



BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS

Valuing Everyone, Achieving Excellence

Will Teece, Headteacher

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30 November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

You will be aware both from national media and our own communications that there are concerns that young people's attendance at school and their punctuality are still some way below pre covid levels.

Given the well established link between attendance and GCSE outcomes this is a concern for all of us in education. For a number of years since the pandemic the Government has made dispensation for students taking their GCSEs in recognition of the impact of the pandemic. Students currently in school will receive no such consideration and as such their lower school attendance is likely to impact on their GCSE success.

At BGLC we have seen our attendance recover better than in other schools and we sit above the national secondary average for attendance although this remains well below pre pandemic levels for our campus too. Fridays are days when attendance appears to be particularly impacted.

Of a bigger concern to us is a recent significant increase in the number of students who are arriving late to school in the morning. Neither our rules around punctuality nor our methods of dealing with students have changed and yet on some mornings over 50 students have arrived after the bell has rung at 8.40am. Our concerns relate to students in all years from 7 to 13.

Punctuality, while important at school, is also an important life skill and we are keen to see our students quickly return to their previously excellent levels of punctuality.

To that end please can we ask that parents and carers support their children and the campus by reinforcing the message of the importance of good punctuality at home as well as keeping an eye on the Arbor App which will provide details about your own son or daughter's record.

We understand that very occasionally things happen that will mean that students are unavoidably late and on those occasions please can we ask that you send your son or daughter to school with a brief note in their planner that they can show to staff. While emails or phone calls can also be sent they won't be available to staff at the gate. A note will prevent a detention from being set at that point. As I am sure you will understand, our young people, like every generation before them, will usually tell us there is a very good reason that they are late to school and so our protocol will always be to set a detention unless we receive information from you explaining the reason for the lateness.

It is a concern that our current sanctions are not proving a deterrent for some students who are repeatedly late. Moving forward, in the first instance each week that a student is late they will receive

the standard break time detention but, while punctuality remains a concern for us, every subsequent late mark will result in an after school detention. This will reset each week.

Of course it remains the case that the huge majority of our students arrive on time each day and we are grateful to the parents and carers of those students for your support in maintaining those standards.

If you have concerns around attendance or punctuality for your son or daughter that you think we can help with please don't hesitate to contact your son or daughter's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Godwin', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Greg Godwin
Senior Deputy Headteacher