



18th September 2023

Attendance matters

Dear Parents/Carer,

We have enjoyed welcoming back the students over the last two weeks and have been impressed by their behaviour, dedication to learning and, notably, their attendance. I thank you for your continued support in these areas.

It is crucial to recognise the connection between attendance, academic progress, and overall well-being. Data from the latest GCSE exam results highlights that students with attendance rates below 90%, spanning all years and not limited to Year 11, achieve at least one grade lower across their GCSEs compared to those with attendance above 90%.

90% attendance translates to approximately 19 days off a year. Attendance matters.

Considering this, and taking into account the lasting effects of Covid-19, I want to bring your attention to the recent advice provided by the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty. He emphasises the importance of attending schools or academies, stating:

"There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.
However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above."

Full guidance can be found in the following link

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

Together, we can ensure that our students have every opportunity to thrive academically and personally. Your partnership in fostering a culture of regular attendance is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Do not hesitate to contact our attendance team at attendance@magna-aspirations.org or on 01202 604222 if you need help in supporting your child's attendance or have other questions or concerns that need addressing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Clark', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Clark
Vice Principal