

At Balshaw's we aim to develop the gifts and talents of all our pupils and encourage a life long love of learning. To achieve this, and for children to reach their full potential, excellent attendance and punctuality is crucial. The aim of this newsletter is to promote good attendance for the students in our school and as parents we need your help and support to ensure your child reaches their full potential. **Attendance is everyone's responsibility.**

We have had a great start to the academic year with whole school attendance at **96%** for the whole of the first half of the Autumn term. This is fantastic but still below our school target of 97%. We had **568** students who achieved **100% attendance for the first 7 weeks** of this school year. This is an outstanding achievement. Attending school every day is not easily achieved – it takes commitment and determination from both the student and their Parent/Carer. We were extremely proud to award all of those children with 100% attendance with a chocolate treat and a certificate at the end of half term.

Regular attendance at school is directly linked to exam performance which in turn leads to improved Post 16 outcomes and therefore better career prospects and life chances. Attending school on a regular basis is not only important academically, but also instrumental in acquiring life skills such as effective communication and social interaction. Research proves that there is a strong correlation between regular attendance and attainment and our aim is to raise awareness and highlight the benefit of school attendance whilst celebrating the achievements of our students.

Did you know?

A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve all year is
94.7%



Expectations of Attendance at Balshaw's—

- We expect our students to attend school 100% of the time.
- We expect our students to be punctual, arriving at school on time for an 8:40am start
- We will support families who are experiencing difficulties ensuring their child attends on a regular basis.
- We expect Parents/Carers to be supportive and work with the school—Parents have a legal duty to send their child to school
- We expect Parents/Carers to notify the school on each day of absence.

5 reasons why attending school is so important

1. Students have the right to an education
2. Parents/Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school. Schools and Local Authorities have a duty to ensure that students take up this right.
3. There is a direct link between high student absence and low attainment in school.
4. Getting students to attend school regularly and be on time is an essential skill for life.
5. Poor attendance can lead to students being isolated from their friends, at risk of bullying, poor and unsettled behaviour, and in the worst situations anti-social behaviour.

DID YOU KNOW? -

a child who is misses one day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.

90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.

What is classed as Persistent Absence? -

Persistent Absence is classed as absence that is over 10% of the academic year at any given time. Any student who has persistent absence will be monitored formally by the Attendance Officer, Heads of House and Form Tutors. The thresholds are set out below:

Close of first half-term:	3.5 days in total
Close of 2nd half-term:	7 days in total
Close of 3rd half-term:	10 days in total
Close of 4th half-term:	12.5 days in total
Close of 5th half-term:	15.5 days in total
Close of 6th half-term:	19 days in total

Punctuality—Pupils should arrive at school by 8.30am and be in their Tutor Room by 8.40am. Students who arrive late after 8:50am will be marked as Late to School and will receive a lunchtime detention that day. Any Student who arrives late after 9:10am when the register closes without a valid reason will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

The impact of frequent lateness can negatively affect your child's mental health, learning ability, concentration and friendships. Children who frequently arrive late are at a significant disadvantage compared to those who arrive on time, every day. Children who arrive on time are able to settle quickly into class and apply themselves better to their learning .



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Is my child too ill for school?

We know that winter is one of the peak times for adults and children to come down with mild illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats. It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell, therefore we have sourced some NHS guidance to help you make the right decision.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/626669cb8fa8f523b7221b98/>