



VICTORY PARK NEWS



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www.victorypark.org.uk

Summer Term 2024

Update from the Head Teacher



Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of another remarkable school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements and express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support.

We have made great progress again and it has been wonderful to receive so many positive comments from parents, carers and the local and wider community which reflect the growing confidence in our school that was recently praised by Ofsted how Victory Park's pupils "develop very positive attitudes towards their education" and "are incredibly respectful towards staff, visitors and each other".

The inspectors highlighted teachers' commitment to adapting the curriculum to meet individual students' needs and help them "gain the qualifications they need to be ready for their next stage of learning". Other strengths outlined included a focus on reading, a wider enrichment offer to build student confidence and resilience and strong parental relationships.

We're delighted that Ofsted have recognised Victory Park's transformation. The whole team has worked so hard to make the school its very best and today's hugely positive report underlines what they have achieved. It's excellent to see our close work with our school community and our high quality teaching be rewarded in this way.

It is a joy to see happy pupils every school day, achieving and succeeding every step of the way. This year, we have increased the number of school trips, clubs and enrichment activities, strengthened our support of children's emotional well-being and resilience and worked very hard to ensure that academic success reaches new heights. Our high-

quality partnerships with various organisations provided opportunities for our pupils to enrich and extend their learning outside the classroom.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff whose hard work and passion make our school a wonderful place to learn. A special thank you to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support and trust. Your involvement and encouragement are crucial to our students' success. We also wish our Year 11 pupils all the very best for a bright and successful future, we hope they look back at their time at Victory Park Academy with fondness and happy memories.

As we break for the summer holidays, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable time with your families. Please ensure that our students stay safe, remain curious, and come back recharged for the new school year.

Thank you once again for a fantastic year. I look forward to seeing all of you in September.

Regards

E Muca (Landi)

Harbour Class



The Summer term has been a great success with the pupils in Harbour Class. We have been learning about using our emotions to help us write, which the pupils have shown excellent creativity and imagination. In numeracy, pupils have been learning about time, money and fractions and have shown great understanding in these areas. Science has been exciting as we have been learning about animals and their habitats which gives us the opportunity to get outside in nature which all the pupils have really

enjoyed. We also had an amazing sports day with an excellent turn out from parents as well as taking part in the Presidents Sport's Day which pupils loved. We were also lucky enough to have a day at Barleylands where pupils got to meet lots of different animals, feed them and go on an awesome tractor ride. All of Harbour pupils have begun their transition back to their mainstream school which have been going really well.



Donaldson Class



In Donaldson class this half term, pupils have enjoyed learning about 'Up' in our English topic. They began the topic by watching part of the film and predicting what may happen and have finished the term by writing their own middle and ending to an adventure story. During history, pupils have enjoyed learning about different explorers and how we know about their adventures now. So far they have researched: Florence Nightingale, Ibn Battuta and Amelia Earhart. As part of their Science topic pupils have discovered reflective and non-reflective materials and enjoyed conducting experiments around this.

Primary Reading

Reading in primary is always an important part of the pupil's day. In Donaldson, along with the reading in their core subjects, pupils also get the time to read their own reading book and write book reviews when they are finished. Harbour class also get to read a lot in their lessons and enjoy our afternoon reading sessions where pupils choose a book for the teacher to read.



Reading Across the Academy

At Victory Park, we are encouraging all pupils to develop a love of reading and as we go into the next academic year this will be a focus across the academy. As such, we have begun to open the school library up in the mornings and during break and lunch time and our school mentor sits in there reading to pupils. Many of our pupils have now begun to enjoy this experience and are choosing to access this. All of our classrooms have reading corners, and we are working with our pupils to develop this further. In our primary department, both KS1 and KS2 groups have a story time at the end of the school day where they are encouraged to discuss the books they are reading.

