



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

MMCL/KRE

14th July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Attendance 2022-2023

Firstly, we'd like to thank all involved for your respective engagement, and students for the brilliant successes that have been achieved in recent times. In relation to attendance, we have seen one of the strongest attendances within our local community, and this has continued to rise consistently, which is excellent. However, it is important to reiterate that attendance below 90% is defined by the DFE as being persistently absent and is the point at which the Local Authority will consider issuing a fine or prosecuting in court, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Regular attendance is vitally important. Firstly, it is essential for academic achievement, with various studies showing that students who attend regularly are more likely to achieve positive grades. Secondly, attendance is important for social development, as educational settings are places where children learn to interact with others, develop friendships, and build important life skills. Thirdly, attendance is important for mental and emotional health, with children who are absent on a regular basis being more likely to experience social isolation, anxiety, and depression.

Therefore, if a student falls to 95% attendance, Morton Academy will trigger supportive communications to hopefully prevent attendance from falling below the aforementioned 90% attendance. This will initially involve informal direct communications, and then subsequent supportive formal meetings. The purpose of this is to pave the way for a boost in attendance, and should not be considered as anything other than this. Disappointingly, there have been several incidents recently of hostility towards this adopted supportive approach.

Families can use the Arbor application to keep a close eye on attendance. To further encourage students to have strong attendance, we will be relaunching the '100 Club' where students have an opportunity to win £100 for 100% attendance within a specified timeframe. This incentive has been used sporadically, predominantly with Year 11, but has been well received by students, and therefore we shall ensure that this is front and centre during 2023-2024.

Unfortunately, Morton Academy has seen a significant increase in holiday absence during 2022-2023, with 792 school days being lost due to holiday absence since September 2022. Due to this increase Morton Academy has no alternative than to take a stronger stance regarding holiday fines and this will be followed up more rigorously with the Local Authority. Morton Academy understand that families must balance a multitude of factors when making the decision to take a holiday during term-time, but your support in this matter would be appreciated.

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As always, if there are ever any questions or concerns about issues which may affect attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us by either email or telephone.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Lewis
Attendance Officer

Mr M McClelland
Vice Principal