SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Headteacher's Message

RUSKIN

Dear Parents/Carers

The Spring term has passed us by very quickly and I would like to wish you all a happy Easter.

We are pleased with the building progress and expected deadlines are being met. The classrooms will be a welcome addition in September at the beginning of the new academic year.

It has, again, been a very busy term filled with opportunities for personal development and enrichment and it is pleasing to see so many of our students participating in the vast array of activities. Thanks to all of our families for supporting your child and the school. It really does make a huge difference to school life.

I hope you enjoy a flavour of this school life in our newsletter and well done to all of our students who have been involved this term.

Headteachers prize winners this term are:-

- Y7 Jimmy Woolrich
- Y8 Riley Precious
- Y9 Noah Davies
- Y10 JJ Keenan
- Y11 Lily MacDonald

The awards are for attitudes to learning, excellent behaviour standards and contribution to school life at Ruskin. Well done to you all.

School re-opens Monday 17th April to all students on Week 2 timetable. If you would like to discuss anything please contact us via email enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk or on 01270 560514.

Mr Postlethwaite Headteacher





WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Pages 2-4	Careers	Page 15	Computing
Page 5	Hospitality & Catering	Pages 16-20	YAM Updates
Page 6	Citizenship	Page 21	Student Success
Page 7	Art	Pages 22-24	Maths
Page 8	Building Project update	Page 25	Love Your Pet
Pages 9	PE	Pages 26-28	School Info
Pages 10-12	Music	Pages 29	External Activities
Pages 13-14	Dance	Page 30	Attendance
		Page 31	Wellbeing

Careers—Girls into Bentley



Year 10 girls spending the day at Bentley as part of their Girls into Bentley initiative.

The girls enjoyed a tour of the factory and a CV writing workshop along with a STEM activity.

Thank you Bentley for your support with our National Careers Week and International Women's Day.

Mrs Hickson





Careers—YMCA visit

Students visited YMCA Crewe to learn more about the variety of careers available and how they might be able to get involved.

Thank you to The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge for arranging the session and for kindly sharing this photograph with us that they took.

Miss Webster







Careers—Arriva Train Care

Year 10 Pledge Explore students on their visit to Arriva Train Care. The students were taken on a tour of the company (in full hi-vis gear!) and given a talk on the career opportunities available.

Mrs Whitefoot





Girly Fishmonger











We were thrilled that on Friday 10th February @Girlyfishmonger visited Ruskin to demonstrate the preparation and cooking of different fish with our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering and Food Prep and Nutrition students.

Emma talked to us about sustainability and different fish species and students had the opportunity to help prepare a range of fresh fish, something we can't often afford to do in school.

Many thanks @FoodTCentre @heroesfish @FishmongersCo #FishHeroes



Mrs Westerside-Downes



RUSKIN Community High School Large Teacher Allowed

Year 11 Citizenship Trip



Students pictured with Dr Kieran Mullan MP for Crewe and Nantwich

Year 11 had a fantastic day in London; the weather held off and despite the early start the day was full of smiles and great opportunities. We visited the Houses of Parliament where we had a guided tour and learnt lots of interesting facts including where the secret toilet of the queen is. We really enjoyed being able to sit and watch a live debate in the House of Commons and had a brilliant workshop at the end of our tour where we looked at debating skills. Our time here finished with a Q and A session with our local MP where he was grilled by our students on issues affecting them in our local area. Next up we headed to the Supreme Court where we learnt about the role of this court in our system of law and we had the opportunity to sit in on a trial.

We were able to see lots of iconic sights including the London Eye and Trafalgar Square before our delicious meal.

Mrs Cross





Art Residential Trip

Over the weekend, Mrs Bennett and Mr Neal took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Art students to Conwy on an Art residential trip. The students took part in workshops led by professional artists and all worked incredibly hard over what was a very busy weekend! The work produced by the students was exceptional, and all of them were an absolute credit to the school, we were so proud of them.

Well done to all involved!

Mrs Bennett









Building Projects—update



Despite the snow and rain there has been much progress with the building of the new English Block extension.

Students signing the steels on the new build.







P.E. Department—Athletics



Our Year 7 and Year 8's took part in the Crewe and Nantwich Secondary Sportshall Athletics competition.

This involves students competing against other local secondary schools in indoor track and field events, such as standing long jump, vertical jump, shot put, relay races and obstacle relay races. Our students performed really well in their events.

The winning school teams progressed to the County Sportshall Athletics finals.

