

# Malmesbury School

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Dear Parents,

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour and have a better chance of leaving school equipped for life.

When students improve their attendance, their progress in all subjects improves—even among those students who are struggling in school. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. Research suggests a steady decrease in KS4 achievement as overall absence rates increase. In particular, pupils with the highest attendance rates (95%+) rates are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs Grade 9-4 and 4.6 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs Grades 9-4 including English and mathematics than pupils with the lowest attendance rates.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/412638/The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412638/The_link_between_absence_and_attainment_at_KS2_and_KS4.pdf)

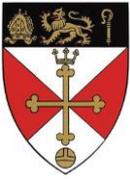
Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to achieve well in their GCSEs so that they can move onto their choice of post 16 education, setting them up for a strong future. Good attendance at school shows potential employers that a young person is reliable. Young people who are frequently absent from school are more likely to become involved in, or be a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour.

You may be surprised that even a few days off, can lead to a large loss of 'learning hours':

| Attendance                       | Percentage  | Days absent | Learning Hours Lost |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>Excellent</b>                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>            |
|                                  | 99%         | 2           | 10                  |
|                                  | 98%         | 4           | 20                  |
| <b>Good</b>                      | 97%         | 6           | 30                  |
|                                  | 96%         | 7.5         | 37.5                |
|                                  | 95%         | 9.5         | 47.5                |
| <b>Worrying</b>                  | 90%         | 19          | 95                  |
|                                  | 89%         | 21          | 105                 |
|                                  | 88%         | 23          | 115                 |
|                                  | 87%         | 25          | 125                 |
|                                  | 86%         | 27          | 135                 |
|                                  | 85%         | 28.5        | 142.5               |
| <b>Serious Cause for Concern</b> | 84%         | 30.5        | 152.5               |
|                                  | 83%         | 32          | 160                 |
|                                  | 82%         | 34          | 170                 |
|                                  | 81%         | 36          | 180                 |
| <b>Critical</b>                  | 80%         | 38          | 190                 |



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This is what we say to our students about keeping their attendance above 95%:

## How Can I keep my Attendance at 95% or above ?

- Each year there are 190 school days which leaves 175 days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats and non urgent medical and dental appointments.
- Know that Student Services are here to support you if you are feeling unwell or anxious
- Do not take holidays in term time
- If you have a non changeable appointment – come back into school for the remaining lessons
- Understand that attendance is the biggest factor to success!

### Your responsibilities as a parent

All children aged between 5 and 16 are required by law to receive an education, and it is the duty of parents and carers to ensure that they are supported to do so. Children sometimes have to miss school because of illness or if they have long term medical issues. If this is the case, parents should contact school the same day to let them know the reason that their child is not in school.

### Changes to government legislation from 1 September 2013

From 1 September 2013, a change to government legislation means that schools are no longer allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time.

Requests for leave can only be granted by schools if there are exceptional circumstances, and holidays are not considered exceptional. Requests for leave must also be made to the school in advance, as the Department for Education has told schools that they cannot authorise any absences after they have been taken.

You will find information from the Department for Education on their website at <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Haines  
Assistant Headteacher

