

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we come to the end of the first half term, I want to take a moment to emphasise the vital role that regular attendance plays in your child's education and overall development.

Well done to the 389 students whose attendance is above 96%

Consistent attendance is fundamental to academic success. When students are present in class, they have the opportunity to engage in discussions, participate in group activities, and build essential relationships with their teachers and peers. These interactions enhance their understanding of the material and foster a sense of belonging within our school community.

Research shows that students who attend school regularly tend to perform better academically. Each lesson builds on the last, and missing even a few days can lead to gaps in knowledge that are difficult to fill. Additionally, students who are present benefit from immediate feedback and support from their teachers, which is crucial for mastering new concepts. We will be recognising those students who have good or improving attendance, this could be through hot chocolate Friday, certificates, prize draws or towards bigger events throughout the year.

If your child needs to take time off due to illness, please call the school each day of their absence. Please telephone 01983 538055 by 8:45. For ongoing medical concerns, we will require medical evidence to ensure we can provide appropriate support.

Throughout the year, we will be monitoring attendance closely. If a child's attendance falls below the requirements set by the Department of Education, we will work together to develop a plan of support. Unfortunately, if attendance continues to decline, we will need to follow government guidance that could lead to legal action.

Key Points to Consider:

- A child who is absent for one day each week misses the equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good GCSE grades, and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.
- Poor examination results limit young people's options, and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable.
- There is a strong link between poor school attendance and crime; a quarter of school-age offenders have truanting repeatedly.

For more information, please visit the Isle of Wight Council website and review the guidance on penalty notices. Isle of Wight Council website [here](#) and guidance on Penalty notices are [here](#) for further information.

The school does not support taking holidays during term time, and we strongly request that you avoid doing so. If a holiday is absolutely unavoidable, please contact us to discuss the situation.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring your child's success this year. If you have any concerns or would like support with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact your child's year office or our attendance team

Kind regards

'The Attendance Team '

Mrs Salter - Attendance Officer

Mrs Mills - Head of Year 7

Miss Blackmore - Head of Year 8

Mr Murdoch - Head of Year 9

Mrs Bristow - Head of Year 10

Mr Jones - Head of Year 11

Mrs Sandiford - Director of Behaviour and Wellbeing

Miss James - Assistant Head for Behaviour and Safeguarding