

6 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Working Together to Improve Attendance

We hope you are well and as excited as we are about the great start we have had to this years' attendance. This letter is an update around some of the new guidance and information that has been released from the DfE Working Together to Improve Attendance.

Parents and carers are advised to be alert as to when it is better to encourage a child to attend school rather than take time off. By consistently promoting being in school and emphasising the importance of attendance for a child's long-term outcome, we have seen an improvement in the grades of students who have 92%+ attendance.

We notice a dip in attendance around the start of term times and this can often mean that students miss out on social development, learning key information about the course of the academic term, getting into a routine and securing the confidence to strive for great grades.

Please try to reassure and have sensitive conversations with your children about anxiety, particularly at the start of new school terms, recognising the importance of minimising time missed during the first week of school. We understand that anxiety happens but wish to keep students aware that they will always be safe and secure whilst at the academy. Parents and students should be aware that Bexhill Academy has a range of mental health first aid trained staff, and connections to a range of self-help resources and organisations of which we can signpost. Please try to schedule routine appointments outside of school time (where possible) to avoid lost learning.

To support the principles outlined, the NHS have produced the '[Is my child too ill for school](#)' guidance to support parents in their decision-making and we would encourage parents to use this when students are unwell.

Kind regards,

Bexhill Academy Attendance Department