



10 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you as we are now entering the last few months before GCSE'S. While there is still some uncertainty regarding what changes will be made to examinations due to Covid-19, we are due to receive more information before half term, we do know that we have approximately 5 months before the examinations start.

With this in mind, we wanted to remind you of the importance of good attendance in school. In 2016 the Department for Education (DfE) published research which found that:

- The higher the overall absence rate across KS4 (Year10-11), the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS4 (GCSEs)
- Pupils with **no absence** are 1.3 times more likely to achieve a level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve a level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15% of all sessions
- Pupils with **no absence** are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs at level 9-6 including English and Mathematics than pupils who missed 15-20% of KS4 lessons

What this research clearly shows is that there is a strong link between poor attendance and lower academic achievement. Further DfE research on found that:

- Of pupils with **absence over 50%**, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9-6 including Maths and English
- 73% of pupils who have **over 95% attendance** achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9-6

The research also shows that pupils with persistent absence (below 90%) are less likely to stay in education.

It is therefore vital that your child attends school every day over the coming months to ensure they are present for all of their remaining lessons as well as revision, which will be planned into lesson time as we near the exam season. We understand that some may still be experiencing the impact of Covid-19 and therefore need encouragement to attend school every day, whilst following the Government's guidelines.

As parents and carers, we need your support in encouraging your child into school every day. The GCSE results they achieve will have an impact on their next steps after leaving Barnwood Park regardless of where they may continue their education.

If you have any concerns then please contact Mrs Cambridge (Attendance Manager), Miss Owen (Pastoral Lead) or myself. Please also remember that on the rare occasions when a student is unable to attend, you must let the school know by phoning the attendance line. One way of helping to achieve this is to avoid appointments during the school day and encouraging students into school, even if it is for a half day rather than losing the whole day, which is 300 minutes of learning.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Bryan Gardner
Assistant Headteacher

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