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Dear parent/carers

As I am sure you are aware there is a big push on attendance across the country following a decline in students' attendance during the Covid pandemic and we need your help in responding to this important issue.

At Belper School and Sixth Form Centre, our hope is that students attend 100% of the time. By doing this, they are maximising the opportunities for learning and will be as prepared for their future as they can be. Every day missed from school is learning time potentially lost. As an example, if a student attends 90% of the time across a year this may be seen as good (and would be a good result in an exam), but they will have missed 100 lessons.

Analysis of the recent year 11 and year 13 examination results showed a clear connection between attendance and grades achieved. For example, students with strong attendance usually significantly outperformed national averages whereas those with less than 80% achieved much lower results - often losing 1-2 grades per subject. When we looked at other schools, it was the same pattern across Derbyshire.

We appreciate that there are times when a student is too ill to attend school and we will always be supportive in those situations. We also recognise that medical appointments can be difficult to get outside of school hours but we ask that every effort is made to do this to minimise the impact on learning.

Schools have received advice from the Department for Education in a **Letter to school leaders on mild illness and school attendance** in which there is a link to the NHS document <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please read this for advice and guidance on when **not to** keep your child off of school.

In addition to attendance, punctuality is very important and as you will be aware, we have new systems in place for punctuality as laid out below.

The school day will start at 8.40am, and students will need to be in their tutor base by that time; therefore, students will be expected to be on the school site by 8:35am. **Students who arrive after 8.35am will receive a 30 minute after school detention the next day.** Students will have a morning break at 10:55am, which will last until 11:15am, and a lunch break at 12:15pm, which will last until 1:00pm – students will be expected to have returned from each break promptly and be ready to recommence learning at the stated times.

Continued ...

We appreciate your support for this crucial issue and we hope that, by working together, we can raise students' attendance back to its pre-pandemic levels.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Brookes
Assistant Headteacher

Create Your Future



BE PRESENT **BE PUNCTUAL**

THERE ARE 175 NON-SCHOOL DAYS DURING THE YEAR TO SPEND ON FAMILY TIME, VISITS, HOLIDAYS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

DAYS OFF SCHOOL ADD UP TO LOST LEARNING

BE BELPER

100%

OUR TARGET FOR ALL STUDENTS

97%

6 DAYS ABSENCE
30 HOURS LOST LEARNING

EXCELLENT
OR GOOD ATTENDANCE
BEST CHANCE OF
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

95%

10 DAYS ABSENCE
50 HOURS LOST LEARNING

WORRYING
AT RISK OF MAKING IT
HARDER
TO PROGRESS

90%

19 DAYS ABSENCE
95 HOURS LOST LEARNING

CONCERN
LESS CHANCE OF SUCCESS
AND SIGNIFICANTLY
REDUCES LEARNING