

Principal:
Lesley Welsh



6 October 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Supporting Consistent Attendance in Year 9

We are writing to talk about a growing issue both nationally and here at George Pindar School, particularly in relation to Year 9.

Attendance in Year 9 at George Pindar has been lower than expected in September, especially on Thursdays and Fridays and this can have a direct impact on student's learning. What might seem like an occasional day off can quickly lead to significant gaps in understanding as lessons are taught in sequences that build on prior knowledge. One day missed adds up to 5 hours of learning. If your child is regularly missing days, it can have long term consequences. We know that students who consistently attend for 95% or more of the time typically achieve 1.5 grades higher than those who do not in their GCSE examinations.

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.

A big thank you to all of the families who make attendance a priority. We know that ensuring your child is in school each day is not always easy, but it truly makes a difference to their future success. 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. If you are finding it difficult to keep your child's attendance consistent, please contact us for support. We look forward to seeing your child at school on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Team
George Pindar School

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