

Lowton Church of England High School



Lowton
Church of England High School

2 September 2024

Dear parents and carers

Start of new academic year: 2024-25

I hope and trust you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

A staggered start to the first day: The new term starts tomorrow (Tuesday 3 September). As I outlined in my last letter before the summer break, in order to manage all the logistics for the first day back, we will have a staggered start for students on Tuesday.

- The new Year 7 and new Year 11 will start at 8.30am.
- The new Year 9 will start at 9.30am.
- The new Year 8 and new Year 10 will start at 10.30am.

A reminder about uniform: no trainers, no piercings, no painted or acrylic nails, no false eyelashes.

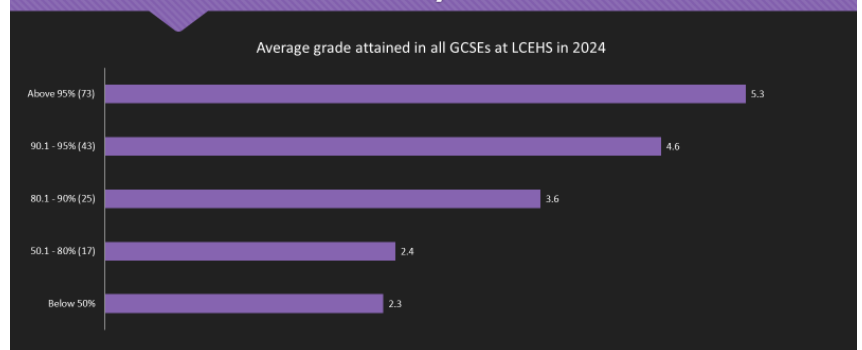
New statutory guidance on attendance: new statutory guidance for all schools came into force on 19 August, which as a school we will be following and giving a lot of time and attention to. Over the last few years, attendance and punctuality to school has become a national issue, and does not reflect the high levels of attendance and punctuality seen before the pandemic. We are going to be monitoring attendance and punctuality very closely, and if your child falls below expectations early on in the year, you can expect us to be in contact, and quickly use the new legislation linked to improving attendance to issues fines to parents.

So, let's start the year well, and start as we mean to go on. We know from this summer, that students that had strong attendance did well.

Those that often came in late, attended less than 95% of the time, saw their results much lower than others in their year group.

Attendance below 95% has a significant impact on the progress your child makes, not just in Year 11.

Attendance below 95% continues to significantly impact on students' GCSE grades, and falls away below 90%.



No holidays in term time: The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued. That means, if your child is absent for the first week of September, after a six-week school holiday, the school will take steps for parents to be fined. Lowton does not authorise holidays during term time, and we will be following the new law on school attendance stringently.

The library of weekly letters: you can always find a previous weekly letters on our school website, so if you need a reminder they are here: <https://www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk/parents/parent-letters/-/information>

I will write as normal at the end of this week about our priorities for the year ahead.

With all best wishes,
Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

Mr Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

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