

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

Dear Parent / Carer,

We wrote to you on the 15th of September stressing the importance of regular school attendance. In that letter we informed you of our procedures for requesting a leave of absence during term time (including for medical appointments and religious observance), reminded you not to book holidays during term time and stressed the importance of students arriving to school on time, every day. In case you missed it, a copy of that letter can be found on the letters section of the school website and is available by clicking on this link:

<https://www.kenstimpson.org.uk/15th-september-2023-attendance-letter>

We have now completed 3 of our 6 school terms, although in terms of school days have now 'ticked off' **104 days, or 54.7% of the school year**. For Year 11 and Year 13 students, there is even less lesson time remaining, as these students will have completed their final examinations by the end of June. In fact, there are fewer than 40 school days until the start of the summer examination series in early May.

It therefore seems an opportune time to write to you again with an attendance update. Being sent alongside this letter is a **personalised attendance report** for your son/daughter, showing their school attendance for the first three half terms. Please review this document carefully and if you require further information about your child's attendance, feel free to contact the School Attendance Officer.

We are reaching a crucial time of the year for all students, particularly those in the examination years. Every year we see the same patterns when we review our GCSE and A Level examination results; students whose attendance is 90% or higher typically outperform those students who are persistently absent. The UK government's own research confirms this is true nationwide: "Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent".

On the topic of research, you may have seen the news reports on the 23 January 2024 with the headline '**Every year spent in school or university improves life expectancy, study says**'*. These reports cited a study in The Lancet Public Health journal which found that there is a clear link between spending time in education and our life expectancy. The researchers also found that 'not attending school is as deadly as smoking or heavy drinking'. In short, attending school regularly really can help you live longer!

We will continue to work with you to help your child achieve the highest level of school attendance.

Yours sincerely



Mr Kevin Abbott
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs S Blackledge
Attendance Officer

* If you are interested, you can read the full news report here:

[Every year spent in school or university improves life expectancy, study says | Education | The Guardian](#)