Mr McGregor





Music Department—Love Music Trust

Ruskin hosted the Love Music Trust Spring Concert on Monday 27th March with a variety of different ensembles performing.

The concert was a culmination of months of hard work from the students who rehearse weekly with tutors from LMT

The concert showcased: Cheshire East Youth Choir, Nantwich Young Voices, Sandbach Young Voices, Folk Group and String Symphonia.

Students from Ruskin were part of the *String Symphonia:* Luciano Barnes, Helena Holcman and Filip Ratajczyk. Thanks go to Miss Clare Smith, our violin teacher, for her hard work with this group

A huge thank you to the Performing Arts Leaders, *Jake Adams, Harrison Barnes* and *Alexandra Byrne*, who helped at the concert and helped to raise over £80 for Performing Arts through refreshments and a raffle.



Mrs Harríson



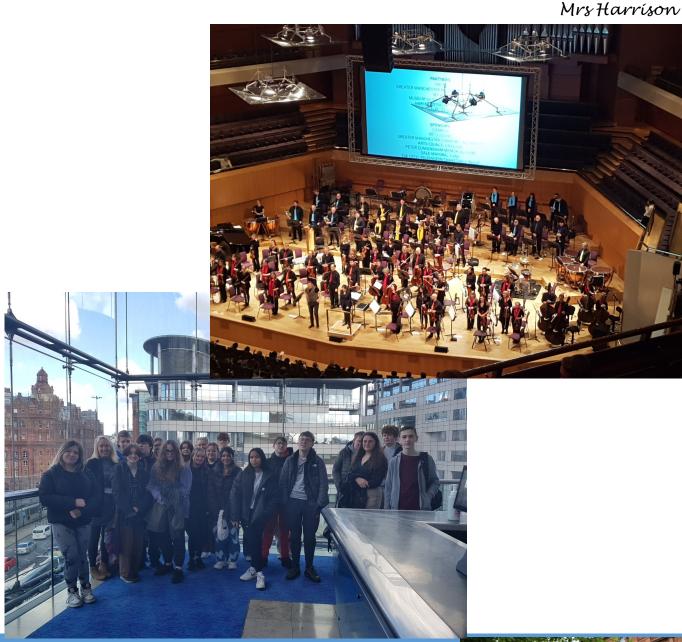


RUSKIN Community High School Larting Together. Achieving High Standards

Music Department—Bridgewater Hall

Year 10 GCSE Music students travelled to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester on March 7th to watch the world-famous Halle Orchestra perform. We went on a musical journey through the seasons and around the world with pieces including *Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and Star Wars, John Williams*.

Students sang along with the orchestra in *Earth* by Hans Zimmer and also performed an original song, written for the occasion, entitled: 'What a Wonderful Life'.







Music—Singfest!

On 23rd March 2023, Ruskin Choir performed in the annual 'Singfest' concert at Congleton Town Hall. Our students acted as ambassadors for the primary singers, performing songs from two original medleys titled 'Dancers and Dreamers', including hits songs such as 'A Million Dreams' and 'Dancing in the Moonlight'.

Mrs Harríson







RUSKIN Community High School

Over 20 school and community groups from across Cheshire performed over two entertaining days at 'Crewe Gotta Dance 2023'. The groups performed a number of dance styles including ballet, street, contemporary, musical theatre and much more and were also joined by talented local singers.





Ruskin Performance Group pictured with Miss Lane getting ready to dance at 'Crewe Gotta Dance 2023'





Dance—Regent Theatre rehearsals

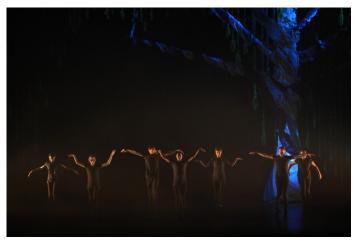
The Performance Group trip on 10th February was a huge success.

10 students from across all year groups travelled to Stoke to perform at the Regent Theatre in a production for the Stoke Dance Festival.

The theme was about the planet so the students performed a dance based on the ice caps melting due to global warming. The students rehearsed on the stage before the performance and enjoyed the experience of performing on such a grand stage with lights, music and special effects.

The students also got to watch other schools perform which was very inspirational.

Míss Lane











Computing—Year 7

Year 7 have been using Scratch to develop their computational thinking. Students were able to follow tutorials in order to better understand if and for loops. Students created games to make a brick breaker and fish game. Some students also went on to design and develop their own game.

