



Thursday 25th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Attendance, Behaviour and Culture Updates

We wanted to take the opportunity today to write to you as we reach the midpoint of the first term to celebrate some of the successes since September and share some key reminders.

So far this term:

- Over 518 students have been in school every day since the start of the academic year.
- Our students have been awarded over 10,000 positive events since the start of the year. This is over 11.6 positive events per student.
- 363 students have had a perfect term so far, here every day

Although the school is closed today (Thursday 25th September), we expect all students to return to school on Friday 26th September.

Attendance

We know that local, regional and national evidence confirms that attendance to school is a crucial factor for student success, both at school and the impact on their life beyond education. The evidence from students at Gosford Hill School who finished their GCSEs this summer shows that those who attended school for more than 91% of the time, achieved outcomes in line with (or better than) students in the top 20% of the country. This is a tremendous achievement and correlates with national data confirming the importance of attendance. UK Government statistics then show that after leaving school, students who are persistently absent earn on average £10,000 less per year than their peers with near perfect attendance.

In particular, at this time of year we know that there will be some times when students begin to feel unwell. Before allowing your child to remain at home, please consider the guidance provided by the NHS to help you determine whether students really need to be away from school. We also know that there are times when absence is really unavoidable. On occasions where students have to be absent from school, parents/carers must inform us daily of the absence, preferably using the online form on our school website.

Please also take the opportunity of time on Thursday to talk to your child about the need to stay in lessons as this helps to maximise their learning and the positive successes they will achieve. Where students are feeling unwell, please encourage them to visit Student Support at break or lunchtime. For 'unwell' feelings, there is always limited action that our First Aid team can take. They will always encourage students back to lessons after checking the reasonable things that they can achieve.



Friday 26th September is going to be our first '**Attendance Golden Ticket Day**'. We are going to hold a number of these throughout the year, praising and recognising students who are in school all of the time. Students have to be in school to be in with a chance of winning a selection of prizes throughout the day. We will not always inform families of these days, instead using them as a tool to reward good routine attendance to school.

This is also a prime opportunity to remind you that **punctuality to school is as important as being present** every day. Please work with your child to help them remain (or get) organised so that they can arrive at school on time every day, ready for their learning.

Detentions

A reminder that when a student is set a detention, this is usually a lunchtime detention the next school day. These detentions will appear on students MCAS calendars and email notifications will be sent to both the student and their parents/carers. These notifications are scheduled to send at 5pm the day before the detention. It is important that students take responsibility for monitoring their calendar, particularly if they think they may have received two C1s for lateness, homework, equipment or PE kit, when they will trigger a detention.

In response to student, parent and staff feedback, we have amended our escalation procedures for this year. If a student fails to attend (or doesn't successfully complete a lunchtime detention) they will be expected to complete their detention after school on the same afternoon.

If a student receives 3 C2s in one day, they will be scheduled to complete an after school detention the following day.

If a student fails to complete an after school detention, students will work in our Reset Room for the duration of the following school day.

Please support your child, first and foremost in a conversation about our school values and classroom expectations (included in the graphics in this document), then reminders to routinely check their school email accounts.

Thank you for your continued support for your child in their ambition and success at Gosford Hill School.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Bateman
Deputy Headteacher

High Expectations in our Classrooms

We are ready to engage in our learning by:

Wearing our uniform correctly



because we are
proud to belong
at GHS.

Keeping mobile phones off and away in bags



because we avoid
distraction.

Being fully equipped for learning



because we
maximise
learning time.

Responsible starts



Silent entry

Enter in silence. Coats off, bags away
Equipment placed on desk
Begin DNA

because a calm and orderly start
ensures that everyone is ready to
learn.

Respectful



Full attention at all times

First time, every time:

- Equipment down
- Eyes on the teacher

because thinking and learning
requires focus; distractions prevent
learning.



One voice

Only one person speaking at any one time

because manners matter and we
respect all opinions.

Resilient



Silent independent work

Unless otherwise asked

because learning is hard.



Check and correct

Check and correct our work in purple pen

because responding to feedback
moves our learning forwards.



No opt out

Answer questions in full using
subject-specific vocabulary
Take part in discussions

because we embrace the challenge
of learning.

Responsible ends



Silent exit

Tidy and pack away when instructed
Stand behind chairs
Wait silently to be dismissed

because a calm and orderly exit helps
us ensure we get to the right place at
the right time.



High Expectations at Gosford Hill School



We are ready to demonstrate our values by:

Wearing our uniform correctly



because we are proud to belong at GHS.

Keeping mobile phones off and away in bags



because we avoid distraction.

Being fully equipped for learning



because we maximise learning time.

Responsible
Do the right thing

Hands off



There is never a need or time for physical contact.

Thoughtful movement



Move quietly and with purpose for the starts of lessons.

Right place, right time



Be in the right place at the right time.

First time, every time



Follow instructions without answering back.

Respectful
Be kind and polite

Warm greetings



Say "good morning / afternoon" with warmth.

Manners matter



Say "please and thank you" when appropriate.

Respect all opinions



Accept the views of others and disagree respectfully.

Kind words and actions



Avoid inappropriate actions or language and report concerns.

Resilient
Never give up

Believe in ourselves



Be ambitious and display a "can-do" attitude.

Embrace challenge



Improve ourselves by seeking and acting on feedback.

Bounce back



Move forward from setbacks and learn from errors.

Celebrate success



Praise ourselves and others when things go well.



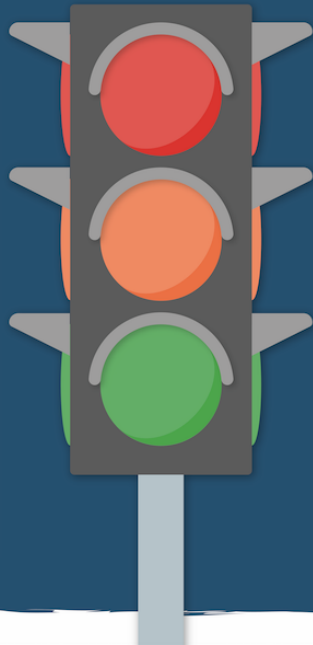
Attendance and Punctuality



Attendance Why is it important?

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons



89% and below
Significant effect on
academic achievement

95%–90%
Cause for concern

100%–96%
Excellent



*Strive to
be on time!*

5
minutes
a day

10
minutes
a day

15
minutes
a day

20
minutes
a day

30
minutes
a day

Minutes late per school day

Impact on your attendance in a school year

= **3.4**
school days
missed

= **6.9**
school days
missed

= **10.3**
school days
missed

= **13.8**
school days
missed

= **20.7**
school days
missed