



14 September 2015

Dear Parent

At The Hurst Community College we believe that excellent attendance is a vital ingredient for academic success. Our overall school attendance for last year improved to just over 95% and we would like to thank all parents for their support.

This year, the local authority has introduced new guidelines that we have to follow, including a new code of conduct with regard to unauthorised absences from school. You will find additional documentation in relation to this on our website. This is in response to the government's concern for students with an attendance of 90% or below.

The main changes are that from September 2015 all schools will be required to work with Hampshire County Council to take action if:

1. A child has unauthorised absences for 10 or more sessions (5 days).
2. A child is continually late to school and this lateness is unauthorised for 10 or more sessions (5 days).
3. A child has any unauthorised absence during any formal examinations, assessment or testing.

In the first instance, a £60 penalty notice has to be issued to each parent/carer for each child in any of the above cases.

As a school we accept there will be genuine reasons for absence and fully support all parents/carers in this circumstance. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure each child achieves their full potential.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Jones
Headteacher