Phonics & Fresh Start

Phonics and Fresh Start remain an integral part of our curriculum at Victory Park and ensures that pupils can begin to close the gap between their chronological age and their reading age. Sessions last for twenty minutes and are either held in small groups of three pupils or one-to-one depending on the needs of the pupils. All of our primary pupils have shown amazing engagement in our phonics programme and as such are beginning to make excellent progress. They are now beginning to transfer the skills they are learning during their phonics sessions into their reading and spelling. Our secondary pupils are working well one-to-one and are beginning to show progress.



President Sports Day



Victory Park were honoured to get an invite to the President's sports day this year and pupils from across the academy enjoyed attending and trying a range of activities. Pupils particularly enjoyed the pedal karts and came up with lots of creative games and races to compete in. There was a large selection of bouncy castles to go on. Although the day started drizzly, the clouds passed and it was a beautiful day for pupils to enjoy.

Primary Sports Day



Primary showcased the amazing new athletics skills they had learnt this term during their sports day and they all did so well, it was also great to see so many parents attend and show support. Well done KS1 and KS2!

Secondary Sports Day

KS3, KS4, Stag and Leap all took part in this year's Sports Day showcasing all of the athletics skills learnt this term. This consisted of the 100m sprint, javelin, standing jump and shot put. They all gave it 100% and worked extremely hard. Well done!



Physical Education



This term, as the weather has slightly improved, we have focused on athletics throughout the Key Stages. Some of secondary students

have some experience in the activities we have done such as: javelin, shot put and standing long jump. Most of our pupils had never tried these athletics activities but picked up the skills needed extremely quickly and the PE team are very impressed. Well done!

Thriftwood



This term, KS3 have started to attend Thriftwood Scout Campsite and Activity Centre to help build resilience and team

working skills. KS3 have had the chance to try so many fantastic activities such as: axe throwing, assault courses on the ground and up in the air, zip lining, rifle shooting, rock climbing, giant paddle boards and so many more. Let's just say KS3 took full advantage of

this and have had some scary, funny and exciting times and have overcome many fears. Well done KS3!

Silver Birch Farm



This term students returned back to Silver Birch Farm, during their time at the farm this term they were able to get the farm ready for a whole new little family of baby goats and lambs. They were able to help the farm prepare for them by preparing a tent where the

animals would stay whilst they gave birth and would stay until they were ready to be able to go into the fields. As well as preparing the tent, they also would ensure the animals had fresh water and food as well as checking the tent was clean.

The students experienced meeting a variety of animals this term at the farm including cows, alpacas, pigs, goats, ensuring that all the animals were cleaned out properly and had fresh food and water. During their time at the farm, the students are able to work on their team work and collaborating together as well as being able to work independently and following instructions from different adults. After their hard work at the farm, every session they have the reward of being able to have horse riding lessons and learn a different skill.



Combat Academy

Once a week our STAG, LEAP, KS3 and KS4 students have the opportunity to attend the Combat Academy to test out their combat and fitness skills in a safe, competitive environment. Under the supervision of coaches and fitness instructors, students are able to access the gym and be trained in self-defence,



whilst making positive lifestyle choices around their health and wellbeing.



They are trained by professional coaches who teach them discipline, determination and commitment. In addition to these sessions, students have the chance to cook for everyone who takes part.

This intervention creates a very positive opportunity and experience for all our students and an opportunity to let off some built-up energy.

Enrichment



Our enrichment activities at Victory Park Academy have proven to be successful for a variety of reasons. These activities, which can include clubs, sports, arts, and academic programs outside of the standard curriculum, offer many benefits that contribute to the overall

development of students.

Enrichment programmes often involve group activities, which can enhance social interaction and teamwork. These interactions teach students valuable social skills such as communication, resilience, conflict resolution and managing their emotions. Such skills are essential for their future personal and professional lives.

With that being said, the activities that we have participated in this year have been Horse Riding, Southend Combat Academy, Football at Chase, Go Karting, Adventure Island, Presidents Sports Club Awards, Padel4all, Oxygen, Stubbers and Duke of Edinburgh. We have also had after school basketball and football clubs of which the students played a basketball match against Shoebury High School and showed respect and perseverance which is something we work on in our activities so well done to all that played.



Next year, we hope to do all of the above and even more for our students. See you all in September for more fun!