For the last lesson of the half term, students used all of the skills they had learnt and built their own Minecraft game on an "Hour of Code". Many students completed this and got a certificate.

Well done Year 7!

Miss Pownall





Year Achievement Manager—updates

Mr Gregory: Year 7

The Year 7 students began the New Year at Ruskin as experienced members of the school - no longer the new kids on the block. They were settled into the routines of the school, they knew the expectations of theirs teachers and leaders and felt like a part of the community.

They received their first detailed written reports of their progress and this reflected the great work ethic and hard work made by the majority of the cohort. This was very pleasing and set the target for excellent achievement in the future.

For the spring term 32 students achieved 100% attendance which is very impressive. The overall figure for the year group is 91.9% and hopefully this will increase next term.

There had been many examples of the quality of work produced by the Year 7 students and the pride they take in their work. For Humanities, a homework project of designing and making a Motte and Bailey castle was set. The quality of the work was outstanding. The students had clearly put a lot of thought, time and effort into their projects which yielded some truly fantastic and varied pieces of work (some students had used Lego, food, cardboard, everyday household items). In technology Willow Precious created a superb model of the school building. The model now sits in the Ruskin display cabinet for staff and students to see. There has been an overwhelming number of positive comments made about the piece of work.

This term the new House system was launched and the students became part of one of the three Houses of the school: Curie, Hawking or Turing. This new part of the school created additional opportunities for the students to be involved in extra curricular activities e.g. Maths competitions and dodgeball. This initiative has reinforced form identity which has created bonds between the students and their form tutors. In addition to this is has created a sense of pride in being part of form group.

For Assemblies the students have continued to learn about wider issues of the world and personal development. Many topics have been covered including Workers' Rights, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Book Day, STEM Careers, World Theatre Day and Rest, Relax, Recover (World Sleep Day) which explored the importance of sleep and its links to good mental health.

The totals for the number of positive points for each form for this term are as follows:

7BEL	870	7BRL	1020	
7COS	785	7GRV	951	
70D0	858	7SAM	769	

The summer term will have a Reward Day in the final week. To be eligible for this activity the students will need to have excellent attendance and behaviour during this final term.

I hope the students have a well deserved break this Easter and I am looking forward to welcoming them back in the summer term!

Thank you for your continued support.



Year Achievement Manager—updates

Mr Hartley: Year 8

I would like to thank Year 8 pupils for their hard work and positive attitude to learning as well as parents for their support and communication.

We have had a tight focus both on achievement in lessons and kindness to others in the community.

Pupils have responded positively in working hard to prepare themselves for their options in Year 9 and also in having a positive & supportive attitude to others.

This term has seen the pupils engage in the extra-curricular activities of Sport, Food Tech, Art, Reading, Creative Performance and STEM.

It has also been a real pleasure to plan and deliver the two celebration assemblies. Here we have been able to praise performances in the classroom, Class Charts achievements, Form Tutor awards, attendance, sport, music and so many positive comments from classroom teachers who often send me fantastic pictures of pupils' work.

Mr Hartley

Mrs Bennett: Year 9

Year 9 have had a really busy term. They have been thinking seriously about their future careers and aspirations, making choices about their own education for the first time with their GCSE option choices. They have had assemblies from all subject staff and taster sessions in some subjects so they were really well informed about what to choose, and it was brilliant to see so many students with their parents and carers attend the options evening. A group of students also took part in a careers workshop from Higher Horizons about careers and options choices which was really beneficial.

I have felt privileged to see the year group grow and mature this term, with lots of opportunities and achievements from academic success to exceptional behaviour celebrated. A group of Continued...





Mrs Bennett continued

I have felt privileged to see the year group grow and mature this term, with lots of opportunities and achievements from academic success to exceptional behaviour celebrated. A group of students performed at Singfest and the Gifted and talented Singing Day, performing in a concert at Congleton Town Hall. We were extremely proud of all students involved in this. It was also a privilege to see the culinary skills of year 9 in their 'Dragons Den' challenge, where I had the opportunity to be a judge for some classes – all produced dishes of a professional standard which were very impressive!

A number of students have again shown great leadership qualities this term, helping with school tours and interview lessons for prospective students and staff, while others have shown leadership skills in sporting events or by participating in the School Council and Eco Council. We also had Noah receive a special award from the headteacher for being such an outstanding student – a huge well done!

Form Tutors and I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure that your child has had a positive and rewarding year so far, and we look forward to seeing your child's continued successes.

