



17 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the school has placed a strong focus on punctuality in recent months. This renewed emphasis has already had a significant positive impact: punctuality to lessons has improved considerably, and the amount of learning time lost has been reduced by over two-thirds. This demonstrates just how important punctual arrival is to students' success.

When students arrive late to lessons, it not only affects their own learning, particularly as they often miss key starter activities, but also disrupts the learning of others and slows the pace of progress for the whole class. Ensuring students are on time is therefore essential for maintaining high standards of learning and behaviour across the school.

Over the past week, we have spoken with many parents and carers regarding students arriving late to school. We fully recognise that there are occasions when circumstances are genuinely unavoidable, such as a car breaking down or an unexpected emergency. Where this is the case, we will of course take this into consideration. However, it is important that we are clear and consistent in our expectations: punctuality to school is not optional, and a clear line in the sand must be drawn to ensure fairness and consistency for all students. Simply put, if students are not in lessons, they are not learning.

We also appreciate that mornings can be challenging, particularly with teenagers. Nevertheless, the start of the school day is critically important. Our morning routines here at the academy are carefully designed to provide students with a calm, purposeful start, ensuring they are settled, focused, and ready to learn.

To further support this focus on punctuality, we will be implementing a formal *late-to-school process*, in line with practices used successfully in many schools across the country:

- **If a student arrives late to school but before Period 1 begins, they will receive a lunchtime detention the following day.**
- **If a student arrives once Period 1 has started, they will receive an after-school detention, during which time they will catch up on the learning they have missed.**

We believe these measures are fair, proportionate, and necessary to reinforce the importance of punctuality and to ensure that all students have the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high expectations and maximise learning time for all students.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Morris Ms Bartrum and Ms Doughty
Vice Principal, Assistant Principal (Attendance), Attendance Manager