Nuclear Races Enrichment Program



Our KS3, KS4, LEAP and STAG students get the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors every week and are physically and mentally challenged by attending Nuclear Races. They are pushed to

the limit and taken out their comfort zone by undertaking activities that involve climbing, jumping, and getting wet and muddy!

Nuclear Races gives students a chance to get out the classroom. It gives students the opportunity to try something new and push themselves in a different way. Nuclear Races provides activities for all our pupils to ensure they can flourish and enjoy the fresh air!



Art

Over three days in May, seven Year 11 pupils created their final pieces for their GCSE Art qualification based on the theme of 'Power'. They had worked hard for the previous three months researching and experimenting with different ideas and materials. They showed a lot of dedication and perseverance to complete their work and all pieces looked impressive. Well done to everyone involved!



Child Development

In child development this term, we have been looking at how we ensure a safe environment when working with children. We looked at a variety of safety equipment and policies and procedures we would need to be familiar with when working in settings with

children. Pupils also looked at different scenarios and how they would manage those.

Occupational Studies

This year in Occupational Studies, our pupils have been covering a broad range of topics to explore potential interests and possible career options for the future. We have been learning about a variety of skills in horticulture as well as decorating and bricklaying.

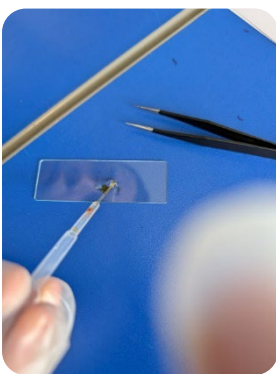


Hair & Beauty



In hair and beauty this term, pupils have been learning how to carry out a variety of styling services completing was and blow dry services, plaiting and heat styling from straightening to curling. All pupils have completed some amazing hairstyles and have grown in confidence. Their skills have also improved with majority of pupils now able to complete all services independently with little support.

Applied Science

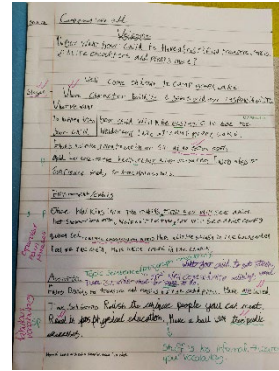


In applied science, KS4 have been looking at Life Processes. They have been looking at which characteristics determine what is a living organism, the structure and function of both animal and plant cells and a select specialised cells. They even took their own

cells from their cheeks and observed them through a microscope.

LEAP

This term in English, Leap have studied Holes and Pig Heart Boy.



In Holes, we wrote letters and persuasive leaflets (see examples below). In Pig Heart Boy, we found out about heart transplants and discussed the ethics of using a pig's heart in transplantations.

In maths, this term, we have continued working on addition and subtraction in various contexts including financial maths, perimeter and solving problems found with tables and timetables. Some pupils have been given the opportunity to participate in the Number Stacks intervention in order to narrow their gaps in their learning.

In science, the topics this term have been forces and Earth and space.

We used friction to keep the books together, even Mr Muca couldn't pull them apart. We made a hovercraft which used air to move along the table.

As part of a wider enrichment curriculum, Pupils in leap attend Southend Combat in order to build upon their resilience. They also attend Nuclear Races in Kelvedon Hatch which enables pupils to work in teams and to pushes them physically. Pupils are given the opportunity to attend horse riding and football weekly.



We attended The Annual Presidents Sporting Club in Chelmsford for the sport experience day, where the pupils participated in a number of fun activities. Schools attended from all over south and mid Essex and it

was great fun.

Pupil Voice

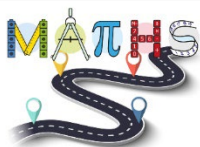
This term has been filled with our students speaking up, having their voice heard and sharing their ideas. The focus for this term has been discussing what activities and trips the students would like for the end

of term. They have come up with some brilliant ideas such as a beach day, aqua park and fishing. Now that the weather is warmer, we hope to do as much outside as we can. All the ideas our students came up with what they think other students will enjoy as well as staff. We recently



had a pupil vs staff football match that everyone enjoyed, even the spectators. The students understand that some of the trips and activities that we offer are rewards for good behaviour, staying in lessons and completing work. They work hard to gain points that go towards trips. Pupil voice is all about what our pupils would like to see change and improve and we take pride in working towards this.

