

“Everything is possible for one who believes”

MARK 9:23

Bradford Forster Academy
A Church of England Academy



JBL/ECY

6th December 2024

Re: Attendance Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to remind you regarding the attendance expectations we have at Bradford Forster Academy. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the vast majority of students that have had excellent attendance so far this school year.

As you know, we are committed to improve the attainment of all our students and how important daily attendance is in achieving this. Bradford Forster Academy is committed to ensuring that students and parents/carers understand the absolute importance of full attendance at school. Absence has a negative effect on a student's academic progress. Poor attendance or sporadic absences may also be an indicator of underlying issues that need resolving either inside or outside of school. Therefore, we appreciate your support in securing great attendance for all students. The target for all students is to achieve 100% attendance and 100% punctuality. The minimum expectation for all students is attendance over the academic year of 97%.

The importance of being in school every day

Our data shows that attendance drops as the week goes on, with an average attendance of over 91% on Mondays compared to 89% on Fridays. 89% may still sound satisfactory however this is significantly below the national average for attendance. As you know, every school day is important and students frequently missing a specific day(s) has serious implications to the outcomes of your child. To emphasise this, students with 90% attendance who consistently miss a specific day of the week are missing 100 hours of learning across a school year.

Data from BFA students that took their exams last summer show that the average grade for students with below 80% attendance is grade 1. Only 7% of students with below 80% attendance achieved a grade 4-9 in English and Maths compared to 75% of students with 95%+ attendance. If your child misses school on a regular basis, they are damaging their future life choices. In secondary school, 19 days' absence (which equates to 90% attendance) correlates, on average, to a grade at GCSE in all subjects.

Principal: Mrs Gemma Earles, MA, NPQH

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Attendance should not be affected by what day it is. No matter if it is a Monday or Friday, all students are expected to attend 100% of the time. Remember, it is ultimately the parents' legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school every day, but we can support families as much as possible within the academy to improve attendance.

Below is a reminder of the attendance team contact details should you need to contact them regarding any attendance related issues.

Attendance Team contact details:

- Landline – 01274 302400
- Mobile – 07342 859955
- Email:
 - emma.mccarthy@bfa.bdat-academies.org
 - jane.ormerod@bfa.bdat-academies.org
 - james.boxell@bfa.bdat-academies.org

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter or about school attendance in general, please do not hesitate to contact the attendance team.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Boxell

Mr James Boxell
Assistant Principal - Behaviour, Attitudes & Attendance