

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I want to say 'thank you' to the vast amount of our pupils who are doing everything we ask of them amazingly well; displaying excellent behaviour for learning, respect for staff and each other at all times, following the ethos and expectations of the school every lesson, every day, every week. Being respectful, kind and inclusive are key Fairfield values. I am so very proud of what each pupil brings to the school.

It was a great pleasure to see so many parents and carers at last week's Winter Market and this week's pupil performance of Cinderella. It was also wonderful to see so many pupils perform with such skill and confidence. It is a privilege to work at a school where pupils (supported by their families) are willing to dedicate themselves to learning to act, read music, play and sing. As we rapidly approach Christmas and the end of a very productive first term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your significant and positive support during the Autumn Term.

Year 11 pupils have worked hard this term in the run up to their December mock examinations. There is no substitute for hard work and mock examinations help each pupil to recall what they know but more importantly for them and their teachers to know what the next steps are in their learning journey.

Year 10 will embark upon their first set of mock exams after the Christmas break and so should be balancing their time carefully over the holiday, to ensure that they are fully prepared when they return in January.

### Learning Opportunities

There is breadth and depth of opportunities on offer to our pupils; they choose to get involved with a wide variety of learning experiences, facilitated by generous offers from staff. These contribute to our Fairfield values of **successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens**. Here is just a small selection:

- Teams of Year 8 pupils took part in the National Cyber First Girls' Competition. They tested their cyber skills in cracking codes, decrypting messages, and solving coding puzzles. The contest is designed to encourage girls to explore the world of cyber and technology, helping to address the lack of diversity in the UK cyber workforce, where women currently make up just 17%.
- Friday lunchtimes, we have been relaxing with some retro computer games, SNES competitions, Wii co-op, and exploring the games from decades ago.
- In English, some Year 9s had a pre-recorded guest lecture from Dr Jack Webb from The University of Manchester on how the Victorian's belief in physiognomy may have influenced the writing of Jane Eyre.
- Some Year 10s had a pre-recorded tutorial from a journalist who works on Newsround and the opportunity to write a news report from a real BBC Press Release.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 7 pupils watched the school pantomime, took part in a Christmas Raffle and had a go at the Year 7 Christmas Quiz.

- 80 Year 7 Pupils visited the Pearl restaurant as a friendship trip - they were exceptionally behaved and had a great time. The event involved a curry and a disco.
- Around 75 Year 9 Pupils have signed up for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award - this is the highest number we have ever had.
- Year 10 have started the process for Head Girl Team/Sports Team and Prefects. Mrs Loney went through the different roles in an introductory assembly regarding the process. Pupils have until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December to apply to be Prefects. If pupils then want to be considered for the Head Girl Team/Sports Team they have to complete a letter of application by the middle of January stating which position and why they think they will be good at it.
- Year 10 took part in and organised the Winter Market. We raised £800.00. Amazing!
- Year 10 took part in a Romeo and Juliet workshop at the Royal Exchange Theatre.
- Year 7 had a Harry Potter Experience Night.
- Year 11 went to see a performance of Great Expectations at the Royal Exchange Theatre. Pupils attended a writer workshop facilitated by the Royal Exchange Theatre.
- Pupils have been taking part in the Reading Partner programme.
- PE extra-curricular clubs run every week – Monday Netball, Wednesday Volleyball, Thursday Badminton/Cricket. Dance P6 on a Monday and PE P6 on a Friday. Lunchtime clubs every week with the Sports Captains on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The PE department host the Netball competitions for the Tameside borough every Tuesday.
- Pupils have been attending football fixtures every week at Droylsden.
- Pupils competed in the Tameside cross country championships – Fairfield finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall out of 16 schools, and 3 pupils finished in the top 15 and are now invited to the Greater Manchester championships at Heaton Park in February.
- Drama Drop-in. Theatrical Cinema Club – lunchtimes. Drama Club - lunch times.
- Primary School Big Sing event with Tameside Music Service. Choir – lunchtimes. Fairfield Voices rehearsals and performances (Christmas Service/Certificate Evening). Jam Sessions in Music.
- Cinderella - Dance, Music, Drama rehearsals at lunchtimes and after school.
- Year 7 pupils went on a tour around the Moravian Settlement in their History lessons. Pupils learnt about the history of our school and created an information leaflet about the Moravians and the importance of studying local history.
- Science Ambassadors in Year 10 planned, organised, and delivered a Forensic Science investigation to Year 8 Science Club members. It was a fantastic “whodunnit” which brought together code-breaking, ink analysis and fingerprint matching to find the “killer”!
- The Geography Department took a group of Year 10 and 11 pupils down to Manchester Metropolitan University to attend a lecture by Ilan Kelman, Professor of Disasters and Health at University College London and author of Disaster by Choice.
- The LGBTQ+ and Ally Pride Group has continued to meet weekly with a focus on making friends, doing arts and crafts and listening to music. Next term, we will be looking at film and TV.
- On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, we took six Year 8 pupils to Denton Wellness Centre to a 10-Pin Bowling Competition where our team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

