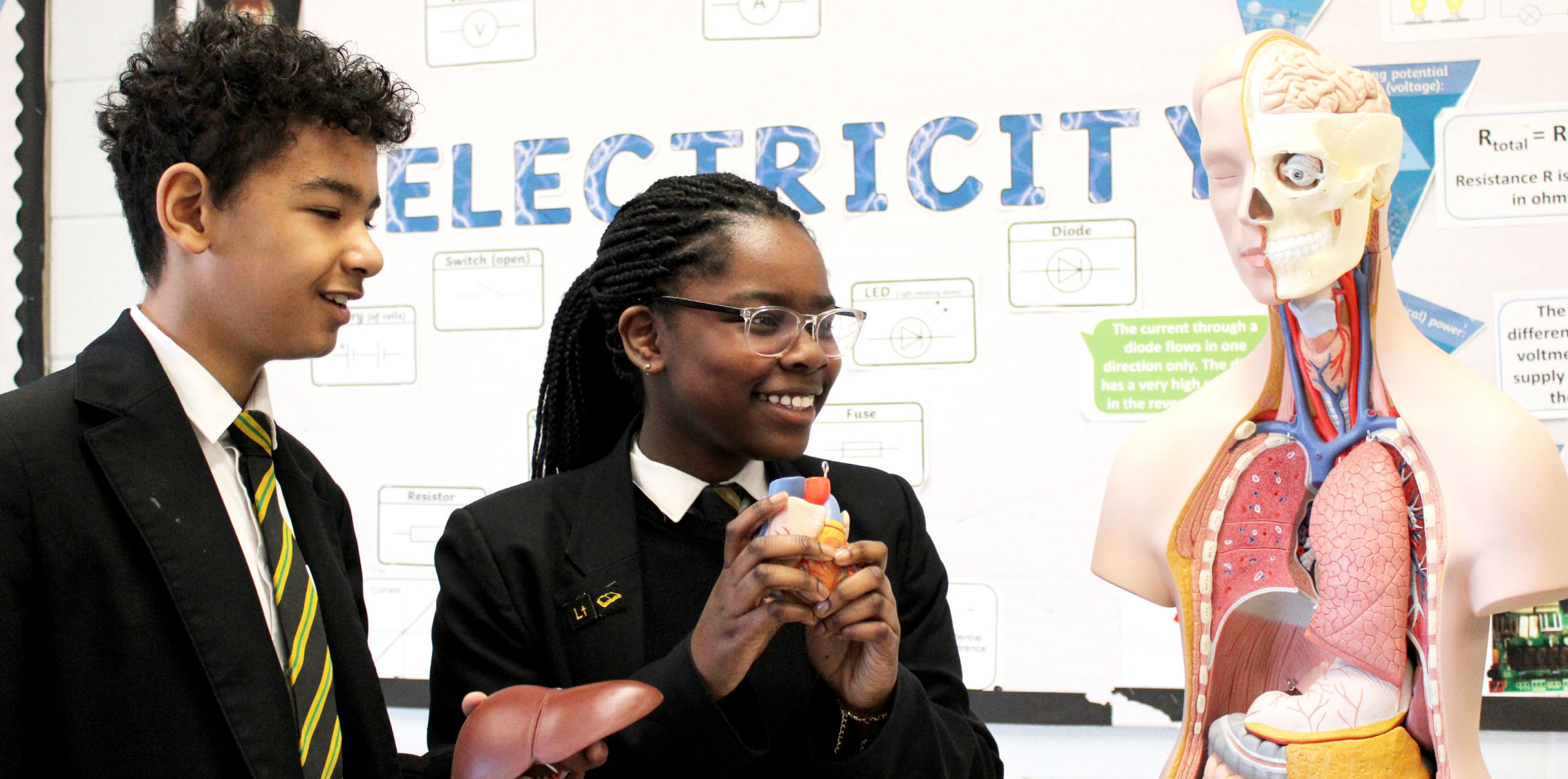




Our Facilities

Fairfax is steeped in over 50 years of history and when the funds allow, our buildings are developed to provide the latest facilities for our students and staff. These developments over the years include:

- Purpose built technology suites
- Specialist teaching rooms
- Performing arts suite
- Dance studio
- Fully equipped fitness suite
- Library - Learning Resource Centre
- Outdoor Multi-Sporting Centre
- Outdoor canopy area
- The Refectory and The Eatery - Dining facilities
- The Philpott Centre - a two-storey building housing specialist teaching rooms
- Outdoor Sixth Form area


ELECTRICITY
Switch (open)
LED
Diode
Fuse
Resistor
The current through a diode flows in one direction only.

