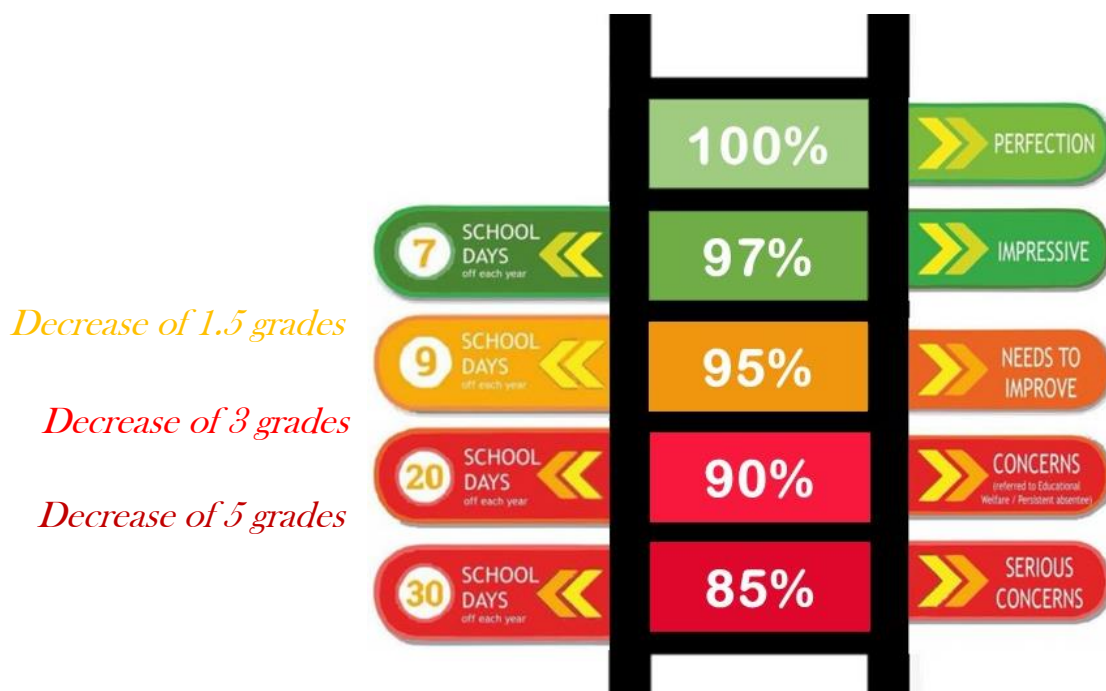


30th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the October half term we would like to reiterate the importance of student's attendance and how this can significantly impact their GCSE grades, and therefore the post-16 opportunities available to them.

Attendance, and the impact on grades, can be difficult to comprehend, especially as student's percentages are continually changing. To support students we have created the below visual so they are able to not only track their attendance using 'days off', but also so they can see how it, on average, could affect their GCSE results. For example, students who have 9 days off school, on average have a grade and a half decrease to what they would have got if their attendance was better. Please regularly discuss the importance of attendance with your child, and use this visual to remind them of the importance of this year.



To support students to not only increase and maintain their attendance, but to ensure they are not at a disadvantage by missing key learning, we are putting the following interventions in place. All the interventions have been shared in assembly, with students engaging well with key interventions already. We thank you in advance for your support with these interventions, as well as ensuring your child's attendance is a priority.

Firstly, each week, in assembly, every student who has been in attendance for the entire week prior will be put into a draw for a prize. This is done randomly using a 'wheel of names'. Having already done this twice students have engaged with this well and the celebratory atmosphere in assembly is astounding.

Secondly, Year 11 Celebration Events, taking place after the GCSE exam series, are in the beginning planning stages, with Year 11 Form Representatives playing an active role in organisation of this. To be able to take part in these students will be expected to have shown our ERA Values and ERA Habits throughout Year 11, as well as having 95% attendance; with medically authorised absences discounted from this.

With regards to students missing key learning time, detrimentally affecting their attendance; if a student has a day off absent during the school week they will be expected to remain at school on a Friday until 5pm to catch up on missed work. This will primarily focus on core subjects but also allow them to fulfil any coursework obligations too with laptops available for them to use to complete their catch up work. It is vital that you support the Academy with this so that your child is not disadvantaged in their GCSE journey, and ultimately negatively affecting their grades. You will be notified, via text, if your child is expected to remain at the Academy on a Friday by the Wednesday of that week. If a student is absent Thursday or Friday it will roll over to the following week. Where it is the last week of term the catch up session will take place on the Thursday rather than the Friday. Friday intervention will begin this coming Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

In addition to the weekly prize draw, there will be a half termly draw with two £20 Amazon vouchers as prizes. For every week that a student has 100% attendance their name will be put into a raffle. For example this week there will be up to six times a student's name can be entered. This will be drawn at random during our end of each half term's assembly, again celebrating the attendance of all involved.

Lastly, as per previous years, we will be holding a 'Hot Chocolate and Donut' event during tutor time each half term for those students who had 100% attendance for the previous half term. As before, students enjoy this celebration, and there is always a lovely buzz in the restaurant when this is held.

As mentioned, if you would like additional support with your child's attendance please do get in touch with the Academy, either with your child's form tutor, Mrs Long (Student Welfare Officer), Miss Pickering (Progress Leader), or Mr Baria (Year 11 Senior Leadership Team Link).

If you have any questions about any of the above please email your student's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Mr G. Baria  
Senior Vice Principal



Miss H. Pickering  
Year 11 Progress Leader