

17 April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: The Importance of Regular School Attendance for Academic Success**

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to share key findings from a recent Department for Education report titled *The Link Between Attendance and Attainment in an Assessment Year* (March 2025). This research underscores the critical role that regular school attendance plays in students' academic achievements, particularly during assessment years such as Key Stage 2 (end of Year 6) and Key Stage 4 (end of Year 11).

**Key Findings:**

- **Impact on Academic Outcomes:** Students with higher attendance rates are significantly more likely to achieve successful outcomes. For instance, at Key Stage 2, pupils attending school nearly every day (95–100% attendance) were 1.3 times more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths compared to those attending 90–95% of the time. At Key Stage 4, students with 95-100% attendance were 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSEs.
- **The Effect of Absence:** Missing just 10 days of school in Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by approximately 25%. Similarly, in Year 11, missing 10 days halved the chances of achieving a Grade 5 in GCSEs.
- **Disadvantaged Pupils:** The report highlights that pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are more likely to have lower attendance rates. This disparity contributes significantly to the widening attainment gap between disadvantaged and their peers.

**Our Commitment:**

As you know, at Hungerhill School, we are committed to supporting all students in achieving their full potential. We understand that various factors can affect attendance, and we strive to work closely with families to address any challenges.

**How You Can Help:**

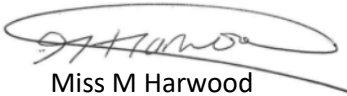
- **Ensure Regular Attendance:** Encourage your child to attend school every day, arriving on time.



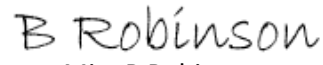
- **Communicate with Us:** If your child is experiencing difficulties that may affect their attendance, please inform our attendance team promptly so we can offer support.
- **Promote Healthy Habits:** Support your child in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including adequate sleep and proper nutrition, to enhance their ability to learn and succeed.

Together, we can help your child achieve their best and close the attainment gap. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the attendance team.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Harwood  
Lead Deputy Headteacher



Miss B Robinson  
Trust Attendance Lead



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