



12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

At Cardinal Pole Catholic School our priority is to ensure that every child achieves their full potential. One of the most powerful factors in determining success is **excellent attendance**.

Every lesson matters. Each day builds on the last, and even small amounts of time lost create gaps in knowledge and understanding. National research shows a clear link between attendance and achievement:

- Students with **96% attendance or higher** are far more likely to achieve strong passes (Grade 5 or above) in English and Maths.
- Missing just **10 school days** in a year (96% attendance) typically results in at least **one grade lower** in key subjects.
- Students with **attendance below 90%** are, on average, **two grades lower** across their best subjects compared to their peers with good attendance.

What is perhaps most striking is how quickly students can make progress once their attendance improves. Many pupils who have raised their attendance from the low 90s to above 96% have seen rapid improvements in confidence, progress, and results, in some cases moving up by **a whole GCSE grade in a single subject within a year**. Simply being present, every day, maximises the learning opportunities that build knowledge, skills, and long-term success.

Every day counts. Every lesson counts. Every absence has an impact.

We recognise that children can be unwell from time to time, and of course they should remain at home if they are genuinely too ill to attend. However, please avoid term-time holidays, and wherever possible arrange medical appointments outside of the school day.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in reinforcing the importance of consistent attendance. Working together, we can ensure that your child benefits fully from the education they deserve.

If you would like support in helping to improve your child's attendance, please contact our attendance officer Ms Peczkowska or Mr Read (Assistant Headteacher) dominikapeczkowska@cardinalpole.co.uk or tomread@cardinalpole.co.uk

We are here to help. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Hall
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Mr A O'Donoghue
HEAD OF SCHOOL