



ARROW VALE  
Ian Mellor, Principal (BSc. FRSA)  
Matchborough Way  
Redditch  
Worcestershire  
B98 0GF

September, 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Re: School Attendance

We hope this letter finds you well. At Arrow Vale, we truly value the partnership between our dedicated educators and you, the supportive parents, in fostering an environment that nurtures the growth and development of your children. We would like to take a moment to celebrate and recognize the students who have consistently maintained excellent attendance, over the previous year, demonstrating their commitment to their education. Your unwavering support in this endeavour is highly appreciated. We would also like to welcome our new students joining us in Year 9 and in Year 12.

### Celebrating Outstanding Attendance:

We extend our congratulations to the students who have shown exceptional attendance records throughout the past academic year. Your commitment to their regular attendance has not only contributed to your child's academic success, but has also instilled in them the essential values of responsibility and discipline.

However, we understand that attendance patterns can vary from student to student and family to family, and we appreciate the unique circumstances that each family faces. For this reason, we want to stress the importance of maintaining or improving attendance for all students, regardless of their current attendance status.

### The Importance of Consistent Attendance:

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress and overall well-being. It helps them:

- **Stay on Track:** Consistent attendance ensures that your child does not fall behind in their studies and can actively engage in the learning process.
- **Build Strong Relationships:** Attending school regularly allows students to build meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers, fostering a sense of belonging and community.
- **Develop Life Skills:** Good attendance teaches essential life skills such as punctuality, responsibility, and time management, which are valuable throughout their lives.

We know that school attendance is an important part of helping students to achieve their potential in school. Our most successful students regularly achieve 100% attendance each week and their average attendance for the year is over 95%. By making sure they are in school, these students are putting themselves in the best position to succeed in exams, in the world of work, and in life.

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Below is a chart demonstrating how absence affects learning:

Days off	%	Hours of Maths/English/Science missed
7	96	5.83 hours per subject
10	95	8.33 hours per subject
19	90	15.83 hours per subject

Missing school for just a few days a year can damage pupils' chances of gaining good GCSEs, according to a new report published by the Department for Education today (24 March 2016).

The new research shows that overall absence had a negative link to attainment, with every extra day missed associated with a lower chance of achieving 5 or more good GCSEs

We want to work with all of our families to help ensure that all of our students can be successful in school. **There are some easy steps you can take at home to raise the importance of attendance with your child and support them to make the most of their education:**

- Discuss the benefits of school attendance regularly. These include academic achievement and opportunities to develop important social skills that will set them up for life.
- Establish a regular evening and morning routine. Getting a good night's sleep and being organised in the morning helps to remove some of the barriers to positive attendance.
- Unless essential, schedule medical and other appointments outside of school time. This will also help model how adults must manage personal commitments around work.
- Encourage attendance to extra-curricular activities: students who play an active role in the school community are likely to be more motivated to attend school.
- Explain that sick days should only be taken when absolutely necessary. Unless there is a specific reason for a student to be off school, they should attend and will be sent home if they are too unwell. Colds etc are unpleasant but aren't a reason to be off school.
- Explain that students can speak to any member of staff if they have concerns about school. Students must be in school for us to help fix problems with them.

As a school we value the importance of student attendance and offer a range of incentives for students who have an excellent attendance record or work to improve their attendance at school. By working together, we can help ensure your child is in school and working towards their goals and ambitions.

Please see the link to the Government guidelines on improving school attendance for further information.

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>

If you would like to discuss attendance, please email your child's Form Tutor, who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,



Niall Brennan  
Assistant Principal - Attendance