



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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Campus Whitehaven, Red Lonning, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8UG

Head Teacher: Emma Jackson

6th December 2023

Ref: letters/CR/attendance

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Importance of Good Attendance in Year 11 and Its Impact on Future Opportunities

As we approach a crucial part of the academic year for Year 11 pupils, I wanted to take a moment to emphasise the significant role that consistent attendance plays in their overall success and future opportunities.

Year 11 is a pivotal time in a pupil's educational journey, with the upcoming examinations serving as a crucial stepping stone toward their future endeavours. **It is imperative that pupils are present for each lesson, as the content covered in class is directly linked to their examination syllabus.**

Good attendance is not merely a matter of fulfilling a requirement; rather, it is an investment in your child's academic achievements and, consequently, their future prospects. Colleges, Sixth Form, apprenticeships, and potential employers all scrutinise attendance records as part of their selection process. Regular attendance and punctuality are seen as a strong indicator of commitment, responsibility, and work ethic.

Missing lessons can have a direct impact on examination results, potentially hindering the academic achievements necessary for successful college applications or apprenticeship opportunities. Furthermore, employers often request attendance data, including the number of late marks and instances of unauthorised absences. This information forms an integral part of their decision-making process when considering potential candidates.

It is important for parents to be aware that the school has the responsibility to determine whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised. Unauthorised absences can have serious repercussions on a pupil's academic record and, subsequently, their future opportunities. Please be aware that anyone with an attendance percentage below 90% will not have their absences authorised without medical evidence.

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, and we appreciate your cooperation in communicating any concerns or challenges that may affect your child's attendance. Our school is committed to working collaboratively with parents to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Please can I ask you to emphasise the significance of regular attendance with your child.

You will soon receive our new attendance tracker card, via email, which will state the number of days and critically the number of lessons missed through absence. I hope this is a useful tool to help communicate the impact of absences. This month's attendance newsletter explains this new feature in more detail. The newsletter is available on the school website.

Thank you for your support with this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact Alison Doran, Attendance Officer if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

C. Redhead
Assistant Headteacher



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