

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for the support you have given to the school over an extended period.

You may be aware through the media that the government is raising concerns about low rates of national school attendance over the last 18 months and is asking all schools and parents to work together as a matter of urgency to help to solve this issue, as low attendance has an incredibly damaging effect on both students' academic performance and their sense of wellbeing.

The table below shows the impact of weak attendance over the course of an academic year. A student who misses a day a week will miss over 200 lessons over the school year, with a huge loss in learning, gaps in academic knowledge and weaker performance in important exams as a consequence.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Weeks missed	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly, and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open. Lower attendance can reduce students grades by up to one grade in every subject, if they miss a day a fortnight, and two grades if they miss a day a week. In addition to this, absence from school can cause pastoral issues such as feeling lonely or isolated at school.

If your child is absent from school for more than 5 consecutive days, we will require medical evidence to support this absence. Furthermore, if there are 5 separate absences or 10 consecutive days off you may be invited in for a meeting to help support with your child's attendance.

If you have concerns about your child's school attendance or punctuality please contact the school, through your child's tutor in the first instance.

To support this drive to raise attendance, we are asking our attendance officer to make contact with parents daily and where there are patterns of low attendance emerging we will be inviting you in to meet with leaders of the school to agree a support plan to bring attendance back up to a high level.

I would like to thank you for your support in this matter and making sure your child is attending school regularly and therefore benefiting fully from the education they are receiving here.

Yours sincerely



Jennie Thomson

Acting Head of School



Wayne Edwards

Executive Principal