

Friday 20th September 2024

Re: Attend to Achieve!

Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance at Wodensborough Ormiston Academy continues to be one of our highest priorities – we know that if our pupils are in school, they are safe and have the best chance of succeeding.

The Department for Education (DfE) recently published their findings on the link between absence and attainment at key stage 4. The findings show that **there is a very clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement.**

While an attendance figure of 90% may not sound very low, it significantly reduces a child’s chance of achieving 5 or more 9-5 grades at GCSE from 81% to around 57%. A child who averages 80% attendance during their secondary school career effectively misses one whole year of education and will massively reduce their chances of securing good outcomes at the end of Year 11.

Even for high-achieving students’, poor attendance has a negative impact on their grades. It has been shown that missing just 17 days of school reduces final GCSE grades by one level across all subjects. This could result in a student not being able to follow the pathway they want in life, be it sixth-form/college courses, apprenticeships or university...

The impact absence has on your child’s attendance rate	
Total number of days off in a school year	Attendance rate %
0	100%
10	95%
20	90%
30	85%
40	80%

How attendance affects life chances
Very Good chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9
Good Chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9
Less than 50% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9
Less than 35% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9
Less than 30% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9



Lateness also has a negative impact on learning. Being just 5 minutes late every day equates to 3 whole days of learning lost; 30 minutes late every day is equivalent to 19 days or in excess of one grade less for each subject your child takes at GCSE. Students need to understand not only the impact that persistent lateness and absenteeism has on their current studies and examinations but also in adult life and the workplace.

We ask you as parents/carers to continue to work with us collectively to ensure that your child's attendance does not become a barrier to them receiving the best possible outcomes.

Please contact me at the Academy if you would like to discuss this letter or would like any support in helping to improve your child's attendance.

Yours sincerely,



Leigh Moore
Principal



Jayne Cooper
Senior Leader: Attendance, Engagement & Admissions