

Dear Parent/carer

After a very challenging 18 months we are really pleased that school life has become more settled this year. We are delighted, but not surprised, with how well students have adapted to new routines this year. Main School attendance has been exceptional in the first half-term and we would like to thank you and your son/daughter for your strong commitment to learning. We are really very proud of them.

The average attendance at Main School each year is at, or above, 97%, which is exceptional.

This letter has a coloured border around it which equates to your son/daughter's current attendance data. You can view your son/daughter's attendance at any time **on Insight**.

What does the coloured border equate to?

97-100% = Green

94-97% = Amber

93% and below = Red

I would like to stress that absence from school due to self-isolation from having Covid-19 is not included in attendance data. If your son/daughter is away from school for this reason it does not affect their attendance record.

It is also important to note that in the first half-term attendance data can be affected by one or two days of absence whereas the same number over the course of the year would not have such a dramatic impact.

It is rare for students to have 3 or more individual incidences of illness absence in a school year unless they have a medical condition. If this is the case Heads of Year should already be aware and support should be in place for your son/daughter to help them access any missed work and to support their emotional health and wellbeing. If there are issues we are unaware of please do get in touch with your son/daughter's Head of Year as soon as possible so we can support them.

As you will be aware, our pastoral teams monitor attendance very closely and there is a strong correlation between attendance and academic outcomes. We encourage, celebrate and reward outstanding attendance. Students with 100% attendance are entered into a prize draw each term.

To help put some of the figures above into perspective 90% attendance is the equivalent of one day off every fortnight and across 5 school years 90% attendance would equate to missing half a year of education. Students with 90% attendance on average underachieve by 1 GCSE grade in every subject.

80% attendance is the equivalent of missing one day per week or across 5 school years an entire year of education. Students with 80% attendance on average underachieve by 2 GCSE grades across every subject.

Although our record is outstanding we are always looking to ensure that our students are in school and learning for the greatest amount of time possible. We would very much appreciate

it if you took a moment to reflect with your son/daughter on their current levels of attendance and continue to monitor this closely at regular intervals.

I would also like to remind you that we politely ask that, as much as possible, medical appointments are made before or after the school day. It may be worth being reminded that attendance figures are affected even if your son/daughter only misses a small part of the day. If they are not in for morning or afternoon registration and return later in the day they will be classed as absent for the corresponding morning or afternoon session.

Finally, I would like to thank you and your son/daughter for your continued support and commitment to learning. We are extremely proud of our students as we know you, as parents/carers, are too.

Should you have any queries please do contact your son/daughter's Head of Year.
Yours sincerely

Mr J Alcock
Assistant Headteacher: Main School