

1 July 2025

Re: Term Time Holidays

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance at Central Lancaster High School continues to be one of our highest priorities – we know that if our pupils are in school, they are safe and have the best chance of succeeding.

The Department for Education (DfE) have published their findings on the link between absence and attainment at Key Stage 4. The findings show that there is a very clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement.

Whilst we appreciate the fact that holidays during school term times are cheaper, the impact on your child's education could have a negative impact on their progress and attainment and, therefore, their future career aspirations. While an attendance figure of 90% may not sound very low, this is the threshold at which pupils are considered to be persistently absent and it significantly reduces a child's chances of achieving 5 or more 4-9 grades at GCSE from around 81% to around 50%.

A child who averages 80% attendance during their secondary school career effectively misses on whole year of education and will massively reduce their chances of securing good outcomes at the end of Year 11.

Even for high achieving pupils, poor attendance has a negative impact upon their grades. It has been shown that missing just 17 days of school reduces final GCSE grades by one level across all subjects.

The impact absence has upon your child's attendance rate		How attendance affect life chances	
Total number of days off in a school year	Attendance rate %		
0	100%	Very good chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9	
10	95%	Good chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9	
20	90%	Less than 50% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9	
30	85%	Less than 35% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9	
40	80%	Less than 30% chance of 5 or more Grades 4-9	

We ask you as families to continue to work with us collectively to ensure that your child's attendance does not become a barrier to them receiving the best possible outcomes. Please consider the impact on your child's education when considering whether to book a holiday during term time or not.

Yours sincerely,

Attendance Team

Commitment | Creativity | Community

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