

PENKRIDGE BANK ROAD  
RUGELEY  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
WS15 2UE

PRINCIPAL: RACHAEL SANDHAM

T +44 (0)1889 802440

E [enquiries@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hartschool.org.uk)

[www.hartschool.org.uk](http://www.hartschool.org.uk)



**THE HART  
SCHOOL**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

RSA/SLE

29 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

**Subject: Appreciation for Your Support and Important Attendance Matters**

As we are halfway through the first Spring Term, I am pleased to share some positive news regarding our school's attendance records. Your unwavering support has contributed significantly to an improvement in whole school attendance when compared to the Autumn Term.

To date, the total attendance for the school is 90.9% which is below the national average of 91.3%. Much of this is due to genuine illness but families are also taking unauthorised holidays during the term and some students are absent too often without a genuine reason. If a child is not in school, they cannot learn and the impact of this can be significant on their future life chances and opportunities.

From the table below, you can see the significant impact that being absent from school has on your child's education over a school year:

| <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Days Missed</b> | <b>Lessons Missed</b> | <b>School Weeks Missed</b>          |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 100%              | 0 days missed      | 0 lessons             | 0 weeks                             |
| 95%               | 9.5 days missed    | 57 lessons            | 1 week & 4.5 days                   |
| 90%               | 19 days missed     | 114 lessons           | 3 weeks & 4 days                    |
| 85%               | 28.5 days missed   | 171 lessons           | 5 weeks & 3.5 days                  |
| 80%               | 38 days missed     | 228 lessons           | 7 weeks & 3 days (over half a term) |

Please can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives on time in school for 8:30 am on their year zone ready for an 8:40 am start.

We understand that there will be absences that are unavoidable, but attending school is a legal requirement and students should endeavour to attend every day. If a child presents as unwell in school, a decision will be made on whether to send them home, or for them to remain in school. If your child is not well enough to attend school, please ensure you inform school of their absence and the reason for them being off school.

Absence line: 01889 571685 .

Attendance Team: [attendance@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@hartschool.org.uk)



### **Attendance Initiatives**

To encourage and recognise good attendance, we will be continuing with a series of initiatives to promote good attendance, including '**Principal Sandham's Valentine's Challenge**' from **1 February to 9 February** which will be shared with the students later this week.

In addition to our monthly attendance challenge '**Fabulous February**' from **1 February to 29 February** where more and more children can increase their chances of winning some fantastic prizes that include an iPad, cinema tickets and high street vouchers to name a few.

### **Examination Year groups**

It is crucial to emphasise the importance of attendance, especially for students in examination year groups (Year 10, 11, 12, and 13). Regular attendance is directly linked to academic success, and students who attend school consistently are better positioned to achieve their potential in examinations and beyond.

Whilst exam results are not the be-all and end-all, it is a simple fact that students who achieve less well in their examinations reduce their lifetime earning potential. Moreover, regular absence means that students develop poor learning habits to take into the workplace, where high levels of absence and poor punctuality will likely result in dismissal.

I encourage you to continue supporting your child's education by reinforcing the significance of attending school regularly. Together, we can provide a strong foundation for their future success.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our dedicated attendance team via email: [attendance@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@hartschool.org.uk) or on 01889 571685.

Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely

R Sandham  
Principal