States of Guernsey Education

Les Beaucamps High School
Rue des Delisles, Castel,
Guernsey, GY5 7DS
T: 01481 226040
Web: www.lbhs.gg

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance Matters. Every Day Counts.

You may have seen the recently launched **"Attendance Matters"** campaign across Guernsey, including posters, banners, social media messages, and videos. As Principal of Les Beaucamps High School, I wanted to write to you personally about why attendance matters so much, and how we can work together to support every young person to attend school regularly.

At Les Beaucamps, we believe that attending school is one of the most positive and important things a young person can do for their education, wellbeing, and future.

Of course, we understand that life is not always straightforward. Young people can experience worries, friendship difficulties, low confidence, health concerns, family challenges, and periods when attending school feels difficult. We know that, at times, some pupils find coming to school harder than others.

However, the evidence is increasingly clear. For many children, especially those who are struggling emotionally, socially, or academically, regular attendance at school is not just part of the solution, it is often ***the*** solution. When children stay away from school for extended periods, worries often become bigger. Confidence can reduce. Friendships can become harder to maintain. Learning gaps grow. Returning becomes more difficult. By contrast, regular attendance helps pupils to:

- Maintain friendships
- Build confidence
- Develop resilience
- Feel part of a community
- Access support from trusted adults
- Enjoy success and achievement
- Improve their wellbeing over time

In simple terms, children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel connected, supported, and successful.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

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Every Day Counts

Absences accumulate surprisingly quickly. A pupil who misses:

- **1 day off every fortnight** means a child misses around **one whole month of school** over the year
- This is around **10% of the school year**
- Over five years at secondary school, this amounts to almost **100 days of learning missed - t**hat is equivalent to around **half a school year**.

School Is More Than Lessons

School is about much more than academic learning. At Les Beaucamps we are proud to be a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive community with opportunities for every child to find their place. In addition to lessons, pupils can access a huge range of clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities including:

- Sport
- Music
- Drama
- Art and creative activities
- Science and technology clubs
- Board games, fantasy role-playing and strategy games
- Outdoor activities
- Leadership opportunities
- Community projects and charity work

For some children, these activities become the very thing that helps them develop friendships, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Supporting Children Through Difficulties

There will inevitably be occasions when children feel worried, anxious, or reluctant about coming to school. As parents ourselves, many of us know how challenging this can be. Our experience, supported by extensive research, is that maintaining attendance wherever possible is usually the best approach. While staying at home can sometimes feel like a short-term solution, it rarely helps worries to reduce in the longer term. More often, the opposite occurs.

We want every family to know that we are here to help. Our pastoral staff, Family Support Workers, tutors, Heads of Year and Inclusion Team are here to listen, understand and work with you to find solutions.

If your child is struggling with attendance or experiencing anxiety around coming to school, please contact our dedicated attendance support team directly. You can reach our Family Support Workers - who are specially trained and experienced in supporting families via our school office at LBH.Office@education.gg.

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A Word About Minor Illnesses

We would also ask families to carefully consider whether a child is genuinely too unwell to attend school. Naturally, we do not expect pupils to attend if they are suffering from significant illness, have a fever, are vomiting, have a contagious illness, or are otherwise clearly unfit for school.

However, many minor ailments can be managed successfully while attending school:

- Mild headaches
- Minor sore throats
- Feeling tired
- General aches and pains
- Mild colds

As adults, many of us know that we do not always feel 100% every day. Learning to manage minor discomforts whilst continuing with everyday life is an important part of developing resilience and independence. Where pupils do attend school and feel unwell during the day, our staff will always support them appropriately.

Working Together

High attendance is one of the strongest predictors of educational success, wellbeing, and positive outcomes later in life. Most importantly, however, attendance helps children feel connected to their school community and gives them the opportunity to enjoy all that school has to offer.

At Les Beaucamps we are committed to making school a place where every child feels welcomed, supported, and valued every day. By working together, we can ensure that every young person has the very best opportunity to flourish.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, wellbeing, or engagement with school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Haimes
Principal

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