



6 September 2024

Dear parents and carers

## Priorities for this term

Our new Year 7s have settled in well, and all other year groups returned looking smart and ready to learn. I have been impressed in visiting all lessons across the school this week how settled students are and how quickly they have got back into the routines of learning. It's been a great start to the year.

The two big themes of the year are **attendance and punctuality** and by being here on time every day **making progress in learning every lesson**.

Our message is simple: your child needs to be here every day to make strong progress. Over the year their attendance should be 97% or more (ideally 100%) and they should play an active part in each lesson to ensure strong progress is made.

And so, the themes of our assemblies this week have been about getting back into routines and expectations after the summer break, and starting well with lessons focused on ensuring your child is making progress in their learning every lesson of every day.

Our collective worship theme this term is **friendship**, with a focus on being friendly and bringing out the best in each other. As part of this, we have emphasised the importance of being a school family, and working together for individual and collective benefit. This has been notable this week, when older students have been helping our new Year 7s find a teaching room. Small things like this add up to make for a great culture.

You and your child will be hearing a lot about attendance this year, as we seek to work with you to set and maintain high levels of attendance for all students to ensure they are successful in their learning every day.

As set out in my last letter, taking time out of school for holidays will not be authorised, and taking a week or more out of school for holiday will result in a fine (an *Education Penalty Notice*) being issued to parents.

We have started the term as we mean to go on. **Ten penalty notices have been processed this week and those parents will receive fines from Wigan Local Authority in due course.**

As I have said before, if your child is on time and in school every day, they will be learning and making good progress. Conversely, every incident of lateness to school or a lesson, and every missed day means that your child is falling behind and a gap has opened up that becomes harder to close each time they are absent.

Generally, punctuality and attendance has been good across the school – and so thank you for all you have done to get your child to school on time, looking smart and getting on with their learning. I know with your support we can keep it that way in the weeks ahead.

So, thank you for all your support at the start of term, and we look forward to working with you over the course of this year to see your child flourish, thrive and succeed.

Yours faithfully

**Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher

**CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING**