



## Attendance: a vital component of student success at The Bulwell Academy

**“The effect that poor attendance at school can have on a child’s life choices can be permanent and damaging. Children who attend school regularly are four times more likely to achieve their personal dreams than those who are persistently absent. Excellent attendance is statistically proven to increase the financial power and social status of a child”** Department for education 2015

### Attendance target for all students 2021/22 - 97%

Following two extremely challenging years in education due to the Covid-19 pandemic, regular attendance to the Academy is going to be essential for our students to achieve the education that they will require to become empowered and happy individuals. Students have missed out on learning time and have had significant disruption to the normal academic year. Our anticipation is that the academic year 2021/22 will be one much closer to what we would regard as ‘normal’.

Attending school daily and being on time is fundamental to the success of all students. When lessons are missed, progress is impacted and this will ultimately impact on the outcomes of students at GCSE and at A-Level, thus impacting on their future life chances. Poor attendance can also have a detrimental effect on the social and emotional development of young people, negatively impacting on friendships, mental health and resilience.

Consider a student who has 80% attendance. 80% in a test may sound like a good outcome, but for attendance it is extremely poor, and potentially damaging. 80% is the equivalent of missing 1 day per week all year or 39 days of school. If a student were to maintain an attendance rate of 80% for the entirety of their secondary school career from year 7 to the end of year 11, that would equate to 195 days. That is more than a full school year missed.

As such, from September, there will be a renewed drive on attendance for all students.

Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school every day.

### Our expectations are:

- Students are punctual. The Academy gates will open at 8.20am, with an expectation that all students are on site by 8.25am. All students will be ready in their line up prior to 8.30am.
- Students attend the Academy **every** day.
- Parents/carers inform the Academy in the event of absence as soon as they are aware that an absence will occur. Our Attendance can be contacted on **0115 964 7640**.
- Every effort is made to make appointments outside of the Academy day. Parents/carers must attempt to utilise the 13 weeks of school holiday and time outside of the Academy day for appointments
- Parents/carers work with the Academy to promote good attendance.



## What parents, carers and students can expect from the Academy:

- Regular attendance reports
- Regular communication in the following absence with options for additional support in the event of sustained absence.
- A rewards package for students who demonstrate outstanding attendance and for those who have made exceptional improvement.

## What happens in the event of absence?

### 1) First day of absence

A text will be sent to parents/carers in the event of a student being marked as absent following morning registration. A follow up call will be made by the year manager or the attendance officer to gather more information.

### 2) Continued absence without an appropriate reason

Daily calls continue to be made to ascertain the reason for absence.

A formal letter is sent home by the Academy following the second day of absence highlighting the concerns of the Academy.

### 3) Prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of absence

A safeguarding home visit will be made by a member of Academy staff prior to 10 days of absence.

Following not seeing a student for 10 school days and not having parental/carers communication the student will be referred to the Local Authority as a Child Missing Education.

### 4) Falling below 95% attendance

Parents/carers will be formally written to again with expectations surrounding attendance and the concerns of the Academy.

### 5) Further absence below the 95% threshold

Parents/carers will be invited into the Academy to discuss the ongoing concerns related to attendance and the commencement of a formal monitoring period. Failure to see an improvement in attendance despite support provided, will result in a fixed penalty notice being applied for and the progression to referral to the local authority with a view to prosecution.

The Academy will issue a penalty notice for periods of unexplained and non-authorized absence. This includes taking holiday during term time. Following two extremely disrupted years, all requests for a leave of absence will be rejected to ensure a consistent and fair response for all stakeholders. Only in rare and exceptional circumstances will a leave of absence be granted e.g. a family bereavement or funeral.

## Punctuality

The Academy day begins at 8.25am, with all students expected to be in line-up by 8.30am.

Any student arriving to their line-up and to school at any time after 8.30am will be deemed late. A 30-minute, same day detention will be put in place for any student arriving late.

A member of the attendance team will run a 'late gate' between 8.30am and 8.45am. Following this, students will need to enter the Academy via main reception through the Squires Avenue gate.

We are keen to work with all our students and families over the next academic year to ensure the very best educational experience for our students. If you would like to discuss the attendance of your child, have concerns you would like to share or require further support, please contact your child's Year Manager in the first instance.

- Year 7 – Mr Leith: [andrew.leith@bulwellAcademy.org.uk](mailto:andrew.leith@bulwellAcademy.org.uk)
- Year 8 – Mr Chambers: [brandon.chambers@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:brandon.chambers@bulwellacademy.org.uk)
- Year 9 – Miss Jones: [julie.jones@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:julie.jones@bulwellacademy.org.uk)
- Year 10 – Mr Orridge: [matthew.orridge@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:matthew.orridge@bulwellacademy.org.uk)
- Year 11 – Miss O'Sullivan: [theresa.o'sullivan@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:theresa.o'sullivan@bulwellacademy.org.uk)
- Year 12 and 13 – Mr Cook: [michael.cook@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:michael.cook@bulwellacademy.org.uk)