

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Students and Parents / Carers

I want to first of all thank our school community for the positive way in which everyone has returned to school. It is good to see the level of focus and hard work going on in lessons across the school. We really appreciate the majority of students who make the daily effort to attend school. We all know how important it is to be in class, in person, with your teachers after the disruption and uncertainty of the last 18 months. Whilst at times it can be hard to get fully motivated to attend school every day, evidence shows that this makes a huge difference to the life chances of young people.

- ✓ Well done to the **33%** of students whose attendance is 96% or higher; this means your attendance is good - you are achieving what was the national average prior to the pandemic.
- ✓ An additional congratulations to the 20% who have achieved a perfect **100%** - this is outstanding and something you should be rightly proud of.

I want these figures to highlight to those of you not yet achieving attendance at this level, that it is clearly achievable. If your attendance is below 90% this is very worrying as it means you could potentially miss the equivalent of 19 weeks of learning over your 5-year school career, which puts you at a disadvantage, not only academically but also socially, as you miss out on those important interactions with your friends and teachers.

Some of you have voiced your shock on receiving a letter regarding attendance, but it is surprising how quickly the odd day here and there adds up and the overall impact it has. We implore you to be as firm about attendance on a Friday as you are on a Monday – the DfE have made it clear to us that students have to be in school (except in a very small number of situations which is outlined in their guidance [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) and that is what we expect. Where attendance levels do cause us concern, I am sure you appreciate we have to take appropriate steps towards making improvements.

Having said this, I want to acknowledge the small number of students with genuine medical conditions that keeps them from school – we know you are here as often as is possible; do continue to work hard when you are at home or in hospital and you have the tenacity to keep up with your studies, even when you cannot be in school – well done to you too.

I look forward to awarding the certificates for overall and termly attendance before the holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Lucas  
Deputy Headteacher