

February 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am contacting all parents in order to emphasise the importance of good attendance and punctuality. The link between these and good academic performance is well established. Poor attendance at school can have a dramatic impact on the progress a student makes. In addition the research shows that poor attendance is a significant factor when children of similar ability underperform at GCSE. Although normally a figure of 90% may be considered a good thing, when applied to attendance it means a student is absent one full day every two weeks! Any student whose attendance falls below this figure is deemed by the Government to be a pupil with persistent absence.

I want to make clear that I am not talking about cases of genuine illness nor family issues which may necessitate some time away from school. We fully understand that these things happen at different times for all of us at various points in the school year. However, I find it frustrating when things such as minor colds, the wind, or potential snow are used as excuses for absence. A key part of our function as a school is to prepare students for working life. Excuses such as these will not be tolerated in the workplace and getting into good habits and routines regarding attendance and punctuality early can only be a good thing.

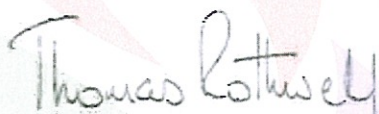
I would like to appeal to all parents and carers, to discuss with their children the importance of good attendance and not to accept flimsy reasons for keeping children at home. I also want to appeal to you to not take holidays during term time. We have noticed a pattern of poorer attendance on Fridays/Mondays and directly before or after school holidays. We are undertaking a number of strategies to intervene and improve attendance where it is recognised as an issue for individual students.

If you are concerned about attendance issues please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Fenwick, our Attendance Officer who will be able to offer support and guidance.

As always I personally want to thank those parents and carers whose child's attendance is exemplary, however, I hope you appreciate that I am writing to all parents so that you are aware as to how seriously we treat this issue.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely



Mr. T. Rothwell

Principal