Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

As we move further into this crucial academic year, I am writing to emphasise the importance of **regular attendance and punctuality in supporting your child's GCSE success.**

Year 11 is a pivotal year, and every lesson matters. Students are building on their existing knowledge, developing essential examination skills and preparing for their final GCSE examinations. Missing lessons can mean missing vital explanations, exam practice, feedback, and opportunities to address misconceptions. Although we recognise that some absences are unavoidable, we ask all parents and carers to ensure that students attend school every day unless there is a genuine reason they cannot do so.

Last year's results demonstrated a clear link between attendance and GCSE attainment.

The figures below show the percentage of students achieving a Grade 4 or above and a Grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics, according to their attendance.

Attendance	Grade 5+ in English and Maths	Grade 4+ in English and Maths
100%	85%	97%
98%	70%	92%
95%	56%	75%
Below 90%	23%	38%

These figures highlight the significant difference that attendance can make to students' outcomes. For example:

- **Students with 100% attendance**: 85% achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics, while 97% achieved Grade 4 or above in both subjects.
- **Students with 95% attendance**: Only 56% achieved Grade 5 or above in both subjects, and 75% achieved Grade 4 or above.
- **Students with attendance below 90%**: Just 23% achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics, while only 38% achieved Grade 4 or above.

Most strikingly, last year, students with 100% attendance were **62 percentage points more likely to achieve Grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics** than students whose attendance was below 90%. The figures also show a 59-percentage-point difference in achieving Grade 4 or above in both subjects.

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While attendance alone does not determine a student's success, these results clearly demonstrate the importance of being in school consistently. Every lesson attended provides another opportunity to strengthen understanding, build confidence and improve examination performance.

As parents and carers, your support is vital. We ask you to continue to work in partnership with us by:

· Ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives punctually.
· Avoiding routine medical appointments and family holidays during term time wherever possible.
· Monitoring your child's attendance and contacting the school promptly if any difficulties arise.
· Encouraging your child to recognise the importance of every lesson as they work towards their GCSE examinations.

Our shared aim is to ensure that every Year 11 student has the best possible opportunity to achieve their potential and progress successfully to their chosen post-16 pathway.

Please help us reinforce the message that every lesson counts, everyday matters, and consistent attendance can make a real difference to GCSE outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can give our Year 11 students the strongest possible foundation for success.

Kind regards,
Mrs S Khan
Associate Assistant Principal – Attendance

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