



27th March 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we are fast approaching the Easter break I would like to feedback on what has been an interesting term. Despite the disruption caused by the adverse weather and road works, as of today our whole school attendance stands at 95.4%, which is above DfE expectations but just short of our own 96% target. Well over half our students have achieved this goal. I would like to draw your attention to the attached Local Authority absences during term time letter and hope that you will continue to support us in our drive to raise attendance and thereby attainment at Beacon Hill.

May I particularly commend the effort of many Y11 students in their recent mocks, and also the significant number of students who have represented the school this term in sporting fixtures.

Y11 are ever closer to taking their final exams. As such they have been given much work to support this over the Easter break (English and maths outlined on the reverse). In addition several members of staff are putting on additional sessions during the Easter break which it is expected that students will attend. Please see the timetable below. In the past these final extra sessions have made a significant difference to final performance.

Day	Mon 2nd	Tues 3rd	Wed 4th	Thur 5th	Fri 6 th
What's on	CLOSED	CLOSED	PE Prod Des & RMT	PE Prod Des & RMT	
Day	Mon 9th	Tues 10th	Wed 11th	Thur 12th	Fri 13 th
What's on	SR - Science	LC - Art LH - Media SR - Science	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

Finally I write to inform you of the arrangements for the end of term. This week will see much celebration in the form of WOW awards afternoon, Rewards day, Sport Relief activities and the all-important Staff vs. Students Dodgeball tournament! **School will finish at 1245 on Thursday.** There will be an extended brunch during the day and buses will run early.

I hope everyone enjoys a much deserved break and look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gee
Deputy Head

Maths

All year 11 have been given packs of ten a day starter revision questions to complete - these are aimed at giving them a focus to get them going each day. They also have solution booklets in order to check their own work. Certain students have additional targeted grade 5 booklet questions with solutions or targeted grade 7 booklets with solutions.

In addition students have revision card handy packs of formulae to learn and revise with.

Mr Hailwood is finishing off his maths input at Solway on the two Fridays - 6th April and 13th April 10am till 3pm. The students who attended in March should be going there to complete the course.

English

All Y11 have been given an Unseen Poetry Revision booklet to complete over the break.

They also have revision packs to support Paper 1:

Anthology

Macbeth

An Inspector Calls

Unseen Poetry

A Christmas Carol

and are to watch MR BRUFF on You Tube.

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November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

Absence from school due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to children's education. It can also be disruptive to other pupils in the class. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. It is important to note that **only the Headteacher can authorise absence from school. Parents/Carers cannot authorise the absence themselves.**

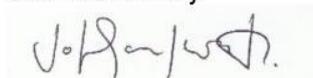
Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for holiday absence in term time **in exceptional circumstances.** If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you can make a request to the school. In considering a request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence, and the nature of the visit. The Headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education and progress and the child's overall attendance record. It is highly unlikely that leave will be authorised if examinations or other important tests will be missed. Headteachers will not authorise absence unless they believe your circumstances are exceptional. In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child.

All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who **fail to ensure regular attendance** of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount is £60 if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. It is therefore essential that parents take this into consideration if they are thinking of a family holiday in term-time.

The Department for Education define persistent absenteeism as below 90% attendance and schools may wish to use this figure to determine whether or not to pursue legal action such as the issuing of a fixed penalty.

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school.

Yours sincerely



John Macilwraith
Corporate Director- Children's Services

Together we can achieve the very best for every child, young person and their family in Cumbria