

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you on the eve of term starting. As I type, staff are working hard to make sure that the building, the classrooms and lessons are ready to welcome your children tomorrow, either at 8.40am (for year 7) or at 11am (for years 8, 9, 10 and 11).

I am writing for one reason today, and that is to ask you to work with us on our key priority this year: attendance.

Attendance to lessons is always of paramount importance, but given the disruption over the previous two academic years, I cannot stress enough how crucial it is. Given we start back tomorrow, today seems a good time to make good decisions about how we will start, and, of course, first impressions count.

The Academy attendance target is 97%, and we expect all of our students to reach this. There is a clear link between students' attendance throughout five years of secondary education and their outcomes at the end of year 11. Being in lessons, learning and remembering knowledge and benefiting from everything that TCA has to offer is built on the premise of students turning up every day, day in, day out.

The table below shows the huge impact that absence has on overall attendance percentages. Please take a moment to read it:

Attendance %	Absence in one year	Absence across five years is equivalent to...	Defined as...
100	None	None	Excellent
97	5 days	One half term	Good
95	10 days	Almost an entire term	Average
90	20 days	Almost half an academic year	Below average
80	140 days	An entire year of education	Unacceptable



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The best chance of success is to make sure your child is in the Academy every day. The fresh start in September is a great chance of making a positive change, and if your child's attendance has been below the required standard before, please make sure that this changes, starting tomorrow morning. Parents and carers have a huge part to play in this. Please ensure that your child is in every day, starting tomorrow.

If we can help or support you as we start the new academic year, please do let us know.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow with excellent uniform, a smile on their faces, ready for another year of doing what we do best: turning up, working hard and being nice.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Burton
Headteacher