



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary  
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

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5th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We come to the end of another term, one that has not enabled us to escape fully from the clutches of Covid as we still see staff and student absences. Covid continues to impact upon staff and pupil attendance more than previously. As you know we have been keen to remain open, and remain dedicated to providing a face-to face education for everyone. I know you will join me in thanking the tireless efforts of our staff who have covered for colleagues this term; it is thanks to them that we have remained open to all year groups.

## Keeping the Academy open

We are not alone in this situation; other schools in the area have needed to move to remote learning for some year groups and in some cases, schools have been closed for a period of time. By keeping all year groups in school, we have maintained face to face learning, but we know that there have been a number of cover lessons in place. I am pleased to say that the cases of COVID-19 in the staff are starting to recede now and we hope to have more continuity in the summer term. We will continue to work closely alongside the local Public Health Teams and Dorset council to safely implement the updated guidance and to respond to any changing circumstances that arise.

## Covid Update

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England. Details can be found [here](#). We have since received updated guidance from the Government about measures for managing COVID-19 in education settings from today, Friday 1 April.

In practical terms in school, the updated guidance has the following implications:

1. Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend;
2. Students **under the age of 18** with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days**, which is when they are most infectious. For students who are **18 and over**, the advice will be **5 days**;
3. Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education setting. Therefore, we will no longer be able to order test kits for distribution to students.



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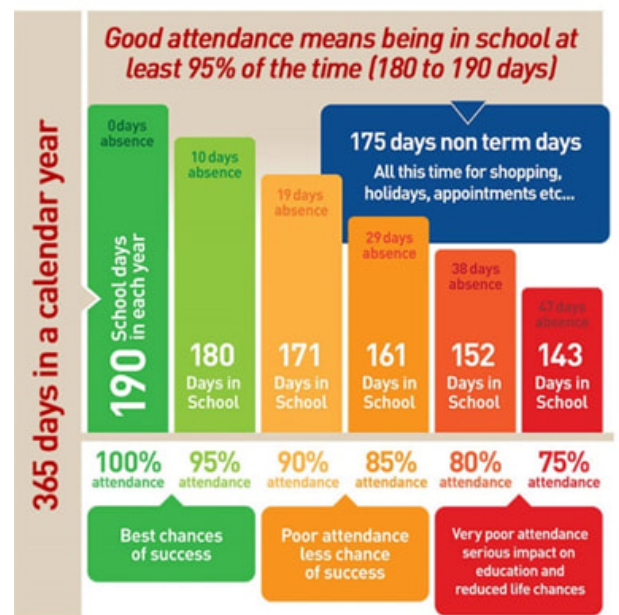
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## Attendance

Recently we have noticed that there is a significant number of children who have poor attendance that is not covid related:

- If a pupil has **90% or lower** attendance, they're classified as a **persistent absentee(PA)** There's a clear link between poor attendance and **lower academic achievement**.
- A student with 90% attendance will achieve a **whole grade lower** than expected in each GCSE at the end of Year 11.
- An average attendance of **80% or less** across a child's school career adds up to **missing a whole 2 years** from school.
- Persistent **absentees** compared to their peers with over 95% attendance, students who have persistent absences are more likely to live in **poverty, suffer poor health, and become involved in the criminal justice system**. The table below shows how many days/ lessons they miss as a result



**DID YOU KNOW?** A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is **94.7%**

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is about x weeks absence	Which means this is the number of lessons you miss
95%	9	2	50
90%	19	4	100
85%	29	6	150
80%	38	8	200
75%	48	10	250
70%	57	11.5	287.5

## Year 11

As we look forward to next term our Year 11 students begin their final preparations for this summer's external examinations which for the first time in two years look certain to be happening. We will continue to support them during this period and wish them all the best when they finally get to sit them.



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## End of the Day timings to return to normal

After Easter the end of the school day will be the same for both KS3 (Year 7 -9) and KS4 (10-11). Everyone will finish at 3pm

## Uniform

With the summer term approaching, jumpers will **not be** compulsory from April 26th. However, please could I remind you about our uniform regulations and ask for your continued support in ensuring that students keep to the dress code. Traditional areas where we have needed to reinforce and take action on return from holidays have been around the non-compliance with hair colour/style and piercings. We ask for your help to ensure that this is not needed with your child.

Have a lovely Easter and we look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday 26 April** and **Year 11 on Monday 25th April**

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Bishop  
Principal of Secondary