



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent / Guardian

We hope this letter finds you well. As we begin the new school year, we want to take a moment to emphasize the critical importance of regular attendance at school but also provide insight into why St Joseph's places such a strong emphasis on attendance.

Your child's attendance plays a significant role in their academic success, social development, and future opportunities.

>> The link between attendance and attainment: Attendance is directly linked to academic achievement. Research conducted by the Department for Education over several years has consistently shown that students who attend school regularly are more likely to excel in their studies. The classroom is where students engage with new ideas, receive valuable instruction, and build the foundation for future learning. Regular attendance ensures that your child doesn't miss out on these essential opportunities.

When students are absent, they miss valuable lessons (6 per day!), discussions, and the chance to ask questions. These gaps can accumulate over time, making it challenging for them to catch up. Consistent attendance helps students stay on track with the curriculum, leading to better understanding and improved performance in assessments.

Further information regarding attendance rates and likely GCSE outcomes can be found on the attendance page of our school website or in our Parent Information leaflet which comes attached to this letter.

>> The role of school in students' Social Development: If the enforced closure of schools during the COVID pandemic taught us nothing else, it demonstrated that school is not only a place for academic growth but also a vital hub for social development. It's where students form friendships, learn to collaborate, and develop crucial interpersonal skills. Consistent attendance allows your child to participate fully in extracurricular activities, group projects, and community events, fostering social connections that can last a lifetime.

Moreover, attending school regularly exposes students to diverse perspectives and experiences, helping them become more open-minded and culturally aware. These social skills and cultural competencies are invaluable as your child prepares for adulthood and the global workforce.

>> The Importance of a Good Attendance Record for Future Opportunities: As your child progresses through St Joseph's, they are building a record of attendance that will have far-reaching implications for their future. Colleges, universities, and employers will enquire about an applicant's attendance history (and punctuality) when requesting references and making decisions. A consistent attendance record demonstrates responsibility,

reliability, and a strong work ethic – qualities highly sought after by colleges and employers.

In an increasingly competitive job market, having a strong attendance record can set your child apart from other candidates. It sends a powerful message to potential employers that they are committed and dedicated individuals who take their responsibilities seriously.

We hope that this letter and the attached Parent Information leaflet provide some clarity regarding our stance on school attendance and reassure that our motives are rooted deeply in wanting the very best outcomes; academically and socially for all our students. We encourage you to prioritize punctuality and attendance, as it is an investment in your child's present and future. If you have any concerns or face challenges related to attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via our Office Mrs Oakley (attendance@sics.org.uk) or via your child's Form Tutor. We are here to support you and your child in every way we are able to.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring the best outcomes for your child.

Sincerely,

St Joseph's Catholic School Leadership Team