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14 September 2017

Dear parents and carers

As we begin a new school year at Fairfield I would like to welcome all our new students and their families, and the following new members of staff:

Mr Waterhouse	Head of Maths
Miss Escande	Modern Languages
Mr Jarrold	Science and PE
Mr Stewart	KS4 DT
Ms Palmer	Animal Care
Mr Rodgers	Learning Support
Mrs Alderson	Learning Support

During the holidays we sadly said goodbye to Mr Richards in Music and Mr Lane our Site Manager, and we are working to fill those posts as soon as possible.

We were delighted to celebrate fantastic GCSE results with our outgoing Year 11 students; they absolutely did us proud! I am sure that with plenty of support from home and from school, the current Year 11 can perform even better – 81% of them have already achieved their English Literature GCSE this summer, so we are looking forward to a very positive year ahead.

A few reminders from me:

Journeys to and from school

The beginning of the school year is always very busy, and this year has been no exception. Please can I ask car drivers to observe the unofficial “one way” system for the safety of all our students. We would also prefer drivers not to pick up students from the school car park at the end of the day, as both cars and students have to use the same exit from school. I am very aware of the difficulties posed by both picking up direct from school and in the village, however traffic is usually much clearer within 10 minutes of the end of the school day. We are also monitoring the use of the Hereford bus; this is a service bus and in common with all school transport, is not the direct responsibility of the school but we are of course most concerned about the safety of our students to and from school.

Uniform

Thank you so much for sending all our students to school so smartly dressed - they look terrific! I am mindful that school uniform and PE kit is expensive; **please** ensure that all items are named so that we can return them. We

already have a significant number of jumpers and PE tops in Lost Property. In particular, may I remind you that we do not accept any jewellery or piercings other than one small stud in each ear lobe. There are good Health and Safety reasons for this and we expect students to adhere to it. Please save piercings for the end of Year 11, once GCSEs are finished!

Attendance

Every year we cross-reference our GCSE results with attendance. There are always students who could have achieved more, had their attendance been better, and this year was no exception. We understand that hospital and orthodontic appointments sometimes have to be during the school day; please come to school for the rest of the day if possible. We will not authorise holidays or odd days off unless there are *very* exceptional circumstances; in particular we expect Year 10 and 11 students to miss as little school as possible. Our Attendance Policy is available on the website if you wish to study the details. If you need to discuss attendance, please contact either our Learning Managers, Mrs Hart and Mr Chappell or our Heads of Key Stage, Mr Kelly and Mrs Gallagher.

New at Fairfield

Over the holidays we have done some significant site clearing and decoration, and improved our IT capabilities with new equipment. Best of all, the students are really enjoying our new Animal Care room where we now have rabbits, guinea pigs, a hamster, a lizard and a tree frog! Students are allowed to spend time in Animal Care at break and lunchtimes with Ms Palmer and this year, Year 8 are lucky enough to have a weekly lesson on their timetable learning about the animals' needs and how to care for them.

Open Days for Year 6 pupils

Our Open Days this year will be on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th September. These are for prospective students who hope to join us next year; please ring the school to make an appointment on one of the three tours we run each day.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school. We enjoy working in partnership with you to ensure that your child is happy and successful at Fairfield.

Best wishes



Sue Gaston
Head Teacher