



02 December 2025

Dear Families

Celebrating the Importance of Strong Attendance

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to provide you with an update around some aspects of strong attendance.

Strong start to the day:

While there is a renewed national focus on attendance, we have long been working to overcome the barriers many young people face. A key part of this is ensuring a positive start to the morning. We have increased our duty staff to provide a warm welcome; just yesterday, Mr Collett counted at least 600 "good mornings" at the student entrance, (and yes, he actually counted!) It is amazing how much of a difference a simple 'good morning' can make to the start of your day (for both children and adults alike).

We welcome students on the school site from 7.45am and many will gather in the dining hall to buy a croissant or pain au chocolat and socialise before heading to form time (the second best staff duty in the school).

Focus on Punctuality We are also prioritising punctuality for both form time and lessons. While late marks affect attendance statistics, the real cost is that students miss key information and start the day on the back foot. Arriving on time maximises valuable contact with tutors, ensuring students get the full benefit of our "Learning for Life" (PSHE), careers, and literacy programs and critical learning at the start of each lesson.

Community competitions:

Many of our community competitions run during form time and students are encouraged through our weekly student communication, the 'Sackville Standard' to represent their community and take part in friendly competition. As you can see it is tight at the top, with my community Yousafzai having some work to do, but always comes strong in the second half of the season.

Community competitions leader board:

Angelou	Attenborough	Holmes	Turing	Yousafzai
546	578	546	450	346

Recent Community Competitions
Photography Challenge
MFL Challenge
Speed Stacking
Poetry Competition
End Zone
The 1% Club
Christmas Pairs - Memory Challenge



Celebrating Community and form group attendance:

Mrs Sands' Turing community currently has the best attendance in the school, there is only 1.3% between first and fifth place, every day counts.

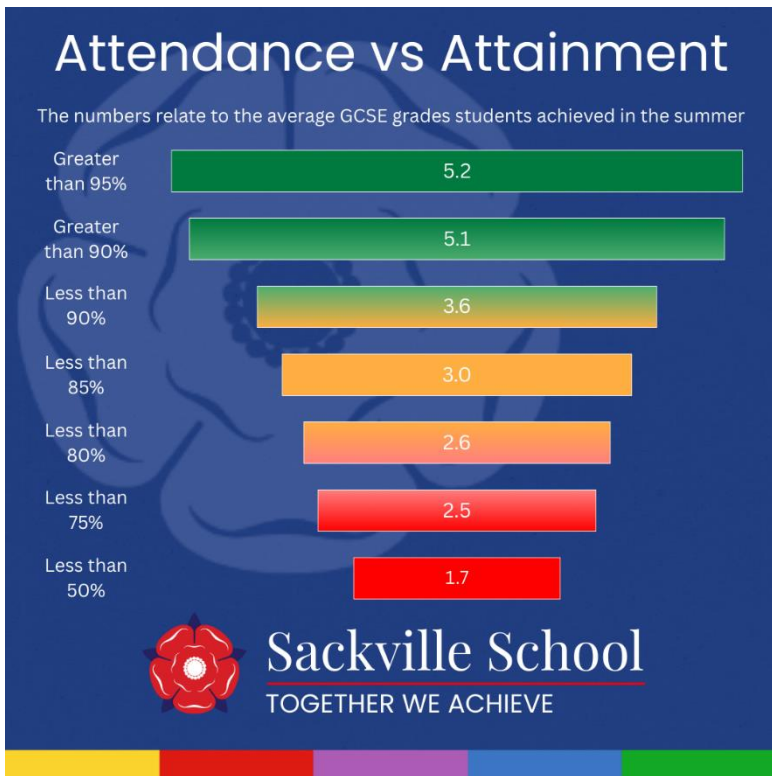
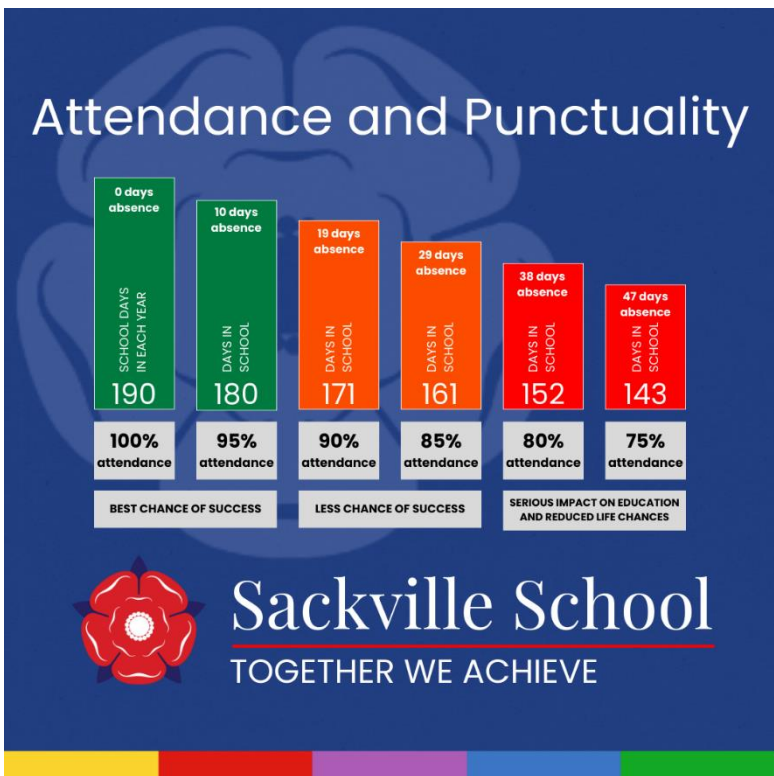
Three students from each community get chosen at random every week to receive a coveted jump the queue pass. This allows them to get served first as a small reward (very handy on our ever popular sausage baguette Tuesday).

Best Attending Form Group per Year	% September to date
7HMR - Turing	96.4%
8KNS - Attenborough	95.7%
9AWB - Yousafzai	94.7%
10FSH - Turing	94.8%
11AMS - Turing	94.9%

**150 students have received a week's queue jump pass for having 100% attendance the previous week
This reward resets every week (allowing for medical appointments and illness)**

Attendance expectations at Sackville School to support strong attainment:

There is a direct link between attendance and academic achievement; **students with average attendance above 96% are nearly three times more likely to achieve at least five good GCSEs.** Establishing strong routines in younger years sets a platform for success as students get older.



Why it is important to pay attention to your child's attendance percentage:

Most of us would be happy with 80% in a test (particularly a chemistry one). However, an attendance figure of 80% (38 days off) every year for five years (190 days off) at secondary school, would equate to a whole year's education being missed. Even over the course of one year, that's almost eight weeks out of school in a 39 week school year. You can check your child's attendance on the MCAS app.

Working Together:

Our aim is to work closely with families to support strong attendance and ensure that our students have the best chance of success.

We monitor attendance daily to ensure students succeed at Sackville School. We follow statutory guidance and take early, supportive action (via phone, email, or letter) if attendance falls. Students below 90% are classified as "persistently absent." If attendance continues to decline despite support, a formal *Notice to Improve* may be issued. However, we are eager to work with you to avoid this and celebrate those maintaining over 95%.

Need Support?

If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact your child's Community Leader or the attendance office on attendance@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Families Focus Group: Wednesday 03 December at 4.00pm. Attendance is the main focus of our next meeting. Join us to hear about government expectations and how we can support our young people. Staff will also be available for 1:1 conversations regarding individual queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alex Millican
Assistant Headteacher