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Dear Parent/Carer

Attendance Matters

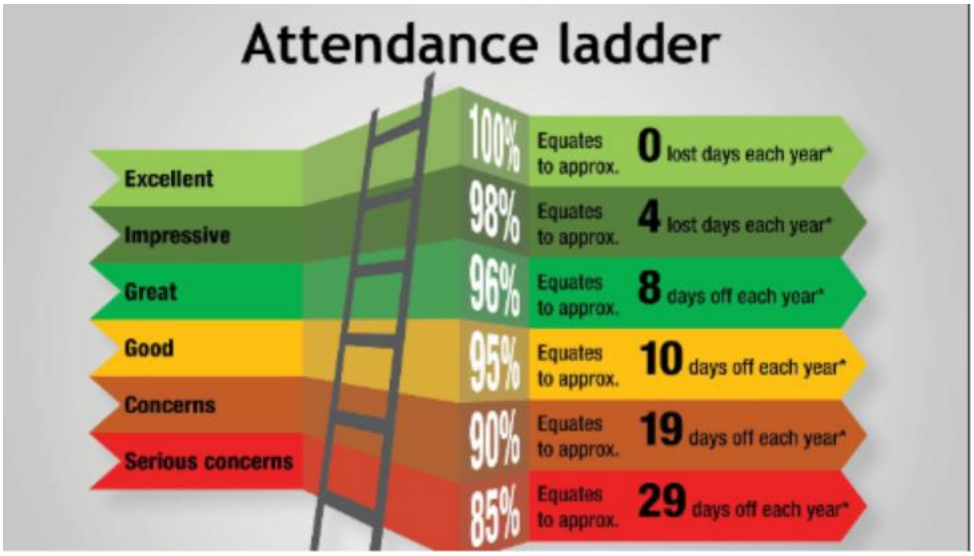
As we fast approach the middle of term 1, I wanted to get in touch and give some updates on the importance of positive attendance at school.

One of the major focuses for any school during the first term is to analyse exam results. The reasons for this are many but primarily it is to inform positive changes in course delivery and learning and teaching. In addition to this we are also able to see how attendance at school directly effects attainment.

Of last year's S4 cohort the average attendance across the year was 85% (as of March 25) and the average attendance of pupils achieving 5 or more passes at N5 level was over 93%.

Of last year's S5 their average attendance was higher at 89% with pupils attaining 4/5 Highers having an average attendance sitting close to 95%.

To help demonstrate how this looks in terms of lost learning we use visuals like this one below:



It is helpful to use this and see that pupils who have attendance in the yellow or green zones are clearly attaining more N5s and Highers across the cohorts. Whilst this may seem obvious that pupils with better attendance will attain more, it is important for me to share it with you as we will be holding attendance discussions very soon. We will be providing messages such as this with pupils to support them in increasing their attendance where possible.

As always, I understand that pupils have genuine reasons for not attending and I am not belittling these reasons but where we can make small adjustments, I feel we must.

You will receive your child's attendance as part of our tracking reports. This is a great opportunity to reinforce these messages.

Should you wish to discuss attendance with us please contact the school office who will direct you to a member of the support team.

Yours faithfully

Mr Craig Martin
DHT Support for Staff and Pupils