

Hawkley Hall High School

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Headteacher: Mr M. Klinck



'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding'. (Ofsted)

Tuesday 12th September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As the new academic year begins, I am writing to you with an overview of our approach to promoting outstanding attendance at Hawkley Hall High School.

Attending school every day and aiming for 100% attendance is a challenge but one that will impact positively on your child's academic and personal development. As parents and carers, you're the most important role-models when it comes to promoting the importance of outstanding attendance and ensuring that your child only stays off school when it is absolutely necessary. There may be times when your child needs to be off school for genuine reasons and as a school, we want to be able to authorise these absences. Children have lost significant time in the classroom since 2020 so it's more important than ever to attend school every day as well as arriving on time. Poor punctuality will often lead to attendance concerns so it's just as crucial to ensure that as parents and carers, you're supporting your child in arriving to school on time.

As I have alluded to, outstanding attendance has an undeniable link to outcomes, particularly GCSE results and our students with the best attendance records continue to outperform those with poor attendance records. This will also be the case at Key Stage 3; students with poor attendance records will find it difficult to make the amount of progress that they're capable of. Attendance becomes a concern when it falls below 95% as this equates to a day off every 4 weeks. When attendance drops below 90%, this becomes a major concern and data shows that this is where GCSE outcomes are affected the most. We want all of our students to reach their potential or even go beyond it and this will only happen if they're in the classroom. Data that shows the link between attendance and GCSE results will be shared with Y10 and Y11 students over the coming weeks. The parents and carers of Y11 students in particular whose attendance and punctuality is having a detrimental impact on their academic progress will be contacted and supported to ensure that come GCSE Results' Day in August, their child has achieved the grades to take them into further education.

Where attendance is a concern, students are supported by Form Tutors, Heads of Year and the Attendance Officer amongst others and interventions will be used where appropriate. These can include informal conversations, meeting with the Attendance Officer, Educational Penalty Notices and referrals to the Local Authority's Attendance Enforcement Team. **This year, we have also introduced an Attendance Drop-In. This takes place every Friday 2-3pm and is an opportunity for parents and carers to speak to our Attendance Officer, Mrs. Parker, if they have concerns about their child's attendance; parents and carers are invited to arrive in reception and ask to see Mrs. Parker.** We also want to celebrate outstanding attendance with form rewards, badges and trips for those students who make great efforts to be in school, on time, as much as possible.

Parents and carers can support their children in ensuring they end the year with an outstanding attendance record by **not allowing unnecessary days off, making appointments out of school hours wherever this is possible and not taking holidays during term time**. As a school, we're here to help so please contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or Mrs. Parker as soon as possible if you become concerned about your child's attendance as intervening early is crucial.

Kind regards,



Mr. Klinck

Headteacher



Hawkey Hall High School (Public Group)

@hawkeyhallhighschool