

25th January 2016



**THE
HASTINGS
ACADEMY**

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Part of the Hastings Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

I wrote to you in September regarding the new laws around persistent absence and the importance of attendance. I am delighted to say that our students' attendance has improved since the start of term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

You may or may not be aware but over a number of years, various organisations have completed studies comparing GCSE outcomes with attendance; it will come as no surprise that those students who persistently have good attendance throughout their time at school obtain a good set of GCSE qualifications. Therefore it is vitally important that we continue to work in partnership to secure good attendance for all our students.

In order to promote and encourage good learning habits, which include good attendance and punctuality, we are offering an end of year trip to all students whose attendance is above 95%. For those students with 100% attendance, the trip will be free. The 'Big Trip' will be a celebration event at the end of the academic year and we expect the majority of the academy to be part of it.

I am sure you will agree that punctuality to school is of equal importance as the tutor programme is a vital part of the educational provision at the Academy and affords an opportunity for the form tutor to discuss with your child any concerns they may have that could potentially prevent them from learning. As such we would like all students to be on site by 8.45 a.m. to ensure a prompt start to tutor time at 8.50 a.m. In order to support this prompt start we will now be issuing a no notice detention at first break for every student who is late. Students who do not attend the first break detention will have to sit an extended detention at 3.00 p.m. on the same day which could be up to one hour.

Could I also remind parents/carers to report student absence by 8.00 a.m. each morning of your child's absence.

The Academy is currently doing everything within its power to promote good attendance and punctuality and we are making significant improvements. Therefore continued parental support is vital in continuing to drive up standards so we are able to provide the best possible provision for your child.

Yours faithfully

Michael Brett
Principal

