



Dear Parent/Carer

Studies have shown that regular school attendance is essential for giving children the best possible start in life.

Students who are regularly absent from school miss out on lessons and opportunities that would enhance their personal development, and therefore do less well in exams. Research also suggests that students who attend school less regularly are more at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour or crime. Mental health issues are also often more prevalent in young people who are poor attenders.

There are many reasons to aim for high attendance at school, and you have a key role to play in helping your child to achieve it. You can do this by:

- Helping them to get into a sensible routine where they:
 - go to bed at a reasonable time;
 - are woken up with plenty of time before school starts;
 - are supported to get ready for school, e.g., uniform on and equipment organised.
- Ensuring that they have enough resilience to face each school day. Sometimes, this may mean sending them into school when they say that they are not feeling very well. It may also mean reminding them that going to school is a requirement, and that it will benefit them in the long run. Of course, there are instances when a child may be too ill to come to school but wherever possible, children should be sent in. If it becomes evident during the school day that they are too ill to be in school, they can be sent home if parents can be contacted.

It is also very important that children attend school on time, so that as little learning time as possible is lost. Students are expected to arrive at school by 8.40am and lessons finish at 2.55pm. Each morning we have a Breakfast Club from 8.20am which is open to all students and is a good way to start the school day.

Lateness can have a big impact on student progress and you will appreciate the importance of developing good habits around punctuality. We are preparing our students for their future and helping them to establish good routines and a strong work ethic. Arriving on time to school and to lessons during the day is very important. Thank you for encouraging your children to be punctual!

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We are very proud of the opportunities we offer at Graham School. In addition to lessons, there are many clubs and other extra-curricular activities. If your child is absent they could miss out on all sorts of opportunities to be involved in the life of the school, learn new skills and make new friends. We also organise residential visits both in this country and abroad; attendance is a consideration when places are allocated to these exciting trips.

We value your support and your commitment to your child's education. Please send them to school every day, on time! If you have any questions or would appreciate support in improving your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Year.

Yours faithfully

A Wilson

Mr A.N.Wilson
Vice Principal
Graham School