

15 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

YEAR 10 ATTENDANCE

It has come to our attention that the attendance of some students in Year 10 is very poor. Currently, we have an attendance of 94.6% and our overall school target is 96%.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you how valuable it is for your child to be in school every day. The impact missing school days has on a child's success at GCSE level is very high; students are likely to achieve one grade lower in all subjects than they are targeted. Attendance is especially important in Year 10, when the subjects being taught include vital GCSE knowledge and skills that your child will need over the next 18 months. It is this knowledge and skills that will ensure your child succeeds during their forthcoming examinations.

We are finding that the reasons being given for students having the day off are not valid enough for them to be missing school. These reasons have included: a headache, cold/flu like symptoms and illness (with no specific diagnosis). We would always send a child home should their symptoms worsen throughout the day, but many of these ailments are likely to subside once the student is occupied and busy.

We have also noticed an increase in the amount of parents taking their child out of school for holidays during term time. Children have 192 days at school and 172 days on holiday. We implore you to take your holidays out of term time, which would therefore have no impact on your child's education.

We ask you to think very carefully about allowing your child to have the odd day off. It will impact upon their subject knowledge and they may fall behind their peers and struggle to catch up.

We do have a rewards system in place for those with consistently high attendance. These rewards include: a cinema experience, vouchers, bikes and computer games. It would be fantastic to see more of our Year 10 students being eligible for these rewards. I hope we can rely on your support and co-operation in this very important matter.

Thank you to the huge number of parents who do support the Academy in sending their children to school every day and thus give them every opportunity to succeed, in both their education and in their future.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Loveday – Head of Year 10