



September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Regular school attendance is essential for all of our students to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better opportunities in life. Every student at Meden School, in line with Government expectations, is expected to maintain an attendance level of 96% or above. It is the responsibility of everyone in our school community; parents, students, staff and governors to ensure they achieve this, and therefore we constantly monitor and review the attendance of all students.

Each year there are 190 school days. This leaves 175 days for instances such as holidays, shopping, birthday treats, and non-urgent medical or dental appointments. With this in mind the school is very unlikely to authorise absence for any of these reasons.

In order for your son/daughter to achieve an attendance of 96% or above, they cannot be absent from school for more than 10 days in an academic year. Just a few days absence from school can have a massive impact on the overall attendance percentage for a child, and this is highlighted below in the examples given:

#### **Attendance over One School Year**

If a student had:

- 98% attendance = less than 4 days absent from school
- 96% attendance = less than 10 days absent from school
- 90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school
- 85% attendance = 5 ½ weeks absent from school
- 80% attendance = 7 ½ weeks absent from school

#### **Attendance over 5 year (Years 7-11) ...**

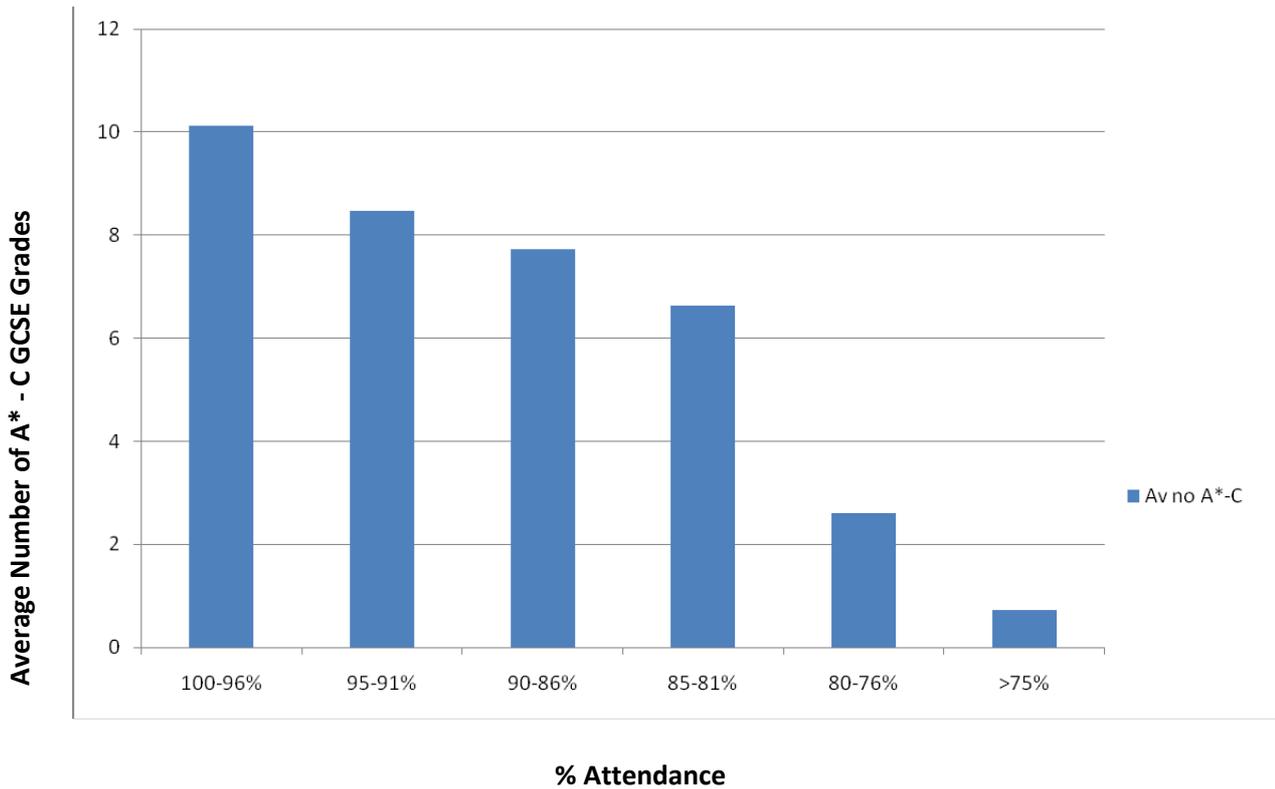
If a student had:

- 85-90% attendance is equal to having about half a year off school!
- 80% attendance is equal to having 38 weeks off school which is **one whole school year missed!**

We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment. The graph below shows how attendance can affect examination results. As you can clearly see, the more students attended school the better they achieved and vice versa.



A graph to show the link between % Attendance and GCSE Results A\*-C grades



In addition, regular school attendance keeps children safe; evidence shows that pupils who truant are more likely to be involved in crime and anti-social activity. We hope that you appreciate how crucial good school attendance is to your child’s progress, achievement and life opportunities. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child’s attendance is the very best it can be, to give them the very best chances whilst in school and once they leave.

If you feel there is anything we can do to support you or your child, or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Head of Year or Tutor. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss K Hickinbotham**  
Head of Year 7

