



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

Dear Parent/Carer

The Importance of Good Attendance

Following recent research carried out by the Department for Education in February 2015, on pupil absence and exam results, there is further evidence supporting the link between attendance and achievement.

There is a strong connection between good attendance and the achievement of students at school. In fact, the strongest factor in underperformance at GCSE, AS and A Level is poor attendance. The most recent research suggests that even short breaks from school can reduce a pupil's chances of succeeding at school by as much as 25%.

It shows 44% of pupils with no absence in key stage 4 (normally aged 16) achieve the English Baccalaureate - the gold standard package of GCSE qualifications that includes English, maths, science, history or geography and a language - opening doors to their future. But this figure falls to just 31.7% for pupils who miss 14 days of lessons over the 2 years that pupils study for their GCSEs, which equates to around 1 week per year, and to 16.4% for those who miss up to 28 days.

With the recent identification of increased attendance nationwide, the Government have adjusted the measure to gauge whether students are classed as persistent absentees. The figure used to be set at 85% but has been increased now to 90%. Our approach to attendance will reflect this rise as we look to support students and families to achieving our target attendance for each student of 98%. Any students who start to fall below 93% will receive contact from our Attendance and Welfare Officer who will help support those concerned in an attempt to increase their attendance at the Academy.

We do however, understand that sometimes attendance is not possible and I encourage you in such circumstances to contact your son/daughter's College Leader as soon as possible if the absence is likely to become extended for any period of time. I would like to thank parents/carers for their support with attendance of their son/daughter at the Academy so far this academic year and hope we continue to strive together for excellent attendance in the remainder of the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you wish to discuss the content of this letter in more detail.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Damon Gariff
College Leader for Vela

