



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear parents / carers,

Whilst much has changed within our school community as a result of coronavirus, we remain committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils. To achieve this we must work together, you have a vital role to play in your child's success. Now more than ever, as we look to recover from lockdown, children need to be in school. The first step to academic success is establishing excellent attendance habits. Student attendance is critical to achievement at all age levels.

Did you know?

Government research published since 2016 shows that:

- **77%** of pupils with an attendance record of 95% or better achieved 5 GCSEs including Maths and English at level 5+.
- Only **43%** of pupils with an attendance record below 90% achieved 5 GCSEs including Maths and English at level 5+.
- Only **32%** of pupils with an attendance record below 80% achieved 5 GCSEs including Maths and English at Grade 5+.

What does 95% attendance look like?

In order to achieve 95% attendance, a student cannot miss any more than 9 days across the school year. Even this, equates to 1 week and 4 days of missed learning, almost 2 full school weeks!

This year St Joseph's will be going further than ever in our efforts to improve student attendance because we want all of our students to succeed to the best of their abilities. This effort will be based around several key initiatives:

- **Appointment of Attendance Officer:** We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a dedicated attendance officer to oversee all student attendance at St Joseph's.
- **Attendance Tracking:** Over the summer we have developed an automatic system which will monitor all students and alert our Attendance Officer, Form Tutors, Directors of Learning and Senior Leaders if there is a negative trend in an individual student's attendance.
- **Early Intervention:** Research shows that the earlier attendance concerns are addressed, the less likely the student involved is to become a persistent absentee.
- **Increased Communication:** The school will be engaging parents in discussion regarding concerns with their child's attendance far more regularly.

- **Information Sharing:** We are currently constructing a new page for the school website which will collate key attendance information for parents as well as guidance for how to help improve your child's attendance.
- **Rewards & Incentives:** The school will be running a number of initiatives throughout the year to celebrate those students who maintain outstanding attendance (over 97%, set by Department for Education), but also those students who show improved attendance over a set period.

St Joseph's is committed to working with all of our families to ensure that students are able to strive for outstanding attendance. We ask please that you work with us to achieve this. If you are aware of a circumstance impacting your child's ability or willingness to attend school, then please make contact with their Form Tutor to discuss this as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

O. Ford
Senior Leader – Attendance & Behaviour