

Year 8 Learning Walk Feedback

Mr Newbey, Miss Macmanus and I were lucky enough to drop into all lessons on Monday afternoon as part of a learning walk. It was absolutely delightful to see Year 8 demonstrating fantastic behaviour and effort in the classroom. I feel so proud to be able to work with such a lovely year group.

One of the areas that was highlighted however, was **lack of equipment** from some students. Students should have their pencil cases out on the desk ready in all lessons, ensuring these are fully equipped. Students should have the following items in their pencil case:

- Several Pens (Blue and Black)
- 1 Green Pen and 1 Red Pen
- Several Pencils
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator
- Glue Stick
- Reading Book
- Sharpener
- Rubber / eraser
- Highlighters (optional)
- Reusable water bottle

If there are any items missing, please try to get these over the weekend and if there are any issues, please get in touch and we can ensure they are prepared for their lessons.

Year 8 into 9 Mini Options

Attached is the 'Extended Learning Mini Options' powerpoint from Tuesday evening which contains all the relevant information. The key information to stress is that the students will remain with a broad curriculum where they will **select an additional two option subjects**.

We are still in the process of watching all option videos during tutorial time. The option form is open to be completed but as I emphasised during the evening, it is NOT first come first served, and therefore it is important to take time to think about which option subjects are best for them.

The brochure and the options form can be found on the school website [here](#). The deadline for the form to be completed is Friday 22nd March 2024. A reminder that the students must complete the form using their school email address. If they wish to re-enter the form if they change their mind, we will take the most recent entry.

Attendance

As you are aware, attendance is extremely important for your child's success and I would like to highlight that you can keep an eye on your child's attendance percentage on Edulink. The Government defines a child as being "**persistently absent**" from education if their attendance falls to **90%**. Government research shows the link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19, just 36% of "persistently absent" children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.

The research also shows that it is never too late to benefit from good attendance:

More than half (54%) of pupils who were "persistently absent" in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, went on to pass at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

We know that sometimes it can be difficult to make a decision about attendance if your child is feeling under the weather. If you are unsure, send them in. If it then turns out that they are not well enough to be in school, the school nurse will contact you.

For help with specific conditions the NHS link below will help.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If there is anything you think that we, as a school, could do to improve your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Safeguarding Snapshot

Please click [here](#) for the link to this week's safeguarding snapshot.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards,

Miss Hawes