

3 March 2022

Dear parent/carer

Academy Attendance and Changes to Self Isolation

We recognise the negative impact that self-isolation rules and school closures have had on students' education over the past two years. From Thursday 24 February the government have removed the requirement to self-isolate due to a positive Covid test and our attendance procedures are adapting to this. Good attendance has never been more important for your child as we move forward. For this reason, we would expect all students to attend the Academy every day unless there is a valid reason for them not to do so.

Please refer to the information below when making a decision about whether or not to keep your child at home due to illness.

If your child is too unwell to attend, please contact the Academy as early as possible and on each day of absence. Minor illnesses and complaints can be managed at school, please contact your child's Pastoral Leader if you would like us to be aware of this. If you would like your child to have over the counter or prescription medication available in the Academy please contact their Pastoral Leader to arrange for the relevant form to be completed. Please do not provide your child with medication directly as students are not permitted to carry medication themselves for safeguarding reasons.

There is now no legal requirement to self-isolate if you have coronavirus. However, government guidance is still in place to limit the spread of the virus. If your child tests positive for coronavirus they should not attend the Academy while they are infectious. They should take an **LFD** test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to the Academy.

At The Dukeries Academy we have high expectations of attendance for all students meaning that, in normal circumstances, we would expect the vast majority of our students to achieve an overall percentage of 100%. We appreciate that students are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school from this point onwards as absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a student's educational attainment. Please be aware of the impact of missing school on your child's overall attendance percentage shown below. Having an attendance percentage of 80% for each school year in KS3 and KS4 may sound high but means your child will have missed the equivalent of a year of learning.

Attendance achieved over one school year

98% attendance = less than 4 days absent from school

95% attendance = 10 days absent from school

90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school

85% attendance = 5.5 weeks absent from school

80% attendance = 7.5 weeks absent from school

Please also be aware of the government expectations regarding attendance.

The DFE School Attendance Guidance dated August 2020 is very clear regarding parental responsibility *'The government expects parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.'*

Failure to ensure regular school attendance could lead to a Penalty Notice Under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, if a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school, his/her parent (s) are guilty of an offence.

You can track your child's attendance on Class Charts by downloading the App or logging in on any device. If you need help accessing Class Charts please contact your child's Pastoral Leader.

Absence Contact – please inform us before 8.30am on the morning of each day of absence.

Direct Telephone 08442393393 **Text** 07943108675

Pastoral Leader Contact

Year 7 tracey.whitton@attrust.org.uk
Year 8 and Year 10 taryn.hughes@attrust.org.uk
Year 9 fiona.prince@attrust.org.uk
Year 11 selena.marshall@attrust.org.uk
Sixth Form janette.dixon@attrust.org.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards



Mrs Jacqui Ferris
Senior Assistant Principal