

21st October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Importance of Full Attendance through to Friday 25th October 2024

As I write to you today, with only five school days left of the first Half Term of this academic year, I would like to ask for your support to ensure the full attendance of your child at school until the very end of this half term, which finishes at **3.05pm on Friday 25th October**.

The **UK Government** and **Department for Education (DfE)** continue to hold attendance at school one of their highest priorities to improve, given the proven correlation between high attendance and high achievement and outcomes. Every day and every lesson really do count to your child's progress and life chances.

You may have seen in the news recently that attendance at school remains a national concern, in particular worrying figures surrounding;

- Students who continue to be persistently absent (below 90% attendance)
- Holidays being taken in term time
- Attendance in school on Fridays
- Poor punctuality to school

In line with the new guidance, all schools are directed to intervene if any of the above become concerns. Intervention can also include referrals to the Local Authority, who may issue Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecute where regular attendance and punctuality at school is not taking place.

Here at Workington Academy, we take great pride in ensuring the high attendance of our students, to ensure that they have the opportunity to achieve the very best outcomes. Our well-planned and highly effective curriculum ensures that every lesson adds value. Missing just one lesson can have a detrimental impact on your child's progress. Every day of absence, including the last day before a school holiday equates to 5 hours of valuable learning missed.

We are aware that at this time of year, there are some illnesses around, meaning that some students may not be feeling 100%. However, we ask that unless they are really too ill to come to school or told specifically by a Doctor or Medical Professional not to attend, **attendance at school is prioritised**. Our staff will always take care of your child in school and can make adjustments for them, if they are not feeling 100%. By being in school they will still access some learning, which is better than none at all.

As a reminder, it is essential that if your child is going to be absent from school for any reason that you make contact with us before 8.00am via our absence line. **You must make contact on every day of absence**. Where no contact or reason is communicated for absence, this will automatically be logged as unauthorised.

Our usual attendance, contact and home visit procedures will continue to be applied throughout this period.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Bedford
Headteacher