



Kirkby High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Outstanding attendance at Kirkby High School is an essential element in raising attainment, increasing the progress of our students and helping them to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations. Since September 2015 the Government has reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. Therefore, a student is now considered to be a persistent absentee if their attendance falls below 90%.

The table below highlights the number of **sessions (half days)** absence which would define a persistently absent pupil.

	10% (persistent absence threshold)
Half term 1	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	20 or more sessions
Half term 1-4 (Autumn and Spring terms combined)	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (Full academic year)	38 or more sessions

What does 90% attendance mean?

- **90% attendance = ½ day missed** each week.
- Over one school year this is 4 weeks or 100 hours of learning lost.
- Over the 5 years at Kirkby High School you would have missed half a year or 500 hours of learning lost.
- **17 missed school days** has been shown to result in the **loss of a whole GCSE grade**.

Best results are always achieved when there is strong collaboration between students, staff and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping the school to achieve a minimum **98%** attendance for this academic year.

If you have any questions or queries on this issue then please don't hesitate to contact Mr Walker at Kirkby High School.

Yours faithfully

Mr W Leyland
Headteacher