

To: All Parents/Carers

12th February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Attendance at Thornhill Community Academy

I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you again regarding attendance. As an Academy we are judged by Ofsted on our attendance data. This judgement about attendance significantly affects the overall judgement they make. Over the last five weeks there has been a significant decrease in whole school attendance which has dropped from 95.4% on average per week to 91.3% on average per week. This has decreased our overall attendance by more than 1%. Research shows that a 1% drop in attendance can result in a 5% decrease in student progress and outcomes overall.

There has been a significant increase in absences over the last couple of weeks due to coughs, colds and other minor illness. We consider minor illnesses/conditions to be things like period pain/cramps, sore throat, headache, cough/cold, hay fever or minor injury. We recognise that students may suffer with these throughout their time with us and would like to encourage them to still come to school.

If your child is off school please ring us every day they are absent. Even if you have followed correct procedure and contacted school, you may receive a visit from our Attendance Officer, Miss Malyon. As part of our safeguarding procedures we carry out welfare calls if your child has been absent for a few days.

I would like to remind you that our Welfare Officer, Mrs Griffiths, is able to help your child manage their symptoms in school. If you would like to send paracetamols or other medication then please contact Mrs Griffiths. She can keep this locked securely in the medical room and ensure your child takes it when needed. If appropriate, staff can monitor your child throughout the day and ensure you are contacted if necessary.

If your child needs to attend a medical or dental appointment we ask that you try to make this out of school time where possible as medical appointments are counted as an absence.

Good attendance is a priority for us at the Academy. If students are to make good progress in school and achieve good outcomes then it is important that they attend regularly and punctually. Even missing occasional days across the school year can have a detrimental impact on their learning. Students who have attendance of less than 93% achieve at least one grade lower on average than those with attendance of 95% or higher.

We will contact you throughout the year informing you of your child's attendance percentage. If your child's attendance is poor then we will take action and offer you support to improve this.

Yours faithfully



Ms B Matthews
Headteacher

Headteacher: Ms Bev Matthews

Deputy Headteachers: Mr Jerry O'Hara, Mr Matthew Burton

 @thornhillca  facebook.com/thornhillca

E: office@thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk

W: www.thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk

T: 01924 324890