



Peterchurch, Herefordshire HR2 0SG | 01981 550 231 | admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk | Head Teacher: Mrs S L Gaston

July 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear parents and carers

### Summer update July 2017

I am very pleased to tell you that Fairfield has been designated a Teaching School. This is a recognition of our high standards and commitment to teaching and learning, and means that we will not only be able to offer more support to other schools, but will also continue to develop the skills and expertise of our own staff, which will benefit all our students.

I am also writing to give you some information about the curriculum and school term dates from September.

#### 6 period day

From September we will have 6 lessons each day, and a shorter form period in the morning. As notified to you earlier in the year, school will begin at **8.45am**. The length of break and lunchtime remain unchanged.

Registration	08.45 – 08.55
Period 1	08.55 – 09.50
Period 2	09.50 – 10.45
Break	10.45 – 11.05
Period 3	11.05 – 12.00
Period 4	12.00 – 12.55
Lunch	12.55 – 13.35
Period 5	13.35 – 14.30
Period 6	14.30 – 15.25

#### Term dates

Please see the dates below; we have tried to arrange our term dates and Inset days to give you plenty of opportunities to take holiday outside of school time, as we cannot authorize absence from school unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please note that this year we will have **Year 7 ONLY on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**, to give them the chance to get used to the school, their teachers, new timetable and very importantly the school canteen routine for one day without the older students. School transport will run as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, but will be at least five minutes earlier picking students up.



### **Autumn Term 2017**

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>	
First day of Term	Tuesday, 5th September 2017	<b>Year 7 ONLY</b>
	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b>ALL students</b>
Half-term holiday	23th - 27th October 2017	
Last day of Term	Friday 15th December 2017	

### **Spring Term 2018**

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018</i>	
First day of Term	Thursday 4th January 2018	
Half-term holiday	19th – 23rd February 2018	
Last day of Term	Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	

### **Summer Term 2018**

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018</i>	
First day of Term	Tuesday, 17th April 2018	
Half-term holiday	28th May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2018	
Last day of Term	Friday, 20th July 2018	



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## Staffing and curriculum

As you know, Miss Sage (Music) is on maternity leave and her timetable will be covered by Mr Daniel Richards, who is already settling in to Fairfield.

Mrs Clarke (DT) is now on maternity leave. Mr Clive Stewart, who is an experienced retired DT teacher, will cover her Year 10 and 11 classes. Unfortunately DT teachers are very difficult to recruit and so we have looked carefully at how we can still give students in KS3 practical and creative lessons during their DT time and also build in some DT skills, which Mrs Clarke can develop further when she returns.

- Year 9 will have a carousel of extra activities – Food, DT, Art and Computing on a 6-8 week basis which will include some DT workshop time so that they have plenty of experience to be able to make informed Options choices in January.
- Year 8 will have an 8 week DT project and some additional Food and Computing lessons. In a new and exciting development, Year 8 will also be taught Animal Care – see below!
- Year 7 will have an “enrichment” programme which will include different practical areas such as First Aid, Team Building skills and extra PE.

In addition, Years 7 and 8 will have two full days each of DT with Mrs Clarke in the summer term next year, equivalent to a complete term’s lessons.

We have recruited a new member of staff, Mrs Emma Palmer, who will be helping to look after all the animals on site and working with small groups of students. In addition we are really pleased that she will be offering a regular Animal Care lesson to Year 8 students; we have always wanted to extend the students’ knowledge and understanding of animals and give them more opportunities to interact with the animals on site, so this non examined course will help them to be more involved.

We will be welcoming two new Learning Support Assistants in September, Mr Ben Rodgers and Mrs Alison Alderson and we are looking forward to working with them.

We will be saying goodbye or “Hasta la vista” to Miss Cowan, who is returning to work in Gibraltar, where she grew up. She will be much missed by both staff and students; her replacement in MFL will be Miss Escande, who has already met some of our students and will be a Year 7 form tutor next year.

In Maths, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Harris, who will be replaced by Mr Waterhouse. I know that you will all be sad to see Mr Harris leave Fairfield, and we hope he will stay in touch.

## Uniform

School uniform has been good this year - thank you for your support. Please can you ensure that your child has all the correct items of uniform ready for September – there is often a rush at the School Uniform Shop towards the end of the holidays! In particular, many of our female students have skirts that need replacing as they have been outgrown; we do ask for skirts to be on or near the knee and quite a few have crept up the last couple of months!

Can I also ask that, if you allow your child to have any sort of piercing over the holidays, it **must** be done early enough to be able to be taken out by the beginning of September. **One small stud in each ear lobe** is the only piercing allowed in school and students will be asked to remove anything else.

Thank you for your support this year and I look forward to working with you all again next academic year. I wish you all a very sunny and restful holiday!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Gaston". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sue Gaston  
Head Teacher