



## Attendance matters.

22nd August 2024

Dear Parents and Students,

The staff at Atlantic Academy are looking forward to welcoming our students back to the academy following the summer holidays and know that the new academy year will be filled with opportunities to learn, engage and make progress.

We will welcome **Year 7 back on Tuesday 3rd September**, followed by the rest of the academy on Wednesday 4th September. The academy day begins promptly at 8.27am.

Attendance matters throughout the year. However, in setting good habits and going on to make good progress through the year, recent evidence from the [Children's commissioner](#) highlights how vital attendance is during the first few days of the new term. Indeed, children who missed days in the first two weeks of September went on to miss almost 30 days by the end of the year - double that of students who were present throughout the first Autumn half term.

We also wanted to let you know that from August 2024 the laws concerning school absence have changed slightly. A summary of these changes are included in a separate file sent with this letter and the DfE have created an explanatory [page here](#).

Getting into the habit of daily attendance is vital to success in the academy. It helps to:

- reduce stress by ensuring learning is not broken or disrupted
- build positive and meaningful relationships with friends, teachers and other staff
- support learning by not missing key knowledge or skills development
- reduces safeguarding risks such as exploitation in the community or the risk of becoming NEET (Not in education, employment or training) in the future

In the case that your child is unable to attend the academy please inform us as soon as possible using the contact details at the bottom of this letter.

We also request that you do not arrange holidays or other time off during term time and also understand that these cannot be authorised.



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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We are proud that our academy community is a place where everyone can be safe, healthy and able to learn. We will do our best to listen and work with you so that your children have a successful year.

Our attendance team can be contacted via the school contact forms [www.atlantic-aspirations.org/about-us/contact-forms/](http://www.atlantic-aspirations.org/about-us/contact-forms/) or on 01305 820262 if you need help in supporting your child's attendance or have other questions or concerns that need addressing.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Andrew Clark

Assistant Principal.