



Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance Update September 2020

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

We are delighted to be up and running and to have your sons and daughters back at school. As an Academy, we know and understand the impact the coronavirus has had and are passionate about ensuring students maximise their time in school. To that end, students should take their attendance at school very seriously. Please ensure they are with us **on time** and **attend every day**. We are already starting to see seasonal colds in school, so please assist us in ensuring that your child has a warm, dark coloured coat that they wear in inclement weather conditions.

There has always been a strong link between good attendance and good academic outcomes. This combined with parental involvement can allow for huge impact on the progress and development for their children across all year groups.

As absences increases, levels of attainment are proven to decrease:

Attendance Rates	Number of students	% 9-4 incl. English & Maths
Less than 85%	152	24%
85% - 94.9%	558	49%
95% - 100%	1379	72%

A table illustrating the impact of good or increasing absence can be found here:

<https://arkalexandra.org/about-us/attendance>

Whilst some illness is unavoidable, it is important that we instil some grit and resilience in our children to ensure that habits of 'taking the day off' don't follow them into their adult life. As a simple rule, if they don't have a temperature (more than 38C in adults, 37.5C in children) they should come into school. Battling through, at times, is a crucial life lesson for us all.

Of course, if your child presents Covid 19 symptoms (new, dry continuous cough; a high temperature; a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they must stay at home and you must get a test and keep us informed of the results.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to notify the school on each day of absence. This can be done by leaving a message on the absence line: **01424 439888 option 1 for attendance and then choose option 1 for 7 and 8 or option 2 for years 9 and above**, or by emailing l.barham@arkalexandra.org for years 7 and 8 or melissa.anderson@arkalexandra.org for years 9 to sixth form inclusive. We realise that any child can suddenly fall ill and be unable to attend school, but please be specific with the reason given if this does occur.

If you would like a meeting to discuss how we may support you further with your child's attendance at this stage, or if you wish to discuss this matter further, **please contact the relevant Head of Year on 01424 439888 and select the appropriate option.**

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Scafe
Associate Principal

Principal: Mr L Collins
Regional Associate Principal: Ms V Cockram
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe