

## 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

This weekly bulletin for parents and carers shares the practices that are shaping our successful journey as a school. Each week will see a different focus covering aspects such as teaching & learning, curriculum, assessment, pastoral care, attendance, careers, well-being, personal development and much more.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ATTENDANCE – MOCKS DO MATTER!!

#### **Why does attendance matter to us and why should it matter to you?**

Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential and Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School is committed to providing all children with the best possible start in life and will work hard to ensure that all students attend school regularly. We believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

#### **We will tackle attendance because:**

- Irregular attendance seriously disrupts continuity of learning; leading to underachievement and low attainment
- Students with poor attendance will have gaps in their learning
- Poor attendance will hinder the child's ability to develop friendships
- We want to make sure your child is safe
- We want to increase children and young people's opportunities
- It will positively impact your child's wellbeing and wider development

#### **Working in partnership to achieve attendance goals**

Where parents/carers decide to have their child registered at our school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. This means your child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill.

Parents/carers have the power to make the biggest difference, and here are a few key strategies:

- Talk to your child about school and what goes on there. Take a positive interest in your child's work and educational progress
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment
- Contact the school if your child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return
- Try to avoid unnecessary absences. Wherever possible make any medical or dental appointments outside of school hours

- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on your child's attendance
- Support the school: take every opportunity to get involved in their child's education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home
- Avoid taking your child on holiday during term time, where this is unavoidable, send a written leave request to the head teacher in advance of booking the holiday.

### **So how does absence impact attainment and progress nationally?**

- Students with higher attainment at Key stage 4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment
- Students who did not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among students who achieved a grade 4 or better
- Among students with no missed sessions over Key Stage 4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths compared to 35.6% of students who were persistently absent
- **Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across key stage 4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of Year 11.**

### **What is the impact of attendance on exam performance for student in our school?**

The main performance measure for schools on how well students have performed in their end of Year 11 exams is called Progress 8. Progress 8 is a type of 'value-added' measure that indicates how much a secondary school has helped pupils improve (or progress) over a five-year period when compared to a government-calculated expected level of improvement.

If a student achieves a positive Progress 8 score, it means a student has achieved higher than other students across the country of the same starting point from the end of primary school. When looking at the performance of our Year 11 students last year there is a very strong relationship between attendance and a student's Progress 8 score. **Students who achieved 97% or greater attendance by the end of Year 11, achieved a progress 8 score of (+0.432).** This means this group of students achieved significantly higher than other student across the country. **Students who achieved less than 90% attendance, achieved a progress 8 score of (-0.950).** This is almost a grade lower than what other students across the country achieved with the same starting point. **The evidence speaks for itself. Students who have higher attendance achieve better in their exams.**

**THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN YEAR 11 – MOCK EXAMS START  
MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AND RUN FOR TWO WEEKS**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS ASSEMBLY – FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS PARENTS' EVENING – MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**