



Our ref. SB/JM.

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **END OF TERM LETTER – JULY 2023**

As this successful and productive academic year 2022/2023 draws to a close, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all our pupils and their families. Fairfield pupils have achieved amazingly well and I couldn't be prouder of them. I would like to commend their approach to learning, their behaviour and their respect for our Fairfield values. I am equally very lucky to have such a superb set of supportive parents/carers.

Likewise, I am grateful for the huge amount of hard work and commitment of our staff and Trustees; they give so much every day, every week, every year to provide an outstanding quality of education; one staff-many players.

It has been a very busy and highly rewarding school year, filled with happy pupils learning and making outstanding progress, developing not just academically but also personally and emotionally.

This term has been filled with a variety of learning opportunities from across the curriculum and co-curricular framework. I have listed these for all parents/carers to view at the foot of this letter.

We finish the year with the eagerly anticipated Sports Day. All pupils and staff are hoping that the rain will stop!

**Academic Year 2023-2024** re-opening is as follows:

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September - **Staff Training Days; school closed to pupils**
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September - **ALL pupils welcomed back**
- Arrival times:  
**Year 7 pupils arrive from 8.00 a.m. for an 8.15 a.m. start**  
**Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils should arrive no earlier than 9.15 a.m. for a 9.25 a.m. start**  
Normal lessons will begin Period 4 which is at 11.45 a.m.

### **Strong Attendance**

It is no surprise that outstanding academic progress is linked to high levels of attendance and excellent punctuality. I want our pupils here every day on time, benefitting from everything that the school has to offer. Those first days back really matter. Evidence from a recent Children's Commissioner report showed that children who miss days two, three and four of the new term for unauthorised reasons had a predicted overall absence of almost 45% or 31 days across the term.

May I remind parents and carers that there is an expectation that your child will have 100% attendance (with the exception for reasons such as serious illness or authorised absence). In line with the directive from the Department for Education, where pupil attendance drops below an acceptable threshold, parents and carers will receive penalty warnings, notices, fines and asked to attend court to explain their child's absences. Please do get in touch with us if you are struggling with your child's attendance at school.

### Staff Leavers – July 2023

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a number of members of staff, all of whom have served our pupils with great dedication and steadfastness:

- **Mr. Johnson**, Teacher of Technology and **Miss Mawdsley**, Teacher of Science and previously Assistant Headteacher for Pastoral care, are both retiring after over **54** years' combined service to Fairfield. They have taught generations of pupils. We wish them both a long and healthy retirement.
- **Mrs. Plant**, Head of the English Faculty, will leave us to take up an Assistant Headteacher role in a Stockport school.
- **Mrs. Simpson**, a member of the English Faculty Leadership, will take up a new role with the company 'Teach First'.
- **Mr. Dobie**, Teacher of English, has made the decision to pursue new opportunities.
- **Mr. McIntyre**, Teacher of Mathematics, has made the decision to pursue new opportunities.
- **Mr. McKenna**, Teacher of Science, is taking up a new teaching role closer to home.
- **Miss Khan**, temporary Teacher of English/Reading Intervention Co-ordinator, is moving abroad as her contract comes to an end in July 2023.
- **Miss Williams**, a Learning Mentor, leaves us to pursue a new career in education psychology.
- **Mr. Clark**, a Teaching Assistant, has secured a new teaching role in Japan.
- **Miss Mayson**, a teacher of Mathematics, leaves us for a new school as her temporary contract comes to an end in July 2023.
- **Mr. Flood**, temporary Teacher of Science, whose contract comes to the end in July 2023.

I am sure everyone at Fairfield will echo my thanks to them and wish them well with their future endeavours.

### New Staff - September 2023

I have been very busy over the past few months appointing new staff for September. I will introduce them to you at the beginning of the new school year.

### School Uniform - September 2023

Our standard of uniform is a reflection of our key values of respect, our vision for a high-quality education and reflects our whole school community.

**ALL** pupils must adhere to the school's uniform policy, which the vast majority of pupils do every day, every week without fail. It is the smallest minority who must be reminded of the following:

- Pupils **must** wear a school skirt of an acceptable length just above the knee.
- **NO** false eyelashes - **pupils will be isolated for this until it is rectified.**
- Only one pair of plain gold or silver studs in the earlobe part of the ear **ONLY**. **Any other piercings are strictly prohibited and failure to comply will result in isolation.**
- **NO** acrylic nails - **pupils will be isolated for this until it is rectified.**

We will be conducting a **FULL** uniform check when pupils return in September and we will contact you should we have any concerns.

