

27 September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

### **#Attendance Matters - Year 9 can improve!**

I hope that this finds you well and that your child has had a positive start to the academic year. We are proud of so many of our Year 9 students who have settled back into school life and who are impressing us with their work in lessons. Attendance for Year 9 started strongly but has begun to drop so it is time to turn this around and aim for above average attendance as the year progresses!

You may be aware from our Social Media posts and from previous letters that **#AttendanceMatters** at Barlby High School and we want to highlight why this is the case. Regular school attendance is not only important for academic progress, but also for nurturing friendships, supporting wellbeing and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to make the most of their time at school. Moments matters and attendance counts - every day brings new opportunities to learn, connect and grow, and we want every student to benefit from as many of these moments as possible.

### **Why #AttendanceMatters so much**

Every day, and every lesson, presents a unique opportunity for learning. It is a chance to engage with new ideas, collaborate with peers and build upon knowledge and skills developed in previous lessons. When a student is absent, they may miss not only valuable learning but also the chance to develop friendships, participate in school life and benefit from the support of their teachers and peers.

Research consistently highlights the importance of regular attendance to achieve educational success. The Department for Education recognises that students who frequently miss school can face significant challenges in keeping up with their learning.

Below we have included information showing the impact attendance had on the GCSE outcomes of our Year 11 students last year. Attending in Year 9 can make a difference to final outcomes:

| <b>Attendance and Attainment</b> |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Attendance during Year 11</b> | <b>Average GCSE Grade</b> |
| Above 95%                        | 4.8                       |
| 90% - 94%                        | 3.75                      |
| Below 90%                        | 2.26                      |

#### **Barlby High School**

Barlby High School, York Road, Barlby, Selby, YO8 5JP

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**Principal:**  
Anouska Gardner



### **A Shared Responsibility and How We Can Help**

We know that supporting regular attendance is a shared responsibility and we greatly value the home-school partnership in reinforcing the importance of attendance. When we work together, we can achieve great things for our students and this starts with attendance.

We understand that there may be times when you are unsure whether to send your child into school, particularly if they are feeling unwell or experiencing mild anxiety. We encourage you to reach out to our Attendance Team of Mrs Sowersby, our Senior Attendance Officer and Miss Westmoreland, Education and Welfare Support Officer. Further guidance from the NHS about whether your child is too ill for school can be accessed here: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

If you have any concerns about attendance or need support, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Early communication helps us understand any challenges your child may be experiencing and we can work together to identify appropriate support. We are here to help and are committed to working with families to ensure every student can attend regularly and thrive.

### **Further Guidance**

The school follows statutory guidance regarding student attendance and absences as outlined in our Policy which can be found here and through a direct link on our website: <https://d224eatx39jd1x.cloudfront.net/files/Attendance-and-Absence-Policy.pdf>

We encourage all families to refrain from booking any term-time holidays as we can only grant requests in truly exceptional circumstances and penalty notices may be applied if the threshold of unauthorised absence is met. If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Sowersby in school or via [attendance@bhs.hlt.academy](mailto:attendance@bhs.hlt.academy)

### **#BeInToWin**

As you can see, #AttendanceMatters at Barlby High School and we want to celebrate those students who maintain strong attendance. Students who achieve 100% each week are rewarded with achievement points which count towards half-termly reward certificates, a ticket which gives them an entry to the Friday attendance games in the dining hall and an entry to the half-termly 100 Club prize draw. We regularly run attendance initiatives and there are three days left of our #SeptemberAttendanceStreak - students who have attended each day in September have the chance to win a special prize this Friday!

Thank you for your collaboration as we work together to help our Year 9 students make the most of every opportunity during their second year at our school and to be #BrilliantAtBarlby!

Yours sincerely

**Lesley Welsh**

Vice Principal | Barlby High School