

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are nearing the end of the half term, we wanted to share some of the things we have been focusing on with our young people to ensure maximum success and pride in their learning.

This half term we have been developing our CHS Scholars focus, by explicitly teaching students some effective habits for learning. We have focused on 2 Scholar habits this half term.

- Organising our learning in our exercise books.
- Paying attention like a STAR.

We would really appreciate you spending some time looking at your child's books and supporting them with the 4 key steps in organising their learning:

- 1) Start every lesson equipped – bring your pencil case, update your contents page, read and review previous learning.
- 2) Take pride in your book – maximum effort at all times, best handwriting and stick all loose sheets in.
- 3) Extend your notes – add extra notes in key point box, use highlighters to emphasise key learning.
- 4) Prepare to progress – read and review learning regularly, use your book as a revision tool.

We have also been emphasising the importance of 'Paying attention like a star', where students are encouraged to sit up straight, track their teacher when they are speaking, ask and answer questions and demonstrate respect. We have spoken to students about how paying attention is the first step to aide information going into their short-term memory and that without doing it effectively, they are not going to learn deeply.

We appreciate your support discussing with your child the importance of continually working on these two important habits for learning and constantly striving to be their very best!

Attendance

As a school we want our students to understand why outstanding attendance is so important and we wanted to share this information with you as well.

Many of our students attend school 100% of the time and we value this because we know the positive impact it has on them. Attending school isn't just valuable in terms of learning, developing friendships, feeling a sense of belonging, and understanding the power of routines, it is essential for future success.

Strong attendance is directly linked to improved exam performance which in turn leads to further learning opportunities at college or in an apprenticeship and better job prospects. When students regularly attend school their grades and reading skills improve dramatically no matter what their starting points. They feel more connected to the community which helps work through anxiety issues, and they develop strong social skills which are important for every walk of life.

Students with an average of 90% attendance across their school career adds up to them missing one full year of education. More importantly though are the small percentiles. For example, we identified that last year students who attended 95% of the time were successful in their final exams and made progress around third of a grade higher than was expected of them. However, those students who attend school a little more, on 98% attendance (which means they have missed 4 days or less over the school year), achieve nearly a whole grade higher across all subjects than was expected of them. It really shows how much every day can count.

We can say from research, and our own historical figures, that if your child is in school 98% of the time or more they will perform better, have stronger ties to their friends and the community and will build up key life skills of resilience, optimism, responsibility, and empathy, amongst others, all the while moving faster and further academically than any other group of students in the school.

We urge parents to remember that attendance matters, always. Students should be aiming for 98% attendance or more. It is important that students do not have the odd Friday off, you don't book term time holidays and, where possible, appointments are outside of school hours – this will give your child the best opportunity to get the most out of their 11-year journey through education.

The routines that you put in place now will reap huge benefits for our children in the future.

Kind regards,
Chorlton High School

