

RR/SH
17th October 2023

Southam College
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Return to school

I hope your child has been enjoying their time back in school since the start of the academic year and would like to pass on some key information and important updates in my role as Attendance Lead with you.

Firstly, I am delighted to share the winner of our first House Competition this year which was to come up with a catchphrase or slogan to support and motivate all students to connect with school, learning and their peers:

1st place: *Fuel your dreams with knowledge: Show up, stand out.* (Dan, Year 12)

2nd place: *A place where you build relationships, friendships, and a future.* (Molly, Year 7)

3rd place: *Attend, Accomplish, Achieve.* (Callum, Year 10)

Highly Commended: *Stay connected, feel protected* (Alana, Year 7)

I look forward to using the many submissions we received to motivate and inspire all our students throughout this academic year.

In addition to announcing these winning catchphrases, I would secondly like to share with you that from today, we are adding attendance information to ClassCharts so you can access your child's overall attendance figure as well as morning and afternoon registration marks via your parent app.

I would like to highlight the importance of connecting with school through regular attendance and the support available where students find it difficult to do so. As a school, our expectation is that all students strive to achieve 96% attendance or above. Statistics show us that students with a 100% attendance record are twice as likely to gain 5 GCSEs Grades 9-5. If there are any concerns or worries that you or your child have, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor, Head of year or myself either via ClassCharts, phone or email, so we can ensure appropriate support is put in place. You can also book an online meeting with myself via <https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/> - these take place every Tuesday between 11.30am-12.30pm.

I fully appreciate there are times when your child may need to be absent from school. When this is the case, please ensure you contact the school to report the absence each day via ClassCharts. Details of how to do this can be found on the attendance section of our website on <https://www.southamcollege.com/parents/attendance>. I would like to point out a recently added section taken from NHS guidance on “Is my child too ill for school?” which clarifies the official advice around seasonal coughs, colds and sickness bugs which differs to advice usually received during children’s primary education.

Where students feel ill in school, we ask them to tell their class teacher who will notify staff on walkabout. Where required, first-aiders will assess students and our student office will speak to parents if required. We ask parents to not arrange pick-ups without having had contact with school.

An attendance of 90% or below is recognised as Persistent Absence and equates to an average of one school day missed per fortnight, which over a school year would equate to 4 school weeks or 100 lessons missed. We review all students’ attendance on a regular basis and will share any concerns via staged letters where required, particularly where students’ attendance has dropped below 90%.

We also offer a wide range of prize draws, competitions and other activities to promote and reward positive and improved attendance, support students in feeling connected to Southam College and to develop a positive work ethic as well as our core values of kindness, confidence and resilience.

I look forward to working alongside you to grow and develop these values in all our students and I wish them a successful year ahead at Southam College.

Yours sincerely



Bertram Richter
Deputy Headteacher / Attendance Lead



Connect **DROP IN**

If you have any questions or would like support regarding your child's attendance, you are now able to book online appointments with Mr Richter, Attendance Lead at Southam College.

Every Tuesday between 11.30am-12.30pm

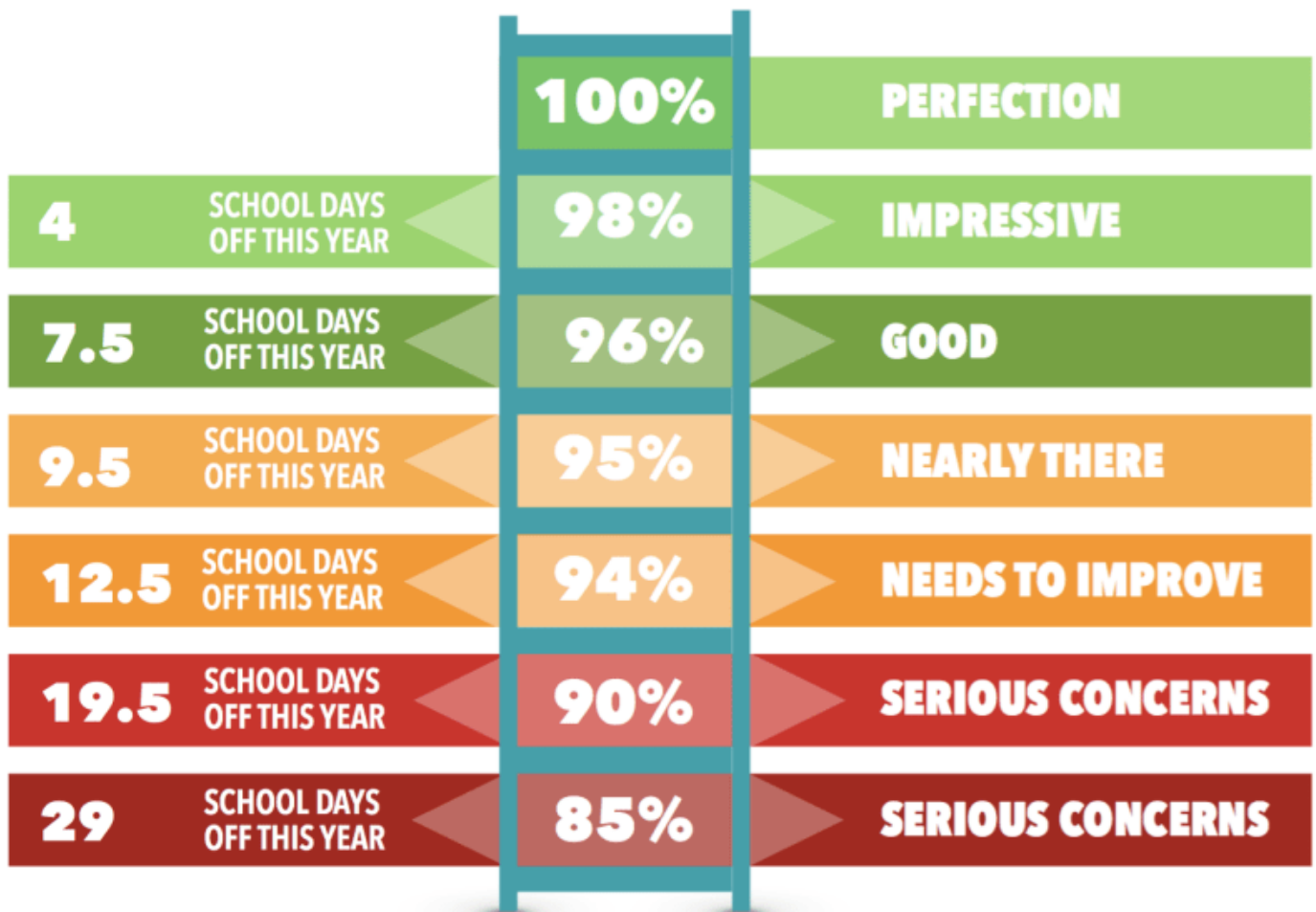


book an appointment

<https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



ATTENDANCE LADDER AUTUMN, SPRING AND SUMMER



Department for Education statistics show that students with 100% attendance are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs at 9-5 including English and Maths than pupils with lower than 90% attendance. Every day and every lesson matters!

'We know parents try wherever possible to not have medical appointments during the school day in order to avoid missed lesson time and a reduction in school attendance. However we appreciate this is not always avoidable, therefore please try to book appointments using student social times, such as between 10.30-12.30am mark which will use break and lunchtime and therefore minimises lost lesson times. This can ensure that students are in school for the other 4 lessons and only missing part of one lesson, rather than losing morning or afternoon lessons. Thank you for your on-going support with this.'