



Alder Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

28th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: school attendance

After an excellent start to the school year (97% attendance) I have noticed a steady decline in attendance over the last 3 weeks to 88.7% yesterday. There were 107 students absent yesterday. I am aware we have a small number of students absent with Covid and there is obviously nothing that can be done about that.

However, students have missed so much school over the last 18 months and particularly for those students in years 10 and 11, it is vital they attend school every day. It can be hard to decide whether or not to send your child if you are worried that they might have Covid symptoms and I would urge all parents to continue testing your child twice weekly.

Some students are absent for 'minor ailments' and could actually be in school. It is important that we encourage students to attend school even when they may feel a little unwell to help build their resilience and prepare them for the expectations of the workplace. **I would like to remind parents and carers that absences for minor ailments are not authorised.** Catching up is hard and increases anxiety levels on students and the more absence they have, the harder it is for them to catch up. Remote learning is no substitute for being in the classroom.

I would like to thank parents and carers for all you do to support your children but there is still work to be done to improve our overall school attendance.

Yours sincerely,

R O'Regan
Headteacher

