

19th September 2024

Dear Families

Year 11 Attendance

I'd like to start by recognising the positive start that so many of our Year 11 students have made in terms of their punctuality and attendance since the start of term. It's fantastic to see such commitment from them and I know that this will set the tone for a successful year.

However, I must also express a concern that I've noticed some students have already taken days off over the past 2 weeks. I'm addressing you today not just as the Principal but as a Year 11 teacher myself, with the responsibility for a class that I am deeply invested in. **I want to be very clear: my expectation is that all students are 'In School, On Time', every day, unless there is a serious reason they cannot be here.**

There is a strong correlation between attendance and outcomes and while I believe this year group has the potential to do extremely well, students who are already missing days are limiting their own chances of success. Missing even a day of learning, especially in Year 11, can have a significant impact on their progress. Research shows that students who take 17 or more days off achieve one grade lower in every subject they sit.

As families, I would appreciate your support in holding the line on this. **If your child has a minor issue, like a headache or something similar, I expect them to be in school.** A bottle of water will solve most issues!

If you have any concerns or are aware of any barriers preventing your child from attending school, please do not hesitate to contact members of the team, including:

- Mrs Leaper, Attendance Lead,
- Mrs Parkes, Family Liaison Officer,
- Mr Gamble, Head of Year 11,
- Mrs Boag, Assistant Principal,
- Mr Lawlor, Senior Assistant Principal,
- Mrs Bailey-Wiles, Vice Principal,
- Mrs Aveyard, Vice Principal,
- Myself, Mr Coles, Principal, or
- Any member of staff.

We are all here to support you and your child. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Coles
Principal