House System

At Fairfax, the well-being of each student is a primary focus and our vision is to enable all students to maximise their potential both academically and socially. The House System generates a sense of identity which helps students to develop leadership skills, loyalty, responsibility and healthy competition.

On admission, students are allocated to one of the four Houses:

- Coventry
- Kenilworth
- Stratford
- Warwick

Each is led by a Head of House, who together with their Assistant Head of House and Tutors, monitor, track and evaluate the whole-school involvement of their students. In addition, House Captains encourage student participation in the many House activities. There are also peer mentors from all year groups, who work closely with students to support and guide them.

The exceptionally strong support and care of students through the House System, is the foundation to the academic success of students at Fairfax and encourages healthy competition in the following three areas:

ACADEMIC

The Academy's ARKS merit system rewards students for exceptional effort and achievement. At regular points throughout the year, Heads of Year and Leadership monitor progress and award students for outstanding progression on the Milestone Rewards Ladders.

SPORTS COMPETITION

Students in each year group are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of sports, with House competitions taking place each half term. Points for these competitions culminate in the House Swimming Gala and House Athletics Championships. These all contribute towards the House Sports Trophy.

THE ARTS

The annual Eisteddfod celebrates creativity across the curriculum. This event is made up of a variety of events such as Art, Food, Photography, Creative Writing and Flower Arranging. The final events of Dance, Drama, Music and Spoken Word take place over two performance evenings, which is a Fairfax firm favourite!





Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9), students will study the following subjects:

- English and Mathematics
- Science (a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- History, Geography and Religious Education
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Design Technology and Food
- Art, Music, Drama and Physical Education
- Business and Computing, and Guidance

In addition, we have an enrichment programme during the year, which feature KS3 activities to promote literacy, numeracy, careers education, outdoor education, House fixtures and educational visits.

All students are timetabled to take part in at least two hours of Physical Education per week. This is offered at examination level in Years 10 - 13.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11), students follow one of several flexible pathways which feature a wide range of academic courses including the English Baccalaureate.

All students will study the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

The English Baccalaureate courses include:

- History and Geography
- French and German

In addition, students can choose from a full range of academic courses:

- Business and ICT
- Product Design
- Food and Nutrition
- Child Development
- Art, Music and Drama
- Physical Education and Dance

Our KS4 enrichment curriculum features activities to enhance guidance, careers education, Mathematics, English and the Sciences, in addition to House fixtures and educational visits.


#WE ARE FAIRFAX
GILBERT

Sixth Form

We recognise the importance of post-16 education and pride ourselves on offering a flexible and personalised curriculum that challenges and supports all of our students.

Academic standards have increased year on year, with an extensive range of A-Level courses providing something for everyone and progression to first choice universities is high. Progress over the last two years has placed the sixth form at Fairfax Academy in the top 5% nationally and our value added the highest in the West Midlands.

The Prefect System, House System, Learning Mentor Scheme as well as the Student Council, offer all of our sixth form students the opportunity to develop their character and self confidence by helping others and allows them to be seen as role models by younger students.

Sixth Form students have access to The Refectory during study periods, and study whilst enjoying refreshments. The Sixth Form Centre houses computer suites, study rooms, and an outdoor recreation area.

Sixth form students are given the unique opportunities to go on World Challenge adventures, through which they have recently been fortunate enough to visit Borneo and Africa.

Further details about our sixth form are available in our Sixth Form Prospectus.





Participation and Extra-curricular opportunities

At Fairfax we believe that all students have strengths, and by encouraging them to take part in varied activities it will help develop self-esteem and confidence, this in turn builds workplace and life skills.

Students are actively supported to become involved in all aspects of school life whether it is House competitions, extra-curricular activities, or community events and benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, namely:

- Science Club
- Gardening Club
- Drama Club
- Dance Club
- Music Club
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Football Training
- Sports Teams
- Choir and Orchestra
- Equalities Group

Students also have the opportunity to be part of the House Council and Academy Student Council. The House Council is run by our House Captains and supported by students from all year groups and Houses. The School Council is run by elected members of our school body. Their role is to debate whole school issues and inform decision making. Students are frequently consulted about Fairfax developments through questionnaires and the 'Student Voice' discussions with the Principal of the Academy.

