

**Re: Year 10 Attendance – Building Strong Habits for GCSE Success**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin the summer term, I am writing to highlight the importance of excellent attendance for all Year 10 students, particularly as they prepare to enter their final GCSE year in September. Unfortunately, we saw a noticeable drop in the number of Year 10 pupils achieving 95% attendance during the last half term.

We know from both national research and our own school experience that attendance is most notably the strongest indicator of academic success. Students who attend regularly tend to be more confident, better prepared, and achieve higher outcomes in their exams.

Even small declines in attendance can have a significant impact. Recent data from the Department for Education shows that pupils with attendance below 90% are half as likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared to those with 95% attendance.

Many parents are surprised to learn just how quickly absences add up. For example, did you know that a pupil with 85% attendance will have missed 28 days of school over the course of a year? That’s nearly 1 full month of lost learning.

The table below shows how different attendance levels translate into days of school missed.

Days Lost of Learning

Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent
100%	0	90%	19	80%	38	70%	57	60%	76
99%	2	89%	21	79%	40	69%	59	59%	78
98%	4	88%	23	78%	42	68%	61	58%	80
97%	6	87%	25	77%	44	67%	63	57%	82
96%	8	86%	27	76%	46	66%	65	56%	84
95%	10	85%	28	75%	48	65%	66	55%	85
94%	11	84%	30	74%	49	64%	68	54%	87
93%	13	83%	32	73%	51	63%	70	53%	89
92%	15	82%	34	72%	53	62%	72	52%	91
91%	17	81%	36	71%	55	61%	74	51%	93

As we begin this new term, we are encouraging all Year 10 students and their families to make a renewed commitment to consistent, punctual attendance. This is vital to ensure they are fully prepared for the challenges of Year 11.

To support this, we are launching the ‘GCSE Ready: Attendance Challenge’ for Year 10 tutor groups. There will be weekly recognition and end-of-term rewards for the most improved attendance across the year group.

If there are any barriers impacting your child’s attendance, please get in touch with us so we can work together to find a solution. We want every student in Year 10 to finish the year strong and step confidently into their final GCSE year with excellent attendance habits in place.

Kind regards,  
Miss McQueenie