

5th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Important Information Regarding School Attendance as of October 2022

We know that excellent attendance at school is essential for our students to succeed in their education. You may be aware that the Government have recently updated the national guidance for school attendance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a post pandemic world, it is vital that we all carry on as normal and ensure we attend our place of work or education. The advice given that is relevant to all parents and students at Haileybury Turnford is summarised below:

Attendance is mandatory for all students of compulsory school age. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly, and our legal duty to ensure an education is available. Children and young people have suffered considerable and repeated interruptions to their education over the COVID-19 pandemic, and we firmly believe that it is our duty to ensure that this is not the case for this academic year.

To maximise the benefits that full attendance at HT can provide, it is expected that the NHS and Department for Education advice regarding minor ailments, is followed. As a reminder, **it is advised that students with minor ailments (such as coughs/colds, sore throat, headaches, or stomach aches) must attend school.** We will not routinely authorise absences due to minor ailments and encourage you to ensure your child attends school regardless.

If your child has a diagnosed medical condition that may affect their school attendance, please do get in touch to discuss what reasonable adjustments could be made in school. We will endeavour to work together to limit the impact on their school attendance. **The Department for Education has stated that the attendance ambition for students with medical conditions should be the same as for every student.** To this end, we will be working to encourage the school attendance of all students with long-term medical conditions.

The Department for Education has released clear and new guidance for the 2022-23 academic year. Just as an efficient, full-time education is the entitlement of every child, so improving attendance is the responsibility of everyone – schools, students, the local authority, Parents and Carers. At Haileybury Turnford we will be working in close collaboration with our students and their Parents/Carers, the Local Authority, and the Attendance Team at Hertfordshire County Council to ensure none of our students are disadvantaged through poor attendance.

We ask that Parents and Carers work with us at an early stage to ensure that their children have uninterrupted access to their education and any potential barriers to this are overcome together.

You should plan your holidays within school holiday periods as before. We ask that you avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school during term time, **as requests will not be granted**, and holidays taken without authorisation will likely result in the issue of fixed term penalty notices by the Local Authority.



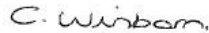
If you have concerns about your child's attendance, you are welcome to discuss these concerns with us and we will work with you to alleviate these concerns and remove any obstacles to the education that all children deserve. Please contact your child's Year Achievement Coordinator in the first instance.

We hope that we can look forward to a productive and successful year ahead, characterised by the resilience and determination that we all have a duty to encourage in our children and young people under our care.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Goodes
Vice Principal



Mrs C Winborn
Student Attendance Officer

