

22 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you about school absence and the national (and local) crisis schools have faced since the pandemic.

Today, an unremarkable Monday in the third week back after a two-week holiday, 10% of our students are absent from school. This is the most important examination year of their lives so far.

We've become used to these statistics and sadly, these patterns of absence are now considered normal in schools. Indeed, our attendance is higher than national and local averages.

Totals and averages mean little other than to illustrate the problem we face in school. What matters most is your own child's attendance.

We have spoken above about the significant correlation between absence and exam results. Put simply, students who miss school regularly, reduce their lifetime earning potential because they achieve worse exam results than their peers and develop poor habits to take into the workplace where high levels of absence, poor punctuality or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can result in dismissal.

You may think I am over-dramatising, but my experience tells me that this is a real concern and the Government agrees because they have highlighted the issue in recent weeks.

Please can I ask that if your child is absent from school regularly (students should have full attendance most weeks) you seek to address this and ask us for support if you are struggling with your child.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kowalczyk
Deputy Headteacher

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