



INTHEKNOW

Friday, 28 June 2024

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“
Personal development is provided
for **exceptionally well.**”
Ofsted 2024

FAIRFAX SINCERITAS LABORIS **FAIRFAX** MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Culture Day – Friday, 12 July 2024

A reminder 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:

- Tangrams in Mathematics – China's most famous puzzle game.
 - The Tangram Chinese name is qi qiao ban, meaning 'seven ingenious pieces'.
- 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.

🎵 'Grease' Summer Musical 🎵

Wednesday, 17 July and Thursday, 18 July
2024 18:00-20:00

We are thrilled to announce our summer musical, 'Grease'! Get ready for an unforgettable show filled with fun, music, and excitement. Join us for an evening of classic songs like *You're the One That I Want*, *Summer Nights* and *Greased Lightnin'*. Our talented cast have been working hard to bring this timeless story to life, and we can't wait to share it with you. Tickets are now available on ParentPay – don't miss out on this spectacular event!



Uniform Reminder

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform to support us to maintain high standards. In particular:

- Tailored trousers or tailored shorts and/or skirt (not tight fitting)
- Skirts are worn appropriately and only a few inches above the knee
- 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)

July Punctuality Drive

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. Arriving promptly to school ensures that your child does not miss work, and that disruption to the teacher and other students is minimised. Students who have persistent lateness will experience a significant loss in their learning time.

We regularly stress to students the importance of punctuality, not just to remind them of the learning time that is lost, but to inform them that having good punctuality is also vital in forming good habits for later life and employment. As such, we expect students to arrive to school punctually each day, ready to start tutor time or attend their weekly assembly.

The school day begins promptly at 08:30 with your child's form tutor taking the register. This means that students must be on site by this point. Students arriving after 08:30, will be asked to enter through gate 2 where they will be signed in by a member of staff.

Currently, students who are late on the third occasion in a half term receive a 30-minute detention and will receive a further 30-minute detention for each late that occurs in that same half term period. However, during our 'July Punctuality Drive', which takes place between Monday, 8 July and Friday, 19 July 2024, students who arrive after 08:30 will be escorted from gate 2 into the sixth form building where they will complete a reflection task during the remainder of the registration period. A further sanction may be added regarding students who are repeatedly late without a valid reason during the July drive. In this event, students will spend additional time in refocus which may run up to break-time. They will then sit a 30 minute detention after school.

We would like to thank all parents/carers for their ongoing support in this matter and for making sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.



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 minimising 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.

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, 9 July 2024. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Ms Hau or Mrs Williams.

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



BCU Accelerate

Year 9 students have participated in healthcare careers workshops recently, where they met professionals including physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, and biomedical scientists. Students got hands on with CPR, stethoscopes, bandages and use of a laparoscopic surgery training kit.

Next week Year 10 and Year 12 students will be attending a summer school residential. Year 10 students will be taking part in robotics or product design sessions and Year 12 students social sciences. Students will stay at university accommodation and take part in social activities in the evening. We hope they will have an amazing time!

A huge thank you to our BCU Lead Miss Aldridge, who will be leaving BCU and Fairfax this year. We look forward to welcoming a new member of the team at Fairfax in October.

Careers Update

A group of Year 10 students attended BMET Sutton Coldfield College today. The college is open to many local schools so that students can sample student life. Up to three taster sessions on topics such as Health & Social Care, Computing and Esports, Applied Law and Criminology, Travel and Tourism as well as the Arts were on offer. A number of students were also able to try out their football skills at the Football Academy based at Boldmere St Michaels. The day was insightful and enjoyable with the aim of helping students to start thinking about what they will do at the end of Year 11.

Mathematics Update

The Mathematics Faculty would welcome the return of any equipment that students have borrowed or no longer use, including revision guides and calculators/equipment. These can be handed in to any Mathematics staff or reception.

Please be reminded that Sparx tasks are set every Wednesday and are due every Wednesday, research shows that regular completion of Sparx tasks does help to improve attainment. Sport prizes, praise postcard and early break passes are awarded each week.

On Monday, 8 July some Year 9 and 10 students will be involved in an enrichment project with the Advanced Maths Support Programme. Students can speak to their Mathematics teacher if they have any questions.

YEAR 7

An advance notice: w/b 1 July Year 7 students will be sitting their annual Progress Tests in English and Mathematics. The progress tests are designed by a company called GL Assessment and are completed by 85,000 students across the country. The results from the tests provide objective data on how much progress has been made since their previous test in September 2023, which we can use to ensure that they are being challenged at the appropriate level. Students will complete the tests in their normal classroom. They cannot prepare for these tests, and they should simply try their best. Please can students make sure they bring in their calculator next week and they should also have their reading book with them as they will be asked to read if they finish the test earlier than other students in their class.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: w/b 1 July Year 8 students will be sitting their annual Progress Tests in English and Mathematics. The progress tests are designed by a company called GL Assessment and are completed by 85,000 students across the country. The results from the tests provide objective data on how much progress has been made since their previous test in July 2023, which we can use to ensure that they are being challenged at the appropriate level. Students will complete the tests in their normal classroom. They cannot prepare for these tests, and they should simply try their best. Please can students make sure they bring in their calculator next week and they should also have their reading book with them as they will be asked to read if they finish the test earlier than other students in their class.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: w/b 1 July Year 9 students will be sitting their annual Progress Tests in English and Mathematics (and Science this year). The progress tests are designed by a company called GL Assessment and are completed by 85,000 students across the country. The results from the tests provide objective data on how much progress has been made since their previous English and Mathematics test in July 2023, which we can use to ensure that they are being challenged at the appropriate level. Students will complete the tests in their normal classroom. They cannot prepare for these tests, and they should simply try their best. Please can students make sure they bring in their calculator next week and they should also have their reading book with them as they will be asked to read if they finish the test earlier than other students in their class.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: the Year 10 French and German educational visits to France and Austria both depart next weekend. Please refer to the visit letters for further details.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

YEAR 11

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

A reminder 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 Year 12 History educational visit to Austria departs next weekend. Please refer to the visit letters for further details.

A reminder notice: the World Challenge expedition to Borneo departs on Sunday, 7 July 2024. Please refer to the visit letter for further details.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

YEAR 13

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.

A reminder notice: the World Challenge expedition to Borneo departs on Sunday, 7 July 2024. Please refer to the visit letter for further details.

An advance notice: our annual House Athletics Day Championship is on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Wyndley. Please refer to the event letter for further details. Students are advised to speak to their Head of House with any queries.

A reminder 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.