

Our Ref: AMC/539.JCP

23 May 2022

Dear Families

At Stowmarket High School we believe that regular and punctual attendance to school, are key elements in promoting a student's learning, attainment, and wellbeing. The COVID 19 pandemic has significantly affected the attendance of young people to many schools. As we move into the final half term of the school year, we need to work together to ensure that all students are attending school with consistency.

Research has shown that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success. Only by regular attendance can students access the quality education that is offered at our school.

We are therefore, committed to the following principles:

- To encourage all students to attend school and achieve their maximum potential.
- To promote good attendance throughout the school.
- To work in partnership with families in promoting excellent attendance and punctuality, as well as the Local Authority and other agencies.

It is important that students are always in school on time, their attendance is very good, and that few school days are missed. Lost time away from school breaks routines and students can miss important aspects of their learning.

***Why is it so important to attend every day?***

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s), building on students' knowledge and skills.
- Many classes use discussions, demonstrations, experiments, and participation as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by those who are absent because students learn through actively taking part.

***Are there other benefits to my child?***

- Students with good attendance records generally achieve better outcomes over time and enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life and help prepare them for adulthood.
- Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour including independence skills and life skills.

***What are the risks of frequent absences?***

- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work and will miss essential learning which helps build their knowledge and skills.
- The more a student misses school, the lower their academic outcomes.
- They may then want to be in school less.

***What can parents do to help?***

- Families must model the value of education, including the importance of regular attendance.
- Make sure that your child arrives at school regularly and on time.
- If your child starts missing school, work with us to put things right.
- If your child is ill or must miss school for some other reason, contact us immediately.
- Please do not expect us to approve of shopping trips, birthday treats etc. during school hours.
- Arrange family holidays/events so that your child will not miss any learning.

At Stowmarket High School, the school day begins at 8.50am and students are expected to be in their tutor rooms ready to begin the day at this time.

If you have concerns about the attendance of your son/daughter, please contact the head of year to discuss the matter. Alternatively, you can contact Kellie Mason, the school attendance officer to discuss the reasons.

Yours sincerely



Mr A McLellan  
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Designated Safeguarding Lead



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