

January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

It has been lovely to welcome our students back to school this week following the Christmas break. Standards of behaviour and attitudes to learning have largely been excellent, so thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is in on time, equipped, and ready to learn.

You may have seen or read about the Department for Education's new national campaign to improve students' attendance to school. This is something I am really pleased to see because, as a school leader, I know that the single biggest reason for students underachieving in their GCSE's last year was poor attendance. In fact, of the students in our Y11 last year with attendance below 85%, only 31% of them achieved a grade 4 in their English and maths - something that will have an impact on their life chances. Students with 85-89.99% attendance, only 51% of them achieved grade 4 in their English and maths. Those with 90% attendance and above, 92% of them achieved a grade 4 or above in English and maths. The numbers simply speak for themselves.

I believe passionately in the power of education to transform lives and students' regular attendance is vital. However, I fully understand how difficult it is as a parent to make the decision regarding whether your child is well enough to attend school. We are fortunate to have a Student Information Desk, staffed all day by a member of administration staff who is trained in First Aid and we can usually support your child if they are feeling slightly under the weather.

I have also attached a link to NHS guidance '[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)?](#)' to help you in that decision making process alongside the press release - [UKHSA reminds parents of back-to-school advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) from the UK Health Security Agency about the importance of good attendance. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Mr K Wright

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Regional Associate Vice Principal