KS3 Maths



From the start of the summer term pupils have been working really hard and have covered a range of topics including

sequences, converting amounts, balancing equations, one and two step equations, averages and calculating the area of a circle.

KS4 Maths

It has been a jam-packed term for our students in KS4 maths, where we have covered topics such as pie charts, averages,



converting currencies and transformations. Our Year 10 pupils have been developing their problem-solving skills by tackling a variety of

mathematical challenges such as Tangrams and Pentominoes.

Examinations



With all the examinations now complete for our Year 11 pupils, Victory Park are predicting **that 20 out of the 24 (83%)** Year 11 pupils will

achieve at least five GCSE or equivalent qualifications this year. The Academy has offered over 17 different qualifications ranging from traditional GCSEs to more practically based subjects such as Hair & Beauty, Food Technology and Construction. Good luck to our Year 11 group, results day this year is on Thursday 22nd August. The VPA office will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 on this day for collection of results in person, otherwise they will arrive in the post the following day!

Careers

It has been a really successful year at VPA around careers. Our careers fair earlier in the year had great engagement from pupils and parents which was reflected in pupil and parent surveys (available on school website).



The Connexions Team which have supported our pupils over the last year have ensured that our pupils have applied to

colleges or apprenticeships and are taking positive steps into the next chapter of their lives. We are pleased to say that all our pupils will be going on to college or work from September 24, well done everyone!

SEN



This term, our SENCo has been busy with Educational Psychologists, finalising Educational Health and Care Plans for pupils.

In addition, we have our own EP providing staff with a drop-in service on 11th July. This training will be great for staff to

receive impartial advice on SEN strategies and inform future training needs.

Staff have continued to receive training and support on the use of Provisional Mapping (a tool we use for planning pupils' support)

Our SEN trip to Barleylands Farm on 13th May was a great success, with Primary pupils enjoying a range of activities designed to meet the four areas of need.

We are looking at expanding our personal development offer next year to include more farm sessions, with a focus on animal care.

Year 11 Leavers BBQ



The Year 11 leavers BBQ is a VPA tradition that is always a success. Year 11 pupils get the opportunity to reminisce with their teachers, friends and family about their achievements throughout the year.

A fantastic selection of food was enjoyed by all, along with some music, and the weather was even good to us! This followed with an awards ceremony, where every pupil received a certificate. Good luck to you all and we wish you the best for your future endeavours!

Inductions



All new students meet the induction tutor, Eileen, to make their transition into Victory Park Academy, welcoming.

They are assessed on their levels of reading comprehension and Mathematics, enabling the Academy to place the students into the correct level.

Within the Academy, we strive to support all students to achieve the best outcomes for their future.

The students also complete an induction passport.

It is important that students are also recognised for their personal social skills such as communication, respecting each other and showing empathy.

Having excellent social skills, makes both getting along with others and becoming more independent easier.

Many studies support the long-term outcomes of developing social-emotional skills at an early age.

Victory Park Academy offer a reading intervention for students that need extra support with reading & comprehension.



These strategies can help students overcome barriers to learning, develop new skills and improve their overall academic performance.

Breakfast Club



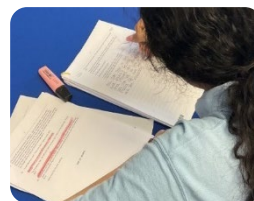
We at Victory Park Academy know how important breakfast is for the wellbeing of our students.

Students have a choice of cereal &

toast.

Students organise themselves and play basketball, we also have other games, books and puzzles the choice is theirs. This is also a good time for students to work as a team and build relationships with their peers.

English



In summer 1, pupils completed past papers and revision ready for their GCSE English Language exam.

