THE MANDEVILLE SCHOOL
BELIEVE · ACHIEVE · SUCCEED

17th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy and rewarding academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our achievements, share some important updates, and look forward to the year ahead. First and foremost, congratulations to our students on a fantastic improvement in attendance this year! Your commitment to being in school, ready to learn, has been brilliant to see. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made as a whole school community. This progress would not have been possible without the strong partnership between home and school.

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents, carers, and students for your immense support with attendance throughout this year. It has been a privilege working with you to raise our standards."
— *Jack Deary, Attendance Lead*

As we look to the future, we are delighted to announce that Chris Penson will be taking over the reins to lead our attendance team starting next academic year. We know you will show Mr Penson the same brilliant support and engagement that you have shown Mr Deary.

We talk a lot about attendance, and that is because the data tells a very clear story: regular attendance has a direct correlation with positive academic outcomes**.**
Beyond the grades, however, being in school every day is vital for our students' social and emotional well-being. It fosters a powerful sense of 'belonging' within our wonderful school community, helping students build lasting friendships and engage fully in school life.

We understand at times you may need to book medical and personal appointments during the school day: when this happens please ensure you always notify us in advance via the Arbor app so we can update our registers accurately. Every single lesson counts toward your child's progress and sense of belonging, which is why we kindly ask that an appointment doesn't turn into a full day's absence. Unless it is completely unavoidable, students are expected to attend school before their appointment or return to lessons afterwards. Thank you for your continued partnership in minimising disruptions to their learning and keeping their attendance on track!

Attendance overall this year has improved by 3.2% and we wish for this to continue into the next academic year. Each year group has improved, with great gains in some. Each Year group finished on the following:

Year 7 92.9%
Year 8 92.3%
Year 9 91.2%
Year 10 89.4%

While we have much to celebrate, we must also be candid about where we need to improve. Currently, our Year 10 cohort has the lowest attendance in the school, which is not yet in line with the national average. As these students transition into their vital Year 11 exam year, we have a little more work to do together to ensure their attendance meets or exceeds national benchmarks.

- Our Commitment: We will be doing everything we can to support our new Year 11s to attend regularly. We believe in them, and we want them to achieve the highest possible academic outcomes.
- Our Partnership: We ask that you engage closely with us and support us whenever attendance issues arise.
- Our Confidence: We know this group can do it. Our outgoing Year 11 students made a massive attendance improvement from the end of their Year 10 year into Year 11, and we are entirely confident that our rising Year 11s will follow suit.
- Our rationale: 90% of students with 85% attendance or less fail to achieve 5 GCSE grades

Punctuality impacts attendance too. If students are not in school for tutor time they will not get their AM registration, therefore we will be doing a lot of work to ensure students are in school on time every day.

To ensure we start the new academic year with the momentum we need, please note the staggered return dates for September:

- **Friday 4th September:** Year 7 students only (to help them settle into their new environment).
- **Monday 7th September:** All other year groups return to school.

Please ensure your child arrives on time, in full uniform, and ready to start the year as they mean to go on.

Thank you once again for your continued support, partnership, and dedication to making our school the best place it can be. Have a wonderful, safe, and restful summer break.

Yours Sincerely

J. Deary C.Hicks C.Penson

Jack Deary **Caroline Hicks** **Chris Penson**

Head of School: Mrs Sara Durose
The Mandeville School, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 8ES
Tel: 01296 745400 - www.mandeville.bucks.sch.uk - email: office@mandeville.school