



Maximising our Potential

30th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to draw your attention to a national campaign that has been launched by the government to remind parents/carers about the importance of school attendance. This is in response to a current national crisis.

Last Friday, 15% of our students were absent. That means 155 students missed five hours of learning. Sadly, this is a common statistic for our school. Even more worrying, 18% of Year 11 students were absent. These students are in the most important examination year of their lives.

We continually promote the need for good attendance to school because we know, and the research shows, the impact good attendance has on students GCSE results and consequently, their future life chances. This is because they will receive worse exam results than their peers and can develop poor working habits related to attendance and punctuality, which can result in losing a job. Furthermore, we know that good attendance can promote positive relationships between friendship groups, which is a protective factor for mental health and well-being.

When students miss a day of school, they miss five hours of learning. Lessons are taught in sequences and when a child misses one lesson, they will find it difficult in the next lesson because they will have gaps in their knowledge. If a student misses a prolonged period, for example for a week's holiday, the gaps in knowledge will become even bigger.

The government campaign, 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' highlights that it is never too late to benefit from good attendance. Therefore, I am asking for your support to make sure that your child attends school every day and does not miss any hours of learning. Thank you to those who continue to ensure their child maximises their potential by attending on time, every day.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please contact the attendance team in school so we can support you as soon as possible. For parents of Year 11 students, this is an urgent situation that needs fixing immediately.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dobson
Headteacher

Resilience

Kindness

Respect

Aspiration

Confidence

