



18 October 2024

Dear parents and carers

End of Autumn 1 half term

The end of the first half term has come, and it is now time for a break. **Students return to school on Monday 28 October. Please note *it is not a training day*.** School starts at the *normal time of 8.30am* on that Monday.

Attendance and punctuality

That brings me on to attendance and punctuality. Thank you for those where the new roadworks in Leigh have affected travel plans. I know a good number of students have had to set off earlier to walk to school, or get their bus earlier, or in some cases to be given lifts by you. That has helped greatly – thank you. Our lessons start at 8.35am, and so any lateness is missed learning and that impacts on progress and outcomes.

Each week in form time we focus on attendance. 65% of all students have had attendance above 95% this half term, and 50% have had attendance above 97%. Well done to the 47% of all students that have not missed a single day since September. We know that each year, students that have these attendance levels typically achieve their target grades, which is to achieve progress and grades in the top 20% of all students in the country.

Of course, that means that nearly 1 in 3 of all students have slipped behind this term. As outlined at the start of the term, any holidays in term time will be counted as unauthorised absence. In line with the new national guidance if you take your child out of school for one week's holiday a penalty notice will be issued. Lowton does not authorise holidays during term time, and we will be following the new law on school attendance stringently. We will start the process of issuing fines after the half term break.

Foodbank collection

I want to pass on a very personal thanks for the huge collection we have amassed for the Atherton and Leigh Foodbank.

The pictures on the right show you the totality of the collection across all year groups. Whilst we are waiting for it to be weighed, it certainly looks as if we have surpassed the amount donated last year.

So, thank you. This is a key part of our curriculum focused on social action, where we seek to understand the reasons behind key issues, such as Foodbanks, and then provide a Christian response to those issues and support those most in need.



Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin

Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING