



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Elliott, BA Hons PGCE

4th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the nationwide disruption to schools over the last two years, the Department for Education is working with a renewed vigour to improve attendance in schools across the country. Whilst attendance has always been central to the business of any school, this unfaltering focus will help reduce any gaps in learning and ensure all students are in the best position possible.

Schools up and down the country are working with stakeholders, families and students to improve their whole school attendance and Old Buckenham High School is no exception. We make no apology for driving for excellent attendance for all our students. A report published by the Department for Education found overall absence had a negative link to attainment, with every extra day missed associated with a lower chance of achieving 5 or more good GCSEs. As a school, we're working hard to ensure that students are in school as much as possible. This will enable them to achieve their potential and ultimately, to leave school with a brace of GCSEs which accurately reflect their capabilities.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting their child's attendance, especially in encouraging them to attend when perhaps they're feeling a little under the weather. This is of particular importance as we enter the winter months, where coughs and colds can be fairly routine. **Wherever possible, please support your child to attend school.** If you're unsure about whether you should send your child to school when they're ill, information and guidance can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please reach out to us so we can offer the appropriate support and guidance.

Kind regards,

Mr Alderson
Head of Year 7

Miss Washington
Head of Year 8

Mrs Leavold
Head of Year 9

Mr Taylor
Head of KS4

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