



Weekly Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

This week’s focus is on ATTENDANCE

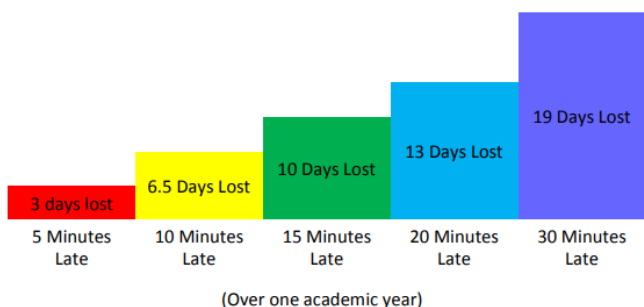
Attend Today – Achieve Tomorrow!

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Good attendance shows potential employers that your child is reliable. Research suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime. Below is a table showing how your child’s percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed.

	Weeks	Days Lost	Lessons
95%	2	10	48
90%	4	19	93
85%	6	29	139
80%	8	39	185
75%	10	48	232
70%	11.5	58	276
65%	13.5	68	324

Every Minute Counts...

If your child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



Just 17 days absence from school a year shows it is likely students will drop a GCSE grade in all subjects. Our aim is for all students to achieve at least 95% attendance each academic year.

We want students to understand that in attending school they are setting themselves up for greater academic success, but also being in school they are able to forge relationships with others and access many other resources to support them in their personal development too. We offer a range of clubs and activities which enrich our students’ lives.

It’s important to us that if you have any concerns about attendance you make contact with us immediately. We have a very dedicated attendance team who want to support our students and they will make contact if we, in turn, have concerns in relation to the attendance of your child(ren).

Key reminders:

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child arrives at school punctually. Children should arrive at the secondary phase no later than 8.45am on the back playground, this means getting onto the school site no later than 8:40am.

Sickness reporting

- We must be made aware of any illness/injury on the first day of absence. This can be via leaving a message on the absence line, sending an email into the office or calling the office direct.
- A call must be made every day that they are off unless where we know they will be off for 48 hours or an injury/recovery period that you have previously made us aware of.
- Please make sure you make us aware of what the illness/injury is. Just saying they are ill is not acceptable and may mean you receive a call requesting further information.

Absence

- If your child is shown as absent on the register then a call will be made to you asking for an update as to why they are not in school. Please do not ignore these calls. If we are unable to get hold of you then the register will show an unauthorised absence. These in turn can lead to home visits and a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Absence Requests

- Please do not take your child out of school for holidays, family celebrations, birthday treats and such like. The DfE only allow Head Teachers to grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances.

If you choose to still take your child out of school during term time then you may be issued with a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount of the penalty will be £120 to be paid within 28 days, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. Failure to pay the penalty in full at the end of the 28-day period may result in prosecution by the Local Authority.

The school does NOT receive any money from any penalties that are issued but we are obliged to make them aware of the absence.

- We must be made aware of any absences whether you think they will be authorised or not. This is for safeguarding reasons as if we do not know the whereabouts of a child then it could result in unnecessary contact with other outside agencies.
- Medical appointments - please wherever possible keep these outside of school times. However, where required we will expect students to sign in for AM/PM marks at 8:50am and 1:30pm each day. Please aim to ensure appointments do not coincide with these times. It is very rare that students need a whole day’s absence for an appointment. Where there are appointments please provide a medical card, or letter for authorisation.

Lateness

- The school hours for this year will remain the same – gates close at 8.45am.
- If your child arrives after this time they MUST sign in at the attendance office. Failure to do this could result in your child appearing not to be in school as they will have missed the register being taken. This in turn will create a call being made home to ask why the child is not in school which, as you can imagine, could cause upset and worry.

Rewarding students

We will continue to reward students who attend regularly. We are committed to ensuring that we raise the profile of the importance of attendance. Please look out for the reward postcards coming home at the end of each term. Celebrating success is really important, but it is also important to note that we can change habits and we also recognise these changes in behaviour positively. If you have concerns in regards to your child at school please do get in contact with your child’s form tutor.

Please remember:

Excellent attendance supports your child’s adult life... those who perform one GCSE grade higher across their subjects than their counterparts have been shown to earn £200,000 more in their lifetime. Employers will want someone reliable, with a positive and punctual attendance record where possible. Regular attendance patterns at school provide the foundation for regular attendance at work.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week for w/c 18th September 2023



Emmanuel
Oyelekan
Y8

172 House Points



Ellie
Brown
Y7

110 House Points



Emilija
Jodcika
Y8

164 House Points



Jaden
Kapitu
Y7

141 House Points

STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES for w/c 25th September 2023

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	3.20pm	3.25pm	3.30pm	3.10pm	3.15pm	3.30pm	3.30pm
Thursday only	2.20pm	2.25pm	2.30pm	2.10pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	2.30pm

Spotlight on...DAFA Success Stories!

