

7th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to take this opportunity to send a reminder about our standards and expectations regarding a few areas of school life. Attendance at school is crucially important and research shows that missing school for even one day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades. This can obviously have a damaging effect on their life chances. We understand that the recent strike action can be unsettling for both students and teachers but I am looking forward to the final weeks of the term where we can celebrate a hugely successful year for the school.

At Rockwood Academy we encourage all our students to strive for 100% attendance. Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our students receive the most from their education and reach their full potential. This letter is partly to remind all parents/carers to ensure that their child attends school regularly. All schools in the country must follow Department for Education guidance regarding attendance which clearly states that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances. At Rockwood we will continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's progress and attainment. An example of how we can work together is dental and medical appointments which to help, should be made outside of school hours where possible. If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, for safeguarding purposes, it is imperative that you contact school before 8.35am to inform us of the reason for absence.

I want us to work together to ensure that our students attend school regularly as we aim for excellence. For clarity, I also want to remind parents that according to DfE guidance we are only permitted to authorise one day for religious observance. Any subsequent days will be classified as unauthorised absence. High levels of unauthorised absence can lead to a referral being made to the Local Authority. Parents can also access very useful information regarding attendance on our school website or the Birmingham City council guidance page, seen below:

<https://www.corerockwood.academy/school-life/attendance>

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1502/school_attendance

Due to the changes in the climate, on Monday 10th July we will be returning to full school uniform. Our uniform is a key part of our identity and encourage all students to look smart and well presented. I have highlighted some key points below:

- Full school uniform including ties, lanyards, bag and a blazer should be worn.
- Hoodies are not permitted in the Academy.
- Rockwood PE kit can be worn on the day students have Physical Education.
- If students are in PE kit, they should wear a blazer over the top of the PE T-shirt to keep warm and feel part of the community.
- No trainers unless PE kit are to be worn in school.

Further information regarding our uniform can be found on our school website.

I look forward to an exciting end to the term.

Yours sincerely



David Cooke
Head of School