



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 14 June 2024

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Culture Day – Friday, 12 July 2024

An advance notice: Fairfax will be holding another culture day on Friday, 12 July 2024. There will be a range of events taking place within classes on the day, for example:

- 'Where Art Meets Mathematics' within KS3 Mathematics
- African dance workshops
- Lunchtime concert

Students will be following their normal lessons with their usual teachers on the day. There are also going to be events within the Library and a fashion show at break and lunch time for selected students. The day will also be a non-uniform day for a £1 donation to UNICEF. We are encouraging our staff and students to wear clothes that reflect their culture.

We are looking for artists who perform music from different cultures or dances. If this is something that you can help with, please can you contact Mrs Williams or Miss Gardner.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating our different cultures together.



2023-24 Shakespeare Gold School Status

We are delighted to have been awarded 2023-24 Shakespeare Gold School Status - congratulations and thank you to all our staff and students who have been involved in our productions over the past 7 years! Well done!

[#wearefairfax](#)

[#makingfairfaxproud](#)

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 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.

Finally, we have started our Summer Amazon reward drive. Students who have 100% attendance for the week are in with a chance of winning a £10 amazon gift card. The draw resets each week and solely looks at the 100% for the week. Good luck!

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. **Please ensure term time holiday requests are sent in 2 weeks prior to the holiday start date.**

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.

Fairfax PTFA

A reminder 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

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

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

Mathematics Faculty Updates

For Assessment Week, students should ensure that they bring in their normal school equipment: pen, pencil and ruler. In addition, Year 8 and Year 10 students need to bring a calculator for their Mathematics assessment and Year 9 students need to bring a calculator and protractor for their Mathematics assessment.

Revision material for all years is available on SatchelOne and weekly Sparx tasks also incorporate work on previous topics which will aid revision.

The Mathematics Faculty would welcome the return of any equipment that students have borrowed, or no longer use, including revision guides and mathematics equipment.

Please note ParentPay will be closing for the Mathematics Faculty on Friday, 28 June, this is to enable us to complete any orders before the end of the academic year.

BCU Accelerate

Year 9 students visited BCU's city centre campus this week as part of the BCU Accelerate Programme. Students had a tour of the campus, met current students, and took part in workshops called "What is University?" and "Design a University Society". Well done to the students with the winning societies Sing-o, Fashion, and Baking Bunch. #makingfairfaxproud

Careers Update

This week we were pleased to announce the winners of our Logo Competition that was run through the Art Department thanks to Miss Dyer. Students had to submit an entry to create a new logo for the Festival of British Engineering & Manufacturing. The competition was run by Marvelous Manufacturing who are looking to promote this growing industry and raise the profile of all STEAM careers (Science Technology Engineering Art & Maths). Only two schools entered the competition and Erin Lu won 3rd prize. The employers were so pleased with all of the entries they gave a chocolate bar to each of the participants! #makingfairfaxproud

A Year 9 trip to Oxford University took place on Friday, 7 June where 30 of our students got the opportunity to visit Keble College Oxford. They talked to Oxford students, had a tour around the campus as well as enjoying dinner in the great hall. The day was finished off with a talk at the Natural History Museum where students learnt the importance of research and looked at taxonomy and biodiversity; this museum promotes the discovery and enjoyment of the natural world through a range of different exhibits. A great day was enjoyed by both students and staff!

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, 3 July 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 at lunchtime in B9 on Tuesday, 18 June 2024. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Ms Hau or Mrs Williams.

YEAR 7

A reminder notice: Year 7 End of Year Assessments will take place w/b 17 June 2024, with some practical subject assessments taking place in normal lessons. Please see the assessment overview timetable and SatchelOne for revision information.

YEAR 8

A reminder notice: Year 8 End of Year Assessments will take place w/b 17 June 2024, with some practical subject assessments taking place in normal lessons. Please see the assessment overview timetable and SatchelOne for revision information.

A reminder notice: Year 8 HPV vaccinations will take place on 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. Please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

YEAR 9

A reminder notice: Year 9 End of Year Assessments will take place w/b 17 June 2024, with some practical subject assessments taking place in normal lessons. Please see the assessment overview timetable and SatchelOne for revision information.

YEAR 10

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 have been emailed to parents/carers, please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

A reminder notice: Year 10 Mock Examinations will take place between Monday, 17 June and Tuesday, 25 June. Students have received individual timetables with times and locations in tutor time. The timetable overview will also be available on the school website under Examinations Information. Please see SatchelOne for revision information.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: the Year 11 Leavers' Event will take place on 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: 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. Students should have returned their consent forms to Mrs Brewer and signed up for their ticket via the link sent to their school email address. Students should see Mrs Brewer if they have not done so as soon as possible.

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.