GCSE English language is divided into two papers:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

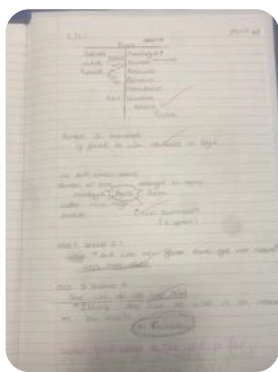
- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Pupils worked hard on their preparation, and we hope they receive the grades they deserve.

In summer 1, pupils in Year 10 studied the Shakespeare play Romeo and Juliet. We looked at plot and characterisation and the meaning of a tragedy. Pupils watched the Baz Luhrmann's dazzling and unconventional adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic love story which is spellbinding. Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes portray Romeo and Juliet, the youthful star-crossed lovers of the past. But the setting has been moved from its Elizabethan origins to the futuristic urban backdrop of Verona Beach. Pupils learnt how to analyse Shakespearean quotations and learnt some Elizabethan insults too! The role of women in society was studied which shocked all the pupils.



Pupils in year 10 Summer 2, have studied 'An Inspector Calls' play by JB Priestly. It is set in 1912, however it was written after the Second World War. It is a murder mystery play which questions society's role in social responsibility. Pupils have learnt about the historical context and the class system.

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We used the film 'Titanic' to help with the differences in class and the power the rich upper classes held over the working classes. From this, we completed a piece of creative writing focussing on sentence structures and sentence starters.

Literacy

Reading has been embedded across the curriculum and mapped on all yearly subject maps. Pupils have additional opportunities for support in reading through Read, Write Inc; Fresh Start for older pupils and Lexia,

an interactive reading and grammar programme, all to help support literacy development. The next steps are to encourage pupils to read for pleasure. Our intent is to promote a love of reading for all pupils whilst creating life-long readers who can access the curriculum with independence and confidence so that they go on to be successful in post 16 education and beyond.



We will be introducing subscription to daily newspaper and magazine; to follow school timetable where everyone reads in tutor for 15 minutes; to have reading corners in every tutor room and encourage more use of the library at break and lunch time.



Star Assessments

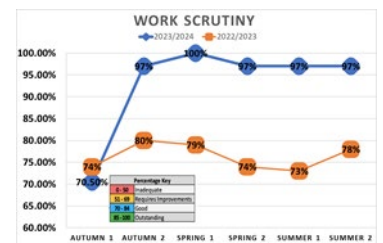
Victory Park have invested in these assessments which provide valid, reliable data to deliver the right instruction, at the right time, for the right reason. It gives a complete view of students' progress at the grade, school, or district level, including achievement and growth measures. Pupils were assessed at the beginning of summer term and will be reassessed at the end of the summer term to assess their progress in Literacy and Numeracy.



Work Scrutiny

Work scrutiny has improved in comparison to 2022-2023.

This is due to triangulating planning and pupils' work. Subject knowledge, structured lessons and opportunities for pupil feedback and discussion has shown an increase in the standard of work



being produced. New staff are supported in their teaching roles and this is reflected in the data. Pupils' knowledge is consistently, coherently and logically sequenced so that it can develop incrementally over time. There is a progression from the simpler and/or more concrete concepts to the more complex and/or

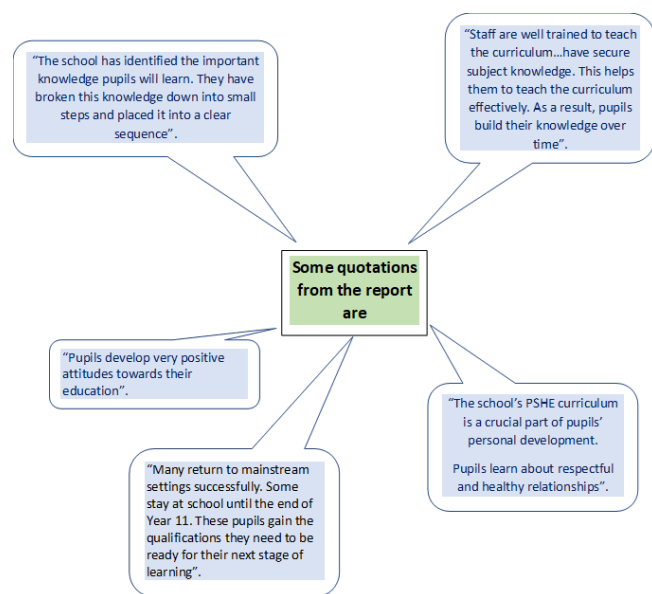
abstract ones. Pupils' work shows that they have developed their knowledge and skills over time.

