



Thornhill Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope you have had a fantastic summer. As it is the start of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to send a timely reminder of our attendance expectations and our school policies in relation to student absence. Thornhill Academy has a newly appointed attendance Officer to oversee attendance and drive all initiatives within the school.

Attendance is taken very seriously at Thornhill Academy, and we work eagerly to help students achieve 100% attendance. Attendance at Thornhill is a whole school aim. We expect everyone to be their best.

It is a proven fact that attendance is directly linked to academic success. We actively encourage all students to aim for 95% attendance as a minimum, every day and every lesson counts. Thornhill Academy are very grateful for all you do at home to encourage and support this.

Late students will enter school via reception and sign in electronically. Late marks will be closely monitored and acted upon by the attendance team.

Students should attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. Medical and dental appointments should be outside school hours when possible. If this is unavoidable, a copy of the appointment card/ proof of the appointment is required before the absence can be authorised.

You may have seen in the press that the Government guidance has changed around the COVID-19 close contact tracing. This means that contact tracing will no longer be taking place as a matter of routine in school. If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 you will be contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace. There will be no requirement for your child to be absent from school unless they develop symptoms, in which case you should ensure a PCR test is taken as soon as possible.

The Government categorises any student with 90% attendance or below as a Persistent Absentee. When student attendance falls below 90% it will trigger persistent absentee intervention which could result in fines or legal action. Please be aware it is a parent/ carers responsibility to ensure their child attends school.

Holidays during term time are not permitted. You are at risk of being issued with penalty notices if you choose to take your child out of school during the school term.

Thornhill Academy conduct regular home visits, these will be completed by the school Attendance Officer. If your child is absent from school and you have not provided the school with a reason, a home visit will be carried out.



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Excellent and improved attendance will be regularly monitored and rewarded. Our first attendance competition runs from Wednesday 8th to Friday 17th September. First prize is an iPad! Please see attached/ enclosed attendance prize draw postcard for further details. Alternatively follow us on social media for up-to-date competition information.

We greatly appreciate your support in promoting your child's attendance. If you have any questions or queries in relation to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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'In It To Win It' PRIZE DRAW!

1st Prize - iPad
BECAUSE ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

2nd Prize
amazon.com £50

3rd Prize
amazon.com £25

4th Prize
amazon.com gift card £10

**Gift Card Prizes available for every Year Group*

Achieve 100% Attendance between WED 8TH SEPT - FRI 17TH SEPT for your chance to win one of our excellent prizes!

Mrs V Basford
Attendance Officer
Thornhill Academy