



6 October 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Can we buck the trend in Year 8 at George Pindar School?

ImpactED evaluation are a not for profit research group who aim to improve student outcomes and life chances. In a recent report entitled 'Understanding Attendance' they found that the largest drop in attendance for students in secondary schools is during the transition from Year 7 into Year 8. We have put this to the test and have found that attendance currently in Year 8 has dropped compared to last year when children were in Year 7.

We understand that life gets busy and that some days are harder than others, but regular attendance makes a difference in keeping your child on track. Every day of learning builds on the last and when students miss days here and there, they can quickly fall behind. We really want to see improvements with Year 8 at George Pindar in the coming weeks and therefore ask families to do all you can to ensure that your children are attending school every day.

Please note 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.

I would also like to give a big thankyou to the families who are making daily attendance a priority. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and we truly appreciate your support in helping your child stay engaged and present in school. 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. We would like to encourage all Year 8 families to continue to focus on attendance, especially at the start and end of the week so that students can make the most of every school day. Thank you for working with us as we help your child navigate Year 8 with confidence. We look forward to seeing your child at school on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Team
George Pindar School

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