Quality of Education

In September 2024, our timetable will change from five lessons a day to six lessons. There will also be two LEAP groups as well as the KS3 group which will be taught separately. LEAP groups have followed a primary model for teaching the curriculum and will have humanities (geography/history) added moving forward. ICT is a stand-alone lesson once per week in primary and sessions at Nuclear Races have been planned as part of the KS3 curriculum supporting pupils' personal development.

Updated curriculum maps will be uploaded onto the website over the summer.

The recent Ofsted report stated teaching and learning graded as 'Good'. Inspectors carried out deep dives in: English (including early reading), mathematics, PSHE and occupational studies. Evidence was collected from a sample of learning walks, meetings with subject leads and pupils as well as work scrutiny.



GDPR

There has been no GDPR breaches this year and all staff are skilled in understanding the risks and the correct procedures to take when faced with possible concerns. All staff have completed the training on this which will be renewed in the new year to meet compliance requirements. Well done to all staff!

The Importance of Attendance and Punctuality

As we continue our journey through this academic year, we want to highlight a critical aspect of your child's educational experience: attendance and punctuality. Consistent attendance and arriving on time are foundational elements that contribute to your child's success in school. Here's why these factors are so important:

The Impact of Regular Attendance

1. **Academic Achievement:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to perform well academically. They benefit from continuous instruction, active participation in class activities, and timely feedback from teachers.
2. **Social Development:** Regular attendance allows children to build and maintain relationships with their peers. These social interactions are vital for developing communication skills, teamwork, and a sense of community.
3. **Routine and Discipline:** Establishing a habit of regular attendance helps children develop a sense of responsibility and discipline. These traits are not only crucial for academic success but also for personal growth and future professional life.

The Role of Punctuality

1. **Maximizing Learning Time:** Arriving on time ensures that students do not miss the beginning of lessons, which often includes important instructions and objectives for the day. Missing this can leave children feeling unprepared and behind.
2. **Reducing Disruptions:** Punctuality minimizes interruptions in the classroom. When students arrive late, it can be distracting for both the teacher and classmates, affecting the overall learning environment.
3. **Building Positive Habits:** Being punctual reinforces time management skills. It sets a standard for future behavior in educational settings and eventually in the workplace.

How Parents Can Help

1. **Set a Routine:** Establish a consistent daily schedule for your child that includes a specific bedtime and wake-up time. A well-rested child is more likely to be alert and ready to learn.
2. **Prepare Ahead:** Encourage your child to prepare for school the night before. This includes packing their school bag, laying out their uniform, and having a healthy breakfast plan.
3. **Communicate the Importance:** Talk to your child about why attending school every day and being on time is important. Positive reinforcement can go a long way in developing good habits.
4. **Monitor Attendance:** Keep track of your child's attendance and punctuality. Address any issues or patterns of tardiness early on to find solutions.

School Support

Our school is committed to supporting you and your child in maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality. We offer resources and assistance for families facing challenges in this area. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to your child's education. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Key Dates

Last Day of Summer Term

Friday 19th July 2024

Summer Holiday

Monday 22nd July 2024 to Tuesday 3rd September 2024

First Day of Academic Year 2024/2025

Wednesday 4th September 2024



WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

ATTENDANCE

1. I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160
2. FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions
3. FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

4 children & 1 parent = £640
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

4 children & 2 parents = £1280
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days
4. If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME	3RD TIME
2 parents and 1 child = £320	A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
2 children = 640	A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
3 children = 960	1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
4 children = 1280	2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

No discount for early payment