

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

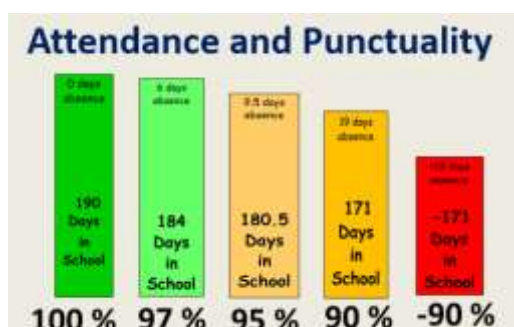
Dear Parents/Carers;

It is the end of our second week back and I wanted to thank you again for your continued support. Again, it has been another positive week overall with attendance up from this time last year. I cannot stress enough the importance of attendance, as it states in Hebrews "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching". I have seen what a wonderful community our school can be over the last two weeks in my interactions with your children and it is through that strong connection made through education that children flourish academically and socially. Thank you very much to all who attended our KS3 Parent Information Evening last week and the Year 11 Exam Preparation Information Evening last night.

As part of these events, the issue around the importance of attendance was highlighted. Please can I remind parents of the changes made by the DfE, which came into effect in September 2024: **Penalty notices will be issued for any 10 unauthorised absences within a 10-week period (this is equivalent to 5 schools days). Penalty notices will rise to £160, per child, per parent. If paid within 21 days, this will be reduced to £80. If a second penalty notice is issued, this will be at £160 but will not have the option of being reduced. A 3rd penalty notice cannot be issued within 3 years of the first one. If the threshold (10 sessions) is met for a 3rd time, this will result in prosecution.**

Being late after the register closes at 9:10am, without a valid reason (e.g: a medical appointment) will be considered an unauthorised absence.

At St Gabriel's **we aim for all students to have 100% attendance** and we reward this. However, good attendance means being in school at least 97% of the time (184 – 190 days).



365 days in a year	190 school days in total	Absence
100%	190 days attendance	0
95%	180 days attendance	2 weeks
90%	171 days attendance	4 weeks
85%	162 days attendance	6 weeks (nearly)
80%	153 days attendance	Over a half term absence

Research shows that children with less than 95% attendance do not achieve as well as their peers with 95+% attendance. That may be stark as a reality but it equates to nearly a grade per subject behind their peers with excellent attendance. We at St Gabriel's want your child to have real choices post 16 and beyond through strong appropriate academic performance during their time as part of the St Gabriel's family. Thank you for supporting us in keeping our attendance standards high.

Have a wonderful weekend together!

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Braithwaite', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Braithwaite  
Interim Headteacher