



15th January 2026

Our ref: ELO/hsa

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to remind you of the importance of supporting your child into school each day and why attendance at sixth form is so key to their future success. We hope for students to achieve the best possible attendance in school, research from the Department of Education shows that consistent attendance underpins success in a students A level or BTEC qualifications.

Attendance statistics

When a student's attendance drops below 95% we see a limit in their ability to complete coursework, prepare for exams and stay up to date with their next steps. Research shows:

- If a child misses 10% of school, so their attendance is below 90%, they are likely to earn £10,000 less than their peers by the age of 28.
- Missing just 10 days of school at sixth form – therefore dropping their attendance levels to 90-95%- can halve a student's likelihood of achieving a pass grade at A level.

Although these statistics are stark, they help us to understand the importance of attendance and building resilience in our students.

Medical needs

We are, of course, aware that there are all sorts of reasons students can be absent, and that some students have medical needs which require time off school, we are always supportive of this and we have records of medical issues students have. Thank you for being supportive and sharing this information with the school.

What are we doing to support attendance at St Bernards sixth form?

We are working to ensure transitions back into school are as smooth as possible and teachers are supportive of students who have had to have periods of time off school due to their health. We are taking a positive approach to attendance, please do look out for celebration emails to celebrate students' attendance successes.

Why is attendance so important at this time of year?

With mock examinations for both year 12 and year 13 approaching we hope you will support us in ensuring your child is in school as much as possible and that they attend school on time. We share vital information in form time about their next steps and complete activities and share notices to help encourage the smooth running of sixth form.

We thank you for your continued support in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Owen

Assistant Head Teacher (Head of Sixth Form)

