



## Montgomery Attendance Newsletter

Dear Parents and carers,

As you may be aware school attendance has been in the news recently. There is a lot of very clear evidence to show that **when children attend school they thrive and develop** and when they do not, they often have less fulfilled lives and much worse outcomes compared to those that do.

At Montgomery we encourage all students to attend every day because we know that this is in their best interests. School helps not only in terms of academic success and exam grades but also in helping to create good citizens who contribute to our society in a positive way.

Research has shown that **students with poor attendance tend to:**

- **Earn less money over their lifetime**
- **Have poorer health and wellbeing**
- **Have fewer friends and social connections**
- **Be less happy with life**

It is clear that making sure your child attends school will help them to have a better life and although it can be difficult, we urge you to do all you can to ensure that they come to school every day.

What we expect here at Montgomery

We want all our students to have 100% attendance. We realise that this is not always possible and students do sometimes fall ill. Parents and carers should only keep their child off school if the illness is serious or severe. This link from the NHS can give you some guidance on this:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Our whole school target for attendance is 96% and any lower than this would be a cause for concern. The table below shows why 90% is not good attendance:

<b>95%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 9.5 days or 1 week & 4.5 days of learning missed
<b>90%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 19 days or 3 weeks & 4 days of learning missed
<b>85%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>143 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 28.5 days or 5 weeks & 3.5 days of learning missed
<b>80%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 38 days or 7 weeks & 3 days of learning missed
<b>75%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>237.5 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 47.5 days or 9 weeks & 2.5 days of learning missed

**EVERY DAY MATTERS!**

**WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?**

PERCENTAGES BASED ON 190 ACADEMIC DAYS

How we support your child in school to make it a safe and welcoming place for them to grow and develop into well rounded and successful adults.

We offer a range of support services in school for students who are struggling through our highly skilled and dedicated pastoral team and specific attendance team. If you are concerned about getting your child to school or having a specific request, please speak to your child's Progress Manager.

**We reward good attendance**, recognising those students who turn up every day with badges and treats to reinforce how happy we are with them. These rewards are given to students with 100% attendance, over 98% attendance and those with 96% or above in year 11. We also have some targeted rewards for students who are able to drastically improve their attendance as part of our School Monitoring program.

## Does Attendance Really Matter?

**1 or 2 days a week may not seem like a lot but...**

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child might perform is...						
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 Weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 10</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 10	
Your Child										
Other Children										
Equivalent to finishing in Year 10										
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 Weeks per year	Over 2.5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 9</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 9	
Your Child										
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Equivalent to finishing in Year 9										
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 7</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 7	
Your Child										
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3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 6</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 6	
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Other Children										
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If you are finding it difficult to get your child to attend school please contact us. We have lots of people who can help including links to both the NHS and other mental health support networks as well as dedicated Education Welfare Officers based in school.

### Holidays in term time

**We will not authorise term time holidays** as we know this has a harmful impact on your child's chances of doing well at school. A two-week holiday takes your child out of school for 10 days which is the **equivalent to 5% of the year's attendance**. This means that child can never achieve the target of 96% attendance even if they don't have another day off for the rest of the year. It is not acceptable to harm your child's future in this way, so please do not book term time holidays.

**Over a year your child only has 190 days in school.** There are **175 non-school days**, plenty of time to go on holiday without taking time off school.

We thank you for your support with ensuring your child's good attendance at school. They will really benefit from your support with this. Children who attend school thrive and grow. They are able to overcome issues in a safe environment, develop resilience and a wide range of knowledge and skills. Good attendance improves your child's chances of doing well in their exams and will ultimately make them happier and more successful adults.