



HUNTINGTON SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr M Smith

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely and restful summer. As we welcome the new academic year, I am writing to provide you with some key information around attendance.

The start of the school day

At Huntington School, the day officially **begins at 8:30am though we welcome students through the green gate from 8:15am**. All students should be on site by 8:30am, and they will be marked as late if they arrive to form from 8:35am onwards. Key messages and information are shared during form time, so it is crucial that students are in attendance each morning.

We appreciate your support in ensuring students are prepared with their full uniform and equipment. However, if any items are forgotten, our staff will be on hand to help students get ready for the day at the welcome gate.

Free toast is available for all students in the canteen each morning before form time and we strongly encourage students to take advantage of this brilliant offer. It is a great time to fuel up, socialise and enjoy a positive start to their school day!

The power of presence: understanding and achieving excellent attendance

Supported by extensive research, at Huntington School, we consistently observe that **strong attendance directly links with academic achievement and overall student well-being**. Students with good attendance not only perform better academically but report a greater sense of belonging, cultivate strong friendships, and build respectful, trusting relationships with school staff. These are all vital components of a positive and enriching school experience that we are dedicated to fostering.

What is 'excellent attendance'?

Whilst 100% attendance is excellent, we understand that occasional illness can prevent students from attending. Therefore, we consider **97% (5 missed days of education)** across an academic year to be **excellent**. It is important to remember that there are **175 non-school days** a year and as a result we request all holidays and plans to be made during this time.

Percentage	Absence- Days	Rating
97-100%	0-5	Excellent
95-97%	6-10	Good
93-95%	11-13	Emerging Concern
90-93%	14-18	Cause for Concern
Below 90%	19+ days	High Concern

It is also important to be aware of national classifications:

- The Department for Education defines anyone with **90% attendance (19 days of absence)** or below as '**persistently absent.**'
- Students with **50% attendance or below** are classified as '**severely absent.**'

Our commitment to communication and support

We are committed to working together with families to ensure the best possible attendance and outcomes for every student. We will proactively **communicate with families when a student reaches certain 'trigger' points** regarding their attendance.

We request that families **communicate any reasons for absence** or any concerns with your child's ability to attend school.

The easiest and most efficient way to do this is via the ClassCharts app. Alternatively, you can reach us by phone at **01904 752165** or by email at absence@huntington-ed.org.uk. We request this is done **before 8:30am**. Your open communication helps us provide the best support for your child's success.

School attendance: prioritising learning and addressing parental concerns

Government guidance emphasises **the importance of planning holidays during school breaks** to avoid disrupting a child's education. Huntington School firmly believes that **regular school attendance is fundamental** to a student's ability to maximise their educational opportunities, realise their potential, and contribute positively to their community.

We have however listened to parental feedback regarding fixed penalty notices. For the academic year **2026-27**, we will **recommend to the local authority that these notices not be issued if a student has an attendance record of 97% (excellent) or above on the first day of absence**. For any leave taken during the autumn term, attendance for the previous academic year will be considered.

This approach aims to balance the critical importance of consistent school attendance with an understanding of individual circumstances, reflecting our commitment to both student success and supportive parental partnerships.

If you have any queries about attendance, then please contact me at s.roworth@huntington-ed.org.uk

Miss Sanchia Roworth
Strategic Attendance Leader