Mrs Bennett

Year 10: Miss Managh

It has been a privilege to see Year 10 settle into their GCSE options with such maturity and enthusiasm as they continue to have high expectations of themselves as they work towards their GCSE's. It's always wonderful to have positive conversations with students, parents and staff about their successes and to see their achievements being celebrated in school and within the wider community through our social media platforms. It was also wonderful to see so many of you at the Year 10 Parents Evening in January. Many students take part in our wider school life through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, music, dance, drama and sporting events. These activities boost confidence and extend students networks, as well as providing them with new skills and abilities. Students have been learning about revision methods and memory techniques through workshops provided by Higher Horizons. These skills will support students as they study towards future assessments and examinations.

Continued...





Miss Managh continued...

As your child enters the summer term there are some key dates to remember-

Keele University Campus Experience Day on April 28th – All of Year 10 will be visiting Keele University Campus to experience the day in the life of an undergraduate student.

Secondary College (Cheshire College South and West) on July 6th – All students will have an opportunity to attend 3 taster sessions on this day and learn about student life at college.

Both of the above are a wonderful opportunity for Year 10 to experience what education will be like after Ruskin and to learn about courses they haven't heard of or may be interested in in the future.

Lastly, Form Tutors and I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure that your child has had a positive and rewarding year so far, and we look forward to seeing your child's continued successes.

Miss Managh





Year 11: Mr Ledwards

This has been such a busy term for year 11 on the run up to their GCSE exams starting Monday 15th May. Students did their final mock exams the two weeks on the run up to February Half Term and this latest half term has been once of revision, reflecting on strengths and weaknesses from their mocks.

Students have shown a real willing and clear desire to do their best on the upcoming exams. Lessons 6 attendance has been excellent recently and students are keen to win raffle tickets for their attendance at these sessions. This incentive will continue after the Easter break. I have seen a real maturity when students have approached their final exams in Art, Food & Nutrition and Hospitality & Catering this half term. I would also like to thank the students as a clear tangible push seen and dedication shown for students to submit their best efforts for the March 31st coursework deadline for many subjects. All year 11 have a timetable for revision sessions happening over Easter and I urge them to attend if they can and are required to do so.

This term has seen the vast majority of students apply for one or more Further Education Providers and try to plan their next steps once they have left us in the summer. All students have received a careers meeting and working with the local providers most are in a position where they can focus on their exams having applied for various courses.

The next half term will be a challenging one for all the students in the year group in the run up to their mocks. All we can ask of them is to give it their all and us, as a school, will be immensely proud of them. Whilst GCSE exam pressure is normal, any students that are feeling this pressure is too great, we are working with external providers to support any students that are feeling overwhelmed in the run up to or during the exam.

I hope you all manage your Easter break in a relaxing but also productive fashion.

Mr Ledwards





Student Success—update

We are just back from the national championship finals and Ben and Zeke Griffiths have shot brilliantly.

Ben competed in the 10m pistol finals on Tues and was very close to qualifying for the final knockout, he is already looking forward to next year.

Today Ben and Zeke both competed in the 6yd Air Rifle event, Ben came 5th in the Intermediate category (Yr 9, 10) category with the top 6 being separated by only 5 points. Zeke also came 5th in the Junior category (Yr 6, 7, 8) which was also another close event.







Maths—Year 10 Day Trip to Uni

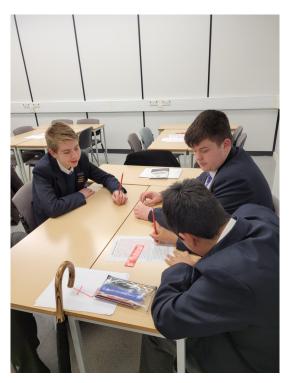


On Tuesday 29th March eight of our year 10 Maths students had the opportunity to experience a Maths Day at Manchester University to complete different challenges in the great Year 10 Maths Feast.

