



KFO/THO

5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to contact all parents and carers to highlight the importance of 100% attendance in school. High attendance brings about many benefits and is of huge importance to each and every student in achieving their limitless potential. The major benefits of outstanding attendance include:

- It prepares them for the discipline of their future working life.
- It allows students to be involved in all activities that the school runs.
- It supports students to develop positive social relationships with friends and staff.
- Not missing out on their education.
- It supports a safe lifestyle.
- It gives pupils the best chance of being successful at school. Research shows that for every **17 days** missed from school, **GCSE results go down by 1 grade.**

**Data from the UK Department for Education shows that the lower your attendance the less likely you are to achieve in your GCSE's:**

% Attendance	100%	Over 95%	92-93%	Below 90%
% of students achieving 5 GCSE's grade 5+ including English and Maths	82%	77%	53%	43%

Please consider the impact of attendance on these students in the scenarios below.

**Student A's** attendance is always about 90%. They think this is pretty good, however this actually means they are absent from lessons for the equivalent of **half a day every week**. If they continue to attend for only 90% of the time, over 5 years he will miss the equivalent of **half a school year**.

**Student B's** attendance is always about 80%. They think this is acceptable, however this actually means they are absent from lessons for the equivalent of **one day every week**. If they continue to attend school for only 80% of the time, over 5 years she will miss the equivalent of **one school year**.

Our school attendance target is 97% for all students. Anything less than 97% attendance is not acceptable to us – as a High Performance Learning School, we want nothing less than the best.

If you are experiencing difficulty with your child's attendance, we can offer help and support. Please come and talk to us. Where attendance is a concern, you may be invited to meet with the Attendance Officer (Mrs S Walker), Year Team or even the Education Welfare Officer. Poor attendance can lead to a fine and court proceedings in the most persistent cases. We would like to support families before we reach that point – please get in touch.



### **Request for leave during term time**

We ask that you do not take holidays during the term or make routine medical appointments (doctors, dentists, opticians) during the school day. Government regulations make it clear that parents do not have the right or entitlement to take a child out of school for any leave of absence during term time. The Headteacher will not grant leave of absence unless the reason is deemed 'exceptional circumstances'. If you wish to request a leave of absence for an exceptional circumstance, you must complete the form which can be located on the school website and send this to the Headteacher for approval.

**There are 175 days not in school, this gives plenty of time for appointments and holidays to be taken at other points in the year.**

We hope that you appreciate the huge role outstanding attendance plays in the success of your child in school and we ask all parents to do all that they can to ensure their child is in school every day. We all know that there are days when it is easier to not go to school, but these are the days that you can support your child to receive the education that will support them for the rest of their lives. I have attached the NHS guidance on illnesses to assist you with this, please note that your child no longer needs to stay off to isolate if they have Covid and are allowed to come to school if they are well enough to do so, just like if they have a cold.

I look forward to working with all parents and carers to support all students to achieve outstanding attendance throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch for further support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Fox  
Assistant Headteacher

