



January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. With the start of a new year underway, we would like to congratulate all our students who have made significant improvement in attendance over the autumn term. We are looking forward to reward students celebrating their efforts in meeting the school's expectation in regular attendance and punctuality.

At the same time can we remind all parents and carers of our expectations around school attendance. The Department for Education sets clear guidelines on school attendance. As a school, we aim for all students to have at least 96% attendance over the academic year. Studies consistently show that students with regular attendance are more likely to achieve higher outcomes and perform well academically. The correlation between attendance and attainment is a strong indicator of the impact that consistent school attendance has on a student's overall success. Maintaining strong attendance is not only beneficial for individual students but also contributes to the overall positive atmosphere of our school community. Regular attendance fosters a sense of belonging, encourages peer collaboration, and enhances the overall quality of education for everyone involved.

It is therefore important that students attend school whenever possible. Students should arrive onsite each day by the warning bell at 8:25am and be in their form room, ready to start the school day by 8:30am.

To help parents decide whether their child is poorly enough to warrant a day absent from school, the NHS has produced guidance on common illnesses. This guidance is available via the NHS - [Is my child too ill for school?](#) This web page underpins our decision on whether the reason provided for absence is to be authorised – please see link below. A copy of the guidance is attached for your information. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

The NHS message is clear – It is ok to allow a child or young person to go to school with some common or minor illnesses. Common colds, minor coughs, sore throats or headaches alone do not mean they are too unwell to attend school. Only absences that are unavoidable will be authorised by the school.

Please be reminded that parents are encouraged to contact school at an early stage and to work together to resolve any problems that may arise. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be resolved in this way and you are invited to attend a meeting at school regarding attendance; please do try to attend, or contact us to explain any difficulties that may be preventing your child from accessing their full educational entitlement.

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

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If you feel a meeting with our pastoral team or attendance officer would be beneficial to you and/or your child now, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our support is always available and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Gill
Assistant Headteacher

Claire Whitehead
Attendance Officer

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