



26 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our school and, in particular, for the value you place on your child's education. Following on from our letter in Term 1 we have appreciated your comments and keeping us informed about necessary absences.

Being in school every day allows pupils to fully engage with learning, build strong relationships with staff and peers, and develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed. We have been concerned about attendance in the last couple of weeks particularly in S3, many of these pupils are completing work that will help to prepare them and contribute to their work for their National Qualifications next year, so this is an important time for them.

We appreciate that family time is very important and understand the pressure for families where their work restricts holiday time and the challenge of increased cost of holidays during school break. However, time away from school can have a significant impact on learning. Lessons build progressively, and even short periods of absence can make it difficult for pupils to keep up with coursework, assessments and key learning experiences.

In light of this we are giving you prior warning of Senior (S4-6) October assessment dates for 2026.

Monday 28th September - Friday 9th October

Monday 26th October - Friday 6th Nov

Regular attendance also supports positive destinations after school. Pupils who attend well are more likely to progress successfully into further or higher education, training, apprenticeships or employment. Employers, Colleges and Universities place a high value on reliability, commitment and resilience - qualities that are developed through good attendance habits at school.

By working together to promote excellent attendance, we can help ensure that every young person has the best possible chance to achieve, attain and move on to a positive and successful future.

We also wanted to remind you of the process for collecting a pupil during the school day. We ask that you contact the office in advance to let them know that you are picking them up or someone else on their contact list.

If a child is feeling upset/unwell they need to follow the correct procedure so that a member of staff is aware that they are unwell.

We will phone you or an alternative contact to discuss whether your child should go home.

We cannot allow your child to sign out and be taken off site without a phone call/message authorising this from someone on their contact list. Please do not just arrive to collect your child without any prior arrangement.

If we call you to tell you your child is feeling unwell and you feel that your child should remain in school, please communicate that to the member of staff who has called you.

All of this is in place to ensure the safeguarding of your child which is paramount.

If you have any concerns about attendance or require support, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are always happy to work in partnership with families.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bowker'.

Mrs Rosie Bowker
Acting Depute Headteacher