### **School PE Uniform - September 2023**

In order to support families at this time of financial pressures and soaring bills, the Trust Board ratified earlier in the year that going forward, pupils will be able to wear an unbranded white polo shirt, plain navy shorts, plain sports leggings for PE lessons if they so wish; the Fairfield High School for Girls branded items will become optional. Families will be able to purchase these from high street supermarkets but may choose to continue to purchase the branded garments from our uniform suppliers if they wish to do so.

Finally, it has been a successful year for us all and I would like to once again express my thanks to the pupils themselves for their resilience and to their commitment to their own learning and well-being.

Several weeks ago, we said farewell to the Class of 2023 and I must congratulate them on their approach to their own success. They did have a challenging few years prior to their summer examination window and they were simply superb! We are looking forward to celebrating their results with them and their families on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**.

### **Keeping Safe over the Summer**

We would like to remind parents, carers and pupils of the following:

It might be very inviting in warm weather but swimming in unauthorised and unsupervised stretches of river or other open water is fraught with danger. A hot spell usually results in some youngsters making a beeline for stretches of open water and they need to be aware of the risks. It is often impossible to gauge the depths of these waters and the strength of currents. Where water levels are unknown, jumping or diving in can cause serious injury or drowning, especially if there are submerged rocks, weeds or other debris.

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful, safe and relaxing holiday and I look forward to working with you again in September.

All my good wishes,

*Mrs. Bateman*

Mrs. Bateman  
**Headteacher**

*Congratulations to the ten Year 9 pupils who achieved their Bronze CREST award this term. Pupils gave up their own time over 12 weeks to complete their own Science investigations ranging from growing their own plants under different conditions to collecting bacteria from different parts of the gym! The projects were challenging and rewarding for all, giving them real world Science skills for the future. Thank you for your hard work and commitment,*

*Mr McKenna.*

- Year 7 Friendship Club hosted a 'Teacher Quiz' on the last Wednesday of this term in which pupils were the 'live audience' and teams of staff competed against each other to be crowned Quiz Champions 2023. Pupils spent many lunchtimes organising the event, coming up with the rounds and compiling fantastic questions to ask about different subjects. Pupils did the hosting themselves and I am so proud of how well they worked as a team and supported each other.
- Selected Year 9 pupils took part in the MESME circle programme every Tuesday after school in the Maths Faculty.
- Selected Year 7 pupils took part in the MESME circle programme every Monday after school in the Maths Faculty.
- The Junior Maths Challenge took place earlier in the term and in addition to certificates of participation, Fairfield pupils also achieved 22 bronze certificates, 5 silver certificates and an incredible 3 gold certificates! Huge congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 pupils who were involved in the challenge.
- Advanced Maths Club has been a real success this year with our Key Stage 3 pupils. Well done for participating; we look forward to continuing this next year!
- A massive well done to all pupils who have taken advantage of Maths Drop-In this year!
- Year 10 pupils took part in a Science Competition at Stockport Grammar on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. They participated in three investigations in different disciplines and took 2nd place in Physics by creating the strongest electromagnet.
- The annual Year 7 Chester Zoo trip took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – organised by Dr. Cahill.
- 12 Year 9 pupils have completed their Science Bronze Crest Award with Mr. McKenna.
- Mr. Allsopp organised applications and selected next year's Year 10 Science Ambassadors. These pupils will support activities within the Science Faculty such as Year 8 Science Club and Science Week.
- Year 8 Science Club has run for the last batch of pupils this year and Mr. Allsopp introduced two new activities relating to forensic science.
- Dr. Cahill, Mr. Allsopp and Mr. Blackburn took a group of the Year 10 Separate Science Physicists to watch Dr. Mark Lewney perform his string theory in 11 dimensions show at Dukinfield Town Hall on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Revise Chemistry with Mr. Blackburn has also gone viral over to TikTok. In the second month he clocked up 144,000 views and over 1000 followers!
- Mr. Blackburn has also attended a celebratory evening in Newcastle following winning the SHINE Award, which brought additional funding into the faculty to support disadvantaged pupils with his bespoke revision videos.
- Year 10 Fairfield Futures Careers Week took place week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. During the first week of July Year 10 pupils took part in many activities to develop skills for the future and to encourage a curiosity for the amazing opportunities available to them in Greater Manchester. It was a jam-packed week aimed at inspiring our pupils to start thinking about the next steps after Fairfield.
- On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 190 pupils had a mock interview, with the feedback from our guests being pupils were confident, polite and would have definitely 'got the job'!
- On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July Year 10 spent the day at Tameside College and Clarendon College experiencing life as a college student, the pupils took part in A level and Level 3 classes and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
- On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July Year 10 had an IT in careers day developing valuable computer skills for future employment.
- On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July Year 10 took part in an employability workshop aimed at developing leadership, team building and collaboration.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July saw every pupil in school have the opportunity to attend a career and apprenticeship fair, meeting representatives from the Army, Fire service, Cisco plus many more.
- Head Girl Team Appointments – a letter will be sent home to parents/carers to introduce the team.
- Year 10 Blackpool Activity Day took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate pupil achievements this year.
- Reading Partners.
- Sports Day took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.
- Lower School Presentation Evening took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July for Years 7 to 9.
- Year 6 into 7 Transition Day took place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – organised by Miss Diamandis.
- Year 6 Individuals Afternoon took place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – organised by Miss Diamandis.

