



25th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

With all students settled back into school on a full time basis I would like to highlight the importance of 100% attendance for your child and clarify any attendance queries for the 2020-2021 school year. In this letter I have also included information relating to Young Carers and the October half-term.

Attendance Targets

Attendance is pivotal for your child and their attainment. At The Garibaldi School we view every school day as an opportunity. The expectation is that your child attends 100% of the time. Research has shown that students who attend achieve at a higher academic level and are significantly happier within school than students with lower attendance. If you believe there is a barrier in place preventing your child from attending 100% of the time please contact Miss Hill, our Student and Family Engagement Officer ehill@garibaldischool.co.uk. A student who has 96% attendance will have missed 8 school days.

As a school we have high expectations for every student regarding their attendance. Therefore we are asking for your support with your child's attendance so they can be the best they can be. In addition to this, the attendance section of the website has been updated and now contains our new Attendance Policy. We ask that you familiarise yourselves with this document to help support your child. Useful links and information regarding attendance can also be found on this section of the website.

We are taking many steps this academic year to ensure attendance is as high as it can be for all students. Students whose attendance requires improvement will be receiving additional support and we will be working with students and setting attendance targets for them.

October Half Term

I wanted to take this opportunity to stress that no holidays will be authorised in term time without exceptional circumstances. Please note that unlike other schools we only have a one week half term in October. This means our half term runs from **Monday 26th to Friday 30th October**, with all children being required back in school on **Monday 2nd November**. We will have no choice but to issue fines to families who choose to take their child on holiday in term time; this is in line with current Government guidance.

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Young Carers

Being a Young Carer often makes attending school or being punctual to school difficult. Current Government guidance states that a Young Carer is as follows:

“A young person (under the age of 18) is classified as a young carer if they are providing care (or intending to provide care) for an adult on an unpaid basis. This includes emotional and practical support as well as personal care”.

We are asking for all parents who feel their child may fall into the category of a Young Carer to contact Miss Hill by the 5th October 2020. Please note that any student who is classified as a Young Carer is able to undertake an assessment to confirm this (with consent of the child) which will then enable further support for your child.

COVID-19 Symptoms

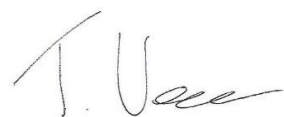
We are entering cough, cold and flu season and some people are still experiencing symptoms of hay fever. These symptoms should not prevent students from coming into school.

However, if your son/daughter displays the symptoms below, please contact the Government COVID booking system for a test to be arranged and contact Miss Hill, our Student & Family Engagement Officer at school to inform us that this is the case where she will also advise on next steps.

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more in an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

I thank you in advance for your support regarding your child's attendance and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming academic year.

Yours faithfully



Mr Voice
Director of Student Engagement