

12 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the second week back, we hope you and your family have had an enjoyable and productive summer break and your child has settled in well to the new academic year.

As a school we recognise that positive school attendance can have a significant positive impact on a child's future as well as their social and mental well-being.

You may or may not have seen the legislation that the government have released with regards to school attendance which came into effect as of August 2024:

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

Statistics show that students with less than 95% attendance will underperform in their GCSE exams when compared to those students who have 95% or above. Students with 95% attendance or above achieve on average ½ a grade more than their targeted grade. As a school we are 100% committed to the success of your child and we will drive home our message that attendance is fundamental in having happy and successful children.

Moving forward, we will continue to ensure that students know what their attendance percentage is both overall and for each week. They will also know whether it is at the 95% minimum target. Students with good or improving attendance will be rewarded with spot prizes and given the opportunity to attend end of term rewards events.

Students who do arrive late to school will also be challenged. We will continue to do this moving forward. Students are expected to arrive at their form room no later than 8.40am in the morning, after which point, they will be recorded as late. We are fully aware of issues with the bus companies, we are continually in communication with the companies and would appreciate you also contacting them if you have issue with their service.

Students arriving after 9:10am will be recorded on the register as a "U", this is via the guidance from the Government which is outlined below from page 91 of [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#):

401. This code is classified for statistical purposes as unauthorised absence.

Code U: Arrived in school after registration closed

Relevant regulation 10(7) and (8)

Where a pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session. This should be the same for every session and not longer than 30 minutes.

I hope you can see from this letter that our expectations around student attendance are high and that we are committed to seeing it improve. I do want to stress, however, that we want to work with parents to remove any barriers to good attendance that students and families may be experiencing. If you would like to get in touch regarding this, please contact school by telephone or email the Attendance Team at school on 0114 2461156.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your support as always.

Yours faithfully



R Walkden
Headteacher



Lee Hill
Assistant Headteacher