Along with the extra-curricular opportunities, each year group is given the opportunity to become involved in outdoor pursuits at various centres throughout the school year, our most recent being:

- World Challenge to Africa (Year 12-13)
- Germany - Christmas Markets (Year 9)
- France - Disneyland Paris (Year 9)
- Iceland - Sixth Form Geography Field Visit
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme:
- Gold Expedition to Snowdonia (Sixth Form)
- Silver Expedition to the Peak District (Year 10 and 11)
- Bronze Expedition to Church Stretton (Year 10)
- Bronze Taster Expedition (Year 9)
- Arête outdoor pursuit residential (Year 8)
- Redpoint climbing and team building (Year 7)
- Ski Trip to Italy, (Year 9-13)
- Several Drama and Theatre visits for all year groups.

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Sports

We believe participation in inclusive, competitive and non competitive team games not only provides exercise and a safe outlet for students' energy, but also encourages team loyalty, healthy competition and self- discipline.

Our on-site facilities include:

- Gym - complete with trampolines, fitness and gym and table cricket equipment
- Sports Hall - complete with basketball hoops/netball rings, badminton nets
- Football Cages
- Indoor and outdoor Basketball/ Netball Courts
- Indoor and outdoor Table Tennis
- Playing fields for rugby, hockey, rounders, cricket and athletics

We encourage involvement in both individual pursuits and team games, either through House or whole-school representation.

Along with extensive on-site sporting facilities, the Academy also takes advantage of other facilities in the local area, in particular the amenities at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

Fairfax sports teams fulfil an extensive fixture list against other schools and have achieved considerable success in many sports at Area and County levels. Individual students and teams have gained numerous representative honours in area, regional and national squads.

Each year group is given the opportunity to become involved in outdoor pursuits organised by staff at various centres throughout the school year. These include:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- Skiing

These are only a few of the exciting experiences that will be available to your child.





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Fairfax is recognised as a world leader in this activity and has celebrated over 5000 Awards, including 700 Gold Awards. With its impressive history of success at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels, the Academy can justifiably claim its right to be acknowledged as one of the foremost International Institutions for promoting the scheme. Expeditions are led by a member of our staff who is a qualified mountain leader.

Students from Year 10 onwards are invited to take part in this fantastic opportunity which provides them with the chance to develop new interests through a non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which promote responsibility, self-confidence and perseverance. Featured walks and camps over the years include visits to:

- Cannock Chase and Church Stretton
- The Brecon Beacons and The Peak District
- Snowdonia

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has become one of the major events within the life of students at Fairfax and an increasing number of students develop their experience further by raising funds and taking part in international challenges to places such as:

- Borneo 2024
- Africa 2018
- Borneo 2016
- China 2014
- Peru 2012

Parental Support

At Fairfax, we strive to establish and maintain positive, trusting relationships with each parent/carer and welcome all parents/carers to attend the following events in our calendar:

- Parents' Evenings
- Celebration Evening
- The Eisteddfod Evenings

Communication is important to us and we regularly keep in touch and inform parents/carers of important academy information and events through:

- In The Know - a bi-weekly update
- Regular e-mails and letters
- School Reports
- Fairfax Website
- Fairfax Academy Facebook and Twitter
- Coffee and Cake meetings with the Principal

Tutors and the teams based in the Student Support Centre are here to assist all parents/carers in ensuring that their children are not only enjoying school life, but are also on target for achieving their utmost potential in all subject areas. Furthermore, attendance is our foremost priority in ensuring high achievement for each student and we are committed to maximising the attendance of every student during their education at Fairfax. We work alongside the support of our parents/carers in ensuring that absences are kept to a minimum.





Admissions

Fairfax is a very popular academy and as such is always heavily oversubscribed. The Academy Association took the decision in 2014 to increase our Pupil Admission Number to 250 from 222 with 25 of these additional places awarded through aptitude in the Performing Arts: Drama, Dance or Music. This Pupil Admission Number has since been increased in 2020 to 264 with 26 places awarded through aptitude.

For more information, please visit our website

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk.

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CHILD PROTECTION

Families and children sometimes go through difficult and challenging times. For the vast majority of concerns we will work with you consensually to support you and your family to resolve or ease any issues.

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board. If you want to know more about this procedure, please speak to the Designated Senior Teacher.

If staff become aware of, or have a need to become involved in, situations where a child may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, or if the behaviour of a child seriously disrupts good order in the academy or causes damage to property, staff may need to take steps to intervene physically. In such circumstances staff will follow the Academy's policy for dealing with such situations.

Any parent/carer wishing to have further information on this matter or wish to view this policy may do so on request.



ENRICHING **LIVES;** TRANSFORMING **FUTURES**

EXCELLENCE.
DEDICATION.
AMBITION.
INTEGRITY.
TRADITION.