



Kingsthorpe College

Ref: PAH/jaw

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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Dear Parent / Carer,

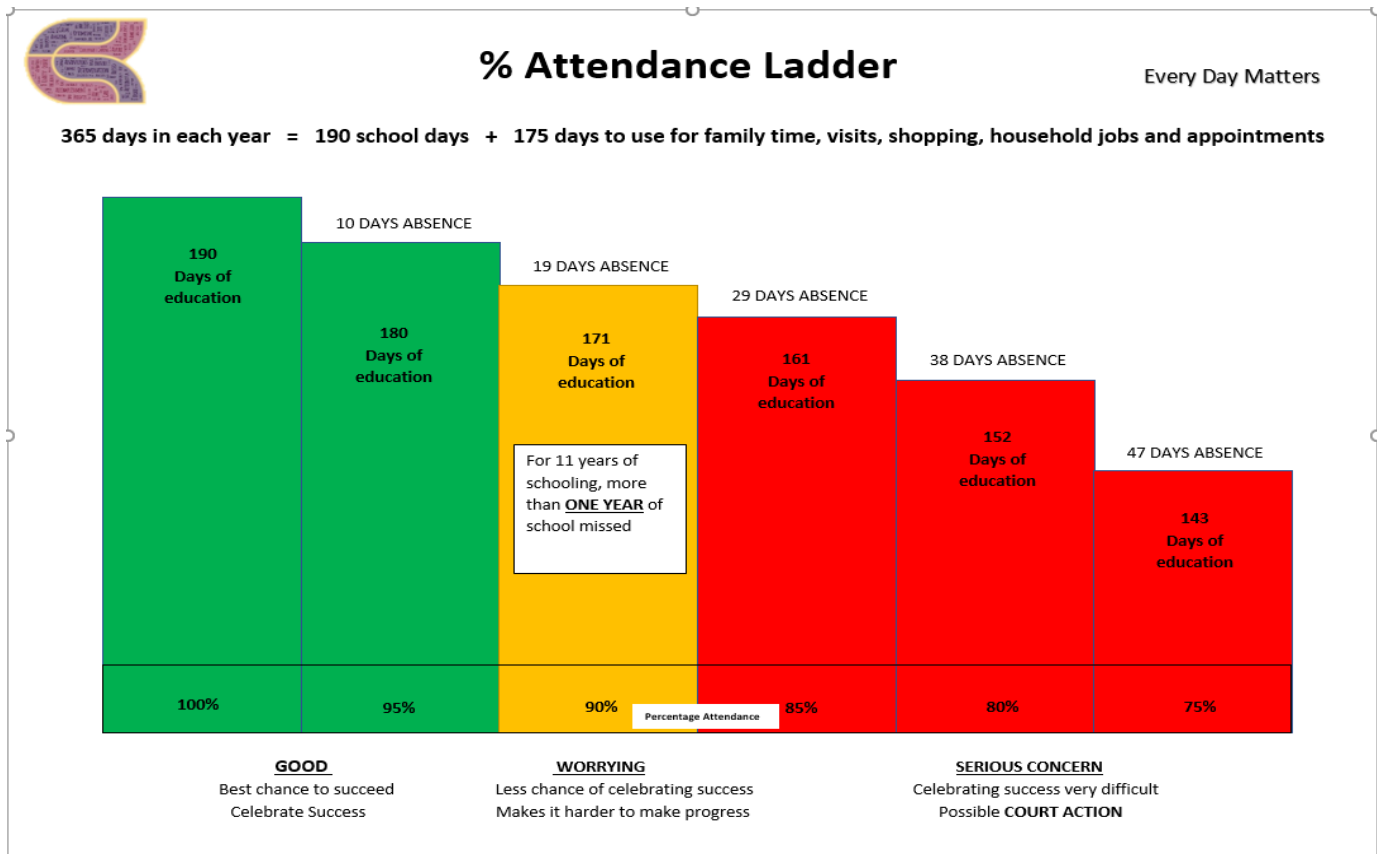
Headteacher : Jennie Giovanelli

As we start a new academic school year, I know that we are all still feeling the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in different ways. We know student attendance at school has been incredibly difficult, and there has had to be a great deal of deviation from previous routines.

As we now enter what is hopefully a much less disrupted school year, we would like to take this opportunity to re-establish attendance routines and remind everyone of the importance of attendance even more so after the disruption that students have been through over the past two years.

At KC, we have an individual student target attendance of 96%. We understand that illnesses and other periods of absence will occur. However, we want all students to strive for 96% attendance or above to ensure absence from school does not impact upon their learning, progress, and achievement.

Below is an image of how attendance is impacted upon by absence.



As you may be aware the government have published new guidance around attendance for schools and local authorities. Below is a section from the latest guidance around the law on school attendance.

*'Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.'*

While some absences are unavoidable, other absences should be avoided. The following examples are intended to help you to maximise your child's attendance and learning. The content is not intended to patronise and may or may not apply to your child.

Please read and share this information with your child as you see fit:

- If a child has a minor ailment, they should still come to school. Whilst in the first instance it is for parents to decide whether a child is well enough to attend school, the school asks that parents' default decision be that they send their child to school, unless they are suffering what can only be described as a 'significant illness.'
- Dentist and GP surgeries are used to being asked for appointments outside of school hours. The school asks that parents / carers request routine appointments that do not clash with school time. If an appointment can only be made during school time, students should attend school whilst not at the appointment i.e. before / after as appropriate. Also, if the student is in pain after appointments, we encourage students to come to school and we can hold personal pain relief in student services where required. We cannot authorise a full day of absence for a routine dentist or GP appointment.
- If a child attends a school trip or other activity, we must avoid students taking absence before or after this trip due to being tired.
- Term-time holidays, as per our attendance policy, are unauthorised and we appreciate that there might be individual situations/circumstances, but we are still unable to authorise any requests for a holiday taken in term time. This is not something that has been decided by Kingsthorpe College but is a national guideline.
- Parents / carers should be mindful of the possibility that their child may wish to avoid school for a reason other than being ill. It can be easier for a child to tell a parent / carer that they are too ill to go to school, rather than explain that they have fallen out with a friend, haven't done their homework etc. If parents / carers feel their child is experiencing something that is reducing their willingness to attend school, please contact us to share your concern.

### **Punctuality:**

Throughout the last academic year, we saw a significant increase in the number of students arriving late to school, which again was most likely a knock-on effect of student routines being disrupted during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is an area that we want to improve upon and ensure we have all students arriving to school on time to begin their school day. Students should be aiming to arrive on to the school site for 8:35am to ensure they are in their tutor rooms for the school day to begin at 8:45am.

We want all students to start their school day in a positive manner and be in a good routine of arriving on time. This is not only something that impacts in school, but it is something that we want to instil into our students for life beyond KC.

If a student does arrive late to school, without a genuine reason provided by parent / carer, then they will receive a breach of our core value of responsibility and lose part of their social time for the day.

Finally, I want to reiterate that if we are aware of the problem, the problem can often be solved. It is the responsibility of everyone within our college community – parents, students, staff, and governors to ensure students access their entitled education provision by securing positive regular attendance at school.

If you have any concerns about this letter or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01604 716106.

Kind Regards,



Mr P Hancock & Attendance Team