This is simply wonderful. Well done to all pupils and well done to staff!

Can I thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school on time, ready to learn with the correct equipment. This Autumn Term has been about new beginnings for both the pupils, new staff joining the school and new parents/carers joining the Fairfield family. Can I say ‘well done’ to all the new Year 7 pupils who have settled well into the school and made such a wonderful start to their learning journey here at Fairfield.

In addition, I would like to congratulate the **Class of 2023** for achieving an amazing set of examination results. Our pupils here make more progress than in any other secondary school locally. We are the 9th top performing non-selective state secondary school in Greater Manchester. Thank you to everyone, the pupils and their families, and of course to our incredible staff without whom these results would not have been possible. As ever, we are never complacent; we always aim to build on our achievements year on year. I am committed to ensuring that the **Class of 2024** do even better and the indications are very positive.

It is vital that we all work towards maintaining high standards of behaviour both in school and on the way to school; our uniform and general pupil appearance. We must ensure that parents/carers are aware of our expectations and I ask politely that you support us with this aim. Your strong partnership in this respect will ensure that pupils continue to be excellent ambassadors for our school in the community whilst travelling to and from school. 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:

- A school skirt of an acceptable length just above the knee.
- NO false eyelashes - **pupils will be isolated for this until it is rectified.**
- One pair of plain gold or silver studs in the earlobe part of the ear ONLY. **Any 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 on our return in January and we will contact you should we have any concerns. Thank you for ensuring that your child returns in January with the correct appearance.

### **Kindness at Christmas**

Thank you for your contributions during this time of financial hardship for so many. Above and beyond doesn't even come close to describing the response to this year's campaign. All pupils, families and staff that made a contribution have made such a difference to our community. Hugely appreciated.

### **Kindness at Christmas Collection: 2 food banks will benefit**



## **Staff Leavers**

We are saying goodbye to several members of our staff, who are either retiring or moving on to pastures new: Mrs Johnson, who is retiring, is part of the Orian cleaning team, has been at the school for nearly 25 years; Mrs Mutter, who is also retiring, has been our Librarian for nearly 20 years; Mrs Lamprecht (Science) is moving to a teaching position closer to home; Miss Willcock (Music) is emigrating to Australia; and Mrs Rowland (Computing and IT), who has taught at the school for nearly 20 years, is moving on to be Head of Computing at an Oldham school. We wish them all well in the future and thank them for their commitment and tremendous hard work. They will be sorely missed.

On behalf of all the staff and the Trust Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very 'Merry Christmas' and a 'Happy New Year'

Have a safe, restful holiday and I look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on **WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024**, fully refreshed for the coming year ahead.

Finally, let's wish Ellie Leach, an ex-Fairfield pupil from the Class of 2017 who is in the Strictly Come Dancing Final on Saturday, all the very best of luck.

All my good wishes,



**Mrs S Bateman**  
**Headteacher**