

16 February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Attendance Focus - Marvellous March

At Ash Hill Academy we are working closely with all parents and children to encourage our students to attend school regularly.

It has been proven that there is a clear link between attendance and attainment in school, with those students who have poor attendance being less likely to achieve good GCSE grades and more likely not to be in education, employment or training when they leave school.

Starting on Monday 6 March 2017, we will be holding an attendance challenge which will run for 4 weeks throughout the month of March. There will be competitions and prizes for form groups and individuals based on their attendance during the month. Prizes will include breakfasts and cash voucher prizes for individuals.

What is 'Good' Attendance?

There are two attendance sessions every day AM and PM, so missing school for a whole day counts as two absences.

All students should aim for a target of at least 97% attendance, which equals 6 days absence in a school year. Any student whose attendance falls below 90% is classed as persistently absent from school and this puts parents/carers at risk of a fine of up to £2500.

Attendance over the whole year	= days missed	= weeks missed	Number of lessons missed	School time missed by end of Year 11
100%	0	0	0	0
95%	10 days	2 weeks	50	¼ year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100	½ year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200	1 year
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	287	1 ½ years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500	2 ½ years

We expect that all parents/carers who have day to day responsibility for our students, will help to prevent their child having low attendance by:

- Contacting the Academy on every day of absence.
- Supporting the Academy with their child in aiming for 100% attendance each year.

- Making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Taking an interest in their education – ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Discussing any problem they may have in school – inform their Learning Manager about anything serious.
- Not letting them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- Arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays.
- If your child has been ill in the night, please send them into school if they are feeling better by mid morning. It is better to be late than miss a full days attendance.

Here at Ash Hill Academy, we are committed to supporting every child to achieve their full potential and make excellent progress. Your help in working with us to achieve this by ensuring your son/daughter attends every day is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to congratulating your child next half term on achieving 100% during Marvellous March.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JH Higgins', written in a cursive style.

John Higgins
Principal