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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Importance of attendance

I hope this finds you well and rested after the summer break. As we start the new term our main focus is on ensuring we can offer the best provision to our students. We can only do this with your support and ensuring that every student attends whenever they can.

You will have recently received a letter from the local authority outlining the new legal requirements and implications of attendance from the Department for Education. We fully support and are required to enact upon all these legislative measures in relation to attendance. In particular the new directive around punctuality means that all students need to be in the academy on time - our day starts at 8.20 am. The new legislation also impacts heavily on holidays taken in term time potentially resulting in a criminal record that would remain on a parents/carers profile.

I wanted to also highlight the importance of attendance in relation to your and other students' progress and attainment. This year we saw once again some outstanding results in both GCSE and A level, where our students outperformed the majority of other students in the country from a similar profile. What we also noticed very clearly was that students whose attendance fell below 95% did considerably worse than their peers. As the attendance dropped, so did the outcomes. This has a direct impact on life chances beyond the academy, with students not getting their options, placements or courses and eventually the jobs and earnings they could have had with better outcomes.

This is not just related to exam outcomes in year 11 and year 13, it impacts on every year, where teachers have to go back over topics and lessons that students have missed. It detracts from the learning and progress of all students in that class. Whilst I appreciate there will be situations where a child can not attend, I would strongly ask you to consider carefully the decision to not send your child in. As I have said many times, if we feel your child is not well enough to attend we will contact you immediately.

Our expectations as an academy have always been transparent from parents evenings to induction events, as a parent/carers you are aware our focus will always be on supporting you and your child - your role within this is to support us and work with us to make this a reality. With your support we can continue to offer the best educational and pastoral experience for your child. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new term and working with you to ensure the success and progress of your child.

Yours sincerely

Darren Gelder
Executive Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust