

Attendance Updates 2024-25

15 July 2024

Dear Families,

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with attendance this academic year. Our overall attendance at Dixons Kings Academy this year is above the national average which means that our students are more likely to achieve the best outcomes. This week, over 300 students achieved our target of 98% attendance and went to the rewards trip to Flamingo Land. We would like to continue to see the number of students attending rewards trips increase over the next academic year.

Attendance is critical to your child's attainment, well-being, and wider development and this week we will send out individual letters regarding your child's attendance this year (if your child has a medical condition, we will not send a letter). Please read these letters carefully and familiarise yourself with the term's dates for next academic year: <https://www.dixonska.com/calendar/term-dates-2024-25>

All students must return to the academy on Monday 2 September. This is a later date than usual, so we are expecting full attendance on that date.

Improving student attendance is a national priority and as such the government and the local authority have made changes to attendance fines and thresholds for 2024-25:

- **From 19 August 2024, the local council has increased the fine for each parent to £80, which rises to £160 if not paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid within 28 days this can lead to a prosecution.**
- **There will be a national threshold of 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within 10 weeks will trigger a penalty notice. For repeated offences, the local authority will introduce a flat rate of £160 for a second penalty notice within a 3-year period. After this, an alternative route (prosecution) will be taken.**
- **Legal proceedings will take place via the magistrates' court for a student who takes two or more periods of unauthorised leave in a 12-month period, or when a period of four or more weeks (20+ days) of unauthorised absence is taken.**
- **The local authority must be informed by the academy when a student has, or will, miss 15 days due to illness.**

We will always support families first before we issue a penalty notice and prevent absence becoming entrenched. From September 2024, if your child has 6 sessions (3 days) of unauthorised absence then you will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss how we can work together to support your child's attendance.

Please also be aware of the following:

- **Morning registers must be closed by 9:00am daily. If your child arrives after this time, they will be marked with an unauthorised absence code for the morning session, and this will affect their attendance figure.**
- **All appointments should be made outside of school hours. If an appointment has to be made within the school day, please ensure you only remove your child for the appointment time only and return your child back to school once this is completed. For example, if your child has a dentist appointment at 10:30am, they should come to school at 8:00am, leave later that morning for the appointment and then return for the afternoon.**

Dixons Kings Academy is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers in order to support students to be successful at school and their future. Thank you for your ongoing support in this area.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Miller
Vice Principal