The Dover Athletic Football Academy, in partnership with The Abbey School, was formed in 2009 and has been very successful. The Academy players spend their day-to-day at The Abbey School studying A Level/BTEC Qualifications but also have a full-time football training programme built into their days.

So many successes include: 3 England School Boy Internationals and 1 England Futsal International, 16 players have signed contracts with Dover Athletic and a further 4 with professional football clubs. Sean Raggett has had a professional football career for 10 years and is the current captain at Portsmouth in League 1.

The Academy has also been extremely successful across the pond in America and to date, has had 16 Academy graduates gain scholarships in America. These scholarships give players the opportunity to continue full-time training whilst studying for degrees. Many Academy graduates also go on to university such as Loughborough, to study a wide range of degrees. Some have even returned to The Abbey School as teachers, TAs, coaches and physios!

Here's a selection of some of our most recent success stories:



Hayden Wood - spent 3 years in the Academy, finishing his time as captain. He led the Academy to win the National League and the Kent Academies Cup, as well as lifting the PGMOL VAR trophy at St George's Park.

Henry Young - earned himself a first team contract with Dover Athletic at the start of the 2023/24 season, after impressing in pre-season. He was given his first opportunity in the National League and quickly became a favourite in the team. He's still part of the Academy whilst being contracted for the Dover Athletic First Team.



Flynn Toon - is currently studying at Blinn College in Texas, after completing his time with the Academy in 2022. Flynn played a huge role in many of the Academy's successes and trophy wins. A natural leader on the pitch, he will continue to go from strength to strength in America.



Cameron Chamberlain - after spending three years with the Academy and captaining the side to back-to-back VAR PGMOL champions, and then the National Youth League title, Cameron earned a full scholarship at Jones Community College, Mississippi.



Rolando Onu - is currently at Loyola Maryland University after completing two years at Eastern Florida College. Rolando spent three very successful years in the Academy, winning 'Player of the Year' and playing against the Indonesia National Team live on TV, which was broadcast to millions of viewers. He was also part of the team winning the Champion of Champions, Premier League VAR Tournament, and the Kent Academies Cup.



Felix Mesquita - is currently at the Midwestern State University in Texas after completing two years at Blinn College, Texas. Felix spent 3 years in the Academy before moving across the pond and during his time with us, he was part of the National Youth League winning side, as well as the Kent Academies Cup winners and PGMOL VAR champions.



Taite Holtum - started with the Academy in 2021 and quickly developed into an excellent goalkeeper who caught the attention of some professional football clubs. At the end of the 2021/22 season, Taite signed for Gillingham Football Club. We will continue to keep tracking Taite's progress over the coming years.



Harry Sikirwayi - During his 3 years with us, Harry became a full England International in Futsal and played in the 2023 World Cup for England. He was also part of The National League Youth League Champions team.



Kieran Agbebi - played a key role in the Academies FA Youth Cup success in 2022, making history in reaching the third round but getting knocked out by Premier League, Brighton and Hove Albion 2-1. Kieron also lifted the National League South trophy & made a number of appearances for the first team, becoming the youngest player to play in the National League for Dover aged just 16 in the 2021/22 season. Kieron's success and development caught the eye of Gillingham Football Club who signed him on a professional contract in July 2023.

Jack Nelson - joined the Academy in 2020 spending two years with us before gaining a full US scholarship at Eastern Florida College in 2022. Jack also made 7 National League appearances in the 2021-22 season, scoring his first senior goal at home against Weymouth.



Archie Hatcher - has been promoted to the first team squad, following his impressive performances last season in winning the National Youth League and also impressing the manager during pre-season.

Celebrating success outside school



The annual Faversham 10km took place last Saturday with the usual route starting at The Abbey School. This annual event is run in support of, and organised by, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, with sponsorship from Kesson Physio.. There was also a 1km Fun Run open to all ages around the Abbey School field, prior to the start of the 10km run. We're delighted to report that, from a field of over 350 participants, year 11 Abbey student, Hayden Kelk, achieved a magnificent 2nd place! Additionally, year 8 student, Freddie Lay, was an impressive first in the fun run!

Upcoming Key Dates

School Photographs Y7 & Y10
Geography Field Trip
Geography Field Trip
Open Evening
Pupil Parliament
Rewards Breakfast
Year 7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening
Open Morning
Flu Vaccinations Y7-11
Flu Vaccinations Y7-11
Open Morning
HALF-TERM (2 weeks)
Start of Term 2

Monday 25th September
Monday 25th September
Tuesday 26th September
Wednesday 27th September
Tuesday 3rd October
Wednesday 4th October
Wednesday 4th October
Friday 6th October
Monday 9th October
Tuesday 10th October
Wednesday 11th October
Monday 16th October
Monday 30th October



DON'T FORGET! Discovery Deputy-head Voting

Please use the following link to vote for the deputy-head for Discovery, **BUT REMEMBER** - you can only vote if you are in Discovery House.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=seJqziadYkaWa8FmyQmRLYWCHvf5Ve9BhveBq5T0sVIURThUVFgyRzRESTdaUEtMwVoo0WEITUlpjWi4u>