

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 24 May 2024

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

Being Ambitious means:

- Working hard in lessons and being resilient when faced with challenges
- Participating in school life and contributing to your House
- Having good attendance and being punctual
- Wearing your uniform with pride and representing Fairfax positively
- Planning for your future and aiming high

Being Respectful means:

- Demonstrating good manners to staff, students and visitors
- Looking after the school environment and keeping it tidy
- Responding to staff requests, the first time you are asked
- Speaking to people with courtesy and respect both in school and the community
- Being considerate of others' personal space

Being Kind means:

- Accepting people for who they are, regardless of their differences
- Thinking of others' feelings and being considerate of others' points of view
- Going above and beyond to help and support others, especially those in need
- Thinking about the impact your words will have, before speaking
- Remembering that if you would not say it face-to-face, you should not say it online

Being Safe means:

- Behaving sensibly on school site and in the community
- Following staff instructions, the first time you are asked
- Thinking about the risks before doing something
- Using technology sensibly and being safe online
- Telling an adult if something is worrying you

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. After the half term break, we will be focusing on positive relationships through conversations, interactions, lessons and assemblies. Highlights of this work will be shared via our social media channels.



Student views will be integral to this, and we ask that you encourage your child to feedback using this link <https://forms.office.com/r/aVGg5aqKqC> and to share their views and opinions with the Academy.

'National Thank A Teacher Day' – Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Parents/carers/students who would like to thank a member of staff for National Thank a Teacher Day are able to do so at [National Thank A Teacher Day - Thank a Teacher](#).

Uniform Reminder

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform 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 remains consistently above national average currently 1.3% which is something that everyone who is involved with Fairfax is 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.

For Year 12, 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



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.

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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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.

Fairfax PTFA

An advance notice: the next PTFA meeting is on the new date of Monday, 24 June 2024 at 18:00. Please email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk for more information and/or to confirm your attendance.

2024-25 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Term Starts: Wednesday, 4 September 2024 (Year 7 and Year 12)
Thursday, 5 September 2024 (Year 10, 11 and Year 13)
Friday, 6 September 2024 (Year 8 and Year 9)
Half-term: Monday, 28 October 2024 to Friday, 1 November 2024
Term ends: Friday, 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Tuesday, 7 January 2025
Half-term: Monday, 17 February 2025 to Friday, 21 February 2025
Term ends: Friday, 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday, 28 April 2025
Half-term: Monday, 26 May 2025 to Friday, 30 May 2025
Term ends: Friday, 18 July 2025

2024-25 Training Days:

Monday, 2 September 2024
Tuesday, 3 September 2024
Friday, 4 October 2024
Monday, 6 January 2025
Friday, 14 March 2025
Monday, 21 July 2025

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, 12 June 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

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, 18 June 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.

Mathematics Update

- Our Lunchtime Chess Club will recommence on Wednesday, 5 June in C18 with Dr Jones.
- The Mathematics Faculty value student opinion and kindly ask that students follow the link on Satchel One to share their views.
- The Mathematics Faculty would welcome any resources or equipment that students have borrowed this year, or no longer need. Calculators and textbooks, for example, so these can be redistributed accordingly. Please return and/or donate to reception.
- A huge well done to all students who have completed nearly 12,000 hours this year on Sparx. Lots of merits and spot prizes will be awarded. A fantastic achievement! Well done!
- On Wednesday, 22 May we celebrated National Numeracy Day with tutor activities and opportunities to discuss the importance of numeracy, including chance to discuss maths anxiety.
- The end of year assessments are approaching, please be reminded that revision material is available on Satchel One and we encourage all students to bring calculators for their maths assessments.

Parent/Carer Calendar

Please find attached an updated copy of the parent/carers calendar for Summer Term 2.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please find attached an updated copy of the extra-curricular clubs for Summer Term 2

YEAR 7

An advance notice: Year 7 End of Year Assessments will take place between Monday, 10 June and Friday, 21 June. Please see Show My Homework for revision information.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: Year 8 End of Year Assessments will take place between Monday, 10 June and Friday, 21 June. Please see Show My Homework for revision information.

An advance notice: Year 8 HPV vaccinations will take place on the Monday, 17 June 2024, for students whose parents have completed the online consent form.

A reminder notice: the Year 8 'Taster' Bronze DofE Practice Walk will take place on Wednesday, 26 June for F half students, and Thursday, 27 June for X half students. Letters will be sent w/b 3 June 2024, please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Year 9 End of Year Assessments will take place between Monday, 10 June and Friday, 21 June. Please see Show My Homework for revision information.

A reminder notice: the Year 9 'Taster' Bronze DofE Practice Walk will take place on Monday, 24 June for F half students, and Tuesday, 25 June for X half students. Letters will be sent w/b 3 June 2024, please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: the Y10 Bronze DofE Expedition to Cannock Chase is calendared on Friday, 7 June until Saturday, 8 June 2024. Students will depart after the GCSE RE examination. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

A reminder notice: the Y10 Geography Field Visits to Carding Mill are calendared on Monday, 10 June and Tuesday, 11 June 2024. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

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.

An advance notice: Year 10 Mock Examinations will take place between Monday, 17 June and Tuesday, 25 June. Students will receive individual timetables with times and locations in tutor time after half term. The timetable overview will also be available on the school website under Examinations Information.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: Year 11 study leave commences today. Please refer to the letter and revision session information from Ms Dowell for further information.

An advance notice: the Year 11 Leavers' Event will take place on the **new** date of Tuesday, 25 June 2024 from 9:15am until 10:45am. Please refer to the email from Ms Dowell for further information

A reminder notice: students 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.

A reminder notice: Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at Aston Wood Golf Club. This is a ticket only event.

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: the Y12 Geography Field Visit to North Wales is calendared on Tuesday, 4 June until Thursday, 6 June 2024. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

A reminder notice: it is Year 12 Work Experience Week from Monday, 17 June until Friday, 21 June 2024. Work experience commences for the majority of Year 12 students. We ask that if, for any reason, your child is unable to attend the placement, it is important that you notify the employer and us on the day of the absence. You should contact the Sixth Form on 0121 378 1288 and leave us a message by 08:00 on the day of absence. Students who do not have a placement are expected to be in school and will undertake independent study with sixth form staff in the workroom. Virtual work experience has also been arranged for the students, to give them a taste of the workplace.

A reminder notice: the UCAS Discovery event at the NEC is scheduled for Tuesday, 25 June 2024. This event gives students the opportunity to meet with representatives from universities, apprenticeships, employers and public services. If you would like your child to attend this event please ensure that they return the consent form to Mrs Brewer and that they sign up for their ticket via the link sent to their school email address before Friday, 7 June 2024.

A reminder notice: the Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition is from Saturday, 29 June until Thursday, 4 July 2024. Please refer to the visit letter for further details.

YEAR 13

A reminder notice: it is vital that students return all books, and other materials belonging to the school and obtain an official leaving form from the Sixth Form Office. This must be done by Monday, 24 June 2024.

A reminder notice: students 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.

A reminder notice: Year 13 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at The Townhouse, Sutton Coldfield. This is a ticket only event.

A reminder notice: the Year 13 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifying Expedition is from Saturday, 29 June until Thursday, 4 July 2024. Please refer to the visit letter for further details.

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.