



## BEECHEN CLIFF

10th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed welcoming pupils back into the school this September and hope you have had a good summer. All pupils have been settling back in, and I hope your son is enjoying the start to the academic year.

We are writing to all of our parents and carers at the start of the academic year to highlight our school policy on attendance - we each have a part to play in supporting pupils' attendance in school and your support is a vital link in this chain. At Beechen Cliff and across the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership we expect students to attend school '*all day, every day*'. The Trust has recently updated the attendance policy accessible [here](#) and we, alongside all other schools in the Trust, are highlighting the importance of good attendance with our community at the start of term.

Young people thrive when supported by welcoming environments in which adults know them as individuals and where there are clear routines and expectations which help them learn and develop. You will be aware that we started the new term with an 'Ignite Day' where we spent time revisiting our expectations for personal organisation and timekeeping and the learning behaviours we expect to see in school. One of the sessions that day focused purely on attendance and punctuality as that is a key focus area across the school in the coming year.

You may already be aware that the national picture for secondary school attendance remains a concern, with nearly twice the absence rates that were the norm before the recent pandemic. At Beechen Cliff our pupils attend significantly better than the national average, but attendance is still somewhat lower than pre-pandemic levels and we know this has an impact on our pupils.

Nationally the picture is clear - where pupils are regularly present in school their health and well-being are elevated, their school experience is more enriched and they are more successful. Research by the Department of Education clearly demonstrates that pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A-level results.

Across the school we are working with pupils to help them track their own attendance weekly and understand the significance of their personal attendance data. For example, that 90% attendance means a pupil will miss nearly four weeks of timetabled lessons and learning in a school year. This equates to nearly 100 lessons missed.

We will continue to track individual attendance and we'll share any concerns about your son's attendance if it starts to drop. You can view your child's attendance at any time using our portal, Talaxy.

Naturally, we understand there are sometimes valid reasons why pupils may have to take time off school so it's important we are working in partnership to minimise the impact on their learning and personal development. If you have any concerns please do contact us.

As always, we are committed to working together to ensure that all of our students achieve their potential.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Michael Ambrose  
Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

Headteacher: Mr T D Markall

**Kipling Avenue, Bath BA2 4RE**

T: +44(0)1225 480466 E: [headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk) [www.beechencliff.org.uk](http://www.beechencliff.org.uk) Twitter: @BeechenCliff

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