



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

16 May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Year 10 Attendance

As the End of Year 10 Assessments approach after half-term, we value your continued support and engagement in your child's education here at Midhurst Rother College. For all students to achieve and reach their potential, it is essential that attendance remains high so that learning can be accessed through specialist teaching. Over the last month, attendance in Year 10 has been lower than expected, and so I thought I would take some time to write to you on this important topic.

Firstly, thank you to those who have supported their child in achieving over 96% attendance so far and we acknowledge that some absences such as significant illness cannot be avoided and that it is not always possible to arrange medical and other appointments outside of the school day.

Your child is at a crucial half-way point in their GCSE studies. As you will be aware, attendance in school is not just about meeting statutory requirements; it plays a vital role in your child's educational progress and future success.

- 1. Maximising Learning Opportunities:** Consistent attendance ensures that students are present for all lessons, enabling them to grasp essential concepts, participate in class discussions, and interact with teachers and peers. Missing school days can lead to gaps in their knowledge, which can be challenging to bridge and cost valuable marks in final examinations.
- 2. Exam Preparation:** Your child's first year of GCSEs is foundational for the subjects on which they will be examined in the future. Regular attendance allows them to receive consistent instruction and support, making it easier to prepare for these important exams and achieve the grades needed to enable the next steps in their education.
- 3. Building Good Habits:** Developing strong attendance habits now sets a positive precedent for their future. Employers and Colleges may look at attendance records as an indicator of reliability and commitment.
- 4. Social and Emotional Development:** School attendance is not only about academic learning but also about social and emotional growth. Interactions with peers and teachers contribute significantly to a child's development and consistent attendance fosters these connections.

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5. **Legal Requirements:** It is essential to emphasise that regular school attendance is a legal requirement. Prolonged absences can lead to educational and legal consequences.

Additionally, we would like to refer to you a letter sent at the start of the academic year [to school leaders from senior health professionals](#) which included the following advice:

“It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. The [NHS ‘Is my child too ill for school?’ guidance](#) has further information.

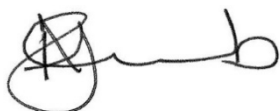
In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child’s anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil’s attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.”

We understand that a range of factors can impact attendance, and as a college we are here to support your child in any way possible. If there are specific challenges or barriers that are affecting your child’s attendance, please reach out to us so that we can work together to find solutions.

Together, we can provide your child with the best possible education experience and help them excel in their GCSE’s and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ashley Lamb
Head of Year – Year 10



Mrs Carolynn Houghton-Wilson
College Attendance and Family Support – Year 10