



Dear Parent/Carer,

What an amazing first eight weeks we have had to the academic year welcoming a fantastic new cohort of year 7's as well seeing all of our other students mature into the next phase of their journey at Outwood Academy Shafton.

Attendance has also really taken off at Shafton with a large number of initiatives being implemented promoting attendance and praising students for excellent attendance. From rewarding our excellent weekly attenders on Fridays during period 5 with sweet treats, to having large numbers of our students across all years given priority boarding to lunch in the final week of half-term; attendance has really become a dominant part of daily conversations between students and staff.

I personally want to say a massive well done to those students who are currently on 100% attendance and those who are still working towards 97%+ attendance. Do not forget that maintaining these incredible figures over the next six weeks will get your child access into our first major half-termly reward events with students given the opportunity to win an iPad Mini and sets of Beats Headphones. We are currently planning our first ever Christmas Karaoke Bonanza for excellent attenders, which will take place in the last week. At the time of writing this we currently have an amazing 556 students who are eligible for the Alton Towers trip!

Additionally, I would like to also thank families for supporting their children in significantly improving their attendance compared to last year. It is so important that we all place a huge emphasis on the importance of being at school and how this impacts upon excellent achievement and outcomes.

...Continued overleaf

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Some Polite Reminders and Updates:

- We have been made aware by our medical professional that a number of students are contacting home during the school day requesting to be picked up because of illness. This is after our on-site medical professional has said that they are fit enough to remain in school. Can I please make it clear that any such incident, where a student leaves the academy without being permitted to do so by our medical professional, will be classed as unauthorised absence? **Please only attend to the academy to pick up your child following contact from a member of our staff team.**
- We have also noticed an increasingly large number of holidays being taken during term time and I wanted to also make you aware of some of the changes passed through by the Local Authority for this academic year. Legal Sanctions (Fixed Penalty Notices) can now be processed for any leave of absence during term time and this is even if your child's attendance prior to this is excellent.
- If you child's attendance is below 95% then **we will not authorise any illness without a medical note from the doctor.**

We place a huge emphasis on excellent attendance because all of the evidence demonstrates the positive impact it has on your child's academic, social and mental development.

Please continue to support us in raising the profile and importance of attendance in our community. If you do have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely

T Peel

T. Peel
Assistant Principal