



5 November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Attendance

The first week of this term has been a busy one as we held our Sixth Form open evening and finally completed the installation of our new fitness suite. As our Year 11 students complete their preparations for their PPE (mock) assessments, I know parents and carers will be pleased to hear that I have had many conversations which reflect the positive approach they are taking.

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on both students and staff attendance. While the number of students currently off school due to COVID has fallen by approximately 40% compared to before half-term, the total number of students absent remains high. In fact, our absence rate is currently double what we would usually see at this time of year.

The rules in relation to COVID-19 are very clear with students able to attend school unless they are symptomatic or they have had a positive Lateral Flow or PCR test. At the moment, absences due to other illnesses are also high and it is important that we do not allow the previous lockdowns make non-attendance the norm. If students do not have COVID, it is important that they do their best to attend school.

The latest guidance for schools states, "school management are responsible for breaking chains of transmission to prevent detrimental impact on education". Therefore, it is important that students continue to take two lateral flow tests per week, booking a follow up PCR test should they receive a positive result.

I would like to remind parents and carers that we currently recommend the wearing of face masks in all communal areas of the school. With the impact COVID is having on our staffing, we must do whatever we can to keep the academy running normally. While other schools have already had to temporarily close year groups and revert to remote learning, we have managed to avoid this. We will do everything we can to continue to keep the school open to all students but we must slow the transmission of the virus.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frazer
Principal

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