



# Matrix Academy Trust

EDUCATION **WITHOUT EXCEPTION**

LD/AI/da/Attendance

19th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you about school absence and the national (and local) crisis schools have faced since the pandemic.

On Wednesday this week, a normal day in the second week back after a two week holiday, 12% of our pupils were absent from school. 14% of Year 11 pupils, in their most important exam year of their lives, were absent.

We have become used to this and sadly, this is now thought of as normal by some. As a school, our attendance is lower than both local and national averages.

These numbers can mean little other than to highlight the problem we face in school. What matters most, is your child's attendance.

Missing two weeks for a family holiday taken in term time will mean that your child has missed 50 hours of learning new things that will never be taught again. These things will be in exam questions in the future. Having a day off every week or every fortnight on random days will mean your child will miss new learning. They will then struggle to understand the work they do in the following lessons which rely on this knowledge.

There is a clear correlation between attendance and exam performance, which has been shared with you before.

Put simply, pupils who miss school regularly reduce their learning potential because they do worse in exams than their peers. They develop poor habits that they then take into the workplace where poor attendance, poor punctuality and a lack of responsibility can lead to dismissal.

This is a real concern, which the Government agrees with, and has again highlighted in recent weeks.

If your child is absent from school regularly, can you please seek to urgently address this and ask us for support if you are struggling.

For parents/carers of pupils in Year 11, this is an urgent situation that needs to be rectified immediately.

Your sincerely

Ms L Draycott  
Chief Executive Officer

