



22nd May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

"Every day in school is a step towards success – attendance today, achievement tomorrow!"

We're writing to you about something really important for your child's success at school: being here regularly and we want to share some key information about why coming to school consistently is so vital.

The Department for Education has done a lot of research on how attendance and achievement are connected. Their recent report, **"The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year - March 2025"**, shows a clear link. Here are some important points from the report:

- In Year 11, students who are in school almost every day (95-100% attendance) are nearly twice as likely to get a good pass (Grade 5) in their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those who miss a bit more school (90-95% attendance). This means that missing just 10 days in Year 11 can make it much harder to get those important grades.
- In Year 11, for all students, attending school for just an extra 2 weeks a year makes students more likely to achieve the expected grades.

These numbers show that being in school regularly makes a big difference in how well students do. When students are in school every day, they are:

- **Doing important learning:** Lessons build on each other, so missing even a day can make it hard to keep up.
- **Developing key skills:** School teaches students important skills like thinking for themselves, solving problems, and working with others, as well as subject knowledge.
- **Building good relationships:** Being in school regularly helps students get along with their teachers and classmates and feel like they belong.

We know that sometimes students have to be absent because of illness or other unavoidable reasons. But we ask you to make school attendance a priority whenever possible.

Schools send **Attendance letters** when a student has missed a lot of days to make sure parents know how much time their child has been away. This is because going to school regularly is very important for learning and success. Sometimes, there may be a good reason for being off, like illness, but the school still needs to keep a record and check if any support is needed. These letters are also part of the school's duty to follow the law and show they are working with families to help students attend and do well.

Here's how we can work together to help your child attend regularly:

- **Make sure your child is in school every day unless they are really unwell.**
- **Try to arrange medical appointments outside of school hours.**
- **Let the school know as soon as possible if your child has to be absent, and provide any necessary information.**
- **Work with us to solve any problems that might be affecting your child's attendance.**

In some cases, **Attendance panel meetings** may happen when a student has missed a lot of school. The meeting is there to help, not to blame anyone. It gives the school and family a chance to talk about why the student is not attending and to find ways to make things better. The goal is to support the student so they can get back into learning and have the best chance to do well. Schools have to try their best to help every child come to school regularly.

If a child doesn't go to school often, it can make learning harder. They might fall behind, miss out on time with friends, and feel more worried about school. This is why schools send attendance letters and hold attendance panel meetings — to work with families, offer support, and help improve attendance. Parents have a legal duty to make sure their child goes to school. If a child keeps missing school without a good reason, families may get a warning or a fine, and in serious cases, it could lead to court. The goal is always to support the child and avoid things getting that far.

We believe that by working together, we can help your child get the most out of their education and reach their full potential. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact your Head of Year or myself.

Year 7	Mr Stevenson	Stevenson@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Year 8	Mr Bembridge	Bembridge@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Year 9	Mr Flynn	Flynn@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Year 10	Miss Wilband	Wilband@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Year 11	Mr Hamer	Hamer@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Attendance Lead		Corboz@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support for your child's education.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Corboz
Attendance Lead