

25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Attendance in Year 9**

As Year 10 starts, students have been reminded about the importance of attendance. I am writing to inform you that your son/daughter had an attendance figure between 90-95% for Year 9. If this pattern continues in Years 10 and 11, students are statistically less likely to perform well at the end of their GCSE courses. Based on national statistics, only 56.8% of students with attendance of 90-95% achieve five grade 4 GCSEs and above (including English and Maths). As a result, this may impact their chances of employment or further education at the end of Year 11.

At Arnewood we are keen to support students in their learning and help them improve their attendance. If there is anything you believe can help improve your child's attendance, please in the first instance contact their tutor. If a student is absent from school, it is expected they catch up on missed work by seeking out their teachers and asking for the relevant work that has been missed. This should be done when a student returns to school.

Authorised absences that count towards a students percentage include:

- Educational trips
- Taking part in sporting events
- Bereavement
- Scheduled hospital visits (including orthodontists)
- Religious

Authorised absence that lowers the percentage:

- Sick/ill
- Unscheduled dentist / doctor appointments

Unauthorised absences include:

- No phone call, letter or e-mail to explain absence
- Truancy from lessons
- Taking a leave of absence that has been declined
- Persistent patterns of illness

Should you have any questions regarding this, please contact your child's tutor or myself at [c.neale@arnewood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:c.neale@arnewood.hants.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

Chris Neale  
Head of Year 10

Rec18/19/Yr10