

Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Families,

I am writing with my end-of-term update for Term 4. I am sending this out today as it is the last Friday of term, since we finish for Easter on Thursday 2nd April next week. We have much to celebrate, and this letter also contains some important reminders for families.

Progress on attendance

We are delighted that the latest data from the Department for Education confirms that the attendance of students at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form remains consistently above the national average, including for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This is fantastic news, and I want to thank all our students and families for their commitment to education and ensuring that students attend every single day that it is possible for them to do so.

We know that attending school every day helps students maximise their learning potential, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to set them up for a bright future. Every absence, even when it is unavoidable, disrupts learning. Every absence means a child misses out on gaining valuable knowledge, including the introduction of new topics, interesting class discussions, and the setting of assignments. A consistent learning environment helps children establish a sense of community, which supports their emotional health by providing a stable routine and a supportive environment.

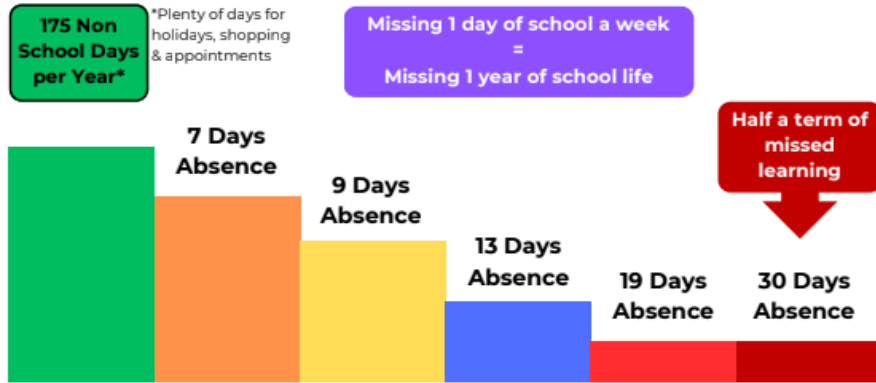
By placing a high value on attendance, we are empowering our students to realise their full potential both inside and outside the classroom, with every day serving as an opportunity to set no limits on what they can achieve.

Thanks again to all families for supporting good attendance at school - it makes such a positive difference!

365 DAYS IN A CALENDAR

Every Day Counts

Why is attendance important?



Being in school is vital for social development.

School gives access to wider opportunities.

Great attendance means being in school at least 96% of the time. This is no more than 7 days absence per year.

Did you know? **A two-week term time holiday means your highest attendance will be 94.5%.**

90% of pupils with attendance below 85% fail to get good grades.

Keeping cool in Hanover and Windsor

We know that the upstairs classrooms in Hanover and Windsor, where we teach English and Maths, can get very hot in the summer. Our governors have recognised this issue, and have managed finances carefully to set aside funding to install air conditioning heating and cooling units in all the upstairs classrooms in both blocks.

This work will commence shortly, and may mean some short-term disruption and re-rooming as we work our way through the classrooms. We are sure that this short-term disruption will be worth it to create a more pleasant and comfortable learning environment through the summer months.

I'd like to offer my thanks to the governing body for their prudent financial management to prioritise this important project, and to Mr Bigwood and the Site Team for supporting this work.

Uniform expectations

I've been grateful for the feedback we've received from families around the tweaks we've made to uniform expectations. Many students have already switched to black trousers, and some students have also taken up the offer of tailored black shorts during the spring sunshine.

The vast majority of students continue to wear the correct uniform all day, every day. However, we have seen a number of students choosing to wear jogging bottoms and/or leggings to school instead of school trousers. Leggings and jogging bottoms are specifically not permitted as part of our uniform. Any students wearing incorrect uniform will be held in our Behaviour Hub until their uniform can be corrected.

I would also like to remind families (and students!) that shoes should be plain black, and that piercings should be studs, in the ears and nose only. Thank you for all your support in ensuring that all students consistently follow our uniform expectations, [which are published on our website](#).

Preparation for exams

The Easter holidays are an important time for rest and relaxation, but they are also a vital time for exam preparation. Year 12 have their mocks in the first week back, with external exams for Years 11 and 13 following shortly afterwards. This is clearly a vital time for our GCSE and A-level students, who will need the support of the rest of the Academy as they prepare for - and sit - their final examinations. We wish them all the best of luck with their revision and preparation, and their exams when they come. You've got this!

I look forward to seeing all our students back at school on Monday 20th April for a timetable week 2.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hildrew

Headteacher