



6 October 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Supporting GCSE and Coursework Deadlines in Year 10

As your child progresses through Year 10 at George Pindar School, I wanted to take a moment to explain how Year 10 students are preparing to sit their GCSE subject examinations but also their option subjects where they need to meet important coursework deadlines and learn the content necessary to ensure they stay on track in this pivotal year.

Unfortunately, our Year 10 had almost the lowest attendance at George Pindar during September. Each missed day means that students miss essential learning and the cumulative effect can be quite damaging. When students are absent, they often struggle to catch up with missed work. Meeting coursework deadlines is essential for many subjects, and falling behind will affect their results.

We know that regular attendance has a direct impact on student achievement in the final GCSE examinations, with students who have 95% or higher attendance achieving on average 1.5 grades higher than those who do not. If you are struggling with getting your child into school regularly please contact one of us for support. We are here to help.

Please note too that there have been changes to how schools record attendance, following the publication of a Department for Education document this summer. One of the key implications of this is the way in which schools manage and record holidays taken during term time. Previously, parents have informed the school of intended holidays and asked for permission for the holiday to be approved by the school. Under the new guidance this is not possible as schools are no longer able to use an approved code enabling this. All holidays taken during term time are therefore recorded as unauthorised. We strongly encourage parents to ensure that students do not take holidays during term time but should this be the case, we would still ask that you inform us of your intention to take your child on holiday during term time to aid with our safeguarding responsibilities within school.

To the families who are already prioritising attendance, we want to extend our gratitude; it is noticed and greatly appreciated. Every student who achieves 100% attendance every week receives a ticket for the 100 Club draw - a chance to win one of 3 £100 prizes at the end of this half term. Together we can ensure that Year 10 students are supported in the next steps in their educational journey. We look forward to seeing your child at school on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Team
George Pindar School

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