- 54 Year 9 pupils have completed the expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award walking from Denton to Marple, camping and then walking for a second day to the Poynton area.
- On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July we welcomed some Year 5 primary school pupils and their teachers to take part in languages and culture themed tasks run by the Year 10 Language Ambassador team. The Year 10 pupils were a credit to themselves and to Fairfield.
- Mr. Devine led a trip of 40 Year 8 and 9 pupils to Cologne in Germany and Miss Tilley led a trip of 40 Year 7 and 8 pupils to Paris; the behaviour was excellent and the girls created some fantastic memories.
- The Year 8 and 9 Cologne trip ran in May with 44 pupils enjoying a cultural and linguistic visit to Germany. Highlights of the trip included Cologne Zoo, a boat ride on the Rhine and a visit to Phantasialand theme park. The pupils were great ambassadors for the school, especially as it was a first residential trip for many of them.
- The LGBTQ+ and Ally Pride Group has continued to meet weekly and look at trailblazers, enjoyed a film, designed a logo for a competition, painted pebbles and celebrated with an end-of-year 'Pinknic'. We were delighted to welcome broadcaster Paris Munro as a guest presenter too.
- Mrs. Goldthorp and the Year 10 Language Ambassadors organised the summer Primary Modern Languages fair which was a huge success.
- We entered Year 11 pupils for 8 different languages at GCSE this year - French, German, Cantonese, Urdu, Arabic, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. It has been fabulous to be able to show how diverse, multi-lingual and talented our pupils are.
- Young Carers have had a film night in school, been to Hollywood Bowl thanks to Tameside Rotary and enjoyed a lovely meal at Bella Italia.
- The Year 7 Geography classes have been on a local area investigation to the Orangery housing development to study the possible effects of the development and learn how to carry out a geographical investigation.
- Year 10 Theatre Trip to the Royal Exchange to see No Way No Pay.
- Fairfield's Got Talent.
- Music Jam Club.
- Key Stage 3 Interform competitions.
- Year 7-10 Athletics Trials.
- Tameside Athletics Competition - Holly Diver – 1<sup>st</sup> in High Jump, Orlaith Findlay – 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m, Lilia Davies – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Shot Putt and Sophie Hanif - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Discus.
- Year 7 pupils came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Tameside Rounders tournament.
- Weekly volleyball and rounders clubs.
- Peripatetic lessons.
- We had a Year 9 Personal Development Day on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, themed as 'Me, My Healthy Body and Mind' where pupils were taken off timetable for the day and participated in workshops which included yoga, mental wellbeing, empowering women in careers, basic first aid, e-safety and healthy relationships.
- We had our first ever 'Heritage Day' whereby all pupils were invited to attend in non-uniform for the day, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, in clothes that represent their heritage or culture.
- Representatives from our student council body, named Fairfield Forum, had lunch with the Headteacher on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June to feedback what they enjoy about being a pupil at Fairfield and suggestions/ideas for improvements to school life.
- Gratitude Week took place during the week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. This is where pupils are given an opportunity to reflect on the term and thank someone in their family, or a staff member in school or a friend for their support or any acts of kindness.
- Week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, we had praise assemblies rewarding pupils in each Year Group for their achievements as successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.
- No More Knives assemblies took place for Years 7, 8 and 9 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- The Year 11 Prom took place at the Etihad stadium on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July Year 9 pupils had a green to blue picnic to celebrate their transition into Year 10 in September.