18 Teams from different schools in Cheshire had to complete four rounds of tough maths challenges. Our students worked hard to crack the questions and had the opportunity to chat to students currently studying Maths at Manchester University. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Mrs Keele









Maths—Subject Stars

Each half term, the math teachers choose one Mathematics Subject Star and Homework Star per year group along with our intervention team choosing one student per year. All have been issued a certificate and lots of praise. This half term the following have been chosen:

Subject Star:

Y7 – Ellie Hamilton Y8 – Dicia Lemos Y9 – Sophie Robbins Y10 – Jivin Sendi Y11 – Denzel Mudavanhu and Ashton Skellon-Rowlands

Homework Star:

- Y7 Amelia Aspery
- Y8 Jolana Sabova
- Y9 Matriah Begum
- Y10 Shenae Doherty
 - Y11 Jack Preston

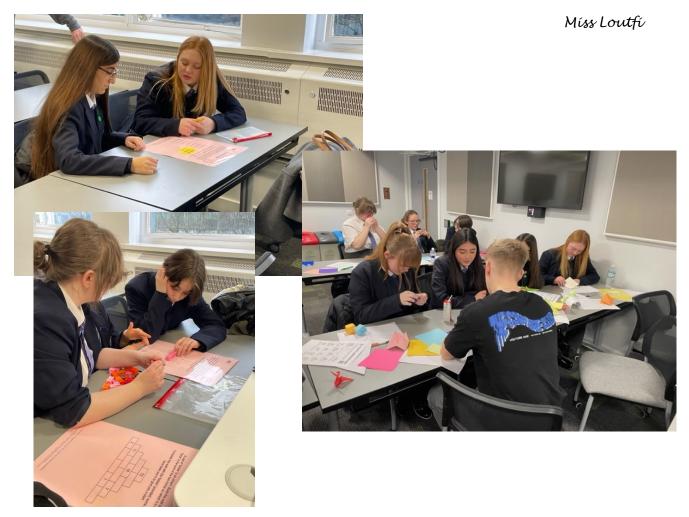
Intervention Star:

Y7 – Alfie Jones-Graveson
Y8 – Dominic Guildford
Y9 – Russell Tomlinson
Y10 – Emily Somerfield
Y11 – Ellissa Mooney

Míss Sample

Maths—Year 10 Day Trip to Uni

In the maths department we are keen to encourage students to think about maths after GCSE. We take every opportunity to inspire our students to explore their understanding in different settings. This problem-solving enrichment day at the University of Manchester was a great opportunity for the students to engage with other students from other schools in activities during the day. They also had the opportunity to meet university students that are studying maths and discuss the benefits of studying maths after GCSE. Our students at Ruskin took this opportunity and were a fantastic representation of our school and our values. *(attached pics)*



Maths—Year 7 Intra Form Competition

Well done to all the students that represented their form in the Intra Form Maths Competition, we had a great afternoon. Well done to 7BRL for winning the competition. All the students that contributed were given positive points for their enthusiasm and for representing their forms so wonderfully. 7BRL will also be getting additional points for the house teams. Certificates will be given out and their win celebrated in the Year 7 awards assembly.





National Love Your Pet Day celebration



In February we celebrated this national event with the help of Frodo and Bruno our resident guinea pigs.

They love nothing more than eating fresh veg and hay.

Every time they hear a bag rustle they will squeak for more food!

Bruno (blush) was a rescue piggy and was 6 months old when we got him. He was two on March 3rd. Frodo (brown) was introduced a couple of months later when he was six weeks old. He will be two in August and is definitely the boss!

Guinea Pig Facts

- Guinea Pigs have 258 bones in their body
- They have a life span of up to 8 years. The oldest guinea pig lived to be 15 years old.
- In Switzerland it is illegal to own just one guinea pig because they are social animals and need companionship.





Some Gentle Reminders:

UNIFORM

Please remember:

- **NO** sculptured haircuts, including patterns, are allowed and hair length must be at least a Grade 2 or above.
- Hair should be a natural colour.
- No shaved eyebrows.
- Only plain ear studs are allowed, one in each ear lobe.
- Trainers are not allowed.
- No painted or gel nails.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are to be switched off at all times.

Mobile phones are not to be used in school. If students are found to be using their phone, it will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to collect it from the School Office.

Students should not use their mobile phones to contact parents throughout the school day.

Phones taken on a Friday will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

- Pencil case
- Pen (black)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Maths Set
- Water bottle

Calculators and Maths sets can be purchased from the Mathematics department or School Office: Calculator £9 Maths Set £1.50 Both £10







A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the **peace of mind** that comes with knowing that your money has reached school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

How to pay online...

- Step 1 Have your activation letter ready
- Step 2 Login at <u>www.parentpay.com</u>
- Step 3 Follow instructions to activate account
- Step 4 Click on 'Items for payment'

For balance alerts – click on 'Alerts' to set text/email alerts.

Parents can check meal items

purchased daily

DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED UNIFORM YOU CAN DONATE?

