

MAY 2021

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, wellbeing, personal development and much more.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

In a pre-pandemic world, regular school attendance was always essential if students were to achieve their full potential. Now, given the school closures and national lockdowns, high levels of attendance and punctuality has an even greater importance.

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School is committed to providing all students with the best possible start in life and will work hard to ensure that all students attend school regularly and have not been disadvantaged by the pandemic. We believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling students to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults. We endeavour to provide an environment where all students feel valued and welcome, allowing individuals to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

Our school aims:

- To promote good attendance and punctuality for all students with all stakeholders
- To enable all students to have full access to the curriculum through regular attendance
- To intervene and challenge all students who require the necessary support to achieve good attendance
- To meet targets set by the Local Authority regarding attendance and to drive school attendance beyond national averages.

We are committed to tackling poor 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 students' ability to develop friendship groups
- We want to make sure students are safe
- We want to increase students' opportunities.

The school requests that parents will:

- Talk to their child about school and what goes on there. Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance with the home environment

- 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 their child's attendance
- Support the school, taking every opportunity to get involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school and acknowledging the importance of children receiving consistent messages from both school and home.

The school requests that students will:

- Attend school every day
- Arrive in school and to class on time
- Remain in class unless given permission to leave
- Remain in school unless given permission to leave
- Catch up with missing work following absence.

Support systems

The school recognises that poor attendance may be an indication of difficulties in a student's life. This may be related to problems at home and or in school. Parents should make school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/ separation or illness. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance which include:

- Form tutor intervention
- Pastoral team support and intervention
- Attendance Officer strategies for success
- Discussion with parents and students
- Attendance panels
- Referrals to support agencies
- Time limited reduced timetables
- Reintegration support packages
- Reward systems
- Liaison with the Local Authority
- Other strategies deemed appropriate to motivate and engage young people and families.

May I take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their support during these challenging times and together we will ensure that Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High school students will have the best possible educational experience. As always, should you need any support whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team at school.

J Leonard