

The Henry Cort Community College

Hillson Drive, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6PH

Telephone: 01329 843127 Email: enquiries@henrycort.org

www.henry-cort.hants.sch.uk

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Our ref: JEV/LCD

20 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

I am writing to you in my capacity as Attendance Lead for the college, to thank you for all your support so far this year in ensuring that the children in your care come to school.

The government's latest campaign says, 'moments matter, attendance counts'. The important message is that "improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together".

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, 36% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.

It is never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

Attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

We know that there are often very valid barriers to attendance for some students, but ultimately we want to avoid the 'avoidable absence'. The NHS and Chief Medical officer say it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat and prolonged periods of absence are likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future.

As a college, we continue to look at ways to improve the mechanisms we have in place to keep our students safe. One of these, is the allocation of Mrs Giles to be our Attendance Officer after Easter and the appointment of Mrs Colbourne as the college first aider. Congratulations to them both!

In addition, to assist with the streamlining of our processes, it will no longer be possible to leave a message on the attendance line for absences. Please use ClassCharts to leave your

PRINCIPAL: Ms C Cabbage BSc (Hons), Dip Ed, MBA, CMgr FCMl

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mrs K Kent BA (Hons) * Mr N Carroll BSc (Hons) * Mr R Walker BSc (Hons) * Dr J Evans BSc (Hons) * Ms C Gudgeon BA (Hons) * Mrs J Coffin, ADSBM

ASPIRE

ACHIEVEMENT * SUPPORT * PERSEVERANCE * INDIVIDUALITY * RESPECT * EXCELLENCE

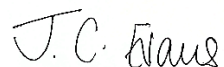
Follow us:   

message (as per the instructions on the website: <https://www.henry-cort.hants.sch.uk/attendance>).

Finally, if you are informing us of a planned absence, please complete the [Student planned absence request form](#) and return directly to attendance@henrycort.org.

Meanwhile I wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to seeing all your children back in college after the holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. C. Evans".

Dr J Evans
Assistant Principal