We are seeking donations of any uniform items you no longer need and are willing to donate



Blazers in particular as these are the most expensive items to buy new

We ask that all donated items are washed and in good condition, no rips or stains

If you can, please drop items off at the Main Reception

DON'T THROW AWAY DONATE TODAY



Holiday Dates 2023						
	Date of Closin	g		Date of Re-Open	ing	
Easter	Friday	31 st	March	Monday	17 th	April
May Day	Friday	28 th	April	Tuesday	2 nd	May
Summer Half-Term	Friday	26 th	Мау	Monday	5 th	June
Summer	Wednesday	19 th	July	****		

 $\ensuremath{\text{INSET:}}$ Designated staff training/preparation days: Monday $3^{\mbox{\scriptsize rd}}$ July 2023

Timings of the School Day from September 2022				
Monday—Friday	Years 7 & 8	Monday—Friday	Years 9, 10 & 11	
AM Form Tutor	8.40-9.00	AM Form Tutor	8.40-9.00	
L1	9.00-10.00	L1	9.00-10.00	
Break	10.00-10.15	L2	10.00-11.00	
L2	10.15-11.15	Break	11.00-11.15	
L3(PM Reg12.15-12.20)	11.15-12.20	L3(PM Reg12.15-12.20)	11.15-12.20	
Lunch	12.20-1.00	L4	12.20-1.20	
L4	1.00-2.00	Lunch	1.20-2.00	
L5	2.00-3.00	L5	2.00-3.00	

Current Vacancies at Ruskin

Exam Invigilators—Please contact the school for further details on 01270 560514.

Governor Roles—The Ruskin Governing Body currently has two Co-opted Governor vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact Debbie Jones on 01270 560514





External Activities

The Cheshire Kids Duathlon is an event that is specifically designed for children aged 5 to 16 years old. It takes place on 20th May at Barony Park, Nantwich, and involves running and cycling. This event provides children with the opportunity to challenge themselves physically, learn new skills, and compete in a safe and supportive environment.

From £15 per race (each distance individually priced)





@ WISHING WELL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HUB 3 Chester Bridge Crewe, CW2 7ef

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Attendance at Ruskin

As you will be aware, attendance is always a key focus at Ruskin. Attendance at school is essential in order for students to make the progress they are capable of and succeed during their time at secondary school.

We give students the challenge of having 95% attendance or above/ and anything lower than this can have a significant impact on students learning, as you can see from the chart below:

_	Short term impact	In a year	In a school career
100%	Full attendance	190 days learning	Full attendance – no learning lost
95%		Good Attendance	
94%	Half a day off per fortnight	2 <u>week</u> learning lost	10 weeks learning lost
90%	A day off each fortnight	A month's learning lost	Over half a year's learning lost
85%	A day and a half off each fortnight	Nearly half a term's learning lost	The equivalent of missing Year 11
80%	A day off a week	Over half a term's learning lost	A full year's learning lost

We do know that, on occasions, absence is unavoidable. On these occasions, we do ask that you contact the school every day that your child is absent. If we do not get information on this, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised. One day is worth two absences (am and pm registration) and ten unauthorised absences could result in you being fined by the local authority.

Our preferred method for reporting absence from school is via the Class Charts app. Your child should have the details for you to log in to the app/website in their planner. If you do not have this, they will be given out again at the start of the new academic year, or please contact the school. You can now also track your child's attendance every day on Class Charts.



We will continue to contact parents and carers regularly to inform, discuss and celebrate attendance. We look forward to working with you in order to support your child attending school.

We are continuing to hand out tokens to all students that have 100% attendance each week. This gives students the opportunity to win either a TV, wireless earbuds, a £100 clothes voucher, a tablet or a smartwatch. The winners for each of these will be announced in July on the last day of the year, giving students lots of opportunities to collect more tokens!

Thank you for continuing to support your child with their attendance at school.





Wellbeing

Evidence suggests there are **5 steps** you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life.



9

Connect

Connect with people around you. Spend time with your friends and family. Make new friends. Use different ways to communicate.

Be Active

Go for a walk or a run. Cycle, dance or play a game. Walk to school instead of getting the bus. Go to the park. Try a new activity.

Take Notice

Take time to be still, reflect, and become aware of your surroundings. Notice what you are thinking and be aware of what's going on in the world around you: the everyday and the unusual. Be curious. Savour your favourite food.



Keep Learning

Set yourself a goal. Learn something new. Research something you're interested in. Learn a new word or a random fact. Visit a museum.



Give

Do something nice for a friend. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Raise money for charity. Be a good role model. Take action to improve your neighbourhood.

